



Retired Women Teachers of Ontario Windsor-Essex Branch

CARING & SHARING

Fall 2024

President's Message

Gina Marcon



WELCOME to our new RWTO/OERO professionals. Let's get out there and recruit our sisters who are:
Audiologists,
CYW's, DSW's,
ECE's, Office

Administrators, Social Workers, Psychologists, EA's, and Speech & Language Pathologists. All who had a career in service to supporting and educating children are encouraged to join.

What is the #1 predictor to longevity? All sources point to ... close relationships with others. All statistics, all sites, and the best expert – GOOGLE, say that connections with others (whether family or friend or alliance) are excellent ways to keep the mind, body and spirit healthy and happy.

RWTO/OERO is just that connection for many of us. Join our luncheons, our bus trips, our local day trips and our restaurant visits and you won't regret it. It is just what the doctor ordered.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Luncheon on Tuesday Sept. 24th at St. Mary's Hall in Maidstone. Terry Kennedy from Dolphin Consulting Group will be coming to the meeting to explain the Open Enrollment Period for members and spouses for Health Insurance. She will answer all your questions.

I really look forward to all the fun and exciting events planned this Fall. Keep your eyes out for a Retired Women's Financial Literacy Workshop in

October. We will be offering this free learning opportunity at Ciociaro for our members.

Treasurer's Report

Karen Clark-Lauzon

Your dues help our Branch to continue to plan activities and support our members for another year. Please note 2 important items:

- A) Dues are now \$60/year. A resolution was passed at the Provincial 2023 AGM to increase the amount.
- B) If you have sent in your dues since April 1, 2024, then you are all set until August 2025. Please check your records carefully as some members have paid twice and reimbursement has had to be paid by your treasurer. An email can always be sent to clarklauzon@gmail.com to verify your status.

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.

RWTO/OERO Windsor-Essex Branch
Executive & Board Directory 2024-2025

Executive and Board		
POSITION	NAME	EMAIL
Honorary President	Linda White	lindaawhite@cogeco.ca
Past President	Patricia Wales	onefortune6@gmail.com
President	Gina Marcon	rwto.oero.we@gmail.com
First Vice-President	Vicky Walker	vzwalker1@gmail.com
Second Vice-President	mj Asick	maryjane.asick@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Lydia D'Angelo	ldangelo222@gmail.com
Treasurer	Karen Clark-Lauzon	clarklauzon@gmail.com
Insurance Convenor	Luana Zambito	lzambito68@gmail.com
Archivist		
Goodwill Convenor	Val Luscott	vluscott54@gmail.com
Issues & Concerns Convenor	Janice Murphy	jmurphy26@cogeco.ca
Membership Convenor	Carole Kuli	carole.kuli3@gmail.com
Newsletter Convenor	Diane Milner	milneris@outlook.com
Social Convenor	Anna Campigotto	campya23@me.com
Website Convenor	Kathy Gallagher	inniaudi@gmail.com

Committees		
Goodwill	Val Luscott	vluscott54@gmail.com
Social	Lowanna Closs	lowannacloss@gmail.com
	Kathy Gallagher	inniaudi@gmail.com
	Rosemary Kyrliuk	rkyrliuk@gmail.com
	Deirde Palamides	mrspal@hotmail.com
	Debbie Powell	dedorky@hotmail.com
	Genny Rudzinski	gennyrud@gmail.com
	Roberta DiLallo	robertadilallo01@gmail.com vvch

Goodwill Report

Val Luscott



I have continued to send sympathy and get-well cards as needed. I went to the visitation of one of our members, Joanne King. There I learned about Joanne's involvement with Matthew House. I was told she will be sorely missed. Over the past few months, I have attended two Celebrations of Life. Maxine Price's daughter Debbie had organized a ceremony for her mother. Friends and family reminisced about Maxine's colourful life. Recently several of us visited the celebration of Jane Holme's life. This had been arranged by her son, Benjamin. He was presented with a pillar candle inscribed with Jane's name and a book will be placed in a local library in her name.

In our Windsor Essex Branch we have several members whose ages range from ninety - four to ninety- eight years. We thank them for their support and membership for many years.

Insurance Convenor

Luana Zambito

My name is Luana Zambito. I retired from teaching in June of 2023 after having a 31-year career with the Greater Essex County District School ;Board. I have mostly taught French as a second language to children in grades 4 to 8, but I have also been a primary, junior and intermediate classroom teacher.

I have recently taken over the position of Insurance Convenor. I hope I can do this job justice as I am filling very big shoes. Marilyn Harvey offered a lot of good advice and left me a very organized system. I am truly grateful, and I know that I can rely on guidance from her in the future as needed.

Celebration and Jubilee!

Patricia Wales, Past President
AGM Delegate



Celebration and jubilee! Our Branch won TWO awards at the RWTO June Provincial Convention. Your efforts and assistance have brought this great honour to our Branch.

We received a Barbara Bain Award for an increase of paid Branch members in the last year. A formula used by Provincial determines winners in three tiers. The number of new members joining, less the number of existing members who did not renew between the renewal period is used. Windsor-Essex is a Tier 1 Branch (largest Branches). We had 14 new members during the renewal period. Thank you to all who joined us as new members and to all who continue to submit their dues as existing members. We received an award of \$400.

At the suggestion of former Area Director Lynn Sulman, a submission was sent in for the Feather in Your Hat Award. It described our Branch memorial practices for members who die. For twenty years our Branch has developed how we honour the legacy of our members. Noted at the presentation time was our memorial service, written and developed and attended by many of you when a member has died. A Branch donation of \$30 is made to a local public library for the purchase of a book in that member's name. In the past 5 years over \$1000 has been donated to the local public library system. Families receive a memorial candle with their loved one's name. We remember our members in a newsletter memorial. Each Spring our Goodwill Committee honours the members who have passed away. We received a Tier 1 Feather in Your Hat Award of \$100.

Very well-done members of Windsor-Essex Branch! It is your active participation and support that were recognized.

Membership Convenor

Carole Kuli

Our membership this past year has been one of joy and sadness. Since the fall of 2023, we have had 6 new ladies join our RWTO group. Unfortunately, in that same time frame, we have said goodbye to 6 of our dear friends and colleagues. As of right now, we have 256 members, 8 lifetime members and 6 associate members.

We have expanded our repertoire of members. Not only will we be welcoming ECE, CYW and EA, we will also be including Speech and Language, Psychologists and Office Staff. We had a great campaign to inform new retirees about RWTO and all that it offers. We reached out to approximately 100 ladies.

Due to Provincial increases, it was necessary to increase our membership to \$60.00. Don't forget about the EARLY BIRD DRAW. Anyone who pays their dues before September 1, will be included in a draw which will be drawn at the Fall Luncheon. Looking forward to getting to know you better.

Welcome to our new members! Rosa Cipparone, Georgina Davidson, Connie Farrer, Laurie Sinasac, Jean Vetor and Luana Zambito.



Issues and Concerns Convenor

Janice Murphy

Aging Well - People working towards their own personal goal to age well may eventually include family, friends, and support organizations. Each generation has its own family dynamics, values, and ways of getting things done that provide them the skills to face and function in the world. One generation may be described as more private with family matters and discussion which may also include families that are more open with family matters and discussion. These dynamics may lead to a different response than the caregiver expects to hear when suggesting solutions, for example, with mobility. One person may say they have noticed being dizzy and would like a walker while another person might reply they don't need or want one, even if they have already fallen once.

This is where diplomacy and safety merge. Keep in mind that each of us must consider what is best for our loved one. As we age, we are on our own future goal to aging well, to face change or to find solutions for choosing to stand still. Decisions can be difficult for known and unknown reasons including the natural process to aging itself. Some positive support suggestions may be helping loved ones stay connected, motivated, and always maintaining a positive attitude. You could introduce new experiences or try one from the past that brought them joy. Be open to all of their questions with researched, professional, positive, solutions. Inform them about the resources available. Keep communication open.

Aging well is an opportunity for you to be a gift to others and to receive time spent and memories shared.



Social Convenor

Anna Campigotto

29 RWTO Leading Ladies were dressed to impress at our 80+ Tea June 10. Fancy hats, colourful outfits and beautiful smiles. Oh My! Seasons of LaSalle outdid themselves again this year with tasty sandwiches, veggies, fruit and group photographs for all to take home. They were greeted by our awesome volunteers with corsages and glamour shots. Wonderful music, courtesy of our own Gail Raymond and a sing along with Sandra Menard and Lowanna Closs. Our guests received teacups, chocolates and good boxes.

Remember as Audrey Hepburn says, "Always be the Leading Lady in Your Life."



Show



Relive the Music of the 50's and 60's

A Jukebox Musical Concert with a Broadway feel with band, dancers, singers, and tributes of musical history.

Where: Capitol Theatre 121 University Ave. West

When: October 16, 7:30 – 9:30

Cost: \$69.00

When: October 16 7:30-9:30 pm

Cost \$69.00

Contact: Anna Campigotto campya23@me.com

519-978-0652

Yours in sisterhood, RWTO, Anna

Sharing and Caring

Vicky Walker, First Vice President

Our members are always so generous in supporting our charities. Please see the list below for our featured charities as well as their particular needs.

Divine Mercy - canned tuna, canned vegetables, canned soup, 900g pasta bags, canned fruit, baked beans, pudding cups, baby wipes, size 4 & 5 diapers, toothpaste

Drouillard Place - the focus is on children's school lunch items. Peanut Butter, Jam, individually wrapped lunch snacks, Pasta sauce, Canned meat (tuna, salmon, etc.)

Essex Food Bank - Toiletries are needed. They have recently moved to a new location and are also in need of cereal, cookies, canned meals (stew, chili)

Hiatus House - is our Share the Wealth recipient

“As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.”

Audrey Hepburn

AGM 2024 Provincial Delegate Report

Vicki Walker, First Vice President

This past June, six delegates represented our Windsor-Essex branch (Pat Wales, Gina Marcon, Karen Clark-Lauzon, Roberta Di Lallo, Carole Kuli & Vicky Walker). This year's AGM was virtual with the theme of Growing Forward Together & 7 resolutions were put forward. This theme becomes extremely important as you read the following.

Across the province, branches are struggling to attract members and to fill positions on their executives. Add to this that the bulk of our members are 70 yrs of age and older.

There were 5 resolutions put forward to include other retired professionals in education.

They say, "it takes a village to raise a child" and with the passing of the first 5 resolutions, our organization will now reflect more of that village by welcoming Education Speech & Language Pathologists, Educational Audiologists, Educational Social Workers, Educational Psychologists & Educational Office Support Staff.

Resolution 6 focused on renaming our provincial group. Obviously with the additions of new education professionals, the name Retired Women Teachers of Ontario is not inclusive. There was very much discussion on this & many good points were brought forward. This resolution has been deferred to AGM 2025 so that more information can be collected. It is imperative that a new name represents all & that the acronym is appropriate.

Resolution 7 dealt with the use of RWTO materials, and this became irrelevant as our name remains status quo. For further information, these resolutions can be found in your March 2024 Connections magazine and is also available on the RWTO website.

So how will we grow forward together?

- Be open to the change of new professionals in our group and a future new name. We all struggle with change. It is important that we continue to grow our local chapter so that the language and name we use in our conversations are welcoming and inclusive.
- You all have some connections with retired women. Please continue to pass out our business cards & encourage them to join us at a luncheon or at one of our activities. Share our fun!!
- Our provincial president reminds us to "step up" to positions of responsibility. Many AGM delegates spoke of how "green" they were when they joined executives. "You have the skills! You managed classrooms, planned field trips, all while taking care of family & homes. Many hands make light work! Be brave! - we are here to welcome you & to help you.

We look forward to AGM 2025, themed The Grand Getaway!, June 3-5th in Brantford where we can gather together and celebrate our wonderful organization.



In Memoriam

"Unable are the loved to die, for love is immortality."
~Emily Dickinson



Linda Newman
1945- May 30, 2024



Joanne King
1946 - May 31, 1924



Jane Holmes
1947 - July 28, 1924

Kindly we remember three Branch members who have passed away. We ask that their families find peace in knowing that their service has enriched our community. A children's book will be donated by RWTO/OERO Windsor-Essex Branch to a local branch of the public library in memory of each of these women.

From The Desk of Our Provincial President

Jan Murdoch, rwtopresident2425@gmail.com

Important Health Care News for Branch Members!

Our Manulife Supplementary "Hospital and Home Care" Insurance Plan is holding an *"Open Window"* event this fall, so that our members may join the plan, **even if they have pre-existing health conditions**. The plan will be available to members and their spouses from September 15, 2024 until November 15, 2024 without needing a medical evaluation. Members applying must have OHIP, and a secondary Health Care Plan, such as the RTOERO Health Care Plan - Entente, RTIP or a spousal plan.

Ours is a very low-cost top-up plan - \$14.49 a month for a member and \$15.57 a month for a spouse! Branches will be holding information workshops on the *Open Window* and what the plan offers to ensure members, and their spouses understand the benefits.

This would be an excellent opportunity for those who are already members in the plan to hear about the items they are entitled to request repayment for, as well as having potential insurance members learn the details of the plan. There is a special application form during the *Open Window*. You can pick up the brochure and application form at the workshop. Branch Presidents and Insurance Convenors will have extra copies if you are not able to attend but would like to subscribe to the insurance plan.

Forms can also be mailed to you by contacting one of the people below.

If you have personal enquiries don't hesitate to call or email one of the Convenors or our Broker.

Insurance Convenors:

LeAnne Taylor rwtoeroinsurance@gmail.com 905-875-5953

Kathy McLean rwtomembership@gmail.com 613-277-9771

Insurance Broker: Terry Kennedy tkennedy34@bell.net 519-583-0098



When: Tuesday September 24, 2024

Venue: St. Mary's Hall, 12016 Talbot Rd., Maidstone, ON NOR 1KO	Buffet Style Thanksgiving Menu Cost \$35.00
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Please purchase tickets by: Monday September 16, 2024 * No refunds will be available after this date.

Options for payment: Cost \$35.00

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

1. **Divine Mercy** - Canned Goods
2. **Drouillard Place** - the focus is on children's school lunch items
3. **Essex Food Bank** - Toiletries are needed, also in need of cereal, cookies, canned meals (stew, chili)
4. **Hiatus House** - is our Share the Wealth recipient

A book exchange will be available.

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