



Heartland  
Alberta  
Retired  
Teachers'  
Association

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

**Publisher: Ron Thompson**

**Volume No. 13**

**Issue No. 4**

**December 2024**

## **A Branch of ARTA**



## **HARTA's 2024 Program Schedule to the 2024 AGM**

**Some Presentations will also be available on Zoom.** Please check HARTA's Newsletter for details as they are available

- Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, St. David's United Church 4614 48th Street in Leduc, Luncheon & Program 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM
- Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Wetaskiwin United Church, Wetaskiwin 1:30 to 3:00 PM.
- Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, HARTA's Mini-Conference in Leduc, St. David's United Church, 4614-48 St. Leduc, 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM
- HARTA AGM, Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, St. David's United Church, 4614-48 St. Leduc 10:30 AM and on Zoom.

Other Events may be announced as the Information is available.

## **From the President**

The November HARTA event took place in Leduc, on Thursday, November 21st. More details will be given later in this newsletter. ARTA held its Board of Directors on Tuesday, November 26th and Wednesday, November 27th. HARTA received its yearly subsidy cheque. The subsidy will help cover some of the costs we will bear during this operational year. HARTA has also received a grant to help cover the costs of running mini-conferences in Drayton Valley and Leduc.

## **HARTA's November Program Thursday, Nov. 21st**

On Thursday, November 21st, Leduc hosted the luncheon and carol sing at St. David's United Church in Leduc. The event consisted of lunch, and a Christmas Carol Sing-Along hosted by Robin Stuart at the piano, Julie Junod and Ron Thompson. The presentation on Egypt has been postponed until the February Event. We had a small but enthusiastic group who gathered on Thursday, November 21st to enjoy singing Christmas Carols and seasonal popular songs.

## **HARTA Executive Update**

The HARTA Executive met on Thursday, November 21st, before the November Luncheon, at St. David's United Church. Ron Thompson will act as liaison for Drayton Valley until a new representative is chosen. Jim Allan, chair of the Alberta Retired Teachers' Charitable Foundation, agreed

to present at the February program, but he had to postpone his presentation. The HARTA Executive agreed to give the Alberta Retired Teachers' Charitable Foundation a donation of \$100.00 after his presentation. He will now give his presentation at the mini-conference in Leduc in May. Updates on the February event will be given later in this newsletter. Bob Silverthorne agreed to continue as the liaison for the Wetaskiwin and Timberline ATA Locals. The liaison for Black Gold and STARS Catholic ATA Locals has yet to be chosen. The proposal for having a mini-conference in Leduc was approved as well as the budget to run it.

## **HARTA's February Program Thursday, Feb. 13th**

On Thursday, February 13th, Leduc will host the program at St. David's United Church in Leduc. Doors are open at 11:00 AM, lunch at 11:30 AM. Potluck Singers members will offer a selection of love songs. Jim Allan's presentation on the Alberta Retired Teachers' Charitable Foundation, will be postponed until the HARTA Mini-Conference in May. Janice Storeshaw and David Marriott will present their travelogue on Egypt at the February 13th event. Please save the date.

## **HARTA's March Program Thursday, March 13th**

On Thursday, March 13th, Wetaskiwin will host the program at First United Church in Wetaskiwin. Doors are open at 1:00 PM, dessert and the presentation will be at 1:30 PM. Ian McDonald will present information on FireSmart, a way of being proactive re: fire safety in preparation for the spring wildfire season. Please save the date Thursday, March 13th in Wetaskiwin at 1:30 PM.

## **HARTA's Mini-Conference in May**

HARTA will host a mini-conference in Leduc at St. David's United Church. So far we have confirmed our keynote speaker, Léo Richer, ARTA's last year's Vice President. Jim Allan, the chair of the Alberta Retired Teachers' Charitable Foundation, will give an overview of the Foundation's objectives and its achievements since the foundation was formed. Marilyn Hoar has agreed to speak about her experiences in Qatar and the immediate surrounding area. Other presentations are being finalized. Please stay tuned for more details, and save the date, Thursday, May 8th and plan to attend this event.

## **Is Your HARTA Membership Up-To-Date?**

In late November of each year, HARTA will receive a subsidy cheque from ARTA, each year based on the number of paid up ARTA members that are also HARTA members as of September 1st of that 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 who are retired Alberta teachers who are eligible for an Alberta teachers' pension that the Heartland Branch has. If your membership is due for renewal, you can renew it at a regular HARTA meeting, by sending an e-transfer to: [rnthompson102@gmail.com](mailto:rnthompson102@gmail.com), or by a cheque, or money order payable to HARTA care of HARTA, 4020 - 37th Avenue, Leduc, Alberta T9E 6C9. Please make out the cheque, money order, or e-transfer for \$10.00 for each year you would like to renew.

## **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: A 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>

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. HARTA's editor can be reached at:

[r\\_n\\_thompson102@shaw.ca](mailto:r_n_thompson102@shaw.ca)

## 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, please 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

The following jokes are mainly from Linda's Joke Book.

1. Teacher: "What are the Great Plains?"  
Student: "The 747, the Concorde, and the F-16."
2. "Knock! Knock!" "Who's there?" "Dishes."  
"Dishes who?" "Dishes me. Can I come in?"
3. Question: Why did the pickle climb into the truck? Answer: The door was ajar.
4. I didn't think I was going to like soccer, but I get a real kick out of it.
5. One worm to another: "Follow me. I know a restaurant where we can eat dirt cheap.
6. There is an ancient legend that says if you can't sleep at night it is because you are awake.

7. All of my childhood punishments have become my adult goals: eating vegetables, staying home, having a nap, going to bed early.
8. One day, I'm going to judge a spelling bee. I'll ask one of the kids to spell the word "there." When he/she asks for its use in a sentence, I'll say..."Their car is parked over there and they're late."
9. Sometimes I like to mess with my husband and hide his stuff where he can't find it. Like, I put his shoes in the shoe closet, his jacket on the hanger and his keys on the key hook.
10. 9 out of 10 times when I lose something... It's because I put it in a safe place.

If you have jokes you'd like to share in the HARTA newsletter, please send them to the editor at [rnthompson102@gmail.com](mailto:rnthompson102@gmail.com).

## 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. Contact Ron T. or any other member of HARTA's Executive to let us know that you'd like to help.

If you'd like to provide stories and other news for our newsletter, you could submit to your contribution to: The Editor at:

[r\\_n\\_thompson102@shaw.ca](mailto:r_n_thompson102@shaw.ca). It would be great to get more submissions from 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](http://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 So-



ciety, 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. Online 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:

ARTCF Office  
15505 - 137 Avenue NW  
Edmonton AB  
T5V 1R9

## Executive Contacts for the 2024-25 Program Year

**Ron Thompson:** President & ARTA Branch Rep  
(780) 986-8349 [rnthompson102@gmail.com](mailto:rnthompson102@gmail.com)  
(HARTA correspondence) (r n thompson)

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

**Bob Silverthorne:** Vice President Wetaskiwin & ATA Liaison—Wetaskiwin and Timberline Locals  
(780) 387-6676 [rsilverthorne.peachills@gmail.com](mailto:rsilverthorne.peachills@gmail.com)

Drayton Valley Contacts. Ron Thompson is the temporary contact.

**Janice Storeshaw:** Secretary & ARTA Branch Rep.  
(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)

## 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.

## HARTA's Website

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

For Drayton Valley, please go to  
the Facebook page:  
Drayton Valley Retired School Staff



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



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**ARTA**

ALBERTA RETIRED  
TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

**Zoom Funded by ARTA**

**You're Invited to  
HARTA's  
Luncheon,  
Song Selctions by  
Potluck &  
A Travelogue  
on Egypt  
hosted by Janice  
Storshaw &  
David Marriott**



email:  
[rnthompson102@gmail.com](mailto:rnthompson102@gmail.com)  
phone:  
(780) 986-8349  
Ron Thompson

**Thursday, February 13th, 2025  
Membership \$10.00 Per Year, New retirees  
\$10.00 for the first two Years: Musical  
Selections after the lunch, Lunch is \$15.00 per  
person, free for guests.**



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# ARTA

ALBERTA RETIRED  
TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

**Zoom Funded by ARTA**

**You're Invited to  
HARTA's Presentation  
and dessert at First  
United Church  
5115 - 51st Ave.  
in Wetaskiwin  
with Ian McDonald  
Presentation:  
Fire Smart  
Being Proactive Re:  
Reducing Fire  
Risks**



email:  
[rnthompson102@gmail.com](mailto:rnthompson102@gmail.com)  
phone:  
**(780) 986-8349**  
**Ron Thompson**

**Thursday, February 13th, 2025**  
**Membership \$10.00 Per Year, New retirees \$10.00**  
**for the first two years: Doors open at 1:00 PM**  
**Presentation at 1:30 PM**  
**Dessert is \$5.00 per person, free for new members**  
**and guests. The presentation will be on Zoom.**





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**HARTA**  
**Mini-Conference**  
**Confirmed Sessions**

- **Léo Richer - Keynote**
- **Jim Allan - ARTCF - An Overview**  
**(Alberta Retired Teachers' Charitable Foundation)**
- **Marilyn Hoar - Qatar - A Travelogue**

**Thursday, May 8, 2025**

**9:30 AM to 3:30 PM**

**More info available early in 2025**

**Save the Date**

**For more info as available phone [\(780\) 909-8347](tel:7809098347)**

**or email: [rnthompson102@gmail.com](mailto:rnthompson102@gmail.com) (r n thompson)**