**OKARTA PRESIDENT’S REPORT to the ARTA AGM**

 **OCTOBER 1, 2, 2019**

**President: Fred Resler**

**Secretary: Marilyn Resler**

**Treasurer: Carl McColl**

The Alberta retired teachers of the Okanagan have enjoyed another year in the valley. We are pleased with the interest in the activities we have had. There are over 30 paid members in our group and over 100 names on our active email list. The people who make up our branch cover a large area extending from Vernon in the north through to Winfield, Kelowna, Peachland, Summerland, Penticton and Oliver ending at Osoyoos by the US border. We get together 4 or 5 times a year in and around Kelowna because of its central location.

The outings and events we had this year were well received. Our branch continues its initiatives for healthy living and **with the help of grant money from ARTA** were able to organize activities around that theme. A grant in September of 2018 allowed 16 members to receive their CPR/AED (Automated External Defibrillator) certification and was considered a very valuable and appreciated exercise. A second grant in May allowed us to bring Hailie Rondeau, RN consultant for ARTA to the Okanagan. She provided one-on-one private sessions for people who wished more information, a second opinion or a new approach to a personal health matter. These two events would not have been possible without the financial support of ARTA.

We kicked off ARTA’s Wellness Challenge with a walk along the Mission Creek Greenway and a beach walk in Peachland. The summer was welcomed with a Raspberry Fest at the Resler home and the fall was kicked off with a Chili Bowl pot luck at the home of the McColl’s. Plans for a Ukrainian New Year’s pot luck dinner, an international food fest, another pickle ball session and a bike trip along the rail trail were tossed about. We look forward to another fun year!

At our OKARTA Annual General Meeting held every June, we go over the business of our branch but also spend time hearing reports from our reps to ARTA. This provides a place to discuss new and pertinent business from ARTA’s board and AGM meetings. It keeps our members aware of the latest information and contributes to a sense of belonging to the greater organization in Alberta. This year saw the re-election of the OKARTA President and Secretary and we welcomed a new Treasurer Carl McColl.

We are committed to our connection to ARTA and have acted as a resource to our members. In addition to attending ARTA meetings members of OKARTA have been elected to the ARTA Communications, Governance, Strategic Planning and Wellness Committees. Our members are active participants in the ARTA family.

We have been very fortunate to be able to access Grant money from ARTA to support our activities. Without it we would not have been able to provide the enriching experiences for our members.

As our group grows we will continue to keep OKARTA abreast of the news from ARTA. We are working on updating and improving our OKARTA website to support and inform our members with events, pictures and information. As ARTA grows, so do we. We continue to be proud of the organization ARTA has become!