

TEACHERS
SUPPORTING
TEACHERS

Bugler

February 2020

**GET
INFORMED**

**ATA
ACCOUNT SIGN
UP**

Click Login
Click Request an
Account

to
create your
account

Once you have an
account you can

SIGN UP

for email

to receive

Members' Update

ATA eNews

ATA eNews Flash

**LOCAL 28
ACCOUNT SIGN
UP**

Need help?
Check out the
Local's **YouTube**
channel for
instructions on how
to sign up.

Educate and Activate! Be an Engaged Supporter of Public Education

By [Deneen Zielke, President](#)

Having taught for MANY years in Alberta and EIPS, like many colleagues, I have experienced times in my career when the quality of public education has been threatened. For many reasons, in the past, I felt more isolated in my attempts to fight for what is right. I don't know for certain why I feel more connected to the cause this time around but there are a few things I have noticed.

The ATA has developed a strong campaign to elevate the reputation of teachers and public education. Through advertising and news and social media the ATA is also able to respond quickly to misinformation from the government and those who would like to harm public education. Watch for the next phase of the Face of Education campaign coming soon.

The ATA is better at providing timely information via email to those members who have signed up for a provincial ATA account. Direct email to members has allowed the association to distribute accurate information and strategies to empower members to make their voices heard, such as, through the Hands Off My Pension campaign. In addition, the use of social media and technology has allowed the ATA to distribute information to engage parents and the general public.

The ATA also launched a letter writing campaign that began with teachers and is being expanded to include parents. I Love Alberta Public Education bumper stickers are available and parent advocacy bootcamps are being offered by association staff.

I think what is most effective is the different media avenues that are being accessed by the ATA President, Jason Schilling, to enlighten the public and debunk misleading information being broadcast by the current government. Being the 'logical expert' will help us immensely as we move forward.

At the local level we have worked to accomplish the same goals. By being proactive and getting our website and email system updated we have been able to provide timely information to members. Receiving information from a credible source, in a timely manner, reduces the possibility that misinformation, that may cause stress and problems, is shared.

By networking with other Locals we have been able to offer RedforEd T-shirts to promote awareness and unity within our district, province and country.

Active and retired members of Elk Island Local 28 have met with local MLAs and voiced concerns, responded to reporters' requests for information, and are actively promoting public education and support for teachers on Twitter and Facebook.

I attend the Council of School Advisory Committee meeting each month and have been working to ignite and support parents in their advocacy efforts. I will attend special events with parent representatives at Barnett House that have been organized to help parents lobby the government to support public education.

Our political engagement committee is growing. We are connecting with retired teachers and planning more activities to bring teachers, and those that support public education together, to learn, support, and advocate.

We have a long road ahead of us and we have already done a lot of work, but more will be needed. Please ask yourself how you can get involved. Every action counts!

MARCH FOR WHAT MATTERS (YEG)

When:
February 27
3:31 pm to 5:30 pm

Where:
Edmonton Convention
Centre to Alberta
Legislature

Legislature @ 4:00 ish
Wear **Red**

#marchforwhatmattersYEG

COMMUNICATION

Please remember that your staff reps, Committee Members, and Executive are volunteers and also your colleagues. When communicating with them at meetings, by email, or by phone, please remember to correspond with respect and professionalism.

Political Engagement Update
By [Darryl Webb, Political Engagement Chair](#)

Wear **Red** for Education on Fridays to show your support for public education! By posting pictures on social media with the hashtag [#RedforEdAB](#) and connecting them to your MLA you can bring attention to the importance of a properly funded public education system by reminding them that conditions in the classroom are challenging when the funding has been cut by \$136 million.

[ATA release FOIP document that contradict Government funding claims](#)

MLAs and the Education Minister on Twitter:
[@nateglubish](#)- MLA for Strathcona-Sherwood Park
[@JordanWalkerAB](#)- MLA for Sherwood Park
[@HomeniukJ](#)- MLA for Fort Saskatchewan- Vegreville
[@AdrianaLaGrange](#)- Minister of Education



Keep meeting with your MLA. Quite a few Local members have had meetings with their MLAs and even the Minister of Education. Though the conversations have been frustrating and it sometimes seems futile, this has been far from the case. The media is taking note of our message and has been reaching out to us for comment. We are having an impact!

Join our Political Engagement committee:

Meeting:

February 26th at 4:30

Local Office: 847 - 33 Blackfoot Road, Sherwood Park.

Contact [Darryl Webb](#)

We are growing and gaining momentum! Bring a friend. Drop Ins are welcome. Stay tuned for a political engagement event in March.

A **LOVE** for teaching

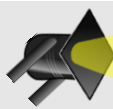
By [Janet Vader, PD Chair](#)

Since February is often thought of as “the month of love”, let’s take a few moments to celebrate the things we love most about our profession!

We love the moments when we see the “light bulb” come on.
We love it when we make our students laugh.
We love to put on band-aids and dry their tears.
We love when they confide in us and share their hearts.
We love their hugs and high fives.
We love the challenge of engaging them in a lesson.
We love it when they talk about the Oilers game with us.
We love it when we can see a new friendship blooming.
We love their bed head and mismatched socks.
We love the cups of coffee they bring us.
We love the higher test score when they didn’t think they could do it.
We love it when they accidentally call us mom or dad.
We love to make a story come alive.
We love to see the new kid welcomed into the class.
We love to compliment their new haircut.
We love to celebrate a lost tooth.
We love to watch their minds develop and ideas grow.
We love to see their passions come alive.
We love to see them create.
We love to see them shine.



So, if you’re feeling the “mid school year blues”, remember what you love about this amazing profession. Remember what it was that led you into teaching. Remember that you ARE changing lives, day by day, minute by minute, second by second.



Spotlight On Teachers

Nominated by Cheryl Hill

Rick Henderson is a grade six teacher at Wes Hosford Elementary. He is actively involved in the school and the community, all year long. Rick promotes health and well being through his involvement in sports activities. During every lunch hour, Rick can be found in the gym, in the fields outside, running soccer, basketball, flag football, floor hockey, and dodgeball intramurals! He is always encouraging the students, developing their skills, and creating fun experiences for everyone.

Rick is a role model in his sportsmanship and leadership skills. In the community, he volunteers with a feeder junior high school girl’s developmental basketball team. He has been a great source of support for other volunteer coaches who are helping in our district.

Want to nominate an outstanding teacher who contributes to our communities?

Email: [Maxine Holm, LCO](#)

WEBSITE

LOCAL OFFICE

Call: 587-988-3663

Email: [Karen Topma](#)

847-33 Blackfoot Road,
Sherwood Park, T8A 5W6

Office Hours:

Tuesday: 8:30-15:00

Wednesday: 10:30-17:00

Thursday: 8:30-15:00

[President, Deneen Zielke](#)

[Vice President- Political
Engagement & ARA- Darryl
Webb](#)

[Treasurer, John Murphy](#)

[Local Communciations
Officer, Maxine Holm](#)

[Professional Development,
Janet Vader](#)

[Secretary, Kim Zapesocki](#)

[Teacher Board Advisory
Committee \(TBAC\),
Stephen Anderson](#)

[Teacher Welfare, Jennifer
Fredeen](#)

[District Reperesentative,
Paul Froese](#)

BARNETT HOUSE

For professional conduct issues, contract concerns and employment issues contact the

[The Alberta Teachers'
Association](#)

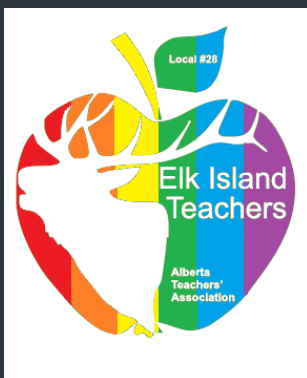
780-447-9400 OR
1-800-232-7208

Another Convention is in the Books!

By [Janet Vader, PD Chair](#)

GSA Meetings

Beginning February 27th, our local GSA meetings are starting again. They will be held at our local office, starting at 4:00pm, and will happen every last Thursday of the month. Everyone is welcome!



As Convention has come and gone, it is always productive to evaluate our own experiences, both as people and as professionals. Perhaps you were able to attend a workshop that directly impacts a particular subject area that you teach. Maybe your biggest moments of inspiration came as you attended workshops focused on Indigenous history and education. Some of you might have enjoyed creating art, whether it was in the form of baking or painting or creating music. I hope you were able to drop into Hall C on Friday and take part in one of the wellness sessions, on topics such as nutrition and yoga, that delegates raved about.

Perhaps your experience included attending the feature speakers that graced the stage in Hall D. Mike Lake's story of life with an autistic son was both moving and inspiring. Timothy Caulfield shocked some delegates with his presentation on what not to listen to in the health and wellness field, regardless of whether it comes from a movie star or not. James and Anthony, winners of The Amazing Race Canada gave us an inside look at the race and the challenges they faced as a Two Spirit married couple. Jody Carrington was both hilarious and inspiring and reminded us about the core reason why we do what we do every day. There were SO many more sessions that could be highlighted and discussed, and I hope that's exactly what has been happening in your staff rooms.

Perhaps the most valuable part of convention is the conversations held over a sit down lunch, or the stories shared as you drove to and from the downtown. Collaboration, in any form, is contributing to the wellness of teachers both in our minds and in our hearts. The value of that is not something that can easily be put into words.

Bargaining Update

By [Jennifer Fredeen, Teacher Welfare Chair](#)

The Teacher Welfare Committee would like to sincerely thank every member who came to the All Teacher Meeting on Thursday, January 30th. There were excellent questions and debate.

We would like to announce that the members **did NOT ratify the Memorandum of Agreement**. The Negotiating Sub Committee will return to bargaining to address the concerns from the meeting. The TWC has openings for 4 new members. If you would like to join this committee please contact the [TWC Chair](#). There are going to be many opportunities in the future to participate in events. Please watch your home email and plan to participate in future meetings and events. It is important to be involved in Local and Provincial ATA events.

MOVIE PASSES

\$8.50 each

WEM PASSES

\$35.00 each

Contact:

[Karen Topma](#)

#RedforEd

Every Friday, wear red to show your support for public education.

Red Shirts
\$10
S to XXXL

Contact
[Karen Topma](#)



You Tube



What is TBCC? And Why is it so Important?

By [Stephen Anderson, TBAC Chair](#)

Greetings colleagues and friends,

Over the past few weeks I have been rather outspoken discussing the value of TBCC as your TBAC (**T**eacher **B**oard **A**dvisory **C**ommittee) chair. TBCC is the acronym for **T**eacher **B**oard **C**onsultation **C**ommittee. The council is made up of myself, our president, and 2 teacher members whom we elect from our committee for each meeting. The board has 4 representatives and it has been past practice that 2 of these members are Trustees. We usually meet at central office 4 times a year. However, if urgent issues arise there is a mechanism in our collective agreement to add meetings. Our role is to advocate on behalf of teachers in all capacities except collective bargaining and grievances. For these issues please contact our teacher welfare committee chair, the amazing, [Jennifer Fredeen](#).

This is my 3rd year in this role and TBCC has been in existence in our local for as long as anyone can remember. During conversations with colleagues I have learned that many teachers don't understand the valuable work of this committee and its role as OUR voice. In these meetings we share with the board any concerns we have. In the past 3 years we have had many successes, most notably we were able to have seniority included in Administrative Procedure 417 Staff Reduction. We have also worked tirelessly to ensure hiring practices and staff reductions are done fairly. Another notable success was advocating for the continuation of November break when we had heard discussion of its elimination from the calendar. Recently, we have been working hard to try and lessen the workload for teachers.

The value of TBCC is that it empowers our teachers to have a voice in the decision-making process. It also helps our students as well, as who knows better what our students need than the teachers who teach them.

Over my 3 years, I feel having a TBAC chair and committee has helped many teachers personally by having someone they know they can call to help them with their concerns. I am happy to be that someone and I want to ensure you that you are not alone. Please contact me and I will do my best to help and if I cannot I will direct you to the best place to receive help.

I value OUR voice; I hope you do too!

P.S. A huge shout out to our TBAC committee members who spend their spare time advocating with me. We are always looking for new committee members, please contact me if you wish to add your voice.

Here We Go Again... Repeal Bill 22



By [Maxine Holm, Local Communications Officer](#)

**You were loud. You were clear.
Hands Off My Pension!**

The Alberta Teachers' Association is working to activate its members to encourage the government to repeal the sections of Bill 22 related to moving our pensions from ATRF to AimCo.

Some **facts** surrounding this issue...

Teachers were not consulted.

The government pushed this legislation through- even after 35,000 emails and letters were sent to MLA's.

ATRF has had stronger than expected returns which have resulted in contribution reductions for members.

Visit the website [Hands Off My Pension](#) for more information and to contact your MLA.



Charlotte DaCosta is the winner of January's Bugler Contest!

She will receive a \$100.00 gift certificate for a store of her choice.

Congrats!

NEXT CONTEST
2- \$25.00 gift cards

will be available for those members that read the Bugler via Cyberimpact.

No need to send an email.

Deadline for eligibility is 11:59 pm on Friday, March 6th.

Substitute Teacher Appreciation Week March 9-13

Our substitute teachers provide an invaluable service for us as teachers, and they need to be recognized and thanked. It's not easy being a substitute teacher. As a classroom teacher, one might not often get to see their own subs, but if you do, remember to say "Hi!" or "Thanks!" Some other simple ways that we can recognize the contributions of our substitute teachers are:

- inviting them into the staff room
- show them around the building
- leave a Thank You card when you have a substitute in your room
- sharing "emergency" lesson plans (applicable for multiple grades is helpful!)
- encourage them to attend a PD opportunity
- inviting them to sign up for our local website!
- recognize their contributions with a small gesture of gratitude

Please take the time to reflect on the ways that substitute teachers help to make the lives of students and teachers better. Substitute teachers are important!

During Substitute Appreciation Week,

take a moment out of your day to call, text, or email a substitute teacher that has been in your class this year, and thank them for being there when we can't.

They deserve it!

