



RIELITY CHECK

A publication of the Louis Riel Teachers' Association (www.lrta.ca)

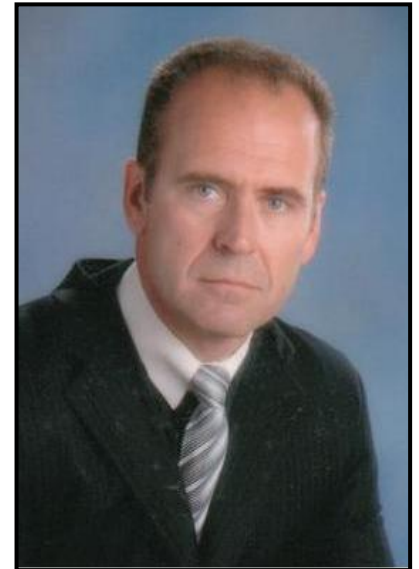
EDITOR: SEAN FITZMAURICE

MARCH 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President – Frank Restall

LRTA Annual General Assembly Wednesday, April 17th



This is the one meeting all members should attend!

The strength of our Association continues to be the active involvement of our membership.

The active involvement of members attending the Annual General Assembly (Wednesday, April 17th) demonstrates the recognition by members of the importance of standing as a collective. Being a collective means to stand with and support your colleagues. As a member, your benefits and working conditions are in existence only because of members willing to stand as a collective and to bargain as a collective. The gains that have been made in the past can be directly attributed to the membership standing and working together.

On a yearly basis, members demonstrate a commitment to the collective by attending the Annual General Assembly. The LRTA AGA is next month on Wednesday, April 17th, 4:30 p.m. at the Louis Riel Arts and Technology Center. Council Reps have received nomination papers for the Executive positions. Nomination forms are also available on the LRTA website. Please consider running for a position.

The AGA is also your chance to vote on any proposed changes to our Constitution, Bylaws and Policies. The LRTA budget for 2013-14 will be presented, debated and voted on as well as the reaffirmation of the Extended Health Plan. These are very important reasons for attending the AGA as your voice and vote will determine the outcomes. The Association requests that each member highlight the AGA on his/her calendar and attend this one meeting on April 17th. Schools/worksites were asked at the beginning of the year to avoid conflicts by not scheduling events on the day of AGA.

The Association exists to serve its members and protect member rights and working conditions. In order to best represent and serve the members, all administrators, clinicians, coordinators and teachers need to attend the AGA. A chain is indeed only as strong as the weakest link! →



...PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued from page 1)

I look forward to seeing you at the Louis Riel Arts and Technology Centre on Wednesday, April 17th at 4:30 PM.

Some of our members have decided that 2012-2013 will be their last year of service. These members have announced their retirement early and will take advantage of the Retirement Allowance which was offered this year. Congratulations upon your decision and we look forward to formally recognizing your contribution to education at the LRTA Retirement Celebration on Wednesday, June 12th, 2013 at the Legacy Centre. The Retirement Committee will soon begin planning for this gala event so be sure to mark the event in your calendars.

The LRTA Social Committee, chaired by Alison Ward, has been meeting and is planning a social evening for members on Thursday, April 18th at the St. Boniface Golf and Country Club. The theme of the evening is "Bring Your 'A' Game"! Look for further details on the poster and in the upcoming weeks for an evening that is certain to be filled with fun and fellowship!

The LRTA Resolutions Committee, chaired by James Bedford, has proposed two bylaw resolutions for debate at the Annual General Meeting of the Manitoba Teachers' Society in May 2013. The Committee's proposals have been presented to Council for ratification and the bylaw resolutions have been forwarded to MTS to be included in the AGM binder and debated on the floor of the Provincial Council.

For all members and the Association itself, this is indeed a very busy time. Striving for personal and professional balance in your lives is a necessity.

Remember, take care of yourself and take care of each other!



Frank Restall

President, Louis Riel Teachers' Association



**Change of Date for
Maternity Leave Seminar**

Date: Tuesday, April 30
Time: 4:30 pm
Location: Vic Wyatt House
919 St. Anne's Road

Register with the LRTA office



Call for Nominations for the 2013-2014 LRTA Executive

The Nominations Chair is calling for nominations to the Louis Riel Teachers' Association Executive for 2013-2014. Nominations will be accepted beginning March 1, 2013. Nomination papers must be accompanied by the signatures of two members and forwarded to Barry Wittevrongel at the LRTA Office at École Varennes.

What is the LRTA?

The Louis Riel Teachers' Association represents all administrators, clinicians, coordinators, substitutes and teachers of the Louis Riel School Division. The LRTA actively supports the well-being of its members through various committees such as Collective Bargaining, Professional Development, Social and Public Relations. In addition, the LRTA provides assistance and guidance to individual members upon request.

Who can be an Executive member?

Any member who indicates their willingness to run for election to the Executive (when the call for nominations goes out) can be elected. Candidates may be asked to speak at the Annual General Assembly on April 17th where the election takes place. The Executive for 2013-2014 assumes office on August 1, 2013.

What will I do if elected?

All Executive members attend monthly Executive and Council meetings. A one day planning workshop is held in October. All Executive members must familiarize themselves with current issues and be willing to serve on committees.

What is the time commitment for an Executive member?

The Executive and Council meetings last from one to two hours and supper is served. Committees meet according to their mandate and therefore the number of meetings varies from committee to committee. Some Executive positions require less of a time commitment than others and may be ideal entry points.

Will I find the experience rewarding?

You will find the experience to be very rewarding! Rewards are both extrinsic and intrinsic. Members of the Executive are reimbursed for dependent care, and the opportunities for Professional Development and networking are many. Also members of the Executive play a pivotal role in achieving improved working conditions for their colleagues and gain an insider's view of the political arena. Executive members know they have helped all of their colleagues by serving their Professional Association.

And there is more!

You will get to work with a group of dedicated, supportive and industrious leaders who will also become trusted friends.





It is time to commence the building of the LRTA 2013 - 2014 Executive. All positions are one year terms so every position is vacant. Elections will take place at the AGA on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at The Louis Riel Arts and Technology Centre (5 de bourmont ave).

The Table Officer positions are:

**PRESIDENT,
VICE PRESIDENT – COLLECTIVE BARGAINING,
VICE PRESIDENT – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, and
SECRETARY-TREASURER**

The Committee Chair positions are:

**ÉDUCATRICES ET ÉDUCATEURS FRANCOPHONES DU MANITOBA
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
PUBLIC RELATIONS SOCIAL
MEMBER AT LARGE (3) LRASA REPRESENTATIVE**

Nominations will be accepted until Wednesday, March 20, 2013, 12:00 noon. Nomination forms are available through your Council Rep or the LRTA website and once completed, forms are to be sent to Barry Wittevrongel – LRTA Office - 929 5780 (fax)

Here are the procedures for the election:

- Candidates will be entitled to the following:
 - an election statement (one 8 1/2 X 11 sheet)
 - translation of the election statement
 - distribution of the election statement
- The expenses for the above will be borne by the Association.
- Materials to be distributed **must** be submitted to the Chair of the Nomination Committee, Barry Wittevrongel, by noon (12:00 p.m.), Wednesday, March 20, 2013. **It is highly recommended that you send in your election statement as early as possible to facilitate translation and printing.** Materials arriving after March 20, 2013 will be translated and copied if time allows.
- No other campaign materials are allowed.
- **No campaign materials may be distributed at the Annual General Assembly.**

A written report on nominations will be distributed to each school in the Association by April 3.

Don't forget to check out our newly redesigned website at...

www.lrta.ca



Project Ghana - Bokorvikofe

In July of 2010 Deb Barry went to Ghana with Project Overseas through the Canadian Teachers' Federation. During this visit she was able to purchase school supplies for three needy schools through donations from the LRTA and the LRSD School Board. But after visiting the areas and seeing the lack of decent buildings for young children in Ghana a plan was formed.

During the school year of 2010-2011 a project began at Hastings School to raise enough money to build a Kindergarten (Early Childhood Development) School in the village of Bokorvikofe, Ghana, West Africa. The staff and students participated in various fundraising activities and were eventually able to raise \$5300.00. The LRTA graciously offered to support the project by donating \$1200.00, making the total amount raised to \$6500.00.

As it turned out this was not enough after all so the project joined forces with a Rotary Club in Ottawa to help ensure that there would be enough funds. In July of 2011, Deb Barry went back to Ghana, again with CTF. While there she was able to visit the village of Bokorvikofe and participate in a ground-breaking ceremony for where the new school would be built.

Work began on the school in March of 2012, with the villagers doing most of the labor. A budget had been drawn up and was watched over carefully in order to ensure that every penny of the money raised went into the school.

On February 26th, 2013 the school was officially opened and a plaque was revealed. Pictures of the event can be seen at <http://www.ghanateachers.org/>. A video of the Ribbon cutting and unveiling of the plaque are at http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=se0JCC6_cVs.

Congratulations and thank you to all the people and Organizations who were involved in making this dream a reality!



This was the school that the younger children attended.



This is the new Early Childhood Education Centre in Bokorvikofe.



This is the plaque that has been placed on the building.



IMPORTANT PPDF INFORMATION

Professional Development – Bob Gaudes

In preparation for an out-of-town PD event it is strongly advised that you read the information noted below prior to travelling. These documents identify important funding exceptions to PPDF, explain its reimbursement process, and help you make the most of this invaluable resource.

Start by reviewing the “Expenditure Criteria” section of the **PPDF Guidelines** (Section V: page 6-7) to ascertain what expenses are, and are not, reimbursable (and, if reimbursable, to what amount). There is also important information pertaining to car rentals, baggage charges, and other additional costs, detailed in the “**Out-of-Town Reimbursement Form.**” This form also explains how to submit your receipts correctly – especially in shared cost situations.

Also, before submitting your receipts for reimbursement you must first complete a “**PD Report Form.**” This is done by going online to the LRSD staff page “Helpful Links,” selecting the “PPDF” link, and clicking on “My Applications.” Under the heading “Attended Events” you will find a “PD Report Form” link for every PD event you’ve attended. Note that this link will not open before the end date on your PPDF application has passed.

Finally, retain copies of the documentation you send to the board office. Your original documentation is addressed to the “PPDF Secretary” and can be sent via the pony. This must be received by the board office within twenty days of the end date on your PPDF application. Please review the “Funding Reimbursement” section of the **PPDF Guidelines** (Section III: B: page 5) to ensure a timely reimbursement of your travel expenses.

Please note that before submitting a PPDF application a teacher is required to have a conversation with one’s administration notifying him/her of his/her intent to attend a PD event. The act of notification is a professional courtesy and does not imply that permission is being sought to attend. All members must respect both the spirit and intent of the PPDF Guidelines.

APPLICATIONS FOR PPDF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Vice President of Professional Development is now accepting the names of LRTA members who would like to be considered for a position on the PPDF Committee. More information is available on the candidate form now located under PD at www.lrta.ca. This year’s application deadline is Friday, April 5, 2013.

It is the mandate of the PPDF Committee to allocate PPDF funds. Committee members are required to process applications daily online throughout the school year. All committee positions are for two year terms unless you are filling in for a committee member on leave.



***Victor and Marie Wyatt Bursary Application
for courses taken between January 2012-December 2012
by Robert Gaudes VP Professional Development***

The Victor and Marie Wyatt Bursary Committee is accepting applications for bursaries from teachers and administrators to pursue studies related to public school education.

The Bursary is available to:

Educators who are *currently* employed in the Louis Riel School Division,
Educators who are *currently* on leave from the Louis Riel School Division.
And Educators who have requested a leave from the Louis Riel School Division for educational purposes and who will be *returning to the division*.

Bursary Criteria:

- Tuition at registered universities or colleges (not including such things as parking, dental or medical insurance, or cost of books and supplies) will be considered.
- Payment is made directly to the individual,
 - After completion of the course(s), and only
 - After funding is approved by the Bursary Committee upon submission of all required information.
 - Bursary applications will not be accepted in two consecutive years. (e.g. 2012 applicants may apply again in 2014)
 - Maximum eligible tuition: \$1500.00

Applications must include:

- Proof of course completion – Academic Transcript
- Proof that the course(s) fee(s) have been paid – T2202A Certificate

Application form can be found at www.lrta.ca under 'Bursaries'.

Deadline for submission: Friday, April 26, 2013.

Send completed form and all information to:

Louis Riel Teachers' Association
Attn. Vice President of Professional Development
L.R.T.A. Office, 22 Varennes Ave
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2M 0N1

Process:

- Applicants will receive their letter of confirmation from the Bursary Committee. It will indicate the amount of bursary awarded by the committee.
- A copy of the confirmation letter is sent to the Winnipeg Foundation.
- A cheque from the Winnipeg Foundation will be mailed directly to the recipient.
- In February, each applicant will be issued a tax receipt from the Winnipeg Foundation



**LOUIS RIEL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
SOCIAL!**

April 18th, 2013

St. Boniface Country Club

7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

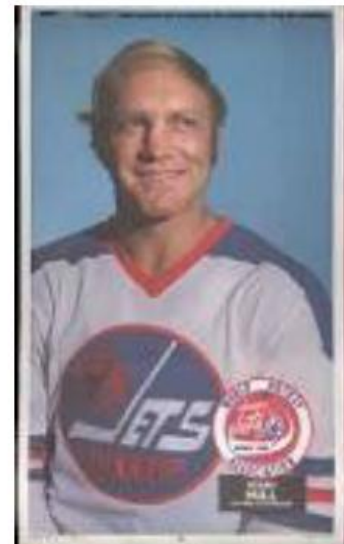
Cash Bar, DJ,

Snacks and Prizes!

**BRING YOUR
"A" GAME!**



See Your LRTA Rep.
for Tickets!
\$5 each



All Staff Welcome!

**WEAR YOUR
SPORTS GEAR AND
SHOW OFF YOUR
SKILLS!**