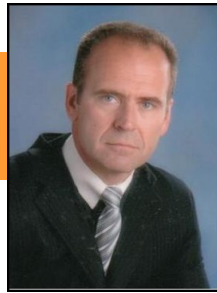


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PUBLICATION OF THE LOUIS RIEL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION ([www.lrta.ca](http://www.lrta.ca))

APRIL/MAY 2017



The Louis Riel Teachers' Association Annual General Assembly (AGA) was held on Wednesday April 19<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all members who took time from their busy schedules to attend the assembly and participate in the business of our Association. This important meeting of the Association was completed in about an hour thereby providing ample time for fellowship and food. The Association Executive has been set for next year and the Association is very appreciative of the efforts of so many in working together to ensure the success of the meeting. A report of the 2017 AGA appears later in this newsletter. Mark your calendars...the 2018 LRTA AGA is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018! Please save the date!

A very successful social occasion that just passed was the LRTA Appreciation Dinner on April 27<sup>th</sup>. The Appreciation Dinner permits the Association to honour and pay tribute to LRTA members, MTS Staff and others who give of themselves for the betterment of the collective. Thank you to Lorrie Restall, Marcela Cabezas, and everyone who contributed to this special evening.

In the month of May, and on the heels of our own AGA is the 98<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Manitoba Teachers' Society Provincial Council. The meeting will take place Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at the Fairmont Hotel. Twenty-two delegates and two alternates of the Louis Riel Teachers' Association will join delegates from other Associations from around the province in shaping the future direction of the Society. Resolutions have been tabled for debate, the budget that determines your MTS fees for 2017 - 2018 will be passed and elections to the Provincial Executive will take place.

The twenty-five LRTA representatives elected by LRTA members to attend the MTS AGM and work on your behalf include:

Brittany Barber  
Marilyn Carter  
Kate Hallett  
Erin Litchfield  
Bernard Mazerolle  
Renee Peloquin  
Vikki Ross  
Alison Ward  
Frank Restall

Michelle Bisonette  
Jaclyn Condon  
Maewe Hawash  
Fiona Livingstone  
Jay McGurran  
Jaclynn Richard  
Charmaine Rudnicki  
Scott Wood

Marcela Cabezas  
Lesley Girling  
Chantal Chittock  
Tina Loewen  
Sean Oliver  
Kris Robinson  
Cynthia Taylor  
Alice Young

Have you marked the LRTA Retirement Reception at the Legacy Center on June 14<sup>th</sup> in your calendars? Come out and say 'good-bye' to colleagues who are retiring from our profession. The LRTA Retirement Reception is always a wonderful social opportunity for members to wish the retirees well and to touch base with other colleagues before the start of summer.

In less than two months, this school year will draw to a close. The year-end places many demands upon members and that time is soon approaching. Given the busy nature of this time, it is appropriate to remind all members of the Code of Professional Practice. Please remember that any concerns about a member's professional practice must be directed first to that member in private.

As the end of year becomes busier, please remember that if an individual in the school community has a concern about his/her young person in a LRTA member's class or a concern about a LRTA member, that community individual should be referred to contact the member directly as a first step. Only after contact with the teacher is made and only if the concern is not satisfactorily resolved, the individual may then speak with the Principal or Vice-principal of the school as the next step. This next step is supposed to occur only after the individual informs the teacher that s/he intends to do so.

The 2017-2018 Association calendar is complete and is contained in this issue. The Association is asking that no school activities be scheduled on Council meeting days – or on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 (New Member Celebration), Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (AGA), Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (LRTA Appreciation Dinner) and Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (LRTA Retirement Reception).

**Strive to maintain balance in your lives, and now, more than ever, take care of yourself and take care of each other!**

# Balance—MTS Initiative

<https://www.mbteach.org/balance/index.html>



<b>Fitness</b>	<b>Leadership &amp; Development</b>	<b>Wellness Forum</b>	<b>Vocal Hygiene</b>
<b>Professional Organizing</b>	<b>Financial Literacy</b>	<b>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction</b>	<b>Nutrition</b>
<b>Massage Therapy</b>	<b>Smoothie Desk-Side Delivery</b>	<b><u>Dry Cleaning Delivery Service</u></b>	<b>Resources</b>

## Why did MTS decide to develop Balance?

The commitment to education takes a lot of energy and with that need for energy there is a need to ensure our members have access to the resources they need to take care of themselves. Through MTS Balance we want to help to provide resources and education to assist our members find their path to healthy living.

## How far in advance do you have to book programming?

Ideally we request 8 weeks' notice for arranging wellness events; To ensure the most options you can book programming up to one year in advance. We highly recommend as much notice as possible for major events. That being said, if you have the opportunity and a time slot to incorporate wellness into a program, don't hesitate to call. If there is something we can do to help we will.

## Pride Rally and Parade

June 4, 2017— Legislative Building / Memorial Park

Pride Rally will begin at 10:00 am at the Legislative Building.

Pride Parade will begin at 11:00 am starting at Memorial Park.

Both events are free.

Join your colleagues and students and represent as a PROUD MANITOBA TEACHER!



## IN THIS ISSUE

- |  |                              |                                      |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • P.1 President's Message                    | P.2 Balance Information      | P.2 Pride Rally and Parade           |
| • P.3 AGA Highlights                         | P.4 Spread the Word—PD       | P.4 Taking the time for PD—Article   |
| • P.5 The Weakest Link—Collective Bargaining | P.6 Draft Calendar 2017-2018 | P.6 Calendar and Contact Information |

# Annual General Assembly Highlights

The Louis Riel Teachers' Association AGA was held April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The 2017-2018 LRTA Executive will be comprised of:

**President – Frank Restall**

**VP Collective Bargaining – Scott Wood**

**VP Professional Development – Marcela Cabezas**

**Secretary-Treasurer – Becky Litchfield**

**Employee Benefits – Jaclyn Condon**

**Equity and Social Justice – Jaclyn Richard**

**Public Relations – Cynthia Taylor**

**ÉFM – VACANT**

**Social – Marilyn Carter**

**Members-at-Large: Jay McGurran**

**Sean Oliver**

**Charmaine Rudnicki**

**LRASA – Alice Young**

**Resolutions/ Nominations – Alison Ward**

**LRTA Office**

**Glenlawn Collegiate**

**Collège Jeanne-Sauvé**

**Nordale School**

**Hastings School**

**École Henri-Bergeron**

**Glenlawn Collegiate**

**Frontenac School**

**Frontenac School**

**Glenlawn Collegiate**

**Shamrock School**

**Marion School**

**Frontenac School**

**Your LRTA fees for 2017-2018 will be \$206.** Fees are deducted from your October and November pay cheques.

**Bylaw and Policy Additions;** the establishment of a Professional Development Fund for the offices of the President, Vice President (Collective Bargaining), and Vice President (Professional Development) of the LRTA.

Thank you to Lorrie Restall and Lisa Croft, AGA recording secretaries, and to scrutineers Derek Acorn, Shannon Burns, Kate Hallett, Claude Mousseau, Kris Robinson, Annette Topping and Elsie Yip. Also, thank you to Warren Hart for setting up the sound system (crystal clear!) and to Scott Wood and Marcela Cabezas for ensuring an effective screen presentation.

And finally, most importantly, thank you to all of the LRTA members who came out to the AGA to take care of LRTA business! As an Association is only as strong as its membership, your participation and support is greatly appreciated!

**Reminder! Next year's LRTA AGA – Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

# Spread the Word

Professional Development—Marcela Cabezas

The PPDF online report forms provide members with a list of ways through which they can share their learning experiences with colleagues. One such option is to write a piece for the Rielity Check to help spread the word about the benefits of attending a specific event. Articles can be 100-500 words in length and should be sent to [pdlrta@shaw.ca](mailto:pdlrta@shaw.ca) for consideration.

Thank you to Chantal Chittock, a teacher at Collège Jeanne-Sauvé, for submitting an article regarding her experience at the National Science Teachers' Association Conference.

## ***Taking the Time for PD***

***Chantal Chittock – Teacher, Collège Jeanne-Sauvé***

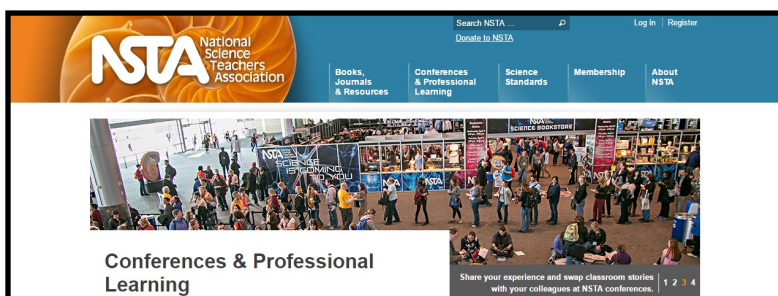
On my way to the National Science Teachers' Association Conference in Los Angeles, I started to reflect on the importance of professional development. During the day to day hustle and bustle, we sometimes feel like there is no time for PD or feel like there are other more pressing matters that need attending. Despite often feeling like our schedule is too busy or hectic, I think it's important to remind ourselves that PD has multiple benefits and is important, not only for our sake, but also for our students. Below are some of those benefits:

Firstly, large conferences, such as the one that I attended, often have exhibits with all of the latest lab equipment, technology, and pedagogical material to allow us to deepen our understanding of our subjects or to find new teaching strategies. Although not all of the content was relevant to the Canadian curricula, it was interesting to see what was being done in the United States. It also gives us a chance to dream about the possibilities of what we may want to incorporate in our classes.

The variety of sessions that were offered during this conference were endless and if any science teacher, regardless of grade level, has the opportunity to attend the National Science Teachers Association Conference, I highly recommend doing so. Some of the sessions demonstrated how to use some of the lab equipment and allowed teachers to do certain labs while other sessions were about differentiating instruction and finding ways to keep students engaged. Regardless of the session's theme or topic, the ability to network with teachers from Canada as well as from elsewhere were endless and I was able to get lots of new ideas, apps and lessons plans.

During the evenings, it was nice to recap with a colleague on this trip to see what kind of activities, labs, and teaching strategies she had seen while attending the conference. The days were long and filled with information, so the chance to go over the main points that would be most helpful to our particular situation was helpful. We also had the chance to bounce ideas off one another on how to better our practices, to discuss where our science department was headed and what long term goals we had to improve our programming.

Overall, the experience was enriching and fulfilling and although we spent most of our spring break in sessions with early mornings and full schedules, we both came out feeling energized, ready to implement our new knowledge, and to share our experiences.



# Only as Strong as the Weakest Link

Collective Bargaining—Bernard Mazerolle

The benefits and working conditions guaranteed by the Collective Agreement are the result of many years of hard work and sacrifice by fellow teachers. Every article contained within the Agreement had to be bargained for in the collective interests of the teachers of the Association. As a teacher, your benefits and working conditions are in existence only because of teachers willing to stand as a collective and to bargain as a collective.

One does not have to go very far into the past to find a time when teacher agreements contained little. When teachers began to bargain collectively in order to improve working conditions, great strides were made in terms of securing improvements and benefits. The result of the many years of bargaining collectively is the Agreement under which we currently work.

While it is not necessary for many teachers to be familiar with the history and evolution of the bargaining agreement, what must be understood by all teachers is the importance of being a collective. Being a collective means to be engaged in a “cooperative enterprise” and to stand with and support your colleagues. The gains that have been made in the past can be directly attributed to the membership standing together.

What makes the concept of a collective truly admirable is the fact that members put the concerns of the collective ahead of their own personal situations. Even though an article in the Agreement may not apply to a member (at that particular time or circumstance), the member is part of the collective and therefore stands by the Agreement. Even though a member may believe that ignoring an article might be convenient, the member adheres to the Agreement knowing that the interests of the collective far outweigh personal convenience. Individual members cannot “cherry pick” articles in the Agreement that they like and ignore other articles for, by doing so, a teacher is undermining the entire membership. A chain is indeed only as strong as the weakest link!

On a day to day basis, teachers can demonstrate commitment to the collective by ensuring that the articles of the Collective Agreement are honoured. Teacher rights and working conditions must be protected and it is the responsibility of every member to safeguard these rights and conditions!

The ramifications of ignoring articles in the collective agreement are dire! If teachers ignore a negotiated benefit it may establish a precedent that could eventually undermine the benefit. At every opportunity, members must demonstrate a commitment to their colleagues by honouring the collective and the collective agreement.





# Draft Calendar 2017-2018



## LRTA Calendar 2017 – 2018

### September

Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> Opening Day  
 Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> LRTA Executive Meeting  
 Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> LRTA Council Meeting

### October

Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> LRTA New Member Celebration  
 Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> LRTA Executive Retreat  
 Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> LRTA Council Meeting  
 Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> MTS PD Day  
 Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> Maternity/Parental Leave Seminar

### November

Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> LRTA Executive Meeting  
 Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> Early Mid-Career Pension Seminar  
 Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> LRTA Council Meeting

### December

Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> LRTA Executive Meeting  
 Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> LRTA Council Meeting  
 Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> through Friday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> Winter Break

### January

Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> LRTA Executive Meeting  
 Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> LRTA Council Meeting

### February

Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> LRTA Executive Meeting  
 Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> Pre-Retirement Seminar – ATC  
 Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> LRTA Council Meeting

### March

Monday, Feb 26<sup>th</sup> through Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> Operation Donation  
 Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> LRTA Executive Meeting  
 Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> LRTA Council Meeting  
 Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> through Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> Spring Break

### April

Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> LRTA Executive Meeting  
 Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> LRTA Council Meeting  
 Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> Maternity/Parental Leave Seminar  
 Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> LRTA Annual General Assembly – ATC  
 Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> LRTA Appreciation Dinner

### May

Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> LRTA Executive Meeting  
 Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> LRTA AGM Binder Meeting  
 Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> LRTA Council Meeting  
 Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> through Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> MTS AGM

### June

Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> LRTA Executive Meeting  
 Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> LRTA Retirement Reception  
 Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> LRTA Council Meeting

*April 18, 2017. Subject to change.*

## Reminder:

If you have recently changed your name, please contact the LRTA office at (204)929-5782 or [seclrta@shaw.ca](mailto:seclrta@shaw.ca) and have your file updated.

## Calendar of Events

### MAY

Wednesday May 3 LRTA Executive Meeting  
 Wednesday May 10 LRTA Binder Meeting  
 Wednesday May 17 LRTA Council Meeting

Wed May 24—Sat May 27 MTS AGM

### JUNE

Wednesday June 7 LRTA Executive Meeting  
 Wednesday June 14 LRTA Retirement Reception  
 Wednesday June 21 LRTA Council Meeting



@preslrta

## Contact Us

LRTA office  
 204- 929-5782

President  
 Frank Restall  
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Professional Development  
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All matters will be dealt with  
 in confidence.

Manitoba Teachers' Society  
 Can request Staff Officer assistance  
 204-888-7961