



## **Parkland Area Retired Teachers Association Annual Review** **2019-2020**

**General Statement of this Year's Review:** In mid-March, 2020, a pandemic of Covid-19 was officially announced. The PARTA meetings for April, May and June were cancelled. There were no activities, meetings or events held until further notice. Parkland Area Retired Teachers' Association has completed its 10<sup>th</sup> year as a Branch of the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association.

### **The PARTA Executive for 2019-2020:**

Iona Robertson – PARTA President  
Mary Linn Sage – PARTA Vice-President – Last year of term.  
Judy Cruise – PARTA Secretary/Treasurer – Last year of term.  
Maxine Anderson – Past PARTA President  
Chair of the ARTA Governance Committee  
ATA Educational Trust  
Director – ARTCF (Charitable Foundation)  
Laurie Semler – PARTA Webmaster  
ARTA Representative  
Chair of the ARTA Communications Committee  
Bill Fraser – ARTA Representative  
Chair of the ARTA Wellness Committee  
Ron Thompson – HARTA President  
ARTA Representative  
Ernest Clintberg – Trustee, ARTA Health Benefit Trust Fund – Re-elected in May.

### **Branch Development:**

As of May 1, 2020, PARTA reported a membership of 96 Active ARTA members according to the ARTA membership audit. PARTA is allowed to have the President and 2 branch representatives attend the Annual General Meeting in October, 2020. It will be an electronic event by Zoom Video Conference.

**PARTA Website:** Webmaster, Laurie Semler, has been working with ARTA web designer and staff to get the new PARTA website up and running. It can be accessed through <https://artabranches.net/parta/>. Briefing notes from each PARTA meeting can be reviewed on the PARTA website.

### **Strategies to encourage membership attendance and involvement at meetings:**

- Emphasize the social aspect of our monthly gatherings.
- Organize presentations or activities for each month.
- Improve care and concern for members going through rough times.
- Encourage members to reach out to colleagues and invite them to gatherings.
- Include short vignettes by members to share personal teaching experiences.
- Continue posting meeting information in “Events Guide” of the local paper.

**PARTA meeting dates for 2019-20** are as follows and were included in the briefing notes posted online following each meeting.

September 10, 2019	March 3, 2020	
October 1, 2019	<del>April 7, 2020</del>	cancelled
November 5, 2019	<del>May 5, 2020</del>	cancelled
December 3, 2019	<del>June 2, 2020 (AGM)</del>	cancelled
January 7, 2020		

### **The Year in Review:**

#### **September, 2019:**

- Many PARTA members attended at the Second Wind Conference on September 5.
- Many PARTA members met with their previous staff members to celebrate, “To Hell With the Bell” for the first day of school.
- Some members attended the ARTA New Board Members’ Orientation and Board of Directors’ Meeting.

#### **October, 2019:**

- The ARTA Annual General Meeting was held October 1 and 2. Bill Fraser and Judy Cruise attended as representatives of PARTA. Joyce Liska and Dodi McCann attended as observers.
- President, Iona Robertson attended the Parkland Teachers’ Local 10 Induction and Retirement Ceremony on October 21.
- Changes to the buffet were made under the management of the Spruce Grove Motor Inn, now a Super 8 Hotel.

#### **November, 2019:**

- Donations of \$150 were made to each of The Kinettes’ Christmas Hampers and the Parkland Food Bank for their upcoming initiatives.
- A presentation in honour of Remembrance Day was made by Navy Veteran and Member of the Stony Plain Royal Canadian Legion, Ed Cytelman.

#### **December, 2019:**

- Gary Hansen, an ATA Liaison member from HARTA, spoke about the present situation regarding Bill 22 and its effect on Retired Teachers’ Pensions. Until the issue is settled with the present government, ATA and ARTA, members are urged to stay current and through sanctioned media releases and information provided directly by ARTA.

### **January, 2020:**

It has become customary NOT to have a PARTA Meeting in January but the executive met to plan and discuss current ARTA issues and initiatives. Topics discussed:

1. **Development of wellness activities**, beyond physical events, for all seniors to encourage mental, social and spiritual well-being. ARTA Wellness grants would be available to branches and it was suggested that PARTA may take a lead in putting forth ideas for suitable activities, using the events to raise money for a charity or organization and attracting seniors to come out and participate. (Bill Fraser)
2. **PARTA Executive Spending Guideline**  
It was suggested that an addition be made to PARTA *Policies and Procedures* to deal with incidental and necessary items for the branch up to \$100.00 without requiring a motion from the membership. Receipts are required for reimbursement. (Judy Cruise)
3. **Meeting Protocol**. Members can partake in the buffet or order a la carte which will be available in our meeting room and pay the server for their selection.
4. **Meeting Venue**. President, Iona Robertson, will work with the Super 8 staff to ensure satisfactory results are achieved by both parties.

### **February, 2020:**

- A general liability Insurance Policy is now in place for all ARTA Branches.
- Bill Fraser, Laurie Semler and Iona Robertson greeted many practicing teachers at the “ARTA Café” booth during the February 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Teachers’ Convention, providing coffee and cookies together with information to encourage their involvement in retired teachers’ branch activities. Ron Thompson attended on behalf of HARTA.
- Darrold Quartly presented a slide show and informative overview of the *Stony Plain & Parkland Pioneer Museum*.
- Iona prepared and will submit an ARTA Branch Initiative Grant proposal for PARTA to help fund speaker/presenter costs. Once approved by the membership, it will be submitted to ARTA.
- Membership update – The ARTA membership audit reports that PARTA has 96 active ARTA members. Members who have not paid for more than two years will no longer receive the monthly meeting notices but their names will be kept on the membership list. A “Membership Database Guideline” has been added to *Policies and Procedures*.
- The President put forward Information from Service Alberta.ca regarding Treasurer duties and auditing requirements.

### **March, 2020:**

**No ARTA Retreat** was held this year.

**The May Board of Directors** was held electronically by Zoom Video Conferencing.