

ACRA News and Muse

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Message from the President



With this issue of ACRA News and Muse, we conclude the inaugural year of our refurbished newsletter. I hope you've enjoyed the new format and content. Again, I would like to remind everyone that all constructive criticism is welcome. Help us be

better at providing you with news and some levity. Forward to our Editor items/articles/photos/information that you would want included in the newsletter. The next issue will be published in October.

As usual, in the fall we'll be undertaking the registration process for membership in ACRA. Each year, we receive comments from several members who inform us that they won't be renewing their membership because they can't attend the luncheons and other events. It would be a great disservice to this wonderful association if we believe that that's all we're about. Yes, it's a social group that enjoys coming together as much as possible. BUT, there is much more to ACRA that we don't normally report such as reaching out to members in mourning or in great difficulty. Charitable donations are a meaning-

ful part of our association – donations made not only from fundraising events such as the Golf Tournament, Christmas Luncheon, etc. but donations that come directly from your membership fee of \$60. On page 6 you'll find a list of donations made from this year's membership fees as well as significant donations made in the past several years. The list doesn't include additional expenses assumed by ACRA to facilitate further donations, such as paying the entire cost of ACRA's Christmas Luncheon to encourage members to donate more generously to St. Gabriel's Food Bank; providing food for the volunteers working at St. Gabe's when preparing Christmas baskets, etc. I hope this provides you with some insight into the question – where do my membership fees go?

We had a very, very wet spring. I hope we'll be rewarded with a warm and sunny summer. I wish safety to all who might be travelling, great times with family and friends and, above all, health to every single one of you. See you at the golf tournament or in the autumn.

Be well, Maria

Character is how you treat those who can do nothing for you.

ACRA McCord Museum Visit

On a rain-free May 4th day, 58 ACRA members and friends enjoyed a memorable visit to the McCord Museum, including guided tours of all exhibits.

Aislin (Terry Mosher) provided an entertaining, informative, and behind the cartoons perspective of his wonderful collection of "50 years of Cartooning"; the current main attraction of the museum. Along with his personal guided tour of the exhibit, Aislin warmly chatted with members and friends, posed for photos, and graciously autographed copies of his book. He provided those present with some unpublished stories behind some of his most famous cartoons. He thanked us for being a great audience and laughing at the appropriate times during his stories.

Following our tour, Aislin, along with 44 members and friends, had a most savoury lunch in the museum Bistro. Everyone enjoyed the fine food and ambiance. It was a most successful ACRA Spring outing!









Mario's Musings

"Sometimes it is better to be kind than to be right. We do not always need an intelligent mind that speaks, just a patient heart that listens."

"Some people make your laugh a little louder, your smile a little brighter and your life a little better. They're the ones worth hanging onto."

"Happy are they who take life day by day, complain very little, and are thankful for the little things in life."







Briefs from the Board

- ♦ The Board of Directors met on April 27 and June 2.
- ◆ ACRA's Memorial Mass will be held on November 12, 2017 at 11:00 at Holy Cross Parish. A light brunch/lunch will be served afterward.
- ◆ A donation was made to St. Raymond's Parish in Candiac which has opened its doors to the Board of Directors for the past three years, providing space and coffee for its meetings.
- ◆ Andy Nardozza has agreed to replace Larry deGruchy as emcee at the golf tournament. Big shoes to fill!
- ♦ \$2000 from ACRA's budget was donated \$1000 each to Dans la Rue and to the Holy Cross Food Bank.
- ◆ One board member, Art Galardo, has served the maximum 6-year term allowable on the board and will not return. His position needs to be filled. The Nominating Committee is in the process of preparing recommendations to the Board. The proposed slate for the new Board will be included with the information sent to members for the AGM.

ACRA Annual Dinner

On a warm summer-like June 8th evening, over 100 ACRA members and friends wined and dined in style at Buffet Roma in Montreal's east end.



After hors d'œuvres and cocktails, our President, Maria Di Perna, welcomed everyone and invited Andy Nardozza to lead us in the traditional singing of *O Canada*. Wayne Arnold said grace and expressed our gratitude for the many blessings ACRA members enjoy and asked us to continue our spirit of giving.

Our gathering served to honour one of the founders of ACRA and a man who continues to exemplify the spirit of giving and doing for others, Joe Jaroslawski. Peter Yaworski thanked all those who helped provide photos depicting memorable moments in Joe's personal and professional life; they are Helen Jaroslawski, Ed Gargul and Wayne Arnold. The photos were used to create a photo album that was used by members in attendance to provide their own personal comments to Joe. In addition, a special photo portrait of Joe was beautifully crafted by Wayne Arnold.

Peter then asked Len Tynan to begin the toasting and roasting of our beloved Joey! Len and Waguih Tabet had everyone laughing, including Joe, with their wit and sharp barbs about our man of the evening. George Pajuk followed the roasting with some very appreciative recollections of special moments in Joe's life as an educator, family man, and community organizer and supporter. The "celebration of Joe" was capped off with a presentation by our President of an original painting generously created and donated by our in-house artist, Phil Amabili.





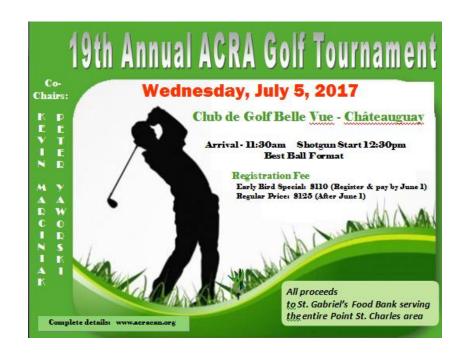


The Snowbirds are back!





Just in time for......



ACRA's Charitable Donations

2016-2017 budget

\$100 St. Jean Brebouf Parish \$250 St. Raymond Parish

\$1000 Camp Caritas/Holy Family Parish

\$1000 Holy Cross Parish

\$1000 Dans la Rue

2015-16 budget

\$1000 St. Brendan's Food Bank

\$1000 Share the Warmth

2014-15 budget

\$1000 Literacy Unlimited

\$1000 Generations Foundation

2013-14 budget

\$1000 Camp Caritas

\$1000 Camp Plein a Plain Coeur

2013-14 budget

\$1000 Lac Megantic Recovery

Don't complicate life

Missing somebody?

Wanna meet up?

Wanna be understood?

Have questions?

Don't like something?

Like something?

Want something?

ASK FOR IT

Keep your life SIMPLE.

TELL THEM

Love someone?

Save the date!

ACRA AGM

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Time and location to be determined

All documentation and information will be sent to members late August or early September.





