



Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association Fall Newsletter

September 2024

www.myerta.org



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Fall Luncheon
- 2 President's Message
- 2 Mark Your Calendar
- 2 Luncheon News
- 2 Board Meeting Summary
- 3 Membership Report
- 3 Membership Renewal
- 3 ARTA Writing Contest
- 3 Mayfield Dinner Theatre
- 3 ARTA Charity Golf Classic Success
- 4 Wine and Beer Tasting Events
- 4 Alberta Registry Discount for Seniors
- 4 Travel Symposium Update

Please note the *Important Luncheon News* notice on page two.

FALL LUNCHEON

Join us for our fall luncheon at the

Chateau Louis

11727 Kingsway Avenue

Date: September 25, 2024

Lunch: 11:45 a.m.

Menu: Roast pork buffet

Cost: \$35.00 (includes GST and gratuity)

Speaker: Susan Carter—Comedian

Topic: "Retirement and Beyond—The True Age of Liberation?"

Door Prize: Everyone is eligible for a door prize.



Luncheon Registration Deadline

Please mark the **September 18** deadline for luncheon registration on your calendar. If you have not received a telephone call by 6:00 p.m. that evening and would like to attend the luncheon, contact Pam Roy at **780-473-5598** immediately.

Donations to the Food Bank are appreciated.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Ed Butler, 780-461-0261

Past President

Joan Harrison, 780-467-3885

Vice-President

Lyndi Karbonik, 780-932-7314

Treasurer

Bonnie Zack, 780-717-8775

Secretaries

Janice Aubry, 780-868-9269

Marlene Kirwin, 780-699-2148

Membership Coordinator

Cam Coville, 780-686-5125

Webmaster

Ray Roy, 780-473-5598

Directors

Mary Dunnigan, 780-451-0705

Lily Ma, 780-438-4032

Cliff Otto, 780-476-9264

Sue Stephenson, 780-914-7500

Carol Williamson, 780-436-9684

Greg Wilson, 780-487-5218

Gail Wozny, 780-995-6912

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I watched some of the coverage of the Democratic National Convention. The air was really electrifying and the spirit joyful. There was a true atmosphere of joy and hope with people believing they could make a difference.

Now let’s consider our own organization. I recently attended a board orientation gathering for the Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association (ERTA) followed by the regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

This year, while some of our board members have moved on after a lengthy and generous service to the branch, several new people have joined the board.

That same energy was vibrating throughout the meeting. Returning board members along with new ones are supportive of the programs we currently offer and are ready to implement new initiatives as well.

They are also committed to doing the hard work of reviewing current programs and procedures, identifying that which is working well, updating processes where necessary, and making changes to improve the organization.

The next couple of years will be busy but we are committed to keeping you updated. The process of creating a long overdue statement of mission and vision will begin soon.

So—stay tuned and enjoy the ride. The future is exciting!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Luncheon Registration	September 18, 2024
Fall Luncheon	September 25, 2024
ARTA AGM	October 1 & 2, 2024
Beer Tasting	October 17, 2024
Mayfield Dinner Theatre	October 23, 2024
Board of Directors Meeting	October 29, 2024
Wine Tasting (Italy)	November 6, 2024
Mayfield Dinner Theatre	November 20, 2024
Christmas Luncheon	December 4, 2024
Spring Luncheon	March 19, 2025
Summer Luncheon	June 11, 2025

LUNCHEON NEWS

We are very pleased to have Susan Carter as speaker for the fall luncheon on September 25. Susan, a retired teacher who has moved into the world of comedy, will lift our spirits by sharing the humour she sees in everyday situations.

Laughter is an instant vacation.

IMPORTANT NOTICE **Change to luncheon registrations.**

All ERTA members have been receiving a phone call from telephone volunteers to determine the number of people who intend to attend each luncheon.

Members who currently receive their newsletter by email will find two links in their notification that the newsletter is available. One link will take you to the newsletter itself while the other will bring up a form where you can fill in your responses to the following questions:

- Are you planning to attend the luncheon?
- Are you bringing a guest (friend, spouse)? If so, how many?
- What are the names of your guests?
- Are there any dietary restrictions (vegetarian, vegan, allergies, religious constraints) that need to be accommodated? Please specify.

Everyone will get a telephone call in September. If you want to continue to receive the newsletter by email but would still like to receive a call about attending luncheons, please indicate your preference when you are called.

Members who receive their newsletter by Canada Post will continue to get a friendly call regarding luncheon attendance.

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

Discussions at the Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association (ERTA) Board of Directors meeting, held at Barnett House on August 20, resulted in the following decisions:

- The option of paying membership fees by way of e-transfer will now be available. The choice to sign up at seasonal luncheons or mail your application form, along with a cheque, to the membership coordinator will continue.
- Members will also be able to register for luncheons online.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Current total membership.....	504
<i>Regular</i>	382
<i>Complimentary</i>	98
<i>Honorary</i>	7
<i>Nonagenarian</i>	17
Newsletter distribution	
<i>Canada Post</i>	121
<i>Email</i>	379
<i>Not receiving by request</i>	4

Membership renewal information

Renewal notices have been sent out via email and Canada Post to those people whose memberships have expired as of June 30, 2024.

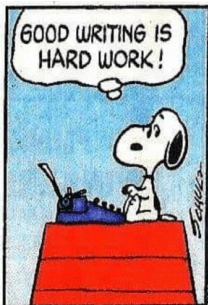
Implementation of an e-transfer option for payment of memberships is being considered for those individuals who would find it more convenient.

You may still pay by cheque either at the luncheon or you can mail a cheque, along with your completed application form to Cam Colville, the new membership coordinator, at 4505 42 Street, Beaumont, AB T4X 1G9.

If you have any questions about renewing your membership, please call Cam at 780-929-5125 or email him at membershipperta@gmail.com.

Cam Coville

ARTA WRITING CONTEST



November 15 is the deadline for submissions to the 2024 writing contest. The winning entries will be announced in the March 2025 issue of *news&views* which now enjoys a readership of over 30,000 people.

The three categories for the 2024 contest are as follows:

Flash Fiction—A short story of up to 800 words based on the prompt Dreams of the Future.

Poetry—Choose any form or subject for a poetic piece of up to 40 lines.

Travel Vignette—A vignette is a short, descriptive piece of writing capturing a brief period of time.

Complete details of the rules, the guidelines and the process for submission can be found on the ARTA website at arta.net/writing-contest.

Retirement Wisdom

All endings are a chance to rest, to breathe to reflect on the conclusion of a journey in preparation for a new one.

MAYFIELD DINNER THEATRE

A number of tickets are available for the brunch production of *Musicians Gone Wild in Nashville: Music City* for Wednesday, October 23, 2024, at the Mayfield Dinner Theatre.

The stage presentation will address how Nashville became the home of country music and will showcase the music of iconic country music stars like Garth Brooks, Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Dolly Parton, Shania Twain, Keith Urban and even Taylor Swift.

Seats in Section C cost \$87.26 and \$96.18 for seating in Section B booths.

Reservations have also been made for *Flashback Fever* on Wednesday, November 20. This flashback party features some of the best fifty songs of the past fifty years. Booths in Section C are priced at \$89.93 and are \$98.86 for Section B seating.



Tickets for seats in higher-priced sections can also be arranged.

Telephone Vi Oko at 780-459-8013 to state your seating request before forwarding her a cheque, made payable to the Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association, to 20 Glenhaven Crescent, St. Albert, Alberta T8N 1A5.

ARTA Charity Golf Classic Success

The annual golf tournament, hosted by the Alberta Retired Teachers Charitable Foundation (ARTCF), at The Quarry golf course on July 8 was a great success with \$27,965.08 raised to fund specific charitable projects.

ARTCF aims to help all Alberta seniors to find appropriate housing and health services as well as to provide support for seniors where English is a second language. Over 95% of donations received directly support seniors in Alberta. To find out more about ARTCF, go to the ARTA website at arta.net/about-artcf.

WINE AND BEER TASTING EVENTS

Bring your friends, meet with former colleagues and learn about the marvelous wines of countries around the world! Thomas Coburger from Wine and Beyond will lead fun-filled evenings of wine tasting, set in the beautiful MacTaggart Ridge tasting room. Each wine participant will receive six wine samples and a small charcuterie and cheese plate from the Italian Centre Shop South, as well as a wealth of knowledge. There is one beer tasting event being offered that will feature a local Edmonton brewery. Registration for these events is now open but register early as space is limited!



Dates: Please note that if two dates are given for an event, the second one for each set is a repeat of the first session.

- October 17: Beer from a local brewery (TBD)
- November 6: Wines of Italy (region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia)—led by a presenter/producer from Jermann Wines
- January 21 and 27: Wines of California
- March 19 and 27: Wines of Portugal
- May 22 and 26: Wines of Canada

Location: MacTaggart Ridge Wine and Beyond at 5962 Mullen Way in Edmonton

Cost: ERTA members \$34.65; non-members \$39.90 inclusive of GST

Time: The tasting room doors open at 6:00 p.m. for registration and social time. The presentation and tasting of wines (or beer) will occur from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Food: Unfortunately, food allergies or preferences cannot be accommodated at these events.

Payment: The registration fee will be collected by staff at the store upon arrival. Debit cards, credit cards and cash will be accepted.

Registration: Please contact Lyndi Karbonik at lckarbonik@gmail.com or call her at 780-932-7314 to receive an email containing the link to register for these events or check the ERTA website at (edmontonretiredteachers.org). Registration will close one week prior to each date listed and confirmations will be sent to participants.

REGISTRY DISCOUNT FOR SENIORS

Effective April 1, 2024, people 65 years of age and older are eligible for a 25% discount on the cost of the medical exams required to renew their driver's licence.

Medical exams are mandatory for drivers aged 75, 80 and every two years thereafter. They must be performed by a physician or nurse practitioner to determine if a driver is medically fit to drive according to the provincial guidelines.



How to claim reimbursement

Seniors can receive a 25% refund on the cost of a driver's medical examination by following a few simple steps.

1. Complete the exam at your physician's office. Get a receipt that includes your name, service provided, date and physician's details (clinic, address, phone number) and the amount paid for the service.
2. Bring the receipt to your local registry office.
3. Upon receiving the medical receipt, a registry agent will verify eligibility then calculate the 25% discount and issue a credit.

The credit will be processed and you will receive a government-issued cheque that will be mailed to the address on your motor vehicles file within ten business days.

To learn about a few restrictions that apply and to find out about other seniors' discounts go online to alberta.ca/seniors-discount.

TRAVEL SYMPOSIUM UPDATE

The travel symposium filled up very quickly so registration for this function has been closed. The interest shown makes it likely that another symposium will be offered in the future. Thank you to all those who registered; we wish we could have accepted everyone who wanted to come.

**FULLY
BOOKED**

I have not been everywhere, but it's on my list.
~ Susan Sontag