

President's Report
And Yearly Review 2017-2018

Parkland Area Retired Teachers' Association is in its 11th year as a Branch of the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association.

Involvement in PARTA:

The PARTA Executive for 2017-2018:

President – Iona Robertson	2 years remaining.
Vice President – Mary Linn Sage	1 year remaining.
Secretary-Treasurer – Judy Cruise	1 year remaining.
Past President – Maxine Anderson (appointed)	
Branch Representatives – Laurie Semler Bill Fraser	
Webmaster – Laurie Semler	
ARTA Pension and Financial Wellness, Chair – Bill Fraser	
ARTA Governance Committee, Member – Maxine Anderson	
ARTA Communications Committee, Member – Laurie Semler	
ARTA Charitable Foundation, Co-Chair – Robin Smith	
ARTA Charitable Foundation, Trustee – Ernest Clintberg	
ARTA Charitable Foundation, Director – Irl Miller	
ARTA Benefits Trust, Trustee – Robin Smith, Ernest Clintberg	
ARTA Strategic Planning and Advocacy Committee, Member – Iona Robertson	
ARTA Wellness Committee, Chair – Ron Thompson	

Branch Development:

See membership roster for the year for information about:

- Paid members
- PARTA members who are also ARTA members.

Branch Activities:

- **Briefing Notes** are now posted on the PARTA website following each meeting and will contain a summary of the business conducted but not contain names, in accordance with FOIP requirement.

- **Visits to PARTA were made by staff from the ARTA office:**
 - Amanda Shaw, ARTA Marketing Coordinator, who promotes new ARTA memberships at any venue, including Branch meetings.
 - Pam Moysa, Administrator of ARTA Member Services, who is the front line for new members and can answer all questions regarding ARTA services.

Involvement in ARTA:

The following PARTA members serve Alberta Retiring/Retired Teachers in the following capacities:

- ARTA Pension and Financial Wellness, Chair – Bill Fraser
- ARTA Governance Committee, Member – Maxine Anderson
- ARTA Communications Committee, Member – Laurie Semler
- ARTA Charitable Foundation, Co-Chair – Robin Smith
- ARTA Charitable Foundation, Trustee – Ernest Clintberg
- ARTA Charitable Foundation, Director – Irl Miller
- ARTA Benefits Trust, Trustee – Robin Smith, Ernest Clintberg
- ARTA Strategic Planning and Advocacy Committee, Member – Iona Robertson
- ARTA Wellness Committee, Chair – Ron Thompson

Annual ARTA Retreat 2018 was held in Canmore on May 27,28,29. Delegates from PARTA were: Laurie Semler, Ron Thompson, Bill Fraser, Maxine Anderson, Iona Robertson and Judy Cruise. It was Iona’s pleasure to introduce keynote speaker, Dr. Duncan Robertson. Ernest Clintberg joined us to attend the Board of Directors’ meeting on May 29 and 30.

Alberta Retired Teachers Charitable Foundation (ARTCF): Information can be accessed on its new website at www.artcf.ca. The website includes why the foundation was established, who it supports and how you can contribute. The Foundation made its first donation to Parkinsons’ Alberta in the amount of \$26,000 and looks forward to providing assistance to Alberta teachers and seniors, ensuring they have appropriate housing, medical care and ESL education.

New ARTA Offices: On September 12, 2017, staff held an open house to celebrate the new ARTA offices at 11835 149 St in Edmonton.

Presidents' Meetings: The first Presidents' Meeting was held November 28 prior to the ARTA Board of Directors' Meeting. This new opportunity for Branch Presidents to meet and discuss matters of interest and concern was considered very successful.

ARTA Wellness Challenge for 2018: This year's Challenge is called "Time of Your Life" and ran from April 1 to June 30. Vice President, Mary Linn Sage, took the lead on this event where any activity is acceptable and participants record their best 30 days of any activity. TW Insurance provided the sports watches for the Challenge.

Presentations to PARTA Members:

- **Hearing Health:** Laurel Trudel, Registered Hearing Aid Practitioner for HearingLife in Spruce Grove, spoke about the types and signs of hearing loss, the benefits of early testing and the financial costs associated.
- **Laughter Therapy:** Noel Cairney, Laughter Therapist, shared the healing and empowering benefits of laughter "to prevent hardening of the attitudes" and advice to tune into the lighter side of our lives.
- **Vimy Ridge:** To commemorate Remembrance Day, Mary Linn Sage presented the highlights of their visit to Vimy Ridge.
- **Pesticides and Related Diseases:** Sheryl McCumsey from Pesticide Free Edmonton spoke about "Concerns with the Evaluation of Pesticides and Related Diseases."
- **"Genetically Modified Organisms, Organic Diet: Value and Access in Alberta"** by member Janet Smith.

Involvement with Other Branches:

- PARTA contributes to the annual GERTA Second Wind Conference.
- Some members belong to both PARTA and HARTA, working cooperatively to strengthen both branches.
- With many members involved at the provincial level in many ARTA committees, we create a cohesive, unified and cooperative relationship between branches.
- PARTA contributed \$250 to the Second Wind Conference organization.

Involvement with ATA Local 10:

- PARTA continues to develop a stronger relationship with the practicing teachers of Parkland.
- President and/or other executive attend regular Parkland ATA Local meeting Branch Representatives present at Parkland School Division Pre-Retirement Workshops and offer benefits and pension information of other locals.
- With members from HARTA, SCARTA, STARTA and ERTA, PARTA members hosted the ARTA booth at the North Central Teachers' Convention.
- Iona Robertson attended the Induction and Retirement Ceremonies of Evergreen ATA Local 11 on October 5 and Parkland ATA Local 10 on October 23, 2017.
- On October 16, 2017, Parkland ATA Local 10 created a link to PARTA's website. This provided access to PARTA services and links to ARTA for practicing teachers and school personnel.

Involvement in the Community:

- We continue to offer donations to the Parkland Food Bank at every meeting. In December, PARTA made a \$150 donation to this organization.
- PARTA made a \$150 donation to the Kinettes organization of Spruce Grove in December.
- The Ecole Broxton Park School Handbell Choir, under the direction of Mr. Mark Loge, performed at our December meeting for which they received an honourarium.