



*Trick or Treat --Happy Hallowe'en*

**Today's presentation is by Petty Officer Carla Penny  
"Life in Afghanistan from a soldier's point of view"**

## New Executive

The STARTA executive for the next two years is

President:	Lou Duigou	458-6640
Past President:	Jack Flaherty	459-9217
Vice-Presidents:	Brenda Kane	460-2414
	Larry Wyatt	459-6761
Secretary:	Maureen Glen	939-6872
Treasurer:	Helen Kieran	458-2420
Program Convener:	Emil Guzik(Chair)	973-5175
	Dagmar Lietz	939-2482
	Margaret Olson	
Phoning Convener:	Gail Kosinski	458-9124
Benefits:	Leo Bruseker	459-8595
Historian:	Joyce Keltie	935-6084
Web Master:	Larry Wyatt	459-6761
Communications:	David Flower	458-3245

For those of you who are into the e-mail business, the e-mail addresses for the executive are:

President:	<a href="mailto:louduigou@shaw.ca">louduigou@shaw.ca</a>
Vice-Presidents:	<a href="mailto:bgkane@telus.net">bgkane@telus.net</a>
	<a href="mailto:wyattld@shaw.ca">wyattld@shaw.ca</a>
Secretary:	<a href="mailto:glenma@telus.net">glenma@telus.net</a>
Treasurer:	<a href="mailto:khkieran@shaw.ca">khkieran@shaw.ca</a>
Program:	<a href="mailto:erguzic@shaw.ca">erguzic@shaw.ca</a>
Phoning:	<a href="mailto:gkosinski@telus.net">gkosinski@telus.net</a>
Benefits:	<a href="mailto:lbruseker@shaw.ca">lbruseker@shaw.ca</a>
Historian:	<a href="mailto:jkeltie@mac.com">jkeltie@mac.com</a>
Web Master:	<a href="mailto:wyattld@shaw.ca">wyattld@shaw.ca</a>
Communications:	<a href="mailto:davidflower@shaw.ca">davidflower@shaw.ca</a>

## ARTA Annual General Meeting

On October 6 and 7, 2010, four delegates from STARTA attended the AGM of the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association. The delegates were Lou Duigou, Emil Guzik, Brenda Kane and Larry Wyatt. What follows is a brief report on the one and one half day meeting.

Overall Year Activities: The mission statement of ARTA is: **The Alberta Retired Teachers' Association, the voice of retired teachers, strives to support improvements in education, in the profession, and in the welfare of present and future members individually and in their communities.**

Having participated in all of the sessions, the four of us can attest to the fact that ARTA is a robust

and vibrant organization that truly works on behalf of the retired teachers of Alberta.

Without going into any details on each report, whether individual officer or committee (standing or ad hoc), a list of the reports alone is a true indication of the depth and breadth of ARTA.

- Regular reports of the president, vice-president, past president and executive director
- Communications/Technology Committee
- Benefits Committee
- Governance Committee
- Pension Committee
- Human Resources Committee
- Strategic Planning Committee
- Benefits Trust Committee
- Treasurer
- Four liaison reports, one of which was Public Interest Alberta—Rod Thronson was the liaison until his demise.

What is remarkable about all of these individual and committee reports is that there are as many as 50-60 dedicated retired teachers who work countless hours doing officer and committee work and reporting to the Board of Directors that meets at least four times a year. It is the committees that do all the legwork and make the recommendations for action and development in order for ARTA to reach its objectives.



ARTA Health Plan: One of the most significant objectives of ARTA is: **To pursue ways and means of improving the welfare of our present and future members.** This objective is met through ARTA's Health and Wellness Benefit Plan. Suffice it to say here that the ARTA Health and Wellness Benefit Plan is ARTA's plan, not a "Johnson plan." It is a plan developed by ARTA and administered by Johnson Inc. For more details and clarity regarding this plan, please refer to Ralph Levinson's article "Response to Concerns About ARTA's Health and Wellness Plan" in *ARTA News and Views*, Volume 19, Number 1, Fall 2010, page 3 of this most recent issue.

Next Annual General Meeting: October 5-6, 2011

Election of Officers: A new slate of officers was elected for the 2010-2011 year:

President: **Marlene Reddekop**, Grande Prairie

Vice-President: **Gordon Cumming**, Calgary

Treasurer: **Paul Demers** (re-elected), Calgary

Past-President: **Paul Boisvert**, St. Paul-Cold Lake

There are several STARTA members who hold positions on ARTA committees:

**Leo Bruseker**—Branch Benefits Representative

**Brenda Kane**—Pension Representative (interim)

**Larry Wyatt**—Communications/Technology Committee

**Emil Guzik** has presented his name for possible appointment as Public Interest Alberta liaison or other area where he may be needed.

Tributes and Awards:

ARTA Life Membership to **Dr. Chuck Rose**

Tribute to **Paul Boisvert** retiring president who has served on the ARTA Board of Directors since 1993.

Members retiring from the Board include **Jack Flaherty**, **Ed Friss**, **Dean McMullen**, **Margaret Walters**, **Donna Mae Goldade**.

Scholarship Awards

(a) ARTA/Johnson Scholarships to **Peter Iglinski**, **Katie Graves**, **Michelle Speranzia**, and **Nicole Roy**

(b) ARTA Awards to **Maria Martire**, **Lauren Parker**, **Alysa Bergo**, **Brianne Lovstrom**, **Stephanie Petrowitsch** and **Quinten Paterson**.

Budget for 2010-2011: A budget was approved as presented by Treasurer Paul Demers—Revenues \$897,940; Expenditures \$856,850; Balance \$41,090.



Summary: All in all, this was a very enlightening meeting in that it helped each of us to gain a better understanding of our organization at the provincial level and just how much this organization serves as an effective voice for retired teachers. We saw an example of this when the government tried to change the pharmaceutical plan and start charging seniors a premium (tax?). Thanks to all of you who wrote letters, contacted your MLA, or the Premier, or the Health Minister, on that issue. It is believed truly by ARTA personnel that it made a great difference in the favourable outcome.

*Submitted by Lou Duigou, President.*



### For the wordsmiths

What do the following words have in common?

1. Banana
2. Uneven
3. Assess
4. Revive
5. Dresser
6. Grammar
7. Potato

Find the answer on page 5.

### Smile!

A child was asked to write a book report on the entire Bible. What follows is a child's version of the New Testament in a nutshell.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of The New. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying to me, "Close the door! Were you born in a barn?") It would be nice to say, "As a matter of fact, I was.") During his life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Democrats. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they

named a terrible vegetable after him. Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Democrats and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead. Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.



### Volunteers needed

**For the North Central Teachers' Convention booth.** STARTA is planning to set up a booth at the convention February 10 and 11, 2011. We are looking for help setting up the booth on Wednesday February 9 in the afternoon and then people to assist at the booth during Thursday. There are two shifts, from 8 a.m. to noon and from noon to 4 p.m. If you can help with any of these convention activities please contact Brenda Kane at 780-460-2414 or by e-mail at [bkgkane@telus.net](mailto:bkgkane@telus.net).

**For the phoning committee.** We are seeking people who might be prepared to help phone STARTA members with meeting details. If you can help please call Gail Kosinski at 780-458-9124 or by e-mail at [gkosinski@telus.net](mailto:gkosinski@telus.net).

**For the STARTA choir.** The choir is always pleased to have new members. If you enjoy singing and would like to join the choir please call Eryl Jones at 780-459-8407.

If you are interested in viewing the presentation by RCMP Constable Laurel Keating at the September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting please contact Joyce Keltie at 780-935-6084 or by e-mail at [jkeltie@mac.com](mailto:jkeltie@mac.com). Joyce has a DVD that you can borrow.

### Thoughts on my electricity bill

I was intrigued when I received my September electricity bill since I had read several letters in the *Edmonton Journal* regarding associated costs on the bill. The following are the details of my bill:

Costs of electricity from August 7 to August 31 at 8.309¢ per kilowatt hour	\$38.80
Cost of electricity from September 1 to September 8 at 6.653¢ per kilowatt	\$9.98
Administration charge	\$6.16
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Total	\$54.94
Distribution charge	\$26.29
Transmission charge	\$10.61
2010 Transmission Adjustment Rider	\$3.59
Balancing Pool Allocation Rider	\$1.30 cr
Local Access Fee	\$0.60
	<hr/>
Subtotal of delivery charges	\$39.79
G.S.T.	\$4.74
Total	\$99.47

So 55.23 percent of the bill is the actual electricity and it costs 40 percent of the bill to deliver it to my house. I am sure that you are as curious as I am as to why the cost per kilowatt hour decreased by 19.93 percent between August and September. I am also fascinated that I have to pay two companies, one to produce the electricity (EPCOR) and the other to deliver it (Fortis) when one company used to be able to do it all! Is that what is called progress?

## Having a bad day?

A woman came home to find her husband in the kitchen shaking frantically, almost in a dancing frenzy, with some kind of wire running from his waist towards the electric kettle. Intending to jolt him away from the deadly current, she wacked him with a handy plank of wood, breaking his arm in two places. Up to that moment he had been happily listening to his walkman.



## If it is true, it is obscene!

The *Sydney Morning Herald* for October 14, 2010, contains a column by Charles Purcell of Australia's Fairfax Media. The column is entitled "Wall Street's snake oil salesmen are at it again." Purcell states that it was reported on October 13, 2010, that "Wall Street's banks, hedge funds and financiers are preparing to pay a record **\$US144 billion** in compensation and benefits to executives and employees." The numbers are corroborated by the *New York Daily News* with the October 14 headline "Cocky Goldman Sachs bankers and rest of Wall Street soaking up record bonuses: NYers [New Yorkers] not happy."

Purcell continues "this group of snake oil salesmen and flim flam artists who brought the world to what people are calling the Great Recession are receiving record bonuses a mere two years after the disaster." He goes on to question what ever happened to President Obama's promised crackdown on Wall Street and concludes with "the market brought us to the brink of doom. And if these overpriced captains of industry are intent on driving us towards another iceberg, it's time they were replaced at the wheel."

Asking the question who rules the world, the answer is simple, the Banks and Financial institutions do and they believe they are above the law. Of course, we should not complain, our cost of living in Alberta looks like increasing by **one percent** in 2010 – your pension will show a pathetic increase!

## Smile!

A nice, calm and respectable lady went into the pharmacy, walked up to the pharmacist, looked straight into his eyes and said, "I would like to buy some cyanide."

The pharmacist asked, "Why in the world do you need cyanide?"

The lady replied, "I need it to poison my husband."

The pharmacist's eyes got big as he explained, "Lord have mercy! I can't give you cyanide to kill your husband. That's against the law! I'll lose my license! They'll throw both of us in jail! All kinds of bad things will happen. Absolutely not! You CANNOT have any cyanide!"

The lady reached into her purse and pulled out a picture of her husband in bed with the pharmacist's wife.

The pharmacist looked at the picture and replied, "You didn't tell me you had a prescription."

## Youthful Innocence!

Just before I was deployed to Iraq, I sat my eight-year-old son down and broke the news to him. "I'm going to be away for a long time," I told him. "I'm going to Iraq." "Why?" he asked. "Don't you know there is a war going on over there?"

Out bicycling one day with my eight-year-old granddaughter, Carolyn, I got a little wistful. "In ten years," I said, "You'll want to be with your friends and you won't go walking, biking or swimming with me like you do now. Carolyn shrugged. "In ten years you'll be too old to do all those things anyway."

## Answer to question on page 3

It is not two double letters nor is it vowel arrangements. If you take the first letter and place it at the end of the word and spell it backwards it is the same word!

## Health Care – what else!

It seems that every time we think that the issue of health care has quieted down some issue raises its head and causes alarm bells to ring.

In the October 14 *Edmonton Journal* is the report by Meagan Fitzpatrick of a lunchtime speech made by MP Maxime Bernier. You may well remember that name for he was a “rising star” in the federal Conservative ranks and was Minister of Foreign Affairs until he was forced to resign. He it was who left some classified government documents at the home of his now former girlfriend Julie Couillard. To add to the scandal, she had once been involved with members of the biker underworld.

Bernier made his speech at the Albany Club in Toronto and in that speech he talked about the federal government stopping transferring funds for health care to the provinces and instead transferring tax points thereby “giving provinces more tax room by reducing the federal income tax rate.” He suggested that the one-size-fits-all model does not permit experimentation and innovation. He also pointed out that “We Conservatives believe not in big, interventionist, centralized government, but in small and limited government, government as close to the people as possible.” This latter statement reflects very much the kind of “right-wing” conservatism of Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan and the philosophy propounded constantly by the Fraser Institute. The term that is used to describe this philosophy, oddly enough, is neo-liberalism.

The second interesting health issue was a report in the *Edmonton Sun*, October 13, entitled “Affair of the Heart” by Andrew Hanon. Apparently a new University of Alberta study on the costs of health care for heart patients at the end of their lives, has found that “heart patients that checked into hospitals cost the system \$30,000 in their final six months of life.” According to the lead author of the study Dr. Padma Kaul, the cost drops dramatically if the patients go into a hospice or back home to die. According to the study increasing numbers of heart patients in the United States are using alternatives like hospices in their final days but not here in Alberta.

**Please take time to fill out the questionnaire on the tables at breakfast this month. We really would appreciate your input.**



### **Building the Lighthouse still available**

Dave Geddes new book *Building the Lighthouse* detailing the first 25 years of the St. Albert Protestant School District #6 will be available at this October meeting at the special price of \$14.00. Dave suggests it would be a great Christmas present for those who have everything else. If you are unable to be at the meeting and would like a copy of the book just call Dave at 780-459-3654 and he will deliver a copy to you.

### **ATASC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Homecoming**

Retirees are invited to the ATA Science Council **50th Anniversary Homecoming** Conference for the low price of \$20. The annual ATASC Conference is being held at the West Edmonton Mall with a theme of **Energy** and a sub-theme of **Where we have been? Where we are? Where we are going?** The conference starts on Thursday evening November 18 with a wine and cheese reception and continues on Fri & Sat Nov 19-20th. There will be a special registration and hospitality suite for retirees. When space is available, retirees can also attend the conference sessions. Of course, we are expecting and collecting stories from conferences past. Come and join the fun. **To register as a retiree** contact Donna Lauritsen at [cmaste@ualberta.ca](mailto:cmaste@ualberta.ca) and she will assist you. Please pass this information on to other science teacher retirees; e.g., from your e-mail address book. Go to <http://sc.teachers.ab.ca/> for more information about the conference.