

# Miramichi Area Retired Teachers' Association

## Fall General Meeting October 2013

**Place:** Chatham Legion

**Date:** October 24, 2013

**Time:** 11 am

President Marjorie McPhee called the meeting to order at 11:20.

She welcomed everyone and introduced the new retirees and MARTA executive for 2013.

A minute of silence was held for deceased members.

Marj read a poem "Pensioners Fairy Tale" that was recently printed in the Moncton Times newspaper.

**Minutes of the Spring AGM on May 23, 2013 meeting** were read. Michael Butler moved to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Judy Fox-Roy. Motion carried.

### **Business Arising from the Minutes:**

Local dues need to be paid to Maria Brown.

### **Guest Speaker:**

Marjorie introduced our guest speaker Patrick Lacroix from ELF (Elementary Literacy Friends) Program which is a group of people who volunteer to help improve literacy in elementary schools. The Miramichi area is currently in need of at least 20 volunteers.

Mr. Lacroix spoke about the pilot program which started in 2009-10 in 9 schools (7 Francophone 2 Anglophone) in grades pk to gr.2 who were struggling with literacy. The goal of this program is to decrease the millions of dollars spent on adult literacy by training community volunteers to work with elementary students from 2 to 3pm twice a week for 10 weeks. Currently 53% of adults in NB have level 3 literacy. To date 86% of the students participating in the program have reached their expected level by the end of gr.2. The program has also shown very positive effects in self esteem. ELF currently has a number of corporations supporting them and they would like to expand their program to be province wide in 46 schools. Volunteers are given a training session where everything is provided. The next training session is in February and retired teachers would be a good source of volunteers. More information can be found on their website ElfNB.com.

Marjorie thanked our speaker for his presentation and encouraged our members to consider supporting program. She then called on Wendy Matthews to say grace for the lovely meal the Legion has prepared for us.

### **Financial Report:**

Maria Brown thanked Dave Barker for the excellent job he did as our past Treasurer. She gave a report of our financial position as of Oct. 24, 2013

Regular Account Balance	\$	
Scholarship Account Balance	\$	
Petty Cash	\$	
Scholarship GIC	\$	(maturity July 7/2014 @ 1.6%)
TOTAL	\$	

A written statement was also submitted. Bill Rigley moved that the report be accepted and filed for audit. Elizabeth Seaman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Marjorie thanked our speaker for his presentation and encouraged our members to consider supporting program. She then called on Wendy Matthews to say grace for the lovely meal the Legion has prepared for us.

**Correspondence:**

Maria reported that 2 thank you cards were received from the family of Dr. Frank Dolan. Thank you's were also received from the recipients of our scholarship awards and the schools that received Safe Grad funds.

**Committee Reports:**

A motion was made by Dorothy Creighton to accept all committee reports as given. Dave Barker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Membership:** Wendy reported MARTA currently has 231 members plus 2 new ones. New applications are available so please use the new forms. There has been no update in membership from Fredericton since September.

**Telephone:** Gina thanked the committee for their work. There will be no calls made for the Dec. 3 pot luck meal.

**Website:** Dale gave our website [www.marta-group.com](http://www.marta-group.com). He also reported there will be a provincial meeting next Tuesday, Oct. 29th. They will be looking at the members page which you currently need a password to access teacher information on such topics as pension and discounts.

**Reflections:** Merle reported that articles are almost done for Fall, Winter and Spring editions. Two local stories will be featured on the history of Harkins and a story about Lloyd Cameron as well as other branch news.

**Special Projects:** Lenore thanked Wendy M for the lovely basket of preserves, \$85.00 was made from ticket sales at the craft sale. She had lots of help at the sale from Kay, Maria and Faye. The Christmas potluck will be held on Dec. 3 in Nelson starting at 11am to get things set up. Lunch will be at 12. The cost is \$5.00 each with \$100.00 being donated to the Food Bank and the rest to the scholarship fund.

**Social/Games:** Cil reported games afternoon has started with 16 people attending the first one. Bill and Rosemarie have helped out the last 2 months. They are held at the Knights of Columbus on the second Tuesday of each month. The next one will be in November, but none in December.

**Courtesy:** Rosemarie reported that 5 sympathy cards were sent out. Please contact her if members know of anyone who receive a card.

**Newsletter:** Bill said the current newsletter is available today, it gives a list of dates to remember and a reminder that there will be no Games Day in December.

**NBSRT Report:** Marge and Rick attended the annual meeting on Sept. 17th.

There will be a new Executive in 2014 at the provincial level. V. Harding will be the new chairperson. There are openings at the provincial level for anyone interested you can contact Marj. There has been a change in policy to accept nominations from all retired teacher's branches in the future. Next meeting will be on April 29, 2014.

**New Business:**

A concern was raised about the confusion over what teachers should do regarding support to the PSSA pension cause. There is no need for the Phone Committee to call retired teachers for PSSA meetings as we do not belong to this group. NBTF members received a letter which clearly outlines the NBTF position regarding pension reform. Retirees are encouraged to check the websites for updates as NBTF is speaking on behalf of all teachers including retirees and that they are requesting that pension changes should be on a "go forward basis" and not include present retirees. Mike Springer and Dawson Murray are on the provincial committee. Members are encouraged to continue to contact their MLA's about their concerns regarding pension reform.

**Dates to Remember:**

Feb. 7/2014 – MARTA Breakfast @ Portage Restaurant (Executive Meeting will be held afterwards)

April 29/2014 – NBSRT Spring Meeting

May 8/2014 – Executive Meeting @ Fundy Line Restaurant

May 22/2014 – MARTA Spring AGM

Meeting was adjourned at 1:20 on a motion from Bill Rigley, seconded by Maria Brown.