



Heartland
Alberta
Retired
Teachers'
Association

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

Publisher: Ron Thompson

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A Branch of ARTA



HARTA's 2023 - 24

Approved Program Schedule

Most Presentations will also be available on Zoom. (Funded by ARTA.)

- Thursday, October 12, 2023, Drayton Valley Luncheon: Days Inn, Drayton Valley
- Thursday, November 16, 2023, St. David's United Church, Leduc
- Thursday, February 15, 2024, Wellness Workshop, St. David's United Church, Leduc
- Thursday, March 14, 2024, Wetaskiwin First United Church, Wetaskiwin.
- Thursday, May 9, 2024, Mini-Conference, St. David's United Church, Leduc.
- Friday, September 15, HARTA AGM, St. David's United Church.

From the President

October is the month for ARTA's AGM. The ARTA AGM was held last Tuesday and Wednesday, October 3 and 4. As part of the AGM, vacancies on ARTA's various committees were filled. Each committee holds at least four meetings per

year. Also available were the positions of President, Vice President, and Treasurer on the ARTA Executive. Terms for the Executive positions are one year each. For committee members, the term is four years except for the Health Benefit Committee where the term is five years. The Committees include the following: The Executive Committee (includes the President, Vice President, and Treasurer; Health Benefits, Communications, Governance, Pension & Financial Wellness, Strategic Planning & Advocacy, and Wellness Committees. The election results will be posted in November's Newsletter.

**HARTA's AGM, Friday,
September 15th, 2023**

HARTA held its AGM at St. David's United Church, on Friday, September 15th. Gary Sawatzky gave an update re: the ARTA benefit plan changes to come. The HARTA election re-

sulted in the following officers being returned to their positions. Bob Silverthorne will also act as the ATA Liaison Director for Wetaskiwin and Timberline ATA Locals.

President: Ron Thompson
 VP Leduc: Elaine Merriman
 VP Wetaskiwin: Bob Silverthorne
 Rep. Drayton Valley: Susan Schwindt
 Secretary: Janice Storeshaw
 Treasurer: Connie Dublenko
 Membership: Lawrence Dublenko
 ATA Liaison Blackgold, S.T.A.R.S Locals:
 Gary Hansen
 ATA Liaison Wetaskiwin, Timberline Locals:
 Bob Silverthorne

The schedule of events as well as the budget for the 2023-24 Program year were approved. We will be applying for grants from ARTA to cover the cost of Zoom and also to help cover expenses for our Mini-Conference in May.

Ron Thompson — HARTA President

ARTA Benefit Plan Update

On November 1st, the ARTA Benefit Plans will be updated. For details on the changes to your ARTA Plan, (if you have ARTA Benefits) you will receive, in the mail, your updated premium details with an explanation for the premium changes. As well your new ARTA cards will be included. Each year, at HARTA's AGM, Gary Sawatzky, or someone representing the plans, gives an update on the plan changes approved for that year. If you would like to become aware of coming changes for each year, please plan to attend the AGM in person, or online. Next year's AGM will take place on Friday, September 13,

2024, at St. David's United Church in Leduc.

Is Your HARTA Membership Up-To-Date?

In December of 2022, HARTA received our subsidy cheque from ARTA. The amount we receive is based on the number of paid up ARTA members that are also HARTA members as of September 1st of each year. Each branch president is required to send their list of current members. HARTA's yearly subsidy is based on the number of paid up ARTA members the Heartland Branch has. If your membership is due for renewal, you can renew it at a regular HARTA meeting, send an e-transfer to rnthompson102@gmail.com, or you may send a cheque, payable to HARTA care of HARTA, 4020 - 37th Avenue, Leduc, Alberta T9E 6C9. Please make out the cheque or e-transfer for \$10.00 for each year you would like to renew.

HARTA's Wetaskiwin Luncheon Thursday, September 28

HARTA's first luncheon after the AGM took place in Wetaskiwin on Thursday, September 28th. Laurie Bauer was our guest speaker. She spoke on five topics concerning home insurance, cyber crime issues. With the continuing triple threats from climate change, she addressed the concerns of wildfires, flooding, other water damage, and wind damage. As well she discussed title insurance in Alberta, and how you can obtain it. In addition she discussed Cyber Crime issues. She explained that with the increase in Cyber crime, insurance companies have developed cyber crime specific policies to protect against cyber crime issues. With respect to cyber crime, avoiding suspicious emails, and keeping computer software updated will continue to be important ways to keep cyber safe. Her session on Zoom was also recorded. I hope to be able to make it available on the HARTA Website.

News From Drayton Valley

The fall mini conference luncheon has been put together for **Thursday, October 12th**, in the Oak Room (at the recently renamed Days Inn). The cost \$20 per person for lunch + \$10 for HARTA membership (unless already paid/current). If you have not RSVPed Susan for this luncheon, you can still view the presentations on Zoom by following the link for HARTA members on their emails. Could we get a few of the retired guys to join us for this event? Please pay at the door.

Oct 12 Schedule:

10 AM: registration, coffee & muffins, & socialize

10:30: Marilyn Hoar - The Role of UNICEF in education around the world

There are many NGO's (non-governmental Organizations) that support the education of children in developing countries. UNICEF also has a mandate to support education, although its role is quite different than that of Save the Children or World Vision. Marilyn Hoar was the UNICEF Chief of Education in Uzbekistan, Nepal, and Kenya. She will describe the role of UNICEF in these countries and globally as well as her experiences working with NGO's, other UN agencies, and governments to improve access for all children to quality education. She will also discuss some of the global initiatives to improve education systems.

11:45: Lunch (soup, sandwiches, veggies)

12:30: Joey Cherpin - Director of Emergency Management - preparing for emergencies, like evacuations...!

1:30 - approx. wrap up. Thanks to Joan H, Sandy H, Jeanette M & Ron T for assisting me in organizing this event!

PLEASE join the local HARTA FaceBook page

that was recently started to help keep our members connected!

Look for: Drayton Valley Retired School Staff (HARTA)

Information provided by Susan Schwindt, Representative for Drayton Valley with insets by Ron Thompson, Editor

HARTA's November Luncheon

In November, HARTA will hold its luncheon at St. David's United Church in Leduc on Thursday, November 16th. Doors will be open at 11:00 AM, the luncheon to start at 11:30. the cost will be \$15.00 per person. After the lunch, Potluck will entertain with a few solos (theme to be decided), and a Christmas Carol sing. Stan Gerber will give us a tour of some communities in Alberta through pictures.

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 so much sickness around us, this might 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.

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 Inter-

est Alberta. Lawrence Hrycan is ARTA's representative on this organization.

Humour Corner

Here are a few Hallowe'en jokes courtesy of "Reader's Digest."

1. Q: Why did they discontinue making spider silk pants? A: They looked great, but the fly kept getting stuck.
2. Q: How many skeletons do you have in your closet? A: None, but that's just because the body hasn't decomposed yet.
3. Q: How do ghosts get their hair to stay in place? A: They use scare-spray.
4. Q: How do you know when a skeleton is sick? A: He's coffin.
5. Q: Where do deviled eggs come from? A: From evil hens.
6. Q: Where do toddler ghosts stay when their parents go to work? A: At Day Scare.
7. Q: How do you know when a ghost is scared?. A: When they're white as a sheet.
8. Q: What did the child mummy want to be when she grew up? A: She wanted to be a wrap star.
9. Q: What kind of stories do ghosts tell around the campfire? A: They tell scary human stories.
10. Q: What do you get when you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its diameter? A pumpkin pi.

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. The ARTA branches in Calgary and Edmonton host conferences once a year. At the end of April, the Calgary Retired Teachers hold the Steppin' Out Conference. At the beginning of September the Edmonton Retired Teachers host the Second Wind Conference. Look for these announcements as the next year progresses. If you would like to find other Branch events, this website can help you.

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'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

Bethany Care Centre - Grant to support a Music Therapy Program.

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 2023-24 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 terry6@telusplanet.net

Bob Silverthorne: Vice President Wetaskiwin &
ATA Liaison—Wetaskiwin and Timberline Lo-
cals (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 mayoprospector@gmail.com

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

HARTA's Goals

- 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.



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A Branch of ARTA

ARTA
ALBERTA RETIRED
TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

**You're Invited
to HARTA's Fall
Mini-Conference &
Luncheon in Drayton
Valley @ the
Days Inn in the
Oak Room
4302 - 50 Ave
in Drayton Valley
Marilyn Hoar- UNICEF
Experiences
Joey Cherpin -
Preparing for
Emergencies**



**email:
salschwindt@gmail.com
phone:
(780) 542-4136
Susan Schwindt**

**Thursday October 12, 2023 Doors open
10:00 AM 1st presentation 10:30 AM,
2nd presentation 12:30 PM
HARTA members, If you have not RSVPed
Susan for this luncheon, you can view the
presentations on Zoom with the link provided
on the email with this newsletter.**



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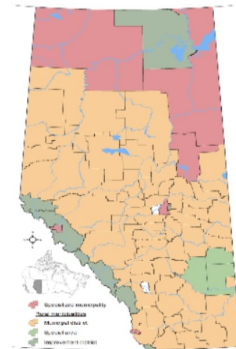
ARTA

ALBERTA RETIRED
TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Zoom Annual Licence
Funded by ARTA

**You're Invited
to HARTA's Leduc
Luncheon & Zoom
Presentation @
St. David's United
Church, 4614 - 48 St.
in Leduc,**

**Stan Gerber
Touring
Alberta**



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

Thursday, November 16th, 2023 11:30 AM

Doors open at 11:00 AM

Lunch & Beverage \$15.00

Membership \$10.00 Per Year

New retirees \$10.00 for the Two Years

Zoom Presentation at 12:30 PM

The presentation is free on Zoom