



Heartland  
Alberta  
Retired  
Teachers'  
Association

# The Heartland Herald

## HARTA's Newsletter

### of Branch Events

## The COVID-19

## July 2021 Edition

**Publisher: Ron Thompson**

**Volume No. 9**

**Issue No. 9 Date: July 2021**

## A Branch of ARTA



### Possible Summer HARTA Presentation on Zoom

HARTA is looking at the possibility of a Zoom presentation for either July or August. Stay tuned.

### HARTA's AGM—September 17th 2021

The HARTA AGM will be held on Friday, September 17th. This will be HARTA's 10th AGM and it will mark the beginning of HARTA's 10th year as a Branch of ARTA. The Executive will determine whether or not the event will be in person or on Zoom closer to the date. Stay tuned for more details.

## Member Welfare

If you know of anyone needing our support, please let the editor know so we can show our support in helping their return to good health. With COVID-19 having been with us for a while, this would be a good time to reach out to someone you haven't heard from or seen in a while. Please keep well and keep safe.

## 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](http://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](http://www.arta.net)

Branches: [www.artabranches.net](http://www.artabranches.net)

**ATRF:** Provider and Funder of Alberta Teachers' Pensions: [www.atrf.com](http://www.atrf.com) **CPP and OAS:** Pensions provided by the Canadian Government Contact Service Canada at: [www.Canada.ca](http://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.

## Our COVID Conversation on Zoom

On Wednesday, June 16th, a few members of HARTA got together on Zoom to share some of our experiences during 2020. Some were heart wrenching but most were very positive. Many members found new ways of using the extra time that was available to them. Some found new hobbies while others connected more often with old friends.

## COVID-19 Humour

Below are a few examples of funny signs sent to me by one of my friends on our Church Council.

1. Remember what the valet who parked your car looks like because **we don't have valet parking.**
2. A married man's honest confession: "I always read my wife's horoscope to see what kind of day I'm going to have."
3. We just had a guy come into our auto parts store asking if we sold longer dipsticks, because his doesn't reach his oil anymore.
4. I had my patience tested. I'm negative.
5. When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "East."
6. The older I get the earlier it gets late.
7. Interviewer: So, tell me about yourself. Me: I'd rather not. I kinda want this job.
8. Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.
9. Sixty might be the new forty, but 9:00 PM is the new midnight.

10. When I say, "the other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.

## Membership Fees

A reminder that memberships are from September 1st, 2021 to August 31st, 2022. If you have already updated your membership to 2022 or beyond you will be able to continue to receive HARTA's Newsletter as well as communications pertinent to HARTA and ARTA. At a certain point members who fail to renew their memberships could cease to receive these communications. If you are not sure if your membership is current, please contact Lawrence Dublenko, HARTA's Membership Director at email: [mayoprospector@gmail.com](mailto:mayoprospector@gmail.com) or phone: (587) 783-8533. You could also contact Ron Thompson at email: [rnthompson@shaw.ca](mailto:rnthompson@shaw.ca) or phone: (780) 986-8349.

Members who need to pay their fees can do so by mail until August 31. After August 31st please send your membership by e-transfer to [rnthompson@shaw.ca](mailto:rnthompson@shaw.ca) so that your payment can be received before September 17th, 2021 ensuring that you would be able to vote at September's AGM, September 17. In special cases please phone Ron Thompson to arrange for payment other than e-transfer at the phone number given above.

Otherwise 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 lunches, 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 We-

taskiwin 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: [rnthompson.harta@gmail.com](mailto:rnthompson.harta@gmail.com). It would be great to get more submissions for our readers.

Ron Thompson, HARTA President

## **HARTA Mini-Conference 2021 Evaluation – Overview**

The HARTA 2021 Mini-Conference was first planned for 2020 as an in-person Conference. With the advent of COVID-19 in mid March of 2020 all that changed. Weeks before the Conference was due to start the HARTA Executive had to cancel the Conference and refund any Conference fees which had already been paid.

Our next task was to check with the presenters to see if they would be on board with having their presentations in 2021 online. Marilyn Bossert, past president of the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association, (ARTA) agreed to the keynote. Noel Cairney agreed to do a session on Laughter Yoga. Tom Dirsas said "yes" to doing a session on Leduc's History. And Lourdes Juan agreed to present for Food Rescue. By the end of June 2020, all of HARTA's speakers had said "yes."

Toward the end of December, I contacted each of the presenters to check on their availability for May 5<sup>th</sup> of 2021. Lourdes Juan informed me that she was on maternity leave but that Audra Stevenson was prepared to do the session "Food Rescue." Marilyn Bossert said she was still on board for doing a session as keynote. She was wondering about a topic and suggested two: connecting during COVID-19 and ACER-CART. At this time, we still needed one more session to end the day, so I encouraged her to do the keynote on Connections during COVID-19 as the keynote and do the presentation on ACER – CART as our final session.

By February, the program had taken shape, but the budget needed to be tweaked. We were originally going to charge \$25.00 per

person for the Mini-Conference. When the Executive reviewed the proposed budget from 2020, the \$25.00 charge was questioned. The comment was made that \$10.00 would be a more reasonable sum since participants weren't going to receive a beverage, snacks or lunch. I suggested, "Why don't we encourage HARTA members update their memberships to August 31, 2022 by paying their membership fee of \$10.00. That way everyone who had paid their membership to August 31, 2022 would be able to attend the Mini-Conference free of charge.

Two weeks before the Conference the presenters and the hosts were part of a Zoom practice session to make sure that all functions needed worked for the presenters. The hosts met with the presenters they were introducing to review each presenter's introduction.

After the conference evaluation forms were e-mailed to all participants. The responses were generally very positive with the average rating of 4 out of 5. There were some recommendations for a change in schedule if a solely Zoom Conference was necessary again in 2022.

## **Share the gift of education with your loved ones**

In keeping with its continuing support for education, ARTA has two annual scholarships that are awarded to students continuing their post-secondary studies:

- The ARTA TW Insurance Degree Scholarship and
- The ARTA Certificate/Diploma Scholarship.

Applications are welcome from direct relatives (children, grandchildren, 1st and 2nd generation nieces and nephews) of current ARTA members. The deadline for scholarship applications is July 31. For scholarship criteria and application forms just search "ARTA Scholarships" and you will find all the information you need.

## **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](http://www.artabranches.net).

Ron Thompson, HARTA President

## Alberta Retired Teachers Charitable Foundation

### Charitable Foundation Details

#### Our Mission:

*“From classrooms and beyond, the Alberta Retired Teachers Charitable Foundation and its members are linked by one common purpose: to support Alberta Seniors in pursuit of Appropriate Housing, Health Services and English as a Second Language, to improve their lives! “*

ARTCF supports the following Charities:

**Parkinson Association of Alberta** - three ARTCF Tele-Support Groups

**Alzheimer Society of Calgary** - Funding for their Learning and Support Services

**Alzheimer Society of Alberta / NWT** - “Minds in Motion”, which is a fitness and social program.

**CNIB** - Community Education & Outreach Program

**Operation Friendship Seniors' Society** – Grant to support equipment for the facility

ARTCF, with your support, will make a difference. We have provincial status as an Alberta Society, as well Charitable Status (ability to give Tax Receipts) from Canada Revenue Agency. Join us in expanding our impact. Honor or Memorial gifts will be recognized, and all gifts will be Income Tax receipted. On-line donations, may be made at [www.arta.net/cf-give](http://www.arta.net/cf-give)

Cheques may be made out to **ARTCF** and mailed to:

ARTCF Office

15505 - 137 Avenue NW

Edmonton AB

T5V 1R9

## Executive and Contact Info for the 2020-21 Program Year

**Alvin Rurka:** Past President (587) 274-4562  
[abrurka@hotmail.ca](mailto:abrurka@hotmail.ca)

**Ron Thompson:** President & ARTA Rep (780) 986-8349  
[rnthompson@shaw.ca](mailto:rnthompson@shaw.ca) (r n thompson)

**Joan Henry:** Vice President Drayton Valley. (780) 542-3209  
[brijoHenry@gmail.com](mailto:brijoHenry@gmail.com)

**Elaine Merriman:** Vice President Leduc (780) 467-0010 [terry6@telusplanet.net](mailto:terry6@telusplanet.net)

**Ron Holmlund:** Vice President Wetaskiwin (780) 352-4842 [rdholm@hotmail.com](mailto:rdholm@hotmail.com)

**Walley Porter:** ATA Liaison—Wetaskiwin and Timberline Locals (780) 388-3849 [walleyp@telusplanet.net](mailto:walleyp@telusplanet.net)

**Gary Hansen:** ATA Liaison—Black Gold and St. Thomas Aquinas Locals (780) 986-1745  
[gbhanson@telus.net](mailto:gbhanson@telus.net)

**Alain Lefevre:** Treasurer (780) 941-2245  
[elefevre6@gmail.com](mailto:elefevre6@gmail.com)

**Erika Lefevre:** Secretary (780) 941-2245  
[elefevre6@gmail.com](mailto:elefevre6@gmail.com)

**Lawrence Dublenko:** Membership Co-ordinator (587) 783-8588 [mayoprospector@gmail.com](mailto:mayoprospector@gmail.com)

**Susan Schwindt:** Finance Committee Member—D.V.(780) 542-4136 [salschwindt@gmail.com](mailto:salschwindt@gmail.com)

## 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.***



**You're Invited to  
HARTA's annual  
AGM**

**ARTA Benefits Presentation  
by Gary Sawatzky to follow.**

**The form of the AGM will  
take has yet to be decided.  
Please save the date, Sept.  
17th will mark the beginning  
of HARTA's 10th year as a  
Branch of ARTA**

**Friday, Sept. 17th, 2021, 10:30 AM**

**Annual Membership \$10.00**

**(Membership \$10.00 for two years for new retirees.)**

**Please RSVP by Wednesday, Sept. 15th, 2021**

**A Branch of ARTA**



**email:**

**[rnthompson@shaw.ca](mailto:rnthompson@shaw.ca)**

**(r n thompson)**

**phone: (780) 986-8349**