



Northwestern Alberta Retired Teachers' Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, June 16, 2021 @ 10:00 am

held via Zoom

Website: www.artabranches.net/nwarta/net Facebook: **NWARTA**
Branch Emails: northwesternretiredteachers@gmail.com (secretary)
nwarta.treasurer@gmail.com
nwarta.president@gmail.com
Mailing Address: **Box 1435, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4Z2**

Zoom Meeting Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88573051363?pwd=djdJZG5WMTJTTE1LSnh3YW1wZXJ5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 885 7305 1363 Passcode: 445796

1. **Call to Order** – welcome and introductions
2. **Approval of the Agenda**
3. **Approval of Minutes from Last Virtual AGM – May 22, 2020**
4. **Let's celebrate our resilience ... the long days of June ... the sunshine (hopefully)**
THIS AFTERNOON 2:00 – 4:00.

We'll bring the decaf coffee and a snack. But you might prefer to have an ice cream cone. Come for a visit, a walk in the park, or even a game of mini golf.

Meet Muskoseepi Park (near the Museum bridge).

(AHS protocols will be followed.)



Ice cream and mini

5. **Election of 2021 – 2022 NWARTA Executive**

Returning Officer, Lorna McIlroy lorna.mcilroy@gmail.com

?? Agreeing on an election process – using Zoom Chat feature, using NWARTA email address northwesternretiredteachers@gmail.com, nominees leaving the “room”, or ...

First Call for Nominations

6. **First Gift Card Draw** – Russ Snoble
7. **Winners of previous draws** – Maxine Maxwell

8. **2020 - 2021 Branch Report**
NWARTA Executive Members

9. **Guest Speaker – Marilyn Bossert**
Seniors as Advocates – Your Voice is Needed

In addition to serving as an ARTA's executive, Marilyn is the regional representative for **Canadian Association of Retired Teachers (ACER-CART)**. ACER-CART is the national bilingual "voice of retired teachers, ... [that] focuses on priorities evolving from issues affecting the wellbeing of seniors all across Canada."



Marilyn Bossert

PAST PRESIDENT

Marilyn Bossert, ARTA's most recent Past President, came to ARTA as a writer for *news&views* and to the Board of Directors as President of CERTA (Vermilion) over 10 years ago. She believes strongly in the ARTA Mission Statement that states support for an engaged lifestyle after retirement through member-centred services, advocacy, communication, wellness and leadership.

10. **Financials** Maxine Maxwell, Treasurer

6.1 Auditors Report/Comments

6.2 Financial Statement

6.3 Proposed Budget 2021– 2022

6.4 Membership Fees will remain at \$10. **A reminder that NWARTA's year-end is June 30th** and fees for next year will be due (unless you've prepaid.)

11. **Words from ARTA's President – Lorna McIlroy**



12. **Second Draw** – Russ Snoble

13. **Second Call for Nominations** – Lorna McIlroy lorna.mcilroy@gmail.com

14. **Business Arising from last AGM** (May 22, 2019)

14.1

15. **New Business**

15.1 Contacting this year's retirees – Russ Snoble and Linda Patten

16. **Final Draw** – Russ Snoble

17. **Third Call for Nominations and Elections** -- Lorna McIlroy lorna.mcilroy@gmail.com

18. **Requesting motions** to remove and/or add individual signing authorities to the NWARTA Business Account at ATB.

Adjournment



Northwestern Alberta Retired Teachers' Association

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 16, 2020 10:00 am

held via Zoom

Website: www.artabranches.net/nwarta/net
Facebook: **NWARTA**
Branch Emails: northwesternretiredteachers@gmail.com (secretary)
nwarta.treasurer@gmail.com
nwarta.president@gmail.com

1. **Call to Order:** President Joan Godbout called the meeting to order and welcomed members. Everyone was invited to introduce themselves and state something they are grateful for.

In attendance: President Joan Godbout, Maxine Maxwell, Yvonne Mury, Russ Snoble, Linda Schofield, Sue Mills, Jeanette Forrest, Lorne Radburn, Gwen Bartek, Cliff Mitchell, Monika Case, Barry Edgar, Kate Caswan via telephone.

Special speakers: Lorna McIlroy -President of ARTA and Daniel Mulloy CEO ARTA

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

One item was added under 8.1 New business

Moved by Russ Snoble, seconded by Cliff Mitchell to approve the amended Agenda as revised.

Carried.

3. **Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of May 22, 2019**

Moved by Sue Mills, seconded by Yvonne Mury to accept the Minutes of May 22, 2019.

Carried.

4. **Alberta Societies Act during the time of Covid19.**

Lorna McIlroy reported the Alberta Societies Act is above the bylaws of NWARTA and ARTA therefore an election would be required (electronically) if more than one person stood for each NWARTA executive position.

First Call for Nominations- by Returning Officer, Sue Mills- Jeanette Forrest was nominated for NWARTA director.

5. **2019-2020 Branch Report -President Joan Godbout**

An informative newsletter was emailed in which Joan summarized the reports and activities of 2019-2020.

The newsletter was amended to include the recognition of Five years of Service by Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce.

Moved by Linda Schofield to approve the revised Branch Report, seconded by Carol Davidson. Carried.

Guest Speaker – Lorna McIlroy, President Alberta Retired Teachers' Association

Lorna gave an informative presentation about the advocacy role of ARTA. She reminded members that ARTA does not align itself with political parties but supports an engaged lifestyle after retirement through member-centered service, advocacy, communication and leadership. ARTA, as an organization is nonpartisan and encourages active involvement and participation in the political process. Lorna also reminded members it is important to educate themselves on the big matters and to reach out to your local MLAs. She recommended members to mail a letter to their MLA with a blind CC to the premier. She also reminded everyone to keep the letter polite and professional.

Guest Speaker -Daniel Mulloy. CEO of Alberta Retired Teachers' Association

Daniel delivered a detailed presentation of the mission of ARTA. The executive guides ARTA. As an organization, ARTA is non-partisan and encourages active involvement of its members in the political process. Of special concern to ARTA members is:

- the Investment change which passed without debate in the legislature.
- the Seniors Advocate role has now been placed under the umbrella of Public Health
- the changes to the Alberta Seniors Drug Plan
- long term care, and Age in Place after the global pandemic
- defined benefit plans-as governments change the defined benefit plans need to stay the same

Daniel encouraged all members to stay informed and to read the News and Views in the ARTA newsletter.

Russ Snoble thanked Lorna and Daniel for their work. Lorna asked Sue Mills to speak about the government's plan to switch the pension to AMCO. Sue stated a private member's bill on the pension switch will be presented June 23,2020. The committee is 11 people. Sue suggested the membership flood the MLAs' offices with requests to debate this bill.

Second Call for Nominations-Sue- no nominations were offered.

6. Financials Maxine Maxwell Treasurer

6.1 Auditors' report/comments. Lorna McIlroy commented she and Gail Schau had audited the financials which Maxine along with Joan had worked extensively. Lorna said the books were organized and complete. She also complimented Gail for her thoroughness of the auditing process.

6.2 Financial Statements were sent via email and presented online. The deficit presented is due to our Spring Conference being postponed until 2021. Our guest speaker has not yet been able to collect his airfare refund from the airline.

Also the executive decided to leave membership at \$10.00 for the upcoming year and to look into increasing it to \$15.00 during the 2021-2022 year.

6.3 Proposed Budget 202-2021 was circulated via email and presented online.

Approval of the Amended Financial Statements and the Proposed Budget 2020-2021.

Moved by Maxine Maxwell, seconded by Lorne Radburn.

Carried.

Draws

1. **Joyce Mitchell- DNA Test Ancestry winner**
2. **Jeanette Forrest- St. Nicholas Luncheon ticket winner**
3. **Gwendolyn Bartek St. Nicholas Luncheon ticket winner**

7. Business Arising from last AGM

There was no business arising from last AGM

Third Call for Nominations-Sue- None were made.

Sue Mills declared the following the NWARDTA slate of Officers elected as presented for 2020-2021.

President -Joan Godbout

Vice-President

Secretary-Karen Patten

Treasurer-Maxine Maxwell

Directors, Russ Snoble (ARTA), Yvonne Mury, Gail Schau, Jeanette Forrest, Linda Schofield (Wellness)

8. New Business

8.1 New retirees

Russ Snoble has been able to provide the contact information for 45 new retirees from the nine school divisions included in NWARDTA. Brochures and cards with information about NWARDTA will be sent to the new retirees. Russ thanked Sue for her service in developing the brochures.

8.2 ATB signing authority for NWARDTA

Approval of the signing authority for the ATB account be any two of Russ Snoble, Maxine Maxwell and Joan Godbout.

Moved by Sue Mills and seconded by Karen Patten.

8.3 Sue Mills thanked Maxine Robertson and Maxine Maxwell for the Spring Wellness Walk at Klesun Hills. There were 14 participants. There was a suggestion for a Fall Walk at Pipestone Creek.

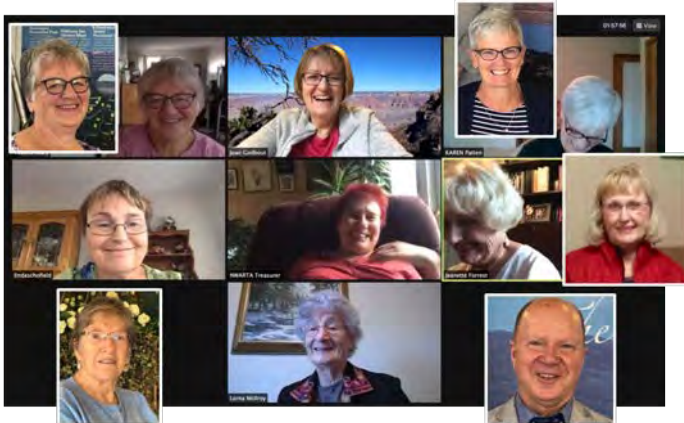
8.4 Adjournment 11:39 by Joan Godbout.



Northwestern Branch of the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association 2020 – 2021 Branch Report to the Annual General Meeting

June 16, 2021

2020 – 2021 Executive



Top Row (L to R):

Yvonne Mury	Director
Joan Godbout	President
Karen Patten	Secretary

Middle Row (L to R):

Linda Schofield	Director
Maxine Maxwell	Treasurer
Jeanette Forrest	Director

Lower Row (L to R)

Gail Schau	Director
Lorna McIlroy	Past President
Russ Snoble	Director & ARTA Rep

We appreciate
NWARTA
members. 😊

The COVID-19 Challenge

- In late August, the executive team began monthly planning meetings. The priority was, and continues to be, **servicing and connecting NWARTA members**.
- The COVID-19 Challenge -- to connect with members through engaging, physically distanced, virtual activities. This has **allowed the executive to be creative in its approach**.

Executive members have been busy --

- pursuing various **personal interests and activities** including accessing online courses/workshops, participating in virtual fitness classes, tackling previously unfinished projects, and of course, embracing new technology.
- reviewing, revising, and **creating articles for the NWARTA website**. Several articles were added to *Our Busy Members*.
- sadly, continuing to submit names of deceased members to the **In Memoriam section of new&views**.
- maintaining the **Branch's financials**, including applying for ARTA grants, ensuring the Alberta Gaming License is maintained.
- **sharing information** about virtual activities, health-related sessions and informative presentations made available by various agencies (Primary Care Network, Seniors' Centre Without Walls, and Alberta Health).

Membership

- At the first Executive Meeting (August 2020), it was decided that memberships would be waived for the year. At the time there were **130 members** -- 93 Regular; 10 Associate; 22 Lifetime members.
- Sixty-two members had prepaid membership. **Prepaid memberships will be carried forward to 2021-2022**.
- To keep yearly membership fees at \$10, NWARTA continues to operate at cost recovery for each event. In addition, ARTA has grants available for some events.



OUR BUSY MEMBERS



To see more pictures, check NWARTA's website <https://artabranches.net/nwarta/>

2020 – 2021 Events and Activities

- Spring 2020 took NWARTA Walkers to **the Kleskun Hills Natural Area**. A fabulous spring day, the incredible vastness of prairie, the big sky of the Peace Country along with a picnic lunches made for an incredible outing.
- NWARTA Walkers celebrated the International Day of Older Persons (Oct 1st) at **Saskatoon Lake Park**. To overcome the COVID-Blues and in the spirit of encouragement, members were invited to submit a word, phrase, or sentence to create a **Fall Wall of Support**. The logistics of posting the messages on a wall proved difficult so it became a Vehicle of Support.
- On Remembrance Day, NWARTA honoured Canada's military men and women, past and present. A wreath was presented for the **Legion's Virtual Remembrance Day Ceremonies**.
- Unfortunately, all the 2020 Festive Season Events were cancelled. NWARTA made the best of its cancelled St Nicholas Luncheon by asking members to submit greetings to be compiled to create a **Members' Greeting Card**. Greeters' names were entered into a draw for lunch or dinner gift cards. While not the same as gathering for a St Nicholas feast, it allowed members to connect electronically.
- Live **musical performances** were sadly missed during the Festive Season. YouTube videos of the **Grande Prairie Boys' Choir** and other coral performers were shared by email and on the website.
- January's **Winter Wellness Day at Home** became a collection of executive-tested fitness YouTubes (with music). Hopefully, these seniors-focused fitness videos helped to keep members active through dark winter days.
- Spring 2020 saw NWARTA postponing its **6th New Frontiers Retirees' Conference**, but it was redesigned as a virtual event for February. **New Frontiers re-imagined** was a free Zoom event featuring one speaker on each of the three days. To support the event, registration gifts were delivered or mailed to participants.

Just a Few Initiatives

- Following the principles *ARTA's Policies and Procedures*, three executive members prepared **NWARTA's General Guidelines**. After several revisions, the executive accepted the document as one that will need to be updated on a regular basis.
- To honour deceased members of the northwestern region, two executive members are working to gather information and to create a **Memoriam page for NWARTA's website**.
- The **Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention** was held virtually in March 2021. Several NWARTA members agreed to be **moderators for live sessions**. It was rewarding to be a part of our profession; thanks so much for those who were able to help.



2020 – 2021 ARTA Events

- **ARTA's Annual General Meeting** was held the mornings of Oct 6 & 7 via Zoom. There were over 80 participants with representatives from the 18 branches, ARTA staff, and guests. Karen Patten, Russ Snoble, and Joan Godbout represented NWARTA. While Zoom meetings allow for large virtual gatherings, gone was the opportunity for connecting with members of the other branches and the ARTA staff. Breaks, however, were not overlooked; all participants received a Snack Box by mail the week prior. NWARTA's **Lorna McIlroy was re-elected** as ARTA President and Joan Godbout as a member of the Strategic Planning and Advocacy Committee.
- **ARTA's 2021 Spring Retreat** was held virtually on May 27th. NWARTA's representatives were Maxine Maxwell, Russ Snoble, and Joan Godbout. The one-day event featured: Todd Hirsch, *Economic Truths to Unlearn* and Gregor Jeffrey, *The Key to Connection*. Participants had the opportunity to connect in both morning and afternoon breakout rooms.
- To date, there have been five virtual **ARTA Board of Directors meetings**. Joan Godbout has represented the Branch at each of these.
- ARTA's Management Team and Staff are to be commended for their hard work. They had many challenges on the road to **successfully administrating the ARTA Retiree Benefits Plan** as of January 1, 2021.





Northwestern Alberta Retired Teachers' Association

Financial Report for the Annunal General Meeting

June 16, 2021

Revenue

2018-2019 Memberships	\$20.00	
Prepaid Memberships	\$50.00	
Events - Registrations	\$0.00	
Grants-in-Aid & Donations	\$1,430.80	
Total Revenue		\$1,500.80

Expenses

Community Membership	\$151.64	
Promotions	\$58.27	
Donations	\$75.00	
Duplicating & Printing	\$0.00	
Events - Food Services	\$0.00	
Facilities & Equipment Rental	\$181.65	
Gifts and Prizes	\$196.04	
Office Supplies	\$33.53	
Postage	\$65.90	
New Frontiers Conference	\$625.00	*
Technology	\$266.80	
Wellness Events	\$225.00	*
Total Expenses		\$1,878.83

Notes

* Grants received from ARTA for Branch Activities

Additional Note: Closing Bank Balance as of May 31, 2021 \$3153.53



Northwestern Alberta Retired Teachers' Association

Proposed Budget for 2021 - 2022

Presented at the AGM June 16, 2021

Revenue

2021-2022 Memberships (abt 100 members)	\$1,000.00	
Event - Christmas Luncheon (40 x \$40)	\$1,600.00	
Event - N F (50 x \$50)	\$2,500.00	
Possible Grant - ARTA Project	\$3,000.00	
Possible Grant - ARTA Wellness	\$1,000.00	
Possible Grant - ARTA Publication	\$200.00	
ARTA ZOOM Grant (possible)	\$200.00	
Total Revenue		\$9,500.00

Expenses

Community Membership	\$160.00	
Promotions	\$40.00	
Donations	\$200.00	
Events - Food Services	\$4,000.00	
Facilities & Equipment Rental	\$200.00	
Gifts and Prizes	\$350.00	
Printing & Office Supplies	\$400.00	
Postage & Post Office Box	\$250.00	
New Frontiers	\$2,700.00	
Technology (Zoom)	\$200.00	
Wellness Events	\$1,000.00	
Total Expenses		\$9,500.00

Statement Confirming the NWARTA Financial Review

Date June 2, 2021

I, Karen Patten and I, Gail Schau
(print) (print)

have utilized the bank statements, The Treasurer's digital spreadsheet, the checkbook, the deposit book, the claim forms with receipts, and other pertinent documents in order to review the financial transactions that have occurred in this current year of

2020 to 2021.

We find the financial documents to be in good order. Yes / No

Recommendations:

Signed:

Karen Patten

Gail Schau

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT

About the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association

ARTA was established in 1963 as a province-wide, non-profit organization. Its goal was to offer social activities to its members and look at issues affecting retired teachers. In 1995 the **ARTA Retiree Benefits Plan** was added to its list of services to retired teachers.

Since then, ARTA has grown to over **25,000 members** and provides many services, such as: healthcare and dental insurance plans, wellness information and activities, information on retirement, post-secondary scholarships, social activities, and preferred discounts with various partners.

Eligibility and Membership

To take part in the Retiree Benefits Plan you must become a Regular or Affiliate member of ARTA.

To qualify for a Regular Membership, you will have contributed to the Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund for five or more years. Regular membership fees are \$25.00 per year; **your first year of retirement is free!**



The **ARTA Retiree Benefits Plan**, with choice in coverage to suit your lifestyle



Discounted rates on home and auto insurance



The **Boom** discount program



Scholarships for family members



Wellness events and contests



Advocacy on issues that affect seniors and educators on the provincial and national level

**JOIN
TODAY**

and start accessing
all the benefits of an
ARTA membership!

**LOOKING AHEAD TO
NEW ADVENTURES.**

Visit arta.net for more information or call **1-855-212-2400** and speak to someone in our **Member Services** team to learn more.

WHY ARTA IS THE RETIREE BENEFITS PLAN OF CHOICE

A financially sustainable benefits plan, by retirees, for retirees.

Any premiums paid into the plan stay in the plan. The ARTA Retiree Benefits Plan improves the lives of retirees and does not subsidize other plans for active employees. Alberta retired teachers (and their spouses) who have contributed to the ATRF for five or more years are eligible to become ARTA members at ANY AGE and take part in the Retiree Benefits Plan, which includes:

73%
of covered lives
are enrolled in the
Total Health plan

Designed to complement the Alberta Coverage for Seniors program, **93%** of plan members **do not reach the \$1,200 drug maximum**

On average, members who make paramedical claims use 1.51 practitioners — **combining paramedical into one category** allows members to **maximize reimbursements** when using such services.



Comprehensive coverage which includes prescription drugs, paramedical services, vision care, hearing aids, private duty nursing, private or semi-private hospital rooms, medical aids and appliances, and home care



Emergency Travel Insurance coverage for sudden and unforeseen medical travel expenses when you leave your province of residence. **ARTA travel coverage is unique and does not include pre-existing conditions or stability clauses.**



Trip Cancellation and Interruption Insurance with \$10,000 per covered person per trip coverage plan options. **ARTA covered \$3 million in trip cancellation claims by members during the COVID-19 pandemic.**



Three Stand-alone Dental Care Options with preventative, minor or major services coverage available

Review the plan details at arta.net/educationsummary

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEW ADVENTURES.

ARTA
ALBERTA RETIRED
TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION