



October 2020 MHADRTA Newsletter

Volume 3, Number 4



Mel Deydey
President
& Newsletter Editor,
MHADRTA
49ermh@gmail.com

What an uncertain time we are going through right now! With the onset of COVID-19 in mid-March, our lives and the whole world has been turned upside down.

We are focussing on our health (as we should be) and our wellness. I hope that you all are well. Our need to socialize, as retired teachers many of whom were actively involved in various volunteer activities, have seen our social contact with each other come to a stand-still, or limited to a very few. Some of you are parents with children as teachers or grandparents with small ones in school. I know the anxiety you feel as I have two grandchildren in school—grade 3 and Kindergarten—one in Calgary and one in Medicine Hat. I hope that everyone is staying healthy and keeping safe.

We continue to be unable to meet in person. We missed our AGM in June, and we missed our "To Hell With the Bell" meeting which should have been held last week. I am hoping that we can stay connected through this newsletter, through social media (Facebook or Twitter) if you use either platform, through phonecalls to each other. I am looking at getting some webinars in place for those who might be interested. Staying connected is so very important. Would members be interested if we set up a ZOOM meeting? However, that would only be the business portion of the meeting.

I just completed an virtual ARTA Board of Directors Meeting via ZOOM and have some things to share with you as result of that meeting.

Please—continue to stay well. Hopefully, things will return to normal—or at the very least, a "new normal real soon! I miss each and every one of you!

Stay well and stay safe!
Mel



MHADRTA Executive 2020

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

**Branch Benefits Reps: Judy Wonnenberg
Dianne Durda**

**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! 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 FIVE new retirees have already take us up on our offer. Welcome to MHADRTA.** We 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.

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

CONTACT US



By e-mail:
Contact Secretary
mhadrta3@gmail.com
President
49ermh@gmail.com

Visit our website:
www.mhadrta.wixsite.com/mhadrta

Like us on Facebook:



Follow us on Twitter:
[@mhadrta](https://twitter.com/mhadrta)



ARTA Announces...

Self-Administration of the ARTA Retiree Benefits Plan



ARTA's spring issue of *news&views* had the theme of embracing change. Behind the scenes, the organization was doing just that. With regulatory changes to Health & Welfare Trusts being introduced by the federal government, the opportunity presented itself for ARTA to self-administer its Retiree Benefits Plan. Historically, ARTA has contracted a third-party benefits administrator (currently ASEBP) to do this on our behalf.

What does this mean for you?

Effective **January 1, 2021**, ARTA will now be a one-stop shop for ARTA members. ARTA will not only manage ARTA membership, but will also administer the Retiree Benefits Plan — withdrawing premiums and working directly with our claims adjudicator to review and reimburse eligible health and dental claims. All your calls, emails, and mail will go to one location and be responded to by one team of ARTA staff. Communications and processes will be streamlined, as everything will now go through ARTA, and you will no longer need to contact ASEBP.

By self-administering the Retiree Benefits Plan, ARTA will be able to use funds budgeted for third-party administration fees and reinvest it back into the plan. This change will also allow us to make significant improvements to the way the plan is administered, including the capabilities for online claim submissions and a smartphone app.

What does this mean for ARTA?

Over the next several months, there will be significant changes at the ARTA office as we prepare for self-administration. These changes include a larger office space, new staff, new systems, and new processes. You will receive monthly updates — through *news&views* magazine, *ARTAfacts*, and direct mail — with relevant information as you need it. It is imperative that you read each piece to ensure a smooth transition.

The ARTA Board of Directors, officers, and staff are excited about this opportunity to better serve our membership and strengthen the sustainability of the organization. We look forward to continuing to provide our members with one of the best retiree benefit plans in the country.

If you have any questions, please refer to our website arta.net/self-administration for a list of frequently asked questions, or submit additional questions to info@arta.net.



MHADRTA EXECUTIVE



(Left to Right) **Jim Black** (Past President), **Therese Bullin** (1st Vice President), **Mel Deydey** (President), **Donna Mae Goldade** (2nd Vice President), **Ray Morrison** (Secretary), **Henk Hof** (Treasurer)



The **ARTA Annual General Meeting** will take place via ZOOM on October 6 and 7, 2020. President Mel Deydey and Branch delegates, Judy Wonnenberg and Ray Morrison will represent MHADRTA. We are excited to announce that two of our MHADRTA members are contesting positions on ARTA. **Jim Black** is a candidate for the Health Benefits Committee and **Ray Hoger** is seeking a seat on the Pension and Financial Wellness Committee. Elections for committee members take place at the ARTA virtual AGM. Good luck, gentlemen!



Here is an exciting project that I hope some of you will consider taking part in. Please read the email below and the next two pages give all the information you should need. Contact Sydney if you have any questions whatsoever!

Good Afternoon, my name is Sydney Ratzlaff and I currently am overseeing the Penpal Project. It essentially connects seniors with students through written letters. I am looking for more seniors to join! We have a school group of about 30 students wanting to join, but I need seniors to match them with. I was wondering if this is something you could advertise to the Retired Teachers Association members? I gave a poster and application form (attached) and can provide more information as needed.

Thank you!

Sydney Ratzlaff | **Volunteer Coordinator for Vulnerable Populations**

Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta

104, 430 – 6th Avenue SE

Medicine Hat, AB T1A 2S8

P 403.527.9038

E sydney@cfsea.ca

W www.cfsea.ca



PENPAL PROJECT

BECOME A PENPAL TODAY!

- Develop connections with a student in the community
- Build friendships through written communication
- Share your experiences and make an impact on a student's life

E: SYDNEY@CFSEA.CA
P: 403-527-9038
CFSEA.CA



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
of Southeastern Alberta



Application Form

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Penpal!

The Penpal Project will enable seniors to engage with local students in a meaningful way. Handwritten letters are a tangible way to share memories and create new cross-generational friendships. By becoming a Penpal, you will be assisting students learn the craft of communicating via 'snail mail' and make an impact on a student's life. And who doesn't love to receive a handwritten note in the mail? The information collected on this form will be kept confidential. Only names will be sent to your Penpal. Once you have completed this form, send it to sydney@cfsea.ca or call 403-527-9038.

First and Last Name: _____ **Phone #:** _____

Address: _____

Email (optional): _____

To help match you with a student who has similar interests, please check the boxes of topics, or add your own topics you enjoy/prefer talking, learning, or writing about:

<input type="checkbox"/> Food / Baking	<input type="checkbox"/> Childhood / Family	<input type="checkbox"/> Travel
<input type="checkbox"/> TV / Video Games	<input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> Sports
<input type="checkbox"/> Books / Poems	<input type="checkbox"/> Goals/Dreams	<input type="checkbox"/> Music
<input type="checkbox"/> Humor / Jokes	<input type="checkbox"/> History	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pop Culture	<input type="checkbox"/> Psychology	
<input type="checkbox"/> Politics / Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pets / Animals	<input type="checkbox"/> Art / Crafts	
<input type="checkbox"/> Work / Career Goals	<input type="checkbox"/> Fantasy	

Is there anything you would like the Volunteer Coordinator or the student to know about you?

☐ I hereby certify that all information included in this enrollment form is true and complete.

Signature

Date

Once you have submitted this application, we will connect with you within 5 business days to provide further instructions.

Highlights from the September 8 & 9 Board of Directors Meeting via ZOOM

Nominations were being accepted for the various committee positions which will be voted upon at the AGM. There will be one member elected to each of the six committees as well as the executive. Deadline has now passed at the time of this letter.

ARTA is moving again to a new location. However, with COVID—they have possession of the building, the move has not yet occurred.

Travel is not recommended by our Health Benefits Committee. You are covered for COVID, but NOT for travel related to COVID. Our travel insurance will not cover you for out-of-country travel.

Next deadline for News&Views is October 20. Writing contest deadline is November 13.

There were fewer branches that participated in the Wellness Challenge. MHADRTA had five members submit numbers so our percentage of participation was 8% this year. I know many more of our members were physically active, but many chose not to submit their participation times.

Charitable Foundation donations have been sent to: CNIB (\$34,000), Parkinson's Canada (\$25,000), Alzheimer's Society AB/NWT (\$14,000), Alzheimer's Society of Calgary (\$30,000) and Friends Senior Society (\$7500).

The ARTA Benefit Plan Trust Plan has a new Investment Manager as of August, 2020. It is now being managed by Russell Investments (a move from Industrial Alliance).

There was extensive discussion about branch events and insurance concerns. Daniel Mulloy will consult ARTA lawyers to outline insurance coverage for Event or Gatherings being held by ARTA and the branches during the current pandemic.

Membership Form for 2020/21 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 and send to: MHADRTA, 36 Prairie Dr. NE, Medicine Hat, AB T1C 1R2

Membership will be valid until August 31, 2021.