



November 2020 MHADRTA Newsletter

Volume 3, Number 5

We continue to fight the pandemic and I pray that each of you are staying healthy and keeping well. The end does not appear in sight at the moment.

Members of the Executive are starting to make contact with the general membership either by telephone or by mail. We want you to know how much we miss you.

We know there are many other retirees who have not joined MHADRTA. If you have retired teacher friends who you know are not MHADRTA members, please share this newsletter with them as we would love to have them join our ranks.

I want to thank Judy Wonnemberg and Ray Morrison for agreeing to be delegates and represent MHADRTA at the Virtual (by ZOOM) 2020 AGM. It certainly was an interesting experience with almost 90 in attendance.

Stay healthy and safe, my friends!

Mel Deydey
President, MHADRTA
49ermh@gmail.com

Volunteer of the Year 2020

We had planned to recognize our 2020 MHADRTA Volunteer of the Year at our April 8, 2020 General Meeting. COVID-19 had other ideas and caused us to cancel not only that meeting but every subsequent meeting to date. MHADRTA held an Executive Meeting on October 13 and at that meeting we recognized Vicki McCaig as our honoured volunteer.

There is a full story about Vicki on the next

two pages. We will formally recognize Vicki in front of the general membership once we are able to resume face-to-face luncheon meetings. Vicki was unaware she was nominated and this came as a big surprise to her—especially when her family showed up



just before the presentation!

Congratulations, Vicki on this award!

MHADRTA 2020 Volunteer of the Year Vicki McCaig

When life hands you lemons, you make lemonade--or perhaps, a delicious lemon dessert! The pandemic was a lemon to us—it soured our plans to recognize and award our 2020 Volunteer of the Year at our April 8 General Meeting. The membership would have had the opportunity to honour Vicki McCaig. COVID-19 prevented that from happening, and we hoped things would improve by fall. Unfortunately, that hasn't happened, but we wanted to hold the event in 2020. The crowd was much smaller than we had hoped. Together with the MHADRTA executive and immediate family present at our October 13 Executive Meeting (where social distancing occurred), Vicki was presented with her certificate and ARTA clock in a surprise ceremony.



Vicki McCaig is a most worthy recipient of this award. She was nominated by a former colleague and long time friend, Donna Smith. Vicki joined MHADRTA after retiring from very successful and rewarding career with Medicine Hat School District #76.

Vicki was born to be a teacher. She loved kids and she loved teaching Math! She began her teaching career at Crestwood School in 1965 and taught there until the birth of her first child, Heather, in 1973. The family was completed with the birth of son, David, in 1976. During the next seven years while her children were young, Vicki stayed home with them. However, she kept her foot in the door doing some substitute teaching before returning full-time in 1983 at Ross Glen School where she taught until her retirement in 2002.

Math was Vicki's passion. This was evident with Vicki establishing a Math Facts Club that met after school in order to help students who were falling behind or struggling with Math. She planned fun and creative games that they played together to help her students enjoy learning Math. Many student teachers also got their start in Vicki's classroom learning from a very creative teacher. As an active member of the Alberta Teachers' Association, Vicki served on Local No. 1 committees such as the Economic Policy Committee for many years.



When we talk about volunteering in the community, Vicki and her husband were a team. Along with her husband, Bob, she was and continues to be very active with the Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede Board. Vicki sits on the Pioneer Village Board which is a subcommittee of the Stampede Board. Her work involves looking at improvements that need to be done in Pioneer Village, and to ensure that this heritage area is maintained for future generations. Together, Vicki and Bob are involved on the Grandstand Committee and help with the horse races and chuck wagons during the Stampede. The Stampede Family Christmas is a favourite for Vicki and she is involved in organizing and running the annual event.

Upon retirement, joining MHADRTA and the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association, Vicki began her volunteerism in retirement as the liaison for Local No.1. She continues to be a very valued member of our branch who is always quick to volunteer. Currently, in her role as a board member on the Pioneer Village Committee, Vicki organizes and coordinates school tours in May and June to Pioneer Village where the McKay Creek Schoolhouse, of days gone by, stands. MHADRTA teachers volunteer to staff the school to meet with the visiting classes. During the four day Stampede in July, Vicki again coordinates volunteers for the school house where thousands of visitors passed through Pioneer Village and the school house. Within her role on the Stampede board, an Old Fashioned Christmas occurs in December where once again the school house is opened for tours.

Vicki and Bob volunteer the Santa Claus Fund—an organization they have been involved with for more than ten years. They both volunteer at Prairie Gleaners, while Vicki also volunteers with students at Crescent Heights High School where her daughter teaches.

MHADRTA President, Mel Dey-dey commented, "It was truly a pleasure to honour Vicki at our first post-COVID meeting since February. We will formally recognize and honour Vicki at a future general meeting when those events are permitted to resume. Vicki McCaig is a most deserving and worthy recipient! I am proud to be her retired teacher colleague and friend!"





MHADRTA Executive 2020-2021

President: Mel Deydey

Past President: Jim Black

1st Vice-President: Therese Bullin

2nd Vice-President: Donna Mae Goldade

Secretary: Ray Morrison

Treasurer: Henk Hof

Membership Chairman: Jim Kaupp

ATA Rep—Local #1: Darlene Dee

ATA Rep—Local #2: Jim Black

ATA Rep—Local #39: Ray West

SEATCA: Delle Lovig

**ARTA Branch Reps: Judy Wonnemberg
Dianne Durda**

**Charitable Foundation Rep:
Ray Hoyer**

**Pioneer Village Schoolhouse:
Vicki McCaig**

Cards & Scrapbook: Annita Pinder

Contact: Barb Taylor

Website: Ed Dick

Phoning: Jim Black

Programs: Donna Mae Goldade

ARTA Board Of Directors: Mel Deydey

**Contact information for the executive
(email addresses and phone numbers) is
available to MHADRTA members on the
website. It is password protected.**

MHADRTA Membership Update

If you have not already done so, it is time to renew your 2020/2021 membership as we hope you will continue to be a part of our organization. Of course, we welcome newly retired teachers with a free one year membership and also invite previously retired teachers who have not yet joined us since they've retired or those who allowed their membership to lapse. Your 2020-21 membership will be valid from September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021.

Currently, we have 40 members made up of 25 renewals from last year, 5 newly retired members, 8 Lifetime members and two honorary members.

Membership in MHADRTA is \$15.00 per year, payable by cheque or cash.

Membership in ARTA is separate. For more information, visit www.arta.net



By e-mail:

mhadrta3@gmail.com

Visit our website:

www.mhadrta.wixsite.com/mhadrta

Like us on Facebook:



Follow us on Twitter:

[@mhadrta](https://twitter.com/mhadrta)





The **ARTA Annual General Meeting** took place virtually by ZOOM on October 6 and 7, 2020 with approximately 90 delegates and guests in attendance. Below are some highlights.

Presidents and delegates from each of the 18 branches were in attendance. Based on the number of MHADRTA members who are also ARTA members, we were allowed to send the President (or designate) and two delegates. Mel Deydey, Judy Wonnemberg and Ray Morrison represented MHADRTA.

ARTA will be self-administering the Benefits program previously run by ASEBP. The change will be seamless and begins January 1, 2021. You will be receiving your new ARTA Benefits card very soon.

ARTA has moved and information on the move is found in the next column.

There are now 25,390 active members in ARTA—a growth of 7.8% over the past year. This includes both retired teachers and private and public sector retirees who belong to the ARTA Benefit Plan.

Over the past year the Alberta Retired Teachers Charitable Foundation has provided support for four organizations: Parkinson Association of Alberta, Alzheimer Society Calgary, Alzheimer Society Alberta & NWT, and CNIB Foundation. At the November meeting a new member will be elected to their Board.

The election results that took place at the AGM and the results of the provincial ARTA Wellness Challenge can be found on the next page.



We've Moved!

ARTA has moved to a new office! Our new address is:

15505 137 Avenue
NW,
Edmonton, AB T5V
1R9

While this location has given us more room to grow, due to the continuing COVID-19 situation, this new office will remain closed to members for the time being, and staff will continue working remotely. We look forward to the day when we can properly open our doors and welcome visitors.

Note that this change will not affect claims form submissions, and members submitting claims should continue to use the address listed on the claims form.



Elections are a part of every ARTA AGM. The Executive positions are one year terms. The Committee member positions are four year terms with the exception of the Health Benefits Committee which is a five year term.

Lorna McIlroy is the **President** of ARTA for 2020. This is Lorna's second year as President and was acclaimed to the position. She hails from Grande Prairie and is a member of NWARTA (Northwestern Alberta Retired Teachers Association).

Deb Gerow from Elk Island Retired Teachers was acclaimed as **Vice-President**. The incumbent, Garry Hofart has moved to British Columbia, and could not seek re-election.

Dolaine Koch from Elk Island was acclaimed as **Treasurer** for 2020.

Committee Members who were all acclaimed:

Communications: **Laurie Semler** (PARTA) —acclaimed

Governance: **Vi Oko** (ERTA)—acclaimed.

Health Benefits: **Jim Black** (MHADRTA) —acclaimed

Pension & Financial Wellness: **Ray Hoger** (MHADRTA) — acclaimed

Strategic Planning & Advocacy: **CJoan Godbout** (NWARTA)—acclaimed,

Wellness: **Bonnie Bauer** (CERTA) —acclaimed.

Marilyn Bossert will serve as ARTA's Past President. She was also appointed as the **Western Canada Regional Representative for ACER-CART**. The Executive of ACER-CART is made up of the President, Vice-President, Executive Director, Past President and three regional representatives—Western Canada, Ontario and Eastern Canada.

Women's Shelter Christmas Donations



Medicine Hat

Women's Shelter Society

At our Annual Christmas Meeting, we have brought gifts/ gift cards or made cash donations to the

Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society. They have been eternally grateful for our support and would welcome any support our members would give this Christmas Season. Without being able to meet as a group this year, we ask that you send your donation/gift cards to:

**Medicine Hat Women's Shelter
Society**

**PO Box 2500 LCD 1
Medicine Hat, AB
T1A 8G8**

2020 ARTA WELLNESS CHALLENGE RESULTS

The ARTA Wellness Challenge results for 2020 are as follows:

Branch Winner: Calgary Retired Teachers Association (CRTA) — 175,248 minutes.

Branch Participation Winner: Okanagan Retired Teachers Assoc. (OKARTA) with 43% participation of its members.

Individual Winner: Andrew Tiong (Wolf Creek) who declared 74,470 minutes.

ATRF FunFacts

***In 2019 the average age of retired teachers receiving an ATRF pension is 71.8 years old compared to 68 years old in 2000.

***The average age of the new retiree is 59.7 years old with an average pensionable service of 25.8 years.

***The oldest person receiving an ATRF pension is 109 years young after a 45 year teaching career.

***The average pension is \$33,491.00 for retirees receiving an ATRF pension.

DISCOVER WELLNESS CHALLENGE



2020 Discover Wellness Challenge Winners

Congratulations to the following winners of the 2020 Discover Wellness Challenge. Thank you to all that participated, and we look forward to seeing your entries next year!

Top Performers

- Andrew Tiong
- Janet Rosemary Secord
- Linda Windross

Randomly Drawn Winners

- Lawrence Dublenko
- Melvin Bender
- Rose McColl
- Marie Mann

- Doug Daisley
- Raymond St. Martin
- Marilyn Resler
- Don Lea
- Lynda Haverslew
- Leona Teed

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

We would like to say Thank you to all members who have renewed their memberships. We encourage members and retired teachers to renew or purchase a membership. We encourage teachers who retired in 2019 to take advantage of a one year free membership in both MHADRTA and ARTA—each needs to be purchased (for free) separately. The number of voting delegates we get to send to the AGM is based on the number of ARTA members.

For those of you have not already done so, please fill in the membership form below and mail or deliver with your payment it to the address shown.

In Loving Memory



OF THOSE WHO ARE
FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

Losing a child (no matter what age) is difficult and heart-wrenching. Several of our members have experienced such a loss. We extend our sincerest condolences and deepest sympathies to Jim and Joan Kaupp on the recent passing of their son, Allen. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Membership Form for 2020/2021 School Year

Yes, I would like to **RENEW** or **PURCHASE A NEW** (Circle ONE) membership in MHADRTA for the 2020/2021 term.

Cost of the Membership: **\$15.00 per year**. Cash or cheque only.

Name: _____

Address: _____ **Postal Code** _____

Phone : _____ **E-mail:** _____

Providing an e-mail address will enable you to receive the newsletter electronically. Your e-mail address is never shared or revealed to anyone as all mailings are sent as a Bcc (blind carbon copy).

Please enclose payment (cheque or money order) and send to: MHADRTA, 36 Prairie Dr. NE, Medicine Hat, AB T1C 1R2.

Membership will be valid until August 31, 2021.