



Heartland
Alberta
Retired
Teachers'
Association

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

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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 13th, 2025, St. David's United Church 4614 48th Street in Leduc, Luncheon & Program 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM
- Thursday, March 13th, 2025, Wetaskiwin United Church, Wetaskiwin 1:30 to 3:00 PM.
- Thursday, May 8th, 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 19th, 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

I hope everyone has had a quiet and restful Christmas and New Year's holiday. As can be seen by the program schedule for our branch we have programs planned in February, March, and May, Be sure to save the dates for these events as they take place in Leduc and Wetaskiwin. The highlight of HARTA's program year is the HARTA Mini-Conference in Leduc. Look for this event and the presenters for this conference on Thursday, May 8th. Please save the date. HARTA has

received its subsidy for 2024 toward the end of November. The subsidy is based on the number of members of our branch who are retired Alberta teachers eligible to receive a pension from the ATRF and who are also members of ARTA.

Upcoming Webinar with ATRF



In collaboration with ARTA, the ATRF (Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund) is hosting an upcoming webinar for retired members and pension recipients. This one-hour presentation will be hosted jointly and cover various topics relevant to your retirement needs. Space is limited, so be sure to register as early as possible!

ATRF will provide information about managing the pension payments, such as banking information and income taxes, as well as provisions of the plan such as cost-of-living adjustments and the 0.6 rule. Information about what happens to your pension when you pass away will also be discussed. ARTA will be discussing the ARTA Benefit Plans, membership eligibility, the application process, and membership advantages. This presentation will be at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, January 8th, 2025.

To register, copy the link below and load it into your browser.

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_C0Y0Dof8RXeQiHNwgzz2YQ#/registration

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 countries. 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, 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

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 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

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. The weather report called for freezing rain. Sure enough, it was an ice day.
2. Question: "What do you call a penguin in the rain forest?" Answer: "Lost."
3. Question: "What is a computer's favourite snack"? Answer: "Microchips"
4. Question: "Why is money called dough?" Answer: "Because we all knead it."
5. Question: "What did the chemist say to her valentine?" Answer: I think of you periodically."
6. I never saw the inside of my ears but, I've heard good things.

7. Question: "What type of bow can't be tied?" Answer: "A rainbow."
8. In a London department store: Bargain Basement Upstairs
9. In an Office: Would the person who took the step ladder yesterday kindly bring it back, or further steps will be taken.
10. Outside a Second-Hand Store: We exchange anything. Why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain!

If you have jokes you'd like to share in the HARTA newsletter, please send them to the editor at 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. It would be great to get more submissions from our readers.

- Ron Thompson, HARTA President

What's so great about Hugs?

The following article applies to those who love hugs. It comes from Linda's Joke Book. Occasionally I will include one of these thought-provoking articles in this newsletter.

- There's no such thing as a bad hug only good ones and great ones.
- They're not fattening and don't cause cancer or cavities.
- They are all natural with no preservatives, artificial ingredients or pesticide residue.

- They're all cholesterol-free, naturally-sweet, one hundred percent wholesome, and they're a completely renewable resource.
- They don't require batteries, tune-ups, or x-rays.
- They're non-taxable, fully returnable, and energy efficient.
- They're safe in all kinds of weather especially good for cold or rainy days.

So, never wait 'till tomorrow to hug someone you can hug today.

- Author anonymous

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. Online 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 Contacts for the 2024-25 Program Year

Ron Thompson: President & ARTA Branch Rep
(780) 986-8349 rnthompson102@gmail.com
(HARTA correspondence) (ron thompson)

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

Bob Silverthorne: Vice President Wetaskiwin &
ATA Liaison—Wetaskiwin and Timberline Locals
(780) 387-6676 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

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

Lawrence Dublenko: Membership Co-ordinator
(587) 783-8588 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

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
Storeshaw &
David Marriott**



email:
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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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
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 February 2025

Save the Date

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

or email: rnthompson102@gmail.com (r n thompson)