



Parkland Area Retired Teachers Association Annual Review

2018-2019

Parkland Area Retired Teachers' Association is in its 12th year as a Branch of the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association

The PARTA Executive for 2018-2019:

President – Iona Robertson
Vice-President – Mary Linn Sage
Secretary/Treasurer – Judy Cruise
Past President – Maxine Anderson

ARTA Representative – Laurie Semler
ARTA Representative – Bill Fraser
ARTA Representative – Ron Thompson
Webmaster – Laurie Semler

All other members who are serving on ARTA committees, trust and charitable foundation are also included in the PARTA Executive. See “Involvement in ARTA”, below.

Branch Development:

- As of September 10, 2018, PARTA reported a membership of 133, of which 96 also belonged to ARTA. That allowed us to have the President and 2 members attend the ARTA Annual General Meeting in October, 2018.
- Webmaster, Laurie Semler, has been working very hard with ARTA web designer and staff to get the new PARTA website up and running. It can be accessed through www.artabranches.net.
- The Treaty 6 Acknowledgement Statement is now read before each PARTA meeting.
- Briefing notes from each PARTA meeting can be reviewed on the PARTA website.

Branch Activities:

- PARTA continues to be a vibrant, active branch with involvement in provincial level committees, Benefit Trust and Charitable Foundation.
- PARTA presented a \$150 cheque to support the Alberta Retired Teachers' Charitable Foundation. It provides assistance to all Alberta seniors, ensuring they have appropriate housing, medical care and ESL education.
- PARTA members have been making regular contributions to the ARTA news&views magazine. Their articles are timely and informative.
- Vice President, Mary Linn Sage, oversaw this year's ARTA Wellness Challenge from April 2 to June 4 so that we could wind up the bookkeeping before we disband for the summer. Participants received resistance bands this year. Mary Linn will collect the activity information and forward it to the ARTA Wellness Committee to include in their report.
- It has been decided that the annual membership fees will be increased to \$10 per year beginning June 1, 2019.

Involvement in ARTA:

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

Alberta Retired Teachers' Charitable Foundation President – Maxine Anderson

Benefit Plan Trust Trustee – Ernest Clintberg

Benefit Plan Trust Trustee – Robin Smith

ARTA Wellness Committee Member – Bill Fraser

Communications Committee Chair – Laurie Semler

Communications Committee Member – Ron Thompson

Strategic Planning and Advocacy Committee Chair – Iona Robertson

Annual ARTA Retreat 2019 was held in Canmore on May 26-28. Delegates from PARTA were: Laurie Semler, Ron Thompson, Bill Fraser, Maxine Anderson, Iona Robertson, Joyce Liska and Dodi McCann. Ernest Clintberg joined us to attend the Board of Directors' meeting on May 29 and 30.

Presentations to PARTA Members:

Our members enjoy presentations which bring them information and ideas to improve and enhance their active life-styles.

- Gary Swatsky, Chief Operating Officer for ARTA, attended our October meeting to provide updates and answer specific questions about the ARTA benefit plan/travel plan.
- Iona Robertson demonstrated logging into PARTA, ARTA and ATA sites.
- **Remembrance Day Observance - John McCrae and the Significance of the Poppy** – Iona Robertson.
- Under the direction of Ms. Crystal Brophy, **The Ecole Broxton Park School Handbell Choir**, performed at our December meeting.
- Const. Shelley Nasheim made an informative presentation on “**Frauds, Scams and Cyber Security**”.
- “**The Green Sleeve Program – My Experience So Far**” by Iona Robertson.
- Laurie Bauer from TW Insurance spoke briefly of **new insurance coverage available to ARTA Branches** in the coming fiscal year.
- “**Our Website So Far – A Tutorial**” by Laurie Semler.

Involvement with Other Branches:

- 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, again, supported the annual Second Wind Conference held in September in Edmonton with a \$250 donation.

Involvement with ATA Local 10:

- PARTA continues to develop a stronger relationship with the practicing teachers of Parkland.
- Iona Robertson and Bill Fraser regularly attend Parkland ATA Local 10 meetings as representatives of ARTA and PARTA.
- Branch Representatives present at Parkland School Division Pre-Retirement Workshops and offer benefits and pension information to other locals.

- With members from other local branches, PARTA members hosted the ARTA booth at the North Central Teachers' Convention.
- Iona Robertson attended the Induction and Retirement Ceremonies of Parkland ATA Local 10 on October 22, 2018.
- Parkland ATA Local 10's link to PARTA's website provides access to PARTA services and links to ARTA for practicing teachers and school personnel.
- The ATA Local sent out an invitation on behalf of PARTA for new retirees to attend our October meeting.

Involvement in the Community:

- PARTA continues to offer donations to the Parkland Food Bank and made a \$150 donation to this organization in December.
- PARTA made a \$150 donation to the Kinettes' organization of Spruce Grove in December.
- PARTA made a \$75.00 honorarium to the Broxton Park School music program when the Handbell Choir performed at our December meeting.

Submitted by
Iona Robertson
President
Parkland Area Retired Teachers' Association