



**Association canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants retraités
Canadian Association of Retired Teachers**

Date: January 23, 2023
To: ACER-CART Executive
From: Marilyn Bossert, ACER-CART West Representative
Re: ACER-CART West Members Update

Message sent out to Western Representatives & Executives Directors: *If you have any updates from your provincial organization that you would like me to share with the executive, please let me know.*

On another note, what are your thoughts on the following:

- 1. A zoom call for ACER-CART West, likely in February to follow up on any developments from the executive meeting of Jan. 23-24.*
- 2. An in-person session hosted by ARTA sometime in the last two weeks of August.*

The responses below may or may fit into the ACER-CART focus, but they certainly do present a clearer understanding of the concerns of those organizations.

RTAM - Retired Teachers' Association of Manitoba

- Submitted by Joan Zaretsky, RTAM ACER-CART Director

We are excited as Sue Lantz has agreed to come to our AGM and speak about "Aging in Place". We will open it up to the public as well and expect this will be a great event on May 2nd. Thanks for having her speak last June as Aging in Place has become my passionate topic right now. I was the caregiver for both my first husband who passed away at 59 years of age and my Dad who passed away at 89, and I wish I had Sue's framework to put a lot of her suggestions into place over time instead of having everything to deal with as they progressively became more and more ill and unable to live at home. I just loaned my copy of Sue's book to my church minister here in Tucson today as I volunteered to do a three-hour workshop using Sue's ideas. Tina is going to review it and get back to me. The same as in my church at home, most of the church parishioners are older adults and I think this will spark some thoughtful reflections about how they can be better prepared for crises when they come and how to make their last years the most enjoyable in many ways.

We have had some interesting Chapter Presidents meetings over the past few months. The Chapter Presidents were asking for some ideas as to

special events and activities they can choose from to involve their local members. We have discussed getting involved with their local museums and developing joint Heritage Canada grant applications. These may be used to develop displays or support the development of educational activities for students who tour the museum or others we have yet to invent. I am also leading a new project that we are just formulating called "Reach Out and Connect with a Retired Teacher". We are still developing the backgrounder and there were some new ideas at our meeting last week. I will be contacting Bell-MTS, our Manitoba telephone system, to see if they would offer us some funds as we develop a Manitoba wide Chapter project. The general idea is that each Chapter will look at their list of current members with the goal of matching their Board and younger members with older Chapter members. The older members would receive a monthly phone call and then whatever else develops as the relationship grows. We are looking at this project as a way of promoting increased social connections and believe that the older members may enjoy hearing from someone from their Chapter. Social isolation, especially during times of COVID, has taken its toll on older adults in Manitoba and we see this project as a way of increasing the relationships among all Chapter members in different stages of retirement.

STS – Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan

- Submitted by Helen Sukovieff

At our recent executive meeting we had a screening of a video from the Yorkton Film Festival called Golden: The End of Ageism. Please see the attached poster. It was excellent and you might be able to get access to it from the information under the title

YORKTON FILM FESTIVAL

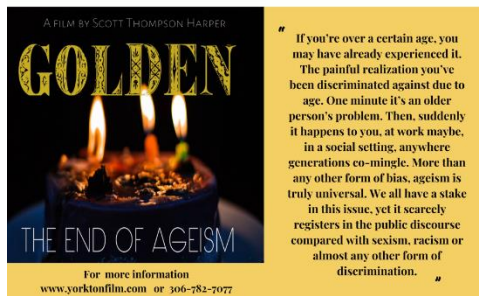
presents

OPEN CINEMA

Yorkton Public Library

January 17, 2023 | 7:00 PM

Admission : Free



I believe a Zoom call in February would be a great idea. We have lots of developments to report from Manitoba. As for the in- person meeting hosted by ARTA in August, we would have to ensure this would be included in the budget for the Vice President in annual budgeting process to cover our transportation costs. It would be great to start brainstorming for some of the topics we would like to see addressed and to know ahead what materials we can bring to share with the other Western Chapters.



ARTA – ALBERTA RETIRED TEACHERS’ ASSOCIATION

- submitted by Lawrence Hrycan, ARTA ACER-CART Director

The Pension and Financial Wellness Committee of ARTA held 2 excellent seminars recently via Zoom. The first session entitled “Enhancing Retirement Sources: RRIFs and Annuities” was presented by Capital Estate Planning. It was held on November 29, 2022. Discussion centered on the pros and cons of Annuities and how to invest in your RRIFs.

Pension individuals from ATRF discussed the Alberta Teachers Pension and how it works. This was held on January 11, 2023. Questions were asked about the stability and safety of the pension fund, as well as how it functioned and how well it was doing. ATRF assured everyone who attended that our pensions are alive and doing well. One of the interesting points that came from this seminar is the fact that there are 51 individuals receiving the pension who are Centurions. As well, over 90 million dollars is paid out in pensions each month.

Between 150 and 200 individuals attended each of the seminars.

The Charitable Foundation is looking to raise money through a casino. It looks like this will take place sometime later in 2023 or in 2024. The Charitable Foundation in 2022 gave \$25,000 to the Parkinson Association of Alberta, \$25,000 to the Alzheimer Society of Calgary, and \$5,000 to the Operation Friendship Seniors Society based in Edmonton.

ARTA now has its own pharmacy and has a license to supply prescription drugs in Edmonton and surrounding area. It is hoped that this pharmacy will serve the members well, as well as helping to keep premiums down.

The Board of Directors of ARTA meets 4 times a year to handle the business aspects of the association. The next Board of Directors meeting is on February 21/22, 2023.

BCRTA – British Columbia Retired Teachers’ Association

- Submitted by Steve Bailey, BC ACER-CART Representative

The BCRTA is looking forward to using the capabilities of ACER-CART in a letter writing campaign to MPs and MLAs regarding the imperative of government living up to its promise to implement a Pharmacare program. This pressure on the government needs to be maintained.

We continue to monitor Bill C228 and its implications for us.

Our organization is offering several travel and long stay opportunities to members which are proving very popular.

We’re pleased that our Teachers’ Pension Plan COLA for 2023 has been set at 6.9%. Advocacy for pension protection remains one of our major focus points. The BCRTA sends representatives to the Teachers’ Pension Plan Advisory Council (TPPAC) and nominate a trustee. We remain plugged in to the issues as the voice of retired BC teachers and are positive supporters of a healthy TPP.

BCRTA Standing Committees continue to offer the intergenerational Golden Star Awards, monitor health and wellness issues relevant to seniors, offer heritage

preservation grants, explore issues surrounding contemporary educational issues in B.C. and expand membership benefits to members.

In March the Board will engage in focussed strategic planning and the Spring will see regional "Zone Meetings" take place across the province.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Bossert