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**Retired Women Teachers of Ontario
Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de l'Ontario**

**69th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
June 3-5, 2025**

Agenda

Session 1 Wednesday, June 3 8:30 AM

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Welcome and Opening Remarks | Jan Murdoch, President |
| 2. Approval of Agenda | Jan Murdoch, President |
| 3. Announcements | Lynn Anderton, Convention Convenor |
| 4. AGM Procedure including voting process | Margaret Geare, Program Coordinator |
| 5. Minutes of 67 th Annual General Meeting | Sandie Bender, Recording Secretary |
| 6. Business Arising from the 2024 AGM Minutes | Jan Murdoch, President |
| 7. Committee Report .01 Nominations | Sandra Salerno, Past President |
| 8. Executive Secretary-Treasurer's Report
Presentation of the 2024-2025 Financial Statement
Presentation of the 2025-2026 Proposed Budget | Linda Huffman |

Coffee Break (15 Minutes)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 9. Committee Report .02
Constitution and Resolutions
2025 AGM Resolutions | Linda Sargeant, First Vice-President
Jane Cartier, Parliamentarian |
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Committee Reports

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| .03 Archivist | Hénédine Weiman |
| .04 Communications Newsletter | Kathy Smith |
| .05 Communications Website | Jane Macdonald |
| .06 Convention Handbook Revision | Margaret Geare |
| .07 Goodwill | Betty Lee-Daigle |
| .08 Honorary Membership | Judy Drummond |
| .09 Insurance | LeAnne Taylor |
| .10 Issues and Concerns | Diane Sinden |
| .11 Membership and Awards | Joan Gamble |
| .12 Policies and Procedures | Sandra Salerno |
| .13 Program Coordinator | Margaret Geare |
| .14 Sales and Materials | Joanne Weeks |
| .15 Honorary President | Judy Drummond |

Session 2 Thursday, June 5, 2025 8:30 AM

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| 6. In Memoriam Service | Hénédine Weiman, Archivist |
| 7. Opening Remarks | Jan Murdoch, President |
| 8. Announcements | Lynn Anderton, Convention Convenor |
| 9. AGM Resolutions 2025 Continued (if necessary) | Linda Sargeant, First Vice-President
Jane Cartier, Parliamentarian |
| 10. Manulife Financial Report | Terry Kennedy |
| 11. Executive Secretary-Treasurer Report
Approval of 2025-2026 Budget | Linda Huffman
Executive Secretary-Treasurer |
| 12. Committee Reports Continued (if necessary) | |
| 13. Motion to Accept Committee Reports | Jan Murdoch |
| 14. President's Report | Jan Murdoch |

Closing Luncheon

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 15. Recognition of "Over 90" Members | Lynn Anderton |
| 16. Installation of Incoming Board | Judy Drummond, Honorary President |
| 17. Remarks by Outgoing President | Jan Murdoch |
| 18. Presentation of Past President's Pin | Linda Sargeant |
| 14. Introduction of Incoming President | Hamilton -Wentworth |
| 15. Presentation of the Gavel | Jan Murdoch |
| 16. Remarks by Incoming President | Linda Sargeant |
| 17. Call to Convention 2026 | Convention 2026 Committee |
| 18. Closing Remarks/Announcements | Linda Sargeant |

Adjournment

Linda Sargeant

Board of Directors 2024-2025

Executive

Past President	Sandra Salerno
President	Jan Murdoch
1st Vice President	Linda Sargeant
2nd Vice President	Betty Lee-Daigle
Program Coordinator	Margaret Geare
Insurance Convenor	LeAnne Taylor
Recording Secretary	Sandie Bender

Appointments

Honorary President	Judy Drummond
Executive Secretary- Treasurer	Linda Huffman
Parliamentarian	Jane Cartier
Archivist	Hénédine Weiman
Assistant Insurance Convenor	Kathy McLean
Communications Newsletter Convenor	Kathy Smith
Communications Website Convenor	Jane Macdonald
Issues and Concerns	Diane Sinden
Membership Convenor	Joan Gamble
Sales and Materials	Joanne Weeks
2025 Convention Convenor	Lynn Anderton

Area Directors

Area 1 Nancy Strutt	Area 8 Joan Gamble
Area 2 Colleen Robertson	Area 9 Brenda Johnston
Area 3 Mary Maxwell	Area 10 Hénédine Weiman
Area 4 Joanne Weeks	Area 11 Carol Neave
Area 5 Judy Anderson	Area 12 Diane Sinden
Area 6 Pat Steer	Area 13 Linda Gaudet
Area 7 Lynda Sommer	

68th CONVENTION AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (VIRTUAL)

Growing Forward Together June 4-5, 2024

Minutes

Note: Since the 68th Convention and Annual General Meeting were virtual in 2024, the Convention portions that were open to all RWTO/OERO members, as well as the participants in the AGM, were the Opening Ceremonies, the Tuesday night entertainment, and the Closing Ceremonies. Registration was required for these events. The Opening Ceremonies included an RWTO/OERO choral presentation of the song "Why We Sing". Nineteen singers from thirteen different Branches were involved. This was coordinated by Judith Bennoch. The keynote speech was delivered by Sandra Salerno, Provincial President. She focused on the importance of RWTO/OERO members stepping up to fill leadership positions in their Branches. Following this, winners of the attendance prizes were announced. The Opening Ceremonies concluded and delegates, and others involved in the AGM, signed into Zoom again to participate in the AGM.

Session 1: Tuesday, June 4 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Due to technical difficulties, Sandra Salerno, President was unable to share welcoming remarks.

2. AGM Procedures

Judith Bennoch, Program Coordinator, reviewed voting and speaking procedures. She noted that Resolutions and amendments would appear on the screen for delegate information and clarity. Judith informed the meeting that a quorum was achieved. In voting for a motion, 50% plus 1 would pass a motion, 66% in favour would pass a Resolution previously communicated through *Connections*, and 80% in favour was required for new Resolutions from the floor. The Timekeeper, Linda Frey, was introduced and the timing procedure for those speaking was shared. Members of the Steering Committee were introduced: Lois Lockart, Annette Rhodes, Sherri Stokes. The procedures for "Chat" and polls were explained.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion #1 AGM 2024: Moved by Margaret Geare (Board of Directors) and seconded by LeAnne Taylor (Board of Directors) that the Agenda be approved. Carried.

4. Approval of Minutes of 67th Annual General Meeting

In the absence of Sandra Salerno (President), Past President Judy Drummond, directed delegates to the Minutes of AGM 2023 and asked for revisions. None were reported.

Motion #2 AGM 2024: Moved by Nancy Bell (Board of Directors) and seconded by Pat Emmerton (Board of Directors) that the Minutes of AGM 2023 be approved as presented. Carried.

5. Business Arising from the 2023 AGM Minutes

Sandra Salerno, President rejoined the meeting and asked the Ad Hoc Committee, formed as a result of 2023 Resolutions 13 and 14, to report. Chairs Jennifer Bradbury and Joan Gamble shared the committee's findings. They noted that, since there was no consensus of the committee, no new Resolutions would be presented at this time.

Motion #3 AGM 2024: Moved by Jennifer Bradbury (Board of Directors) and seconded by Joan Gamble (Board of Directors) that the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on 2023 Resolutions 13 and 14 be accepted. Carried.

Motion #4 AGM 2024: Moved by Patty Brine (Stratford) and seconded by Betty Lee-Daigle (Gananoque) that a decision related to Resolutions 13 and 14 be deferred to AGM 2025. Carried.

6. Committee Report .01 Nominations

Judy Drummond, Past President, presented the proposed slate of Officers for 2024-2025. She called for further nominations from the floor for elected positions. Since none were forthcoming, she declared the positions acclaimed.

Motion #5 AGM 2024: Moved by Joan Gamble (Board of Directors) and seconded by Anne Graham (Lanark) that Betty Lee-Daigle be nominated for Second Vice-President.

Judy called for additional nominations for this position from the floor. None were forthcoming and Betty Lee-Daigle was acclaimed as 2nd Vice President. Then she announced the names of those who would fill appointed positions, as well as the names of the Area Directors for 2023-2024, as selected by the Branches.

Motion #6 AGM 2024: Moved by Lynn Sulman (Board of Directors) and seconded by Margaret Geare (Board of Directors) that the Nominations Report be accepted. Carried.

7. Executive Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Linda Huffman presented the Financial Report for 2023-2024: Actuals versus Budget, Auditor's Report, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Operations and Reserve Fund Expenditures, and Statement of Cash Flows. Various lines were explained. It was noted that the Revenue exceeded Expenses due to an increase in meetings via Zoom. No questions resulted.

Linda Huffman presented the Proposed Budget for 2024-2025 explaining forecasted Revenues and Expenses. She noted significant changes from previous years. The budget line related to Social Justice was explained.

Motion #7 AGM 2024: Moved by Peggy Stock (East Parry Sound) and seconded by Lynn Anderton (Hamilton-Wentworth) that the Financial Report be accepted as presented. Carried.

8. Committee Reports .02

Jan Murdoch, First Vice-President and Chair of the Constitution and Resolutions Committee presented her report.

It was noted that the Rationale for Resolutions #1-5 was the same and would only be read when the first Resolution was considered. Subsequently the Resolutions were read by Jan Murdoch and Jane Cartier, the Parliamentarian, oversaw the Resolution process.

Motion #8 AGM 2024: Moved by Marilyn Emmett (St. Catharines) and seconded by Fern Lackenbauer (St. Catharines) that Resolution # 1-7 be deferred until the AGM in 2025.

Discussion ensued. Speakers for the motion cited technology difficulties in a virtual convention and lack of opportunities for conversation among delegates from the same Branch. Speakers against the motion stressed the need to move forward from a position of inclusivity and viability of the organization.

The question was called and the motion was defeated.

Motion #9 AGM 2024: Moved by Melanie Kelch (St. Catharines) and seconded by Linda Gaudet (St. Catharines) that an Ad Hoc Committee be established to study the impact of membership expansion following the addition of educational professionals.

The motion was Defeated.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #1

Submitted by Area 12 Branches (BurlOak, Lydia Snow, Mississauga, Peel North) and by Area 4 Hamilton-Wentworth Branch.

Moved by Kathy Avey (Peel North) and seconded by Ruth Settle (Hamilton-Wentworth).

Be it resolved that Constitution, Article III, Membership and Fees, 1. Regular Members; be amended with the addition of Retired Women Educational Speech and Language Pathologists.

Rationale:

- Expanding membership is particularly important for small and rural Branches. Provincially, membership is both declining and aging, which can be a factor in having viable Branches and filling executive roles. Membership recruitment is needed to ensure a strong organization in the future.
- Building a viable and inclusive membership would permit us to continue providing Health Care Insurance plans, combating isolation concerns for our membership, and fulfilling our goal of providing caring and sharing opportunities for women and children in our communities as well as ourselves.

- Teachers and other Educational Professionals worked as a team in the classroom and school setting with common goals for children.
- They supported students with different levels of abilities, behavioural issues, mobility and language challenges, and social/ emotional struggles.
- Qualification requirements for Educational Professionals have changed greatly over the years. They have received credentials, diplomas and/or certification within their areas of expertise that have taken years of training.

After a vote Resolution #1 was Carried.

Resolution #2

Submitted by Area 12 Branches (BurlOak, Lydia Snow, Mississauga, Peel North) and by Area 4 Hamilton-Wentworth Branch.

Moved by Claudia Stewart (BurlOak) and seconded by Ann Louise Gloyn

Be it resolved that Constitution, Article III, Membership and Fees, 1. Regular Members; be amended with the addition of Retired Women Educational Audiologists.

Rationale:

- Expanding membership is particularly important for small and rural Branches. Provincially, membership is both declining and aging, which can be a factor in having viable Branches and filling executive roles. Membership recruitment is needed to ensure a strong organization in the future.
- Building a viable and inclusive membership would permit us to continue providing Health Care Insurance plans, combating isolation concerns for our membership, and fulfilling our goal of providing caring and sharing opportunities for women and children in our communities as well as ourselves.
- Teachers and other Educational Professionals worked as a team in the classroom and school setting with common goals for children.
- They supported students with different levels of abilities, behavioural issues, mobility and language challenges, and social/ emotional struggles.
- Qualification requirements for Educational Professionals have changed greatly over the years. They have received credentials, diplomas and/or certification within their areas of expertise that have taken years of training.

After a vote Resolution #2 was Carried.

Resolution #3

Submitted by Area 12 Branches (BurlOak, Lydia Snow, Mississauga, Peel North) and by Area 4 Hamilton-Wentworth Branch.

Moved by Margaret Beaudette (Lydia Snow) and seconded by Jennifer Robson (Hamilton-Wentworth).

Be it resolved that Constitution, Article III, Membership and Fees, 1. Regular Members; be amended with the addition of Retired Women Educational Social Workers.

Rationale:

- Expanding membership is particularly important for small and rural Branches. Provincially, membership is both declining and aging, which can be a factor in having viable Branches and filling executive roles. Membership recruitment is needed to ensure a strong organization in the future.
- Building a viable and inclusive membership would permit us to continue providing Health Care Insurance plans, combating isolation concerns for our membership, and fulfilling our goal of providing caring and sharing opportunities for women and children in our communities as well as ourselves.
- Teachers and other Educational Professionals worked as a team in the classroom and school setting with common goals for children.
- They supported students with different levels of abilities, behavioural issues, mobility and language challenges, and social/ emotional struggles.
- Qualification requirements for Educational Professionals have changed greatly over the years. They have received credentials, diplomas and/or certification within their areas of expertise that have taken years of training.

After a vote Resolution #3 was Carried.

Resolution #4: Submitted by Area 12 Branches (BurlOak, Lydia Snow, Mississauga, Peel North) and by Area 4 Hamilton-Wentworth Branch.

Moved by Marie Solvarski (Mississauga) and seconded by Lesley Devries (Hamilton-Wentworth)

Be it resolved that Constitution, Article III, Membership and Fees, 1. Regular Members; be amended with the addition of Retired Women Educational Psychologists.

Rationale:

- Expanding membership is particularly important for small and rural Branches. Provincially, membership is both declining and aging, which can be a factor in having viable Branches and filling executive roles. Membership recruitment is needed to ensure a strong organization in the future.
- Building a viable and inclusive membership would permit us to continue providing Health Care Insurance plans, combating isolation concerns for our membership, and fulfilling our goal of providing caring and sharing opportunities for women and children in our communities as well as ourselves.
- Teachers and other Educational Professionals worked as a team in the classroom and school setting with common goals for children.
- They supported students with different levels of abilities, behavioural issues, mobility and language challenges, and social/ emotional struggles.

- Qualification requirements for Educational Professionals have changed greatly over the years. They have received credentials, diplomas and/or certification within their areas of expertise that have taken years of training.

After a vote Resolution #4 was Carried.

Session I finished at 12:13 after Lynn Sulman held five spin draws.

Note: The Tuesday evening entertainment was a performance by The Liverpool 4 Beatles Tribute. Jerry Boyer, the leader of the group, began the presentation with a personal message to the members of RWTO/OERO. Judith Bennoch introduced and thanked the group. The evening concluded with a draw for two free RWTO/OERO memberships and an additional five spin draws for Tim Hortons gift cards.

Session II: Wednesday, June 5 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Session II began with “This Is My Canada” followed by another set of draws.

1. Welcome

Sandra Salerno, President, began the session with a quotation by Jane Goodall.

2. AGM Procedures

Judith Bennoch reviewed the meeting procedures.

3. Approval of 2024-2025 Budget

Linda Huffman, Executive Secretary- Treasurer reviewed the proposed budget. There were no questions.

Motion #10 AGM 2024: Moved by Margaret Geare (Board of Directors) and seconded by Carol Morningstar (Board of Directors) that the Budget for 2024-2025 be approved. Carried.

4. Resolutions continued

Resolution #5

Submitted by Area 12 Branches (BurlOak, Lydia Snow, Mississauga, Peel North) and by Area 4 Hamilton-Wentworth Branch.

Moved by Lynn Anderton (Hamilton-Wentworth) and seconded by Claudia Stewart (BurlOak)

Be it resolved that Constitution, Article III, Membership and Fees, 1. Regular Members; be amended with the addition of Retired Women Educational Office Support Staff.

Rationale:

- Expanding membership is particularly important for small and rural Branches. Provincially, membership is both declining and aging, which can be a factor in having viable Branches and

filling executive roles. Membership recruitment is needed to ensure a strong organization in the future.

- Building a viable and inclusive membership would permit us to continue providing Health Care Insurance plans, combating isolation concerns for our membership, and fulfilling our goal of providing caring and sharing opportunities for women and children in our communities as well as ourselves.
- Teachers and other Educational Professionals worked as a team in the classroom and school setting with common goals for children
- They supported students with different levels of abilities, behavioural issues, mobility and language challenges, and social/ emotional struggles.
- Qualification requirements for Educational Professionals have changed greatly over the years. They have received credentials, diplomas and/or certification within their areas of expertise that have taken years of training.

After discussion ensued for clarification of the intent, (i.e. inclusion of administrative assistants – secretaries, also library technicians, computer technicians).

A vote was held and Resolution #5 Carried.

Resolution #6

Submitted by Area 11 Sault Ste. Marie Branch

Moved by Patricia Lambert (Sault Ste. Marie) and seconded by Barbara Perry (Sault Ste. Marie).

Be it resolved that the organization currently known as Retired Women Teachers of Ontario/Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de l'Ontario change its name to Retired Women Educators of Ontario/Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de l'Ontario

Rationale:

This name better reflects who we are, not who we were.

The former name suggests that some members are more valued than others; all should feel equally invited.

This name allows for the addition of other retired women educator groups without further need of a name change.

Historically, we have gone through a number of name changes. Our RWTO/OERO roots date back to the Rendezvous Club started in 1937. Between 1944 and 1956 a small group of Rendezvous Club members was in the forefront of the fight to resolve women's pension issues.

On April 3, 1956 this organization (RWTO/OERO) formed as a separate entity, the Ontario Provincial Association of Retired Women Teachers (OPARWT).

In 1958 it became known as the Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers (OASWT).

In 1968, after a vote held by ALL the Superannuated Teachers of Ontario (with the help of the Ontario Teachers' Federation), all retired teachers banded together into one group, the Superannuated Teachers of Ontario, which gave it the power to negotiate with the Provincial Government regarding pensions.

OASWT also continued as a separate entity to provide for social opportunities for its members. The name was changed to the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario, which avoided confusion with the Superannuated Teachers of Ontario.

Now it is time to move forward with a new name, the Retired Women Educators of Ontario/Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de l'Ontario, which demonstrates who we are!

We should celebrate our past and embrace our future!

Discussion of the French translation was held. The term *enseignantes* is equivalent to 'teachers'. To make the name change more accurate in French the term *educatrices*, which refers to women involved in the field of education, should be used. A friendly amendment changed the wording of the resolution: Retired Women Educators of Ontario/Organisation des educatrices retraitées de l'Ontario.

Motion #11 AGM 2024: Moved by Peggy Stock (East Parry Sound) and seconded by Kathryn Pike (East Parry Sound) that an amendment to Resolution #6 be made to change the name of the organization to Ontario Retired Women in Education.

Motion #12 AGM 2024: Moved by Betty Lee-Daigle (Gananoque) and seconded by Karen Kerr Kennedy (Gananoque) that the amendment in Motion #12 be amended to read to change the name to Retired Women in Ontario Education.

Motion #13 AGM 2024: Moved by Margaret Dempsey (Ottawa-Carleton) it was deemed and seconded by Sharon Chop (Ottawa-Carleton) that Resolution #6 be referred to the Board of Directors to study, obtain input, and bring a recommendation to AGM 2025. Carried.

The passing of Motion #13 precluded a vote on Motions #11 and #12 and no vote on Resolution #6 was required.

Resolution #7

Submitted by Area 11 Sault Ste. Marie Branch

Moved by Patricia Lambert (Sault Ste. Marie) and seconded by Barbara Perry (Sault Ste. Marie).

Be it resolved that all RWTO/OERO branded materials continue to be used until the current supply is depleted and then be replaced with RWEO/OERO branded materials.

Rationale:

- It would be wasteful and costly to simply discard current materials.
- It will take time to produce a new LOGO, printed materials, pins, etc.

This Resolution was deemed out of order because the previous resolution was sent to the Board of Directors for further study.

5. Committee Reports continued

Delegates were referred to the Committee and Presidents' Reports in the Annual Report. No questions were forthcoming.

.03 Archivist	Susan Rose
.04 Communications Newsletter	Kathy Smith
.05 Communications Website	Jane Macdonald
.06 Convention Handbook Revision	Linda Sargeant
.07 Goodwill	Linda Sargeant
.08 Honorary Membership	Nancy Bell
.09 Insurance	LeAnne Taylor
.10 Issues and Concerns	Lynn Sulman
.11 Membership	Kathy McLean
.12 Policies and Procedures	Judy Drummond
.13 Program Coordinator	Judith Bennoch
.14 Sales and Materials	Joanne Weeks

6. President's Report

Sandra referenced the report.

Motion #14: Moved by Nancy Bell (Board of Directors) and seconded by Kathy Smith (Board of Directors) that the President's Report be accepted. Carried.

7. Approval of Reports

Motion #15: Moved by Nancy Bell (Board of Directors) and seconded by Kathy Smith (Board of Directors) that the Committee reports be accepted. Carried.

There was no further business. Session II concluded at 10:50 a.m

Closing Ceremonies 1:30 PM

1. In Memoriam

Susan Rose, assisted by Suzanne Rondeau, presented the In Memoriam for RWTO/OERO members who passed in 2023-2024. The theme of "time" was shared followed by a slide presentation.

2. Recognition of 'Over 90' Members

Linda Sargeant presented information about RWTO/OERO members who are over 90.

3. Insurance Presentation and Announcement

LeAnne Taylor introduced Terry Kennedy, the contact for Manulife Insurance. Terry Kennedy thanked the Insurance Convenors, LeAnne Taylor and Kathy McLean. She noted that an "open window" will be held in 2024-20225 and premiums will remain the same. Sandra Salerno accepted the cheque for \$78,436.55 from Manulife and thanked Terry for her work on behalf of the RWTO/OERO members. LeAnne Taylor presented Terry with a gift.

4. Awards Ceremony

Kathy McLean, Membership Convenor, led the Awards Ceremony.

- **Barbara Bain Award for Increase in Membership**
Tier 1 – 1. Haldimand, 2. Windsor-Essex 3. Belleville and Ottawa-Carleton
Tier 2 – 1. Sault Ste. Marie 2. Niagara Falls 3. Upper Canada and Lanark
Tier 3 – 1. East Parry Sound 2. Daisy Wilson Coldwater 3. Wiarton
- **Feather in Your Hat for an Innovative Initiative**
Tier 1 – Haldimand, Ottawa-Carleton, and Windsor Essex
Tier 2 – Lanark, Niagara South
Tier 3 – none
- **Honorary Membership**
Nancy Bell, Honorary President, presented this highest attainable award for service at the Provincial level. The recipients were Lynn Sulman (citation read by Brenda Johnston) and Sandra Salerno (citation read by Lynda Sommer).

5. Installation of Incoming Board

Nancy Bell, Honorary President, led the installation of the Incoming Board of Directors for 2024-2025,

6. Remarks by Outgoing President

Sandra Salerno expressed appreciation for the work of the Executive, the Board of Directors, and the Branches. She noted the focus on the future was the expansion of membership and on encouraging members to fill leadership roles. The warm welcome and hospitality from Branches were appreciated during her Branch visits.

7. Presentation of Past President's Pin

Jan Murdoch presented Sandra Salerno with the Past President's pin.

8. Presentation of the Gavel

Sandra Salerno presented the gavel to Jan Murdoch. The tradition of passing on the gavel represented the transfer of the Presidency and the trust given to the new President. The gavel was inscribed in 1973 by OASWT (The Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers) and has been passed on to Provincial Presidents since that time.

9. Introduction of Incoming President

Durham North introduced Jan Murdoch. Her extensive involvement in RWTO/OERO was noted.

10. Remarks by Incoming President

Jan Murdoch, President for 2024-2025 thanked the members of the Durham North Branch for their support. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve as President.

11. Call to Convention

Lynn Anderton, Convention Convenor, introduced Convention 2025 - "A Grand Getaway" hosted by Area 4.

12. Adjournment

The song, "Why We Sing", closed Convention 2024 and Jan Murdoch declared adjournment at 2:45.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandie Bender, Recording Secretary 2023-2024

President's Report

This has been an amazing year of discoveries and myth busting. After a recent visit to the Archives at York University, Linda Sargeant and I discovered that our organization actually started closer to 1951, when the work began on trying to improve the pensions of all retired teachers. The first AGM was in Toronto April 3, 1956 and the first conference for the organization took place at Western University then known as Huron College. The members stayed overnight in the residence of the College. The name change to The Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers occurred at the 1958 AGM, which was part of their First Convention. In the minutes for the 1964 AGM membership recruitment was identified as the biggest struggle facing Branches and the Executive. Not much has changed in the past 61 years.

In 2005, the York North Branch disbanded and the President Patricia Lasko submitted all their financial resources to establish a Scholarship at York University. The Ontario Government matched their contribution and every year since 2005 an annual award has gone to a student in the Faculty of Education who is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and resident of Ontario, and who demonstrates financial need. The funds have been well maintained and now sit at a comfortable sum ensuring the scholarship will continue being awarded annually.

Our Branches are filled with talented and engaging women; they are vibrant and fun. They understand how to be fiscally responsible and at year's end many carry a healthy two years reserve, the same as Provincial. Most are using e-transfers with their members. They have colourful and informative newsletters and many use social media and have created a Branch account. They share the names of new members plus the fun events that they offer. The Provincial survey conducted with the new recruits indicated they want fun, healthy activities (indoor and outdoor) done with smaller groups. I have completed a list of activities the Branches shared with me and it's on the Branch resource page of the website.

In December I was asked if I would share the events seen at the Branches and we now have a President's page on the RWTO/OERO website with information about the visited Branches. Recently visits to Ottawa Carleton, Hamilton-Wentworth, Scarborough, Niagara West and Niagara Falls were referenced.

I have been mindful of maintaining a progressive and successful organization in the future. With the opportunity to visit the different Branches, I have met many members and listened as they shared their strengths and skills. I have been thinking of successive planning and subsequently identified members who could develop further playing key positions in RWTO/OERO. Our future as an organization needs these talented individuals. A start would be for these members to join one of our Standing or Ad Hoc Committees. Patricia, Brenda, Ann Louise, Cynthia, Melanie, Anne, and Marlene, I invite you to join me on one of our committees, I am confident you will enjoy the experience.

I look forward to the challenges in the years ahead with a Board made up of positive, creative and talented individuals.

Respectfully submitted.

Jan Murdoch, Provincial President 2024-2025

Constitution and Resolutions Committee

The Constitution and Resolutions Committee received a total of 13 Resolutions, six from the Areas and Branches, and seven from the Board of Directors.

The primary concerns at the 2025 AGM for Areas and Branches involve providing equity for the small Branches in terms of the number of delegates able to attend AGM Conventions, and the addition of a new category of membership, Social Member, to include potential future members still in the workplace.

The Provincial Board recommends the temporary Ad Hoc Social Justice Committee be made an on-going Standing Committee. Updates to the Policies and Procedures document, resulting in the necessity to change the Constitution, are to be considered.

The concept of sharing Executive roles in the Branches is being considered in Resolution #13.

I would like to thank the members of the committee: Sandra Salerno, Lynn Sulman and Hénédine Weiman for their contributions and I extend a special thanks to our Parliamentarian Jane Cartier and Recording Secretary Sandie Bender for their guidance.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Sargeant, 1st Vice-President,
Chair of the Constitution and Resolutions Committee

Resolutions for 2025 Annual General Meeting

RESOLUTIONS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE 2025 AGM, WITH SUPPORTING RATIONALE PROVIDED BY AREAS & BRANCHES

Resolutions #1-3 - Submitted by the Ad Hoc Committee reviewing Resolutions 13 & 14 from 2023, with supporting rationale from the following Areas and Branches: Area 7 (Belleville, Durham North, Northumberland-South Durham, Peterborough, Trenton & District); Area 8 (Brockville, Gananoque, Kingston, and Upper Canada East) Haldimand, Hamilton-Wentworth, Mississauga, Wiarton.

(Please note that the rationale below applies to all three resolutions.)

Resolution #1

Be it resolved that Constitution: Article X Annual Meeting 5. Voting Delegates

c) Each Branch is entitled to eligible delegates according to the following formula:

Up to 50 members 1 delegate; 51-100 members 2 delegates; 101-150 members 3 delegates; 151-200 members 4 delegates; 201-250 members 5 delegates; 251-300 members 6 delegates; 301 members + 7 delegates;

be amended to read,

c) Each Branch is entitled to eligible delegates according to the following formula:

Up to 100 members 2 delegates; 101-150 members 3 delegates; 151-200 members 4 delegates; 201-250 members 5 delegates; 251-300 members 6 delegates; 301+ members 7 delegates.

Rationale:

- All Branches deserve the right to independently bring a resolution to the Convention floor under their Branch name. A mover and a seconder are needed to present a resolution at the Convention. If every Branch has a Provincial and a Branch Delegate a small Branch will no longer need to ask another Branch for a seconder.
- A minimum of two members from each Branch could provide a travel partner, roommate and table partner for all, which is comforting - especially the first time attending.
- It is easier to get a delegate than an alternate. There is little purpose to attending the Convention when you do not have an opportunity to participate and vote.
- Small Branches presently have a limited voice; therefore, less enthusiasm and opportunity to remain viable in a large organization. With this amendment, smaller Branches would have more incentive to remain active participants in the larger organization.
- Some Branches may not attend Convention, possibly because there is only one delegate. An alternate is not the same as a delegate with a voting voice. Currently, the delegate and the alternate do not sit at the same location on the Convention floor, so it is not possible to discuss the issues with one another. This is critical when resolutions come from the floor and require immediate discussion and action.
- Currently the voting delegate and the alternate delegate are funded by RWTO/OERO. This change would allow each small Branch to send two delegates, and each would have full

participation / voting privileges and the ability to fully participate in the business of the AGM. This would, therefore, be a no-cost item in the Provincial Budget. At the Kingston Convention, June 2023, nine alternate delegates attended from the eleven eligible small Branches. They were reimbursed as Branch delegates even though they did not have a vote.

- It is a more equitable voting strategy that will give a greater voice to more of our Branches.

Resolution #2

Be it resolved that Voting and Election Procedures Handbook IV. Who Can Vote? A. Delegates

"b. Provincial Delegate - The first voting delegate from each and every Branch is called the Provincial Delegate.

c. Branch Delegate - All other voting delegates are called Branch Delegates. Only Branches with 51 or more members, not including Life Members, qualify to send one or more Branch Delegates.

d. Alternate Delegate - The alternate delegate replaces the Provincial Delegate on the floor of the AGM when the Provincial Delegate is unable to serve. Only Branches with a membership enrollment of 50 or less are qualified to send an Alternate Delegate to the AGM."

be amended to read,

" b. Provincial Delegate - The first voting delegate from each and every Branch is called the Provincial Delegate.

c. Branch Delegate - All other voting delegates are called Branch Delegates. Each Branch qualifies to send one or more Branch Delegates, depending on the number of their paid members, not including Life Members." (Note - delete d. The position of Branch Delegate will replace the Alternate Delegate that Branches with up to 50 members were previously sending to the AGM Convention.)

See Rationale for Resolution #1

Resolution #3

Be it resolved that Policies and Procedures Article X: Annual General Meeting (AGM) 5. Branch Delegates b. Delegate Categories

"i.) Provincial Delegate - The first voting delegate from each Branch.

ii.) Branch Delegate - All other voting delegates. Only Branches with 52 or more members, not including Life Members, qualify to send Branch delegates.

iii.) Alternate Delegate - This applies to Branches with 50 or fewer members. This delegate is one who can replace the Provincial Delegate on the floor of the AGM when the Provincial Delegate is unable to serve."

be amended to read,

"i.) Provincial Delegate - The first voting delegate from each Branch.

ii.) Branch Delegate - All other voting delegates. Each Branch qualifies to send one or more Branch Delegates, depending on the number of their paid members, not including Life Members."

See Rationale for Resolution #1

RESOLUTIONS FROM THE BRANCHES

Resolution #4 - Submitted by Area 7 (Belleville, Durham North, Northumberland-South Durham, Peterborough, Trenton & District)

Be it resolved that Constitution: Article X Annual Meeting 6. Delegate expenses b. & c.

" b. RWTO/OERO Provincial Office will reimburse one Branch Delegate from entitled Branches (more than 50 members) for the Convention Package Fee (registration and meals). Travel will be paid for only the distance that exceeds 800 kilometres return.

c. RWTO/OERO Provincial Office will reimburse one Alternate Delegate from entitled Branches (up to and including 50 members) for the Convention Package Fee (registration and meals)."

be amended to read,

"b. RWTO/OERO Provincial Office will reimburse one Branch Delegate per Branch for the Convention Package Fee (registration and meals). Travel will be paid for only the distance that exceeds 800 kilometres return. (Note: delete C, changing subsequent lettering.)"

Rationale:

- This change is consistent with Resolution 1. Alternate Delegates have been eliminated; all Branches will now have one Provincial Delegate and one Branch Delegate.
- Current funding for the Convention will be maintained and will not cause an increase in Provincial funding requirements.

Resolution #5 - Submitted by Hamilton-Wentworth

Be it resolved that Constitution: Article III Membership and Fees be amended to include the addition of, #5 Branch Social Member: (moving Fees to #6)

"a. A Branch Social Member shall be a Woman Educational Professional who is currently employed in the workplace, and who could potentially become a Regular Member upon retirement.

b. A Branch Social Member:

- i. must contact the Branch Executive and give them contact information.
- ii. may be asked to pay a Branch Membership Fee only, to be set by the Branch Executive and paid to the Branch Treasurer.
- iii. may attend Branch activities and events when available.
- iv. will receive Branch emails, newsletters or other communications.
- v. may access Provincial information and newsletters by accessing the Provincial website, rwto.org, or Facebook.

c. A Branch Social Member shall not become a Provincial member until retirement, and her name will not be submitted to the Provincial Office until that time, or be placed in the Branch Provincial database.

d. A Branch Social Member shall not hold a Provincial or Branch Executive position (but are welcome helpers), vote in elections, be a delegate at an Annual Meeting, or be eligible for the insurance plans of RWTO/OERO until retirement."

Rationale:

- increase awareness of our organization and encourage future membership
- youthful outreach into schools
- growing the fun factor

Resolution #6 - Submitted by Haldimand, Hamilton-Wentworth, and London-Middlesex)

Be it resolved that Constitution: Article III Membership and Fees 1. Regular Members a. iv "Retired Women Child & Youth Workers/Counsellors"

be amended to read,

"Retired Women Child & Youth Care Workers/Counsellors".

Rationale: While working on the 2024-2025 membership brochure the RWT0/OERO Marketing Committee researched and discovered that The Ontario Association of Child and Youth Care (OACYC) uses this terminology to describe themselves. Many jurisdictions, Boards of Education as well as Educational Colleges providing certification, also refer to the program as CYC - Child and Youth Care.

RESOLUTIONS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Resolution #7 - Submitted by The Social Justice Committee, Supported by the Board of Directors

Be it resolved that Constitution: Article VIII Duties and Structure of Provincial Committees A. Standing Committees be amended with the addition of:

10. Social Justice Committee - The Social Justice Committee shall:

- a. be chaired by a member of the Board of Directors.
- b. consist of at least 3 members from the Board of Directors and invited/interested members-at-large, the number determined by the committee.
- c. research and provide information, including position papers, about issues affecting the livelihood of our membership, and the welfare of women and children in general.
- d. make connections and develop relationships with like minded organizations to enhance our educational and advocacy base.
- e. determine ways to engage elected officials at the federal, provincial or municipal level, to advise them about the needs of senior women.

Rationale:

- This committee had a focus on Social Change in Long-Term Care
- Senior women in Long-Term Care is a rapidly growing segment of the population
- A Position Paper was developed expressing the type of homelike care every member deserves.
- Partnerships were developed with CARP Ottawa and CanAge

The Social Justice Committee has already:

- invited all members to the launch of the Position Paper
- provided follow-through suggestions for Branches
- met with government officials to discuss the Position Paper

- encouraged Branch members to start a discussion in their local community
- invited member to suggest other Social Actions to be addressed
- composed questions to ask all candidates for the Provincial election.

The Social Justice Committee's Future Plans

Social issues to be addressed: Mental Health of Educational Professionals, Safe and Healthy Schools, Staffing Crisis in Education and Healthcare, Providing the resources and supplies for success in Education and Healthcare, Community Awareness, Healthy Living for Senior Women, Health Issues for Senior Women.

Social Change requires continuous Public Awareness.

Resolutions #8-11 - Submitted by The Ad Hoc Committee for the Revision of Article X1V: Financial in the Policies and Procedures document, Supported by the Board of Directors

Revisions to Resolutions 7 - 10 are being made in the Constitution for the purposes of clarity and consistency and alignment with the Policies and Procedures document.

Resolution #8

Be it resolved that Constitution Article V Duties of the Board of Directors 1. Executive:

f. "prepare a preliminary budget at the spring meeting."

be amended to read,

f. "discuss, amend as necessary and approve a preliminary budget prepared by the Finance Committee."

Rationale: The Preliminary Budget is prepared by the Finance Committee and then approved by the Board of Directors.

Resolution #9

Be it resolved that Constitution Article VI Duties of the Executive Officers:

1. Past President: be amended by the addition of: h. "be a member of the Finance Committee."

2. President: be amended by the addition of: j. "chair the Finance Committee," k. "chair the Audit Committee."

3. First Vice-President: be amended by the addition of: e. "be a member of the Finance Committee", f. "be a member of the Audit Committee."

4b. Second Vice-President: "be a member of the Policies and Procedures, Audit and Financial Committees" be amended to read, "b. be a member of the Policies and Procedures Committee, c. be a member of the Audit Committee, d. be a member of the Finance Committee" (Thus changing the current 'c' into "e".)

Rationale: Only the Second Vice-President has membership on the Finance Committee on their lists of Duties in the Constitution currently. This brings the Constitution into line with Policy and Procedures. Audit Committee duties need to be added to the President and the First Vice-President. There are no duty changes for the Second Vice-President, only the structure of the phrases have been changed to match the style used for the other Executive Officers.

Resolution #10

Be it resolved that Constitution Article VI Duties of the Executive Officers:

9. Executive Secretary-Treasurer: d. "prepare a preliminary budget for presentation to the Executive and Board of Directors at the May Executive and Board of Directors meetings,"

be amended to read,

d. "Prepare, along with the Finance Committee, a preliminary budget..."

Rationale: The Executive Secretary and the Finance Committee prepare the preliminary budget together.

Resolution #11

Be it resolved that Constitution Article VIII Duties and Structure of Provincial Committees A. Standing Committees 4. Finance Committee

The Finance Committee shall:

a) be chaired by the Provincial President

b) consist of the members of the Executive,

prepare a preliminary budget for the May Board of Directors Meeting. (note: "c" is missing in the document)

be amended to read,

a) be chaired by the Provincial President

b) consist of the Past President, President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President and the Executive Secretary-Treasurer

c) prepare a preliminary budget for the May Board of Directors Meeting.

Rationale: b) currently states "consist of members of the Executive", but four other members of the Executive are not part of the Finance Committee - clarity)

Resolution #12 - Submitted by The Ad Hoc Committee for the Revision of Article X1V: Financial in the Policies and Procedures document, Supported by the Board of Directors

Be it resolved that Constitution Article X Annual Meeting 6. Delegate Expenses

d. "Reimbursement for public transportation (i.e. bus, air, train) will be calculated on the lesser amount of the regular mileage rate paid on the applicable distance or the actual fare"

be amended to read,

d. "Reimbursement for public transportation (i.e. bus, air, train) will be calculated on the regular mileage rate paid on the applicable distance between the member's home and the Convention venue using Google Maps."

Rationale: All mileage claims going forward will be based on Google Maps as per Policies and Procedures Article XIV: Financial, 9. Travel a.)

Resolution #13 - Submitted by The Ad Hoc Committee for Branch Organization and Leadership, Supported by the Board of Directors

Be it resolved that Constitution Article IX Branch Organization 4. "The Executive shall be responsible for all Branch activities."

be amended to read,

"The Executive will be responsible for overseeing all Branch activities with the assistance of Branch member volunteers who may be delegated to share responsibilities i.e. event planning. Branches may have Executive members who work in pairs, or as teams. Other Branch members may volunteer at specific times. Each Branch can decide what works in their situation.

Rationale:

- This resolution will make it easier to fill executive positions since both time and the responsibilities are being shared.
- Sharing responsibilities will make it less daunting and allow more members to be involved in their Branch.
- It will allow members to "try out" positions before they become more involved in the running of Branch business and activities.
- The Executive does not need to meet every month. Each Branch can determine the number of Executive meetings they need.

Archivist's Report

September 2024 was the beginning of the next 5 years cycle to collect RWTO-OERO archival material that will be stored at the Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collection Library at York University. Since September, I've placed the new documents in a Bankers box at my residence.

At last September Board meeting, the Area Directors submitted their Cora Bailey's recipients' information for the year 2019-2020. In September 2025, I will collect for 2020-2021.

The Area Binders of the Cora Bailey recipients from 2020 to 2025 are on display at the Convention. They are there for you to view at your convenience.

I prepared the 2025 In Memoriam service to honour and remember 113 deceased members. The In Memoriam book is on display during the convention. It includes the name and the Branch of our dearly departed.

Thank you to the Branch members who forwarded names and photos.

Respectfully submitted,
Hénédine Weiman, Archivist

Communications Newsletter Report

RWTO/OERO's newsletter, *Connections*, is published three times each year (September, December and March) and distributed to our members either electronically or as a printed copy.

This year the Branches shared the social/interest activities that they offer beyond the regular luncheons to their members. We read about book clubs, hiking groups, puzzle exchanges, drum circle, paint nights, belly dancing, euchre clubs, craft activities, dining out, genealogy searches, quilting clubs ... It was evident from the members that they enjoyed these social opportunities where they get to meet others and reacquaint themselves with former colleagues. New members are sometimes keen to join a Branch because of the social activities offered. This is what caring and sharing is all about.

Thanks to all the Board members who contribute to the newsletter and keep the membership informed of events and information that is relevant to them.

Thanks to Christine Roberts (South Bruce), Sharon Chop (Ottawa-Carleton) and Margaret Dempsey (Ottawa- Carleton) for their assistance with the editing of the newsletter. It takes keen eyes to be successful as a proofreader and catch any errors.

A huge thanks to Erica Miles, graphic artist, who designs the newsletter and is an important member of the team.

It is very important to inform Linda Huffman, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, of any email changes. Linda provides the lists of members that are used for the distribution of the newsletter, and we want everyone to receive their copy.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Smith, Provincial Newsletter Convenor

Communications Website Report

We have had another wonderful year of caring and sharing across our 46 Branches of RWTO. We welcome our newest Retired Women Educational Professionals including Audiologists, Child & Youth Workers/Counsellors, Early Childhood Educators, Educational Assistants, Office Support Staff, Psychologists, Social Workers, and Speech & Language Pathologists, as well as many newly retired teachers.

It continues to be my pleasure to see and post all the wonderful news, events and activities that are taking place across the province at all our Branches including trips, kayaking, cross-country skiing, fashion shows and shopping excursions to name a few. We are also looking forward to adding a Social Justice page to our website to promote current social issues that are important to our aging demographic. Watch for its debut coming soon.

This year we said goodbye to our Creative Website Consultant, Mauricio Morales as he decided that he could no longer offer the attention that our growing Website needed. After interviewing several

candidates we were excited to welcome Kim MacIntyre-Web Developer/Programmer to our RWTOW team. Together, she and I are working to update our Website to continue to make it welcoming to all our wonderful Retired Women Educational Professionals. Please visit our website regularly to see all the news, updates and events that are taking place.

I would like to remind the Area Directors once again to encourage the Branch Presidents and/or communication/publication people in our Branches to use the provided form on the Branch News & Events page to send in their events and news announcements. It is the quickest and easiest way to get their information posted. Branches are encouraged to update their Branch Pages at least once or twice a year, so that Contact information, upcoming events, Newsletters etc. are up to date to help attract newly-retired women educators in your area to join your Branch.

If you need any help, please remember, I'm only an email away at rwtowwebsite@gmail.com. I look forward to watching our Branches continue to thrive in the coming year as I post your updates, news and events.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Macdonald
Communications Website Convenor

Convention Handbook Revision

Co-Chairs – Linda Sargeant, 1stVP, Margaret Geare, Prov. Program Coordinator
Committee Members: Judy Anderson, Susan Rose, Jane Macdonald

The decision was made by the Co-Chairs to join the Ad Hoc Virtual Convention Committee to be knowledgeable regarding the changes that would be required for the Convention Handbook. Both chairs believed that there should be a separate Virtual Committee Handbook. The work of this committee influences the Convention Handbook review. Once that committee's work is completed, the Convention Handbook Committee will meet again in the fall of 2025 to make revisions as necessary.

The conclusion of the Ad Hoc Virtual Convention Committee Chair, Judy Drummond from their Minutes January 17, 2024:

- i. Should we be having a Virtual Convention, an Online Convention or an In Person Convention?
- ii. It became apparent that:
 1. members preferred an In-Person Convention. If it was to be held every year, how could it be more cost effective? (e.g. streamline the program; hold it in the same location so that as repeat clients, there might be a cost reduction; appoint a Convention Convenor who is a long-term member of the Board of Directors to coordinate planning with Branches who would choose to volunteer for specific aspects of the Convention.

2. If cost savings were imperative, then a virtual or on-line AGM could be held to deal with only the essential components of an AGM (see Article X of the Constitution)
3. Changes to the current situation must be examined in both the Constitution and Policies and Procedures.

Minutes April 7, 2025

Resulting recommendation was that this committee continue their work to explore cost effective solutions; therefore, negating the necessity of having a Virtual Convention as the only cost saving alternative.

The Convention Handbook Committee will meet again in the fall of 2025 to make revisions as necessary.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Geare

Goodwill Report

As of St Patrick's Day, we had 300 over 90+ members with one retired women teacher turning 105 years old in 2025. We have five centurions who turned or are turning 100 years old this year and all received a card and \$100 sent from Provincial to her Branch to purchase either receive a gift and/or flowers from her Branch or to give a donation of her choice to celebrate her birthday! We have presently 12 women between 100 and 105 years old. Over 300 handwritten birthday cards have been or will be sent and I want to thank Susan Rose and her friend Kathy Pike for completing the winter and spring cards. They were beautifully designed. I found unique birthday cards in Nova Scotia for our members.

It is a time-consuming job and members of Branches are welcome to help write the birthday cards for our most senior members to assist the incoming Provincial Goodwill Convenor. Please step up!

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Lee-Daigle
Provincial Goodwill Convenor, 2nd Vice-President, 2024-2025

Honorary Membership Award Report

Honorary Membership is the highest attainable award bestowed on a member for exemplary service to RWTO/OERO Provincial. The Committee members are pleased to introduce the two (2) recipients nominated for this prestigious award. These members demonstrate outstanding leadership skills, sharing their ideas and carrying out many responsibilities while on the Provincial Board.

This year 2024-2025, we are pleased to honour LeAnne Taylor and Jan Murdoch for their dedication and outstanding contributions at the Provincial Level of RWTO/OERO.

LeAnne Taylor from the Lydia Snow North Halton Branch

LeAnne was nominated for the RWTO/OERO Honorary Membership Award by the Lydia Snow North Halton Branch for her accomplishments at the local level and Provincial level. At the local level she had many roles and accomplishments to demonstrate her length of service, her extraordinary care and devotion to a task and the outstanding ideas and innovations she introduced.

LeAnne is very deserving of the Honorary Membership Award. Her exceptional contributions and professionalism at the Provincial level has been admired throughout her tenure in the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario.

She began her journey on the Provincial Board in 2019 as Area 12 Director. Her roles and accomplishments at the Board Level have been overwhelmingly successful with new ideas and great work ethic.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Membership Extension was chaired by LeAnne. With this committee she developed a survey that was distributed to all members within our organization and produced a resolution related to the Outcomes of this survey. This is still ongoing today as we open our organization to other women educators. LeAnne worked closely with Kathy Gallagher to develop Policies and Procedures for Social Media and assists Kathy as an administrator for RWTO/OERO Facebook Page. LeAnne was also part of the committee that produced the new Provincial Privacy Form and Provincial Membership Form.

In 2021, LeAnne became the Assistant Insurance Convenor and worked closely with our Broker Terry Kennedy. In this role she conducted many in-person and zoom meetings with Branches throughout the province and prepared a workshop on Insurance at the AGM. She wrote the job description and duties for Assistant Insurance Convenor for Policies and Procedures and in 2023 became the Insurance Convenor. With her technological skills, her presentations always had a little mouse helping us through the facts. With the Open Window this past year and lobbying all Branches to participate, Branches did receive \$100 for booking.

LeAnne was active on many other committees. She served as Co-Chair and Secretary on the Virtual Convention Committee, chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Financial Realignment of Article XIV of Policies and Procedures, and has agreed to chair the Jubilee Committee to celebrate our 70th anniversary in 2026.

LeAnne has been and still is an exemplary member of our organization. Her professionalism, dedication and leadership have strengthened our organization. Congratulations LeAnne as you receive the Honorary Membership Award for 2024-2025 for your dedication and exceptional contributions to RWTO/OERO!

Jan Murdoch from the Durham North Branch

Jan Murdoch is our Provincial President for 2024-2025 year and is awarded with the prestigious Honorary Membership Award for her commitment and accomplishments at the Provincial level. She is supported by her RWTO/OERO Durham North Branch.

Jan began her RWTO/OERO experience with the St. Catherine's Branch in 2015 and after relocating she joined Durham North Branch. In 2017 she accepted the position of Provincial Newsletter Convenor. Her technological background and excellent organizational skills enhanced the presentation of our Newsletter "Connections." She introduced Themes for our Branches to use in the Newsletters. She continued in this role for five years, and then she became a member of the executive as 2nd Vice-President and was the Goodwill Convenor. She continued as 1st Vice-President chairing the Constitutions and Resolutions committee and this year serving the Provincial Board as our President.

At the Provincial level, Jan has been an outstanding participant and has made many contributions to several Ad Hoc Committees throughout her years on the executive. Ad Hoc committees were Common Initiative, Leadership and Branch Organization and the Marketing Committee. She has served on the following committees: chaired the financial committee, attended the Social Justice committee and was very instrumental in planning the Convention for 2026 to celebrate our Jubilee. She also participated in many other meetings as an ex-officio member.

Jan began the Genealogy group at the Provincial level and still meets monthly with many interested ladies who share information, learn new skills, help one another uncover secrets and learning about AI (Artificial Intelligence) and how helpful it can be.

Jan has been a very active member in extracurricular activities as a certified Nordic Pole Walking instructor. She encourages everyone to stay active as she recognizes the importance of being active and encourages others to maintain their mobility, giving them the facts and background knowledge and the opportunity to keep moving.

With Jan's travels this year visiting so many RWTO/OERO Bes, she saw first-hand the passion and commitment of each Branch. All our Branches are unique, but they all share our Motto of "Caring and Sharing." She supported many Branches, giving guidance where required, enjoyed many new friendships at luncheons and has helped and encouraged executives to consider different ways to make their respective Branches work effectively.

Jan is a lifelong learner who willingly and effectively shares her knowledge with others. We thank you for your commitment, dedication and contributions to RWTO/OERO. Congratulations on your successful year as Provincial President!

Respectfully submitted by the Honorary Membership Committee,

Judy Drummond (Chair) Honorary President

Nancy Strutt Area 1 Director

Colleen Robertson Area 2 Director

Joan Gamble Area 8 Director

Honorary President's Report

It has been an honour and privilege to be your RWTO/OERO Honorary President this past year. The many opportunities given to me in this organization will never be forgotten.

During my 12 years serving on the Provincial Board as Area Director, Issues and Concerns Convenor, Convention Chair, Recording Secretary, 1st Vice, 2nd Vice, President, Past President and Honorary President, I am now ready to give up the torch at the Provincial level. I will continue to be the Treasurer of my Lanark RWTO/OERO Branch.

What an unforgettable experience! I met so many incredible women and many have become very close friends. The privilege as President was travelling this province and visiting so many unique B Branches of Professional Women whom all share the same vision of looking after women and children. I wish continued success to this organization and remember to keep our Motto of "Caring and Sharing" at the forefront!

Thank you for your continued support over these years. Your kindness and confidence in me have been rewarding. You made a difference in my life. One other huge thank you is to our Provincial Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Linda Huffman, who keeps this great organization in tune with her dedication, expertise and professionalism.

I leave with saying "Congratulations to our new Board and all the best as we approach our celebrations in 2026."

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Drummond
Honorary President

Insurance Report

The Insurance Team consists of LeAnne Taylor, Provincial Insurance Convenor, Kathy Mclean, Assistant Provincial Insurance Convenor, and Terry Kennedy, Insurance Broker.

This year was focused on the Open Window. The Open Window was announced at the June 2024 Convention. The theme used was "Hickory, Dickory Dock". AI was used to generate cartoon mice accessing RWTO/OERO Hospital and Home Care Benefits in the PowerPoint used to explain the Insurance Plan. Thirty-six Branches were visited by one of the Insurance Team. Each Branch holding an insurance presentation received \$100.00 to offset the costs. Close to 400 new policies were purchased.

I continued to send out occasional Insurance newsletters with updated information and ideas to use for Insurance Minutes at Branch meetings. The Insurance Team continues to assist Branch Convenors and insured members through email and telephone.

I have really enjoyed my four years on the Insurance Team, especially the opportunity to meet members individually through visits to Branches and over the phone.

Respectfully submitted,
LeAnne Taylor, Insurance Convenor

Issues and Concerns Report

The three articles presented in *Connections* this year were about fraud and scams. The first article in September explained phishing and smishing, warned against scammers' intentions to collect personal information, and gave advice about responding to phone calls, emails or texts from unknown senders. The December article described the CRA scam, Emergency or Grandparent scam, and Bank Investigator scam in more detail, again emphasizing the danger of giving out personal information. The final article in the March *Connections* gave information about maintaining cyber security and offered good practices when using social media or public Wi-Fi. QR phishing was explained, as well as how to make sure the website you are using is secure. I hope that our members found the information useful; I certainly learned a lot!

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Sinden, Issues and Concerns Convenor

Marketing Report

Our RWT/OERO Marketing Committee started its year with a response to the newly added educational professionals that occurred at the 2024 AGM. These included Audiologists, Child and Youth Workers/Counsellors, Office Support Staff, Psychologists and Speech and Language Pathologists. A revised brochure for recruiting new members was created. Other minor revisions were made, as well.

Resolution #6 at the 2025 AGM Convention: To correct Child and Youth Worker/Counsellors to Child and Youth Care Workers/Counsellors

4700 copies of the new brochure were mailed out or delivered in person to Branches leaving 300 copies remaining. Many were delivered to Area Directors at the September Board of Directors Meeting.

A poster outlining the categories of membership was posted on our RWT/OERO website and sent out to Branch Presidents

The "Expanding our Branch Membership" chart was created for Branches to use to assist in recruiting. This included reaching out to Unions, Board Offices and schools in order to increase membership. The titles were the following: "Within our Branches", "Using Contacts in Education" and "Using Community Resources".

We arranged for a live presentation by Connie Smith, a renowned television personality. Her topic was “Making the Most of your Message “and was very well-received by participants. Its purpose was to assist Branches in sharing the message about our organization to increase membership.

The Marketing Committee started its contributions to the RWTO/OERO website Home Page with “Special Days”. These days were holidays, acknowledgement of our new membership categories or recognition of national or international celebrations. Included were the following: Teacher Appreciation Day, International Women’s Day, Education and Professional Support Staff Appreciation Day.

A Social Media Sub Committee was established working to investigate ways to utilize social media (Facebook, Instagram, BlueSky) to reach out to potential members and connecting with like-minded groups. The Sub Committee has developed a strategic plan for 2025-2026 that includes, among other items, the following: seeking expert advice about Public Relations Business Facebook advertising, developing a business plan for Social Media advertising, considering a new position on the Board of Directors entitled Public Relations Social Media Campaign Convenor and reviewing the current Social Media Policy.

Contact was made with Santina Hughes at Serenity Creative Agency to provide a Marketing workshop at the 2025 AGM/Convention. Her topic is attracting new members through social media.

Thank you to the Committee Members: Margaret Geare, Jane Macdonald, Pat Howes, Pat Steer, Lynn Anderton, Suzanne Rondeau, Fern Lackenbauer, Jan Murdoch, Linda Sargeant

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Weeks, Chair, Marketing Committee

Membership Report

This year our membership was open to include all retired educational assistants, early childhood educators, child and youth workers/counsellors, audiologists, office support staff and psychologists who have been employed by a Board of Education, private school, college or university anywhere in the world at anytime in their career. Our membership for 2425 is 4,423 which is 114 members less than last year.

We have 12 Branch submissions for Feather-In - Your Hat Awards. Branches are actively demonstrating great incentives and creativity in their communities.

Women love a chance to get together and enjoy the company of others so ask a friend or even a stranger to your next RWTO/OERO Luncheon. Remember that a stranger is just a friend that you haven’t got to know yet.

Thank you to the Membership Committee: Linda Gaudet, Brenda Johnston, Anne Graham and Nancy Strut.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Gamble, Membership Convenor

Nominations Committee Report

The Nominations Committee was comprised of Judy Anderson and Brenda Johnston. I extend my appreciation to them for their assistance. The Proposed slate of officers for the Board of Directors in 2025-2026 follows.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Salerno, Chair of the Nominations Committee.

Proposed Slate of Officers Provincial RWT0/OERO 2025-2026

Elected Positions

Past President	Jan Murdoch
President	Linda Sargeant
First Vice-President	Betty Lee Daigle
Second Vice-President	
Program Coordinator	Margaret Geare
Insurance Convenor	Kathy McLean
Recording Secretary	LeAnne Taylor

Appointed Positions

Executive Secretary-Treasurer	Linda Huffman
Parliamentarian	Jane Cartier
Archivist	Hénédine Weiman
Assistant Insurance Convenor	Claudia Stewart
Communication Newsletter Convenor	Kathy Smith
Communications Website Convenor	Jane Macdonald
Goodwill	
Honorary President	Sandra Salerno
Issues and Concerns	Diane Sinden
Membership Convenor	Mary Maxwell
Convention Convenor	Judy Massey
Sales and Materials Convenor	
Nominations	Jan Murdoch
Policy	Jan Murdoch

Area Directors:

Area 1 Nancy Strutt	
Area 2 Colleen Robertson	Area 8 Glennda Oliver
Area 3 Mary Maxwell	Area 9 Margaret Dempsey
Area 4 Lynn Anderton	Area 10 Hénédine Weiman
Area 5 Judy Anderson	Area 11 Carol Neave
Area 6 Pat Steer	Area 12 Diane Sinden
Area 7 Lynda Sommer	Area 13 Patti Malkiewich

Policies and Procedures Report

This year I had the privilege of assisting with the editing of the Policy and Procedures Manual. This important document explains the responsibilities and procedures which are helpful for the operation of our organization, both at the Branch and Provincial level. Every year changes are made to this manual after the AGM, when resolutions have been passed. This year the committee also worked to edit the whole manual to make it easier to find information. The biggest change came from our hard-working subcommittee who re-organized Section XIV Finance. This involved finding bits and pieces of finance information and organizing them into one section. Our committee also moved all supporting documents and forms to the Appendix.

I would like to thank the committee for all their assistance and hard work to improve the access of information in this document.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair: Sandra Salerno

Members: Judy Drummond, Sandie Bender, LeAnne Taylor, Joanne Weeks, Kathy Smith, Linda Sargeant

Program Coordinator's Report

Area Director Communicated to Branches:

- ✓ RWTO/OERO Open Window Insurance
- ✓ Membership Extension from 2024 AGM Virtual Convention
- ✓ Membership Fee increase
- ✓ Ad Hoc Committee reviewing Name Change

Area Director Highlights:

- ✓ Membership enjoys the social interaction of the Branch
- ✓ Programs organized with Speakers, Interest Groups and Excursions are popular with members
- ✓ Charitable outreach such as Food Banks, Women's Shelters, Breakfast Programs
- ✓ Scholarships given to school children
- ✓ AGM Convention enjoyed by delegates
- ✓ Area Directors enjoy the personal contact with Branch members

Area Director Concerns:

- Recruiting new executive and general membership (Areas 1, 2, 4, 5, and 9)
- Succession Planning disappearing
- Branches uninterested in Provincial positions for Convention
- Aging population
- Locating a venue to accommodate the Branch size with a reasonable cost
- Overwhelmed with the number of surveys
- Branches who are not actively recruiting

Recommendations:

- Co- Executive Positions for Branches and the Provincial Board
- Provincial Co-Area Directors
- Teamwork
- Branches might have to begin to tailor their activities to attract younger members
- Hire a Professional Marketing firm
- “Women of Worth” stories shared
- Area 11: What will Provincial suggest that all Branches could do to encourage the transformation of long-term care from institutional to emotional and more personal care?
- From Central Algoma and from the Sault, to make RWTO more visible, could the retirement package given out to upcoming retirees - include a one pager that gives out information about RWTO? Also, would asking for an awareness ad for RWTO to be included in the RTO/ERO magazine be possible?

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Geare, Program Coordinator

Sales and Materials

Sales of RWTO/OERO branded materials were steady in the fall, waned in the winter and became busier in the spring. The most popular items were the pens, the notecards and the logo stickers. The beautiful trillium paper would be a wonderful background for a letter to the School Boards, Unions and, if possible to the schools in your area. There is still a large inventory of materials on hand.

There will be a Sales and Materials booth at this year’s in-person AGM/Convention in the same room as the Silent Auction. Pins like Membership and Cora Bailey are available free to Branches. There is a limit of three Cora Bailey pins per year. Prices have not changed from last year. If you wish to see the available items and prices any time you may go to our RWTO/OERO website and look for “Materials” under the Membership tab at the top. Exciting news! There will be a special pen available at this Convention in anticipation of our RWTO/OERO 70th Anniversary.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Weeks, Sales and Materials Convenor

Annual Area Reports

AREA 1

DIRECTOR: Nancy Strutt

Branch: Dundalk-Flesherton and District

Co-Presidents: Barb Henry/Connie McInnes

Dundalk-Flesherton and District Branch was amalgamated in 2022, and we have 27 paid memberships and six Life members. During the past year we have held four business meetings in person, with approximately 16 of our members in attendance, and two social excursions. We continue to support many local charities such as Breakfast Clubs, Christmas Cheer, food banks, women's centre and local grade 8 graduation awards. This year we initiated some special sewing projects in partnership with a local senior's home and the local library, making fidget blankets and book bags. Our Life Members and shut-ins are remembered with greeting cards and Christmas flowers. We try to have a variety of guest speakers at our meetings - local authors/health care professionals, alternating with crafts. Our Christmas "gnome craft" was very much enjoyed, as was the speaker from the local health unit.

Branch: Owen Sound and Area

President: Cynthia Lemon

Owen Sound and Area Branch has 59 paid members and holds four meetings a year with approximately 40 of our 67 members in attendance. These meetings have all been held in person. Our membership is highly engaged in our meetings and luncheons. They very much appreciate the opportunity to socialize with their retired friends and colleagues. Our program this year has included presentations on Seniors and the Law, Quilts, Stories and Songs, Scams and Fraud, and an a cappella barbershop women's choir. The balance of wonderful entertainment and lifelong learning is a great draw for our members. The amazing food provided by our caterer brings everyone back as well! It has been a great year for us in Owen Sound and Area.

Branch: South Bruce

President: Frances Nixon

South Bruce welcomed 5 new members, giving us 51 paid members and four Life members. We had four in-person catered luncheons with speakers, raffles, door prizes and a year-end Al Fresco picnic. In September, pharmacist Mike McKechnie and LeAnne Taylor explained health issues and government changes and the benefits of our Manulife insurance. In October, Wes Larsen enlightened us about the free food and excellent programs offered at "Drop in at The Bridge." In November, we welcomed Area Director Nancy Strutt to our Christmas themed meeting where we feasted, were challenged by trivia and Nyla entertained with Irish dancing. United Way's Francesca Dobbryn shared facts of how many are in dire circumstances needing help. In April, Aprille Fox from Bruce Botanical Food Garden informed us about food insecurity issues and sustainable agriculture. Charities support included In School snacks, Food Bank, Christmas Hampers, Kinetic Knights, United Way, The Bridge, all showing Caring and Sharing in action.

Branch: Wiarton**President: Pat Howes**

Warton has 48 paid up, one Life member, and one associate member. Unfortunately, we lost two long-time members this year. Our Branch held three general meetings and a picnic, with approximately 40 members attending Branch meetings and the luncheon. Our meetings are used to provide information useful for our members, focus on recruitment, promote the RWTO insurance plan, and provide fun social time. We ended the year with our annual Christmas Celebration in a beautifully decorated hall. There was a silent auction with items donated by our members to generate funds for use in our community activities. There was also a card exchange, and music by our member, Ev Elliott & her Friends. We finished the day with a lovely sing-along to Christmas carols. Our "Caring and Sharing" charity activities included donating money and items to the food banks in Wiarton, Tara, Lion's Head, and Tobermory and to the rural agricultural fairs in Wiarton, Tara and Chesley.

AREA 2**DIRECTOR: Colleen Robertson****Branch: Cambridge****President: Mary Jane Novak**

Cambridge Branch has 77 members which include three Life members and one associate member. We hold four luncheons per year with an average attendance of thirty. Our oldest member recently turned 100. Our December speaker was the CEO of the Cambridge YWCA who spoke about the need for an Emergency Homeless Shelter for Women. Our Branch showed our support by donating personal care items and money for the shelter which opened this February. Some of the proceeds from our April Silent Auction will go to the shelter along with the Food Bank. A popular speaker was the co-owner of "Senior's Move", a small company which specializes in helping seniors "right-size and relocate". Our two book clubs and hiking club continue to thrive. Our genealogy club has split into two groups, "Novice" and "Advanced" with several new members. Several of our Executive have served for 10-20+ years and are seeking replacements.

Branch: Guelph-Wellington**President: Judith Steer**

Guelph-Wellington has 153 Paid Members, plus four Life members and one Social Member, for whom we host four Luncheons/General Meetings with an average attendance of about 80. This year, we learned about our organization's Insurance Plan, were entertained by a local choir, heard from two storytellers (one of whom is a member) and toured Guelph's Basilica. We raised \$6970.00 (enough for 174 bed kits) for Sleeping Children Around the World (SCAW) and donated countless products to Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis. At every luncheon, we collected pop can tabs to help purchase a wheelchair for a toddler with Cerebral Palsy. Additionally, Caring and Sharing was demonstrated by our Goodwill Co-ordinator who sent out 30 cards to comfort or congratulate our members. We added three new Interest Groups: Walking/Hiking, Singing and Gluten-Free Dinner Club, to bring our total number of groups to fourteen.

Branch: Kitchener-Waterloo**President: Kari Todd- Bustamante**

Kitchener-Waterloo has 80 members, four general meetings per year which include a luncheon and speakers, with an average of 45 members in attendance. In September, we learned how the charity “Send ‘Em Off Smiling” provided September backpacks with clothes and supplies for 669 students in 48 schools, as our region is high on the list regarding immigrant population in Canada. We contacted our members 85 years and older to help write a biography; we are deeply interested in learning about their lives when the biographies are shared at our luncheons. Two high school office managers have joined for two reasons: because of friends in our Branch and because they wanted to hear LeAnne Taylor’s insurance presentation. Another new member joined for the same reasons; she and her husband (both retired music teachers) entertained us at our November luncheon. Everyone enjoyed a seasonal sing-along to their ukuleles. We continued our yearly November collection of mitts and socks etcetera to support seven shelters and centres in the Waterloo Region.

Branch: Palmerston & District**President: Laurie Aiken**

Palmerston & District Branch has 78 paid members including four 90+ and four 90 in 2026, five Life members, and three deceased members. In September, a Social Breakfast was held with 5 luncheon meetings per year attended by 45. In addition, our members annually support local students with back-to-school supplies and backpacks. At Christmas there was a “Live Auction.” All proceeds raised went to local food banks in our communities. For years, our Branch Sleeping Children Around the World has been supported as it represents our interest in supporting youth in other areas of the world. New this year was the “In Our Back Yard” program and a bus trip to Casa Loma. The Palmerston Branch is most certainly a busy and wonderful group of retired women.

Branch: Stratford**President: Patti Brine**

Stratford Branch has 76 members and four Life members. Each year, there are three in person Open Meetings held in April, September, and November, with an attendance of 40-50 members. Our speakers for 2024-25 were RWTO member, Anne Cameron, newly appointed Stratford Poet Laureate, David Stones, and author, Bonnie Sitter. This year, a new fundraiser, “Lucky Leaf” was started wherein members donated a new item, gift card or service worth \$20+ and it was labelled on the reverse of a leaf and placed on a paper tree. Surprisingly a guaranteed prize made it popular! In April, our Interest Groups will collect edible food and drink items based on a theme for an Edible Basket raffle fundraiser. Non-perishable food/toiletries and cheques are always collected for our local second stage residence for women and children who have experienced domestic violence.

AREA 3

DIRECTOR: Mary Maxwell

Branch: Chatham-Kent

President: Nancy Hrytzak

Chatham-Kent has 128 paid-up members, eight Life members, and holds four meetings/luncheons a year. Connecting to the community is ongoing at Chatham-Kent. At our September meeting, a retired woman teacher from our area spoke of an historic connection of her family to local black history, with documents stored in the Mackenzie House in Toronto. Our Branch fund-raised over \$1000 to Noelle's Gift to Children which goes directly to schools to help students in need. To support local libraries, in honour of members who have passed away, our Branch donates a book to the library of the family's choosing. We fund raise each fall to the local hospice. Caring and sharing is our objective, with many cards sent to members for birthdays and visits to members who are not able to attend our activities. Since we now include other professional educators, our Branch has welcomed our first speech and language specialist.

Branch: London-Middlesex

President: Linda Freeman

London-Middlesex has 205 paid members, 15 Life members, one social and one Associate member. We host six luncheons a year in person at a local golf clubhouse (three in the fall and three in the spring). About half of our total members attend our lunch meetings. Our membership is slowly growing, thanks to our Each One, Reach One initiative and to referrals from the web site. Each month all are welcomed to a friendship breakfast at a local London restaurant. Some executive members are organizing day trips in the summer including mini-golf, Port Stanley theatre and Huron Country Playhouse. We've hosted engaging speakers this year such as Mona Wuytenburg from Karen's Place, and the London Police Service who warned about frauds and scams involving seniors. We also had a spring fashion show. Our own Branch choir performs at our lunch in November and in May.

Branch: Sarnia-Lambton

Presidents: Johnna Johansen and Eveline George

Sarnia Lambton Branch has 160 members and two Life members. Twenty-one members did not renew their membership from the previous year, and we did not try to recruit new members as most of the long-standing executive members were going to resign in May, 2025 with the disbandment of our Branch. Despite the stresses of the disbandment process, we planned our usual five luncheon meetings with the disbandment vote planned to take place at our meeting in November 2024. We continued to support local food banks, The Women's Interval Home, and a local Indigenous group as well as selecting recipients, with a focus on women and children, who receive our annual Caring and Sharing Awards. At the November meeting, the disbandment vote became unnecessary when six members stepped forward and offered to plan the meetings for next year. We look forward to this renewed member support continuing.

Branch: St. Thomas-Elgin**President: Shelley Sturk**

St. Thomas-Elgin Branch currently has 115 active members and nine valued Life members. We hold six meetings annually and begin with a lively Drum Circle and Welcome Back coffee break in September, a delicious roast beef dinner in October including special guests from Chatham-Kent and a remembrance theme with hand-made take-home crepe poppies. The popular November event featured Fun-Raising auctions and generous donations of cash and items for Christmas totalling nearly \$2000. The spring season rounded things out in style with a local author, historian and musician; our memorial meeting in May; and a fascinating and delicious history of our own Shaw's Ice Cream. Members support several charities and food banks, plus our own Branch Backpack Project, filled with schools' supplies donated to Valora Place, our women's shelter. We are truly a community-minded and active Branch!

Branch: Windsor-Essex**President: Gina Marcon**

Windsor Essex Branch has 225 Paid-up members, and nine Life members. In Windsor-Essex, we hold three luncheons a year. We utilize local multicultural banquet halls around the county. We support 14 local charities around Windsor-Essex with: food collection, toiletries collection, and money collection. At the December luncheon we have something called *WIN-termint*. Our ladies can win prizes from the MANY Christmas items that are donated. At the May luncheon we have something called *A Crafty Affair*. Members donate their homemade crafts for members to win. Our special project is joining a local organization called YQGgreen. We are connected, and affiliated with other local agencies, and groups who make the commitment to be environmentally sustainable. We have also joined a local group called WE SERVE SENIORS. We meet with LTC facilities, retirement homes, and any organization that supports seniors. We have found that the best way to increase membership is by word of mouth, encouragement from current members and by bringing along a newly retired friend. We are happy to have two retired school secretaries now as members.

AREA 4**DIRECTOR: Joanne Weeks****Branch: Brant****President: Anna Brady**

Brant Branch has 61 paid members and seven Life members. Our year started with a Virtual AGM with President Anna Brady and Past President Jean Emmott. 'Summer in the Park' took place in Mohawk Park with lunch and prizes for fanciest hats and the best dressed. In September, we held our Brant Breakfast at the Sherwood Restaurant. Speakers included LeAnne Taylor, our RWTO/OERO Provincial Insurance Convenor. Margo's Place received donations. Branch members attended a luncheon and live production with residents of Tranquility Place LTC home. Our December, Elfin Tea at the Golden Teapot (Glenhyrst Gardens) was thoroughly enjoyed, with our donation going to Nova Vita Women's Services. Court Whist and complementary lunch took place at Tranquility Place LTC home. We donated to their craft club. Ending the year was our Spring Banquet with RWTO/OERO, President Jan Murdoch present for our Silent Auction and a speaker from Laurier University—Spaces Shared. A newsletter is sent monthly by mail and email.

Branch: Haldimand**President: Anne Mageran**

Haldimand Branch has 102 active members, one Associate and three Life members. We host three luncheons per year. At our Spring Luncheon/AGM we collected food for the area food banks. Our Fall Luncheon saw us collecting “Beautiful Junk” and loose parts for Ontario Early Years Centres. LeAnne Taylor was in attendance to share insurance information during the insurance “open window”. We also initiated basket donations for Edgewater Gardens and Grandview Lodge, collecting for their Christmas stocking programs for residents. At our Christmas Luncheon, we collected for the Haldimand Norfolk Women’s Services and enjoyed spirited Christmas carol singing and draws for gifts. A small group of members continue to create beautiful lap quilts under the guidance of Peggy Taylor. Quilts are presented to anyone who needs a little extra comfort and warmth. We have enjoyed working with Brant and Hamilton-Wentworth Branches on the 2025 AGM/Convention, “A Grand Getaway”. Haldimand Branch looks forward to a bright future as proud members of RWTO/OERO.

Branch: Hamilton-Wentworth**President: Ann Louise Gloyn**

Hamilton-Wentworth Branch has 237 members, 8 Life members and four Associate members from other Branches. We held five major events this year. Our fall “New Members’ Breakfast” had 16 in attendance. Other events had about 100 in attendance including “Harvest Luncheon” in the fall, “Holiday Happenings” in December, “Friendship Lunch” in April and the “Spring Fling”/AGM in May. We decided to include sponsorship of only one charitable or nonprofit group at each event this year. These included: Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, St. Matthew’s House, CNIB Early Years New Generation and Essential Aid. We had 16 interest Groups and added a Painting Group this year. This includes “Lunch Bunch” once per month at local restaurants. Our card making group made cards for “The Purse Project” in addition to their individual projects and cards for 2025 Convention. Our knitting group made Afghans for teen Moms and seniors. Our Executive team and Interest Group Convenors have been a dedicated and exceptional force to help realize a successful year.

AREA 5**DIRECTOR: Judy Anderson****Branch: Rendezvous****President: Judy Anderson**

Rendezvous Branch has 55 Regular Members and 5 Life Members from the western side of the Greater Toronto area. We invited them all to six meetings which were held in conjunction with a milk bag mat-making session. We continue to collect knitted squares for lap blankets for a local charity. Our Mats from Milk Bags project has reached 250 mats woven and distributed locally and globally! Throughout the year each member receives a birthday card with personal messages from all the Executives. This is a challenge as we live far apart, but our effort is appreciated, often with a thank you card. We continue to reach out to our 5 Life Members and their families, by mailing them our newsletter, which is also sent to the whole membership by email or the post. A local retirement

residence hosted our very successful Insurance Open Window Event led by our Provincial Insurance Convenor, LeAnne Taylor.

Branch: Scarborough

President: Cathie MacGillivray

Scarborough Branch has 181 paid-up members plus two Life members. Scarborough has eight general meetings each year with the average attendance being 75 members. All meetings in 2024-2025 were held in person in the form of a luncheon at the same banquet venue with guest speakers/entertainment. In Caring and Sharing we partner with a Scarborough Police Division to provide gifts for kids at Christmas, as well as a monthly donation to the Women's Shelter, we support throughout the year. Our Program has been diverse with music, royal memorabilia display, Fashion Show, Master Gardeners, Bata Shoe Museum educational coordinator, and well-known History Specialist Lianne Harris.

AREA 6

DIRECTOR: Pat Steer

Branch: Blue Mountain

President: Lois Plowright

Blue Mountain Branch is a small Branch with 17 paid members, three Life members, two deceased members in 2024. Usually, we have two more-formal meetings each year and a few more-casual gatherings. All events usually include a lunch. More-formal meetings include guest speakers such as presentations by our Insurance Broker, Terry Kennedy and Provincial President, Jan Murdoch, who has plans to conduct a workshop about cognitive development. We have several members over ninety that we try to recognize with special days such as birthdays. We donate to our local hospital and hospice and ask that donations target women and children where possible. We promote our walking and book club groups.

Branch: Daisy Wilson Coldwater

President: Helen Carstairs

Daisy Wilson Coldwater Branch has 34 members and meets eight times a year with an average attendance of twenty-two. This fall, at our annual joint meeting with the Orillia Branch, we met our Provincial President. The Provincial Insurance Convenor came to our October meeting. Our new media projector was introduced with a Remembrance Day Presentation and we challenged our memories with a Music Trivia. In December, we donated pajama bottoms, gloves, toques, toilet articles and treats, to residents of a local group home. Our December Christmas Auction raised a record \$1000.00 which made possible donations to our favourite charities: Days for Girls, Campfire Circle Healing Through Happiness and Operation Smile Canada. At each meeting a donation jar collects for local Food Banks. This year we look forward to our annual theater outing "Grease" and to celebrating Spring together after a record-breaking winter!

Branch: East Parry Sound**President: Susan Rose**

East Parry Sound, with 57 paid up members, holds five meetings per year averaging 30 per meeting. In July we returned to the tradition of gathering for our annual garden party. We all contribute refreshments and enjoy meeting at the home of one of our generous members. "The Visit" is a popular chance to get acquainted. Our Penny Sale in October was our most successful yet. Our annual main fundraiser supporting our investments is a delightful luncheon showcasing our members' talents. Last year we increased our endowment by adding a second \$500 bursary. These were awarded to deserving local young women graduates for their continuing education. We all contribute to our Branch's success in various ways. Some members take turns planning and leading programs. Two successful events were Orange Shirt Day in September and a presentation on Power of Attorney information in October. Our teamwork has been very successful.

Branch: Orillia**President: Kay-Anne Broger**

Orillia has fewer than 50 members for the first time since Muskoka joined us. We meet seven times yearly for three luncheons and four afternoon meetings. We have a potluck luncheon in September, inviting Daisy Wilson Coldwater and our new provincial president, Jan Murdoch, as guests. Our main donation goes to The Sharing Place, and we support other causes important to our monthly speakers. Each year our focus is on elementary students creating friendship cards for long-term care residents. Normally our organizers work with four schools, public and Catholic, and two long-term care homes. This year eight schools were involved and three long-term care homes. The organizers plan to limit the number to four schools again next year. The friendship cards are treasured by the residents, one woman saying that she saves them all and, if feeling blue, takes them out, reads them, and feels better. Each school receives a thank you book for their library, inscribed to the school from our Orillia Branch.

AREA 7**DIRECTOR: Lynda Sommers****Branch: Belleville****President: Wendy Bryson**

Belleville Branch of RWTO has 83 members, five Life members, and three Associate members. We have four General Meetings per year. At each of these meetings we collect donations for a different local charity. Also, we have either a guest speaker or musical entertainment. We have six active interest groups that meet monthly. This year we also hosted our Area 7 get-together. It included lunch, a silent auction, entertainment by the musical group "Good to Go" and of course lots of sharing ideas and socializing amongst the different Branches.

Branch: Durham North**President: Marie Geelan**

Durham North membership has increased to 115 members. We created a new executive position called "Communications Officer. She informs our membership about all upcoming organizational and community events. Our two "formal " meetings are held in April and October including a luncheon, business meeting and entertainment. Our monthly activities for our membership and sometimes our wider community, include pole walking, kayaking, corn roast, wreath making, perogies making, a red desserts afternoon, euchre parties and sing along for seniors. This year one of our members wrote a play about the history of women in education. When we performed it at a local senior's residence, it was well received. Durham North has had a successful year. Next year, we will focus on inviting new groups of educators who are now eligible to join our monthly activities that appeal to all.

Branch: Northumberland South Durham**President: Julia Esford**

Northumberland-South Durham has 45 regular members and holds three meetings a year, with an average of 26 members attending. We have a book club, movie and dinner, pottery making and a monthly lunch as activities. We had an amusing and informative handwriting analysis speaker, a quarter auction, with visiting auctioneer Jean Axccl from the Peterborough Branch presiding. We presented our first Barbara Moorcroft Award to a most deserving member, Joan Smith. Our visit by the Insurance presenters offered a chance to express our difficulties in accessing their on-line applications. Donations included Treats for Troops, The Giving Tree, and the Northumberland Centre against Domestic Violence. The Bowmanville Hospital and Bowmanville Hospice. We demonstrated Caring and Sharing in our community by donating to the Newcastle Food Bank in honour of a member who volunteered there before her death. Representatives attended her Celebration of Life.

Branch: Peterborough**President: Judy-Anne Tumber**

Peterborough Branch has 61 paid up members, three Life members, and three members passed away. Let's Do Lunch for over 90 years old was attended by six. Each year, we have three General Meetings at a local restaurant with monthly activities like Let's Do Lunch, Book Worms and a new Games and Cards Day. We have a new interest group sewing walker bags and thanks to Durham North, we tried a Red Dessert Day. We also continued to make mattresses made of milk bags, which were well received by One City in Peterborough, a group in Bancroft, and The Hub in Pembroke. This year's Birthday Bash turned out to be a Birthday Lunch, thanks to the generosity of a local Seniors' Residence, Royal Gardens. The members of the Executive committees continue to be busy with planning, phoning and helping at all events. We also donated items and money to local charities.

Branch: Trenton**President: Linda Huizenga**

Trenton Branch presently has 72 paid members who meet 10 times a year. The meeting in January was a Zoom meeting with invited guest LeAnne Taylor who presented an excellent walk through of our Manulife Insurance Plan. Our meeting venues vary geographical to try and accommodate members. We had meals from breakfast to lunch. As with other Branches, finding accessible venues and affordable meals is becoming a challenge. Our presenters included Felicity Sidnell, gardeners Dianne and Gary Westlake, Joan Belanger (Nursing in the North) and a Christmas sing-along lead by our member Bonnie Young Sanders. At Christmas, almost \$2000 and over 50 pounds of food was donated to a local food bank. Our members collected items for the Grace Inn Shelter in Belleville. Foxboro Foodland donated reusable bags which will be filled and presented in June to our speaker, Rob Chrisp, from the shelter. We have truly tried to "Care and Share" this year.

AREA 8**DIRECTOR: Joan Gamble****Branch: Brockville****President: Karen Kerr-Kennedy**

Brockville has 44 Paid-up Members and six Life Members. We meet four times per year and there is an average of 30 members who attend our get-togethers. Over the past year, we met in person and learned about Cyber/Senior safety from a local female Police Safety Constable; invited neighbouring es to our Christmas get-together with accordion music provided by a Ukrainian Canadian, with a teaching background; and welcomed Kathy McLean to speak about Insurance. Sharing and caring is alive and well as our charitable contributions included Quilts of Valour, Interval House, and Brockville General Hospital (Infant mannequin for training, and surgical supplies). We were greatly saddened by the death of our active and creative member, Sherril Mitchell, who always made centrepieces and provided handmade door prizes for many of our luncheons.

Branch: Gananoque**President: Joan Gamble**

Gananoque has 34 members and three Life members. This year we lost two longtime members, June Smith and Margaret Mathers, who was our local Archivist. Our ladies enjoyed 10 luncheons during the past year, as well as a visit to the local 1000 Islands Playhouse for an energetic musical. Our gatherings were well attended with an average of twenty members each time. Our spring Tea hosted Her Majesty Elizabeth who bestowed the title of Lady on four of our deserving members. During the year we demonstrated sharing and caring by donating to two local agricultural fairs, promoting activities for our local youth. We also raised funds to help support six food banks in our area. We continue to send cards to our members who are unable to leave their homes due to health issues or caregiving responsibilities.

Branch: Kingston**President: Betty- Jeanne Kippen**

Kingston has 18 members and four Life members. Sadly, we lost Ethel Kane and Jean Robinson, who were very active members in our Kingston Branch. We have had a great fall with visiting other Branches and having lunches with caring conversations. Our Christmas meeting and luncheon was well attended by our Director Joan Gamble, and members from Napanee, Brockville, Gananoque and Upper Canada Branches. Our outreach included donations to our wonderful School Museum and the local Food Bank. Our spring activities included a Garden Party and luncheon at my home. My snowdrops were blooming merrily, and the tulips were up. Hope springs eternal!

Branch: Napanee**President: Beryl Jacka**

Napanee has 29 members and two Life members. Our members came out to our September, "To Hell with the Bell" and a Christmas luncheon in November. Both luncheons were well attended. During the year we donated to The Morning Star Mission and The Salvation Army. We have an active, hardworking executive, but we need of a President!

Branch: Upper Canada East**Co-Presidents: Karen Koivumaki and Sandie Decker**

Upper Canada East Branch has 59 members, including two nonagenarians and two Life members, and meets four times yearly. In April, we enjoyed a meal with a fresh herb cooking demo and a sale of herbs and flowers. June featured James Wallace presenting Prescott's Theatre summer productions. Our September quarter frenzy raised funds for charity, and our Christmas gathering included a turkey dinner, singing, and storytelling. We donated four scholarships to local schools and sent Christmas cards to members without email, along with an emailed President's message. For Valentine's Day, we gave \$250 to Beacon Bags, supporting victims of human trafficking, and sent cards and stories to non-email members. We celebrated Isabel Humes' 100th birthday with a visit, flowers, and chocolates. The UCE Branch remains dedicated to caring and sharing and looks forward to Convention 2025.

AREA 9**DIRECTOR: Brenda Johnston****Branch: Lanark****President: Anne Graham**

Lanark Branch had 62 paid members, nine Life members and three deceased members this year. We hold eight monthly luncheons/events from September to December and March to June throughout Lanark County with an average attendance of 35. We enjoy speakers and entertainment. At Christmas, we had Christmas cards for all our members and beautiful poinsettias for our members over 80. A Valentine Zoom meeting was shared in February. Gatherings are in restaurants or halls with catered luncheons, with a special visit to a pancake house in March.

Provincial President Jan Murdoch visited with us in Carleton Place in November. At each gathering we have a Share the Wealth draw and a Pin draw for a ten-dollar Tim Horton's card. For our charity this year we chose Interval House, a shelter for women and children. We gathered an amazing number of articles and money for them and submitted an entry for the Provincial Feather in your Hat Award. We were pleased to welcome our first non-teacher member and look forward to having many more join our special group.

Branch: Ottawa/Carleton

PRESIDENTS: Sharon Chop and Margaret Dempsey

Ottawa-Carleton has 98 paid members, two of whom are over 100, and eight Life members. We have three regular luncheons – September, Christmas and the May AGM with an average of 50 members attending, while other lunches average 20 to 30 members. A speaker spoke about women's heart health as we honoured our Over 80's in October, a guest mystery author joined us in February as we celebrated friendship, and our March lunch reflected the Year of the Snake. Jan Murdoch joined us in April where we collected "Jars of Sunshine" for the Debra Dynes Family House. Other memories include lunch overlooking the Rideau Canal, afternoon tea at a heritage estate, nature walks, the popular *Breakfast and Conversation* and the monthly meetings of our active book club. New this year is Craft and Chat. We thank our members for their continued caring and sharing as we *Shared the Warmth*, this year's Outreach focus of neighbours helping neighbours.

AREA 10

DIRECTOR: Hénédine Weiman

Branch: Sudbury

President: Suzanne Rondeau

Sudbury Branch has 59 paid-up members and nine Life members. Our First Day of School event is always a success. This fall, our members donated purses and clothing to the Sudbury Women's Center. Informative presentations at our October luncheon by Jan Murdoch, RWTO-OERO President, and LeAnne Taylor, Insurance Convenor brought to light provincial concerns. At the same luncheon, we were made aware of how to counter anti-Semitism, and biases by the Jewish Community. Sunshine was brought to the clients of the Soup Kitchen, Meals on Wheels, and Beginning Better Future by distributing nearly 800 Christmas cards, as well as gifts to our shut-ins. The panel on women's wellness had to be rescheduled due to a snowstorm. A Collingwood cruise tour was enjoyed May. The marketing plan to recruit new members will be presented at the turnaround executive committee in June.

AREA 11

DIRECTOR: Carol Neave

Branch: Central Algoma

President: Mary Jane Thompson

Central Algoma for 2024-2025, there are 62 paid and 17 Life members. We hold five general meetings: three in fall (September, October, December) and two in spring (April, May). Additionally, there was an executive meeting in May and there is a convention in June. The September meeting featured local historical slides from the 1970s. The October joint session included provincial president Jan Murdoch. Our yearly Christmas luncheon with carol singing and a silent auction has an average attendance of 35 people. Interest groups include a book club, games group, hiking group, and theme dinners. A new social justice group for seniors was started this year. Two schools received literacy awards. The April meeting at Trefry Center in Richards Landing featured Dr. Janet McLeod on Healthy Aging.

Branch: Sault Ste. Marie

President: Patricia Lambert

Sault Ste. Marie Branch, 66 members and three Life members strong, has been growing since 1968. Our members participate in five (minus one, DARN WEATHER!) general meetings and a Joint Meeting with Central Algoma Branch, each year. We have a monthly calendar which informs and invites members to participate in a variety of Branch-led activities, and community health/wellness activities and FYI notices where Members can alert others of community activities. Caring and Sharing is the heart of all our activities. We offered transportation to members who are no longer driving, assist in navigating public transit, and sponsor one local charity at each General Meeting. Our General Meetings focus on information through Speakers and Presenters, Christmas Card writing, and time to socialize over coffee/tea and snacks, often donated by our members. We wrap up the year with a more formal luncheon at a restaurant.

AREA 12

DIRECTOR: Diane Sinden

Branch: BurlOak

President: Claudia Stewart

BurlOak Branch has 149 members with two associate members and nine Life members. We have up to six in person meetings a year with 60-90 members in attendance. Our luncheons this year included Memories of Ghana, as presented by our member Nancy Parkhill who showed us about her trip to Ghana and the schools and children who received our donations of supplies. Christmas member donations totaled about \$3500 to the 5 local food banks. Additional donations were made from our Branch. We continue collecting purses for the Purse Project, as well as raising money for the Camisole Project. We hosted a booth at the well-attended Burlington Active Seniors Fair held in February and will serve breakfast on March 22 at the Burlington Seniors Center as an outreach measure. A worker-bee crew continues to pack food for school children in Halton through Food for Kids, several times a year.

Branch: Lydia Snow North Halton**President: LeAnne Taylor**

Lydia Snow North Halton has 92 paid-up member, six Life members and nine Social Members. We hold 9 to 10 meetings a year: two on Zoom in the winter. We have a Gala Christmas Banquet and at least two other lunches. The remainder are coffee meetings. Attendance can vary from 30 to 80 members. This year at Christmas, we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of our Branch, formed in 1999. Our raffle table raised \$1000 towards our Outreach projects. A slideshow was prepared highlighting the 25 years. The photos are being turned into an archival book which members can purchase. Each year we choose different local charity organizations to support. We are also building a GIC to purchase a needed item for the soon-to-be-built local hospice through the Townsend-Smith Foundation. Our Branch continues to share, care, and have fun.

Branch: Mississauga**Co-Presidents: Marie Solarski and Margaret Geare**

Mississauga Branch has 259 regular members plus five Life members and two associate members. Our Branch holds four luncheon/meetings each year in October, December, March, and May, with an AGM in luncheon in April. Attendance at these meetings has dropped to an average of 80 members. Lunch and entertainment are provided at a reasonable cost. Our Branch makes charitable donations to the Salvation Army and the Mississauga Food Bank. For our "In Memoriam", picture books were donated to the Public Library in honour of each member. Birthday cards are sent to every member who has provided their birthdate. To encourage renewal of membership, this year our Branch celebrated everyone who had been a member for ten years with a special pin. As well as having more than 30 Interest Groups, Branch members are offered several day trips to the theatres in Stratford and to the Shaw Festival in Niagara on the Lake.

Branch: Peel North**President: Kathy Cunnington**

Peel North Branch has 66 paid members and eight Life members. We have seven meetings a year with approximately 35-40 members in attendance. Two of our meeting speakers that were well received were Kathy Gastle, on the life of Lucy Maud Montgomery and Dave Chapman on Wild, Weird and Wacky Weather. A delicious Christmas luncheon was enjoyed following the quartet, "Sweet and Salty" and a Christmas raffle. Members donated items, draw tickets were purchased and we raised \$235 for our Branch. We continue to support the Honeychurch Life Resource Centre, a shelter for women and children in crisis. We provide a variety of essential items to support its residents. In addition, we collected new toothbrushes and paste for school children in Nunavut, where oral hygiene is a major health concern. We have focused on encouraging participation in our interest groups (euchre, movies, day trippers, travel) as we value new and enduring friendships.

AREA 13**DIRECTOR: Linda Gaudet****Branch: Niagara West****President: Diana Bujas**

Niagara West Branch has 39 members, three Life members and two Social Members. Twenty to forty members attend each meeting. In September we had a Senior Women's Olympic Day. A variety of games were provided from which members could choose. A good time was had by all.AND....it was 'International Talk Like a Pirate Day'!! At our November Christmas meeting, we enjoyed the entertaining music of Victoria Somer McIntee of Acacia Wood Music, plus a sing-along. Area Director Linda Gaudet joined us for a wonderful Christmas Dinner! In April, RWTO President, Jan Murdoch, joined us. Speaker, Fyonna Vanderwerf is a highly regarded fitness trainer, and gym owner. She speaks on aging and the importance of movement/functional mobility, working with seniors in assisted living, cancer patients and other vulnerable adults. She got us moving! In June, we welcomed a representative from Community Care of West Niagara, where one of our members volunteers.

Branch: Niagara Falls**President: Diane Ewen**

Niagara Falls has 61 paid members, eight Associate, and five Life members. In 2024-2025, we held five annual luncheon meetings, average attendance of 35. Programs included "Allied Against Abuse" by Birchway Niagara, Christmas Social with guest Area 13 Director Linda Gaudet, Valentine's Social presentation by Heart Niagara, insights into "Chalk, Challenge and Change," and our AGM and Toonie Sale. At each meeting, members also learned about the roles of different Executive members. Membership Convenor, Linda Dueck provided new members with an information package, and we kept members informed through emailed invitations to upcoming events and postings on the RWTO/OERO website. As well, Diane Ewen posted daily items to our Retired Women Teachers Niagara Falls Branch Facebook page. Through monetary donations, we supported Red Roof Retreat, YWCA, Birchway Niagara, Heart Niagara, Project Share, and Education Foundation of Niagara. In all, a rewarding year of Caring and Sharing.

Branch: Niagara South**President: Lidia DiLorenzo**

Niagara South Branch had another successful year, with 61 paid-up members and three Life members. We hosted four general meetings this year, with an average of 34 members attending each meeting in person. Our members continue to stay engaged through active quilting and walking groups, which have become a wonderful way to connect and stay active. This year, we were fortunate to have guest speakers at our meetings, including discussions on the RWTO insurance plans, Local Continuum of Care, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and wellness topics. We also dedicated time to giving back to our community by donating books, pajamas, and toiletries to a local women's shelter. We are proud of our efforts to support those in need while fostering a sense of connection and camaraderie within our Branch. It's been a year of meaningful engagement, and we look forward to even more in the year ahead!

Branch: St. Catharines**President: Melanie Kelch**

St. Catharines Branch has 315 paid up members, 10 Life members and eight Social/Associate Members. This year our Branch held five Luncheon Meetings. At each, 100-125 members enjoyed sumptuous lunches and special programs including a Sing-along led by one of our Interest Groups, "Singing for Fun". We welcomed our Provincial President, Jan Murdoch, at our December Luncheon. The highlight of our year was a project by our Ad Hoc Committee whose mandate was *to answer the question: How do we help people Age in Place - and encourage them to get started with their planning sooner rather than later.* The result was a pamphlet titled, "Our Continuum of Care: Start-up Planning Guide, Caring, Sharing and Preparing". We shared this information with our members at our September Luncheon and also shared the Guide with the Provincial Social Justice Committee and with the other Area 13 Branches.

RULES OF ORDER - *Bourinot, fourth revised edition, 1995*

1. Main Motion
 - must be read by Chair
 - requires mover and seconder
 - may be debated
 - requires simple majority
 - may be amended
 - no other main motion may be considered until disposed of
2. Amendment
 - requires mover and seconder
 - may not nullify or change the intent of main motion
 - may be debated
 - requires simple majority
 - may be amended
 - must be decided before returning to main motion
3. Other Motions require mover and seconder
 - postpone to specific time, no debate or amendment, simple majority
 - table to put aside motion and amendments, debatable, simple majority
 - refer or commit to Executive, Committee, debatable, simple majority
4. Privilege concern rights, safety, integrity, comfort or convenience of whole assembly
 - may interrupt proceedings, not debatable, immediate action by Chair
 - no motion, seconder or vote required
5. Order concerns deviation or departure from rules, Chair may permit debate
 - no motion required, decided by ruling of Chair

NOTE: Resolutions that amend the Constitution, which may be submitted by the deadline, require a 66% majority vote of the registered delegates. Amendments without prior notice require an 80% majority vote of the registered delegates – Constitution Article X – Annual Meeting, Section 4 (a)

MEETING PROCEDURES

1. There shall be no debate until a motion is on the floor.
2. A motion shall be written and shall be read to the assembly by the Chair.
3. Delegates who wish to speak in debate shall wait at the microphone to be recognized by the Chair.
4. When recognized, a delegate shall state her name and Branch, and indicate whether she is speaking for or against the motion on the floor.
5. The mover of the motion may speak once in presenting the motion, and then again at the conclusion of debate.
6. Delegates may speak only once to the motion on the floor.

RECORD OF RWTO/OERO PROVINCIAL PRESIDENTS

1956-57	Bena McCowan	1994-95	Gwen Shantz
1957-58	Ella Elliot	1995-96	Verna Hill
1958-59	Edith Woolcott	1995-97	Marie Vaughan
1959-60	Bena McCowan	1997-98	Wilma Rymar
1960-61	Edna Lancaster	1998-99	Eve Kendel
1961-62	Bessie Piggott	1999-00	Marie Smith
1962-63	Lorna Rogers	2000-01	Gertrude MacCrimmon
1963-64	Olive Wilson	2001-02	Barbara Bain
1964-65	Olive Armstrong	2002-03	Shirley Hoover
1965-67	Alice MacPherson	2003-04	Patricia Fremlin
1967-69	Ida Marshall	2004-05	Carol Martin
1969-71	Norma Hackett	2005-06	Joy Patyk
1971-73	Mary Lou Akiens	2006-07	Sherri Stokes
1973-75	Edna Mertes	2007-08	Jean Axcell
1975-76	Annabelle Harten	2008-09	Carole Watson
1976-78	Louise Poole	2009-10	Mary Jane Finn
1978-80	Doris Gilhuly	2010-11	Carol Bell
1980-81	Kathleen Dwyer	2011-12	Annette Rhodes
1981-82	Margaret Fallona	2012-13	Lesley Uttley
1982-83	Alice Hogeboom	2013-14	Anne Graham
1983-84	Margaret Grant	2014-15	Marilyn Emmett
1984-86	Lenore Graham	2015-16	Dianne Rice
1986-87	Dorothy Thomas	2016-17	Peggy Stock
1987-88	Alma Wilson	2017-18	Lois Lockhart
1988-89	Wilma Burton	2018-19	Sharron Colter
1989-90	Catherine Daly	2019-20	Karen Clarke-Lauzon
1990-91	Juanita Rathburn	2020-21	Nancy Papiez
1991-92	Norma Carrick	2021-22	Nancy Bell
1992-93	Daisy Wilson	2022-23	Judy Drummond
1993-94	Helen Mutton	2023-24	Sandra Salerno
		2024-25	Jan Murdoch