

*RTO ERO*  
*ETOBICOKE DISTRICT 22*  
*AGM*  
*Celebrates CANADA'S*  
*150th*







**RTO / ERO**

**THE RETIRED TEACHERS OF ONTARIO**

**District 22 Etobicoke – York**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**CROWNE PLAZA, Toronto Airport**

**Tuesday June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**10:00 a.m.**

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**RTO / ERO DISTRICT 22**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Tuesday June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 10:00 a.m.**  
**CROWNE PLAZA, Toronto Airport**

**AGENDA**

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| <b>1. Welcome</b>   | <b>Claudia Mang</b>    |
| <b>2. In Memoriam</b>   | <b>Sheila Tait</b>     |
| <b>3. Approval of the Agenda</b>                                    | <b>Claudia Mang</b>    |
| <b>4. Introduction of the Executive</b>                             | <b>Claudia Mang</b>    |
| <b>5. Provincial RTO/ERO Greetings, Past President Martin Higgs</b> | <b>Joel Nasimok</b>    |
| <b>6. Minutes of the AGM June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016</b>              | <b>Mary Jean Ricci</b> |
| <b>7. President's Report</b>  | <b>Claudia Mang</b>    |
| <b>8. Report on Governance</b>                                      | <b>Karl Sprogis</b>    |
| <b>9. Nomination Committee Report</b>                               | <b>Sheila Tait</b>     |
| <b>10. Treasurer's Report</b>                                       | <b>Rose Ramundi</b>    |
| <b>11. Keynote Speaker Lori MacDonald-Blundon</b>                   | <b>Claudia Mang</b>    |
| <b>12. EXECUTIVE REPORTS</b>  | <b>Claudia Mang</b>    |
| <b>13. Outstanding Community Service Awards</b>                     | <b>Sharon Kular</b>    |
| <b>14. Elections</b>  | <b>Sheila Tait</b>     |
| <b>15. Executive Service Awards</b>                                 | <b>Claudia Mang</b>    |

**ADJOURNMENT**



## **PAST PRESIDENTS DISTRICT 22**

Hugh Barrett	1973-1974
Ralph Russell	1974-1975
Art Irwin	1975-1976
John W. Scott	1976-1978
Jack Luke	1978-1979
C.R. Pearson	1979-1980
E. H. Tyers	1980-1981
Jack Griffiths	1981-1982
T. Jarvis	1982-1983
Jack Davy	1983-1984
Ralph Atkinson	1984-1985
Fred Hall	1985-1986
Ken Thom	1986-1987
Walter Wild	1987-1988
Jim Willson	1988-1989
Mary Macdonald	1989-1990
Jim Hughes	1990-1991
Rita Dupuis	1991-1993
John McPhee	1993-1994
Donal Fraser	1994-1995
James Kirk	1995-1997
Donald Routley	1997-1999
Herb Cooney	1999-2002
David Pautz	2001
Brenda Miller	2002-2004
Irwin Kelly	2004-2006
Gary Vipond	2006-2008
Silvio Sauro	2008-2010
Bonnie Hamilton	2010-2012
Gary Parkinson	2012-2014
Sheila Tait	2014-2016

**RTO / ERO**

**District 22 Annual General Meeting**

**Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**In Memoriam**

*Gwen Acker*

*Gordon A. Bartley*

*Barbara Bruce*

*Frank L.B. Burnett*

*Catherine Clark*

*Edwin Cunningham*

*Christian Dehn*

*Cecil De Jager*

*Virginia Del Pozo*

*Corinne Deverell*

*Joseph Peter Di Pietro*

*Jerome Forhan*

*Octavio Gallardo*

*David Gregory*

*Evelyn Hamilton*

*John Helferty*

*Barbara Hovsepian*

*Isabel Johnson*

*Asdghig Kashkarian*

*Richard Kelly*

*Genevieve Kennedy*

*Dorothy Killin*

*Frank Knaggs*

*K. Rona Lewis*

*Florence MacDonald*

*Reay MacKay*

*M. Barbara MacLellan*

*Gerald MacTaggart*

*Henry Mazurkiewicz*

*Jean McLarty*

*Joyce Messina*

*Eugene Miller*

*Christine Nowak*

*Ruth Pendlebury*

*Nancy Ross*

*Mildred Rowlinson*

*Thelma Scarf*

*Audrey Scott*

*W. Donald Scott*

*Mary Shack*

*Herbert Tilson*

*Margo Watt*

*Max Weiss*

*Robert White*

*Mary Wilson*



## **RTO DISTRICT 22**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.**

**CROWNE PLAZA, Toronto Airport**

#### **MINUTES**

**1. Welcome:**

Sheila Tait welcomed all to District 22's Annual General Meeting. Visiting guests were introduced: Jim Grieve (Executive Director of RTO-ERO), June Szeman (Provincial Liaison), Betty Lou Reynolds (Toronto District), Courtney Doldron (North York), and Bill Sparks (Scarborough and East York).

- 2. In Memoriam:** President Sheila Tait paid tribute to those members who died in the past year whose names are listed in the program. All the names on the Honour Roll displayed at the entrance to the hall, are the gifted calligraphy of Carol Howe. Thank you, Carol for helping for so many years, as we honour the memory of these members. We will remember the joys we shared and the contributions made to a legacy.

- 3. Approval of the Agenda:** Sheila Tait requested a motion of approval.

**It was moved by Alice Casselman and seconded by Monique Mili that the Agenda be approved. CARRIED**

**4. Provincial RTO/ERO Greetings:**

Karl Sprogis introduced June Szeman, Past President of RTO-ERO and presently Provincial Liaison. Ms. Szeman shared greetings from the Head Office and expressed thanks to District 22 Executive for the work over the years, especially the yeoman's work of Sheila Tait as a member of the Executive for many years. She also congratulated Jim Grieve on his contribution to RTO-ERO as Executive Director for the past year. The membership at over 73,000 members is increasing across the province and there are 52 members who have hit the milestone of 100 years of age! Ms. Szeman extended an open invitation for all to visit the offices on Spadina and added that since being purchased in the mid-90's, our real estate investment has been substantial.

She gave updates on Governance issues and the work being done to rewrite the Constitution, Governance model and Executive responsibilities. Also March 14, 2018 is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of RTO-ERO and celebration planning is underway. Lastly, HSIC is actively monitoring our health plan.

A healthy membership representing all parts of the education community means a successful RTO-ERO. All who work in the educational system need to learn about us and what we have to offer, from an excellent medical plan to a single voice for retirees.

5. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015:** Janet Thacker requested a motion of approval.

**It was moved by Sue Stephenson and seconded by Claudia Mang that the Minutes be approved as amended. CARRIED**

6. **President's Report:**

Sheila Tait thanked the Executive for their hard work during her tenure on District 22's Executive, and for supporting her as President. She asked the membership to continue their active support of our organization and connect as often as possible with the provincial website and the District 22 website, which Joel Nasimok does such a good job of maintaining and updating. Another way to support all seniors is to give to the Foundation, and spread the good word. Please review the President's Report in the package.

Ms. Tait acknowledged the work of three Executive who are retiring from our committee this June. All have worked tirelessly in various capacities for many years. Both Gary Parkinson and Bonnie Hamilton have served in so many ways and as Table Officers, taking on the role of President and following that, Past President. Thank you doesn't seem to say enough to these tireless leaders. Helen Gill, whose portfolio for the past three years has been the Newsletter, is retiring from that role. We appreciate all the work that goes into keeping our membership entertained and informed. Thank you all!

7. **Nomination Committee Report: Gary Parkinson, Past President, reported the following nominations for Executive positions were proposed for 2016 - 2017:**

President:	Claudia Mang	Past President:	Sheila Tait
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	Karl Sprogis	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	Janet Thacker
Secretary:	Mary Jean Ricci	Treasurer:	Harold Royle
Awards:	Sharon Kular		
Goodwill:	Maryanne Chard	Health/Insurance:	Anne McIlroy
Newsletter:	Bill McIlroy	Social:	Judy Paton
Political Advocacy:	Art Witham	Constitution:	Janet Thacker
Membership/Tel.:	Lynn Farquharson	Travel:	Pamela Guy
Communication/Webmaster:		Joel Nasimok	
Membership/Recruitment:		Adele Pick	
Pension/Retirement Concerns:		Janis McCaskill	
Members at Large:	Marilyn Jones	Rose Ramundi	Gabrielle Benedek



Anyone wishing to serve requires a nominator and a seconder and notice will be taken from the floor prior to elections later in the meeting. Gary Parkinson suggested that there are many ways for others to become involved with the District. Put forward your ideas to anyone on the Executive for new clubs, pursuits or events for members of Etobicoke-York.

**8. Treasurer's Report:**

Harold Royle presented the report prepared for January to December 2015 which included the Proposed Budget for 2016.

**It was moved by Harold Royle and seconded by Adele Pick that the Treasurer's Report be approved. CARRIED**

**9. Guest Speaker: Jim Grieve, Executive Director RTO-ERO**

Sheila Tait in introducing Mr. Grieve outlined his many accomplishments before and after retirement from the active education sector. Thus far he can be known as a tweeter, Instagram and Facebook "poster" all in the name of promoting the good works of all of us in the RTO-ERO community.

Jim Grieve outlined his itinerary as he has visited almost every single District in the province and B.C. He believes that the success of RTO-ERO at every level is based on making personal connections. He relayed several stories that focused on the human element which so important in our working lives and that continues into our retired lives. Mr. Grieve spoke to the Mission, Vision and Strategic Plan for our organization and believes that the bottom line is that we must be clear about who we are and where we are going. Our overarching goals should be to improve the lives of seniors, expand the membership base and be a trusted voice for the broader education community. He encouraged all to be informed about The Foundation, an outstanding opportunity to promote our active community work with healthy aging populations. Your donation will go a long way for our specific demographic. He finished with thanking all who are involved in the outreach and engagement of the members whether individual members, executives serving in their districts or the great staff at the Provincial Office.

**10. Executive Reports:**

Sheila Tait suggested that the membership peruse the reports of each portfolio submitted by the Executive. She mentioned that if there were questions, each Committee Chair would be able to entertain individual questions after the meeting and during lunch.

**11. Outstanding Community Service Awards:**

Jane Shaw, a member of the Awards Committee stood in for Sharon Kular (Chair). She thanked the committee members for their work. Joel Nasimok, Anne McIlroy and Don Routley always devote hours in their proposals and decision-making.

This award, available to members of District 22, is designed to recognize members who have devoted much of their time in retirement, and earlier, to volunteer activities. \$1000 each, is awarded to a total of three recipients for the charity of his/her choice.

Margaret Arscott was introduced by Anne McIlroy. Margaret is an active member of Ryde Lake Camp and attends most activities with abundant energy. She is a caring role model for others and upstanding mentor to many involved in the charity work.

Irwin Kelly was introduced by Joel Nasimok. Irwin is very active in his community but most well known for his wonderful work with Sleeping Children Around The World. He is a travel volunteer for this organization, but also rolls up his sleeves to prepare the kits back here in Canada, and speaks to many groups about this organization.

**12. Elections:**

Gary Parkinson called on the members for further nominations from the floor, three times, as specified. There were no further nominations.

**It was moved by Gary Parkinson and seconded by Anne McIlroy that the slate of Executives for District 22 will stand as presented for 2016-2017. CARRIED**

**13. New President's Remarks:**

Claudia Mang thanked her predecessors, Gary Parkinson, Bonnie Hamilton and Sheila Tait for their remarkable leadership. She looks forward to working with a most talented and giving Executive in the coming year. There is lots to be done to continue the good work of this District and that of the whole organization of RTO-ERO. Please support us as we continue to support you, the members.

**14. Introduction of the Executive:**

Claudia Mang introduced the slate of elected Executive for the term of 2016-2017.

**15. Executive Awards and Past President's Pin Presentation:**

Adele Pick called on Maryanne Chard from the Executive to receive her 10 Year Service Award on the Executive of District 22 as Goodwill Chair. Maryanne is tireless in her caring for members needing a quick call, a visit or some comfort. She has been involved in so many of our District initiatives including square dancing, bridge convenor, retirement planning workshops and more recently running the Have A Java Club.

Bonnie Hamilton has served many years as a leader on this Executive and receives her 10 Year Service Award. We all know her as having a keen mind as she led us as Vice President, President and Past President of this District. She can be thanked for so much tireless work in so many endeavours on all of our behalf. Well done Bonnie!

Claudia Mang called on Sheila Tait to receive the Past President's Pin. Sheila is to be thanked for her tireless energy and vision for District 22. We recognize her strong leadership and know that with her continued support as Past President there will be plenty of opportunity to call on her in her supporting role on the Executive. Well Done Sheila!

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

## **President's Report 2016-2017**

This past year has been marked by the proposed changes to the governance structure at the provincial level of RTO-ERO. In the winter edition of our *Renaissance* magazine, all members received an insert about the changes that are anticipated in the way that we are governed. These changes were discussed at the presidents' workshops of April 2016 and March 2017, as well as the Nineteenth Session of Senate in May 2016 and the Twentieth Session of Senate in October 2016. The executive of District 22, Etobicoke and York, attended an information consultation on the proposed changes given by provincial Past President Martin Higgs at our February 7, 2017 meeting. Martin gave a talk about the changes that are projected and the executive was able to ask questions for clarification. We understand that changes are necessary for the protection of the association. At the Twenty-First Session of Senate on May 16-17, 2017, these changes were formally proposed to your representatives, Senators Claudia Mang and Karl Sprogis, observers Sheila Tait and Janet Thacker of D22, and the senators and observers from the other 47 districts of RTO-ERO.

Our Foundation continues to make appropriate endowments to a variety of institutions to continue their medical and social studies of methods to improve the lives of seniors living in Canada. We are beginning to make a name for ourselves as a trusted voice for seniors. Members are encouraged to support the Foundation in their endeavours. Janet Thacker continues to be the D22 liaison with the Foundation.

The Ad Hoc Committee formed by Provincial Executive to oversee the planning of celebratory events and make recommendation to the districts has been hard at work in creating ways to commemorate the milestone. In June 2017, a new logo will be unveiled for RTO-ERO. As the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of RTO-ERO approaches, D22 has struck a committee to plan and implement various celebratory events for our members.

Joel Nasimok, our dedicated webmaster, continues to serve on the Provincial Communications Committee. He is to be commended for his contributions to the provincial committee as well as the work he does for the district in maintaining our webpage and sending out the e-copy of our newsletter and the necessary e-bulletins to those members who have elected to receive them. D22 encourages our members to subscribe to our bulletins as these provide up-to-date information about events we hold.

The Provincial Office sends out updated membership lists monthly. We also receive a demographic profile that we have published in our newsletter. As of May 1, 2017, our current membership stands at 2508.

Five times a year, the presidents and first vice-presidents, or representatives, of the four Toronto RTO-ERO districts, Toronto (D16), Etobicoke & York (D22), North York (D23) and Scarborough-East York (D24) meet to discuss issues that affect our membership and to share what is going on in each of the districts. This group also presides over the Retirement Planning Workshops (RPW's), and participates in the joint recruitment and advertising projects by the four districts. A meeting of the Joint Executives of all four districts is held biannually. This meeting was held on November 8, 2016 and was hosted by D22. The planning committee

included members from the four districts. D22 representatives were Claudia Mang (Chair), Sheila Tait, Joel Nasimok and Marilyn Jones.

D22 has continued to host a series of well-attended seminars for our members. They began with the iPad workshop on photography in July 2016, seminars by Alzheimer's Society and Merit Travel in November 2016 and continued through to seminars on Downsizing, Estate Law and Wills, and the Role of financial Advisors in April 2017. Our seminar by Best Doctors, that had been planned and advertised, was unfortunately postponed, but is being rescheduled for June 2017.

D22 is always looking for new ways for our members to socialize and interact. In this respect we have planned a new event, a To Hell with the Bell luncheon to be held this year on Tuesday September 5, 2017. Our annual breakfast, also has a new venue this year and will be held on Wednesday, October 4, 2017. We hope to make it a celebration for new members and current members. It will be another opportunity for our members to get together with friends, old and new.

Singular recognition must be given to Harold Royle, who has decided to step down as our treasurer after more than eleven years. Harold dedicated much effort in keeping us on the right track when it came to expenditures. His talents will be missed. However our new treasurer, Rose Ramundi brings much aptitude and experience to the role. We also welcomed a new newsletter editor, William McIlroy and a new Secretary. Mary Jean Ricci.

The entire executive of District 22 has been an invaluable asset. Their dedication in attending meetings, writing articles and reports for our newsletter, assisting and planning events must be recognized. My sincere thanks go out to them all.

Over the past year, we have enjoyed countless activities, from our monthly Have-a-Java to our lunch club, square dancing group, trips, and fall and spring luncheons. The support offered by our members is much appreciated and makes the continued success of District 22 a certainty.

As always, "Here for you now...Here for your Future"

Claudia Mang

## **Governance and RTO/ERO Report 2017**

At the time of the writing of this report for the AGM of District 22, Spring Senate had not yet been held. It is at the Spring Senate that discussions about the future structure of governance for RTO/ERO would be held and perhaps resolutions passed that might affect the governance structure going forward. Therefore more information or clarification for what follows may be provided to District 22 members at the June AGM.

Legal advice and advice from experts in the structure of Not-for-profit organizations has been provided to RTO/ERO. The advice is that RTO/ERO should strongly consider significant governance changes. And the advice is that this change needs to happen as soon as possible in order to protect the organization from possible future crises as the result of acts of commission or omission that may negatively impact it and to protect it from liabilities due to some future potential crisis. As a result, a governance committee was established made of district presidents to investigate this issue and make recommendations to Senate about the possible future changes. The governance issue was discussed at the Fall 2016 Senate, more presentations and discussion took place at the Presidents' Workshop in March 2017 and members of the provincial executive have made visits to district executives to further clarify and answer questions about the proposed changes. It is proposed that a vote to proceed with the change in Governance will be held at Fall 2017 Senate and that the change come into effect for 2018.

According to the by-laws of RTO/ERO, the governing body is the Senate. It is made up of about 100 Senators from the various districts. It meets twice a year and votes in the members of the Provincial executive, passes the budget, makes changes to the constitution or by-laws as required, receives reports from the standing committees and passes resolutions affecting the business of the organization. The advice that has been received is that 100 Senators as a governing body is not a good system to be continued.

It is recommended that RTO/ERO apply to come under the Rules and Regulations as established by the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. This requires that the Governing Body be a Board of Directors. It is required that an Annual General Meeting of the organization be held within six months of the end of the Fiscal year. One of the roles of the members attending the annual meeting would be to elect the Board of Directors for the corporation (RTO/ERO). The members at the Annual Meeting (or Senate) would also appoint the auditor, approve the audited financial statements, deal with constitutional and by-law changes, determine fees for membership, and determine the amount of annual grants to Districts.

It is recommended that the Board of Directors consist of 9 members; seven to be elected by the members at the Annual Meeting and two from outside of RTO to meet special needs or required expertise not present in the skill set of the elected directors. There would be term limits for the directors but initially there would be staggered terms so that expertise would be in continued existence as new members were elected each year to the board. It is expected that two new directors would be elected each year. It is recommended that a nominating sub-committee be established to select nominees and create a list to be presented to the membership for election. It is recommended that in order to ensure that directors have the competencies needed to be an effective governing body, that training and professional development would be provided.

Despite the changes summarized above, there should be little or no change to the way that districts conduct their business.

As indicated above, further clarification and answers to members' questions will be provided at the Annual General meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Karl Sprogis

## **Nomination Committee Report 2017**

**The Nominating Committee is putting the following candidates forward for election to the 2017-2018 Executive:**

### **Table Officers:**

President	Claudia Mang
Past President	Sheila Tait
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	Karl Sprogis
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Janet Thacker
Treasurer	Rose Ramundi
Secretary	Mary Jean Ricci

### **In addition the following have been named as Committee Chairs for 2017-2018**

Awards	Sharon Kular
Goodwill	Maryanne Chard
Health/Insurance	Anne McIlroy
Membership/Recruitment	Adele Pick
Membership/Telephone	Lynn Farquharson
Members at Large	Marilyn Jones, Gabrielle Benedek
Newsletter	William McIlroy
Pension/Retirement Concerns	Janis McCaskill
Political Advocacy	Art Witham
Social	Judy Paton
Travel	Pamela Guy
Website/Communication	Joel Nasimok
Nominating Committee:	Sheila Tait, Chair Claudia Mang Karl Sprogi

RTO District 22  
Treasurer's Report 2016

	Actual Budget 2016	Proposed Budget 2016	Actual minus Proposed	Proposed Budget 2017
Balance on hand Jan 1/16	28326.88	28326.88		25734.78
<b>INCOME</b>				
AGM lunch inc.	2014.00	4000.00	-1986.00	4000.00
Fall Luncheon	2160.00	3000.00	-840.00	3500.00
Interest Inc:	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Bank	0.00	0.00	0.00	
ING	73.65	300.00	-226.35	
Member Grant	34168.64	34168.64	0.00	35662.84
Project S.T.O.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ipad workshop Income	1000.00	0.00	1000.00	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>39416.29</b>	<b>41468.64</b>	<b>-2052.35</b>	<b>68897.63</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>67743.17</b>	<b>69795.52</b>		
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
AGM lunch exp.	7724.33	11000.00	3275.67	11000.00
AGM Entertainment	150.00	1200.00	1050.00	1200.00
AGM Meeting	2942.12	2500.00	-442.12	2500.00
Bank Charge	8.14	100.00	91.86	100.00
Executive	1570.86	2000.00	429.14	2000.00
Fall Lunch exp.	6496.65	9000.00	2503.35	9000.00
Fall Lunch Entertainment	300.00	1200.00	900.00	1200.00
Goodwill	621.00	1200.00	579.00	1200.00
Work shop insurance	200.00	0.00	-200.00	
Health and Pen.	0.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Newsletter	10764.20	15000.00	4235.80	15000.00
office:	1596.85	1500.00	-96.85	1500.00
Pres work shop	417.56	0.00	-417.56	
Political Advocacy	0.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Proj.S.T.O exp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Membership exp	168.61	200.00	31.39	200.00
Recruitment exp	1445.79	3000.00	1554.21	3000.00
Senate	3164.04	3000.00	-164.04	3000.00
service award	176.28	300.00	123.72	300.00
Social	0.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Travel com. Exp	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Toronto Dist	953.04	1000.00	46.96	1000.00
Comm service Award	2034.12	3500.00	1465.88	3500.00
Membership Recognition	314.31	1000.00	685.69	1000.00
Ipad WS	960.49	0.00	-960.49	0.00
Discretionary Funds	0.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>42008.39</b>	<b>58700.00</b>	<b>16691.61</b>	<b>58700.00</b>
<b>ASSETS LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>25734.78</b>			

BALANCE JAN. 1, 2017 25734.78

AGM 2017 Motion #3: That the Treasurer's Report be received  
Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

AGM 2017 Motion #4: That the proposed budget for RTO-ERO Etobicoke & York District 22 for 2017 be approved.

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

## **Awards Committee Report**

The Awards Committee - Sharon Kular(Chair), Anne McIlroy, Joel Nasimok, Don Routley and Jane Shaw -is responsible for overseeing 7 annual awards as follows:

### **STO or Service to Others Award**

The Provincial Committee sponsors this award. Our responsibility is to review all requests and recommend to the District Executive a group to be nominated. If successful, the group is eligible for a grant up to \$4000. Details of this award and an application form are available on the RTO/ERO web site at [www.rto-ero.org](http://www.rto-ero.org). Click on Programs & Services, Click on Project – Service to Others and then Current Application. The completed application must be submitted to the Awards Committee - District 22 by April 30, 2017. There was no candidate this year.

### **10 Year Service Award**

After completing 10 years as a member of the Executive of District 22, a special recognition award is presented. This year's recipients are **Pamela Guy and Sheila Tait**. Our apologies are extended to these recipients who were overlooked last year and have actually completed 11 years on the District 22 Executive. **Congratulations Pamela and Sheila.**

### **Outstanding Community Service Award**

This award is available only to members of District 22. Nominations for this award of \$1000.00 must be submitted to the Awards Committee by March 31, 2017. This award is designed to recognize members who have devoted much of their time in retirement and earlier to voluntary community activities. This year's recipients are **Dorothy Garvin, Harold Royle and Pat Herron**. **Congratulations Dorothy, Harold and Pat.**

### **25 Year Membership Certificates**

These certificates are presented at our June Luncheon to individuals who have been a members of RTO for the past 25 years. This year we have 23 such recipients. We are fortunate to have of these members present today to receive their certificates. **Congratulations to all of you.**

### **Scholarship Program - RTO/ERO Provincial Scholarships**

To qualify a student must be in attendance in a full or part-time program at the Faculty of Education or in any program in their final year of a college or university in the year in which they apply and be a Canadian citizen or a landed immigrant. They must also be a child, grandchild, niece, nephew, grandniece, grandnephew, son-in-law, daughter-in-law or step-child of a RTO/ERO member who will become their sponsor. Applications are made on the RTO/ERO website and must use the RTO/ERO member's membership number. The deadline for applying is February 15, 2017.

### **RTO/ERO Distinguished Member Award**

Three RTO/ERO distinguished Member Awards may be granted on an annual basis by the Provincial Awards Committee. Nominees for the Provincial Award will be selected in recognition of their outstanding and/or long term contributions to the RTO/ERO at the Provincial and/or District level. This award will comprise a plaque, a donation of \$350 to a charity of each recipient's choice and an invitation will be issued to attend the October Senate meeting. Districts are invited to submit one nominee by June 1, 2017. District 22 does not have a nominee this year



### **2016 Johnson Inc. Scholarship Program**

All Canadian residents completing high school and who are beginning post-secondary education are eligible to apply for a Johnson Scholarship. Annually, Johnson will award 100 scholarships each valued at \$1500 to students attending a post-secondary educational institution in Canada.

Applicants must be a Canadian resident, completing high school in 2017 and commencing post-secondary education in the fall of 2017.

Applicants must have a parent/guardian or grandparent who has a home or auto policy or group benefit plan through Johnson.

Completed online applications must be submitted by August 31, 2017 and must include an official high school transcript of his/her final year marks.

Sharon Kular

### **Goodwill Committee Report 2017**

I would like to thank our phone volunteers who called to let me know of members who were ill or in need of cheering up. Appropriate cards (“Thinking of You/ Good cheer/Get Well”), were sent out to these members. As well, cards or letters of condolence were sent to the families of deceased members.

Our “Have a Java on Us” club continues in full swing. We now have a total of 50 members who have attended at various times. This is a drop-in club. We meet at **Second Cup** in Cloverdale Mall, located in the north end of the Mall close to Pharma Plus. When you sign in, you will be given a coupon for \$4.00 towards the purchase of your beverage and/or snack. Come out, relax, socialize and enjoy! We look forward to seeing you there.

We will be holding this on the third Thursday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Upcoming Dates: June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, and December 21. These dates are posted on our website.

We presently have two other active social groups:

The Lunch Group meets the second Monday of each month. We go to various restaurants. Each month at the luncheon we vote on where we will go for the next month.

The Square Dancing Group meets each week on Wednesday and Friday evenings 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

We can still resurrect our Duplicate Bridge club; however, we need a suitable venue with a quiet space which can accommodate 5 or more tables. I would be open to any suggestions. We always welcome new members to these groups. If you are interested in joining any of these groups, please contact:

Adele Pick 416 622-7361 or Maryanne Chard 416 626-1353

If anyone is interested in volunteering to help on the Goodwill Committee, (i.e. visiting members in residences, phone calls to keep in touch, sending cards, etc), please contact me. Also, if any members know of someone who is ill or needs cheering up, please call me at 416 626-1353, or contact me by email at mbchard@rogers.com..

Maryanne Chard

## Health and Insurance Services Report 2017

Again this year, I would like to thank our RTO members and Executive who have supported me in my role as your Health and Insurance Services Representative. It seems that every day that I am in this position, the more I learn.

Through your inquiries and the consequent follow-up, I realize that our RTO and government supports and benefits are ever-changing. In that regard, I encourage every member to keep abreast of these changes and enhancements. Most often we are informed of these through communiqués from RTO, like the Renaissance magazine, personal mail related to new benefit options and rates, district websites and newsletters. These can be excellent resources for all of us.

A further source of interesting and valuable information is the RTO provincial website (<http://www.rto-ero.org/home>). The 'Publications' link provides details of many such resources available to our members.

### *Renaissance Magazine*

Award winning *Renaissance* is RTO/ERO's quarterly news magazine and flagship publication, created exclusively for RTO/ERO members. *Renaissance* provides a variety of information, opinions and resources on topics of interest to retired educators and their peers. A very informative section in the magazine is *Health Matters*.

The RTO/ERO Health Services and Insurance Committee will be conducting its annual Workshop for its District and Unit Health Representatives on Sunday and Monday, June 3rd and 4th in Toronto. As your rep, I look forward to attending this workshop to broaden my knowledge of issues related to our health and insurance matters, in order to better inform our district members of issues which may arise. Issues discussed this session include a Wellness Presentation by Sun Life, the Alzheimer's Society, Venngo, ODB coverage and on-line claims.

The Health Services and Insurance Committee meeting highlights of April 2017 included the roles of all our partners in the program – Johnson, Sun Life, Best Doctors and Eldercare Select, reviewed Johnson Insurance Claims Services, Privacy Issues and Convenience Services, renewal of the Supplementary Travel Plan and an update on the roll-out of a new Wellness program for our members coming soon.

One website address that came with the HSIC April Highlights is the website for Best Doctors: <http://www.bestdoctorscanada.com>.

In addition, I cannot stress enough the value of regularly perusing your Insurance Plans Booklet (green and white) and its updates. Most of us know the basics of our plan and how it has served us in the past. However, as the Plan package changes and more importantly, as our personal health and travel needs change, there are benefits described within which we may not have realized are available to us. You may be quite surprised to find further help available. Happy reading and learning!

Anne McIlroy

## **Membership/Telephone Report**

The main function of this executive position is to co-ordinate the telephone contact of all RTO District 22 members through our volunteer callers to inform the membership of the details of the Annual General Meeting and spring luncheon in June. At this event, members are able to meet the people who volunteer as executive members for District 22, have input into the management of the organization through participation at the AGM, celebrate our 25 year members and very importantly, it is also an opportunity for all attendees to reconnect with friends and colleagues.

The work of the Membership/Phone committee begins in January when executive members contact those people who have volunteered to call our membership in the past and confirm their willingness to call this year. While our goal is contact all our membership, we do not ask our volunteers to make any calls that would be long distance from their homes. Many of our volunteers have been calling for years whereas others have just signed on for the task this year.

Recruitment of callers occurred this year at our three main yearly gatherings including: the “To Hell with the Bell” breakfast in September, the Fall Luncheon in November and the AGM/Spring Luncheon. There is a sign-up sheet available on each table or interested members can call me directly.

With the size of our membership being approximately 2500 people, we need many people to perform this task. This year we had the help of 81 volunteers, including executive members to call 1985 members. Each person called an average of 25 people (local calls only) over a three week period in April and May. For our callers, this is often an opportunity to reconnect with former friends and colleagues and results in many pleasant conversations. We value the personal contact that a phone call can provide as it often yields information that we may not be aware of such as a change of contact information or personal circumstance such as an illness.

This is a valuable and important outreach activity in our district. In that regard, I offer thanks and appreciation to our volunteer callers for their time and diligence in ensuring that we make contact with our membership. The success of our AGM and Spring luncheon is a testament to their efforts.

Lynn Farquharson

## **AGM Membership & Recruitment 2017**

There is a change this year as to how we recruit and recognize members joining District 22. Using our September “To Hell with the Bell” Breakfast to attract new members is no longer viable due to changes in Ontario Education law. The newly retired must have their benefits options in place upon leaving their employment, which typically occurs at the end of June. As a result, those retiring in 2017 or late 2016 who have joined District 22 will now be rewarded with a complimentary breakfast early in the fall.

To maintain a day after Labour Day celebration, all members can meet and dine at a local Mandarin. Reservations will of course be required.

Adele Pick

## **Pension and Retirement Concerns 2017**

According to Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan ([www.ottp.com](http://www.ottp.com)), in 2016, the plan increased net assets to \$175.6 billion producing a fourth consecutive funding surplus of \$11.5 billion at January 1, 2017. In a challenging global economy which included market volatility and limited investment opportunities, the total-fund rate of return was 4.2%.

They also state that teachers in Ontario live longer than the general Canadian population, and their life expectancy continues to increase. It costs more to pay lifetime pensions when members live longer. Members are contributing to the plan for fewer years than in the 1990s, and their retirement periods are longer. The ratio of working-to-retired members is 1.3:1 and the average number of years contributed to plan vs. expected years on pension is 26 vs 31. The health of the plan is assessed every year through a funding valuation to determine whether the plan's projected assets are reasonably sufficient to pay all promised pensions in the future. A preliminary valuation shows the plan is 105% funded as of January 1, 2017, which translates into an \$11.5 billion surplus.

The 2017 inflation rate was 1.3% and, due to the large dollar surplus in our pension plan, it was decided that the inflation protection for pension credit earned after 2009 was increased to 90% from 70% of the annual increase in the cost of living. Teachers who retired after 2009 saw this increase reflected in their January 2017 pension.

For more information on your personal pension details sign into iaccess through [www.ottp.com](http://www.ottp.com).

Janis McCaskill

## **Foundation Report 2017**

From its inception in 2011, RTO-ERO can take great pride in the expansion of the vision of The Foundation, our Foundation, into the broader community.

It was just a short time ago when we began to hear about The Foundation. But, it is "ours" and word is getting out there.

In October, I was invited to attend a luncheon at the Royal York Hotel. As my table of eight women waited for the proceedings, I spoke about how this all began. I regaled them with the RTO-ERO story and our charitable focus on the elderly. Then to my surprise, and to the surprise of the ladies at my table, the event began with the topic of women and aging, and how we, RTO-ERO, had founded this incredible organization, The Foundation. I had also mentioned Dr. Paula Rochon as the Chair and our jaws dropped as she was introduced to all of 850 of us as "our champion".

With Dr. Paula Rochon at the helm as the Chair in Geriatric Medicine, the contributions of the RTO-ERO membership are augmenting research in all significant areas of life for seniors. Grants have been awarded to different organizations, hospitals and universities to explore dementia, the specific needs of LGTB aging adults, programs in Geriatric medicine for orthopedic surgery residents, cognitive stimulation for those in long term care, the mentoring of medical students to encourage specialization in Geriatrics, and more. Our future is in good hands!

The support of The Foundation by members means that valuable work can continue. Check the website at [www.rto-ero.org/support-the-foundation](http://www.rto-ero.org/support-the-foundation).

Let us join together to make a meaningful difference in our very own future. After all, with good health, long life is so very good!

Janet Thacker

## **Political Advocacy Report 2017**

Political Governments and their agencies gear in the Spring to promulgate budgets which, they hope, will appease and find support from the electorate. Something for everybody but not a whole bunch for anybody.

We have had assurances from the federal government that there will be improvements for the middle class and older members of society; specifics are still wanting. They did stare down the provincial governments over the provision of funding levels for medical care.

The provincial government is still attempting to come to grips with the equitable provision of health care. Is the federal allotment enough to maintain levels of care without either raising taxes or cutting back on current levels of care?

As a demographic, the elderly are now surpassing children and adolescents in numbers. This can only strain resources as the needs of the elderly increase,

As an example, there is at this time a waiting list in excess of 20 000 for placement in nursing/retirement homes. However, retirement homes are not always financially accessible for many people.

We have seen a provincial response to high electricity rates where there is now a reduction in some costs over the next few years. This may be short-sighted as it is pushing costs down the road which will have to be recouped at some point along with accompanying interest costs. We want the same or better services without ponying up the requisite fee or inflationary differential.

There are many special interest groups, of which we are one, reaching out for budgetary pieces.

The Retired Teachers of Ontario represents our issues before various governing bodies.

There are other agencies, such as CARP for example, of which we may be personal members and which have similar issues as our own. We can increase our leverage through these groups.

We are often interrupted at home for surveys by various local politicians. By all means participate. This gives an immediate vehicle for making our voices heard. Politicians spend a lot of money on these surveys and are responsive to them. This gives them an immediate pulse check of the electorate.

Mobility issues, shelter, medical care, mental health issues, home care, taxes, accessible transit, utility rates all comprise the panoply of issues of which we must not lose sight.

Art Witham

## **Social Committee Report 2017**

Once again, spring is arriving with its long awaited new life, winter routines are winding down and we look forward to the long summer days ahead. It is also the end of another busy RTO year. Our annual Fall Luncheon was held on November 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Islington Golf Club. As guests arrived, they were able to browse and ask questions at displays put on by Best Doctors, the Heart & Stroke Association and the Osteoporosis Society. Lunch was served to 100 people at noon. Everyone enjoyed a most delicious meal of arctic char, chicken or vegetable cannelloni. Following dessert, tea and coffee, The Sparklettes entertained us. These ladies kept everyone involved and singing along with their music. The day was enjoyed by all.

On Tuesday, June 6, 2017, our Annual General Meeting and June Luncheon will be held at the Crowne Plaza. Our Guest Speaker at the meeting will be RTO/ERO Pension & Benefits Officer, Lori MacDonald-Blundon. As usual, the lunch will be served in the ballroom downstairs following the meeting. The Crowne Plaza always does an amazing job with their meals and service. This year we will have the pleasure of listening to the strains of the a cappella group, "Cruisin".

These functions are always enjoyable and a great way to catch up with friends and colleagues. Be sure to watch for dates in the newsletter.

I want to thank-you, everyone for your support, comments and suggestions. They are most helpful!

Judy Paton

## **Travel Report 2017**

We have enjoyed another busy year in 2016 with our six outings hosting more than 300 happy trippers.

We began in April with CHORUS LINE at Stratford which amazed us all with its lively and energetic dancing. Beforehand we enjoyed a lunch at Demetre's, a different place for us but a good meal. This was followed in May with a visit to Drayton to see the perennial favourite MAMMA MIA which delighted us with its lively ABBA music. Of course we took in the St. Jacobs market beforehand where we also picked up a lunch for ourselves as we concluded the day with a dinner at Golf's Steakhouse in Kitchener. This dinner was such a success we decided to repeat it in this year's program. Our cruise this year was with the Lady Muskoka which provided us with lunch and a very pleasant day on Lake Muskoka in beautiful sunshine. In September we set off in a new direction to take a train trip at Port Stanley and had an opportunity afterwards to have a look at the interesting little town and beach.

October saw us at the Shaw for our annual trip where we took in ALICE IN WONDERLAND with its stunning visual effects and concluded the year with an entertaining SISTER ACT at the Dunfield theatre in Cambridge. We also visited the Butterfly Conservatory and were fascinated not only by the butterflies but also birds and a curious stick insect.

Our 2017 year has already begun with two great productions – JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT and ME AND MY GIRL , just the start of another exciting program of trips lined up.

Many thanks to Irwin for his invaluable help

Pamela Guy

### **Newsletter Report 2017**

Our newsletter is published three times during the year - Spring, Fall and Winter. We publish it in both hardcopy and in e-version. Back issues are available on the District 22 website. If you are not receiving the e-version please contact Joel Nasimok, our webmaster, at [nasimok@rogers.com](mailto:nasimok@rogers.com). You can unsubscribe to the **e-version** from the main screen when you receive your next newsletter. If you don't wish to have the **hard** copy mailed to you, contact Joel Nasimok at [nasimok@rogers.com](mailto:nasimok@rogers.com).

Our primary purpose is to notify members of upcoming events (trips, luncheons, workshops) and other events offered by the District. Through the newsletter, we inform members of policies and resources available and changes to these policies and resources. We now include items of a general nature such as hobbies, volunteer activities, book reviews and travel that might be of interest to our members. The newsletter is printed by Annan & Sons on North Queen. Thank you to our proof readers Sheila Tait, Janet Thacker, Claudia Mang and Anne McIlroy for making the editions grammatically correct! Thank you to all RTO members who submit articles to District 22 Newsletter. Many members other than your executive submit articles and ideas that enhance the newsletter and these submissions are most welcome.

William McIlroy

## A WORD FROM YOUR WEBMASTER

Our website is <http://district22.rto-ero.org/> Webmaster Email [nasimok@rogers.com](mailto:nasimok@rogers.com)

Information can be found at the website, or if we have your Email address important information will be sent to you by Email throughout the year. We find that most important information goes to our members quickly through Email blasts, if you wait for the newsletter or do not go to the website at regular intervals, you may miss out on workshops or some interesting trips. I would encourage all members to contact me, your webmaster and ensure I have your current Email address

Presently we have 1725 MEMBERS GETTING THE NEWSLETTER AND THE BULLETINS BY EMAIL. This is out of a total of 2502 members. We use a commercial provider (Godaddy) to send the Emails out to our members. The Emails include the Newsletter three times a year and about six bulletins a year. You may also receive RTO-ERO provincial news bulletins if they have your Email address.

When you receive an Email, you will have a chance to unsubscribe. If you press the unsubscribe button, we will return you to normal mailing and you will not receive any more emails locally. You may miss important information and the opportunity to participate in interesting and informative activities. These activities can be found listed on the website. You are encouraged to check the website often.

Unfortunately many members will change their email address or by mistake the email address we have does not function anymore. If this is relevant to you please contact the Provincial Office.

It is important that any changes that are made to your personal information be given directly to Provincial Office. Phone Number - 416 962-9463 or 1-800-361-9888 Please contact **Dianne Vezeau, Manager Membership Services ext. 223** or **Sam Gyesus Membership Assistant.** EMAIL - [membership@rto-ero.org](mailto:membership@rto-ero.org)

If your email address bounces back, you will be contacted once with a personal call or a message left with a phone number to make the local change. If there is no one available and no answering machine a second try will be made at a later date. **Until contact is made, the Email address will be removed for newsletters and bulletins and you will be put back on the mailing list.** If there is no phone number available the Email address will be removed and you will be put back on the mailing list.

If you absolutely desire the newsletter mailed and also want the bulletins, contact the webmaster and you will receive the newsletter by email as well as the bulletins **and** you will also be put on the mailing list.

Again our website is: <http://district22.rto-ero.org/>

You may get copies of the older newsletters from the website by going to the Publication Tab, then go to Archives to pick up the newsletters.

Joel Nasimok  
RTO-ERO, District 22  
Webmaster/Communications