



December 2020 MHADRTA Newsletter

Volume 3, Number 6

the President's message

Another year is coming to a close, and for many, it can not come soon enough. As we usher out 2020 and welcome 2021, we are still dealing with the pandemic. We continue to practice measures to keep ourselves and those around us safe and healthy. I am hoping that all of you are keeping both healthy and safe.

Christmas is going to be very different for all of us this year, considering a ban on indoor gatherings. It is unfortunate that our annual Christmas Family get-togethers are classified indoor gatherings. 2020 will certainly be a different Christmas for everyone! I know many of you travelled south and spent the winter in warmer climates which most likely won't happen this year. I am hoping we can all think of one positive thing that happened in our lives in 2020.

MHADRTA has been unable to meet as a group, socialize, and enjoy each other's company for the most part of this year. There are many of you I have not seen since our February meeting. Perhaps as the vaccine becomes available, and the COVID-19 curve flattens with all of the restrictions that have been mandated, we will once again be able to meet some time in 2021.

At the end of November, I was supposed to head to Edmonton for another Board of Directors meeting. However, once again that meeting was held virtually. There was an election for one new member for the Alberta Retired Teachers Charitable Foundation for a four year term.

I am grateful for my family and my health—that we all have been able to stay safe. I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas (however that looks) and all the very best this holiday season. May 2021 be a much better year! Stay healthy and stay safe!

Thanks,
Mel Deydey
President, MHADRTA
49ermh@gmail.com

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Highlights: November Board of Directors Meeting

**A new Vice-President, Deb Gerow, was officially welcomed. Also welcomed were new committee chairs.

**The Executive Committee moved to approve the reimbursement of \$200 per branch for a one-year branch ZOOM licence which the branch would manage.

**Several new individuals have been hired at ARTA due to ARTA's self-administration which takes effect January 1, 2021. See attached press release on the next page.

**More hirings will occur with the proposed opening of ARTA Rx with its proposed launch in 2021. More information to come.

**Congratulations to Carol Loewen who was elected to a four year term on the Alberta Retired Teachers Charitable Trust.

**There is no emergency travel coverage for members through ARTA plans in the case of a COVID-19 diagnosis as long as Level 3 & 4 travel advisories are in effect. The ARTA plans do continue to offer coverage for anything not COVID-19 related.

**Allianz is now offering individual "COVID-19 only" top up coverage. This information is available on the ARTA website.

**A Pension and Financial Wellness presentation by the Senior Advisor from ATB Securities on "Income Streams During Retirement" can be found on the ARTA website.

**The Public Interest Alberta Seniors Task Force website can be found at www.pialberta.org/taskforce_seniors

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Women's Shelter Christmas Donations

At our Annual Christmas Meeting, we have brought gifts/gift cards or made cash donations to the Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society.



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**



New ARTA Member and Benefits ID Card

As part of ARTA's move to self-administration, all members were mailed a new, all-in-one ARTA Member ID Card on December 9, 2020. This card will automatically activate on January 1, 2021, replacing your current ASEBP Health Benefits Card. Please continue to use your current card until the morning of January 1, at which point, ARTA will be switching over to the new system.

Take a moment to review your new card when you get it, and if you find any errors in the personal information on the card, report it to ARTA as soon as possible by calling 780-822-2400. Please note: with the change to self-administration, ARTA has acquired some new phone numbers to support our additional growth. As of January 1, 2021, 780-822-4200 (one of the four phone numbers found on your new Member ID card) will be another phone number in addition to 780-822-2400 that you can use to reach the Member Services team.

This new Member ID card also serves as the Benefits ID card. ARTA members have expressed a desire to have more self-service options as well as a more environmentally friendly and cost-effective plan. As of January 1, 2021, you will be able to access your Member ID card digitally, from the new member portal, MyARTA (**myarta.net**), and the ARTA Benefits mobile app, available for both Apple and Android devices. Additional copies of your Member ID card can be downloaded and given to your dependants as required. If you require additional physical cards to be mailed to you, please contact the ARTA Member Support team and the cards will be sent to you in early January 2021. In this same spirit of creating a more environmentally friendly and cost-effective plan, you were also provided with a thinner, more pliable plastic protective sleeve to protect your paper Member card. It can be easy to overlook the clear sleeve — please make sure to check your envelope carefully for it.

Highlights: November Board of Directors Meeting

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****Three ACER-CART mandates are:**

1. The National Seniors Strategy
2. Advocate for a health care system that prioritizes care in seniors' own homes for as long as possible.
3. Advocate for regulations governing retirement and long term care homes.

****A new ARTA branded Member Portal is being developed so that members can manage their own benefits and information. This will be the largest front facing communication tool that ARTA has with its members. It will be "best in class."**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by email or phone.



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 Reps: Judy Wonnenberg
Dianne Durda**

**Pioneer Village Schoolhouse:
Vicki McCaig**

Cards & Scrapbook: Annita Pinder

Pension & Financial Wellness: Ray Hoger

Health Benefits: Jim Black

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 2020/21 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. 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 2020-2021 membership will be valid from September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021.

Currently, we have 51 members made up of 36 renewals from last year, 5 new 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)



CORRECTION

In the last newsletter, I announced the winners of the 2020 ARTA Wellness Challenge. In that announcement there was an error in one of the totals.

The individual winner was Andrew Tiong from the Wolf Creek Retired Teachers branch. I stated that his best 30 day total was 74,740—which was in fact, the total for the entire Wolf Creek branch.

Andrews's total should have listed as 17,280.

My apologies for the error.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

We thank all those who have already renewed their memberships for the current year.

If you have not yet renewed for the 2020/2021 year, please fill in the membership form below and mail it with your cheque to the address at the bottom of the form. You can deliver it to the address, and leave it in the mailbox.

We also welcome new members! Feel free to share this newsletter with any of your retired teacher colleagues.

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 (cheque or money order) and send to: MHADRTA, 36 Prairie Dr. NE, Medicine Hat, AB T1C 1R2 OR bring it with you to the first meeting you attend in the fall.

Membership will be valid until August 31, 2021.