**OKARTA President’s Report – June 2018 - Fred Resler**

Branch Presidents attended ARTA board meetings in September, November and February, the annual Retreat in May and the AGM in October. When I am unable to go, thank you to the many able stand-ins: Bob Heyworth, Bev Mallett, Sherryl Skaalid and Ernie Drvaric.

**Summary of the ARTA AGM – Oct 2017**

**Elected Executive**

President Marilyn Bossert

Vice President Lorna McIlroy

Treasurer Dolaine Koch

**Elected ARTA/OKARTA Committee members**

**Strategic Planning** Carl McColl (OKARTA)

**Governance** Carol Frances (OKARTA)

**Standing ARTA/OKARTA Committee members**

**Communications** Bob Heyworth (OKARTA), finishing a 3-year term

**Wellness** Bev Mallett (OKARTA), in year 3 of a 4-year term

**ARTA Committee Reports**

Reports on the above four committees were included in the Minutes of the OKARTA AGM.

**Health Benefits** – have added mobility scooters, increased the paramedical practitioner list, included registered clinical counsellors, changed some high blood pressure medication, added nebulizers, fluoride varnish treatment for teeth, increased the rate paid for private rooms to $187 and semi-private to $150, increased the 3-year maximum on hearing aids to $900 & $1000 depending on your plan.

For those with extended health travel insurance, always remember that when an **emergency** arises, **call Allianz first** to set up a file:

Toll free in Canada/USA: **1.844.996.9003**

Elsewhere call collect: **1.519.342.0142**

**Pension & Financial Wellness –** appraised and made available 14 free books in the ATA Library. They are looking into e-books as well. For current recommended financial wisdom, Wanda Morris, Vice President of Advocacy for CARP (Canadian Assn. for Retired Persons), writes a daily blog [www.carp.ca/blogs](http://www.carp.ca/blogs). Another resource is [www.thestar.com/personalfinance](http://www.thestar.com/personalfinance). There are 27 015 retired Alberta Teachers collecting $818M in pensions this year. In Sept 2016 the active teacher contribution rate was 12.68%, females make up 74% of those teachers.

**ARTA Charitable Foundation –** a videohas been preparedby the foundation highlighting seniors housing, wellness and English as second language, the primary focus of funds from the foundation. Also included are CNIB, two Alzheimer societies and Parkinson AB.

**ACER-CART** (Canadian Assn for Retired Teachers) – collaborates with like minded groups to voice senior’s concerns. They are lobbing for a public drug plan with the Canadian Health Coalition.

**ARTA Benefit Trust Fund –** manages over $13M as a resource to cover claims on the benefit travel insurance plans.

**Other Items of Interest**

* ARTA’s Annual Golf Tournament is on June 21 in High River.
* TW Insurance and Merit Travel are offering a chance to win a $2500 gift card to be used for Merit Travel. [www.twinsurance.ca/win](http://www.twinsurance.ca/win)
* Read News & Views – new format and loaded with great articles on wellness (some written by our own Bev Mallett), Travel, Finance and other senior related topics. See also info on Scholarships and writing contest/photo contest winners.