

Miramichi Area Retired Teachers Association  
**MARTA Fall General Meeting and Dinner**  
North and South Esk (Sunny Corner) Lions Hall  
Tuesday, October 23, 2018, 10:30 am

**Call to Order/Welcome**

President, Andrew Clark called the meeting to order at 10:36 am. He welcomed the membership, and introduced new member Colleen Hayes.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Richard Walsh motioned for approval of the agenda. It was seconded by Donnie O'Neil.

**Motion carried.**

**Guest Speakers**

Andy introduced the guest speakers, Dale McRae and Terry Matthews, who introduced the new MARTA website. Dale expressed appreciation to Terry for his work designing the "state of the art" site, and he followed with a summary of the site using a video produced by Terry. He thanked people using the website and facebook group. Terry added that the content was there, and links were built, but the real work will be contributing to the platform. Plans are being made for the website to have its own e-mail address to allow for content to be mailed directly to the website.

Andy thanked both men, on behalf of MARTA, for the very professional site. He presented a gift to each man, noting that he had also sent each a personalized card and letter in July.

**Remembrance of Deceased Members**

Andy reminded members that the remembrance of deceased members will now take place annually, rather than semi-annually, at the Spring AGM . He also apologized to Nancy Vessie for the oversight, not extending sympathy to her at the time of her mother's passing.

**Minutes from MARTA Spring AGM, Tuesday, May 15, 2018**

Secretary, Marty Hawkes read the minutes from the Spring AGM. Grant Hendry motioned to accept the minutes as read. The motion was seconded by Laureena Black. **Motion carried.**

**Business arising from the Minutes**

NBSRT

Johnson Insurance booklets (40) were available from Andy. Members may be able to obtain a copy by contacting Johnson's insurance, directly, and making such a request. However, printed quantities exist in limited quantity, and the online version of current content and future addendums/updates, is the planned goal for means of access by members / policy-holders, in the future. It is the individual member's responsibility to attain addendums to the policy booklet, either from the Johnson's website, or by calling Johnsons' Insurance and requesting them.

All Branch Presidents were invited to the NBTA Retirement Luncheon. Andy attended, and had the opportunity to meet retirees from our district. It provides an opportunity to meet with potential new members for MARTA.

## MARTA

Two Committee Chairs are required, effective May 2019, for Reflections Magazine and the MARTA Website.

MARTA'S priority focuses for 2018-2019 are Wellness and Membership growth. Less than 10% of this year's retirees have joined NBSRT Branches. Branch membership is not just social; it can also be a possible voice for retirees. Each branch is requested to help develop a list of potential speakers, in a variety of subject areas, that might be of interest to retirees. Andy provided a sheet where members could note suggestions for possible speakers/topics, and/or add names of people/retirees who might be interested. These will be presented at the NBSRT Membership Committee meeting on November 6, 2018.

### **Correspondence**

A thank-you card was received by MARTA from Janet Creighton, regarding the loss of her mother, Mrs. Dorothy Creighton.

### **Treasurer's Report MARTA -Merle Milson**

Treasurer, Merle Milson, made copies of the report available to the membership. There are three accounts: regular fund, scholarship fund and investment fund.

**NOTE: Statement of Income and Expenditures: May 16, 2018 to October 16, 2018 is attached as the last page of these Minutes.**

The GIC investment matured on October 22, 2018. The balance of \$ [REDACTED] and the earned interest of \$ [REDACTED] were reinvested. The scholarship account was carrying too much money, so \$ [REDACTED] was added to the GIC for a total in the investment fund, as of October 22, 2018, of \$ [REDACTED] for one year @ 2.5%. The regular Scholarship account is now \$ [REDACTED].

MARTA Memorial Scholarship donation forms can be found at all local funeral homes. Merle encouraged members to please consider the MARTA Scholarship Fund when making "donations of one's choice" at funeral homes. He showed an example of the form and reminded that the yellow copy that you receive from the funeral home is not the official tax receipt. The funeral home sends the pink copy to the treasurer, who then sends your tax receipt in the mail.

The deadline for MARTA locally paid dues is today. There are five outstanding, and Merle will contact these members before the end of October.

### **President's Report -Andrew Clark**

Andy reiterated the two main goals of the MARTA Branch which are, membership growth and wellness. He congratulated Lois Gillis, and the Wellness committee, for their fine efforts to date.

**Committee Reports:**  
**Calling Committee -Gena Skidd**

Gena was not in attendance.

**Courtesy -Maria Brown**

Since our last meeting in May, sympathy cards have been sent to the following members:

Nancy Vessie -her mother Kay Hawkes

Effie Kennedy -her husband Fred

Grant Hendry -his mother

Robert McKay -his mother Elmira McKay

Faye Gilks -her brother Sterling

Barbara MacIntosh -her husband Wilson

Cil Hickey -her husband George

Rosamond Ross-Hayter -her husband James

Donnie O'Neil -his brother, Brother Bernard Joseph

Bea Leslie -her sister Velna

**Membership -Wendy Matthews**

Currently there are 258 members of MARTA. The application forms for membership have been revised and are available on the MARTA website. The NBSRT keep a membership database online, which a member of the MARTA Executive can access with a password.

Dale MacRae is the NBSRT Membership Chairperson.

**Newsletter -Bill Rigley**

The MARTA Fall Newsletter was distributed today. It includes Dates to Remember, In Memoriams, for Margaret Ross and Dorothy Creighton, and News from the Wellness Committee.

Bill also shared some Medical Insurance information. If you are attending medical appointments outside the province, you can contact Medicare regarding financial assistance with lodging, and they will give you a contact number.

**Online Media -Rick Hayward**

Rick was not in attendance.

**Reflections -Merle Milson**

The Fall edition of Reflections will be out in November. It will include Branch news with photos, as well as an "In Memoriam" for Dorothy Creighton, and the second half of the article on the history of St. Thomas.

Merle will write the winter and spring editions of Reflections, but will then be stepping down as correspondent for Miramichi after eight years. He will be happy to assist the next correspondent with the transition.

**Social -Cil Hickey**

Games afternoon resumed in October. The next games afternoon will be the second Tuesday of November. There will not be a games afternoon scheduled for December because of the Christmas Potluck Dinner. Cil reported that these afternoons may be cancelled if interest continues to wane.

**Special Projects -Lenore Matheson**

Lenore thanked the members for supporting the 50/50 Draw. The winner of \$127.00 was Debbie Copp.

Members were reminded of the Christmas Potluck Dinner and Party, being held on December 4 at the Nelson Hall. 50% of the proceeds go to the Food Bank and the remaining 50% goes into the MARTA Scholarship Fund. Items for the Food Bank and auction are also requested.

**Wellness -Lois Gillis**

There are currently 11 members on the Wellness Committee, and the committee would like to increase to 15 members this year.

Members met June 6th to review the plan for the bus trip to PEI, July 21 and to work on details for a Wellness Tea.

At the Welcome Back Breakfast, September 4th, Wellness provided a puzzle activity.

The September 19th meeting was the first of a new year and the monthly meetings were scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 11:00am at the Fundy Line meeting room.

The October 17th meeting focused on plans for a fall wellness activity (bowling) and a wellness social/luncheon for April 16th, 2019.

The next Wellness activity will be an afternoon of bowling at Castle Lanes (Dairy Queen) on November 20, from 1-3pm at a cost of \$10 for three games and shoe rental. A sign up sheet was provided.

Chairperson, Lois Gillis, attended provincial wellness meetings in Fredericton, May 29th, and in Saint John on October 11th. The next provincial meeting will be held in Fredericton, November 6th. On June 1st she attended a Be Alive Wellness Network Sharing Day, held in Miramichi.

Some events happening locally are: October 20th Blackville hosts another wellness fair, October 25th, Kevin Hines is speaking at JMH, and Friday mornings, a community sponsored program for people over 55, Use It or Lose It, is available at the Golden Hawk center.

Lois thanked her committee, and extended an invitation to join their monthly meetings. The next meeting will be held October 28th.

## **Subcommittee Report:**

### **Constitutional Alignment -Grant Hendry**

The purpose of this subcommittee is to ensure that the MARTA constitution "meshes" with that of the NBSRT. It entails review of the wording of policies and bylaws, ie. the Provincial Honorary life membership. Also, Wellness is not reflected there yet. A Privacy Policy via website platforms exists, however there is no policy worked into our constitution. It also requires a review of best practices, how we conduct business, in order to establish one document. The goal is to present a notice of motion two weeks prior to the Spring AGM, then vote. All of this will be in place on the MARTA website once the wording is correct, and it has been checked with the Executive at the next meeting.

## **New Business**

### **NBSRT Highlights**

Andy provided some highlights from the Fall Board of Directors meeting, held Tuesday, September 18th, 2018. Printed copies were made available in limited numbers for sharing, and the highlights were also made available on the Members Only section of the MARTA website.

-Members are encouraged to check the provincial NBSRT and National CART websites for their interesting articles on priority issues for an aging population.

-George Daley, President of the NBTA, noted the current trend in declining numbers of male teachers in the profession. In 1985 the split was 55% female and 45% male; if the current trend continues the split will be 80/20 in the near future. He called upon retired teachers to encourage young men they know to consider the profession which requires more, positive, male role models.

-NBSRT total membership April 2018 is 2701: September 2018 is 2719.

-The NBSRT intends to offer one scholarship and one bursary by 2020. The NBSRT scholarship committee will have a policy developed, to be ratified at the NBSRT Spring AGM, May 8th, 2019. Thanks to Dave Barker who serves on this committee.

-A new Wellness Grant of up to \$600 is available to branches. Application forms are available on the NBSRT website

-The NBSRT Membership Committee is asking for Branches to assist in compiling a list of effective speakers/topics to help entice more non-members to come to an event. A master list will be compiled and sent to each branch.

-The NBSRT Online Media Committee requests photos from branch events to post on their website.

-The 2018 NBSRT Election Report: John Wetmore in his report on last spring's election, noted that the MARTA Branch had the highest percentage of members who voted.  
MARTA

Re: Condolences -Andy reminded members to please advise Maria Brown, Cil Hickey or the Executive, and to please consider that individual loss may involve more than one member of MARTA.

Before the final items on the agenda, Andy acknowledged the kitchen staff at the Lions Hall, thanking them for preparing the meal. He also thanked Gena Skidd and Cill Hickey and their committees for their part in preparations for this meeting.

### **Other**

Laureena Black asked to address the membership regarding the differential between the cost of living increase on our pension vs the increase in payments to Johnson Insurance, notably for those who are single. She noted that in four years her pension increased by \$13.08/month, and Johnson Insurance premiums increased by \$58.11/month. Discussion followed. Wendy Matthews pointed out that the Group Insurance trustees set the prices, not Johnson's, hence the need to press for more representation of retirees on that committee. Grant Hendry added that only 20% of the committee are retired teachers. Dale MacRae stated that this was another argument for increasing our membership, to have a voice.

Merle Milson received an e-mail from Faye (Campbell) Johnson regarding the **50th Reunion of the 1969 Teachers' College Class**. It will be held in Fredericton on June 8th, 2019. If you are not on the contact list, please send your e-mail to: [tom.faye@bellaliant.net](mailto:tom.faye@bellaliant.net) or check out the Facebook page: New Brunswick Teachers College Grads, Class 1969.

Helen Jones reminded the membership that the Retired Teachers Citrus Group have oranges for sale. The pickup will be at JMH this year. The funds are used to help schools, and graduates who cannot afford the costs of graduation. It also gives bursaries in memory of deceased teachers.

**Next Meeting** Tuesday, May 29, 2019, 10:30 am. Location TBA

**Motion to Adjourn** Bill Rigley made the motion to adjourn, and Grant Hendry seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:04pm.

**Grace** Fred Holmes offered the grace before the meal.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marty Hawkes, Secretary

## Miramichi Area Retired Teachers Association

Statement of Income and Expenditures from May 16, 2018 to October 16, 2018

### 1. REGULAR FUND

(A) Balance forward on May 16, 2018

#### INCOME

Social Events

Membership dues

Scholarship

Miscellaneous

(B) Total Income

#### EXPENSES

Social Events

Operating Expenses

Scholarship

NBSRT dues

Bursary

Miscellaneous

(C) Total Expenses

1. Balance in Account (A+B-C)

### 2. SCHOLARSHIP FUND

(D) Balance forward on May 16, 2018

#### INCOME

Memorials

Bank Interest

GIC Interest

Donations

Fundraisers

(E) Total Income

#### EXPENSES

Scholarship to School

Transfer Investments (Bursaries)

(F) Total Expenses

2. Balance in Account (D+E-F)

3. Petty Cash as of October 16, 2018