



October 29, 2019  
Volume IV Issue I

# News and Muse

## Message from the President

**Editor: Mario Tirelli**  
mtirelli@hotmail.ca



Greetings on behalf of your new Board of Directors. I am happy to announce that in this, my sixth year on the Board, I have been brave enough to take on the challenge of being your new president, and I am happy to do so.

Looking back at the amazing work that has been done by our outgoing President, Maria Di Perna, I see that I have a hard act to follow. On behalf of the members I would like to extend a sincere thank you to Maria, as well as to Al Fitzgerald and Peter Yaworski, all of whom have completed six years of untiring service on the Board. As ACRA members we have all benefitted from the hard work and devotion of all three.

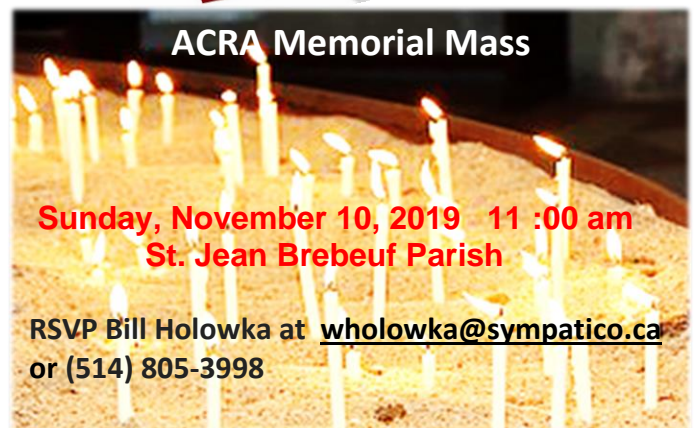
We are pleased to have Maria Di Perna, Past President, Mario Tirelli, Tony Di Lallo, Pat Moffa, Andy Nardoza and Joe Jaroslowski returning to serve on the Board. A special welcome to our two new members, Raz Crivello and Bill Holowka who will be our social convenors.

We are looking forward to a new year filled with the usual activities and hopefully, some new adventures along the way. We are open to new ideas and suggestions and above all, we are hoping for your enthusiastic participation.

We want to hear about the significant events in your life, both the good and the bad. In particular, I am looking for suggestions on ways to reach out to our members who are more isolated from the mainstream so that they do not feel so alone. We want to know how everyone is coping with the golden years, because we are all in this together.

We are so blessed to be part of this great ACRA Community.

Best regards,  
Norma



### ACRA Memorial Mass

**Sunday, November 10, 2019 11 :00 am**  
**St. Jean Brebeuf Parish**

RSVP Bill Holowka at [wholowka@sympatico.ca](mailto:wholowka@sympatico.ca)  
or (514) 805-3998

*Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul and sings the tunes - without the words and never stops at all.* Emily Dickinson.

# ACRA AGM

## Thursday, October 3, 2019

On Thursday, October 3, 2019, our Annual General Meeting was held at Casa Grecque in Lasalle. Forty-four members were present for the meeting and the luncheon that followed.

As past president, Al Fitzgerald chaired the meeting. Al welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. In the absence of Maria Di Perna, he read the detailed president's report that Maria had prepared.

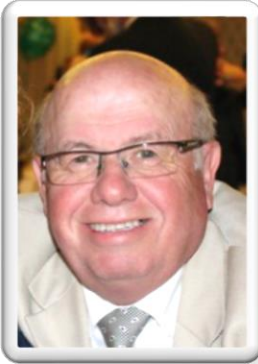
- Maria spoke about the declining membership, the loss of Lali Jones, and the loss of family members and friends suffered by ACRA members. They will be remembered at ACRA's Memorial Mass to be held at St. Jean Brebeuf in Lasalle on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am.
- She reviewed the past year's activities, the reasons for certain cancellations, and the expectation that we would be back to a full range of activities this coming year.
- Maria spoke of the usefulness of the *ACRA News and Muse* to keep our membership informed on a regular basis.
- She highlighted the fact that our budget is healthy, and we are finishing the year, once again, with a surplus.
- She spoke of the registration process.
- She reported on the generous contributions to various charities on behalf of the ACRA membership. Because we have not been able to replace Jerry Dunn in organizing the Food Drive for St. Gabriel's, the proposed budget will earmark a \$1000 donation to St. Gabriel's to support their Christmas Baskets.
- Finally she thanked all members of the Board for their hard work and commitment with special attention going to Peter Yaworski and Al Fitzgerald who have completed their mandates and will be leaving the Board.

Our auditor, Richard Kusiak, presented his report for 2018-19. Our financial records are in order and he congratulated Tony Di Lallo, our Treasurer, for the excellent work he does in keeping all the financial matters in order. Tony Di Lallo then proceeded to present his report for 2018-19 and the proposed budget for 2019-2020. All three reports were unanimously approved.

As Past President, Al Fitzgerald presented the Nominating Committee's Report. A nominating committee was formed to recommend members for two vacant positions on the board. Raz Crivello and Bill Holowka accepted the nominations as new members and Joe Jaroslowski and Tony Di Lallo agreed to serve another two-year term. As no other nominations were received, by acclamation, these four members will be on the board for 2019-2020.

After the meeting, Frank Baldassare was invited to say grace. Frank asked those present to remember members and friends who have passed away. He led us in giving thanks for our individual blessings and as members of ACRA.

Another successful AGM and Luncheon was concluded.

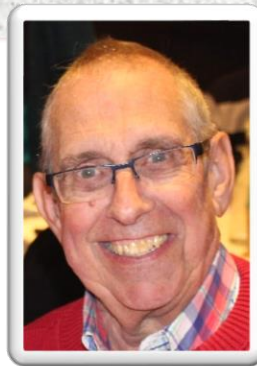


## Board of Directors

2019-2020



President	Norma Passaretti
Vice-President	Mario Tirelli
Treasurer	Antonio Di Lallo
Secretary	Pat Moffa/Andy Nardoza
Social Events/Recruitment	Raz Crivello
	Bill Holowka
Member Welfare	Joe Jaroslowski
Past President	Maria Di Perna



## Mario's Musings

*"Friends are priceless gifts; they make cloudy days bright, bring joy, laughter, and peace!"*

*"Listening is one of the deepest, most profound signs of loving — listening to yourself and listening to others. Your heart goes out and wraps around those you love!"*

*"Attitude makes all the difference- it will make a difficult time easier, and any experience better!"*

### **Briefs from the Board**

Following the October 3 AGM, the newly elected Board members met to determine which members would assume which responsibilities on the Board.

- ◆ The first official meeting of the new Board took place on October 10, 2019.
- ◆ The Board decided that this year's Memorial Mass would take place on November 10, 2019.
- ◆ One of the Board's main focus in 2019 will be to reach out to members who are isolated and not part of the mainstream. The Board will work on a strategy to achieve this goal. Your suggestions are welcome.
- ◆ The Board will also continue to look at ways to increase our membership.
- ◆ It was decided that the date for the Christmas lunch would be December 12, 2019.
- ◆ The President was asked to review the ACRA website with the members who are presently involved with the website to recommend any changes that may be required to the Board.
- ◆ The next Board meeting will take place on November 21, 2019.



**ACRA Christmas Luncheon**  
**Thursday, December 12, 2019**  
**11:30 am**





## ACRA Wednesday Golf



One of the many activities for ACRA members is Wednesday Golf. Beginning in May and running until mid-October, weather permitting, between 24 to 32 golfers enjoy a round of golf with friends and former colleagues followed by a supper.



Over the years, different ACRA members have participated in the organization of the Wednesday Golf. The current group that has been handling the activity in a much-appreciated manner is:



Commissioner: Bob Forget  
Reservations and Scheduling: Bob Forget  
Weekly Players List: Bob Forget and Peter Yaworski  
Treasurer: Tony Di Lallo  
Statistician: Kevin Marciniak  
Restaurant Reservations: Eric Martin, Barry McBride, and Kevin Banks  
Libations: Bob Forget, Mike Miller, and Charlie Jeannotte



This year's golf venues included Triangle D'Or, Le Cardinal, Lorraine, Farnham, Bellevue, Vallée des Forts, North Country, Napierville, and Dorval.

The golf outings are made more interesting by the team of organizers who plan different friendly competitions like most fairways, closest to the pin, lowest number of putts, and the favourite Calcutta.

Every year there are two special competitions, the ACRA Golf Championship and the Commissioner's Cup. This year's winner of the ACRA Golf Championship at Vallée des Forts was Terry Quinn. Our Commish, Bob Forget, presented Terry with the trophy after the round. The Commissioner's Cup is a year long competition that is awarded to the golfer who plays the best over the entire schedule. This year's champion golfer was Bill Holowka. Congratulations to Terry and Bill for their fine play!

Check out our ACRA website, [acracan.org](http://acracan.org), under activities for more info about the Golf activity.





## ACRA Halloween Luncheon

On Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, approximately fifty ACRA members and friends met at La Meridiana Restaurant in Laval for the annual Halloween Luncheon.

After some time for greetings and exchange of pleasantries, our President, Norma Passaretti, welcomed everyone and congratulated all those members who came in a costume for the occasion. She then invited Joe Jaroslowski to lead everyone in saying grace.

Our social conveners, Raz Crivello and Bill Holowka, were in charge of the contest for the best costumes. This year, three prizes were awarded to those participants deemed to be the best or most creatively dressed. The winners each received a bottle of wine courtesy of the ACRA Board.

- Best couple costume: Carol & Len Tynan
- Best female costume: Nicole Tabet
- Best male costume: Bob Forget

As you can tell from some of the photos, a good time was had by one and all. Our lunch was a great success and we look forward to the next event.

