

# ***Miramichi Area Retired Teachers Association***

## ***MARTA Spring AGM and Dinner***

***St. Andrew's United Church Hall  
Thursday, May 15, 2018, 11:00 am***

### **Call to Order/Welcome**

MARTA President Andrew Clark called the meeting to order at 11:04am. He welcomed all members, and new member, John Bosma.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Andy requested that the agenda be amended to address the topics, new members and correspondence, in Business Arising from the Minutes.

Grant Hendry moved for approval of the Agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Marjorie McPhee. **Motion carried.**

### **Guest Speaker - None**

### **Remembrance of Deceased Members**

Andy explained *the new procedure* being introduced for remembering deceased members. This will now be done each year at the Spring AGM, only. The service for remembrance of deceased members followed.

-Moment of Silence/Lighting of Candle: Maria Brown and Cil Hickey lit a candle, in memory of deceased members, followed by a moment of silence by the membership.

-Deceased members in the past year: Andy read the names of MARTA members who have passed since June 2017.

-Poem: read by Cil Hickey

Andy informed the members that the family of the late Dorothy Creighton had requested an honour guard for her funeral, which was being held at 1:30, at the Calvin Presbyterian Church, King Street.

### **Minutes from the MARTA Fall AGM ( Oct. 19, 2017)**

MARTA Secretary, Marty Hawkes, read the minutes. Richard Walsh moved to approve the minutes as read. Laureena Black seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

## **Business Arising from the Minutes**

### **NBSRT**

-The NBSRT has recognized the MARTA Branch with a *Branch Certificate of Merit* for dedicated service. This is the first time the NBSRT has recognized a branch in this way. The framed Certificate was on display.

-Andy recognized the success of the Moncton Branch's hosting of the Biennial Meeting, and congratulated them.

### **MARTA**

#### **\*Final Report: Scholarship Subcommittee:**

-Wendy Matthews reported that it has been 10 years since the scholarship was last reviewed. The subcommittee has had one meeting, and the committee has decided to continue current practices, with very little change.

-The procedures of the MARTA Memorial Scholarship were reviewed. The criteria for the scholarship: academics, participation and financial need.

-The scholarship is maintained separately from the MARTA general fund. The funds are raised through memorial cards, the 50/50 Draw and donation bequests. The excess in the fund is invested.

-The \$1000.00 scholarship is given each year to a high school student, on a rotating basis through the local high schools.

-The committee recommends no change.

-The following two appendices will be required: a letter to the school and a letter to the student recipient. The student will be required to: confirm with a letter, including a confirmation of enrolment and a graduation picture.

-Wendy moved for the adoption of the report. The motion was seconded by Mike Butler.

#### **Motion Carried.**

A discussion was held regarding the MARTA Bursary for graduates. A motion was made to continue giving five, \$300.00 bursaries, from general funds, to one student from each of the five local high schools.

Moved by Laureena Black and seconded by John Bosma. **Motion carried.**

#### **\*Final Report: Bereavement Subcommittee**

-Andy presented a clarification regarding honour guards at the funerals of retired teachers: The MARTA President (or designate) has the role of contacting the family of the deceased MARTA member to determine if an honour guard is requested. If an honour guard has been requested it will be posted in the obituary.

-The selection of a standardized Sympathy Card, for use by MARTA, will be ratified at the MARTA Fall AGM. It will be presented by Rosemarie and Bill Rigley.

***Progress Update: Constitutional and Bylaws Alignment Committee:***

-Grant Hendry reported on this subcommittee, whose purpose it is to review the MARTA Constitution, and how well it "meshes" with the current NBSRT constitutional document.

-It is necessary to review current policies, many of which are more than five years old.

-An article on privacy (NBSRT) needs to be added, and the MARTA document requires some further terms of reference.

-Any changes require a motion at the AGM.

-The report was not finalized at this time.

***\*New Members of MARTA***

Andy announced that MARTA had received new members since December, one of whom was in attendance, John Bosma. Andy welcomed him and stated that he was certain that he would enjoy attending Branch activities and meeting friends and former colleagues.

**Correspondence**

A Thank You card was received from Judy Fox-Roy, for remembering her brother Wayne.

**Reports**

**\*Treasurer's Report -Merle Milson**

REGULAR FUND BALANCE

Scholarship Fund Balance

Petty cash Balance

Scholarship GIC

Total of Accounts

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

@ 1.7% maturing Oct.22/18

Bursaries to the high schools are to be paid from the regular fund.

Dues, paid locally by 12 members, must be paid by the Fall Dinner meeting.

Andy moved that the treasurer's report be approved and it was seconded by Nancy Vessie.

**Motion carried.**

**\*President's Report -Andy Clark**

Andy read a few highlights of the MARTA Branch Report submitted to the NBSRT, indicating it had been another very positive and productive year for our membership, thanks to their continued involvement and support. He stated that a limited number of printed copies were available for sharing among those present and if anyone wished to read the complete report, it would be available for viewing on the NBSRT website.

-MARTA requires a new slate of officers for 2019-2021. Andy encouraged members to consider serving.

-A calendar of events for MARTA can be found on the website.

**\*CourtesyCommittee Report -Maria Brown**

Since the February 14th executive meeting, sympathy cards have been sent to:

Exina Martin - her sister Ursule (Feb. 2018)

Diane Arbeau-her father John (Feb.2018)

Judy Fox-Roy -her brother Wayne (Mar.2018)

Mary-Ellen Pelletier-her mother Kay Hawkes (Mar.2018)

Marie Tracy-Gould -her brother Kevin Meagher(Mar.2018)

John Bosma -his wife Paula (Mar.2018)

Margaret Barker -her mother Marguerite Foote (Apr.2018)

Gena Skidd -her sister Marie Davis

Kelly Murray -her sister Jory (Marjorie)

Eric Kierstead -his mother Flora

Members who have died: Margaret Ross (January 2018)

Dorothy Creighton (May 2018)

**\*Membership Committee Report -Wendy Matthews**

-There are currently 256 members of MARTA. Names of members are kept in a private online data-base at NBSRT.

-Application forms for MARTA are on the MARTA website. All applications should be mailed directly to Dale McRae.

**\* "Reflections" Report -Merle Milson**

-There are three editions of "Reflections" each year (fall, winter, spring).

- In the winter edition MARTA had Branch News, photos, and "In Memoriams" for Lloyd Cameron and Margaret Ross.

- There was an error made in printing where Fall 2016 Branch News, winter 2017 news, and the correct winter 2018 news, were all in one. The editor was alerted to this error.

-If members are interested in writing an article, it would be appreciated. Contact Merle.

-If members are having any problems receiving the "Reflections" magazine, please inform Merle.

**\*Social Committee Report -Cil Hickey**

-Games afternoons will resume in September, on Tuesdays, at the Knights of Columbus Hall on King Street.

**\*Special Projects Report** -Lenore Masterson

-Funds raised through Special Projects go into the Scholarship Fund.

-The 50/50 Draw winner of \$150.50 was Michael Butler.

-The Christmas Potluck party will be held December 4, 2018. Please, also bring something for the auction.

-Members are reminded that MARTA Memorial cards are available at the local funeral homes.

**\*Telephone Committee Report** -Gena Skidd

-Gena read the names of the members of her committee and thanked them for their assistance.

**\*Website Report** -Grant Hendry

-The MARTA website has migrated to a more dynamic platform-Weebly. If members wish to put something on the website, please contact an Executive Committee member.

-Developing a Facebook presence is being considered.

**\*Wellness Committee Report** -Lois Gillis

-Lois acknowledged the nine members on this newly established committee and thanked them for their support. She has attended two provincial Wellness Meetings, and to date, the Marta Wellness Committee has held four meetings. They have developed a mission statement, compiled a survey, developed a list of possible contacts for guest speakers and events to pursue, and have planned their first wellness activity.

-Details have been sent to members, via e-mail, regarding July 21 bus trip to PEI Confederation Center to see "Jesus Christ Superstar"

-59 members completed the wellness survey conducted at the April 5th, 2018 breakfast

-The committee will soon have something in place to ensure that wellness information is out to the membership in a timely manner.

-Please contact Lois if you have ideas for the wellness committee (e-mail or phone)

-The next meeting of this committee will be held at the Fundy Line Restaurant at 11 am, June 6, 2018. New members are always welcome.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**NBSRT** - Andy Clark presented the following information from the NBSRT AGM held May 2, 2018.

Election Results: 2018	Wayne Spires	by Acclamation
NBSRT Executive		
Election 1st Vice		
President		
2nd Vice President	Barry Harbinson	Elected
Recording Secretary	Jeannie Matthews	Elected
Treasurer	Paulette Moore	Elected
Membership	Dale MacRae	by Acclamation
Secretary		
Past President	Marg Urquhart	

### ***Issues from the NBSRT AGM held May 2, 2018:***

-NBSRT feels that there is a lack of proportional representation on the NBTF Group Insurance Board of Trustees since the number of retired teachers in NB is now on par with the number of active teachers, and this number is increasing. Only two positions are held by retired teachers. Prior to 2013, these two members were appointed by NBSRT. Now, it is open to all retirees, not just NBSRT members.

-Canada is the only G7 Nation without a National Pharmacare Program, and the NBSRT encourages members to contact their MP and determine the status of this very important initiative with the Federal Government. Also, members are encouraged, as NB prepares to host a provincial election this fall, to broach this topic with candidates from all parties to impress upon them the importance of a national pharmacare program, affordable for all Canadians.

-Printed booklets from Johnson Insurance are available, but will not be mailed. Andy will try to have some copies available at the September 4th Breakfast.

## **MARTA**

-Members will now be required to pay for their meal at a catered event (meeting) if they have signed up for the meal but do not attend. This will not apply if adequate notice is given.

-Andy addressed the priority focuses for 2018-2019. They will be Wellness and Membership Growth.

-Andy acknowledged the Wellness Initiative undertaken by MARTA Branch, lead by Lois Gillis and her committee, and he thanked the committee for their fine work.

- Two volunteers are needed. One, to take responsibility for maintaining the MARTA Website now that Grant serves as Vice President; the second, to contribute Branch News to the Reflections Magazine now that Merle has taken on the role of Treasurer.

-Andy thanked the UCW and Rev. Charlene McKnight, of St. Andrew's Church, for preparing the meal, Cil Hickey for

Andy, on behalf of the membership, offered condolences to Grant Hendry whose mother passed last night.

**Grace:** Richard Walsh offered the Grace prior to dinner and adjournment.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, October 23, 2018, location TBA.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Donnie O'Neil made the motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Mike Butler.

**Motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.