

BRANCH UPDATE

newfoundland and labrador teachers' association

Introduction

This final edition of the Branch Update for 2014-15 will provide you with reminders and information regarding regular year-end branch duties such as:

- Electing the new branch executive,
- Auditing of branch financial records,
- Holding the branch annual meeting,
- Completing the Preliminary Branch Registration Form for 2015-16, and
- Completing the Branch Viability Profile which is required every two years.

To those of you who are retiring from branch service or retiring from the teaching profession, thank you for participating in the work of your Association during your tenure as branch officers. I wish you well as you either move to another phase of your teaching career or start a new life as a "retired teacher".

Thank you all for your involvement within your branch this past year.

Geralyn Costello
Executive Assistant, Governance

Joint Council Meetings 2015-16 (Preliminary Notice)

The two regularly scheduled Joint Council meetings for 2015-16 will take place on Friday (all day) and Saturday, November 27 and 28, 2015, and on Friday (all day) and Saturday, March 18 and 19, 2016. The November meeting will take place at the Capital Hotel, Kenmount Road, St. John's, and the March meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, Portugal Cove Road, St. John's.

Branch Viability Profiles

The 2007 BGM approved changes to the policy on branches to include the completion, every two years, of Branch Viability Profiles. This procedure requires each branch to complete and submit to the NLTA head office, prior to the end of each school year in which the Association's BGM is held, a branch viability profile. **Further information regarding the completion of this profile will be forwarded to branch presidents in a separate email.**

2015 Biennial General Meeting

Provincial Executive for 2015-17

Ten new Executive members were elected at the 2015 BGM and they, along with the new President and Vice-President who were elected by province-wide vote in December, will form your Provincial Executive. They will officially begin their duties as of August 1, 2015.

BGM Resolutions

A summary of the outcome of each resolution from the 2015 BGM will be published in a post-BGM edition of *The Bulletin*. All resolutions which were carried or referred by BGM will be passed on to Executive standing committees for their consideration and action.

School Representative Seminars

The final year of the current three-year cycle of school representatives seminars will take place in October-November 2015. **Please note that one additional member of each Branch Executive (to be chosen by the Executive) will attend the seminars in addition to school representatives and branch presidents.**

This year the seminars taking place and branches involved are as follows:

October 16-17, 2015 – Clarenville Inn, Clarenville
Burin-Marystown, Clarenbridge, Granforline, Landfall, Rushoon-Terrenceville, Trinity, T. Bay

October 23-24, 2015 – Holiday Inn Express, Deer Lake
Baie Verte Peninsula, Deer Lake, Long Range, Table Mountain, Taylor's Brook

November 6-7, 2015 – Plum Point Motel, Plum Point
Aurora, Belle Mer, Bremco, Ingornachoix, Northern Light

The registration form will be sent to schools and branches at the end of May, and we ask that you encourage all your school representatives and a branch executive member to attend.

Visitations to Branches by Provincial Executive Members

Please note that additional visits to branches by the Executive contact person beyond the one visit per year stated in policy should be cleared with President Jim Dinn's office. The presentation of retirement scrolls/pins at a branch retirement function would normally be carried out by the branch president. However, an Executive member may be requested by the Provincial President to represent him to carry out this function. **Please contact either Jim or myself and we will arrange for him or, if he's not available, another Executive member to attend your retirement function.**

Branch Elections

The second week of May is set aside for branch elections. While it is not required that the election occur that week, it is recommended that branches have the executive for the upcoming school year elected by late May or early June so

that the new executive is in place before the beginning of the next school year. If your branch is not able to fill all executive positions at this time, at least the core of the branch executive should be elected so that some continuity is established. *See page 47 of the Branch Operations Manual for information and advice on running branch elections. It is located on the NLTA website at www.nlta.nl.ca under the “Publications” section.*

Branch Audits – A Note to Treasurers

The policy on branch finances states that branch accounts are to be audited at the end of each branch year by at least two members of the branch other than branch executive officers. To facilitate the auditing process, the branch treasurer is asked to complete the audit form and submit it to the branch auditors along with the branch financial records for the year.

Please note when completing your audits that there should be no time lag between the end of one financial year and the beginning of the next. That is, if the “books” are closed on June 26 (for example) and the year-end audit completed, then the new financial year starts on June 27. Any bills paid or funds received over the summer would then become part of the records for the new financial year. Conversely, the financial year could end in early September, in which case the summer period would be part of the previous financial year. Under no circumstances should any funds be disbursed or received without being properly accounted for in the branch’s financial records and year-end audit.

The completed audit form should be forwarded to the NLTA Office as soon as possible after the end of the branch financial year. The audit form to be completed for this year will be forwarded directly to branch treasurers via a separate email.

Also, the form can be completed online and submitted directly to the NLTA office from the “Forms” section of the website.

Branch Registration Forms

Branch Registration/Membership Rebate Increases as of September 2015

Approval was given at the 2015 BGM for an increase in the branch registration and membership rebates as of the 2015-16 school year. As of September 2015, the Association will rebate branches \$700 (an increase of \$100) for the Registration Rebate and \$6 per teacher for the Membership Rebate (an increase of \$2 per eligible member).

Preliminary Branch Registration Form

This form, which will be forwarded to current branch presidents via a separate email, **should be completed and forwarded to the NLTA Office as soon as the branch election takes place, but in any case no later than the last day of the school year (June 26).** The form is an important first step in registering your branch for 2015-16. Two hundred dollars of the branch registration rebate of \$700 will be forwarded to your branch in early September if this form has been received at the NLTA office.

Please note that if your branch executive will be completing the second year of a two-year term next year and there are no changes in the executive from the previous year, the preliminary

registration form does not have to be completed. However, please contact me at the NLTA Office to inform me of this so that your \$200 can be sent to you in September.

Official Branch Registration Form

The official registration form should be completed in September and forwarded to the NLTA Office as soon as the number of teachers in each school and board office within the branch boundaries is known. This form will be forwarded to the branch president in September.

Both the Branch Preliminary and Official Registration forms can be completed online and submitted directly to the NLTA office from the “Forms” section of the website.

Transfer of Office

If various positions on your branch executive are turned over to newly elected executive members, please ensure that branch files, records, documents and financial records are handed over as soon as possible after the election. In this way, the new executive will have taken over responsibility for the branch records before the beginning of the next school year.

Past President’s Pins

A past president’s pin will be provided automatically by the NLTA Office after a branch president completes his/her term of office. These pins will be ordered in the fall for all branch presidents who have completed a term of office and will be forwarded to the branch for presentation.

Retirement Scrolls and Pins

Please ensure that a suitable occasion is arranged for presentation of the retirement scrolls and pins for teachers in your branch who are retiring during this school year. Scrolls should be ordered well in advance of the date you will require them. *The “Retirement Scrolls/Pins” order form can be completed online and submitted directly to the NLTA office from the “Forms” section of the website.*

PLEASE NOTE: NLTA staff member Louise King is responsible for the ordering of scrolls and pins. Her contact information is: lking@nlta.nl.ca, and her phone extension is 253.

NLTA policy states that any teacher (or school board management staff member) who has been a member of the Association for not less than 20 years and who has accumulated not less than 20 years of teaching in the province is entitled to a Life Membership Scroll, and those who have taught for less than 20 years will receive an Honourable Retirement Scroll. In addition, the Association now provides a Life Member card to teachers who retired with not less than 20 years of service. This card, along with a letter from the NLTA President, is provided to each retiring teacher along with their retirement scroll and pin.

Please also ensure that you include in the list of retiring teachers any **substitute teachers** who may be planning to retire this year and also include them in any branch function honouring retiring teachers.

A REMINDER TO TREASURERS: The Association will reimburse your branch up to \$28 per retiree and retiree's guest for the cost of meals provided at your retirement banquet/event.

In addition, following a recent policy change, the Association will also reimburse your branch for the cost of meals, up to \$28, for two members of your branch executive to attend the retirement event.

You can complete the "Branch Request for Additional Funding" form online and submit it directly to the NLTA Office from the "Forms" section of the website.

A Closing Thought...

Cavett Robert, a professional speaker, once wrote the following about commitment:

There is nothing that can't be accomplished when the right people are swept up in a worthy cause, divorced from who gets credit for what. Ask yourself:

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?

Or are you satisfied just to have your name upon the list?

Do you go to meetings and mingle with the crowd?

Or do you stay at home and bellyache long and loud?

Do you get involved and help your group along?

Or are you satisfied to be the kind to just belong?

Thank you all for being the active members, for going to meetings and mingling, and for being involved in your Association during the past year.

Have a Safe and Relaxing Summer Vacation!

Branch Update is published three times a year by the Branch Operations Office of the NLTA. For further information on any items dealt with in this publication, please contact:

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