



Heartland
Alberta
Retired
Teachers'
Association

The Heartland Herald
HARTA's Newsletter
of Branch Events
**The Happy
Holiday Edition**

Publisher: Ron Thompson

Volume No. 11

Issue No. 4 Date: December 2022

A Branch of ARTA



HARTA's Program Schedule

for 2022-23

Most Presentations will also be available on Zoom.

(Funded by ARTA.)

ARTA's Pension & Financial Wellness Committee presents the ATRF Update of the ATRF Pension Plan

During the month of January 2023 ARTA's Pension & Financial Wellness Committee along with the ATRF will present the ATRF's update of the ATRF Pension Plan. This presentation will be on January 11th. More details are given later in this newsletter.

**HARTA's Devices Workshop
Tuesday, February 14th, 2023**

The HARTA Devices Workshop is tentatively scheduled for February 14th between 1:00 and 3:00 PM at St. David's United Church. Doors will open at 11:00 AM. The Luncheon will start at 11:30. More details will be available at a later date.

**HARTA's Wetaskiwin Luncheon,
Tuesday, March 14th, 2023**

The HARTA March Luncheon and program in Wetaskiwin at First United Church, is scheduled for March 14th between 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM.



Dennis Theobald, ATA's Executive Director is our speaker.

**HARTA's April Luncheon,
Thursday, April 13th, 2023**

The HARTA April Luncheon and program is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 13th between 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM, place to be decided. More details will be available later.

**HARTA's May Mini-Conference,
Tuesday, May 9th, 2023**

The HARTA Mini-Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9th in Leduc. The Conference will consist of a Keynote address and four sessions on various topics. More details will be available later as speakers are confirmed.

From the President

As of this writing of this Newsletter all presenters for the Mini-Conference have responded. Two presenters, Linda Mak from Money Mentors and Deb Gerow, ARTA's President have confirmed that they will be presenting. I am waiting to get confirmation from the other two speakers before releasing the program

schedule for the May Conference. The Mini-Conference will take place on Tuesday, May 9th. The Conference will be at St. David's Unite Church in Leduc. More information will be available more details are available.

When you have ideas re: a HARTA event, please email me at the following email address :rnthompson102@gmail.com. Please put Program Suggestions in the subject line of your email. Have a happy and relaxing holiday season!

HARTA's November Luncheon in Leduc

On Tuesday, November 15th, held its November Luncheon at St. David's United Church. Lunch consisted of a variety of sandwiches, a vegetable plate, a fruit plate and various beverages. After lunch we had a brief carol sing lead by Robin Stuart and Ron Thompson.

After the carol sing, Linda Mak, from Money Mentors, gave a presentation on her organization. Money Mentors started their School Program in 2012 in Alberta schools with the launch of their CALM presentation in Alberta high schools. A number of presentations were developed & launched between 2012-2016, with 2016 being the first year presentations were offered for all grade levels. These presentations are piloted, and continually revised each year.

During her presentation, Linda showed her boundless energy as she reviewed Money Mentors' history of its development as a non-profit helping people to manage their money. As she developed her presentation, she handed out pens and other Money Mentors swag to HARTA members who answered her questions correctly. She gave a great overview of what Money Mentors can offer to improve a person's financial literacy. She will be doing a session at the Mini-Conference in May in Leduc. Watch for more details about the cost, time, the presenters, and the content of the conference.

HARTA's December Executive Meeting Notes

The HARTA Executive met on Thursday, December 8 at St. David's United Church and online. Treasurer Connie Dublenko outlined the financial report from September 1st to November 30th. President Ron circulated the President's report for the first three months of HARTA's Program year. Drayton Valley Rep, Susan Schwindt, reported that the monthly breakfast gatherings are continuing. Drayton Valley hosted a mini-conference in October consisting of three presentations. (See November's Newsletter for the details.) For the Luncheon on February 14, 2023, there will a lunch consisting of sandwiches, vegetable, and fruit plates as well as various beverages (tea, coffee, and juice.). *Pot Luck*, a group of various soloists and pianist Robin Stuart will entertain with a few love songs in honour of Valentine's Day. At 1:00 PM, Stan Gerber will present a Devices Workshop on Internet Safety. Further details will be in the January Newsletter.

Mini-Conference Plans for In-person and on Zoom in 2023 are progressing. The Conference at St. David's United Church, will cost \$10.00 for all attendees either in person or online, and lunch costs will be \$15.00 for those who attend in-person. The Mini-Conference Draft Budget 2023 - was approved. ARTA, in conjunction with the ARTF, will present a webinar in January on the state of the Alberta teachers' pension fund. Be sure to watch for it. The next Executive meeting will be on February 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM. at St. David's United Church.

From the Archives

During 2022, to celebrate the 10 years HARTA has been a Branch, the Newsletter Editor has published articles from previous editions of the HARTA Herald. I hope you find them of interest. This edition marks the last in a series of republished articles first published in other issues during the last ten years.

How Canada Post Came to Act as Santa Claus

Excerpts from “Christmas Days”

...In the 1970s, fewer and fewer children saw Santa at department stores. More and more saw him at shopping malls. Malls didn't reply to kid's mail. By the 1980s, Santa letters were piling up at post offices. In Montreal, a few postal workers decided to answer them. The public appreciated it. Canada Post appreciated the appreciation, and announced an official Santa letter program in 1982 – to be run by “elves,” meaning employees and retired employees.

Don Capalbo worked at Canada Post for thirty-five years, retiring in 1999. But, he did not retire from the Santa program, which he'd been doing for seventeen years. Capalbo was named co-ordinator for all Ontario elves, “[In Ontario] we have 400 volunteers answering letters this year,” he told *Saturday Night* magazine. “This morning I woke up at four and answered forty-five letters.”

“We don't promise anything,” Capalbo is one of 13,000 elves answering letters. By the Santa program's twentieth anniversary, over 11 million replies had been posted, in twenty-six different languages. And Braille. “Every letter has to be read,” Capalbo said. “Every one,”

From Christmas Days, Published in 2005 by House of Anansi Press Inc.

© Derek McCormack

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 Investment 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.artabranche.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 previous information makes the retirement information world easier to navigate.

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.

Pension & Financial Wellness Webinar: ATRF Annual Report 2022

The next Pension & Financial Wellness webinar will be on January 11, 2023 at 1 p.m. This webinar will be of interest to retired teachers, as it pertains to the health and longevity of pensions for teachers in Alberta, and will be presented by the Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund (ATRF). Topics will include the 2022 ATRF financial report, and a rundown on how, one year later, the transition to using AIMCo as ATRF's investment manager impacted teacher pensions.

To register for this webinar, use the link available with the Pension & Wellness Committee's info re: the webinar featuring ATRF's 2022 Annual Report in the December ARTAfacts, if you subscribe to ARTAfacts. If you don't subscribe to it, you may download ARTAfacts from the ARTA website at: arta.net. Register at your earliest opportunity so you don't miss the webinar.

Public Interest Alberta

If you would like to keep abreast of the various emerging issues in Alberta such as Health Care, Education, and Long Term Care go to <https://www.pialberta.org/> up to the election and beyond for more information on these and other topics. This website will also tell you more about other organizations that are part of Public Interest Alberta. Lawrence Hrycan is ARTA's representative on this organization.

Humour Corner

Here are a few more jokes courtesy of Linda's Joke Book. Enjoy!

1. Why do Canada Geese fly to their choice of destination? It's faster than walking.
2. Walmart had to remove 50,000 milk cartons from their store, because the labels read, "Open here." They were changed to, "Open

at home.

3. A Help Wanted sign read, "Now hiring people who show up!"
4. "Knock, knock!" "Who's there?" "Toby." "Toby who?" "Toby be or not Toby? That is the question."
5. Jean: "I've been skiing since I was 5 years old."
Ron: "You must be really tired."
6. What do you call an elephant in a phone booth? Stuck..
7. There once was a banker who couldn't ride his bicycle any longer. He lost his balance.
8. What accidents happen 24 hours a day? Day breaks and night falls.
9. Parent: "How do you like learning addition at school?"
Child: "Every day it's the sum old story."
10. A sports arena is a good place to spend a hot day. It's full of fans.

Volunteers Needed

At various times during the program year, HARTA needs members to help with various tasks. For the various luncheons, we can always use extra help in preparing the room for our programs. In Drayton Valley check with Susan or Joan, In Leduc, Elaine or Ron T. and in Wetaskiwin either Bob or Ron T. Another way to contribute is to provide stories and other news for our newsletter. You can submit to: The Editor:

r_n_thompson102@shaw.ca. 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.artabranches.net.

Ron Thompson, HARTA President

T5V 1R9

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

Executive and Contact Info for the 2022-23 Program Year

Ron Thompson: President & ARTA Rep
(780) 986-8349 rnthompson102@gmail.com
(HARTA correspondence) (r n thompson) and
r_n_thompson102@shaw.ca (Newsletters)

Elaine Merriman: Vice President Leduc
(780) 467-0010 ter-ry6@telusplanet.net

Bob Silverthorne: Vice President Wetaskiwin
(780) 387-6676 rsilverthorne.peachills@gmail.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



Annual Zoom Licence
Funded by ARTA

**You're Invited
to HARTA's Leduc
Luncheon &
Devices
Workshop
@ St. David's United
Church, 4614 - 48 St.
in Leduc,
Stan Gerber
will be our
Workshop Host**



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY

email:
rnthompson102@gmail.com
phone:
(780) 909-8347
Ron Thompson

**Tuesday, February 14th, 2023 11:30 AM
Doors open at 11:00 AM
Lunch & Beverage \$10.00
Membership \$10.00 Per Year
New retirees \$10.00 for the first Two Years
Zoom Presentation at 1:00 PM
The presentation is free on Zoom**



Heartland
Alberta
Retired
Teachers'
Association

A Branch of ARTA



Annual Zoom Licence
Funded by ARTA

**HARTA's Wetaskiwin
Luncheon at Wetaskiwin
First United Church
5115 - 51st Ave.
Wetaskiwin
Program:
Emergent Issues
Re: Education,
Speaker:
Dennis Theobald,
ATA Executive
Secretary**



email:
rnthompson102@gmail.com
(r n thompson) phone:
(780) 909-8347

**Tuesday, March 14, 2023
Doors open 11:00 AM, Lunch at 11:30 AM
Lunch & Beverage \$10.00
Membership \$10.00 Per Year
New retirees \$10.00 for the first Two Years
Zoom Presentation at 12:30 PM
The presentation is free on Zoom**