



ST. ALBERT AND AREA RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

November 17, 2019

Editor: Peggy Bergmann (pbergmann@shaw.ca)

December 6, 2019: Breakfast Meeting

At Sturgeon Valley Golf and Country Club

8:30 am: Doors Open (*Please do not arrive early!*)

9:00 am: Breakfast

Cost: \$22 for STARTA members

\$27 for non-members

Membership - \$10 (available at the door)

Please bring correct change if possible



Thanks to Emil Guzik

Book Sale: December is Book Sale Month at STARTA. Please bring used books, magazines, DVDs, and jigsaw puzzles to donate to this fundraiser. We ask that books and magazines be reasonably current; something that you've enjoyed recently and would like to pass on.

This is one of a few fund raisers we hold during the year. Donations (we suggest \$1.00 per book) go to STARTA expenses, including baskets for new teachers, our monthly draws, the Remembrance Day wreath, program expenses, donations, and other budget items. Thank you for your participation.

REMEMBER: APRIL is Silent Auction Month, so start gathering your treasures to donate!!

10:00 PROGRAM: Ever wonder?.....What Icelandair is all about? How to get to Europe using Icelandair? What is Iceland really like?

Explore Iceland with Roland Van Meurs from Alberta Motor Association. He will bring spectacular pictures and loads of information that will answer these questions and many others! Whether Reykjavik is a stop-over on the way to Europe or if you are considering Iceland as a destination, see some photos and hear about the city of Reykjavik, local tours, attractions, and must sees.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

upcoming ONE-DAY CONFERENCE... *'Lively Living'*
NOV. 21, 2019 (9:00am – 4:45pm) at Star of the North Retreat House

2020 DATES to mark on your new calendar

January 10, 2020 (second Friday): *Don't make me laugh!! Comedian Ken Valgardson*

February 7, 2020, March 6, 2020, April 3, 2020 - Silent Auction

No date has been set at this time for the AGM and possible BBQ in May

Did you know?

Each year, as supporters of teaching in Alberta, our branch delivers baskets to 4 new beginning teachers. This year the Catholic and Public School Divisions were contacted, and asked to draw names of their 1st year new teachers– one from elementary, and one from Junior and Senior High, to be the lucky winners of these lovely school-themed baskets, filled with useful classroom items. . This year the recipients were:

Kyrsti-Ann Baillargeon from M.C.H.S.,
John Chornell from J.J. Nearing,
Chris Tom-Kee from Bellerose and
Tiffany Lawrence from Keenooshayo

Thanks to Debbie Kelley for once again creating these baskets for us!

NEWS from ARTA

ATRF Pension

I encourage everyone who has not done so to go to www.arta.net and read the Flash News article regarding the future of the ATRF Pension. At the end of this article, there are several excellent websites which will give you background information on the recent plan of our provincial government to move the ATRF pension assets to AIMCo, the provincial government's investment corporation.

If you continue down the page, you find an access button to an ATA website with suggestions on contacting your local MLA regarding this issue. Should you feel inspired to do so, you can also contact Travis Toews, Minister of Finance. tbf.minister@gov.ab.ca

Getting to Know ARTA—Part 1 The Communications Committee

Our parent organization, ARTA, has many committees. This month I'd like to feature the Communications Committee, chaired by Laurie Semler. The quarterly magazine, *News & Views*, is part of their mandate as is *ARTAfacts*, the email newsletter which appears several times during the year. If you are an ARTA member, you will be receiving these publications, but if you are not, non-members are welcome to go to www.arta.net to find them.

Award winning *news and views* sponsors a photo contest and a writing contest once per year, with the winning entries published in the magazine. The magazines and the newsletter contain other entertaining and informative articles which are bound to tweak your interest.

The Communications Committee also promotes awareness of ARTA, through organizing the Convention Booths, setting up Branch websites, and oversight of the apparel store.

Getting to Know ARTA—Part 2 Strategic Planning and Advocacy Committee (SPAC)

Chaired by our own Vi Oko, SPAC is the planning arm of the organization. The four member of SPAC review and monitor committee business plans, and the strategic plan of ARTA itself.

They also plan orientation meetings for new Board and Committee members, as well as the annual retreat (with help from the ARTA staff). In addition, they support responsible advocacy for seniors' issues.

Submitted by Marian Oberg



Are you interested in helping adults in their lifelong learning journey?

St Alberta and District Further Education is a proud host of the STAR Literacy program. We have worked together for the past 30 years. As required by our clients, we provide adult literacy, numeracy, and basic computer training via one on one tutoring support from our wonderful volunteer tutor group. We also help prepare individuals for their GED exam for high school equivalency. Tutoring sessions are done in local supportive learning environments for one to one and a half hours a week. Further support is provided to our clients by online learning opportunities. We also provided job, life skills and English language learning opportunities via one in one, or small group sessions to adults 16 plus in St Albert and area. Both men and women tutors with a love of teaching are required for the nine new foundational learners who have recently approached us for help. Tutor training is provided in supportive group sessions. We do not operate during summer months and understand that tutors and learners are not available every week due to winter vacations, weather and life's every day demands, so we are flexible so as to meet our tutor and learners needs. The gift of your time and experience would be appreciated by so many. Susanne Urbina coordinates this program for us. For more information call Susanne at 780-460-5864.

We also provide paid opportunities for those who wish to instruct classes in language learning or other areas that interest you. Please call Cheryl Dumont 780-293-7328 to discuss. Thank you

Submitted by Cheryl Dumont, Executive Director of St Albert & District Further Education