

How to Form a B.C. Retired Teachers' Association Branch

What are the benefits to forming a branch?

- * having opportunities to socialize
- * keeping in contact with former colleagues
- * being represented at the AGM to elect BCRTA Directors and set the budget
- * becoming a presence in the community
- * having a more effective voice in the community and BCRTA
- * communicating between members and the BCRTA
- * liaising with a BCRTA Director
- * creating opportunities to work together for/with the community through heritage projects, community issues, scholarship funds, etc
- * requesting speakers and/or workshops for branch members benefit
- * applying for various grants from the BCRTA (heritage, recruitment, etc)
- * striving to win the Champagne Campaign
- * having an opportunity to welcome retiring teachers at retirement parties

What are the BCRTA regulations regarding branches?

- have at least 15 BCRTA members
- have an elected president and treasurer
- have an annual general meeting to elect officers, AGM delegate(s) and set a fee (if any)
- send an accounting of branch monies to the BCRTA office by June 30th each year
- operate according to the BCRTA constitution

Who can belong?

- retired public school educators (teachers, principals, superintendents, etc)
- retired post secondary educators (faculty, administrators, etc)
- retired staff of educational associations (BCTF, etc)
- retired public school educators from other provinces
- retired educators from independent or private schools
- spouses of retired educators

Are there funds available?

- BCRTA pays \$250 for branch start up plus \$5.00 per member at time of forming
- BCRTA pays expenses for the branch delegate(s) to attend the BCRTA AGM. This includes travel, meals and accommodation.
- Branches may set a fee for operating. This fee is in addition to the BCRTA fee.

Where are meetings held?

- ~ local restaurants
- ~ golf course facilities
- ~ rooms in community facilities such as the library, teachers' association office, school board office, city hall, church, etc

When are meetings held?

- any time that suits the branch-
breakfast, coffee, lunch, tea, dinner,

Who provides the food?

- pot luck
- restaurant takes individual orders
- catered
- smorgasbord

What can we do as a group?

- meet socially for lunch, conversation, coffee
- plan group activities such as cards, walking/running, golfing, travel, field trips
- invite interesting speakers to the gatherings
- encourage members to share their stories, travel and concerns
- for more ideas go to the website

How can we communicate with members?

- email list
- phone tree
- combination of email and phone tree
- BCRTA website www.bcrta.ca
- branch newsletter
- branch website

How can we inform the community that we exist?

- word of mouth among members
- notice of meetings in the free “community events” section of the local newspaper or cable company
- write-up in local paper about formation of branch
- write-up in local paper about an event held by the branch

How can we get our members involved?

- start small- most members don't mind doing a small job such as phoning, greeting at the door, or taking pictures at gatherings
- recorder/keeper of scrapbook of branch activities
- activities planning committee
- expand executive to include vice-president, past-president, secretary, social concerns chair, membership chair (phone/e-mail lists), heritage chair, newsletter chair, activities chair, or any other position that is needed for your branch
- each chair could expand into a committee involving one or more other members in that aspect of the branch

How can we learn about other branches and their activities?

- ~ each year a summary of the activities of every branch is published and given to each branch president at the AGM
- ~ a zonal meeting to exchange ideas is held once a year
- ~ a list of speakers, activities, and program ideas is available
- ~ branches are encouraged to invite neighbouring branches to outings or to hold joint activities

Remember:

All branches are unique. As a new branch expands and develops it will take on a character of its own. Branches, like individuals, have varying interests and energy levels. BCRTA Board of Directors is willing to assist new branches.

Phone- 604-871-2260 or 604-871-2262

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THE BCRTA:

***Working For You
Working With You***

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