

# South West Alberta Retired Teachers' Association

Box 2322 Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 4K8

## August 2024 Newsletter

Editor: Terry Whitehead

swartacontact@gmail.com

### SWARTA Breakfast in Paradise

Paradise Canyon Golf Course

September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 9:30 am

\$15/member \$10/retiree

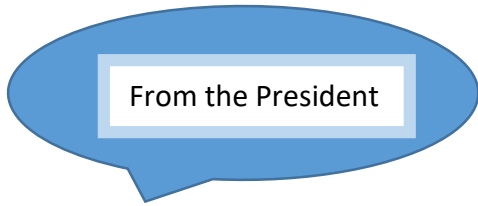
Spouse or guest welcome \$15

e-transfer to [swartacontact@gmail.com](mailto:swartacontact@gmail.com) or pay at the door

Register by August 30<sup>th</sup> to  
[swartacontact@gmail.com](mailto:swartacontact@gmail.com)

Let us know if you have dietary restrictions when you register.





Terry Whitehead

Congratulations to all our new retirees! We are excited to have you join SWARTA and I look forward to introducing you at our breakfast. I hope all of our members have had a wonderful summer with lots of exciting adventures. We look forward to seeing you this year at our many events.

We have our yearly Breakfast In Paradise September 5<sup>th</sup> since there is a tournament the following week. In September, Laurie Mitchell is taking 18 of our members to NYC and DC and we look forward to hearing about their exciting adventures in October. We used to call it an October General Meeting but it is really an information session for all members to come out and hear about the SWARTA events we have planned and to have input. We also want to update you on new initiatives happening in ARTA and give you an opportunity to ask questions before our presentations begin. If you have not had an opportunity to check out the new ARTA Hub, our ARTA Reps will lead you through it and explain how it works.

Our District Directors are busy planning events at the district level so if there is something you would like to see happening in your area, please contact the appropriate director. All contacts will be made through [swartacontact@gmail.com](mailto:swartacontact@gmail.com).

Terry Whitehead, SWARTA President



The charity golf tournament raised **\$27,965.08** for the Charitable Foundation! These funds will be used to support seniors in Alberta in the areas of housing, health care, and ESL education.

- October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 - SWARTA/ARTA Information Session
  - Presentation by Laurie Mitchell on the member trip to NYC and DC
- December – Christmas Party
- April – Luncheon at Lethbridge Polytechnic (college) – Food prepared by chefs in training.
- May – Annual General Meeting/ Elections/ Presentation/Lunch

Our Executive



President: Terry Whitehead

Branch Area Reps: Rod Lowry, Sharon Hatch

Past President: Doreen Pawlowski

District Directors:

Treasurer: John Darroch

Holy Spirit: Vaughan Coupland

Membership Director: Wendy Brown

Horizon: Doreen Pawlowski

Member Outreach Director: Sharon Hatch

Livingstone Range: Dianne Yarmoloy

ARTA Specialists: Blair Lowry, Craig Whitehead

Westwind: Sharon Hatch

ARTA committees:

Pension and Financial Wellness: Blair Lowry, Craig Whitehead

Wellness: Terry Whitehead      Benefit Plan Trust: Arlene Purcell

We are still looking for volunteers for the positions of Vice President, Secretary, Social Director, and District Directors for Lethbridge and Palliser. If you are interested, please check our By-Laws on the SWARTA website under ARTA for position descriptions and contact us at [swartacontact@gmail.com](mailto:swartacontact@gmail.com) if you are interested or have questions. Note: all executive members may be contacted through [swartacontact@gmail.com](mailto:swartacontact@gmail.com)

## Membership

**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 your membership expires. Membership fees are \$12 for individuals per year or \$17 for couples who are both retired teachers. Membership fees can be paid by cheque addressed to SWARTA and sent by mail to SWARTA Box 2322, Lethbridge AB T1J 4K8, by e-transfer to [swartacontact@gmail.com](mailto:swartacontact@gmail.com) or by cash or cheque at our events.

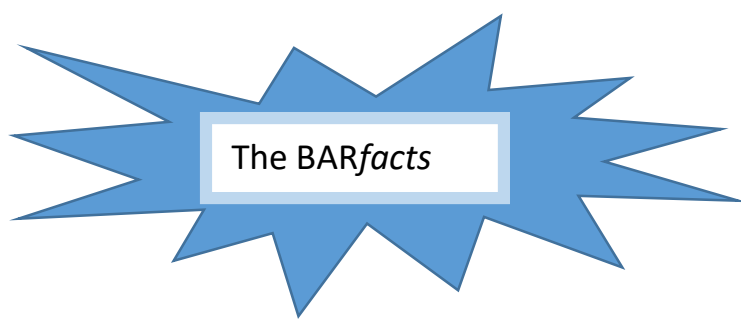
**At age 85**, members are eligible for Life Memberships and are exempt from dues. Please contact Wendy Brown at [swartacontact@gmail.com](mailto:swartacontact@gmail.com) or her email if you turn 85 before July 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

New retirees get the first year of membership free. The first year membership in **ARTA** is also free but you must apply by calling the ARTA office. After the first year, membership is \$25/year payable to ARTA or is attached to your monthly dues if you have the ARTA Health Plan. If you have not been receiving our newsletters

and reminders by email, please send your email address to [swartacontact@gmail.com](mailto:swartacontact@gmail.com)



Wendy Brown, Membership



Rod Lowry ARTA Branch Area Rep



Sharon Hatch ARTA Branch Area Rep

Summer is here and isn't the warm weather great! SWARTA is relaxing during the lazy days of summer, **BUT** mark your calendars! September 5th, 2024 @ 9:30 am is our **Annual New Retiree Welcome SWARTA Breakfast**. We'll see you at Paradise Canyon Golf Course!

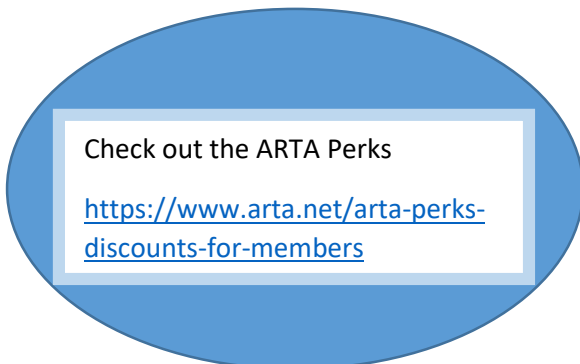
**ARTA Calgary Office** is now open. Drop by the Deerfoot Atria North Tower, Suite N125 Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. for some personal help.

Share your writing creativity: The ARTA Communications Committee is proud to sponsor another edition of its **ANNUAL WRITING CONTEST**. All ARTA members — regular or affiliate — are eligible to enter. The deadline to enter is November 15, 2024. See <https://www.arta.net/writing-contest> for more information.

### Alberta Registry Discount for Seniors

As of July 1, the Alberta government has issued a new 25 per cent discount on driver's medical exams for seniors. Performed by a physician or nurse practitioner, this exam ensures that a person is medically fit to drive according to provincial guidelines. They are mandatory at age 75, 80, and every two years after that, starting at 82. However, some seniors with a medical condition might require the exam at an earlier age. This discount follows the provincial government's promise to keep life more affordable for seniors in Alberta.

To receive your discount take your proof of purchase or receipt to any Alberta Registry agent.



Check out the ARTA Perks

<https://www.arta.net/arta-perks-discounts-for-members>



Join ARTA and SWARTA Facebook pages.

## Volunteer Highlights

ARTA and SWARTA, as a branch of ARTA, encourage our members to use your skills and knowledge to volunteer in our community. Thank you to all of you for your time and effort! Please send your volunteer experiences to [swartacontact@gmail.com](mailto:swartacontact@gmail.com).

### This month we highlight: **Elizabeth Nevels with the Southern Accord Chorus**

Southern Accord Chorus is an award-winning women's acapella chorus dedicated to musical excellence, education, and personal growth. This local chorus was awarded first place at the recent Sweet Adelines Region 26 Contest held May 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> in Edmonton. Many local teachers sing or have sung with this chorus in the past including Liz Arthur, Wendy Brown, Wanda Dubois, Jan Foster, Katie Taylor (nee Harris), Amy Mossy, Elizabeth Nevels, Sherry Norris, and Sarah Thon. In the past, Southern Accord Chorus has earned most improved, third and second place medals but this year was their first gold placement! Musical director Jill McLeod is extremely proud of the 23 singers who travelled to compete in Edmonton. According to Jill, the singers are constantly working together to improve their vocal skills and become better performers. Every voice range has a place here - deep bass, lead, baritone to tenor. The chorus is looking forward to a busy fall but welcomes area female singers to join us for the two following events:

Acapella Bootcamp on September 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> (6:30 – 9:00)

Sing 4 the Season from November 6<sup>th</sup> to December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

If you would like more information about joining us for the above events, or more information about booking Southern Accord, please contact Elizabeth at 403-329-3362 or Carol at 403-331- 8139. Email contact is: [contact@southernaccord.org](mailto:contact@southernaccord.org)

