

# Miramichi Area Retired Teachers Association

## Spring AGM May 2014

**Place:** St. Raphael's Blackville

**Date:** May 22, 2014

**Time:** 11am

Vice President Rick Hayward called the meeting to order at 11:15am with a welcome to everyone. A minute of silence was held for deceased members. Richard Walsh said grace. Bill Rigley made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Pat Clancy. Motion carried.

**Minutes of the Fall General Meeting** held on October 24, 2013 were read. Lois Gilliss moved to accept the minutes as read. Seconded by Eugene Donovan. Motion carried.

**Business Arising from the Minutes:** Marjorie McPhee has taken the ELF Training program.

**Correspondence:** Thank you cards were received from the Bremner Family and Dorothy Creighton. A letter was received from Glenelg Youth Alliance Coordinator Katti Drake outlining their programs. Patrick Lacroix sent a letter thanking MARTA for their interest in the ELF Program.

**Treasurer's Report:** Maria Brown gave a report of our financial position as of May 22, 2014.

Regular Account balance: \$ [REDACTED]

Scholarship Fund balance: \$ [REDACTED]

GIC Investment Fund: \$ [REDACTED]

Total: \$ [REDACTED]

A written statement was also submitted. Maria moved that the report be accepted and filed for audit. Seconded by Pat Clancy. Motion carried.

Maria reported that there is enough money for the \$1000.00 scholarship to be awarded to a Blackville student in June. She also moved that five \$200.00 bursaries and four \$100.00 Safe Grad activity funds be awarded this year. Seconded by Judy Fox-Roy. Motion carried.

**President's Report:** Rick Hayward reported on behalf of Marjorie McPhee. In her written report Marj summarized the numerous activities MARTA held during the past year which included two breakfasts (Sept. and Feb.), Fall Meeting at the Chatham Legion, Spring AGM plans, sales and fundraisers, Christmas Dinner, Games afternoons, scholarships, bursaries and Safe Grad funds. She also noted that MARTA remained quite active with recent pension discussions, meetings and walks. She also encouraged new members to join. Rick moved to have accept this report. Seconded by Merle Milson. Motion carried.

**NBSRT Report:** Rick reported that he, Marj and Dale McCrae attended the meeting on May 1, 2014.

Pension reform and the agreement that has been reached was a major focus at the meeting. Mike Springer and Dawson Murray played key roles along with Larry Jamieson and recommendations from the third party actuary who reported that changes had to be made to the pension plan or we could risk lose everything. Mike Springer spoke about the changes, he also thanked active and retired teachers for their ongoing support. The 75% COLA was accepted because of seniors living longer and in the event of a bad market it would still allow for an increase in pensions. The 25% decrease also means new teachers will not have to work until 65. The Reserve Fund of \$35 million that has been established along with an increase in active teacher's contributions should protect retiree's pensions from being affected in the future.

Dale Weldon gave an update on Johnson's Insurance Plan. The new provincial drug plan will come into effect on April 1, 2015. There are still some unanswered questions such as retired teachers not currently on our plan may have to join as everyone must have coverage and if these changes will affect our premiums. It was also noted that it is cheaper for two teachers to have single plans instead of a family plan. Members travelling should call the 1-800 number on your insurance card first to check if the hospital you are going to accepts Canadian insurance. There will be a future memo about this.

Membership to NBSRT has increased over the last 6 months probably due to the concerns over pension reform. Provincial membership is currently at 2573 members.

NBSRT is also looking for a Branch to host the one day 2015 Bicentennial Meeting.

The provincial website is looking for photos. They can be sent to Mary Campbell [campmab@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:campmab@nbnet.nb.ca).

The Teacher's College class of 1964 is having a special reunion on June 28/14 at the Fredericton Inn. Contact Harry Palmer if interested in attending. Cost is \$35.00. This was the last class to graduate from TC.

The School Days Museum is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

Reflections magazine currently has 2409 copies in circulation, 200 online.

A motion was passed to improve future communication from NBSRT.

A question was raised regarding NBSRT being visible and active with the PSSA. It is a personal choice.

A new provincial executive has been elected. Members can check the website for names. An honorary membership was given to Gail Brown retiring secretary for NBSRT for 11 years. Next Board meeting will be held Sept. 30, 2014 at the NBTF building.

**Committee Reports:** Richard Walsh made a motion to accept all committee reports as given. Seconded by Maria Brown. Motion carried.

**Social:** Cil Hickey reported that the Games Afternoon is finished until September. For the new retirees we have a social afternoon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month starting in September ending in May at the Knights of Columbus Hall on King St. in Chatham and would love to see you there. Next games days will be Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> and Oct, 14<sup>th</sup>. Have a great summer!

**Reflections:** Merle Milson reported that the committee including Barb MacIntosh and Connie MacRae has written articles for 3 editions of Reflections. The fall edition included the MARTA Branch news as well as articles on Lloyd Cameron, Mary Alice Ahern and Judy Mullin. The winter edition included more branch news plus articles on Kelly Brown and Dale MacRae and part one on the history of Harkins Academy. The spring edition hopefully will include branch news, articles on Mike Butler (golfing), Don Bonnar and the second part of Harkins history. Our thanks goes to Dale MacRae for including photos and formatting the writings. Unfortunately Dale is too busy to continue this role and Connie has decided she has done her share and is resigning. So if anyone has a flair for writing or can help with the computer side of things, please contact Merle at 773-9719 or e-mail him at patboucher@rogers.com.

**Membership:** Wendy Matthews was absent but her report indicated that our membership is currently at 241 members with 7 new members added. The data base has also been updated. A \$50.00 cheque was received from NBSRT for increased membership.

**Telephone:** Gena Skidd reported the addition of 7 new teachers to the calling list giving a total of 210 teachers to call. There are more on the calling list but some have requested not to be called. Gena also thanked the dedicated teachers on the committee who do the calling for all of our events: Mary Alice Ahern, Marj MacPhee, Judy Mullin, Merle & Pat Milson, Helen Patterson, Harriet MacNaughton, Stella Mercer, Ann Kelly, Glenn & Marilyn Russell, Rosalind Ross-Hayter, Donald & Jean O'Neill, Maria Brown, Janice Hay, Theresa Flynn, and Rosemarie

Rigley. Great job everyone!! Please remember to let these people know if you cannot attend an event as we have to charge you for the allotted amount once the numbers have been submitted. Emergencies and a death of a family member are certainly understandable.

**Special Projects:** Lenore Masterson gave a detailed report of activities and funds raised. The craft sale on Oct. 19/13 at St. Michael's had \$130.00 in donations, \$145.00 in sales for a total of \$275.00. Betty McGinnis won the painting. She thanked Wendy Matthews for the lovely basket of jams and jellies to sell tickets on which Margie Sticklen won. Thanks to everyone who helped out. The Oct. Meeting and Banquet donations total was \$60.00. ELF donation in Dec. of \$50.00 along with the Dec. pot luck, auction, ticket sales and door (238 ticket sales) and \$20.00 donation made \$614.20 for a total of \$999.20 raised. Next year instead of a craft sale we are thinking of selling 50/50 tickets at our breakfasts and banquet meetings. For the XMAS pot luck party on Dec.9<sup>th</sup>, we will still have the auction if members want to donate items to bid on. Gina and Bill have agreed to do the auction. Cost is \$5.00 at the door with \$100.00 being donated to the food bank and the scholarship fund. Money donations are also accepted and a receipt for income tax will be written.

**Newsletter:** Bill Rigley passed out the current copy of our newsletter with the dates of upcoming events. If anyone has anything to contribute please contact him. The newsletter is available at every meeting.

**Website:** Dale MacRae reported that there will be a meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup> to begin the update of the provincial NBSRT data base as the current system is very confusing. NBSRT now has a mandate to improve the lines of communication. Please contact Dale with any comments/questions regarding the websites. Rick thanked Dale for his work with the website.

**Courtesy:** Rosemarie Rigley reported that she has sent 9 sympathy cards since last June: 2 for deceased members of MARTA and 7 for relatives of a MARTA member. Maria gave her \$50.00 in June to buy cards and stamps which have been purchased with \$13.00 remaining. Joan Bremner's name will be added to the memorial list. Thanks to Maria for her help and to those who contacted her.

**New Business:** Lois Gilliss reported on behalf of Wendy that due to some recent changes of motions written in our Constitution and Accepted Practices and Guidelines, our documents need to be updated. The Constitution requires a 2 week advance notice of changes. It also indicates to give notice at the Spring AGM and vote on them at the Fall General Meeting. At the Executive meeting held on May 9<sup>th</sup>, Wendy moved to give advance notice of changes to the Constitution and By Laws to add "website chairperson" to the Executive and make changes to article 7 of the Constitution that "advance notice will be posted on the website 2 weeks prior to the meeting and the website will be the official notification." This motion was seconded by Dale

MacRae. Motion carried. MARTA members will be informed of the changes before the Fall meeting on Oct.23<sup>rd</sup> on the website rather than by mail or phone.

**Acknowledgements:** Rick thanked St. Raphael's members for the lovely dinner they served and the MARTA members who continue to support our committees and functions.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 12:45 on a motion by Bill Rigley.