



Heartland
Alberta
Retired
Teachers'
Association

The Heartland Herald

HARTA's Newsletter

of Branch Events

The COVID — 19

Winter Edition

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A Branch of ARTA



Other Zoom Presentations In lieu of Lunches, for the next few months we will be looking for various sources of information relevant to our members which we can present on Zoom. Please stay tuned.

ARTA Self-Administration Presentation On Wednesday, February 17th, Gary Sawatzky will be presenting on Zoom an overview of the ARTA Self-Administration changes which occurred effective January 1st. If you have any concerns Re: these changes, this is your chance to have your concerns answered.

The Alberta Retired Teachers' Charitable Foundation Presentation

On Wednesday, March 10th, Gordon Cumming, Chair of the Foundation will give a short Zoom presentation on the Foundation, how it has evolved and what projects it is presently engaged in. Please watch for the link to connect to this presentation.

Possible April Presentation

We are looking for another presentation for April. Watch our emails and newsletters for further information.

HARTA's Mini-Conference Will be held on Zoom on Wednesday, May 5th. Check the details in this newsletter for a great deal for your membership renewal and the Mini-Conference!

HARTA's AGM—September 17th 2021

The HARTA AGM will be held on Friday, September 17th. The Executive will determine whether or not the event will be in person or on Zoom closer to the date.

HARTA Executive Meeting Summary

On Wednesday, February 10th The HARTA Executive met and passed the following motions:

- Updated the Mini-Conference budget; Conference to be held on Zoom.
- By-laws to be updated for presenting at HARTA's AGM.
- The AGM will be held on Friday, September 17th.

Member Welfare

Please keep Ron Holmlund and Dawn in your thoughts as Ron prepares to have an operation to deal with cancer. We wish you a speedy recovery once your operation and treatment are completed.

Ron Thompson experienced a second seizure because of low blood sugar. He is recovering more quickly than from his first seizure.

If you know of anyone needing our support, please let the editor know so we can show our support in their returning to health.

Health Benefit Changes Rollout

Health Benefit Changes:

We've moved to a larger office where we're welcoming new staff to help us with the transition. This change is a big one, so be sure to stay informed by looking for updates in news&views magazine, ARTAfacts and through direct messages like this one. You can [read more about these changes](#) on ARTA's news blog.

Emergency Travel:

Global Affairs Canada has not yet changed their advisory for Canadians to avoid all non-essential travel outside of Canada. Naturally, there have been a lot of questions about how this affects things like the travel plans and insurance premiums of members. We've gathered some of the most common questions in an easy-to-navigate list of FAQs. [Find them on ARTA's news blog](#).

ARTA's COVID-19 Response:

As you might expect, COVID-19 has changed the way we've been doing business. We have temporarily closed our offices to members and all our staff have been equipped to work remotely. Even working from home, our dedicated staff continues to manage the day-to-day operations of ARTA, meeting and collaborating through remote means. Likewise, we have rescheduled all in-person meetings and have moved all committee, board, and executive member meetings online.

Our lines of communication with our members remain open, so our Member Services team are still able to meet virtually or over the phone to help our members, just as before.

As you can see, there is a lot happening at

ARTA, and we are excited to see what 2021 brings. Hopefully, we will be treated to a vaccine before long so we can get back to business as usual. We are looking forward to meeting you again once we're able, to celebrate our reunion and catch up properly.

During the month of January ARTA staff were experiencing phone calls at the rate of 1,000 calls a day while staff were only able to respond to approximately 150 call per day. ARTA is currently working to solve these issues.

If you have concerns re: the ARTA self-administration rollout, please take advantage of Gary Sawatzky's Zoom presentation on Wednesday, February 17th at 10:00 AM.

Confusing Abbreviations

After you retired from teaching you probably noticed a number of abbreviations re: retirement. **ASEBP (Alberta School Employee Benefits Plan)** refers to the health benefits provided by various school districts. The **ARTA (Alberta Retired Teachers' Association) Plans**, are plans available to all ARTA members and Associate Members. The **ATRF (Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund)** is the fund that pays teachers' pensions to retired Alberta teachers. Retired teachers with concerns re: their pensions, should contact the ATRF re: these issues. **CPP (Canada Pension Plan)** refers to the Pension Plan provided by the Canadian Government. The **OAS (Old Age Security)** is a supplementary payment to every person over 65 years also created by the Canadian Government. As a review of these abbreviations, I have listed all these abbreviations with their websites where you can get more information on a given topic. The **ARTCF (Alberta Retired Teachers' Charitable Foundation)** is ARTA's foundation to support various partners with their various projects to achieve their goals..

Abbreviations

ASEBP: Provider of Health Care Benefits before 65 years of age: www.asebp.ca

ARTA: Alberta Retired Teachers' Association Provider of many services and Benefits to Alberta Retired Teachers and other Professional Retirees: www.arta.net

Branches: www.artabranches.net

ATRF: Provider and Funder of Alberta Teachers' Pensions: www.atrf.com

CPP and OAS: Pensions provided by the Canadian Government Contact Service Canada at: www.Canada.ca

ARTCF: Alberta Retired Teachers' Charitable Foundation at: <https://www.arta.net/advocacy/artcf>

I hope the above information makes the retirement information world easier to navigate.

Vanishing Tech Skills

(From a past edition of the Edmonton Journal)

- Changing the ribbon on a typewriter
- Rewinding audio or video cassettes.
- Adjusting the rabbit ears on your TV set.
- Checking your beeper.
- Formatting a floppy disk.
- Having to put www in front of every URL.
- Loading film into a camera.
- Using a darkroom.
- Licking stamps.
- Paying with a cheque.

COVID-19 Humour

1. How does a penguin build its house? Igloos it together.
2. Can February March? No, April May.
3. Why is Peter Pan always flying? He never never lands.
4. Did you hear about the bacon

cheeseburger who couldn't stop telling Jokes? It was on a roll.

5. Student: "Can I go to the bathroom?" Teacher: "It's may." "No, it's February."
6. Why do vampires seem sick? They're always coffin.
7. Within minutes, the detectives knew what the murder weapon was. It was a briefcase.
8. To whoever stole my copy of Microsoft Office, I will find you. You have my Word!
9. I'm so good at sleeping, I can do it with my eyes closed.
10. I thought about going on an all-almond diet...But that's just nuts.

Membership Fees

At the Executive Meeting February 10th, the Executive passed a motion to give all members who have purchased their 2022 HARTA members a free registration to this year's Mini-Conference in May. Everyone who has already updated their membership to 2022 or beyond can take in the Conference by Zoom in May. More information on the Mini-Conference will be available in this and future Newsletters.

Members who need to pay their fees can do so by mail. During the COVID-19 Emergency Members may send a cheque or money order to: HARTA, C/O Ron Thompson, 4020 – 37 Ave. in Leduc, Alberta. The Postal Code is T9E 6C9. Please send \$10.00 for each year you would like to renew. Membership for the first two years after retirement is \$10.00 (first year is free.)

HARTA Volunteers Needed

At various times during the program year, HARTA needs members to help with various tasks (when the Pandemic is over.) For the various luncheons, we can always use extra help in preparing the room for our programs. In Drayton Valley check with Joan, In Leduc, Elaine or Ron T. and in Wetaskiwin either Ron H or Ron T. During

this time of COVID-19 Social Distancing, another way to contribute is to provide stories and other news for our newsletter. You can submit to: The Editor: r_n_thompson101@hotmail.com. It would be great to get more submissions for our readers.

Ron Thompson, HARTA President

HARTA's May Mini Conference

HARTA's Mini Conference will be on Wednesday, May 5th from 9:30 AM. to 4:00 PM. The following sessions have been confirmed: Tom Dirsa, a local historian, will do a session on Leduc and District's History. Audra Stevenson, of the Leftover Foundation, an organization dedicated to distributing unused food that would otherwise be thrown out will do a session on how her organization helps provide food at a more reasonable price. Noel Cairney will do a session on Laughter Yoga. We are also working to engage a representative from the Alberta Securities Commission, to do a session on Investment Fraud. Marilyn Bossert, Past President of ARTA will present the keynote to commence the Conference.

More about the Presenters

Tom Dirsa

Tom grew up on the tip of Cape Cod in Massachusetts and moved to Alberta, Canada for two years, which became a lifetime.

After a successful 38 year career as a teacher, basketball coach, and a school administrator he retired to Leduc, Alberta.

Since his retirement Tom began a second career as a writer. He wrote the Alberta Distant Learning Preview/Review programs for the Jun-

ior High Social Studies courses. In 2017 he was the author of Canada Becomes a Federation as part of the Canada Turns 150 series.

For the past few years he has published a series of children picture books about a child with ADHD as he learns to cope with the world around him. They are based on his experience with his grandson who was diagnosed with ADHD. In 2018 working with the Leduc Public Library he published an updated history book of Leduc called Leduc: Then & Now.

Currently he is working on a second Leduc history book and speaking at teacher conventions.

I will share other presenters' information as it is provided.

Coming Zoom Events

As indicated earlier in this newsletter there are two Zoom presentations coming up in February and March. Gary Sawatzky will do his presentation on the ARTA Self-Administration changes on Wednesday, February 17th. Gordon Cumming, Chair of the Charitable Foundation, will do his presentation on the Alberta Retired Teachers' Foundation on Wednesday, March 10th. The Zoom link will be provided by email to all current members as of the date of this newsletter.

Other Branch Events

ARTA now has a website which provides information on events in other Branches throughout Alberta and the Okanagan Branch in BC. If you would like to find other Branch events this website can help you. The website is:

www.artabranches.net.

Ron Thompson, HARTA President

Executive and Contact Info for the 2020-21 Program Year

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Gary Hansen: ATA Liaison—Black Gold and St. Thomas Aquinas Locals (780) 986-1745

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Alain Lefevre: Treasurer (780) 941-2245
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Erika Lefevre: Secretary (780) 941-2245
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Lawrence Dublenko: Membership Co-ordinator (587) 783-8588
mayoprosector@gmail.com

Susan Schwindt: Finance Committee Member—D.V. (780) 542-4136
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The Goals of HARTA

- To carry on social activities, enabling our members to maintain contact with their colleagues.
- To provide information to our members about the resources available through the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association. (ARTA) and other sources.

ARTA supports an engaged lifestyle after retirement through member-centered services, advocacy, communication, wellness and leadership.



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**HARTA's Zoom
Presentation:
Gary Sawatzky,
ARTA's Self-
Administration
Wednesday,
February 17th
10:00 AM**

**HARTA's Zoom
Presentation:
Gordon Cumming,
Charitable Foundation
March 10th
10:00 AM**

email:
rnthompson@shaw.ca
(r n thompson)
phone:
(780) 986-8349

**Membership \$10.00 Per Year
New retirees \$10.00
for the first Two Years**



Topics

- **Keynote - Marilyn Bossert - Past President ARTA**
- **History of Leduc**
- **Food Rescue**
- **Laughter Yoga**

**Wednesday, May 5,
2021
9:30 AM to 4:00 PM
On Zoom**

**HARTA Regional
Mini Conference
On Zoom**

**Cost - Free with HARTA membership renewal
to August 31, 2022 for the workshops!**

**For more info phone (780) 986-8349
or email: rnthompson@shaw.ca (r n thompson)**



A Branch
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HARTA Mini-Conference Registration Form

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

On Zoom

Surname _____ First Name _____

Street Address _____ -

City _____ Postal Code _____

**Email Address _____ Phone No. _____

**** We do not share or sell registration information. For confirmations and correspondence: We will be emailing or phoning ALL confirmations. No regular mail confirmations will be sent.**

After Friday, April 23rd Please register by phone and pay by email to rnthompson@shaw.ca Indicate that payment is for HARTA membership to August 2022.

The registration for this Mini-Conference is free with the renewal of your HARTA membership to August 31, 2022. Membership is \$10.00 per year or \$10.00 for the first two years if this is the first year of your retirement.

___ ARTA ___ Branch: _____ ___ Non-member

Payment Details: Enclosed is Cheque/Money Order for \$ _____ -

Your registration is not complete until your HARTA 2022 membership has been verified by a member of the HARTA Executive.

Mail your registration to: Ron Thompson,

4020 – 37th Ave., Leduc, Ab. T9E 6C9

Email: rnthompson@shaw.ca (r n thompson) Phone: 780-986-8349