



Retired Women Teachers of Ontario Windsor-Essex Branch

CARING & SHARING

Winter 2023

President's Message

Patricia Wales



As Autumn fades and hints of winter begin, I am aware of the connection that membership in RWTO provides. In recent months I have visited, called, emailed or enjoyed activities with members. This shared time is uplifting. I have crossed paths with marvelous women, heard their interesting stories and shared their struggles. Whether a conversation waiting in line, riding on a bus or sitting together at an event, our sisterhood is our common ground.

Your generosity was so evident at our Fall luncheon where the turkey dinner connected us and your generous spirits poured out into the community with food, toiletries and gifts in abundance. At each luncheon we support four



charities. My heart was overwhelmed to see the boxes and boxes of items you brought in for delivery. Our visiting Provincial President Sandra Salerno commented on your good works. The receiving staff at these charities are most grateful as we learn from their notes of gratitude. We begin each luncheon by asking for members to drop off items. Please consider this when you attend a lunch, especially if the charity is located near you. Members will help load your vehicle and the receiving charities have staff to assist with the unloading. This aspect of our Branch is heartening.

Winter doesn't slow down an RWTO member. As you read this newsletter you will see more activities. eBlasts will be sent to those with email when ideas for events occur between newsletters. Be sure to check our website, Facebook

and Instagram posts for the latest news. Details for the Christmas Luncheon are on the last page of this newsletter. We will be joined by Area Director Lynn Sulman who regularly comments on the good works of the Windsor-Essex Branch.

I hope that whatever your holiday traditions are, you enjoy the cozy feeling of love and you are surrounded by activity and connection with others. I wish you Caring and Sharing in this winter season.



"Win" ter Mint Fest

Linda White



Join us at our Christmas Luncheon at the Ciociaro Club for a fun shopping spree. Browse and drop your purchased tickets for a chance to win your selected item(s).

Your ticket purchase gets you a numbered "WIN" ter mint for a Bonus draw gift package. Enjoy shopping for yourself and those special people in your life.

***No Debit or Credit - Cash only 😊**

Treasurer's Report

Karen Clark-Lauzon



There will be an increase in dues beginning with the 2024-25 year. This motion was put forward at the AGM 2023 and passed by delegates. There has not been an increase in dues since 2008. Currently dues are \$50 with \$40 going to

Provincial and \$10 remaining with the Branch. After Nov. 30, every Branch receives its delegate representation for the AGM from Provincial depending on how many members there are. We use that same date as the deadline for our dues. That is why it is so important that dues are paid promptly.

So what expenses does our organization have?

Locally – There are costs related to newsletter printing and mailing. The venues and meals for our luncheons are gradually increasing in costs. There are subsidies for luncheons, draws, prizes and décor items. Our other social events also have associated costs depending on the event. Our charities need assistance as well. And our committees have meetings to plan and organize their work.

Provincially – The revenue covers costs for the AGM, grants, awards, committee meetings, employee salary and advances to the AGM Host Branch, to name a few items. Costs for venues and meals have risen substantially since 2020. AGMs will be held virtually some years to keep expenses low. The Province is obliged to ensure that at least 2 years' worth of funding is available at all times. The increase in dues would help to ensure that.

Our world and our organization has changed dramatically since the last increase. However, we still need the support of our sisterhood, in good times and challenging times.

The increase will help us help each other and the charities that we also support. Costs are rising so we have to increase our income. Since our income is generated mainly from dues, an increase is necessary.

Wanted: School Supplies

Michelle White



I am a new member of RWTO who will be travelling to Ghana, Africa with my Rotarian team in February 2024. Among the many services we are providing, we will be bringing 500 backpacks to

give to elementary age children. We would like to fill the backpacks with school supplies. Because of the weight restrictions, we cannot take books or packages of paper. I am asking for your support.

I will have an area set up at the Christmas luncheon for your donations of school supplies. Here is a list of possible items:

- pencils, erasers
- rulers, markers
- crayons, pencil crayons
- thin notebooks, elementary scissors

Thanking you in advance for your assistance and generosity at the Christmas Luncheon.

Goodwill Convenor

Val Luscott



The Forget-Me-Nots

We thank Arlene Veitch for suggesting this name. She also procured forget-me-not pins. The criteria for each volunteer is that they live within a reasonable distance to the member they visit.

Recently two members approached me to become a Forget-Me-Not. There are members living in the Leamington, Kingsville, and Amherstburg areas who would appreciate a visit. Please let me know if you are interested in joining this group.

We wish to thank Emy McBride for all the birthday cards she has sent to members.

Caring and Sharing

Gina Marcon



"If the last luncheon was any indication of the generosity of our membership...our cup runneth over!!!!"

Kids First Food Bank - supports 900 families throughout the city and county with meal packages. They are partnered with President's Choice to get deals. Donations of peanut butter, jam, pasta and jarred pasta sauce, along with Superstore/Zehrs gift cards help them buy perishable items for the students who attend their summer camps and afterschool programs. Their food cupboard is also in need of cereal and instant oatmeal.

Kingsville Food Bank - cereal boxes, peanut butter and jam, snack cups (pudding, fruit cocktail, apple sauce) and snack bars, granola bars, fruit bars.

Leamington Salvation Army - listed in order of greatest need. They serve mainly families, but also many homeless people.

1. Sanitary Pads (not tampons)
2. Shampoo and conditioner
3. Toddler size diapers
4. Baby wipes
5. Hot Paws Hand Warmer packets for gloves and boots
6. New men's socks



Membership Convenor

Carole Kuli



Congratulations to **Janis Snider** who was our Early Bird Draw winner. A big THANK YOU to all the members who paid their membership dues on time. We currently have 260 members, 10 Lifetime members and

8 associate members. We continue to welcome new members to our RWTO family. If you know a retired female teacher, Educational Assistant, Early Childhood Educator or Child and Youth Worker who would like to join us, have them contact me or a member of the executive.

If at any time your information changes (address, email, phone etc) please contact me at: carole.kuli3@gmail.com with the details. With every luncheon and event, I look forward to meeting you.

Welcome to our NEW members!

Mary Jane Asick, Camilla Aubry, Virginia Barron, Marielle Bisnaire, Laura Bomben-Grosso, Adriana Costa, Leonora Cummings, Suzanne DeFroy, Gloria Deneau, Lydia D'Angelo, Debra Janzen, Shariffa Kurdi, Leslie Luker-Agnew, Linda Molnar, Linda Monforton, Nina Parker, Anne Rudy, Brenda St.Germain, Michelle White.

Insurance Convenor

Marilyn Harvey

RWTO Insurance Plans are available to our members in good standing. Members with existing coverage will continue to be covered provided they continue to pay their premiums and remain a member of a Branch by paying their membership dues. See the provincial website (rwto.org) for descriptions.

Forever Young Member

Claire Renaud



Audrey Stanley joined the Forever Young Club, a group of special women within our Branch whose wisdom and strength is inspiring.

Audrey was born at home in Woodslee into a family of 11 brothers and 2 sisters on June 13, 1933. She attended grade school near her home and

then on to Essex High School.

When she was just starting Grade 13 she was asked to teach kindergarten at J.A. Dowswell School in Essex and thus began her teaching career. She then attended Normal School.

A school co-worker stated that Audrey was a real go-getter, a great colleague, always full of energy and ideas. When the “e” report card stage of education started she was among the first to “code” general statements for the new report cards.

She sang and played the piano for the Grade 1 classes, for concerts and other events. She handled all challenges with humour and her work ethic.

Married to Harold, her dear husband of many years, Audrey has a daughter and son and is a grandma and great grandma.

Audrey retired from Gosfield North School in June 1988. In her retirement years she has been very active in her work with the Woodslee United Church of which she is a lifetime member, convening bazaars and teaching Bible school. She was a member of the Rebekahs for over 60 years.

This very creative woman makes beautiful quilts, sews various items of which she has full bins, ready to sell or give away. She plays cards at least 3 times weekly. Her great laugh, being always ready for a joke or story makes **Audrey Stanley** a positive influence.

Upcoming Social Committee Events

1. Christmas Bright Lights walk about in Jackson Park and Amherstburg - dates to be posted in eBlast, Instagram and RWTO website.
2. “Paint Night with Julia Conlon” - date to be determined
3. Walking Club - who’s interested?

Social Committee Convenor

Anna Campigotto

Victoria 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**

Trip includes:

- Round trip 55 passenger coach to Petrolia
- Stop ONroute 401, Parks Blueberries (lunch own expense)
- Shopping, fellowship and play in Petrolia
- On return, dinner at Chuck’s Road House Chatham (own expense)

**Seats still available by calling
Anna Campigotto (519) 978-0652
as soon as possible for a limited time.**

Payment in full required.

9:00 a.m. Friday December 8, 2023

Meet at the old Sears parking lot / county pickup Amer Townline
Return approximately 10:00 p.m .

e-Transfer: rwto.treasurer6@gmail.com

Include your full name & Petrolia.

Remember: “Wake up every morning with the thought that something wonderful is going to happen.”

Shop-Hop Amherstburg



JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST

SHOP-HOP

Shop-Hopping from store to store in Amherstburg

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 29, 2023

10:00 am

Car Pool to Amherstburg. Shop and then join us for lunch at the Artisan Grill at noon.

Free Parking on the street.

RSVP TO KATHY GALLAGHER

BY TUESDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2023

Text: 519-984-5963

Email: inniaudi@gmail.com

Issues and Concerns Convenor

Janice Murphy



Celebrating holidays while incorporating traditions, beliefs and new ideas may expand family customs. Aging well and gatherings can take into account the needs of all

- ages so that participating together can be more easily shared and create those special memories. Meeting ahead of big events to consider all participants and their needs could be helpful. Involving children to prepare their home ahead of time for grandparents' arrival creates a welcoming space without furniture being shifted last minute. As the holidays approach some suggestions could be:
- Seasonal Songs - played for listening or singing. Word sheets may be helpful. Try including songs from the forties to the present. Shared stories at this time may be next year's repertoire.
 - Cultural Heritage – Have grandparents share their traditional celebrations from their heritage when they were little ones. Bring an ornament from long ago.
 - Holiday Story Reading - Whether child to grandparent or seniors to the young, reading between generations brings those feelings of togetherness.
 - Mail a Card - Joyful memories travel by mail and can be displayed upon arrival at gathering places. Help a child prepare and mail their own card list.
 - Plan a PJ Night - to watch traditional or new seasonal shows in relaxed attire. Maybe sleep around the tree?

- Decoration Night - at grandparents' homes to connect in the season.
 - Do You Remember? - share stories, bring photographs of days gone by to help revisit fond memories. All ages can share a favourite time.
 - Volunteer as a family to serve lunch, take part in a can drive, make a family donation to assist another family or make homemade gifts for others.
- Recalling memories of past celebrations while spending time together to absorb the season celebrates your most precious gift of time with family.

Fall Luncheon Gratitude

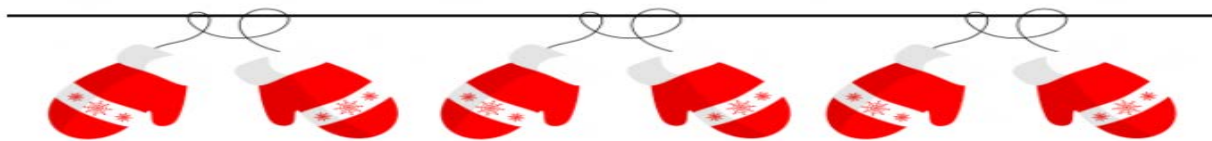


For Charity Deliveries
thank you: Marianne Angus,
Val Luscott,
Sheila Dinnendahl,
Camilla Aubry
Table Centerpiece Design Setup:
Rita Pallisco, Vicky Walker
Various Luncheon Helpers:

Kathy LeFave, Gloria Deneau, Paulette Renaud,
Gloria Kenny, Chris Pastorius, Annette Bezaire,
Val Lefebvre, Sandi Shoust, Linda White, Marianne Angus, Deirdre Palamides, Marg Campeau

AND the WINNERS were:

Amica Prize Basket: Michele Bodde
Christmas 2023 Free Lunch: Jan Kell
Early Bird DRAW: Janis Snider
Free Membership DRAW: Shariffa Kurdi
Share the Wealth: Muriel Newman,
Marilyn Harvey, Lydia D'Angelo



“The Joy of brightening other lives, bearing each others’ burdens, easing each others’ loads and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts becomes for us the magic of the holidays.” ~ W. C. Jones



Christmas Luncheon



Tuesday December 5, 2023

Social Hour:

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

Lunch Served: 12:00 pm

Menu: Cost \$35.00

Chicken Marsala Scaloppine
Risotto with squash & zucchini
Italian mixed vegetables
salad, rolls
coffee/tea, pastries

Venue:

Ciociaro Club
3745 North Talbot Rd.
Oldcastle, ON
NEW: Salon D & E

PARKING: Drive under the portico and park at the rear of the building.

Options for payment:

* e-Transfer to:

rwto.treasurer6@gmail.com

Please include your full name and
"Christmas Luncheon" in the transfer message area.
*e-Transfers are **auto deposit**.

Mail or porch drop your cheque, (please, no posted
dated cheques) along with the form below, **made
payable to:**

RWTO Windsor-Essex

Send to: Karen Clark-Lauzon
266 Ramblewood Dr.
LaSalle, ON N9J 3B3

Purchase your tickets by: Tuesday November 28, 2023
Sorry, no refunds after this date.

Support our mission of *Caring and Sharing*

1. Kids First Food Bank – non perishable food items
2. Kingsville Food Bank - non perishable food items
3. Leamington Salvation Army - toiletries
4. St. Vincent de Paul – St. Alphonsus Conference - Share the Wealth



A book exchange will be available.

****Remember to wear your RWTO membership pin.**

Member Name: _____

First Luncheon? Y or N

Guest Name: _____

First Luncheon? Y or N

Number of lunches @ \$35.00 : _____

Newly Retired Teacher? Y or N