



THE SCRIBBLER

Sault Ste. Marie Branch of R.W.T.O. Newsletter Spring 2019

SHARING

CARING

HAVING FUN

Spring Parting Message from the President

Another year has come to an end for our local RWTO group. I would like to thank everyone for making it such an interesting year for our group. The activities planned were enjoyed by all our members who were able to attend including our Area Director, Joyce Ratz.

Our Christmas meeting was very well received not only by our group but also by the people who received the ginger bread houses we made and donated.

No matter what we did you could see a group who were sharing, caring and having fun and yes eating our delicious light snacks that were always provided.

Enjoy your summer and stay safe and healthy. Mark your calendars with the dates for our next year's meetings when you get the newsletter.

Sherrill Dewar, Past President

FUN AND GAMES at the March General Meeting on Wed., March 17,

2019—During the short meeting, Paula H. read the Resolutions for the 2019 Annual General Meeting. We agreed that they are all of a “housekeeping” nature, and the members were all in favour of the changes being presented. Check your March 2019 issue of Connections page 13 to review the Resolutions.

Sandy F. will be our voting delegate at the convention in St. Catherines June 4, 5 and 6. Joyce R. will complete her two years as our Area Director, but will be Provincial Membership Convenor for the next two years.

After an enjoyable lunch of pizza and sandwiches served by Gerry Y., our fun and games began. We grouped ourselves to play a variety of card games, word games and board games organized by Member at Large Brenda O. It was a relaxing afternoon enjoying each other's company while playing the games.



L to R: Carol R., Brenda G., Joyce R. and Maria C. enjoyed a game of Scrabble.



Sandy F., Bev B. and Paula H. sure looked serious about the challenging word game they were playing.



L to R.: Bernice W., Susan S., and Gerry Y. warped their brains playing Brain Warp.



L to R.: Pat P., Carmen c., Carol McF., Marg W., and Rita W. spread out to play a fun card game.

Chatting It Up at the April General Meeting on April 24, 2019--

Sherrill D. gave us an email address to use to access the Fraud Squad if we suspect that a scammer is trying to victimize us. It is internet.abuse@sjrb.ca. She also provided us with copies of the new Canada's Food Guide and a Guide to Healthy Eating for Older Adults. Both of these resources are worthy of our attention.

We had a light lunch of cold cuts, buns and other goodies.

The speaker whom Rita W. had invited to speak to us about Geriatric Services at the Sault Area Hospital did not show up for some unknown reason. However, we did not let this "no show" stop us from having an enjoyable and productive time socializing and brainstorming to fill out two questionnaires given to us.

Sherrill D. gave us a survey about where we would like to meet and have lunch and various ways of funding lunch for our branch's annual general meeting in May.

Brenda G. gave us a questionnaire asking for our input on many things pertaining to programming for 2019-2020 such as topics we would like addressed by speakers, activities in which we would like to participate, aspects of meetings we do not like, charities we want to support, ways in which we individually are ready and willing to volunteer within our branch, and how we collectively can get our branch known in the community by volunteering or supporting others.

Scrabble Club Grows

Our original Scrabble Club which consisted of Brenda G., Carol Mc F., Joyce M., Rita W. and Gerry Y. has grown with the addition three more enthusiastic players. We welcome Maria C., Carmen C., and Carol R.

We have moved our games from Joyce's apartment at Collegiate Heights to the game room in the same building to accommodate our larger number.



Two new players Carmen C. (left) and Carol R. (right) joined long time player, Joyce M., to play Scrabble in the Collegiate Heights game room in April.

Our Branch's Annual General Meeting, May 22, 2019

Twenty-three members met at Gino's Restaurant to enjoy lunches we individually selected from the menu, to socialize, to celebrate another year together and to install our new executive for next year.

As we arrived, we placed our donations of toilet paper on the receiving table. We could barely see Gerry Y. for the huge number of donated packages. We each wrote the name of a charity which could use the toilet paper, and we drew a name from a hat. The charity drawn was Breton House. The donation was firstly a way to help an organization save costs and secondly to get our branch further recognized in the community.

Following lunch, Brenda G., Past President, led the nominations process. Then the new executive was installed by Area Director Joyce R. There are some changes. Sherrill D. will become Past President, Brenda G. will become President, Rita will be Goodwill Convenor and Jenny K. will be our third Member at Large. Sherrill D. thanked members for attending our meetings and the executive for all of their hard work.

Josie V. was thanked for her many years serving our members as Goodwill Convenor.

Joyce R., Area Director, was shown appreciation for attending all of our meetings and providing us with the latest information and assistance when required.

Again, our sharing, caring and having fun motto was exemplified in this gathering of Sault Branch RWTO members.



Gerry Y. is inundated with packages of toilet tissue.
No wonder she is full of laughter.

RWTO/OERO Convention 2019 Report by Sandy F.



It was my pleasure to attend the 63rd RWTO/OERO Convention in St. Catherines as the Provincial Delegate from the Sault. As the only delegate for our Sault Branch, I travelled and roomed with Marlene Falls, Insurance Convenor from the Central Algoma Branch. We went one day early in order to attend the Insurance workshop for Area 10 and 11 with Terry Kennedy, the Manulife Broker.

The theme of the convention was “Barrel of Fun”. The Convention Convenor was Marilyn Emmet whom many of you will remember as the Provincial President for 2014/2015. She came to visit us, and we introduced her to the members at the 12- sided barn in Sowerby. The convention this year was hosted by the Area 13 branches (Lincoln West, Niagara Falls, Niagara South and St. Catherines).

The Holiday Inn was a wonderful location with ample room for all of the events. The only catch was that there were only two elevators with one holding only eight people. As we were on the eighth floor, it was way too many flights to go up or down.

The reports were written in the booklet and the presenters did not read them to us. They said that they knew that we had gone to school and that we knew how to read.

The Resolutions were all approved and carried without discussion. The “return of the premiums” from Manulife was \$59, 651 as reported by Terry Kennedy. The budget which was \$32, 651 was passed. \$400 will be given to each branch again for the 3 R’s.

When I was the Area Director for Area 11, there were 52 branches. I learned at the convention that there now are 51 branches as the Muskoka branch has folded and their members have joined the Orillia Branch.

I attended the “Laugh Yourself Healthier” workshop by Carolyn Shannon and that’s exactly what we did. She does the same workshop with seniors in a retirement home in Niagara Falls and it is extremely well received.

It rained all day on Wednesday, but it was all right as we went on the wine tasting tour Niagara Falls. The second place we visited was Pillitteri Estates where they produce mainly ice wines mostly shipped to China. That is why you might not find it in the LCBO store. The bus driver gave us an extra tour as he drove all around Niagara Falls with us pointing out the highlights.

The Tuesday night entertainment was a husband/wife duo performing quality jazz. Their music was nice, quiet, soft and smooth.

The Wednesday group was the “duelling Pianos Niagara”. They were lively, loud and rambunctious. They belted out the tunes on the keyboards and we sang.

The 64th RWTO/OERO Convention in June 2020 will be hosted by the Eastern Ontario branches of Area 8 and 9 consisting of Brockville, Gananoque, Kingston, Lanark, Napanee, Ottawa-Carleton and Upper Canada East in Kingston from June 2 to 4, 2020. Martha Summers, formerly from Central Algoma and our “North to Algoma” convention was part of the call to convention in Kingston. They will start the convention with a “Cruise Down the Waters” with appetizers for all. The convenors are Judy Drummond and Anne Graham (Anne of Green Gables Graham, Provincial President 2013-2014).

Won't you come along with me “Cruising down the Waters” sailing into Kingston June 2-4, 2020 and staying at the Ambassador conference Centre.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Fulcher

Insurance Workshop RWTO/OERO Convention St. Catherines June 4, 2019



The Insurance workshop was for Areas 10 and 11 Insurance convenors. Terry Kennedy, The Manulife Broker conducted the meeting.

The new address for sending your claims is:

Manulife,
Affinity markets Health and Dental claims,
P.O. Box 670, Stn Waterloo,
Waterloo, Ontario N2J 4B8

If you send your claim to the old address, they will forward it to you.

Terry emphasized the importance of having a “Power of Attorney” for you and your spouse. Without one, the courts will appoint someone who may or may not have your best interests at heart. You can go to www.gov.on.ca and download one and use that; it is considered a legal document.

Terry outlined all the benefits that the plan will cover. The types of benefits covered include: convalescent, home nursing, fracture, comfort care, ambulance, taxi, transportation, patient transfer, physician validation expense, special equipment, mobility assistance, assistive devices, physiotherapy, cataract surgery, hearing aid and oxygen.

The monthly premiums are \$14.49 for the member and \$15.57 for the spouse. These rates have not changed for sixteen years.

There will be an open window for the insurance from September 15, 2019 to November 15, 2019. No medical forms need to be completed. No RWTO>OERO member in good standing will be turned down.

On October 23, 2019, the Provincial President will come to visit us at our joint branch meeting. The Provincial Insurance Convenor will visit us at the same time. This person will either be Anne Wilde, the new Insurance Convenor, Karin Mussen, the new Assistant Insurance Convenor or Terry Kennedy, the Manulife Broker.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Fulcher

Reminder Regarding Membership Fees

R.W.T.O. Membership Fees:

\$25.00 if you retired prior to 1980

\$50.00 if you retired after 1980

Due Dates for Membership Fees:

- Membership Fees are due now.
- To pay over the summer, mail a cheque to Sandy Fulcher, 4528 Second Line West, Prince Township, Ontario, P6A 6K4. She will mail a receipt to you.

- You may pay in cash or cheque at the first general meeting September 23, 2019. Make your cheque payable to R.W.T.O. **NOTE:** This year, if you pay your membership fee by or on September 23, 2019, your name will go in a draw for a free membership. The winner will be announced at the September 23rd meeting.
- October 15, 2019, is the absolute final deadline for Sandy, Branch Treasurer, to have received your payment.

To maintain the RWTO insurance, you must maintain your membership by the deadlines above.

For information about insurance, contact our Insurance Convenor, Bev B., at 705-949-0266 or at ourplace86@shaw.ca

Reminder of the Breakfast Club

Local RWTO members will continue to meet throughout the summer for breakfast or coffee the 2nd Friday of each month. Join us at 9 a.m. at Gino's Restaurant, 1076 Great Northern Road.

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY SUMMER!

