



Heartland
Alberta
Retired
Teachers'
Association

The Heartland Herald

HARTA's Newsletter

of Branch Events

HARTA's 10th Year

New Year's Edition

Publisher: Ron Thompson

Volume No. 10

Issue No. 5 Date: January, 2022

A Branch of ARTA



**The Event Schedule to be Followed
Pending Favourable AHS Guidelines.**

HARTA's January Zoom Presentation on the Changes—to Auto Insurance January 1st

HARTA will be facilitating a Zoom Presentation on Changes to Alberta's Auto Insurance Plans. Laurie Bauer will be doing the session on Wednesday, Jan. 12th, at 10:00 AM. More details follow in this newsletter.

2022 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, as long as COVID regulations allow, and also on Zoom. Start time 9:30 AM.

The Luncheon will also be at the Church, on Wednesday, February 9th, 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 with a workshop on Windows 10. 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. (There may be a change of facilities



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

for this event. Please watch for further developments.) 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 Alberta (PIA). He will outline some of the concerns this group is advocating for. 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 & Drayton Valley — May. 4th, 2022

The HARTA Mini-Conference will be at St. David's United Church, 4614—48 St. in Leduc, at the CETC 5400—22 Ave in Drayton Valley and also on Zoom. Start time 9:30 AM. Further details re: registration, cost and presenters will be available as details are worked out. **All in-person meetings assume**

COVID regulations allow for in-person meetings. If the situation changes, the revised restrictions will apply.

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.

From the President

With the start of the year 2022 HARTA would like to wish everyone a happier and more positive 2022.

I have a major concern regarding the resurgence of the COVID virus in the form of the Omicron variant. I am of the opinion that we need to act as if the COVID virus in one form or another will be here with us for a while yet. The last major Pandemic lasted at least three years. (1918 to 1921) At that time, world-wide travel was not as easy to access as before the current pandemic, and yet the virus spread widely. Today, in spite of better medical procedures being available, we still are seeing this virus continue its march.

I believe we need to take a longer view living with this virus. We can't put the whole population under another lockdown for an extended length of time, and yet we can't allow the virus free access to spread unhindered through our population. Some how, we need to be able to reopen businesses and other services without creating more spread of the virus. I have no answers for this dilemma. I do believe, as more people are vaccinated, and as more is learned about this virus we will see an end to this pandemic. It has been said many times, "All pandemics do end."

I believe we need to connect with one another in the next year in whatever way we

can to develop and maintain a healthy frame of mind. I would like to encourage HARTA's members to connect with each other, our families and our friends, safely either virtually, by phone, or in-person when COVID regulations allow. I also ask members to submit articles about how they have connected with others, or submit ideas to facilitate connections with others. Have a great new year and keep safe and healthy in 2022.

Ron Thompson —HARTA President

From the Archives

During 2022, to celebrate the 10 years HARTA has been a Branch, the Newsletter Editor will publish historical information re: HARTA, and articles previously published in earlier editions of the HARTA Herald. I hope you find them of interest.

In January of 2012, Juanita Knight, Robin Stuart and Ron Thompson met at a Tim Hortons location in Leduc to start planning the founding of a new Branch of ARTA. This founding Committee, consisting of the original three members plus others who became interested in creating a new branch, met once a month with the last meeting in June of 2012. During this time the committee set out the constitution and bylaws.

In late spring or early summer, Ron met with a group of retired teachers in Drayton Valley over breakfast to share with them the committee's goal to set up a new Branch of ARTA in the Leduc, Drayton Valley and, Wetaskiwin regions. The reason for including Drayton Valley and Wetaskiwin in the formation of the branch was to include at least 25 ARTA members in the application to found the Branch. None of these areas had 25 ARTA members by themselves. (ARTA requires the signatures of 25 voting ARTA members to create a new branch.)

The name HARTA, which is an acronym of Heartland Alberta Retired Teachers' Association, was chosen because Drayton Valley, Leduc and Wetaskiwin could not be used as part of the new Branch's name. The name Heartland did not signify any of the three communities. HARTA's inaugural AGM took place on Tuesday, September 4th, 2012. There were 32 founding members who signed the original request to form a branch. The Branch received its charter on Monday, September 10th, 2012.

HARTA became a branch on Tuesday, September 4th, 2012. The new President was welcomed to the ARTA Board of Directors on Tuesday, September 11th, along with HARTA's Vice President who was present as well as an observer. HARTA held five meetings that year, the AGM in Leduc in September, the first meeting in Drayton Valley in October, a meeting in Leduc in February, another in Drayton Valley in March and a final meeting in Wetaskiwin in May.

The Members of the first Executive were:

Past President: Robin Stuart

President: Ron Thompson

Vice President Ken O'Sullivan

Secretary: Elaine Merriman

Treasurer: Anne Purves

Director Drayton Valley: Jeannette Miner

How To Access Alberta's New QR Code

As of November 15, 2021, the Alberta Government now requires all persons who are vaccinated with COVID vaccines to carry identification with their personal QR code to prove they have been vaccinated with a COVID Vaccine. The following steps will help you to get your personal QR Code from the Government of Al-

berta Website. Before starting, gather the following information for you and whomever else you will get a code for:

- Personal Health Number
 - Date of Birth
 - The date of one of your vaccinations (Month and Year).
1. Using the website www.alberta.ca type in, "Alberta QR Code." in the search field and look for the response, "COVID Records Helpdesk."
 2. Click this link and scroll down the page until you see the phrase, "Get your vaccine record." Followed by an arrow.
 3. Click this link. You will come to a page entitled, "Alberta Covid Records." Below the title, you will see a picture of a mobile device and below this picture if you keep scrolling down, you'll come to a blue bar labelled, "GET STARTED." Press or click this bar.
 4. At this point you will come to a page with the headings, "Get Started, Complete the Form, and Save Record."
 5. Fill in the form with the required information: Personal Health Number, Date of Birth, The date of one of your vaccinations (Month and Year). Then check the box, "I am not a robot." Press or click the Blue Bar.
 6. Next the QR Code appears. Below the code two blue bars appear. Using the blue bar, "Save Your Code," you press or click the bar, and a printer menu appears allowing a copy of the QR code may be printed. (Depending on the quality of the printer, the best print quality may be had with a black & white printout.)
 7. You can also save a PDF version for your cell phone by changing "Destination" on the print page from the name of your printer to "Save as PDF". Then choose the file where you wish to save the QR code. If you are saving it to ONE DRIVE, you may also wish to save it to a file that is physically on your phone. That way if you are somewhere

that Wi-Fi is not available you can still access the file.

As of November 15th, this is the only acceptable form of proof of vaccination. You may want to print out your copy of this proof of vaccination and start using it in place of the earlier proof of vaccination. I have laminated my QR Code Proof of Vaccination as well to help make it more durable. I hope this information will be helpful.

Submitted by the Editor with suggestions from Iona Roberson and Laurie Semler.

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. **AIMCO (Alberta Investment Management Corporation)** is the Alberta Government's umbrella In-

vestment Organization which also manages various Government Pensions)

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>

AIMCO: Alberta Investment Management Corporation at: <https://www.aimco.ca>

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

Automobile Insurance Changes

As of January 1st 2022 all auto insurance policies in Alberta will change. Laurie Bauer of TW Insurance has agreed to do a Zoom presentation on the changes we will need to navigate as a result of these changes. The session will be on Zoom, Wednesday, January 12th, 2022. The Zoom link will be available shortly after January 1st.

Member Welfare

If you know of anyone needing our support, please let the editor know. 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. Q: Where can you go to practice math on New Year's Eve?
A: Times Square..
2. Q: What is a New Year's Resolution?
A: Something that goes in one year and out the other.
3. My grandparents had resolutions like donating more time and money to charities. I've decided to make my own coffee once a week.
4. Q: Why do you need a jeweler on New Year's Eve?
A: To ring in the New Year.
5. Q: What happened to the man who shoplifted a calendar on New Year's Eve?
A: He got 12 months.
6. My New Year's Resolution is to stop hanging around with people who ask me about my New Year's resolutions.
7. Q: What is a cow's favourite holiday?
A: Moo Year's Eve.
8. An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.
9. This New Year's, I'm going to make a resolution I can keep, no dieting all year long.
10. Q: Why should you put your new calendar in the freezer?
A: To start off the New Year in a cool way!

(The jokes above are from the Readers' Digest Website on New Year's Jokes)

The Devices Workshop

On Wednesday, February 9th, the Devices Workshop will take place online at 1:00 PM. HARTA's February Executive Meeting will take place between 9:30 and 11:00 AM followed by the February Luncheon. Lunch will be \$10.00 per per-

son and will feature sandwiches, fruit tray vegetables and sweets and well as a beverage, (providing COVID regulations still allow meals.)

The Workshop will follow at 1:00 PM. Members have a choice. They may log in online or they may come to the luncheon at St. David's United Church—4816 – 48 St. in Leduc and bring their Windows 10 laptops. The workshop will be a two hour workshop (1:00 to 3:00 PM) on Windows 10. There is no charge for members to attend the workshop. The login link will be provided at a later date. If you have a particular question regarding Windows 10, please email your question to me and I will relay it to Stan. My email for this purpose is rnthompson.harta@gmail.com.

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

Other Branch Activities

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.artabranched.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's 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)

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

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

Susan Schwindt: Drayton Valley Rep..
(780) 542-4136 salschwindt@gmail.com

Janice Storeshaw: Secretary
(780) 986-0056 jes90@telus.net

Connie Dublenko: Treasurer
(587) 783-8588 ccdublenko@gmail.com

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

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.



Heartland
Alberta
Retired
Teachers'
Association

A Branch of ARTA



HARTA's Zoom

**Auto Insurance Information
Session**

**"What are the Changes to
My Auto Insurance
Policy?"**

**Wednesday, January 12,
2022 10:00 AM**

With Laurie Bauer



**Zoom Annual Licence
Funded by ARTA**

Log On Details:

**Meeting ID: 886 3313 9926
Passcode: 681579**

Phone: 1 587 328 1099

**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



Heartland
Alberta
Retired
Teachers'
Association

A Branch of ARTA

ALBERTA RETIRED
TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

**You're Invited to
HARTA's Devices
Workshop on Zoom
With Stan Gerber. at
1:00 PM, Feb. 9th
For those who'd like to
attend, there will be a
Luncheon at
St. David's United
Church, 4614 - 48 St.
in Leduc, Workshop
Participants may bring their
Windows 10 laptops to the
Church or login at home.**

**Zoom Annual Licence
Funded by ARTA**

Log On Details:

**Meeting ID: 886 3313 9926
Passcode: 681579**

Phone: 1 587 328 1099

**email:
rnthompson@shaw.ca
phone:
(780) 986-8349
Ron Thompson**

Luncheon, Wednesday, February 9th, 2022

11:30 AM Lunch & Beverage \$10.00

Membership \$10.00 Per Year

New retirees \$10.00 for the Two Years

Please RSVP by Monday, Jan. 7th

Zoom Workshop at 1:00 PM