



## **Parkland Area Retired Teachers Association Annual Review**

### **2015-2016**

PARTA has had another very successful, exciting year as a branch of the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association. It continues to draw new members and contributes its talents and experience at the local and provincial level. This level of involvement brings to our members current information and the opportunity to participate fully in all that ARTA has to offer all retired teachers.

PARTA Paid Membership as of June 7, 2016 is **109 members**.

**Involvement in PARTA:** The PARTA Executive for 2015 - 16:

President – Iona Robertson

Vice-President – Mary Linn Sage

Secretary/Treasurer – Judy Cruise

Webmaster – Laurie Semler

The branch members who serve at the provincial level (listed above) are included in our executive.

**Acquisitions:** This year, PARTA has acquired the following promotional materials for our branch.

- The Branch banner donated by ARTA.
- An HD projector.

**Branch Development:**

- Laurie Semler, Webmaster, attended Website Workshops sponsored by ARTA in order to transfer our website to the format planned for all branches. There was difficulty transferring our information to the new platform and so the transition has been put on hold for now.
- We no longer read the minutes of the previous meeting in an attempt to shorten the business part of our gatherings.
- Additions to PARTA Policies and Procedures have included:
  - Guidelines for informal presentations to our membership at regular meetings.
  - Expense guidelines for PARTA members to be reimbursed for attendance/service at events when there is no other source of compensation.

### **Involvement in ARTA:**

PARTA members are becoming great contributors and ambassadors for the provincial organization. The following PARTA members serve Alberta Retiring/Retired teachers in the following capacities:

- Branch Representatives –
  - Nancy St. Amand
  - Robin Smith
  - Laurie Semler
  - Bill Fraser
- ARTA Pension and Advisory Committee Member (Advisor) – Bill Fraser
- ARTA Governance Committee Member (Advisor) – Maxine Anderson
- Chairman of the ARTA Charitable Foundation - Robin Smith
- Director of the ARTA Charitable Foundation – Irl Miller
- ARTA Wellness Committee Chair – Ron Thompson
- ARTA Strategic Planning and Advisory Committee – Iona Robertson
- It is our mandate to have all retirees be members of ARTA to enjoy the benefits offered.
- As a member of the Strategic Planning Committee of ARTA, I helped develop a document which outlines the Liaison Protocol by which ARTA assesses other organizations to try to insure that they operate with sound principles which concur with ARTA goals, objectives, policies and procedures.
- Along with Inge Coates, President of Strathcona County Retired Teachers, I attended the Evergreen Local # 11 Retiree and Inductee Banquet in Hinton on Nov. 19 to represent ARTA and to encourage them to consider creating a branch in their area.

### **Involvement with other Branches:**

- PARTA contributes to the annual GERTA Second Wind Conference and, under advisement of Maxine Anderson, applied for the \$5000 ARTA Grant for the event.
- Five PARTA members attended HARTA's regular meeting in Drayton Valley.

**Involvement in ATA:** We feel it is important to advocate and inform practising teachers about ARTA.

- President and/or other executive attend regular ATA meetings.
- Executive members present at Parkland School Division Pre-Retirement Workshops.
- Our Branch Representative present benefits and pension information to other locals.
- Together, with members from HARTA, SCARTA, STARTA and ERTA, attended North Central Teachers' Convention.

### **Involvement in the Community:**

We continue to offer donations to the Parkland Food Bank at every meeting.