



Central Okanagan Retired Teacher's Association
Zonal Report - Spring 2022

Branch: Central Okanagan

Number of Members: 476 individuals are listed on our membership list. We communicate with the large majority of these (406) via email, however; we continue to make phone contact with those who are not connected digitally.

2021-2022 Executive Committee

- President- Cathie Mutter (president@corta.ca)
- Vice-President- Charlene Hodgson (by appointment- September 2021)
- Past President- Charlene Hodgson (rsvp@corta.ca)
- Treasurer- Val Larson
- Secretary- Brenda Gilbert
- Social Concerns/Wellness- Anita Prescott/Elmer Kabush
- Communications/Membership- Willie Findlater
- Digital Communications/Webmaster- Doug Gray (news@corta.ca)
- Financial Concerns- Vacant
- Sunshine/Support- Dianne Neufeld/Willie Findlater
- Programmes Chair- Jeannette Mergens
- Historian- Bob Hayes
- Members at Large- Linda Keil, John Pendray, Brian Street

COVID-19 continued as a concern through the year, however; we re-introduced luncheon meetings in April & May (participants were encouraged to mask and we requested that all be fully vaccinated) and held several outdoor events during the winter (walks on Mission Park Greenway).

Most executive team meetings were held via Zoom during the year – we also held two face-to-face meetings outdoors at Charlene's home:

- September 13th, 2021 (face-to-face)
- November 1st, 2021
- February 7th, 2022
- April 4th, 2022
- July 14th, 2022 ("old/new" Executive Committee)
(meeting was both face-to-face & virtual)

In addition to these meetings, the CORTA President (&/or other CORTA representative) attended virtual meetings with the BCRTA & the School District including:

- BCRTA AGM- October 1st & 2nd, 2021
- SD23 Public Education Awareness Committee Meetings- November 30th, January 18th, April 5th
- BCRTA Super Zone Meeting- March 7th, 2022 (Cathie & Charlene attended), May 25th (Cathie attended)

General Meetings and CORTA Member Activities also took place and included:

- CORTA Merry Meet'n'Greet (via Zoom)- January 10th, 2022 (door prizes awarded)
- CORTA Winter Walk @ Mission Park Greenway- February 21st, 2022
- CORTA Spring Walk @ Mission Park Greenway- March 28th, 2022
- CORTA Luncheon @ Benvoulin Heritage Church Hall- April 25th, 2022 (catered boxed lunch provided)
- Annual General Meeting @ Father Pandosy Mission- May 30th, 2022 with a catered boxed lunch provided (a tour with CORTA Historian, Bob Hayes, took place prior to the meeting)

Locations:

We ventured from virtual get-togethers in the fall of 2021 to “in-person” events through the late winter and spring of 2022. Face-to-face events asked that participants be fully vaccinated and participants had the option of wearing masks.

Luncheons

Were arranged with a local provider, Crazy Apples Catering, to prepare individually boxed lunches for those who signed-up. Thanks to Charlene for developing an online order form using Survey Monkey. To keep costs down, members of the exec shopped for beverages and picked-up the lunches at Crazy Apples. Lunch payment was collected at the door as members signed in.

Communications:

Website: <https://corta.ca>

Also listed on the BCRTA website as above- see the Branch tab at <https://bcрта.ca/branches/>

Our web master resigned in the Spring of 2022, however; he provided support in transition for the two CORTA exec members who volunteered to take on email communications and website management until a permanent webmaster could be elected/appointed. We include local information of interest to CORTA members along with BCRTA information.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/centralokanagan/>

The use of this page is seeing gradually increasing participation. We will continue to provide information for members here and promote its use.

Newsletter: In 2021/22 we continued to send a monthly newsletter to members. Member contributions are invited for these newsletters (photos, recipes, cartoons, etc.)

Scholarships Awarded

This activity is no longer associated with CORTA. Without monthly meetings or a Christmas luncheon/auction, we did not have COBSS representatives present to collect donations directly from our members.

Recruitment

Members: At this time, due to the pandemic, there were no large, in-person retirement functions or other retirement workshops hosted by the school district or the local teachers'/principals' & vice-principals' associations. The CORTA mails a membership package during the summer that includes a congratulations letter and an invitation to join CORTA/BCRTA:

- we have the support of school board office staff to mail CORTA information packages directly to retirees (we provide the postage for each package)

Recruitment of Executive:

ABC- Appeal, Beseech, Coerce We post a call for volunteers on our website, promote these roles at all meetings and in CORTA Connects newsletters, have current executive members approach potential candidates, and send out mass emails to participating members. For the 2022/23 year, we will again be appointing a vice-president & webmaster in September 2022 since volunteers did not step forward at the Annual General Meeting in May.

Submitted by: Cathie Mutter, CORTA President