



Heartland
Alberta
Retired
Teachers'
Association

The Heartland Herald

HARTA's Newsletter of Branch Events

HARTA's 10th Year AGM Edition

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A Branch of ARTA



Celebrating HARTA's 10th Year as a Branch of ARTA

Zoom Presentation on ARTA Committees hosted by HARTA

HARTA will be presenting a Zoom presentation on ARTA Committees and Trusts in late September. Stay tuned. (These ARTA Committees and Trusts are responsible for the many services ARTA offers.)

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. At present the plan is to hold in-person meetings in both Leduc and Drayton Valley at the same time. More information is available in this newsletter.

Other HARTA Activities During the 2021—2022 Program Year

HARTA will be providing luncheons and presentations during the 2021-22 Program year as AHS permits. As well, we will provide online presenta-

tions for those who don't feel comfortable attending in person. The 2021—22 program year schedule will be available after being ratified at the AGM Friday, September 17th.

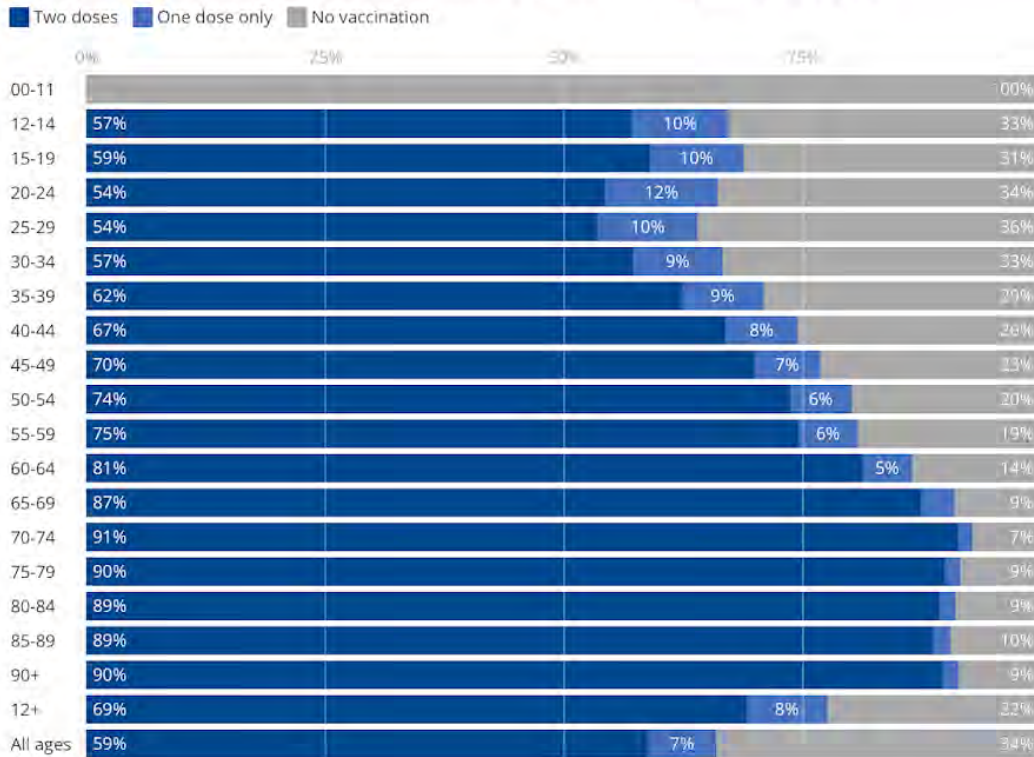
From the President

As we approach the Branch AGM on Friday, September 17th please watch for the following attachments: the Agenda, the Minutes, the Financial Info, the President's report, the bylaw changes, and the proposed 2021-22 Event Schedule. You should have received all these documents by email or by mail by Wednesday, September 8th. Please let me know if you are missing any documents. Please download the documents for the meeting and review them before the AGM. If you have any questions email me at rnthompson@shaw.ca.

To ensure you can vote at the AGM, please ensure that your HARTA Membership is current. (The membership year runs from September 1st to



Proportion of Albertans vaccinated against COVID-19, by age



CBC NEWS

Chart: Robson Fletcher • Source: Alberta Health

August 31st of the next year.) The membership fee is \$10.00. You may pay for your membership by e-transfer, (rnthompson@shaw.ca) by cheque or money order, if you are planning to attend online, or you can pay in-person at the AGM in either Leduc or Drayton Valley. Check with Lawrence Dublenko or Ron Thompson if you are not sure if your membership is up to date. Lawrence's contact info is (phone) (587) 783-8588 (email) mayo-prospector@gmail.com.

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.) The meal will be \$10.00 per person in both Drayton Valley and Leduc. Please bring a friend. Guests who have not been to a HARTA event can have their meal free.

I have heard from some HARTA members, some concern about holding in-person meet-

ings. The graph above, (courtesy of CBC, Alberta), shows the various rates of vaccinations for Albertans from ages 12 to 90+. Please notice that for people ages 55 through 90+ the vaccination rate is 75% percent or over. As a result, HARTA has no hesitation in holding in-person luncheons and other events. If, however, the situation should change we would go back to holding our presentations online. If you are hesitant about attending our in-person events, please use the Zoom link which is provided with the email to which this newsletter has been attached to attend online.

Gary Sawatzky's Presentation

As part of HARTA's AGM, Gary Sawatzky gives a presentation on ARTA's Benefit Plan updates at our AGMs. Every year there are changes to the plan. One major change this year is the ARTA Rx Program. This program will allow ARTA Benefit Plan members to order their maintenance

medications directly from ARTA and have them delivered to their homes. If you have questions about the plans, or if you have concerns, please use this chance to talk to Gary during this presentation.

HARTA AGM Particulars

Since the AGM will be taking place in two different locations this year pre-registration is essential to helping the planning committees in Drayton and Leduc know the number of members planning to attend. To register, please contact Joan Henry for Drayton Valley at (phone) (780) 542-3209 or (email) brijohentry@gmail.com, or Ron Thompson for Leduc—Wetaskiwin (phone) (780) 986-8349 (email) rnthompson@shaw.ca. Please use the above contacts if you need more information re: the AGM. Please register by Friday, September 10th, to allow the planning committees enough time to order the food for the respective luncheons.

The locations for the AGM are: the Clean Energy Technology Centre, 5400—22 Avenue in Drayton Valley and St. David's United Church, 4614—48 Street in Leduc

Our Zoom Presentation on ARTA's Committees

At a date and time after the HARTA AGM, HARTA will be hosting an online presentation on the ARTA Committees and Trusts which make up a part of this organization. We are hosting this presentation to acquaint members of the various Committees which provide the many services which ARTA provides for its members. Also, ARTA's AGM is on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 5th and 6th. If you are interested in running for one of the positions open on the various committees, you could submit your nomination to Marilyn Bossert, ARTA's Past President. The nomination package is available on the ARTA website, www.arta.net or you could email me at rnthompson@shaw.ca and the nomination package will be emailed to you.

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.

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.

Humour Corner

1. **Teacher:** Why did the king draw straight lines? **Student:** Because he was the ruler.
2. **Jim:** How did you find the weather when you were on vacation? **Tim:** It was easy. I went outside and there it was.
3. **Q:** Three little rabbits went to school under the same umbrella. Why didn't they get wet? **A:** It wasn't raining.
4. **Q:** How do you drive a baby buggy? **A:** Tickle their feet.
5. **Policeman stopping a motorist going the wrong way down a one way street:** Just where do you think you're going? **Driver:** I don't know, but I must be late 'cause everyone else is already coming back.
6. When the X-ray specialist married one of her patients, everyone wondered what she saw in him.
7. **Teenager:** I'm so confused! Half the adults I know tell me to find myself. The other half tell me to get lost .
8. **Moe:** What animal can jump higher than a house? **Joe:** Any animal. houses don't jump.
9. What do you do if your dog eats your pen? Use a pencil.
10. **Teacher:** John, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor? **John:** You told me to do it without using tables.

(The jokes above are from Linda's Joke Book)

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: rnthompson.harta@gmail.com. It would be great to get more submissions for our readers.

Ron Thompson, HARTA President

Paid Vacation

Two factory workers were talking. "I think I'll take some time off from work," said the man. The first man proceeded to show his workmate...by climbing up to the rafters, and hanging upside down.

The boss walked in, saw the worker hanging from the ceiling, and asked him what on earth he was doing.

"I'm a light bulb," said the guy.

"I think you need some time off," said the boss.

So, the man jumped down and walked out of the factory. His workmate began walking out too.

The boss asked him where did he think he was going?

He answered, "Home, I can't work in the dark."

Other Branch Events

ARTA 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

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

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

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

Joan Henry: Vice President Drayton Valley. (780) 542-3209 brijohenry@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

Alain Lefevre: Treasurer (780) 941-2245 elefevre6@gmail.com

Erika Lefevre: Secretary (780) 941-2245 elefevre6@gmail.com

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

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



A Branch of ARTA



**You're Invited to
HARTA's annual AGM
in Leduc and D. V.**

**ARTA Benefits Presentation
by Gary Sawatzky to follow.
AGM in Leduc, Drayton
Valley and on Zoom.
Please save the date. Sept.
17th will mark the start of
HARTA's 10th year as a
Branch of ARTA**



email:

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

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

Annual Membership \$10.00

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

Please RSVP by Friday, Sept. 10th, 2021