

South West Alberta Retired Teachers' Association

Box 2322 Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 4K8

January 2023 Newsletter

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SWARTA

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2022



SANDRA BRUNELLE

Besides enjoying a very successful teaching career Sandra Brunelle still found time to do volunteer work which was obviously very important to her. "Benefits may include a sense of community, a meeting of new friends, increasing your social skills, improving your self-esteem, and bringing fun into your life. I have had the opportunity in my life to experience all of this and so much more. During my childhood excellent examples were demonstrated to me by my parents, teachers, and community. I thank them for this. Many, if not all of you, have volunteered at something during your life. Verbal thanks may not be given but the feelings you are left with are worth every effort you made. Helping a friend, or a neighbor is volunteering. I encourage each of you to reflect on where you have given of your time."

Sandra has volunteered during her teaching career as well as into retirement. She served as President of the Alberta Teacher's Association Local #41 for four years after serving as Secretary and Vice President, served on the Alberta Choral Federation Board for ten years, served with Lethbridge Musical Theatre in the following capacities – Orchestra pit, backstage, on stage, Vocal Director, served on the Local Carl Orff Association Board – as Secretary and Chair, served as Director of McKillop United Handbell Choir for many years, served on the Ambassador Committee for the Alberta 55 Plus Winter Games 2009, member of the Lethbridge Symphony Orchestra for ten years, served on the Lethbridge Symphony Board for 8 years, volunteered for the Kiwanis Festival for numerous years in various roles, served as Area Representative for the Alberta Heart Foundation for many years and canvassed for numerous years for the Cancer fund, and she currently serves on the Lethbridge and District Music and Speech Arts Society Board as Chair since 2016.

We are so proud to have Sandra as part of our ARTA and SWARTA family and as a dear friend to all of us.

From the desk of the President



Hello Everyone

January 2023

Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas Luncheon and to the organizers who made it such a huge success (and so much fun!). Congratulations to our ARTA Volunteer of the year – Sandra Brunelle. I know we have a lot of members who volunteer in various capacities so if there is someone special you want to see honored next time please pass on the name to the SWARTA executive.

We have some exciting events in the planning stage for the coming year. Besides the luncheons that we all love and our general meetings with speakers, we are planning a golf tournament to be held in June with all proceeds going to the ARTA Charitable Foundation. ARTA has been running the tournament for the past few years but has decided to turn it over to the branches. This year is our year to shine! Our request still needs to be passed by the board but if you are interested in helping, please contact Craig Whitehead or myself. Last year the tournament raised \$25,000 and the funds were donated by the Charitable Foundation to various associations such as the Alzheimer and Parkinson Association, Canadian Institute for the Blind and Operation Friendship Society. Other funding requests are being reviewed for the next tournament. Dr. Donna Crawford was elected as a director for the Alberta Retired Teacher Charitable Foundation and came highly recommended.

Laurie Mitchell is in the planning stage to organize a highly anticipated trip to New York City in the fall. If you are interested, please contact her. If we have lots of interest this could be a yearly event! Trip Merchant is the ARTA Travel website and they also have a trip planned to South Africa.

ARTA Rx is now operating in the Greater Edmonton area and we are hopeful it will expand to our area in the near future.

We are exploring ways to introduce retiring teachers to ARTA so they are aware of the benefits of becoming members. ARTA is introducing ARTA 101 for active teachers so they can learn early about ARTA and reap some of the benefits before they retire. Once they are familiar with our Association, I am sure they will choose ARTA over other options.

Our ARTA Reps are scheduled to be trained in the spring so they can be ready to put on presentations and update us on upcoming changes in ARTA so that is exciting news.

ARTA Photo Contest has been announced so make sure you enter. More information is in the newsletter.

I still have some ARTA agendas so if you are interested in receiving one please contact me. Hope all of you had a wonderful holiday and Best Wishes for 2023!

Terry Whitehead
President of SWARTA



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Potential Group trip to NYC and Washington DC September 15-24, 2023

Are you interested in a ten-day group trip to NYC and Washington DC?

If we get 16 people signed up and deposits (\$1000) paid directly to <https://www.ststours.ca/>, which are refundable until the trip is confirmed, then the trip will go ahead.

Laurie Mitchell, a retired teacher from Lethbridge and former leader of many group trips to England, Scotland, France, Italy and NYC will be your point person and help to orchestrate payment schedules, insurance if needed and fine tune the agenda.

The group will fly out of Calgary on September 15 spend five days in NYC enjoying two Broadway shows TBD, tours of One World, Statue of Liberty, the Met Museum, Radio City Music Hall, Greenwich walking Food tour – so yummy and informative and more. We then travel by train or private coach September 20 depending on numbers, to DC for our remaining days, which will include a Hop-on-Hop-off Bus tour, Capitol Hill, Mount Vernon, Alexandria and more. There will be free time interspersed to allow you to explore, shop or just relax. We fly back to Calgary September 24.

The cost is estimated at \$5000 per person based on double room occupancy. It includes your flights, hotels (usually ones with included breakfasts), all pre-booked tours, transfers and tickets and a couple of included group meals.

If you are interested, please email Laurie at: laurieolee.mitchell@gmail.com by February 14, 2023.

First come, first served to a total of 20 people. If there is much more interest than that, there could be a possibility of extending the group to a maximum of 40.

Please state the two people's names for the room and provide both phone and email contact information.



Have you moved, changed your phone number or changed your email address?

Please contact Wendy at wendybrown45@gmail.com to update your contact information. We have had several communications returned as undeliverable.

FOR YOUR REFERENCE

SWARTA Executive: Table Officers

President: Terry Whitehead 403-327-1689
Vice-President: Linda Virostek
Past-President: Doreen Pawlowski
Secretary: Bev Emek
Treasurer: Valerie Madsen

Executive: Committee Chairs

Membership: Wendy Brown
Social Committee: Linda Virostek, Terry Whitehead, Laurie Mitchell
Communications Committee: Terry Whitehead, Linda Virostek (newsletter), Wendy Brown
"Sunshine" Person: Teresa Grice
SWATCA Convention Rep: Linda Virostek

ARTA reps: Blair Lowry
Craig Whitehead

AGM delegates: Terry Whitehead, Blair Lowry, Patricia Atkinson, Craig Whitehead, Doreen Pawlowski

Provincial Committee Members

ARTA Benefit Committee: Patricia Atkinson
ARTA Pension and Financial Wellness Committee: Blair Lowry
Craig Whitehead
ARTA Benefit Plan Trust Fund Board of Directors:

District Representatives:

Holy Spirit: vacant
Horizon: Doreen Pawlowski
Lethbridge #51: vacant
Livingstone Range: Clara Yagos
Dianne Yarmoloy
Palliser: Marie Wickham
Westwind: Sharon Hatch

Membership Report

JOIN

OR

RENEW

Has your membership in SWARTA expired?

Our membership year runs from July 1 to June 30. Please check your newsletter e-mail or mailing label for the year in which your membership expires.

Membership fees are **\$12 for individuals per year and \$17 for couples who are both retired teachers.**

At age 85, members are eligible for Life Memberships and are exempt from dues. Please contact Wendy if you are eligible. New retirees get the first year of membership free.

Cheques made payable to SWARTA can be sent to the postal address on the top of the front page. Remember that your SWARTA dues are separate from the dues for ARTA, the provincial organization.

Also, if you have not been receiving newsletters and reminders by email, please send your email address to **wendybrown45@gmail.com** This results in a great cost-saving for SWARTA.

MEMBERSHIP Renewals: Membership fees can be paid by cheque and sent by mail to
SWARTA Box 2322, Lethbridge AB T1J 4K8

ARTA Photo Contest 2023

ARTA is proud to sponsor its eleventh annual photo contest!

Photos can be submitted for one, or more, of four categories.

All ARTA members (regular or affiliate) are eligible to enter. Please include the ARTA membership number on the official entry form. ARTA membership must be in good standing.

The closing deadline for entries is 4:00 p.m., May 31, 2023.

Two entry divisions for members: Master (previous winners) and Novice (all others)

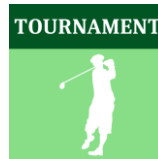
The categories for 2023 are:

Travel Photos of your travel adventures, wherever they took you.

Nature The physical world collectively, including plants, animals, the landscape, and other features and products of the earth, excluding humans and human creations.

Well-Aged Interpret this category as you will. Find people, objects or entire scenes that embody both age and beauty.

Contrast There are many forms of contrast, both visual and symbolic. Show us what contrast means to you.



ARTA Annual Golf Tournament

Hosted by SWARTA

June, 2023

SWARTA is looking for members who are interested golfers to volunteer to be part of a Planning Committee as soon as possible. The volunteers will be asked to find sponsors, find businesses willing to donate prizes, design posters (print and digital), collect money and run the actual tournament to make sure it goes smoothly.

The exact date is still to be determined.

Contact craig.whitehead35@gmail.com if you are willing to help.



Notice of Revision of SWARTA By-Laws

The current by-laws were sent to all SWARTA members in September and the ARTA revised by-laws are on the ARTA website. The by-law revision committee (Terry Whitehead, Linda Virostek, Doreen Pawlowski, Penny Cochlan) would appreciate any input the members might have. Please contact the committee members with your suggestions. Deadline for submission is March 1, 2023.

Second Wind Health and Wellness Conference September 7, 2023

Chateau Louis Conference Centre

Sponsored by

Edmonton Retired Teachers Association

More info at

secondwindconference.ca

Steppin' Out Conference April 27, 28, 2023

Riviera Hotel and Conference Centre

Sponsored by

Calgary Retired Teachers Association

More info at

calgaryretiredteachers.org

Explore South Africa and Victoria Falls

September 29 – October 14, 2023

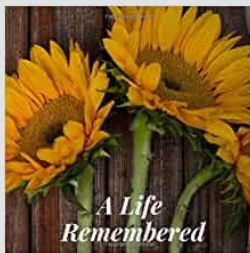
A trip organized by Trip Merchant

Visit the ARTA travel website for more information or

Email info@tripmerchant.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 26, 2023 Executive Meeting 10:00 a.m. Attwell Building Lethbridge
February 23, 24 SouthWest Alberta Teachers Convention U of L
April 2023 Spring Luncheon TBD
May 2023 SWARTA AGM TBD



Mary D'Andrea

Mary D'Andrea passed away at Ste. Therese Villa in Lethbridge on November 27, 2022 at the age of 86. A long-time SWARTA member, Mary received her early education in southern Alberta, beginning her teacher training at the University of Calgary. Her teaching career took her from schools in Readymade, Picture Butte, and Etzikom before settling in Fort Macleod where she divided her time between raising her family, substitute teaching, and taking night classes culminating in her receiving her BEd in 1979. After twenty years of teaching upper elementary grades in Willow Creek School Division, Mary retired in 1991. She was involved in a number of organizations and service clubs including the Lions, C.W.L. and the Italian Canadian Club.

Mary is survived by her three children, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren as well as three sisters and a brother. She was predeceased by her husband Mike.



David Lynagh

David Lynagh passed away in Lethbridge on December 8, 2022 at the age of 83 years. He was born in Banbridge, Northern Ireland. David taught in Zambia before coming to Canada in 1968, first to Wildwood AB and later to Lethbridge where he taught in both the public and Catholic school districts, completing his career as the Religious Education Consultant for the Lethbridge Catholic District.

As a teacher, David was an ardent supporter of the ATA and after his retirement he transferred that same energy to SWARTA and ARTA. Among his contributions locally he served as Holy Spirit representative in 2003, moved to Vice-President in 2004, President from 2005 to 2007, Past-President from 2007 to 2011 and as "Sunshine Person" from 2008 until his decision to step down from the Board in 2017. Provincially, he was a frequent SWARTA representative to the ARTA AGM and served on the committee which led to the establishment of the ARTA Trust Fund. In 2007 David served on ARTA's ad hoc Political Action Committee related to the unfunded pension liability and which identified issues that might require political action on the part of ARTA.

David is survived by his wife Eileen, a daughter, two sons, and six grandchildren as well as two sisters and a brother.

**Snow is falling
and books are
calling ...**

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