

## 2017 Volunteer Recognition Awards

A win for our NAFR Winnipeg & District Branch

### 2017 Award Recipients



When asked how she viewed her role as a leader, supporting our volunteers with the Association, Pat (recipient of the Claude Edwards Leadership Award) responded:

*« Leadership is the ability to translate your vision into reality. Successful leadership is inspiring others to contribute to the achievement of that vision »*

— Patricia Jarrett, Past President,  
Winnipeg and District Branch

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## National Awards for Individual Excellence



Pat Jarrett, former president of Winnipeg and District Branch, was awarded the **Claude Edwards Leadership Award**. Ms. Jarrett has been described as a “natural leader,” a “go-to” person who can be counted on to provide thoughtful, thorough and insightful feedback. Some highlights of her contributions:

- With Pat’s leadership, her branch was one of the first to complete the branch by-laws and have them approved.
- She implemented a mentorship and succession planning program at her branch to ensure that key positions always had a backup.
- She revised the format of the annual regional conference to include a learning component to support the development of board members for the whole region.
- She was a strong advocate for the inclusion of the President’s Forum at the AMM.
- She implemented many strategies focused on recruitment and engagement of new members.

Ms. Jarrett also was asked to take part in the Volunteer Engagement Advisory Committee and the Risk Committee, which developed an enterprise risk management plan.

## Thank You Volunteers!

National Volunteer Week, April 23 - 29, is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate all of the outstanding work our volunteers do for our members, our branches, the Association and our communities.

On that note, it gives the Volunteer Recognition Awards Committee great pleasure to announce the recipients of the 2017 Individual Volunteer Awards, who will be honoured at the Volunteer Recognition Dinner on June 16<sup>th</sup> in Ottawa.

- Pat Jarrett, Winnipeg and District Branch has been awarded the Claude Edwards Leadership Award
- Serge Boisseau, Quebec Branch has been awarded the Collaboration Award
- Shirley Tolhurst, Nova Scotia Central Branch has been awarded the Volunteerism Award

On behalf of the National Office, thank you to all our volunteers for all you do!

# HERE'S TO YOU,

# VOLUNTEERS!

Congratulations to the winners and nominees for our 2017 Volunteer Recognition Awards.

Dedicated volunteers are the lifeblood of our Association. More than 800 volunteers work at the branch, regional and national levels, each driven by the desire to make a difference. We would not be the Association we are without them.

Our volunteers took centre stage at the National Association of Federal Retirees 2017 Volunteer Recognition Awards Ceremony in Ottawa back in June. This was a special opportunity for Association volunteers, partners, friends and staff to come together to celebrate individual volunteers and the work done by our branches on behalf of the Association and our members.

The theme for this very special soirée was a poignant tribute to Vimy Ridge and Canada's 150th birthday. Our thanks to Deborah Davis and the Canadian Musical Odyssey Ensemble for helping us do that with their lively entertainment.

## Individual awards

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Some highlights of her contributions:

- With Pat's leadership, her branch was one of the first to complete the branch by-laws and have them approved.
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- She was a strong advocate for the inclusion of the Presidents' Forum at the AMM.
- She implemented many strategies focused on recruitment and engagement of new members.

Jarrett also was asked to take part in the Volunteer Engagement Advisory Committee and the Risk Committee, which developed an enterprise risk management plan.

Serge Boisseau of the Quebec branch received the Collaboration Award. After Quebec introduced medically assisted dying legislation, Boisseau and the Quebec branch organized a free public conference featuring experts explaining the legislation. Boisseau, branch communications director Yves Bouchard and Nicole Laveau, our representative at the Quebec City roundtable, asked 30 other partner

associations from each table to publish the conference details in their newsletters.

By all accounts, the conference was a resounding success. It raised the Association's profile, received tremendous feedback and encouraged more retirees to consider becoming Association members.

Shirley Tolhurst, member and volunteer with the Nova Scotia Central branch, received the Volunteerism Award. Tolhurst is a long-serving volunteer for many organizations, including the Heart and Stroke Foundation (27 years), the Girl Guides of Canada (55 years), the Lawrencetown Volunteer Firefighters Ladies Auxiliary (40 years), the Dartmouth Seniors' Club (nine years) and Findlay's Seniors' Club. In recognition of her



Pat Jarrett (Winnipeg & District branch), with president Jean-Guy Soulière.

work with the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Tolhurst was honoured with an Outstanding Volunteer Award in 2011 in a ceremony hosted at the Lieutenant Governor's residence in Halifax. Tolhurst also was awarded the Girl Guide Nova Scotia Mayflower Award, the highest award that can be presented at the provincial level.

Tolhurst began volunteering with our Association in 1998. Over the last 19 years, her responsibilities have steadily increased from general office management duties to being elected to the branch board in 2009, where she currently serves.

## Branch awards

Three branches were recognized this year for their outstanding work.

The Central Okanagan branch received the Advocacy Award. The branch, with two other organizations, sponsored an all-candidates meeting before the 2016 federal election. The sold-out event attracted 325 participants and raised awareness on key issues and the candidates' positions, while exposing the community to the work of the National Association of Federal Retirees. The branch also partnered with the Canadian Medical Association to hold a series of town halls in Kelowna, B.C., on the new health accord.

The Membership Recruitment and Engagement Award went to the Avalon-Burin Peninsula Branch. The branch has maintained a proactive approach to recruitment and retention of members and has achieved a high level of success. The drive to find new members included:

- a major effort by the branch's recruitment committee to identify and contact potential members, followed by personal telephone calls, which yielded 50 new members;
- advertisements at local radio stations, "coffee matters" flyers posted free of charge;
- partnering with organizations such as Safety Services and the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association, which has led to some very well-attended meetings;
- the establishment of four committees to promote recruitment and retention — communications, information technology, members services and recruitment and retention.

The Winnipeg & District Branch received the Volunteer Support and Development Award. The branch has a strong volunteer recruitment and succession plan in place for the board, ensuring the branch has a committed board of directors at all times.

The branch invests considerable energy in volunteer training and orientation. In May of each year, a day-and-a-half orientation/team-building workshop is held for board members to introduce them to the national strategic plan and solicit their input in developing the branch strategic plan. The branch also hosts an annual learning conference for volunteers that helps foster engagement and retention; the theme for the 2016 conference was Building Bridges Between Branches.

The Winnipeg and District branch also received an Honourable Mention and a President's Commendation for all of its efforts in recruiting



Jean-Guy Soulière, Shirley Tolhurst (Nova Scotia Central branch), Pat Jarrett (Winnipeg & District branch) and Serge Boisseau (Section Quebec).



Cynthia Foreman (Winnipeg & District branch), Walter Combden (Avalon-Burin Peninsula branch), Larry Crabb (Central Okanagan branch) and Jean-Guy Soulière.

and engaging current and prospective members. From participating in community activities to facilitating pre-retirement sessions and delivering Second Career Assistance Network (SCAN) sessions, its valiant efforts have yielded growth in its membership.

A heartfelt thank you to Léonard Leblanc, director of the Atlantic Region and chair of the 2017 Volunteer Awards Selection Committee, and Shawn McCord, a senior consultant with Johnson Inc., who had the difficult task of selecting our 2017 recipients.

And of course, bravo to our 2017 Volunteer Awards Nomination Committee, chaired by Anne Ashcroft, director of the Prairies and NWT Region, with committee members Cynthia Foreman, Prairies and NWT director, Julie Spencer, branch services coordinator for Eastern B.C. and George Robertson, president of Nova Scotia Central branch — all true champions of volunteer recognition.

On behalf of our volunteers, a sincere thank you goes out to one of our most valued preferred partners — insurance provider Johnson Inc. An evening this special would not have been possible without the generous sponsorship and participation of the Johnson team. ■