

Retired Women Teachers of Ontario Windsor-Essex Branch



CARING & SHARING

Fall 2023



President's Message

Patricia Wales

Early Fall greetings. In the last several months I have had the opportunity to meet and chat with members both in the Branch and across the province.

It brings home the fact that RWTO forges connections in retirement, some that last years.

Your hardworking Windsor-Essex Board has continued to work on your behalf throughout the summer with plans for the Fall months. My sincere thanks to each of the Board Members and their Committee Members who work behind the scenes to provide interesting activities and programming for all of us. In this Newsletter you will find descriptions of upcoming events and the Board Directory.

Welcome to our new Membership Convenor **Carole Kuli**. Carole has immersed herself in Excel and is taking on the responsibility to keep your information current. Our new Newsletter Convenor is **Diane Fotopoulos Milner**. Diane has crafted the attractive and well-presented project you are reading right now. We welcome Carole and Diane with their talents and generous spirits.

The provincial Annual General Meeting in Kingston this past June was significant as we will now welcome retired women Educational Assistants, Early Childhood Educators, Child and Youth Workers to our membership. The Convention report in this Newsletter as well as the September 2023 *Connections* will have more details.

The annual 80+ Tea was a huge success as the report and stunning photos show. Book Chats, a travel presentation, Detroit River cruise, Forget-Me-Not visits and even broadcasted good morning greetings from Windsor-Essex have been experienced.

It is always heartwarming to see or hear from you in person, by email, calls and notes. I have been struck by the number of unassuming women among our membership who quietly are caring for others, whether family or friends and do so without fanfare but rather gentle Caring and Sharing. Our motto extends to these dear ones. Give them an extra hug when you meet them.

Helpers & Winners from Spring Luncheon 2023

Thank YOU!! For Deliveries to Charities: –
Sheila Dinnendahl, Gail Raymond,
Lowanna Closs, Linda White

Sundry Helpers: Wanda Lacey, Vicky Walker,
Gloria Kenny, Paulette Renaud,
Chris Pastorius, Annette Bezaire, Vicky Carruthers,
Diane Milner

Congratulations Prize Winners:

Amica Prize Basket: Wanda Lacey

Seasons Prize Basket: Anne Beaudoin-Parent

Member Fall 2023 Free Lunch – Marie Bailey

Box RWTO Cookies – Stefane Mikitch

Free Membership Draw: Mary Lou Killen

Share the Wealth: Stefane Mikitch, Marie Bailey,
Brenda Hobson

RWTO/OERO Windsor-Essex Branch

Executive & Board Directory 2023-2024

Executive & Board

POSITION	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
Honorary President	Arlene Veitch	(519) 735-0306	veitarle@hotmail.com
Past President	Linda White	(519) 969-7345	lindaawwhite@cogeco.ca
President	Patricia Wales	(519) 567-8990	rwto.oero.we@gmail.com
First Vice-President	Gina Marcon	(519) 984-3514	ginamarcon2019@gmail.com
Second Vice-President			
Recording Secretary	Deirdre Palamides	(519) 819-6119	mrspal@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Karen Clark-Lauzon	(519) 978-2834	clarklauzon@gmail.com
Insurance Convenor	Marilyn Harvey	(519) 944-3481	merniesch@gmail.com
Archivist	Trep Marentette	(519) 259-8338	trep28@hotmail.com
Goodwill Convenor	Val Luscott	(519) 839-5128	luscottvalerie@gmail.com
Issues & Concerns Convenor	Janice Murphy	(519) 966-0491	jmurphy26@cogeco.ca
Membership Convenor	Carole Kuli	(519) 564-1479	carole.kuli3@gmail.com
Newsletter Convenor	Diane Fotopoulos Milner	(519) 987-4092	fotopoulousis@gmail.com
Social Convenor	Anna Campigotto	(519) 978-0652	campya23@me.com
Website Convenor	Kathy Gallagher	(519) 984-5963	inniaudi@gmail.com

Committees

Goodwill	Emy McBride	(519) 945-1380	
	Linda White	(519) 969-7345	lindaawwhite@cogeco.ca
Social	Lowanna Closs	(519) 735-0403	lowannacloss@gmail.com
	Kathy Gallagher	(519) 984-5963	inniaudi@gmail.com
	Rosemary Kyryliuk		rkyryliuk@gmail.com
	Deirdre Palamides	(519) 819-6119	mrspal@hotmail.com
	Debbie Powell		dedorky@hotmail.com
	Genny Rudzinski	(519) 944-1420	gennyrud@gmail.com



AGM/CONVENTION 2023 – KINGSTON



NB – This article contains general information about the AGM/Convention. Please refer to the March 2023 Connections for specific wording of the Resolutions presented.

RWTO/OERO made history during the AGM at Convention 2023 in Kingston! After 2 surveys over 10 years and numerous discussions with the Branches, Resolutions finally came to this event for a vote. Resolutions #1, #2 and #4 were carried by 66% of the attending delegates! Our membership has now been extended to include Educational Assistants, Early Childhood Educators and Child/Youth Workers. These professionals are recognized for their contributions to the classroom environment. Resolution #11, which was also carried, guarantees that they will be offered all of the benefits as a member of our organization. Resolutions #3 and #5 offered to include Retired Women Speech & Language Pathologists and Retired Women Social Workers, however these resolutions did not carry. There was also an amendment to #3 to include Audiologists and Vision Specialists. Again, that did not carry. Despite the extension, delegates did agree that the name of the organization should remain the same. Thus, Resolution #7 was carried. Resolution #6 was ruled out of order as its content had been taken care of previously. Resolutions #8, #9 and #12 were now not needed because of previous wording. Resolution #10 was withdrawn by the movers. Resolutions #13 and #14 dealt with changing the number of delegates that a Branch could send to an AGM/Convention and the related costs. There was so much debate about this issue that a motion was made from the floor to send it to an Ad Hoc Committee for research. Their findings are to be presented at the 2024 AGM. Resolution #15 was now not needed since the previous 2 resolutions were being sent to the Ad Hoc Committee. The Marketing Committee was established as an

Ad Hoc Committee 2 years ago. It was now time to make it a Standing Committee of the Provincial Board. So Resolution #16 was carried on that issue. They will continue their rebranding of our organization throughout Ontario. Resolutions 17 – 20 all dealt with clarification of the wording in the Constitution. They were all carried. At this time, one of the delegates suggested that the phrase “Housekeeping Items” be removed from our conversations and be replaced with “Administrative Editing”. The rationale was the outdated wording referred to a woman’s status in the 1950s, but does not pertain to today’s society. All delegates agreed. Even though the delegates had just dealt with 20 resolutions and their amendments, one more motion came to the floor—to increase the Annual Provincial Membership fee to \$50/year beginning in 2024. This motion passed. This was presented in an effort to prevent deficit budgets moving forward. There has not been a fee increase since 2011.

So what does all this mean for the Windsor-Essex Branch?

First of all, we can now welcome EAs, ECEs and CYWs to become members and attend our events. Most of us have worked with some fabulous women who were part of an effective classroom teaching experience. Why not invite them to become members? They will enjoy all the benefits and events that we now experience. These new members could also provide other perspectives which will be useful in our future planning. Secondly, your executive will be looking at the issue of raising annual fees starting April of 2024. Currently, our dues are \$50 with \$40 going to Provincial and \$10 staying here to help with luncheon and social activity costs. We may consider raising the fee to \$60 with \$50 going to Provincial and \$10 staying here. Starting this year, we also receive a rebate from Provincial of \$12/member. Please let your executive know your thoughts about this issue.

A huge thank-you goes out to our Parliamentarian, Jane Cartier! She definitely used her Bourinot Rules of Order to keep us on track. The first day of the AGM had moments of

confusion, especially when a delegate asked for a secret ballot on all voting and then later in the morning when delegates left early to ensure they were on time for their excursions. Those 2 events cost us some time in getting through the business portion. However, on Thursday morning, the secret ballot voting was rescinded and Jane quickly got our focus back to the task at hand.

Another huge thank you goes out to our Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Linda Huffman! In her 3 years on the job, she has learned a lot and used her administrative skills efficiently. She has certainly helped many a Branch treasurer with friendly advice on the phone. Linda presented the financial information clearly and succinctly to the delegates.

Not all of our time was spent on Business however. Our delegation arrived on Monday so we had some time to explore downtown Kingston. Unfortunately the fires in the area were creating some smoke which made for some interesting scents in the air. Tuesday afternoon, there were workshops on the following topics: RW Insurance Program, Helping Our Branches Thrive, Long Term Care and Zumba Gold. On Tuesday evening, we enjoyed a cruise on the Island Queen. The Hospitality Room and Silent Auction rounded out the days. Wednesday afternoon was reserved for pre-arranged tours of the Kingston area and Wednesday evening was the Awards Banquet. Thursday morning, we viewed the Memorial Service and at Lunch, we celebrated our Mother and Daughter duos of retired teachers.

Our Branch was represented well by our President, Pat Wales, 1st Vice President, Gina Marcon, Newsletter Editor, Diane Fotopoulos, Issues and Concerns Convenor, Janice Murphy and myself. We enjoyed a pleasant and relaxing trip on the VIA Rail train from Windsor to Kingston and back. And we visited with friends that we haven't seen since the pandemic started – lots of Caring and Sharing!

Karen Clark-Lauzon, Provincial Delegate



Membership

Hi, my name is Carole Kuli. I taught 7 years in York Region and retired from the GECDSB after a 36-year career mostly in French Immersion. I taught all grades from K-8 but my heart and joy were with the intermediate students. I have recently taken over the position of Membership Convenor. I hope I can do this job justice as I am filling very big shoes. Arlene Veitch left me a very organized system and even made my transition very smooth.

As of this newsletter, we have 264 members and 8 associate members. Since our Spring luncheon, we have welcomed 8 new members to our RWTO family and are looking forward to many more. If you know a retired woman teacher, EA, ECE or CYW who would like to join us, have them contact me or a member of the executive.

Our Early Bird draw was a big success, and many members paid their dues. For those of you who still need to get that done, we are setting our goal for October 31, 2023. Membership is \$50 (luncheons and events are pay as you go).

Please see the Treasurer's Report for e-Transfer and mailing information.

If at any time your information changes (address, email, phone etc) please contact me with the details.

I am very excited about my new position and look forward to a fun year.

Carole Kuli, Membership Convenor

Social Convenor

“For The Love of Tea”

Our 80+Tea was a great success again this year, with the ladies dressed in their fancy hats, fascinators, outfits and beautiful smiles. This year we had 21 gracious ladies waited on by our wonderful volunteers. We greatly appreciated Seasons LaSalle on June 12, 2023 who provided food and prizes for the ladies.

The ladies were greeted with corsages, glamour shots and a wonderful group photo. Fun, food, laughter and music filled the day. The day finished with our lovely ladies taking home beautiful teacups with goodies. Remember Ladies you are “Tea-Riffic!” Looking forward to many more years of RWTO 80+ Teas and *Sharing and Caring* by all the wonderful volunteers.

Windsor Premier Cruise

It was a windy, cool day but 14 of our RWTO woman decided to just relax and enjoy the afternoon. They climbed aboard the Macassar Bay for a scenic tour of the historic Detroit River on Friday August 18th. This lightly narrated tour shared some of the iconic sights and history of Hiram Walker, Belle Isle, waterfront mansions, the Ambassador Bridge, the new Gordie Howe Bridge and Assumption Church. We got to see the region's most unique and fascinating locations along the Detroit River. They shared information on the prohibition era and the Windsor /Detroit role. Some took advantage of the a la carte menu and specialty drinks while enjoying the beautiful scenery.



Petrolia Playhouse Presents “Starbright Christmas”



A Glorious Tradition ... A musical variety show featuring a host of entertainment that will ignite your Christmas spirit.

When:

Friday December 8, 2023

Cost: \$160.00 – 30-39 participants

\$140.00 – 40-49 participants

*Remember the more the merrier and cheaper. *

9:00 am Meet at the Sears parking lot and return to Sears parking lot approximately 10:00 pm.

Trip includes: * Round trip 55 passenger coach to Petrolia. We'll stop enroute 401 then Christmas shopping at Birdie's Nest in Chatham. Purchase your lunch, shopping, fellowship and the play in Petrolia, followed by a purchased dinner in Chatham at Chuck's Road House.

Payment in full due by

Wednesday November 1, 2023

Make Cheques payable to **RWTO Windsor / Essex** and mail to

Anna Campigotto,

796 Beneteau Dr.,

Amherstburg ON. N9V 3R3

OR e-Transfer RWTO.treasurer6@gmail.com

Please make sure you put your name and Petrolia trip on the transfer in the message area.

For further information: contact Anna

Campigotto @ 519-978-0652 email

campya23@me.com

Anna Campigotto, Social Convenor



Fall Luncheon Donations

Members, please donate to our charities by contributing the following items at our Fall Luncheon.

- shampoo
- conditioner
- body wash
- toothbrushes
- toothpaste
- deodorant
- women's shaving cream
- hair mousse
- baby wipes
- diapers (sizes 5, 6, newborn)
- fresh apples and oranges
- pudding and jello snack cups
- fruit cocktail
- snack cups
- granola bars
- juice boxes
- peanut butter
- jam
- canned soup
- canned stew
- Kraft Dinner
- Knorr Sidekicks pasta meals
- Uncle Ben's Bistro Express
- Uncle Ben's Bistro Express Rice meals

Gina Marcon, First Vice President

Newsletter

My name is Diane Fotopoulos Milner and I am the new newsletter convenor. I had the pleasure of working on the last newsletter with Linda White. She offered lots of good advice and I hope to do good work. I know that I can rely on guidance from her in the future as needed.

Diane Milner, Newsletter Convenor



Treasurer's Report

\$50.00 Membership Fees are due.

Your dues help our Branch to continue to plan activities and support our members for another year.

Our Goal is 100% paid by October 31, 2023

How to Pay

1) e-Transfer to

rwto.treasurere6@gmail.com

No security question/answer needed.

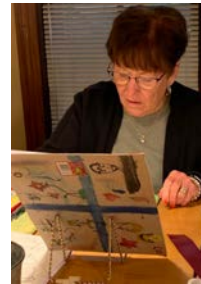
Please place your name and "DUES" in the MESSAGE section of your e-Transfer

2) By Cheque – Made payable to RWTO Windsor-Essex. Either by Canada Post or drop off in the mailbox on the porch at:

RWTO Windsor/Essex
% Karen Clark-Lauzon
266 Ramblewood Dr.
LaSalle, ON
N9J 3B3

3) At the Fall Luncheon – Cash or Cheque made payable to RWTO Windsor-Essex.

Karen Clark-Lauzon, Treasurer



Forever Young Member



At our Spring Luncheon, we were delighted to celebrate with Irma Janzen as she became a member of the Forever Young Club by turning 90 years of age. Her daughter, Debra, was also

in attendance. Irma was presented with a certificate, a bouquet of flowers, a handmade blanket, lots of hugs and smiles and congratulations!

Irma received her teacher training at Normal School in London in 1951.

Normal school was the predecessor of Teachers' College. She began teaching at what is now Mount Carmel. Irma taught the early grades until she became pregnant was required to resign, she was rehired and back to school in September 1956.

In 1966, the small county boards amalgamated to become the Essex County Board. Irma moved to Leamington to Margaret D. Bennie. This move provided her the opportunity to work again for Annabelle McNaughton, to move from her children's home school and to give her younger daughter the opportunity to attend kindergarten.

In 1974, Irma graduated with a BA from the University of Windsor, after taking many summer, winter and evening courses.

Irma retired in 1990 and during retirement, Irma has spent time looking after grandchildren,

volunteering at Thrift on Mill (then the Et Cetera Shoppe) in Leamington, and involving herself in church/community activities.

Irma and her husband were fortunate to be able to travel. Local birding adventures, and attending local theatre and concert presentations gave Irma much joy. She has had 90 **very full years!**

Karen Clark-Lauzon

Insurance Convenor



Manulife

As your Branch Convenor I do not know who carries RWTO/OERO Insurance. Due to confidentiality, I cannot ask nor do I keep a list. If you have an accident or fall ill, I want to be sure that you are accessing the benefits available so I may ask, "IF you do carry RWTO/OERO Insurance through Manulife there are some benefits available to you". This will free you up to say, "I don't have it," or "I do have it, what can I claim?"

If a member passes or moves into long term care I may ask a family member IF she carried RWTO/OERO Insurance through Manulife and if so, it needs to be cancelled, especially if it was deducted from her bank account. This will give the family member a chance to check on it.

Marilyn Harvey, Insurance Convenor



Issues and Concerns



Smart technologies assist us in being informed and prepared for changes we may face and allow us to age well with a positive focus. Contained are some helpful “smart tech” ideas that you may already have installed in your residence and some new ones that may offer you new options.

You may find some of these products make you feel more comfortable and secure by supporting daily activities like ordering food, deliveries and connecting you with family and friends. There are apps for everything including help with special needs.

1. It is suggested a smartphone or a tablet is essential.
2. Camera-Equipped Doorbell: You see and communicate with the person on the other side of the door on your smartphone or tablet while you stay inside.
3. Biometric locks that open doors using fingerprints eliminating key searching and fumbles.
4. Smoke & Carbon Monoxide alarms allow you to have an alert sent to your family or contact person when your alarm goes off.

5. Smart Outside Lighting System Lights go on to alert you to outside movement and can be viewed inside on a smartphone/tablet.

6. Smart Inside Lighting System- This smart option includes switches, dimmers and LED bulbs. You can have lights that turn on when triggered by movement; lights scheduled to turn on/off on a schedule all controlled by your smartphone.

7. Voice-Enabled Smart Home System - offers a range of tasks that control temperature, order groceries, turn on lights or music and even answer the phone.

8. Faucet and Shower Controls - Some companies are now offering voice-activated services. Your voice turns the water on/off & controls the temperature. Some companies control settings by voice, app, and a wall-mounted controller.

Janice Murphy, Issues & Concerns Convenor



In Memory Of

“One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world.”
~Malala Yousafzai



Gabrielle Bois
1924 - May 27, 2023



Dr. Maxine Price
1931- June 21, 2023



Patricia McManus
1934- August 17, 2023



Recently our Branch lost three Life Members.
Our condolences are extended to their families.

A children's book will be donated by our members to a local branch of the public library in memory of each of these women.

FALL LUNCHEON

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

Social Hour: 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Lunch Served: 12:00 p.m.

Location: St. Mary's Hall
12016 Talbot Rd.
Maidstone
NOR IKO

Turkey Dinner with all the fixings

Cost: \$35.00

Remember to wear your RWTO Membership Pin!

PURCHASE YOUR TICKET BY: *Tuesday September 19, 2023.*

Sorry, no refunds after the deadline.

Options for Payment:

1. **e-Transfer to: rwto.treasurer6@gmail.com - auto deposit**
Include your full name and "Fall Luncheon" in the transfer message area.
2. **Mail or porch drop your cheque, along with the form below, made payable to:**
RWTO Windsor-Essex, (please no posted dated cheques)
RWTO Windsor/Essex
c/o Karen Clark-Lauzon
266 Ramblewood Dr.
LaSalle, ON N9J 3B3

Support Our Mission of *Caring and Sharing*

1. **Hiatus House - toiletries**
2. **Essex Food Bank - food items**
3. **House of Sophrosyne - toiletries**
4. **IRIS House - Share the Wealth**

A book exchange will be available.



Member Name: _____ First Luncheon? Y or N

Guest Name: _____ First Luncheon? Y or N

Newly Retired Teacher? Y or N

of lunches @\$35.00 = _____