



Heartland  
Alberta  
Retired  
Teachers'  
Association

# The Heartland Herald

## HARTA's Newsletter

### of Branch Events

## HARTA's 10th Year

### October Edition

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## A Branch of ARTA



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

**The HARTA AGM passed the following Event Schedule which be followed pending favourable AHS guidelines.**

### **HARTA's Drayton Valley Luncheon—Oct. 21st, 2021**

HARTA's Drayton Valley AGM will tentatively be held on Thursday, October 21st at the CETC, 5400—22 Ave in Drayton Valley pending favourable AHS guidelines. The presentation information will be forwarded when available. The lunch will be \$10.00 per person.

### **HARTA's November Executive Meeting & Leduc Luncheon—Nov. 17th, 2021**

The HARTA Executive Meeting will be at St. David's United Church, 4614—48 St. in Leduc and also on Zoom. Start time 9:30 AM.

The Leduc HARTA Luncheon will also be at the Church, start time 11:30 AM as long as AHS permits us to meet in-person. The lunch will be \$10.00 per person. The presentation will be at 1:00 PM. Gert Reynar, from the Leduc & District Food

Bank, will present virtually on Zoom after the Luncheon.

### **HARTA's February Executive Meeting & Devices Workshop—Feb. 9th, 2022**

The HARTA Executive Meeting will be at St. David's United Church, 4614—48 St. in Leduc and also on Zoom. Start time 9:30 AM.

The Luncheon will also be at the Church, start time 11:30 AM. The Devices Workshop will start at 1:00 PM and is expected to last until approximately 3:00 PM and will also be available on Zoom. The presenter will be Stan Gerber. Cost for the luncheon is \$10.00. There is no cost for the workshop.

### **HARTA's Wetaskiwin Luncheon—March 9th, 2022**

HARTA's March Luncheon will be at O'Brian's Restaurant in the Wayside Hotel, 4103—56 Ave. in Wetaskiwin. The luncheon will start at 11:30 AM, Wednesday, March 9th. The meal will be from the menu since the Buffet is not available at this time.

At 1:00 PM Lawrence Hrycan will be our guest. He will be giving a presentation on Public Interest Al-

berta (PIA). He will outline some of the concerns this group is highlighting. This presentation will also be available on Zoom.

### **HARTA's Drayton Valley Luncheon—April 14th, 2022**

HARTA's Drayton Valley Luncheon will be held on Thursday, April 14th, at the CETC, 5400—22 Ave in Drayton Valley. The presentation information will be forwarded when available. The lunch will be \$10.00 per person.

### **HARTA's Mini-Conference in Leduc—May 4th, 2022**

The HARTA Mini-Conference will be at St. David's United Church, 4614—48 St. in Leduc and also on Zoom. Start time 9:30 AM. Further details re: registration, cost and presenters will be available as details are worked out.

### **HARTA's 2022 AGM in Leduc & Drayton Valley—September 16th, 2022**

The HARTA 2022 AGM will be at St. David's United Church, in Leduc and also in Drayton Valley as well as on Zoom. Start time 10:30 AM.

## **HARTA AGM Results**

On Friday, September 17th HARTA held our first AGM from Leduc and Drayton Valley as well as on Zoom. A total of 26 members took part in the AGM.

The Executive for 2021-22 is:

President	Ron Thompson
VP Leduc	Elaine Merriman
VP Wetaskiwin	Ron Holmlund
Drayton Valley Rep.	Susan Schwindt
Secretary	Janice Storeshaw
Treasurer	Constance Dublenko
ATA Liaison, Wetaskiwin & Timberline Locals	Walley Porter
ATA Liaison, Black Gold & St. Thomas Aquinas Locals	Gary Hansen
Membership	Lawrence Dublenko

The HARTA financial records have been reviewed by Robin Stuart and Kirby Dublenko. Their report is available upon request and will be tabled at the November Executive Meeting. The Treasurer's Report was received as presented. The 2021-22 Budget was passed.

The recommended Bylaws changes were approved. The changes are:

**Article I, Name, Section 2.** The phrase **and includes the urban municipalities within their boundaries**, makes clear that the municipalities within each of the three counties are included in the Branch boundaries.

**Article III, Membership, Section 4** The sentence; **Friends of HARTA may become HARTA members as long as they agree with and support the objectives of HARTA.** This Section allows other seniors who support the objectives of HARTA to become HARTA members.

### **Article V, Meetings, Sections 3, 4, 5, and 6**

**Sec. 3** allows HARTA to hold an AGM in a month other than September

**Sec. 4** allows HARTA to hold online meetings in up to three locations using the Hybrid Mode.

**Sec. 5** allows HARTA to hold Virtual meetings in both Virtual and Hybrid (online and in-person) meeting.

**Sec. 6** allows a Vice President to call an Emergency Meeting at the request of any member, if the President is not available.

All of the above changes were approved by the HARTA AGM on Friday, September 17, 2021.

## **Gary Sawatzky's Presentation**

As part of HARTA's AGM, Gary Sawatzky gave his yearly presentation on ARTA's Benefit Plan updates at our AGM. 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. Please see further details at the end of this newsletter.

## **An Update on the ATRF Issue**

The following information was made available earlier in September by email by the Alberta Teachers' Association.

An agreement reached late last week ensures that the Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund (ATRF) will remain in full control of strategic investment policies for teacher pensions.

The new investment management agree-

ment (IMA) between the ATRF and the Alberta Investment Management Corporation (AIMCo) replaces the previous IMA imposed by a ministerial order of Finance Minister Travis Toews in December 2020. The new IMA removes a controversial veto provided to AIMCo over investment directions made by the ATRF.

“This is a huge victory for teachers and the Association. Teachers mounted a strong, wide-reaching, relentless campaign in defense of their pensions, which provided the ATRF with the backing they needed to negotiate an effective agreement that protects the interests of teachers.”

—ATA president Jason Schilling

The imposed IMA prompted the Association to launch a lawsuit in March 2021 arguing that Toews’s ministerial order was unreasonable and should be declared invalid by the courts.

Schilling believes that the prospects of the government losing in court and the installation of a new AIMCo CEO with a fresh perspective on client relations have been instrumental in spurring this resolution.

“Our court challenge against the imposed IMA—backed up by significant pressure from teachers—changed the game. I believe that we were on our way to winning in court. Under the new CEO, AIMCo appears to realize that they need to be responsive to clients and that they will be held accountable for their duty to teachers as the investment manager.”

## The Alberta Teachers' Association

### Our Zoom Presentation on ARTA's Committees

On Friday, September 24th, ARTA's Past President and HARTA hosted an online presentation on the ARTA Committees and Trusts which make up a part of this organization. We hosted 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 make your intentions known to the President of your Branch or another of the delegates for your Branch. For HARTA our second delegate is Elaine Merriman.

### Kimberly Moreside's Presentation on Toastmasters

On Wednesday, September 29th, Leduc Blackgold Toastmasters' Kimberly Moreside gave her Information Session on the benefits of Toastmasters. In her session Kimberly showed that within the Edmonton area alone, there were many Toastmasters clubs available. She outlined the new Pathways program and how the various paths helped to build different competencies in speaking and leadership. The presentation took place on Zoom after HARTA's Wetaskiwin Luncheon. Our next presentation is scheduled to take place in Drayton Valley, assuming COVID regulations allow it to take place. Keep tuned for this event either on line or in-person.

### 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 vari-

ous 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.

## 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. I went to a concert by the Bermuda Symphony Orchestra. They played the coconuts beautifully, but the triangle kept disappearing.
2. When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.
3. My only regret was that I had but one life to give for my country. If I had two, I would have felt much safer.
4. My car radio only gets talk shows, no music. It needs a tune-up.
5. A smile is a curve that sets everything straight.
6. Two men meet on opposite sides of a river. One shouts to the other, "I need you to help

me get to the other side." The other guy says, "You are on the other side."

7. Old refrigerators never die. They just lose their cool.
8. Did you hear about the new dance called the "Elevator"? It has no steps.
9. What about the guy who stole calendars? He got 12 months.

(The jokes above are from The Coffee News September 27th and October 11th Issues)

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

Ron Thompson, HARTA President

## Other Branch Events

On Thursday, September 9th my wife Linda and I attended the Wolf Creek Retired Teachers' Association at the Ponoka Drop-in Centre. The To Hell With the Bell Breakfast event featured a breakfast followed by the Branch AGM. COVID precautions were visible as the event continued. It was great to be able to join another branch for a meal in person after having spent the last 18 months in isolation.

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

Ron Thompson, HARTA President

## A Short Note

Both HARTA members Gary Hansen and Bob Silverthorne are running for School Trustee in the



Black Gold School Division and Wetaskiwin County respectively. If you are in their respective jurisdictions, you might want to check out their platforms. We wish them both good luck.

## **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:

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

ARTCF Office

15505 - 137 Avenue NW

Edmonton AB

T5V 1R9

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

**Alvin Rurka:** Past President  
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**Ron Thompson:** President & ARTA Rep  
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(r n thompson)

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

**Ron Holmlund:** Vice President Wetaskiwin  
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**Susan Schwindt:** Drayton Valley Rep. (780) 542-4136  
[salschwindt@gmail.com](mailto:salschwindt@gmail.com)

**Janice Storeshaw:** Secretary (780) 986-0056  
[jes90@telus.net](mailto:jes90@telus.net)

**Connie Dublenko:** Treasurer (587) 783-8588  
[ccdublenko@gmail.com](mailto:ccdublenko@gmail.com)

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

## **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.

## **Changes to the ARTA Health Benefits which will come into effect November 1, 2021**

1. Remove the exclusion of white fillings from the dental care plan, defaulting to the cost of amalgam fillings for posterior teeth effective November 1, 2021.
2. Add coverage for the purchase or rental of cryo-cooling units to the plan effective November 1, 2021, covered at 80% to a 5-year maximum of \$250.
3. Add coverage for CPAP battery packs to the plan effective November 1, 2021, under the current CPAP benefit.
4. Amend the current benefit for continuous glucose monitors to reallocate their coverage under the current annual diabetes supplies maximum effective November 1, 2021.
5. Remove coverage for CPAP machine sanitizers effective November 1, 2021.
6. Add coverage for Psychotherapists under the current Psychologist/MSW/RSW/Registered Clinical Counsellor coverage effective November 1, 2021.
7. Update the Usual and Customary expenses permitted as follows, effective November 1, 2021:
  - Chiropractic Assessment \$85
  - Dietician/Nutritionist \$130
  - Naturopathic Treatment \$110
  - Osteopath \$115
  - Physiotherapist Treatment \$85
  - Physiotherapist Assessment \$110
  - Psychology Family Treatment \$115
8. Increase the combined annual maximum for paramedical practitioners to \$1200 for Health Wise and Total Health plans, and to \$1400 for Health Wise Plus and Ultimate Health plans effective November 1, 2021.
9. Increase the triennial Hearing Aids maximum to \$1300 for the Health Wise and Total Health plans, and \$1500 for the Health Wise Plus and Ultimate Health plans effective November 1, 2021.
10. Combine the two Major Dental services \$800 maximums under Dental Care Plan Option A into one \$1600 maximum effective November 1, 2021.
11. Enable the CEO to enter into a 3-year contract with Inkblot Member Assistance Plan at a rate of no more than \$2 per member per month effective November 1, 2021.
12. Implement the ARTARx plan as indicated effective November 1, 2021.
13. Implement the under 65 plans as indicated effective November 1, 2021.
14. Implement an overall decrease to the Education Sector Extended Health Care (EHC) rate of 7.4%, an increase to the Education Sector Dental Care rate of 6.9%, a decrease to the Public/Private Sector of 7.0%, and no change to the Public/Private Sector Dental Care rate, with all rate changes to be effective November 1, 2021

[More information is available MyARTA on the ARTA website.](#)

# Some Pictures of the Season from Drayton Valley, Leduc, and Wetaskiwin

