



# Northwestern Alberta Retired Teachers' Association

## Branch Report to the 2018 – 2019 Annual General Meeting

May 22, 2019

### 2018 – 2019 Executive



Starting at left:

<b>Maxine Maxwell</b>	Secretary
<b>Perry Schofield</b>	Web and FB
<b>Linda Schofield</b>	Wellness
<b>Joan Godbout</b>	President
<b>Helen Neufeld</b>	Director & ART Foundation
<b>Lorna McIlroy</b> (peaking from the back)	Past President & ARTA Vice President
<b>Marian Logan</b>	Director
<b>Eva Scott</b>	Treasurer
<b>Russ Snoble</b>	Vice President

### NWARTA Executive Are Busy

- The team started with a brainstorming meeting in August and continued with monthly planning meetings held at Center 2000.
- All exec members, in a great many capacities, helped facilitate the Branch events/activities.

### The Executive have taken on several behind-the-scenes projects/activities including:

- putting all Branch documents on Google Drive so they are accessible to all.
- phoning members about upcoming events.
- applying for grants from ARTA and GP Rotary in order to maintain reasonable prices for members.
- applying for and receiving an Alberta Gaming License.
- increasing the number of activities for members.
- updating the Branch Bylaws.
- updating a few Branch forms & processes (membership forms, financial recording & reporting).
- setting up the NWARTA bank account to receive e-transfers.
- working steadfastly to submit information and review the format of a new NWARTA website.
- working to create community awareness of NWARTA events/activities; promoting the community inclusivity.
- Lorna, Joan, Russ and Eva attended the Trumpeter and Northern Spirit ATA Local's Retirement-Induction Events.



### Events and Activities

- We are grateful to Barry Edgar and his team for organizing the Back-to-School Breakfast, September 3. **What a success -- the biggest event to date.**
- Some members walked after the Breakfast and later in the month some members went on an outing to Saskatoon Lake. The October outing had to be cancelled due to early snow.
- Russ and Maxine laid a wreath on behalf of NWARTA at the Legion's Remembrance Day Ceremonies.
- Again this year, we had a Christmas Luncheon (December 5) with entertainment provided Robert W Zahara School music groups (so enjoyable).

Continued on second page →



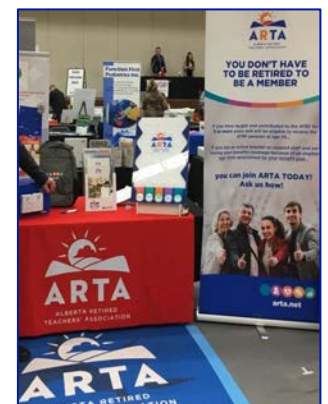
## Events and Activities -- continued

- Wellness Director Linda launched NWARTA's first Winter Wellness Day (January 9) including scheduled Body Composition appointments and a variety of wellness sessions and is planning for a Summer Wellness Day in the Park.
- With the approval of a Gaming License, two 50-50 draws were held. The proceeds from the Christmas Luncheon went to Catholic Family Services (hampers) and the second at N F will go towards prizes and goodies at member events.
- 5<sup>th</sup> New Frontiers Conference, May 13 was well attended with morning and afternoon keynotes and break-out sessions.



## More Initiatives

- Russ used some of his photos and created cards of care to send to members in times of stress or grief.
- Thanks to Lorna for making stockings for music students from RWZ School as well as cookie bags for GP Choir Boys.
- Russ and Joan attend the Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting and the Announcement to Twin Highway 40 and Highway 43 Interchange
- Some exec members attend meetings of like-minded groups including: Seniors Outreach Interagency, Alberta Council on Aging.
- Russ, as vice president and one of the Branch's ART Reps, visited five ATA Locals' meetings in the northwest region to bring awareness of the benefits of ARTA membership as well as events hosted by NWARTA .
- Joan attended Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention Board meetings; members helped in setting up for Convention and hosted an ARTA/NWARTA booth. Lorna, Russ and Joan also provided a presentation to prospective retirees.
- In September Joan attended the Edmonton branch's retirees' conference, *Second Wind*.





### ARTA Events Throughout the Year

- At the end of May 2018, just prior to last year's AGM, Joan, Maxine, Russ and Lorna (as provincial vice president) attended ARTA's Yearly Retreat in Canmore. The theme was *advocacy*.
- In July, Joan once again went to Edmonton, representing our web master Perry, to work with the company who is to design the new NWARTA website.
- In September, Russ and Joan attended the ARTA Representatives 2-day Workshop in Edmonton.
- There are four ARTA Board of Directors meetings each year; Joan represented the Branch at each of these (September, November, February, and the last is upcoming at the end of May).
- ARTA held its Annual General Meeting at the beginning of October. This was the first year NWARTA was eligible to send two Branch delegates. Joan, Perry and Maxine represented the Branch. Also, Lorna was elected for her second term as vice president.

As an aside, the Branch appreciates the sage advice and input that Lorna has provided throughout the year.

- Helen Neufeld was once again elected to serve on the Alberta Retired Teachers' Foundation Board. She has attended a number of meetings throughout the year.
- At the end of May 2019 (in just a few days), ARTA will once again have its Retreat in Canmore. The theme this year is *organizational excellence*; Linda, Russ and Joan will represent the Branch.

### Membership

- As of May 18, 2019, NWARTA had **147 members, our greatest number to date**. There are: 110 Regular; 20 Associate; 17 Lifetime members.
- Thirty-four members have prepaid for their 2020 membership.
- The membership fee remains at \$10. To keep membership low, NWARTA operates at cost recover for each event.



### Alberta Retired Teachers' Association Charitable Foundation (ARTCF)

- Helen is Vice President of the ARTCF Board.
- The ARTCF Board approves allocation of funds to eligible charities based on availability of funds and the organization's compliance with established application protocol.
- To date grant recipients include: Alzheimer Society of Calgary, Parkinson Alberta and CNIB.
- The *In Memoriam* initiative recognizes ARTA members. ARTA donates \$50 to the Foundation in honor of each deceased member as identified in *News&Views*.
- The Foundation Board continues to define and protect brand identity through its new website and publications.
- Work on a **Donor Recognition Wall** at the ARTA Office is underway; three major sponsors have been secured. ARTA Branches may be recognized with a minimum \$500 donation to the Foundation.