

JoAnn Lauber

President of ACER-CART 2014-15

JoAnn has had a long and rewarding career in education. After a one-year training program, at the age of eighteen she began teaching and found the classroom to be her calling. Two years later, she returned to the University of Alberta to learn more of the art of teaching, graduating with a bachelor's degree in education.



Her love of English literature took her to high schools in the County of Beaver in Alberta (7 years) and then to British Columbia: Ucluelet, Prince George, and then to Langley. For 28 years in this province, she taught senior English, worked as a reading consultant, and counselled Grade 12 students.

During the course of her teaching career, JoAnn earned a master's degree from the University of Western Washington and a Graduate Diploma in Counselling Psychology from the University of British Columbia. She held positions as head of both English and counselling departments, was involved in the senior English provincial exam program, and served on accreditation teams evaluating high schools in the province. Retirement from the public school system gave JoAnn an opportunity to teach English 12 to international high school students at Dorset College in Vancouver.

Active in her local, and supportive of her union colleagues, from the beginning of her teaching career, JoAnn served as representative of her local and as secretary; in retirement, she has been a branch executive member, editing newsletters for two BCRTA branches – Langley, the branch in the district where she taught (editor for 11 years) and New Westminster, the branch in the area where she resides (editor for 6 years).

For the past twelve years, JoAnn has been a member of the Executive of the British Columbia Retired Teachers' Association (BCRTA), holding various positions and working on various committees. These include Health & Housing, Social Concerns, Membership (Chair for 3 years, during which she led the production of the recruitment DVD for the BCRTA), Heritage, Finance, Website, Excellence in Public Education (Chair for one year), BCRTA Review Commission, Advocacy, BCRTA-COSCO Joint Committee for the Elimination of Medical Services Premiums (acting co-Chair), Delegates' Day Conference Committee, and the *ad hoc* Volunteerism Committee (as lead author of the 2011 BCRTA Report on Volunteerism Among Retired Educators.). In the past year JoAnn has served the BCRTA and the Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations in BC as provincial leader for the "Keep the Heart in Medicare" campaign to raise awareness of the Health Accord Expiry on March 31, 2014.

JoAnn has attended nine ACER-CART AGMs, seven as Director representing the BCRTA, one as ACER-CART Region West Representative, two years as Chair of the Communications Committee, and in 2012-14 as Vice-President.