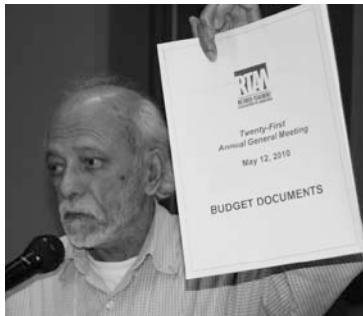


204-2281 Portage Ave., Wpg., MB R3J 0M1 • Phone 889-3660 • 1-888-393-8082 • Email:rtam@mts.net • www.rtam.mb.ca



ATTENTION – Members of Johnson Inc. Travel Plan/MB Health Travel Plan

Please be aware – CAUTIONARY TRAVEL INFORMATION

Being a RTAM member entitles you to enrol in any/all Benefits packages by contacting Johnson Inc. at: 1-877-989-2600 or write to: Johnson Inc.

11120-178th Street
 Edmonton, AB T5S 1P2
 Edmonton@Johnson.ca or www.johnson.ca/rtam

NOTE:

1. Johnson Inc. is RTAM'S **Plan Administrator**/Des Jardin Financial Security is **the Insurer**/Sigma Assistel has replaced Mondial as the **Travel Assistance Provider** (24 hr. 1-800-465-6390 Can/USA).
2. **Premiums** for each Benefits package are deducted at source from your TRAF pension. This process is based on directions from your or by special arrangements with non-TRAF recipients. Deductions can be made directly from your TRAF pension or from your bank account.
3. One of the Benefits package is **TRAVEL INSURANCE**. This package covers unlimited 30 day sojourns. Travel beyond 30 days needs to be "topped up" to the total number of days you are out of the province/county.

CAUTION – take note:

Manitoba Health – requires written notice for any absence greater than 90 days. Your coverage with MB Health cannot exceed 182 days/calendar year (accumulated throughout the year and including all trips whether out of province or out of country). Call 786-7101 for more information.

WHEN TRAVELLING – you must carry your i) **MB HEALTH CARD** and your ii) Johnson Inc. **EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARD (SIGMA ASSISTEL)**. Make certain your Johnson Inc. card is up-to-date. I.e. **Sigma Assistel is the Travel Assistance Provider** (not Mondial).

1-800-465-6390

• For clarification/questions/queries or more information, call the above telephone numbers.

Thank you to Bill Stillwell, Neepawa, MB, author of Manitoba Naturally, who donated two of his books as door prizes at the 2010 AGM.

You asked for home insurance. It is now available by contacting Johnson, Inc. at www.johnson.ca/rtam Phone: 1-877-989-2600. Bonus each inquiry will merit RTAM a \$10.00 acknowledgement to be used for charitable purposes in the name of RTAM.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010-2011

RICHARD R. BENOIT, *President*
200 Point West Drive
Winnipeg, MB R3T 5H7
261-9839
lbenoit@mts.net

PAT BOWSLAUGH, *Past President*
22 Wellington Drive
Brandon, MB R7B 2Y9
728-4924
bowsp@wcgwave.ca

DR. MARY PANKIW, *Vice President*
42 Matlock Crescent
Winnipeg, MB R3R 3H7
831-6984

RITA WARRIAN, *Secretary*
41 Stradbroke Place
Dauphin, MB R7N 0M8
638-6119
mwarrian@mymts.net

JAG MALIK, *Treasurer*
P.O. Box 303
Gilbert Plains, MB R0L 0X0
548-2642
jmlk@mts.net

BOARD MEMBERS

ROSALIE BORN
Bylaws & Policy
RR 4 Comp 47
Dauphin, MB R7N 2T7
638-6731
rbornn@mts.net

TOM CAMERON
Box 148
Carievale, SK S0C 0P0
306-928-4901
tdcameron@sasktel.net

GUY HANSEN
1705-11 Evergreen Place
Winnipeg, MB R3L 2T9
283-4265
fayeghansen@hotmail.com

WAYNE HUGHES
Political Action
82 Whiteshell Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R2C 2R9
222-4011
lwhughes@mts.net

RON KALINCHUK
Communications
Box 202
Virden, MB R0M 2C0
748-1463
kayaker@rfnw.com

VEL MCADAM
Educational Advocacy
Box 775
The Pas, MB R9A 1K8
623-3707
kelseybl@mts.net

BARBARA MCDOLE

ANNE MONK
Pensions
710 Campbell Street
Winnipeg, MB R3N 1C3
586-7201
ammonk@mts.net

PEGGY PRENDERGAST
Wellness
1 Bittersweet Bay
Winnipeg, MB R2J 2E5
257-1962
ppeggy@mts.net

MAUREEN RECKSIDLER
Travel
P.O. Box 744
Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0
grecks@xplornet.ca

DOREEN SAGE
Box 252
Neepawa, MB R0J 1H0
476-5772
dsage@mts.net

RAY SITTER
Membership & Chapter Formation
157 Lynx Crescent
Brandon, MB R7B 3R6
725-1745
rsitter@mts.net

JOHN SUSHELNITSKY
818 Crescent Rd W.,
Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0Z1
857-3014
jmsush@shaw.ca

WILLIAM TAYLOR
B-423 Braecrest Drive
Brandon, MB R7C 1B4
725-1199
taylor.william6@gmail.com

NOTE:

EDITOR OF KIT

DOREEN SAGE
Box 252
Neepawa, MB R0J 1H0
Phone: (204) 476-5772
Email: dsage@mts.net

PRIVACY OFFICER

RICHARD BENOIT
200 Point West Drive
Winnipeg, MB R3T 5H7
Phone: (204) 261-9839
Email: lbenoit@mts.net

Free Public Service Announcements

Not-for-profit organizations who wish to place public service announcements, volunteer opportunities with service groups, school or teacher reunions are encouraged to do so. Submissions are printed free of charge.

Thanks For Your Contributions

We would like to thank all those who contributed material for KIT. When sending in files please **use Word, black ink only and no formatting. Please keep writing.** Photos: 1500 pixels or professionally developed.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **President's Message** 3-4
- **ACER-CART Report** 4
- **Pension Committee Report** 5
- **Wellness** 6
- **In Memoriam** 7
- **Report Standing Committees** 8-14
- **Chapter Reports** 14-24
- **Ye Olde Rusty Registration** 27

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Richard R. Benoit

Being President of RTAM is an honour, a privilege and a great responsibility; I am grateful to you for this wonderful experience.

The eighteen other Board members who accompanied me throughout the year are a dedicated group of people working extremely hard in their respective committees and on the Board as a whole, to promote the causes of RTAM and to attempt to improve conditions for its members. While there is usually much discussion and debate at our meetings, there is no doubt that all aspects of a question are studied and reviewed thoroughly and, therefore, an enlightened decision is most likely to constitute the result.

This report is not intended to be a repetition of the reports submitted by various Committee Chairs, for they only can best describe their accomplishments of the past year. Rather, the report will focus on some of the year's highlights as well as future challenges for RTAM.

In September, RTAM hosted the Tribute to Schreyer event, a very successful one. The main purpose of this day of tribute was to honour a former premier who, thanks to his vision, compassion and leadership, recognized that retired teachers could no longer live with dignity on their very low pensions. Thus he decided that the Manitoba Legislative Assembly legislate huge improvements. He, along with the help of his Cabinet colleagues and the Legislature, then went on to enact a yearly COLA which has served us well for decades but which lately has been shunned aside. The Tribute was also intended to remind present legislators of this commitment and vision as well as ourselves of a glorious past which somehow has become tainted. The event demonstrated that we, members of RTAM, must continue to focus our

efforts and talents to eventually regain what we paid for, agreed to and which is rightly ours.

In the fall of 2009, the Legislature also passed Bill 8, an amendment to the Civil Servants Superannuation Act (CSSA) transferring 145 million dollars from a surplus fund to their Cost of Living Account (COLA) to ensure a better COLA for civil servants. We applauded this action for civil servants but we also questioned why the Government did not give retired teachers a similar treatment as accorded to the retired civil servants in Bill 45 one year earlier. In fact, the opposite was the case. At the Bill 8 legislative hearings, your President, along with six RTAM colleagues, were the only presenters. We did make our point very clear . . . now we still await results.

The Chapter Presidents meeting in late November was a success. Such meetings enable us to inform (both ways), to dialogue, to reconnect and to attempt to focus our efforts in the same direction. Chapters are vital to our Association. We hope to intensify our communications and relationships in the future. Chapters report directly to RTAM, then RTAM attempts to establish policy and direction.

Present communication channels are open but not necessarily fully exploited. KIT and our website are some indispensable tools. Let us all make great use of them. Even with these two media, we must channel more effort in this area. I thank all Chapters who invited me to one of their meetings and who were such gracious hosts. As our Past President indicated in her report last year, such visits do provide for increased dialogue and understanding. Monthly highlights of Board meetings will resume next year and there are other avenues to discover, explore and cultivate.



Following important bylaw changes at our 2009 AGM, the Bylaws and Policy Committee reviewed all policies to ascertain these conformed to the revised bylaws. This committee worked intensely and, it was appreciated. The Board, at length, reviewed, studied and proposed certain modifications. After your review and approval, the new policies should facilitate the proceedings of future Boards of Directors.

Thanks to the work of two committees, Membership and Chapter Liaison, plus an ad hoc committee, RTAM is well on its way to printing six new brochures for future retirees. These will replace Ready, Set, Retire and should be ready for general distribution in late fall 2010. These pamphlets will be very helpful for future retirees. As well, they should be of great assistance in recruiting new members for, as you know, RTAM can no longer attend MTS Pre-Retirement Seminars. TRAF can no longer send our annual letter to present non-member retirees reminding them of the benefits of RTAM. We, each and every member of RTAM, should also recruit in our midst. Personal contact is the most effective vehicle for recruitment. When lobbying and providing services, numbers count.

The Pension Committee has worked most diligently on our behalf throughout the year. The Chair and members research and are most knowledgeable in this area. Knowledge and commitment to improving our plight are significant tools for RTAM to have at its disposal now and in the future.

Continued from page 3.

The Benefits Committee is also striving to improve benefits for all members. As is the case with Pensions and all other committees, members do their homework and are to be commended for the countless hours spent in each area.

All committees and chairs have done an incredible amount of work to provide information, travel and wellness seminars and other activities on your behalf, and I commend them. More and more is channelled to public relations. We are hopeful that these will bear fruit.

With the assistance of the Educational Advocacy Committee and in cooperation with the Manitoba School Boards Association (MSBA), additional copies of *A Message To My Parents* booklets will be printed and circulated throughout the province. These are in high demand and attest to RTAM's continued interest in the education profession and the advancement of education.

Therefore, members of RTAM and your 2010-2011 Board should harbour hope for the future. Gloom and despair have never solved or resolved any situation. Rather, with our talents, our research knowledge, our experience, our work and our creativity, we must share cautious optimism for the future. Your Political Action Committee is preparing to assist chapters and members for informational meetings held individually with each of our fifty-seven MLAs who in many cases need more information and facts about RTAM, its objectives, pensions and COLA.

We continue to maintain contact with all three political parties, informing and dialoguing with them regarding our priorities and interests. Our first meeting with Minister Nancy Allan was a very positive one. Minister Allan informed us that she was a process person which is good news for us, for most of our causes, including Pensions, require an ever ending process to correct, to develop, to improve. She is intending to attend one of our Board meetings and has assured us of her intentions to continue communicating and meeting with us. This augurs well for the coming year.

Provincial elections will be held in 2011. RTAM must decide, as soon as possible, what role it should assume in disseminating information, in meeting the politicians and citizens at large, in getting our message out to the future government, of whatever stripe that government will be. In my opinion, we have a glorious opportunity to act and do so in a concerted way. It behoves us, the 2010 – 2011 Board members, Chapters and members at large, to act in a planned, clearly defined fashion to further our cause, the cause of close to eight thousand members. Will we respond to the challenge??? With a positive attitude, cooperation and support amongst all, we can certainly dare to hope.

In conclusion, I applaud, thank sincerely and wish to convey my deepest gratitude to all 2009-2010 Board members.

I salute all Chapter Presidents, Chapters and all RTAM members for their cooperation and support. Thank you to Carol Gillis, our Executive Assistant, for her patience, quality of work and dedication to our Association and its members. She is truly professional!

On a personal note, I also thank my spouse, Lucille, for her love and support; as usual, I could always feel she was by my side.

Now, we must continue, we must trod along, heads held high, proud of our past as teachers and RTAM members and confident in the future, for . . . as Robert Frost writes so well . . . *We have miles to go before we sleep, miles to go before we sleep . . .* and much work to do before RTAM meets for the 2011 AGM in Steinbach.

President Richard Benoit would like to extend his sincere thanks to all those who helped and planned this year's AGM meeting.

ACER-CARTREPORT

Richard R. Benoit

The Canadian Association of Retired Teachers (CART) is the national association for all ten such associations in Canada. It is a very active organization which provides valuable support and information to all member associations and their members. The President for 2009 – 2010 was Vaughn Wadelius from our province, a stranger to none of us and one who again attests to the strong leadership abilities found in the great majority of Manitoba leaders.

The Association lobbies on topics of national perspective such as elderly abuse, federal pension programs and legislation, health and prescriptions costs and retirees quality of life. It also provides a wealth of information to member associations such as comparisons between provinces, programs of respective provinces, etc.

The AGM, held in early June in Ottawa, provided for two most beneficial and informative days. Last June, 2009, Manitoba was represented by Pat Bowslaugh, our Past President, and me. According to new interim policy this year, the 2010 – 2011 President and Vice President will be attending.

It is always most interesting to share the experiences, plight and challenges of all provinces as we strive to improve the quality of life of all Manitoba retired teachers.

ACER-CART is an indispensable organization for all ten provinces and we are fortunate that all provinces adhere to it.

REPORT OF THE PENSION COMMITTEE

Submitted by Anne Monk, Chairperson

For the information of the members, the Pension Committee has prepared this report providing information and analysis on the recent TRAF announcement regarding COLA.

1. JULY 1, 2010 COLA

The TRAF cost of living adjustment (COLA), effective July 1, 2010, is 0.80 %. The increase in the consumer price index (CPI) for Canada for December 2009 over December 2008 was 1.32%. Therefore, inflation protection provided by the TRAF COLA is 60.6% of CPI.

- Cost of living adjustment (COLA) - 0.80%
- Consumer Price Index (% of CPI) - 1.32%
- Maximum 2/3 COLA - 60.6%
- No 2/3 COLA - 0.88%
- No excess interest for a surplus “reserve” in the PAA (COLA account)

2. Dollar Increases in COLA (pre-tax)

The table below illustrates the dollar adjustment to sample basic pensions as a result of the 0.80% COLA.

<u>Basic Pensions</u>	<u>COLA %</u>	<u>Annual Increase</u>	<u>Monthly Increase</u>
\$10,000	x.08%	\$ 80.00	\$ 6.67
\$15,000		\$120.00	\$10.00
\$20,000		\$160.00	\$13.33
\$25,000		\$200.00	\$16.67
\$30,000		\$240.00	\$20.00
\$35,000		\$280.00	\$23.33
\$40,000		\$320.00	\$26.67
<u>Average base pension (approximate)</u>			
\$25,000	x 0.8%	\$200.00	\$16.67

3. RESULTS SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BILL 45

COLA Results:

Even in a period of low inflation, the Pension Adjustment Account (PAA) so far has not been able to finance the Bill 45 reduced maximum COLA of 2/3rds of CPI.

	COLA	CPI	% of CPI	2/3 of CPI =	Max. 2/3	Reserve
July 2008	1.44%	2.4%	60%	1.60%	No	No
	1.33%*					
July 2009	0.37%	1.2%	30.8%	0.80%	No	No
July 2010	0.80%	1.32%	60.6%	0.88%	No	No

* COLA resulting from Bill 45 provisions

Bill 45 implemented the *Sale Report* recommendations. The *Report*

prognosticated as follows: “Implementation of these recommendations in 2008 would allow COLAs to immediately reach the proposed ceiling of 2/3rds CPI in 2008, assuming that CPI remains below 3%.” (p. 8)

At a meeting with the RTAM Board before submission of the final report, Mr. Sale verbally predicted his recommendations would result in a 2/3rds CPI COLA for the first three years of the ten-year deal.

However, for the first three years, the COLA grants have fallen short of the Sale prognostications.

- **Year one** - No 2/3 COLA
- No surplus for reserve in the PAA
- **Year two** - No 2/3 COLA
- No surplus for reserve in the PAA
- **Year three** - No 2/3 COLA
- No surplus for reserve in the PAA

Based upon the advice of our professional advisors, RTAM had stated in its *Response to the Sale Report*, that we were skeptical of the Report’s analysis and that we believed it was imprudent to put reliance upon such predictions.

**TWOCOPIESOFKIT
INONEHOUSEHOLD**

If you wish one copy withheld, contact www.rtam.mb.ca, or call 889-3660 or toll free 1-888-393-8082. Give the full name and address to be deleted so the right copy gets held back.

WELLNESS REPORT

Lydia Heshka

"Keeping Yourself Healthy" was the theme at the Wellness Seminar on Wednesday, April 21. During the day RTAM members were treated to Information Booths serving seniors' needs. Three sessions were offered.

Sharon Tod, a member of the Elder Law Practice Group in Manitoba, made us all aware of the possibilities of financial abuse. As in other cases of abuse, often the abuser is a member of the family. Many preventative measures were introduced. The importance of having a will, a health directive and a power of attorney were driven home with examples of cases gone bad. We were reminded of the importance of having in place safety measures such as ERIC, which expedite responses in emergency situations, and offer peace of mind for family members and friends.

Fred Beiber of ALCOA used humour to make us aware of all the different pitfalls that could result in 'falls', and how to prevent them.

Sheri Fandry used her pharmaceutical expertise and education to inform us of possible drug interaction complications. We were reminded that non-prescription substances such as Ginkgo Biloba, Echinacea, and St John's Wort are 'drugs' which may result in problems such as internal bleeding.

As usual we were treated to a nutritious health break and a delicious hot catered lunch.

Watch KIT for information on the next seminar. Suggestions for topics are welcome.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are having difficulty contacting our membership with critical information. By the time it goes through the newspapers, KIT or other means it can be inaccurate or out of date. Our members, who are members of Chapters, are readily informed by their Chapter Presidents. People who are not members of a Chapter receive information second hand, not at all, or late.

To help us do our tasks, we need your email address. We have your mail address. It is slow and expensive to use. **RTAM members, who do not belong to a Chapter, please forward your email address to the RTAM office at (rtam@mts.net) so that we can serve you better.** It is our commitment to you that we will not provide your email address to others and that we will only email you on important RTAM business.

5th ANNUAL WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

Norbert Boudreau

Did you know that on June 15, 2010 we will be observing the 5th annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)? It all started in Madrid in 2002 when countries throughout the world adopted the United Nations International Plan of Action on Ageing. Since 2006 an increasing number of events are held across the globe to raise awareness of elder abuse, highlight ways to challenge and ultimately put an end to this neglect.

Did you know that elder abuse can happen to any one of us? I always thought that it occurred only to older seniors unable to take care of themselves. Contrary to popular belief elder abuse happens to people who are quite capable to make their own decisions. Elders are targeted because they are considered easy targets.

Like other forms of family violence, it is often never reported. It is frightening to

denounce this type of abuse but keeping it hidden permits cruelty and neglect to thrive. Too often the neglect of our elders is not readily identified by service providers, community or even family members and ill-treatment goes undetected. In fact, some elders also believe that it is their fault that they are abused and are ashamed to report it.

Elder abuse is defined by any action which causes harm to an older person or one that jeopardizes his or her health or welfare by a person in a position of trust. There are different types of elder abuse including physical, sexual, mental, neglect and financial abuse. Financial abuse, in fact is the most common form of elder abuse. Social isolation can also be another significant risk factor for an older person.

Often time, elder abuse is caused by a family member or a friend and oddly

enough it is hardly reported to the authorities. Abused elders are sometimes afraid of the abusers. It could be that they depend on these persons for the necessities of life. They also fear that their loved ones will be jailed or that they themselves will be put away in an institution.

There are signs and symptoms of elder abuse. Keep an eye out for unexplained injuries, neglect or diminished self-esteem. Sometimes abused elders are fearful, withdrawn and are reluctant to talk openly about their situation. If a senior is not dressed appropriately or dirty, especially when you know that this person would not usually be seen like this in public, it may be time to investigate or at the very least discretely ask questions! If you know or suspect that a friend, family member, neighbor, or acquaintance is being abused, report it to the police or social services. Elder abuse is never acceptable. **Show the world you care about ending elder abuse and neglect by wearing something purple on June 15, 2010.**

In Memoriam

*We remember these RTAM colleagues for their years of educational service to Manitoba's children and youth.
The list covers names received as of March 2009 to March 2010 from TRAF.*

Eileen Appleton, Winnipeg	Caroline Haydey, Winnipeg	Donald E. Morgan, Dauphin
Gerald W. Archer, Winnipeg	Amy R. Hewko, Winnipeg	M. Lucie Morin, St.Pierre Jolys
Alfons Baderl, Winnipeg	Carol Ann Hochbaum, Ashern	Elva Morran, Grandview
Joseph R. Bahr, Winnipeg	Asta M. R. Hooper, Calgary	Gertrude C. Mueller, Winnipeg
Donald I. Barton, Headingley	Evelyn Ann Horst, Salmon Arm	William F. Murrell, Winnipeg
Louise M. Battram, Lloydminster	Daniel Hrabluk, East St. Paul	J. George Nick, Winnipeg
Keith J. Beard, Winnipeg	Hedwig Janzen, Winnipeg	Irene L. Ogilvie, Portage La Prairie
Marion Boucher, Binscarth	Jerry W. Jersak, Swan River	Stella Orisko, Winnipeg
Marion Bourdon, Winnipeg	Dorothy M. Johnston, Swan River	Suzanne Marie Ouellet, BIC
Jean F. Branson, Calgary	Elizabeth J. Jones, Aldergrove	Phyllis R. Pettis, Winnipeg
Vera B. Churcher, Winnipeg	John Kastrukoff, Swan River	Joan M. E. Price, Winnipeg
Floyd Royce Clark, Glenella	William Jeffrey Kerr, Erickson	Ruby W. Roe, Stonewall
Evelyn M. C. Cluff, Flin Flon	Olga Kormilo, Winnipeg	B. Cyril Sankar, Winnipeg
Mary Corbett, Winnipeg	Edmund Horst Kuhr, Winnipeg	Lorna Irma Schultz, Winnipeg
F. Douglas Crandle, Brandon	Catherine E. Kyle, Winnipeg	Olga Serafin, Winnipeg
Doreen M. Craton, Winnipeg	Denis E. Lacroix, St. Claude	Nestor Shabits, Saskatoon
Edith M. Currie, Winnipeg	Valerie Larson, Winnipeg	E. Marjorie Shaw, Toronto
Karen Elaine Dern, Winnipeg	Percy W. Lawrence, Cumberland	Olga Shewchuk, Winnipeg
Antonius Donker, Winnipeg	Constance E. Leitch, Nanaimo	Frank A. Sigurdson, Winnipeg
Anne K. Dunfield, Winnipeg	John H. Lockett, Winnipeg	Ronald Earl Silver, Winnipeg
Edmond V. Dyck, Winnipeg	Walter J. Loewen, Dufresne	Marjorie E. Stevenson, Vancouver
Dennis E. Farguson, Benito	Colin M. Mailer, Brandon	Stephen S. Susky, West St. Paul
Mark J. Gadiant, Winnipeg	Gloria D. Martens, Carman	Edward J. Swain, Winnipeg
Edna N. Galloway, Winnipeg	Mary K. Masciuch, Winnipeg	Edward Thiessen, East St. Paul
Abe W. Giesbrecht, Carman	Donald P. Maurer, Saskatoon	Angela C. Thompson, Winnipeg
Irene M. Giesbrecht, Surrey	Ellen E. McCowan, Winnipeg	Anne Unrau, Souris
Josephine F. Golay, Edmonton	Raymond C. McCubbins, Wpg.	Henry B. Unruh, Winnipeg
Irene E. Grant, Winnipeg	Audrey McGregor, Winnipeg	William H. Wakeman, Winnipeg
Evelyn P. Grassick, Winnipeg	Isobel McKay, Swan River	Henrietta L. Watts, Killarney
Ernest E. Gridley, Oakbank	Joan E. McLaren, Winnipeg	Catherine M. Wiggins, Winnipeg
George B. Grose, Inwood	D. Aulda McMillan, Portage	Reta Wightman, Brandon
Sylvia M. Hagyard, Parksville	Walter W. Melnyk, Winnipeg	Natalie L. Wilson, Swan River
Lillian M. Hampton, Winnipeg	Angele Mignon, Ste Rose du lac	Marian H. Wolynech, Winnipeg
Margaret Harding, Winnipeg	John S. Monteith, Vancouver	Lina Yakimischak, Winnipeg
Margaret D. Harries, Winnipeg	Dorothy B. Morden, Morden	Maurice Yarmie, Winnipeg

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

BYLAWS AND POLICY

Rosalie Bornn

Members: Rosalie Bornn (Chair), Terry Clifford, Dr. Mary Pankiw, Rita Warrian

The committee held five full-day meetings in Winnipeg throughout the year. In addition to the formal meetings, the committee members spent hours in consultation by e-mail, phone and Canada Post.

Last year's committee had completed the task of a full review of the Bylaws of RTAM. Using information gathered from discussion groups at both the Board and AGM levels, it had then begun a review of the Policy of RTAM, and had recommended, in their AGM report to the membership, that the 2009-2010 Committee continue the task with report to AGM 2010.

Policy change was necessary as a result of:

- a) 2009 AGM approved Bylaw change to the nomination process.
- b) RTAM's evolving as an organization over the years requiring the inclusion of new policy in areas such as staffing, and the use of technology in communications.
- c) Suggested changes to the structure of all standing committees, including the Officers Committee.

The document was then re-ordered and re-numbered to make it congruent with the 2009 Bylaws document.

Not all committee members agreed with all recommendations, requiring some points to be taken to the Board for vote before inclusion. Many intense and lively discussions occurred at all levels of the task! The committee sought input from all directors and committees prior to the development of a working document. The working document then underwent more than nine hours of intense scrutiny at the Board level prior to being approved as interim policy for disposition by this AGM.

The existing principles of RTAM, for housekeeping purposes, have been gathered and named in Section 2 of the interim policy. However, some directors and committees requested more time to adequately review and respond with feedback. Therefore, our committee recommends that the review and affirmation of the Section 2, Principles of RTAM be continued by the 2010-2011 Bylaws and Policy Committee.

My sincere thanks go out to all directors who assisted the task by asking tough questions and providing very constructive feedback. I am most appreciative of all of my committee members for their dedicated commitment to the work of the committee throughout the year. Thank you to President Richard Benoit for his support of the committee and contribution as ex-officio member.

EDITORIAL

Doreen Sage

Members: Editor, Doreen Sage, Neepawa; Marlene Frayer, Winnipeg; Proofreaders: Vel McAdam, The Pas; Joan Goble, Thompson

Meetings: Two meetings are held prior to each issue; four issues: Summer, Fall, Winter, and Spring.

Activities:

All material is sent to the Editor by email, this material is forwarded to Committee Members by email. All material is kept track of by a letter numbering system.

Committee members proofread and send correction/suggestions, etc. to the Editor.

At the first meeting, all corrections are checked and decisions are made as to the final arrangement of material in the issue.

The material is placed on a disk. This takes a full day and is done at a Committee Member's home, using her equipment.

The next day, the disk, along with any photos, is taken to the publisher. Material is discussed with publisher, and suggestions for layout and setting of ads are made.

The publisher sends a copy by pdf file to all Committee members, for a final look.

The next meeting, with the Editor and one Committee member, takes place at the Publisher's office, where final proofreading is done. The number of copies required is ordered. This takes a full day.

The publisher forwards a final copy to the printer and

within three or four days, the final copy is returned to the Publisher for a final proof. Copy is then sent back to the printer for processing which includes sending all copies to Canada Post.

The Editor sends out receipts and a copy of the issue to all who have paid for advertising. Several copies are delivered to RTAM office for use there.

Undelivered copies are usually returned to the RTAM office.

EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY

Vel McAdam

Members: Vel McAdam (Chairperson), Pat Bowslaugh, Mary Pankiw, Peggy Prendergast

The 2009 - 2010 Educational Advocacy Committee discussed the following topics this year -

"A Child's Message"

Bullying (this topic also applies to elders)

Teachers Without Borders

Mind Your Manners Series

"A Child's Message" is a little book that focuses "on the basic needs of children as they grow and develop." It was written by one of our members and has been warmly welcomed by a wide variety of readers and organizations in the fields of Early Childhood Education in both pre-school education and by various health authorities.

Copies of the English Second Edition are almost depleted and a reprint is in high demand with only a minimal number remaining in the French edition. The Educational Advocacy Committee raised this issue with the Board of Directors as well as the commitment on the part of MSBA (Manitoba School Board Associations), to cost share in the printing of Third Editions (both languages). The Board of Directors agreed to this proposal. Hopefully a copy of the document will be available for your viewing pleasure at our AGM.

Regarding the topic of Bullying, committee member Peggy Prendergast brought forward the whole new twist of "Elder Abuse," which, it was agreed, was a form of Bullying. To this end, Peggy was able to provide us with a wealth of information and contacts concerning this issue and we believe it to be a topic that bears continuing interest on the part of this committee. This topic is also a goal that ACER-CART actively pursues.

Teachers Without Borders still sounds like a very interesting and worthwhile topic/organization, but information and direction concerning this topic seems very scarce and difficult to procure.

The "Mind Your Manners" series has met with mild to lukewarm reviews. While the material is presented in an entertaining manner, perhaps it is a topic - if pursued - that may "date" or marginalize us as an educational organization. A copy of the information contained in the series is on file in the office if anyone is interested in finding out more about it.

ELECTIONS

Pat Bowslaugh

Much work has been done during this past year to address the election process as directed from the floor of the 2009 AGM. The Bylaws and Policy Committee has created a series of details concerning nominations before the posted nomination deadline as well as for nominations after the deadline (as at the floor during AGM). The Election process is also detailed in the Policy Manual and includes the rules for voting (Policy 5.03). The Board and the Elections Committee have also invested time to prepare for the expanded details.

The former policy of allowing any unsuccessful candidates for officers' positions being able to have their nomination then stand for a Director-at-Large shall continue pending the implementation of the new set of Policy statements. The Officers for whom this policy concerns include:

Richard Benoit, *President or Director-at-Large*
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Dr. Mary Pankiw, *Vice President or Director-at-Large*
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Jag Malik, *Treasurer or Director-at-Large*
Gilbert Plains, Manitoba

Pat Bowslaugh, *Past President or Director-at-Large*
Brandon, Manitoba

This year there were sixteen nominations submitted by the deadline, thus predicting that there may be nominations from the floor of AGM. A maximum of twenty persons serve on the Board as Officers and Directors-at-Large.

CORRECTION

In the Spring 2010 issue, page 10, the article entitled "Are you searching for Ukrainian ancestors?" the phone number should have been (204) 233-9249.

GROUP BENEFITS

Brian Paterson

Many changes have occurred over this past year. The goal of the Benefits Committee is to obtain the maximum benefit for the lowest premium for the majority of our members. This is easier said than done. Historically, each Spring the Committee meets with the Plans administrator, Johnson Inc., to determine Plan adjustments and premiums. For example, two years ago, the previous underwriter was prepared to raise the premium of the Drug Plan by 300%, the Travel Plan premium by 30%, and drop the 'no pre-existing conditions' clause. This was not acceptable to the Committee or the RTAM Board. Negotiations with Johnson Inc. led to a new Plan underwriter, Des Jardin Financial.

RTAM members must realize that RTAM is a relatively small market organization when compared to our ON, AB and BC retired neighbors. Membership numbers becomes a key variable in setting rates and benefits. Actually, RTAM plans compare favorably to those in neighboring provinces.

This year, with these factors in mind, the Benefits Committee began to examine new Strategies and Plans which could be added to our Benefits package. To determine member needs, a SURVEY was attempted. Due to a 'communication glitch', the Survey did not end up on the RTAM website. This will happen at a later date. It is important that our committee hear from members as their needs change. The Survey can be accessed by the following methods:

1. Go to Johnson.ca/rtam; choose MB; scroll down to Group Health & Wellness Benefit Plan Survey or
2. Go to tr.im/rtam survey or
3. Call Johnson Inc. directly @ 1-877-989-2600 and ask for a hard copy of the survey to be mailed directly to you; or ask if the survey can be emailed to you.

In November, the RTAM President, Richard Benoit, and Benefits Chair, Brian Paterson got a first hand glimpse of the everyday operations at Johnson Inc. The head office in Edmonton is very impressive. While the building is large and well laid out, it was the staff commitment to servicing their MB, BC, AB, ON, PQ and Maritime clientele that clearly stood out as being most important. We learned that Home Insurance is 85% of Johnson Inc.'s business?

This past year, the Benefits Committee examined two new plans which may be added to the RTAM Benefits package by year end or early next term. Anyone sitting on our

Committee soon learned how competitive the insurance business can be.

As Chairperson, I wish to thank all Committee members whose dedication and hard work on behalf of retired MB teachers helps RTAM reach its goals.

MEMBERSHIP AND CHAPTERFORMATION

Wayne Hollier and Ray Sitter

Membership Committee: John Sushelnitsky, Wayne Hollier, Rosalie Bornn, Ray Sitter (chair)

Chapter Formation Committee: Bill Cann, Ron Kalinchuk, Wayne Hollier (chair)

Meetings: The committee met most days prior to the board meetings. In addition, several meetings outside of the regular meetings were also held.

Activities:

- a) Non TRAF membership requests

Requests for membership by individuals, who are not recipients of TRAF pensions, were received, reviewed and their membership status was determined as per membership criteria.

- b) RTAM is pleased to welcome the formation of a new Chapter- Retired Teachers of Winnipeg. We would like to recognize the efforts of Dick Marshall, Terry Clifford and Chapter members for their efforts and accomplishments.

The Retired Teachers of Winnipeg plan on meeting 2 to 4 times a year. They are already quite active in social and retired teachers' concerns and issues.

- c) Ready Set Retire

Ready Set Retire, the pre-retirement booklet previously created by RTAM, has become seriously dated. The Membership Committee, in conjunction with the Chapter Formation Committee, undertook the major task of creating an updated version of the pre-retirement booklet. The goal of the combined committee was to produce an updated product that would provide pre-retirees with information that would be useful to them. Secondly, the information would be setup in such a way that the parts that would remain constant would not need to be

reproduced each year while the part(s) that would become dated yearly could be changed and reproduced as needed. The result was a series of 6 pamphlets within a folder. Board approval is anticipated at the April meeting.

d) Membership rates of yearly enrolment.

The Membership Committee is monitoring the rate at which retirees, on a yearly basis, are opting to become members of RTAM. We are keeping the Board apprised of areas of concern.

e) Monitoring Associate membership.

Monitoring the effects of Associate membership vs. Regular membership on Insurance premiums.

PENSIONS

Anne Monk

Committee: Anne Monk (Chairperson), Peggy Prendergast, Wayne Hughes, Ray Sitter, Bill Cann, Pat Bowslaugh, Lynn Land, Donna Goodman, Dick Marshall

Meetings: The committee has met 12 times during this board year.

Activities:

COLA

The committee has continued its work on our pension cost of living adjustment (COLA) problem. We have continued to keep abreast of current TRAF information related to COLAs and other relevant pension information. Other activities included monitoring developments regarding pension matters at the Manitoba Teachers' Society, in other provincial teacher pension plans and in other Manitoba public sector pension plans. Several reports related to current pension information were prepared, and COLA materials previously prepared by the committee were updated as required.

Bill 8

The committee prepared information and analysis regarding Bill 8, The Civil Service Superannuation Amendment Act, which enabled the transfer of \$145 million from the civil service basic benefits account to the COLA account. Developments before and after the passing of Bill 8 have been monitored.

TRAF Reports / Long-Term Funding

A major activity was a review of several TRAF reports: TRAF Mortality Study, Pension Adjustment Account Actuarial and Projection Valuation Reports, and Account A

Actuarial and Projection Valuation Reports. In carrying out this task, we consulted with our Actuary and held two meetings, as information sessions, with TRAF. Information and analysis in these reports will assist in ongoing deliberation by the committee regarding COLA funding issues and possible approaches for COLA funding.

Legal Consultation

The committee completed its deliberations and made recommendation regarding the 2008 AGM motion #11, which had been referred to the Board, to investigate if legal action was a possible remedy to the COLA problem. The Board's decision, about the AGM referred motion, was communicated to the Chapter Presidents at a meeting in November, 2009 and to the general membership in KIT. A report will be made to the 2010 AGM.

External Meetings

Content advice was provided for presentations and discussions on the COLA problem at meetings involving lobbying the Minister of Education and the Opposition (leaders and education critic). The chairperson generally acted as a resource at these meetings.

Representation

The committee made recommendation to the Board regarding RTAM's nomination of a representative of retired Plan members for next term's appointment to the TRAF Board.

COLA Road Show- One presentation was made.

KIT - A regular report on pensions was submitted to KIT.

Future Directions

Work will continue on the COLA and COLA funding problem. Other plans include review of pension-related policies and examination of process issues related to representation of retirees on the TRAF Board.

Many thanks to the committee for its time and effort during this past committee year.



POLITICAL ACTION

Wayne Hughes

Year End Report 2010

The Political Action Committee (PAC) has been working on a number of projects since the AGM last year. The theme of these activities has been to demonstrate our continued concern about our COLA's as well as monitoring the effects of legislation on retired teachers.

In June three brochures in the form of "Door knocker Reminders" were distributed to all MLAs to remind them Manitoba retired teachers a) received the second lowest COLA in history, b) have lost 10.9% of their pension dollars since the NDP took office, c) Bill 45 promised much and is delivering little, d) were still at the bottom of the pack when compared to other provinces.

Throughout the summer, planning took place for the SALUTE TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE EDWARD SCHREYER. The event was held at the legislature Wednesday September 23, 2009. Approximately 100 guests attended the salute and heard our President Richard Benoit speak to the history and vision of the Schreyer government when they instituted COLA payments for retired teachers. Those attending also enjoyed the response given by Mr. Schreyer. Both speeches have been published in KIT. A special THANK YOU is in order to the organizers of this memorable event, namely Linda McDowell, David McDowell, Dick Marshall, Wayne Hughes, John Sushelnitsky and Guy Hansen.

The fall was a busy time for the Political Action Committee. There was a need to coordinate with the RTAM President for action with respect to the NDP leadership race and the candidate's views with respect to RTAM issues. The committee also recommended and assisted the President in a presentation of RTAM views at the Bill 8 committee hearing in September.

The New Year has largely been devoted to planning and developing a new strategy, which are calling the MLA Campaign. The purpose of these meetings will be to inform MLAs of our continuing pension concerns. We are planning for the participation of RTAM members to hold a constituency meeting with their MLA that uses a four-step approach that:

- 1) identifies MLAs to be approached
- 2) selects and trains RTAM members from the appropriate constituency
- 3) uses a consistent message as developed by RTAM (Pension, PAC and PR Committees)

4) follow-up with MLAs.

These meetings should start in the fall of 2010 and will have some benefit for the provincial election in September 2011. If RTAM is to be successful in getting our message out, we need a broad based approach across the entire province.

A special thank you to the PAC team. Members were Dick Marshall, Anne Monk, Peggy Prendergast, John Sushelnitsky, Jim Tomes, Guy Hansen and Connie Newman.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

John Sushelnitsky

Members: Vel McAdam, Guy Hansen, John Sushelnitsky, Chair

1. The PR committee initiated a letter by RTAM to be sent to the five Manitoba teachers who received the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching.
2. RTAM forwarded a retired teacher's name to be considered for the Premier's Volunteer Award. The PR committee also encouraged all RTAM chapters to submit name of retired teachers who are contributing to their communities.
3. A press release on Bill 8 was written.
4. In conjunction with the Political Action committee, PR contacted Mr. Edward Schreyer and then acted as liaison with the former Premier's Office as the "Salute to Schreyer" project was undertaken.
5. DVDs of the "Salute to Schreyer" event were distributed to all RTAM chapters, to local MTS associations and universities.
6. A DVD duplicator was purchased to facilitate the production of DVDs on a larger scale when necessary. It is stored in the RTAM Office and is available for all committees.
7. A request for additional microphones has been made to PR to facilitate communication at the Board and chapter presidents' meetings.
8. Liaison with the MTS' Communications Officer continued.
9. Guy Hansen attended a promotions materials convention in Winnipeg and recommended this year's RTAM promotion items.

10. A review was started on the testimonies given by RTAM members in 2008 on Bill 45. The intent is to remind the political parties of the commitment RTAM has to the COLA issue and fair treatment.

11. The question was raised with the Board of when to generate press releases. Should it be the initiative of the committee chairs or the PR committee?

TRAVEL

Maureen Recksiedler

Members: Maureen Recksiedler, Chair, Mary Pankiw, Bill Cann and Wayne Hughes

The committee arranged to have items of interest to travellers placed in KIT.

1. A book review by committee member Bill Cann
2. We alerted members to the travelogues offered at the Millennium Library.

We organized a seminar entitled Purposeful Travel which took place on April 27th, 2010. There were two presenters rather than the usual array of travel agents for members to consult. We changed our focus from our normal Travel Fair to see if we could increase interest and attendance. The committee met three times in 2009-2010. A big thank you to my Committee Members!

WEBSITE

Ron Kalinchuk

The new site is now the Home Page for the web address – www.rtam.mb.ca instead of being an adjunct of the old site. New and fresh looks will be presented every once in a while to keep the site sprightly and interesting. It is a good idea to refresh the home page when you log in so that you get any new material added to the Home Page, or in this case, a whole new Home Page. Usually your computer will go to its cache of the Home Page and if it is the old one, which will be the one you will see, even though the actual site has been changed.

The Website renewal and rebuilding has continued through the year. It has not been ideal, as time and technical difficulties have limited some dreams from coming to reality, but a few things have been built and will continue to be honed to goodness for all members of RTAM.

KIT availability on line has been continued, although

this has sometimes been slow compared to the faithful publishing of the paper copy which you have all received in the mail. This will be an area of targeted improvement so that those away in warm and far-off places could access KIT from anywhere the Internet is available.

Another area of development has been the reporting of Board Minutes which is being attempted. The Board allows only approved and sanctioned minutes to be published, so these will continue to be posted more regularly soon after approval at the Board meeting.

Special events like the Tribute to Ed Schreyer will continue to be covered on the Website with photos and text supporting the event. AGM will also be covered with photos and appropriate reports as they come available. (Apologies for the 2009 AGM coverage – I hope to still do it before the 2010 AGM) Events like Wellness Fairs, special seminars, Presidents' Meetings, etc. will be advertised on the website. We will continue to advertise volunteer opportunities as they come to us.

The Links Page continues to be presented, although at the present it lacks the visual logos that it once had due to some kind of a glitch, so the effort to use those logos will once again be continued as time allows. The Links page links to other web sites that might be of interest to our membership. Things like other Retired Teacher web sites, TRAF, investing sites, and senior sites of interest to retirees are included in the Links Page. Any suggestions for Links will be considered for inclusion on this page.

A response link continues to be part of the Home Page, so if you want to communicate with the Webmaster you can just send a message directly from the website and if he reads his emails regularly, you may actually get a response to your concerns. (I think MOST responses have been dealt with on a fairly expedient basis, although some have been missed.)

For privacy reasons, addresses and email addresses, phone numbers, etc. of Board Members have been discontinued from the site. If you wish to contact any Board member, you may do so through the RTAM office and the message will be passed on to the correct person.

One special option to notice and think about on our web site is the little column of information either to the right or left of the main page (depending on the theme chosen.) These are called pagelets and they can contain links that you can just click on or little bits of information that often refer to articles on the main page. The list of titles at the top of the page allow quick links to other pages on the web site and they serve as a summary of the information contained in the site as a whole.

Continued from page 13.

Time limitations and limited technical expertise have made this adventure into web sites limited in effectiveness, but a spirit of continued interest and hard work continues on with the website committee. We continue to be interested in member inputs and any directionality you wish for us to take for your website. Any and all ideas will be considered and perhaps included in future editions of the website. One idea the Webmaster has in mind includes a page called "Creativity", intended to be an outlet for our members to share creative works such as poetry, art, essays and other creative endeavours that would be of interest to our members. Share pictures of your gardens, your quilting, your quilting adventures and your treks into the Himalayas. After all, RTAM doesn't always have to be dealing with the "heavy duty" items of COLA and senior rights and such serious fare. The Wellness Committee has done a good job of pointing us in creative directions and I am sure there are many ideas out there that our members have for sharing and what better place for sharing than your website and your publication, KIT (Keep In Touch).

WELLNESS

Peggy Prendergast

Members: Peggy Prendergast, Chair; Maureen Reckseidler; Barbara McDole (Non Board Member); Lydia Heshka (Non Board Member)

Meetings: Committee meetings were held on: June 25, 2009, September 21, 2009, November 2, 2009 and April 6, 2010.

Seminars

Two seminars were held at McMaster House from 9:30am to 2:30pm on:

Wednesday October 21, 2009 – Making the Most of What You've Got

Wednesday April 21, 2010 – Keeping Yourself Healthy

Activities

As a committee we believe that older adults experience a higher quality of life by becoming personally responsible for their personal wellness. By providing a number of activities that deal with the following six recognized dimensions of wellness – emotional, intellectual, physical, social, spiritual and vocational health, it is our hope to promote development in those key areas and thus integrate wellness into the daily lives of our members.

The Wellness Committee took on the responsibility of having lunch brought in at RTAM Board meetings. We tried to establish an atmosphere at lunch that encouraged a relaxing social atmosphere so members could converse easily and get to know one another. We provided a variety of healthy menus within our budget line.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Boyer Chapter Retired Teachers Association – 23 members

Submitted by Bob Kowalchuk

Executive (2009 – 2010)

President, Lana Rinn

Secretary/Treasurer, Bob Kowalchuk

Executive (2010 – 2011)

President, Clarice Gilchrist

Secretary/Treasurer, Bob Kowalchuk

Our Chapter meets the last Friday of each month, from September to May, at a local restaurant for breakfast. A long-standing tradition for our Chapter is to open each meeting with the singing of "O Canada".

Each meeting includes the sharing of information from RTAM and updates on TRAF; any humorous anecdotes about retirement; upcoming events or activities in the community; and Prairie Rose School Division update.

Throughout the year we were able to have three guest speakers. In November the co-ordinator for the Seniors Resource Council in Carman spoke to the Chapter about the services offered, for example: meals-on-wheel program, medical equipment provided, ERIK program, police academy workshop and a cross-generational program. In January, the Director of the Adult Education Centre for Prairie Rose School Division talked about the Brain Fitness Program they offer. In March, the Assistant-Superintendent of Prairie Rose provided the members with a technology update and how the teachers and students in the Division have integrated technology into their curriculum.

Boyer Chapter also donates a \$200 scholarship to a graduating student who is entering the Field of Education.

CRICKET, ANYONE?

Anyone interested in playing the sport of cricket or introducing it to students can contact: Manitoba Cricket Association, (204) 925 5672, manitobacricket@shawbiz.ca

Dauphin Area Retired Teachers' Association (DARTA) - 119 members

Submitted by Rosalie Bornn, President

Executive (2009 - 2010)

President	Rosalie Bornn
Past President	Ken Malcolm
Vice President	Jean Kustra
Secretary	Dan Shtykalo
Treasurer	Mike Borowski

Executive (2010 - 2011)

President	Ken Malcolm
Past President	Rosalie Bornn
Vice President	Rita Warrian
Secretary	Dan Shtykalo
Co-Treasurers	Gerald Shewchuk/Steve Stasiuk

Meetings:

DARTA regular breakfast meetings are usually held the second Tuesday of each month at a local restaurant. Our meetings were scheduled for September 8th, October 13th, November 10th, December 8th, February 9th, March 9th, April 13th (AGM), May 13th and June 8th. We were pleasantly surprised to find that monthly meeting attendance was up this year!

At the April 13th, 2010, Annual General Supper Meeting the election of our 2010-2011 Officers was held.

Activities:

·A fall 2009 "field trip" to visit the Amish community was held. The outing was thoroughly enjoyed by the participants and future trips are in the planning stage.

·This year we have collected "Tin for the Bin" donations for the local food bank at our meetings.

·Our Sunshine component continues to send cards to acknowledge member illness and member/member family loss.

·Holiday greeting cards were sent to all shut in members.

·A large number of us enjoyed attending the December 5th Mountain View Teachers' Association sponsored Snowflake Fantasy holiday celebration to which all DARTA members were invited.

·Our DARTA group continues to provide a retired teacher honour guard at a member's funeral, upon request.

·Our group is finalizing plans to once again participate locally as a team in the June Cancer Relay for Life.

·DARTA has once again been invited to attend the annual

June Retirement Social of the Mountain View Teachers' Association in honour of the 2010 retirees.

·We are organizing as a group in a volunteer capacity to assist the host committee at the national junior hockey Royal Bank Cup which is being held in Dauphin May 1st to May 9th, 2010.

Although largely a social group in nature, DARTA is most appreciative of the continued work of RTAM to address the issues relevant to Manitoba retired teachers.

Éducatrices et Éducateurs manitobains à la retraite (ÉMR)

Soumis par Gérald Dureault, présidente-sortante

Membres du Conseil de direction pour 2010 - 2011

Gérald Dureault, président
Alfred Phaneuf, vice-président
Denis Clément, nouveau conseiller
Norma Lacroix-Gagné, présidente-sortante
Evelyne Beaudoin, trésorière
Antoine Gagné, secrétaire
Aimé Campagne, conseiller et webmestre

Bilan des activités de L'Année

Le bureau de direction s'est rencontré à trois reprises. En plus, plusieurs décisions ont été prises par contacte sur l'internet.

Il y a eu une réunion de chapitres avec RTAM. Des échanges de renseignements ont eu lieu entre les participants. Un rapport plus complet est disponible au site EMR.

Les activités sociales nous ont réunis le troisième jeudi de mai, juin, septembre, octobre, novembre et décembre.

La planification est déjà en route pour 2010-11. Le bureau de direction a accepté un autre mandat.

Les membres des EMR ont fait preuve de générosité envers et de solidarité avec le peuple haïtien lors des suites néfastes aux tremblements de terre. L'appui direct et par le truchement des organismes sur les lieux a été admirable. Ce n'est pas fini! Un projet pour l'avenir sera proposé à l'aga.

En terminant je me dois de faire mention de notre site web qui continue à servir de babillard à la communauté. Ceci, il me semble, à cause de la coopération et l'amabilité générale de notre webmestre.

Hanover Retired Teachers' Association (HART) – 400 members

Submitted by Brian Gadsby, Co-President

Executive

Co-President	Brian Gadsby
Co-President	Ric Goerzen
Secretary	Helene Dyck
Treasurer	Denis Fontaine

We meet for breakfast every second Friday of the month. The average attendance at these meetings is between 12 and 20 people. We meet mostly for the social aspect but we try to keep the Chapter informed of the latest developments at these meetings. We have an annual AGM supper meeting in September which is very well attended.

For the year 2011, we will be hosting the RTAM Annual General Meeting. See ya'll next year. It will be worth the trip!

Interlake Retired Teachers' Association (IRTA) – 56 members

Submitted by Joie Van Dongen, President

Executive 2009 – 2010

President	Joie Van Dongen
Vice President	Darlene Dufily
Secretary	Ellis Woods
Treasurer	Lois Alpers
Directors	Derryl Hall, Bob Weller, Tony Balian, Ray Harkness, Gerry Melnyk, Nancy Phillips

IRTA General Membership 'gathers' four times per year. The Executive meets prior to each gathering.

1. June 8, 2009 we met at the Teulon Golf Course for breakfast and brainstorming ideas for future meetings.
2. September 23, 2009, a Soup and Sandwich lunch was provided by the 55+ club in Stonewall. In accordance with our mandate 'to stimulate a continuing interest in developments in education', the Interlake Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent outlined the balanced school day and the Division's two main initiatives: Preparing Today's Learner for Tomorrow and Educational Sustainable Development.
3. December 9, 2009, our annual Christmas Pot-Luck Lunch was held in Warren. Our guest speaker was a Grade XII student who spoke on 'Taking Advantage of Educational Opportunities' and he is certainly a very involved young man.
4. April 28 we met in Stonewall for our Annual General Meeting.

Other Activities:

- Congratulations to the Graduates in the Interlake School division was posted in our local paper.
- Four members attended the Tribute to Ed Schreyer on September 23.
- President attended RTAM Presidents' meeting November 27.
- January 20, 2010, IRTA hosted a Pre-Retirement Seminar for Interlake teachers.
- This year's donation in memory of deceased members went to the Interlake Community Foundation.
- Our annual "Tin for the Bin" donations went to the Teulon Christmas Cheer Board.
- Our Sunshine Committee continue to send sympathy cards and acknowledge members and their families.
- The COLA issue remains a concern.

The Intermountain Retired Teachers

Submitted by Ron Landry, President

The Intermountain Retired Teachers had a social get-together on Thursday, October 15th, 2009. There was a dinner and an enjoyable evening of card playing.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held in Gilbert Plains on May 4th, 2010.

Neepawa Area Retired Teachers Association (NARTA) – 42 members

Submitted by Joan Rink, President

Executive 2009-2010

President	Joan Rink
Treasurer	Betty Chisholm
Secretary	Rose Switzer

Executive 2010 - 2011

President	Joan Rink
Vice President	Marge Marciski
Secretary	Ruth Hanke/Betty Chisholm
Treasurer	Richard Kulbaki

Meetings: May 19, June 8, August 10, September 14, October 5, November 30, February 8, March 8, and April 12.

Activities:

- Delegates attended AGM in Brandon
- Tour of local golf course and luncheon
- Barbecue and get together in June
- Tour of Richard Kulbacki's gardens and lunch in Glenella
- Visit to Carberry Museum, tour of Criddle Vane homestead
- Lunch at Gladstone Golf club followed by visit to Delta Marsh
- Christmas luncheon with entertainment by Remi Bouchard
- Dave Cochrane gave a presentation of his trip to China
- Video and presentation by Ivan Traill of time spent in Belize
- Presented Nickels for NARTA to the Salvation Army
- Subscribed to "Yes" magazine for Neepawa Library

Northeastman Chapter

Submitted by Don Nichol

We meet socially, periodically, on the last Friday of the month. We do not meet in the winter. Our first one in the spring this year was April 30th.

Our annual meeting is late May, early June.

NorthEastWinnipegRetiredTeachersof Winnipeg (NEWRT)

Submitted by Garry Bowles, Vice President

Executive

President	Lorraine Forrest
Vice President	Garry Bowles
Treasurer	Sally Metcalfe
Secretary	Pat Grafenauer

We are pleased to have Lorraine Forrest back with us, resuming the chair of President.

In 2009 the Board met five times to discuss possible topics of interest for our Chapter. The promotion of these topics did not fare well and interest from the total group was not sufficient enough to warrant us continuing as an active Chapter.

On April 21, 2010, the Board met and decided to take a hiatus for the 2010 to 2011 year. In the spring of 2011 the Board will meet again to discuss the future of the Chapter, North East Winnipeg Retired Teachers' Association.

OkanaganChapterofRTAM-42members

Submitted by Susan Forsyth, Secretary

Executive Members

Co-President	Lorna Rothwell
Co-President	Lorne Lisik
Vice President	Ken Ferg
Treasurer	Roy Lycar
Member-At-Large	Glenda Waugh

Our membership has increased from 32 members to the present 42, consisting of both full time and associate members. As our second year draws to a close we have a bank balance of \$127.00, having sustained expenses for postage, name tags, and banking fees.

Throughout the year various social events were organized which always included a chance to dialogue about issues concerning RTAM.

Our second Annual General Meeting was held in Jakx Neighborhood Grill, Kelowna on April 7, 2009. At that meeting, we reviewed past social activities, and discussed future gatherings. The members voted that the Executive for 2009 - 2010 remain the same as in our inaugural year, with the addition of one Member-At-Large, Glenda Waugh.

On July 10, 2009, a typical gorgeous Okanagan sunny day, eleven of our members enjoyed a lunch cruise on the Okanagan Princess II around Lake Okanagan. Two members truly missed the boat due to a traffic accident that blocked Highway 97 north of Kelowna.

In September we planned a golf extravaganza that had to be postponed, because the retirees were too busy to find an appropriate date. We will try again for the summer or fall of 2010.

At our Christmas lunch on December 10, 2009, 24 members enjoyed a delicious four course meal at beautiful Guisachan House, a recently restored historical building in a garden setting, once occupied by Canada's Governor-General, Lord Aberdeen and his wife. We exchanged "good old Manitoba" stories and hoped for positive action on the COLA in 2010. Each attending member received a memento from our co-Santas consisting of a Christmas package of chocolates, RTAM pens, pins, and the RTAM dry erase memo board. Door prizes were also awarded.

We have heard from some envious RTAM members of a Winnipeg chapter. They commented that our OK-RTAM only seem to party and eat. We extend an invitation to all RTAM members to join us anytime and find out what we really do.

Continued from page 17.

Our last event of the year was on April 22, 2010, with a tour of an historic classroom followed by the AGM and lunch at Bunches Bistro overlooking the lake and vineyards in Kelowna.

Portage la Prairie Retired Teachers Association - 80 members

Submitted by Evelyn Rheume

Executive

President	Evelyn Rheume
Secretary-Treasurer	Les Porteous
Public Relations	Joyce Tomchuk
Business Representative	Marvin Krawec

We continue to meet for breakfast at the Canad Inn the last Friday of each month except for July and August. Although we have approximately 80 members many have part time jobs, or head south during winter and a few with mobility problems are unable to attend. Therefore, our average attendance is between 25 and 35. However, those who are there certainly enjoy "Keeping in Touch".

Portage MTS hosts a retirement dinner each year in June. In June 2009, nine teachers retired. President Evelyn welcomed them to join our monthly gatherings and they were each presented with the Retirement Kit, Ready, Set, Retire.

Two of our members, Les Porteous and John Sushelnitsky attended the Tribute Evening for Ed Schreyer and reported it was a well attended and much deserved tribute to Ed.

Portage la Prairie now has a beautiful new Sports Centre called the PCU Centre. Our group was contacted requesting donations. All members received a mail out and an excellent response was reported. Portage hosted the Manitoba Winter Games in March. Several of our retirees volunteered to help with this very successful event. Habitat for Humanity will be building two homes this summer in our city. Once again, our local RTAM members have been asked to volunteer with this building.

We all look forward to our monthly gatherings and often guests join us.

CUBA EDUCATION TOURS, 2010

*Teachers Introduction to Cuba Tour: July 31 to August 7
Marcel Hatch, Education Director, Cuba Education Tours,
1-877-687-3817 Canada and US.
Cost and itineraries: <http://CubaFriends.com>

Retired Teachers of Winnipeg (RTW)- 73 members

Submitted by Dick Marshall, President

Executive for 2009-2010

President	Dick Marshall
Vice-President	Jack Carroll
Secretary-Treasurer	Terry Clifford
Members-at-Large	Jean Ogren, Doreen Pruden, Bernice Stebbing

The Retired Teachers of Winnipeg (RTW) was formed in the Fall of 2009 after many planning meetings by interested retirees. It aims to give voice to the largely unorganized teacher retirees living in Winnipeg. There have been four meetings this past year:

- September 15, 2009 - Formation meeting;
- November, 2009 - Wine & Cheese meeting with the TRAF CEO & VP
- February, 2010 – Wine & Cheese meeting with an excellent speaker from Revenue Canada
- Our first AGM with lunch and a presentation by Vanessa Macrae of Manitoba homecoming was held April 20 /10

This past year, several luncheon gatherings, and a breakfast gathering were organized. A number of one page, coloured, information bulletins have been assembled and sent out electronically to all members.

A number of continuing interests other than social have been identified. One working group has met on the issue of health insurance, and has produced with the help of Shannon Patershuk and Lucien Schulte of Johnson Inc. a first formal report. Titled Extended Health Plans (EHP) for Retired WTA Members, it was presented at our April AGM.

We started out the year with some 50 members. We end this first year with 73 members.

The President gratefully thanks the RTW Executive for all their hard work.

The Salvation Army STEP Literacy program is looking for volunteer tutors to work one-on-one or in small groups with their students. The literacy program works with adult learners. Volunteers are needed on weekday mornings. If you are interested in hearing more about this opportunity, please call Mandy at 946-9141.

Retired Women Teachers' Association (RWTA) – 400 members

Submitted by Barbara McDole, President

Executive Committee - 2010-2011

Past President	Barbara McDole
President	Mary Pankiw
Vice-President	Dolores Hebert
Recording Secretary	Janet Taylor
Corresponding Secretary	Cecile Alarie-Skene
Treasurer	Hazra Khan
Publicity	Barbara McDole
Membership	Emily Williamson
Pensions and R.T.A.M.	Peggy Prendergast
Pianist	Bernice Giesbrecht
Archivist	Jean Leighton
Honorary Greeter	Mildred Bjarnason
Visiting	Dolores Hebert, Leota Turner
Club Notices	Diane Bewell, Ruth Hartnell
Social Committee	Bessie-Marie Hill, Betty Brownlee, Louise Burton, Phyllis Kalinsky, Dolores Tutkaluk, Pat Opalko, Lynda Tunny
Tickets	Birdielyn Gray, Claudia Jaresh, Kathleen Parums

Next year will be the 60th Anniversary of R.W.T.A. On January 19th, 1951, twenty-seven (27) recently retired women teachers met in the Georgian Room, at the Hudson's Bay store downtown, to discuss the possibility of forming an organized association. The objectives were: to continue social relationships formed during teaching years; to keep members informed of issues that affect their welfare; and to assist and co-ordinate a number of public services.

Miss Forrester was elected President, the annual fee was 25 cents and the Retired Women Teachers' Association was born! On September 11th, 2008, President, Barbara McDole and Vice-President, Julie Douville filed a name notation under the Corporations Act of Manitoba. The name to be noted was Retired Women Teachers' Association of Manitoba. To-date we have had 37 Presidents. Today, with close to 400 some members, we have included two more objectives: to present programs that both inform and enlighten the membership; and to keep connected with members of the association who are no longer able to attend the luncheons. The annual fee is now \$7.00.

We are sorry to be losing the following women from our executive this year: Cathy Phillipson, Corresponding Secretary, Thelma Flom, Social Committee, Evelyn Weber, Social Committee and June Stoyko, Publicity. We thank these ladies for all their diligence and hard work, which resulted in our organization's luncheons and outings being so successful!

Meetings:

Four executive meetings were held at the Masonic Centre: September 3, 2009; November 5, 2009; January 7, 2010; and March 4, 2010. The Joint Board Meeting was held May 6, 2010, at The Wellington on Grant Avenue.

Luncheons held at the Masonic Centre:

September 24, 2009 - Buffet luncheon and a fashion show featuring a wonderful array of pieces by Nygard International. Thanks to Bessie-Marie Hill for once again planning this very successful event!

December 3, 2009 - Served luncheon and a wonderful Christmas program with the very talented and personable country singing artist, Cindi Cain. Our thank-you goes out to Evelyn Weber for arranging this festive event! At this luncheon we were able to honour our Social Committee Chair, Bessie-Marie Hill, who was the recipient of the "Ageless Hero, Love of Learning" award, presented on October 20th by Creative Retirement, Manitoba.

February 18, 2010 - Buffet luncheon and a presentation by the WSO, with the introduction of Maestro, Alexander Mickelthwate, being done by Leisha Peet, President of the Women's Committee of the WSO. Leisha is also a member of RWTA. The Maestro spoke to the topic, "Role of the Conductor". He was very relaxed, comical and informative as he led us through his background and how he ended up pursuing a career of a conductor. Thank you to Phyllis Kalinsky for making all the contacts and arrangements for this much-enjoyed afternoon. Phyllis also set up the baby food drive for Winnipeg Harvest at this event, and the donations totaled 175 pounds of food and \$128.00 in cash donations!

April 15, 2010 – AGM. Served luncheon with our guest speaker home economist and Free Press columnist, Reena Nerbas. Reena had a wealth of knowledge on household cleaning tips. Thanks to Louise Burton for arranging this time-appropriate topic. I know all of us gals out there just can't wait to tackle our spring cleaning projects!

Outings:

September 9, 2009 - The bus trip to the International Peace Gardens was full with 56 ladies aboard. The weather, food and prairie views were terrific and the trip itself educational and interesting. Thanks Bessie-Marie for yet another fun-filled RWTA event!

June 17, 2010 - Everything is on schedule for perhaps the LAST cruise of the MS paddlewheel, as it might be docked

Continued from page 19.

after this season. Dolores Tutkaluk has done a great job of making all the arrangements which will include a coffee break, a served lunch, a walk and museum tour around Lower Fort Garry. We hope you will join us on our last gathering of the year!

September 2010 - Bessie-Marie is busy making preparations for our Fall trip to Wawanesa and Carberry to visit the 1800's Criddle Vane Homestead. Apparently, Mr. Criddle arrived here from England with his wife, his mistress and nine children!! We will get a chance to hear from direct descendents from both sides and hear some VERY INTERESTING stories I'm sure!!

I have certainly enjoyed being President of RWTA these past two years. I have met so many fun, interesting and amazing people and experienced events and situations that were indeed thought-provoking!!

Wishing all of you out there, a hopefully wonderful summer!

Riel Retired Teachers' Association

Submitted by June Acaon, President

Executives

President, June Acaon
Vice-President, Ted Poulter

While our Chapter has seen little activity this season, we will be meeting in May to discuss results of our pension investigation and elect our Executive for 2010-2011.

We plan to have a Public Trustee to discuss wills and estates. I attended one of these sessions and was really impressed with her information and the handouts. We will also talk about RTAM membership and how to reach those not joining.

St James Assiniboia Chapter - 228 members

Submitted by Connie Newman, Chair and Bev Reeves, Vice Chair

Executive for 2010 - 2011

Chairperson	Connie Newman
Vice Chair	Bev Reeves
Treasurer	Pat Robson
Secretary	Brian Head
Political Action	Bill Cann; Tom Carlyle
Communications/Membership	Dorothy Young; Mary Starodub; Bill Moore; Emily Williamson
Members at Large	Jo Davis; Lynn Land

The main objective of the St. James Assiniboia Chapter of RTAM is to promote the economic interests of its members and other retired educators; and to support the Provincial RTAM Board in its endeavours to that end. Following the passing of Bill 45 into law by the Government of Manitoba (disappointingly, with considerable help from the Manitoba Teachers' Society), despite over 200 presentations requesting some amendments to the Bill to protect at least a two-thirds COLA, our Chapter (as well as others, we suspect) has spent the year trying to heal ourselves from the shock of discovering that, no matter what the people say, the Government and the MTS will continue to do as some of their leaders please. It has been a low key year for the Chapter; four of our members have served at the Provincial level: Connie Newman and Jim Tomes on Provincial Committees; Bill Cann and Lynn Land on the Provincial Board; and the pilot group of retired and active teachers, initiated by Connie Newman and Lynn Land last year, has continued to meet and share common concerns (pension plan and group benefits) between active teachers and those already-retired.

Since its inception, our Chapter has perfected a communication system that was very helpful through the COLA process with our members. The Chapter shared accurate information with their members all across Canada, who in turn shared the information with friends, family, and colleagues still actively teaching in Manitoba. In spite of having lost the battle for a full and fair COLA, there remains much to be done to ensure the viability of pensions for both retired teachers and active teachers. In this quest to maintain pension viability for both active and retired teachers, an effective communication system is absolutely essential in bridging the gap that currently exists between these two groups. We must find a way to establish that we all have the same vested interests and we must communicate those common interests to each other. This communication system can be a valuable tool in bringing together the retired and the active in a positive and proactive manner, especially when there are those occasions that naturally bring the two groups together: school anniversaries, reunions, and retirements in the St. James-Assiniboia area.

Recommendation 1: That the St. James Assiniboia Chapter continue to investigate ways and means to bridge the gap between retired and active teachers. Consideration should be given to using the communication system to continue to forward accurate information from Provincial RTAM, as well as to inform our members of St. James Assiniboia School Division functions that will bring together both active and retired teachers (specifically, anniversaries, reunions, and retirements).

Recommendation 2: That the St. James Assiniboia Chapter support Provincial RTAM's political action strategies

for the 2011 Provincial Government Election. Consideration should be given to advocacy for all issues affecting seniors: specifically, fair and adequate COLA on all pensions and appropriate and affordable housing options for seniors. In this age of Baby Boomer retirements from all professions, the voice of seniors is both essential and powerful at election time, and our organization should consider tapping into that global empowerment.

Recommendation 3: That the St. James Assiniboia Chapter continue efforts to liaison with Provincial MTS, the Local Association President, and our three local government MLAs. Consideration should be given to the organization of appropriate activities to which MTS and Government might be brought together with retirees in a proactive, social political atmosphere.

Southwest Assiniboine Chapter - 45 members

Submitted by Bob Chalmers, President

Executive 2009-2010

President	Bob Chalmers, Virden
Vice President	Jerome Brockman, Reston
Secretary	Volunteers
Treasurer	Glen McKinnon, Virden

Executive 2010 – 2011

President	Bob Chalmers, Virden
Vice President	Jerome Brockman, Reston
Secretary	Kay Kristjanson
Treasurer	Glen McKinnon, Virden

Meetings

September 15, 2009: Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Virden
 December 1, 2009: Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Virden
 April 13, 2010 (AGM): Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Virden

Membership: There are approximately 45 members with many other interested persons at the luncheons.

Activities

·Luncheons are held before the business meetings. The retired teachers bring items for the food hamper in support of the Virden and Area Food Cupboard at these luncheons.

·June, 2009, over 50 retired teachers and guests toured Neepawa and Gladstone areas. The trip was organized by Ed Arndt and Louise Downing.

·Donations were made to the Virden, Deloraine, and Birdtail Music and Arts Festivals in February, 2010.

·The “Old Rusty Classic” golf tournament was held at the Oak Island Golf Course on Tuesday, September 15, 2009.

The tournament was originally schedule for Tuesday, September 8, but was rained out. However, approximately 40 hardy golfers (who had camped at the Oak Island Resort on the Labour Day weekend) did manage to golf on that first Tuesday. The remaining 100+ golfers completed the tournament on September 15. The Oak Island Golf Course graciously accommodated a banquet for the competitors on both Tuesdays. The Southwest Assiniboine Chapter helped organize and sponsor this event.

·At our April 13, 2010 AGM meeting, Mr. Ed James gave our membership a wonderful slide show of his trip to Europe during the summer of 2009.

Swan Valley Chapter of Retired Teachers (SVRTA) – 45 members

Submitted by Secretary, Joy Solomon.

Executive 2009 – 2010

President	Jake Warkentin
Past President	Ed Richenhaller (<i>returned when Don Goltz moved out of province</i>)
Vice President	Lew Taylor
Secretary	Joy Solomon
Treasurer	Bill Schaffer
Social Committee	Joy Solomon
Program Committee	Jean Keillor

Executive 2010 – 2011

President	John Solomon
Past President	Jake Warkentin
Vice President	Barb Plumb
Secretary	Joy Solomon
Treasurer	Bill Schaffer
Social Committee	Joy Solomon
Program Committee	Jean Keillor

The SVRTA held four regular meetings following the March 19, 2009 AGM. Average attendance at meetings was 31 members. Forty-five paid a \$5 annual membership for 2009-2010. There are just over 100 retired teachers in the valley.

Activities:

·Continue to hold luncheon meetings on first Thursday of every second month excluding June, July and August.

·Two members attended the 2009 RTAM AGM.

·Several retired teachers assisted with tree planting on Arbour Day.

·Assisted with the Better Beginnings Wellness Fair on May 26th.

Continued from page 21.

·Attended retirement banquet June 2009 and President invited retirees to join the Association. Each retiring teacher received an information kit.

·Assisted with judging contest entries (Legion Remembrance Day/Elks & Royal Purple Healthy Choices).

·Participated in Remembrance Day Service - laid a wreath on behalf of the retired teachers.

·Christmas Party in December – a good turnout of retirees (35) enjoyed a delicious meal – entertainment - donations of food and cash made to local Food Bank in lieu of gift exchange.

·Attended funerals of deceased members – among them that of John Kastrukoff, founding President of RTAM.

·Enjoyed special presentations after meetings/bowling session.

·Continued sending cards to members and retired non-members (birthday, anniversary, sympathy, and get well).

·SVRTA held its AGM on March 4, 2010.

The Pas Retired Teachers' Association

No Report submitted.

Thompson Association of Retired Educators (TARE) - 30 members

Submitted by Bea Shantz

Members

We have about 30 members - some move away permanently; some come back every summer to a cottage; some take extended winter vacations and some live in Thompson year round with brief excursions out. Almost-monthly events provide an opportunity to keep in touch with these friends.

Executive 2009-10

President	Bea Shantz
Vice President	Sue McCartney
Past President	Joan Goble
Secretary-Treasurer	Carol Pelton
Directors	Grace Bindle, Barb McIntyre, Doreen Lindquist

Executive 2010-11

President	Bea Shantz
Vice President	Joan Goble
Past President	Joan Goble
Secretary-Treasurer	Joan Dawson
Directors	Carol Pelton, Barb McIntyre, Jerry Markley

Activities:

An event (usually includes a meal!) was planned for each month except August, October and February. We varied the times from breakfast, lunch or supper and the day of the week so no one was excluded every time. Attendance varies between 10 and 25 depending on the season and the event.

In May we had a work bee at the Thompson Public Library to clean up the flower beds; in June a breakfast at Chicken Chef; in July a potluck at McCartney's place at Paint Lake with many of the summer residents attending. It has become tradition to have a "not-back-to-school" breakfast on the first day of the fall term -- a time to welcome the new retirees; say good-bye to the summer gang, and update plans for the next few months. This was held at the Burntwood Hotel with about 25 attending.

November was breakfast at Chicken Chef. For our December meeting we had supper at The Hub restaurant and then went to the Public Library for a wonderful presentation by Kate Roth and Greg Pelchat about their travels in Asia when she was on a volunteer teaching assignment in Viet Nam. In January we met over breakfast at Chicken Chef before several members headed to southern climes for a not so warm vacation. In March we invited a local lawyer to give a presentation about estate planning, power of attorney and health care directives. This very informative presentation was made following a lunch prepared and served at the United Church as a fundraiser for the Canadian Food Grains Bank.

Our AGM was held on April 7, 2010, following supper at the Paint Lake Marina.



Vanessa Macrae (Manitoba Homecoming), Jack Carroll (V.P. of Retired Teachers of Winnipeg) and Jean Ogren (of Retired Teachers of Winnipeg).

VanIsles Chapter – 120 members

Submitted by Valerie Davies and Jim Reid, Co-Presidents

Executive for 2010 - 2011

Co-Presidents	Valerie Davies and Jim Reid
Vice-President	Rick Hallstead
Secretary	Patti Dobroski
Treasurer	Roy Richmond
Victoria Area Director	Charles Moody
Nanaimo Area Director	Victoria Olchowecki
Parksville-Qualicum and North Director	Mac Taylor

We began the past year by holding our second AGM of the VanIsles Chapter in Duncan in April, 2009, with over 25 members in attendance. This is a unique Chapter of RTAM, not just because we are so far from Manitoba, but also because our members are spread over more than two hundred miles and three islands. We also are a mobile group, travelling in all seasons as we explore the entire world on journeys that lead us back to this magnificent base of ours. Any gathering is going to be only a portion of our membership because of those factors, but we are a group that embraces life enthusiastically and takes pleasure in joining any friends and former colleagues who can congregate at any given time.

One of the primary reasons for forming this VanIsles Chapter of RTAM was to ensure a flow of information from the provincial membership as work progressed on pensions and other issues. In spite of disappointing decisions by the provincial government regarding the pension plan, the communication process has been beneficial to us here on the West Coast, and hopefully our members have found this “pipeline” of value.

Our social calendar for the year once again consisted of a pair of mid-winter lunches, one in Victoria and one in Nanaimo, and about 30 members of the Association came together to renew friendships and swap stories.

At our third Annual General Meeting, held in early April of this year, 32 of our finest folk came together at Arbutus Ridge Golf Course in Cobble Hill for lunch and fun, followed by a wine tour and tasting at nearby Cherry Point Vineyards.

We will be looking forward to opportunities to get together as our members present themselves, and to our connection to the “mother ship” of veteran Manitoba educators, namely the Retired Teachers’ Association of Manitoba.

RETURNING TO TEACH?

Visit www.traf.mb.ca for more information.

WestmanRetiredEducators’Association (WREA)

Submitted by Rick Oakden, President

Executive for 2009 -2010

President	Rick Oakden
Past-President	Dale Lund
Secretary	Judy Olmstead
Treasurer	Mavis Johnston
Directors	Pat Bowslaugh, Harold Jonasson, Joan Lawrence

At the April, 2009 lunch and business meeting of WREA, I officially began my duties with WREA.

On May 19 & 20, 2009, the Westman Retired Educators’ Association hosted the Annual General Meeting of RTAM at the Red Oak Inn in Brandon. This event was attended by Chapter representatives from all over Manitoba and was quite successful. For me, it was an educational introduction to some of the issues and procedures related to RTAM.

In June, 2009, members of our Executive Committee and I provided copies of “Ready Set Retire” to seven of thirteen local retirees who desired to receive it. At the suggestion of RTAM, I also contacted the superintendents of Turtle Mountain School Division and Southwest Horizon School Division who both agreed to forward the written retirement information package from RTAM to their retirees: two in Turtle Mountain and six in Southwest Horizon.

The Executive Committee of WREA meets prior to each WREA lunch and business meeting. In August we met to prepare for our first lunch and general meeting on September 15, 2009. Fifty-two members attended. The committee reports addressed: Bridge, Friends of Education, Sick & Visiting, Brandon Teachers’ Association liaison, Pat Bowslaugh as Past-President for RTAM and

WREA President. RTAM Talking Points as provided at the AGM were distributed, as well as RTAM’s 20th Anniversary pens and fridge notes. Eight members of the Brandon Taoist Tai Chi Society presented a narrated demonstration of tai chi.

WREA holds a casual breakfast at a local restaurant on the first Wednesday of the month, usually with 15 to 20 members in attendance. At the October 7th breakfast, members met briefly with Hugh McFadyen, Leader of the Manitoba PC party, two MLAs and a few of his staff. Mr. McFadyen spoke to the issues of concern to retired teachers in Manitoba; in particular, he addressed the recent COLA agreement and its future ramifications. He indicated support for the

notion of reviewing and even changing the existing COLA agreement should his party have the authority to do so in the future. We have continued with the monthly breakfasts where members generally catch up on a variety of topics of mutual interest.

A group of about 16 WREA members meet on Thursday afternoons to enjoy playing bridge at the Valleyview Community Centre. Participants enjoy their cards, visiting, and a lunch. Newcomers are always welcome.

On November 17, 2009, 44 members met for a lunch and general meeting. Business topics similar to the September meeting were addressed and member Harold Jonasson provided a DVD presentation on his recent trip to Iceland.

I attended the RTAM Chapter Presidents' Meeting in Winnipeg on November 27, 2009. It was an interesting event with a full agenda including topics like provincial political action re COLA, RTAM membership, Manitoba Edutube, RTAM's website, the "Across the Generations" program for volunteers, and activities undertaken by other chapters.

On February 16, 2010, 39 members met for our lunch and general meeting. Richard Benoit, President of RTAM, was present and addressed our group, reviewing current RTAM issues. We also passed a motion to form a Social Committee to organize activities and/or functions for our members.

The Brandon Teachers' Association provided an opportunity for pre-retirement information to be relayed to local teachers at their pre-retirement seminar on February 18th. Pat Bowslaugh, RTAM Past-President and WREA Director, met with interested teachers and reviewed a number of topics prior to the portion of the evening organized by TRAF. We welcomed this chance to again meet directly with pre-retirees.

The Executive met on March 26, 2010, to prepare for the April 14th lunch and Annual General Meeting where our new Executive will be elected.

2010 AGM FINANCIAL MOTIONS

Auditor's Report

1. Malik/McAdam That the RTAM AGM 2010 receive the Auditor's Report for the fiscal year 2008-09. Carried.
2. Malik/McAdam That Goossen Accounting of Gilbert Plains, MB be appointed as auditors for the 2010-11 fiscal year. Carried.

Reimbursement Rates

3. Malik/McAdam That the rate of reimbursement for mileage be \$0.47 per km beginning July 1, 2010. Carried.
4. Malik/McAdam That the rate of reimbursement for meals be \$41 .00 per diem and that the lunch rate not exceed \$14.00 Carried.
5. Malik/McAdam That the rate of reimbursement for hotel be up to \$125.00 per day beginning July 1, 2010. Carried.
6. Malik/McAdam That the accommodation with family or friends in lieu of hotel may be claimed at a rate of up to 50% of the hotel rate per day beginning July 1, 2010. Carried.

2010-2010 Budget

7. Malik/McAdam That the 2010-2011 RTAM Budget be recommended (as proposed OR amended) to the RTAM Board of Directors. Carried.

Membership Fees

8. Malik/McAdam That the Regular and Associate membership fees be \$27.00 for the fiscal year 2010-2011. Carried.
9. Malik/McAdam That the membership fee for the Life Members be waived. Carried.

SPIRIT'S CALL CHOIR invites teachers with a song in their heart to sing for joy. Recipient of the 2010 Mayor's Volunteer Service Award, Spirit's Call Choir has raised over \$100,000.00 for local charities and is a non-audition, community choir that sings for local and global harmony Sunday afternoons at 603 Wellington Crescent, Winnipeg. For more information call Margaret, 488-0078.

**THE RETIRED WOMEN TEACHERS'
ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA**

HI THERE NEW WOMEN RETIREES

We would like to invite you to join our organization.

****CHEAP** – \$7.00 yearly membership

****LOTS of FUN** – meet up with people you haven't seen in ages

****ENTERTAINING** – guest speakers like Tara Birtwhistle, Alexander Mickelthwate, Cindi Cain

****TWO TRIPS A YEAR** – with our hilarious travel guide, Bessie-Marie Hill

****Good FOOD**

Give us a try at our Fashion Show & Luncheon, September 30th, 12:00 noon.

Tickets – \$15.00, Masonic Temple @ Confusion Corner

For more information contact Emily Williamson, 310

Raquette Street, Winnipeg, MB R3K 1N6

emiwill@mts.net

THE TEACHER TRAINING CLASS

**Brandon College Class of '60 is planning a
2010 reunion to celebrate 50 years!**

Before plans can be finalized we need your help!

Class members are invited to send your name, address, e-mail and phone number to:

Pat (Mowatt) Bowslaugh at bowsp@wcgwave.ca
or phone 728-4924 or Marjorie (Hoy) Wildeboer,
201-6 Crocus Gardens, Brandon, MB R7A 7R9

Please include information on any classmates who may not be receiving KIT.

MMPR SCHOOL REUNION 2010

Manitoba Homecoming 2010

Marguette, Meadow Lea, Poplar Heights, & Reaburn Schools Reunion

July 30 - August 1, 2010

Meadow Lea Hall, Manitoba

All former teachers, students and residents are encouraged to contact: Doug Moore (204) 467-5464, dgmoore@mts.net, or write Doug Moore, P.O. Box 666, Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0 for further information and registration.

HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL

Brandon, Manitoba

1960-1972, 50th Anniversary Reunion

Sunday, July 4, 2010, Victoria Inn, Brandon

Interested in attending? Please let former students and teachers know. Send full contact information (years of attendance, name, address, phone number, and email address) to: Sally Bender, benders@wcgwave.ca.

MAPLE BEAR CANADIAN SCHOOLS are now hiring Teachers and Principals! Maple Bear is an English Immersion School located in several countries overseas.

The curriculum at Maple Bear is Canadian-based and focuses on inquiry-based learning.

MAPLE BEAR is currently conducting interviews for positions in: South Korea, Vietnam, Turkey, China and Brazil .

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me by email at: laura.beaulac@globalschools.ca, or by phone at: (604) 880-3955. Please also visit our websites for further information. www.teachingoverseas.ca or www.maplebear.ca

**NORMAL SCHOOL CLASS of 1955-1956, 55th Reunion
May 28, 2011**

PNS site on Shaftsbury, Banquet

A time of sharing experiences, reminiscing and celebrating.

The Committee is trying to contact all members.

Send names and addresses and request for information

55th PNS Reunion, Class of 1955-56

330 Montrose Street, Winnipeg, MB R3M 3M8

or email: pns55reunion@gmail.com

Cuba and Costa Rica

**Escorted Small Group Cultural Tours
Off the Beaten Track (since 1995)**

CUBA: Discover Cuba's culture, nature and history on one of our unique itineraries. Meetings with Cubans where they work and live make up the fabric of our custom designed tours.

"Clearly I found Cuba and the tour more than interesting. I think the diversity of experiences was the real strength of the tour."

- Edith Kampen, Winnipeg

COSTA RICA: Travel to areas less visited as well as the "must see" regions. Walk on suspension bridges, hike in a rain forest, see an active volcano and spot exotic fauna PLUS visit historical sites, farms, a school and even take a casual cooking class!

"Very well organized and run. Well paced. Not an ordinary vacation."

- Sharon Ife, Burlington, ON

Tour dates for 2011:

Central Cuba Jan 30 – Feb 13 and Feb 27 - Mar 13

Eastern Cuba Feb 08 – Feb 22

Western Cuba Mar 06 – Mar 20

Costa Rica Feb 25 – Mar 12

Visit www.cubadiscoverytours.com, www.costaricatours.ca

Brochure available. Book early. Limited to 21 people.

McPhail Travel, 435 Rosser Avenue, Brandon MB

204-727-2305 or toll free 1-800-417-0250

paidad

FACULTY of EDUCATION GRADS UNIVERSITY of MANITOBA

50th Anniversary Class of 1960 HOMECOMING

September, 2010

We have address information assembled in 2005.

If there are changes in addresses or
phone numbers, please contact:

Judy Rannard (Cooper): jrannard@mts.net or (204) 488-6491

Ted Poulter: tedpoult@mts.net or (204) 253-0287

Mailed information will come out in the summer of 2010.

LIVING ON VANCOUVER ISLAND? OR THE GULF ISLANDS?

We have an RTAM Chapter there!

We're called VanIsles.

Call us to find out what we're up to. . . Our membership is
120 strong, but. . . We know there are more of you nearby.

Join us for fun and fellowship!

Contact: Valerie Davies 250-468-7539 val_air@telus.net

Jim Reid 250-248-8992 jrreid@shaw.ca

WINNIPEGOSIS COLLEGIATE REUNION 2010

July 9, 10 & 11

Winnipegosis, MB

Calling all former staff and students!

Registration fee: \$25.00 per person

Send registrations to: Box 533
Winnipegosis, MB R0L 2G0

For more info check out the web site:
www.winnipegosiscollegiatereunion2010.com



ADVENTURES FOR THE MIND . . .

Join us for
friendship • study
activities • respite • advocacy



The University Women's Club of Winnipeg
54 West Gate

Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 2E1

phone: (204) 954 7880 fax: (204) 954 7889
www.uwc-wpg.mb.ca uwc@mts.net

WINDSOR PARK COLLEGIATE

50th ANNIVERSARY

Weekend of May 13th, 2011

We are looking to invite as many former staff as possible. If you are a former WPC faculty member or have contact information as to how to locate any former staff, please contact us at the school 256-7316 or e-mail sandi.wagner@lrsd.net or shauna.bunting@lrsd.net

Stony Mountain Elementary School Reunion

For staff and students who attended
the school between 1955 and 1975

August 6, 7 & 8, 2010

Stony Mountain, Manitoba

For further information, contact
Ilene Penniston: ipenn@mts.net or
1 (204) 344-5306

Check out the reunion web-site at
www.stonymountainreunion.com

EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

There are open/free meetings held once a month –
except July and August. Speakers pass on some
hints and information that they have gained through
their decades of research.

www.eegsociety.org/Home.aspx

ANNUAL LOUISA LOEB PERMIT TEACHERS' REUNION

6th Reunion

Victoria Inn Hotel

1808 Wellington Avenue, Winnipeg
Thursday, July 15, 2010, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All teachers who taught on PERMIT
are welcome to attend.

Contact Theresa Antoniuk, President at 586-7985
Pre registration is required.

MANITOBA NORMAL SCHOOL REUNION

Class of 1952-1953
Winnipeg, Manitoba

September 12, 13 & 14, 2011
Canad Inn, Polo Park

Bessie Marie Hill: 477-4580 or Eileen Sokalski (Swan)
Contact your friends. Details later.

Ye Olde Rusty Classic

Granite Hills Golf Course

Coppermine Road, Lac du Bonnet, MB
Tuesday, September 7, 2010

Registration: 11:00 AM, Shotgun Start at noon.

Come join your retired teacher colleagues and significant others for a wonderful day of golfing at Manitoba's most scenic and newest premium golf course. Participation will be limited to the first 36 foursomes who submit their registration form and fee (\$85 per person, \$340 per foursome). Your registration fee includes the following:

1. Green fee for 18 holes
2. Shared riding cart
3. Steak dinner
4. Access to prizes
5. A day of fun and competition with your retired teacher colleagues (priceless!)

For those wishing information about the course or about accommodation in the area before or following the tournament, visit the course's website at www.granitehills.ca for information.

Ye Olde Rusty Classic Registration Form

*Please register as a foursome.

Email contact: _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Make cheques payable to Ye Olde Rusty Classic and send to Paul LaRiviere, Treasurer, Ye Olde Rusty Classic, 26 Trowbridge Bay, Winnipeg, MB R2N 2V8

BrushWorks – St. Paul's Fort Garry 7th Annual

Friday, October 15: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. -
wine and cheese

Saturday, October 16: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - cafe

Sunday, October 17: 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - cafe

**St. Paul's Fort Garry, 830 North Drive
475-7549 (church office for information)**

Come and share the opportunity to view and purchase original art work by 36 Manitoba artists. Framed and unframed oils, watercolours, pastels, prints and art cards will be available.

There will also be raffles of art work and a cafe for you to enjoy while contemplating which art piece will be perfect for that special wall space.

Be sure to tell your friends!

St. John's High School Centennial Anniversary June 17 to 20, 2010

Former students and teachers of St. John's High School in Winnipeg are invited to register for all pre-anniversary events.

See the Alumni website: www.stjohnshigh100.mb.ca or telephone (204)589-4374 and speak to Barb Morrison.

"OCTOBERWEST" DND REUNION

Winnipeg, Manitoba
OCTOBER 8, 9 & 10, 2010

Enjoy a friendly weekend in the HEART of Manitoba's French Canadian Community.

Happy Hour with German food.

Sites and Sounds of St.Boniface.

Dinner and Dance and Volksmarch.

Blog – registration/information:

<http://www.winnipegdnd.com>,

reunion2010.blogspot.com,

Contact Bessie Marie Hill @ 477-4580

MANITOBA TEACHERS' COLLEGE

Class of 1958-59

Plans are underway for the Class of 1958-59 to celebrate our 52nd year reunion.

Winnipeg, MB on May 25, 2011

Emily Jansen-Williamson:

(204) 837-5668 or

Marge Hatch-Coleman:

coleman3@mts.net

Coming Events

Wellness Seminar: October 2010

RTAM PLANS ADMINISTERED BY JOHNSON INC.

If you require information and brochures, or if you have any questions concerning these plans (Dental, Long Term Care, Life, Emergency Medical Travel), please contact: Johnson Inc. Insurance Benefits Administration
11120 178th Street, Edmonton AB T5S 1P2
Toll Free 1-877-989-2600
Phone (780) 413-6628 Fax (780) 420-6082
Email: cgrandish@johnson.ca

Photos Photos enhance your submitted material; however, digital photos must be taken at 1500 pixels. If mailing in photos, send professionally developed photos only.

NOTICE TO PAID KIT ADVERTISERS

Please send your **hard copy ad and cheque** to the Editor (payable to RTAM) before each deadline. **Ads without accompanying cheque will not be printed.** Please send the paid ad via pdf file to the Editor.

HAVE YOU MOVED OR CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

Contact TRAF at 949-0048 or toll-free at 1-800-782-0714 or by e-mail at info@traf.mb.ca or by mail/ change of address card to: TRAF
330 Market, Winnipeg, MB R3T 4F8

Publication Agreement Number 40037581

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
RTAM, Box 252
Neepawa, MB R0J 1H0

ADVERTISING IN KIT

The Editor and/or the Board of Directors of RTAM accept no responsibility or liability for failure to insert an advertisement for any reason. In such instances, full refund will be given.

Advertising Rates for KIT per issue are:

1/16 page (9.53 cm. wide x 3.2 cm. deep)	\$100.00
1/8 page (9.53 cm. wide x 6.5 cm. deep)	\$150.00
¼ page (9.53 cm. wide x 12.7 cm. deep)	\$200.00
½H page (19.6 cm. wide x 12.4 cm. deep)	\$250.00
½V page (9.53 cm. wide x 25.7 cm. deep)	\$250.00
1 page (19.6 cm. wide x 25.7 cm. deep)	\$300.00

add 5% GST

Free Public Service Announcements:

Not-for-profit organizations who wish to place public service announcements, volunteer opportunities with service groups, school or teacher reunions are encouraged to do so. Submissions are printed free of charge.

Advertising on the RTAM Web Site:

Membership reunions and Chapter events may be promoted on the RTAM web site at the discretion of and for a period determined by the Webmaster. There shall be no fee for posting these events.

The Retired Teachers' Association of Manitoba does not endorse or promote any products, services or events presented in paid advertisements, the Announcements or Volunteer Opportunities sections unless specified.

The Editorial Committee reserves the right to print, reject and/or edit for clarity, all materials received.



The Editor of KIT
Retired Teachers' Association of
Manitoba
Box 252
Neepawa, MB R0J 1H0



All materials for the next issue of
KIT **must** be
typed and e-mailed to dsage@mts.net
and received by

5:00 pm September 3, 2010

Materials published herein do not necessarily represent the policies nor the views of RTAM.