

Executive Director's Corner April 14, 2022

COVID-19

Covid is really taking a toll on S.A.S.A. Everyone from staff to the Board to our members have been infected with the new variant, thus the decision to shut down and sanitize everything to ensure that when you return from Easter on Tuesday, the place is COVID free. Because of the swift nature of this increased infection rate, we will be returning to stricter protocols, including distancing in classes, and wearing your masks as much as possible, including while playing cards, and we'll be taking temperatures again to see if we can catch it before it infects more people. While this is inconvenient, we know you'll understand that many of our 80- and 90-year-olds are extremely vulnerable, even after vaccination. Yes, you'll still need your vaccination record to get in. There's no other way to help curb this new rise in infection rates and the last thing we want to do is close again. We love seeing you all and being here to make your day brighter.

Please be careful after you return from family and friends at Easter. It's important to stay safe and to do what you need to do to stay safe. We are quickly learning that vaccines alone aren't enough to keep you from getting the virus, but they are very effective in keeping you alive, but good masks help create a barrier between your lungs and the virus, so keep your mask handy and wear it when you are in large crowds especially indoors.

Volunteer Coordinator

We are looking for a Volunteer Coordinator for 20 hours a week. If you are interested, the job is posted on Indeed and on our website. You have to understand the aging process, believe in our mission, and know how to motivate and train volunteers to do their assignments. You'll be working closely with our Events manager to ensure there are enough volunteers for all our functions.

The Red Willow Cafe

If any of you have been to the grocery store lately, you'll already know that food prices have skyrocketed and when you see the price of Yukon Gold potatoes, you'll see the price is almost as good as gold! As a result of this increase in pricing, we have to raise our prices in the Café. We wish it was different and if prices go down, we'll lower the prices, but for now please understand we have no choice if we have any hope of keeping the kitchen open and serving those favorite meals.

Register for the Annual General Meeting

Please register for the AGM by calling the front desk at 780-459-0433. Knowing how many are signed up gives us a chance to plan for coffee and cookies. There are goodies at 9:30am and the Annual General Meeting starts at 10am. Hope to see you all there.

Willie Wong, new instructor

S.A.S.A. is so lucky to have Willie Wong, the renowned watercolor painter and teacher, join our teaching ranks! Willie Wong has been teaching pencil, watercolor, acrylic, and oil painting for over 20 years to students of all ages and all skill levels, but he excels at inspiring beginner artists with his easy to learn watercolor basics. His work can be seen at Willie Wong Fine Art Facebook Group. (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/41489536184/>)

Snooker Table

The snooker table has seen better days- a lot of better days. The slates are warped and can't be repaired, the cushions are crispy sounding and the felt is threadbare. As much as we wish we could save it, it is going to have to be replaced. We've already raised \$4000 and need three more to reach half the amount we need. If you are interested in donating, please tell the front desk that your money is to go to the snooker table. We need to raise just a little over \$13,000 to pay for the new one and have the old one taken away. All donations are appreciated. A snooker table fundraiser is coming up! Help us develop more men's programming by donating to the snooker table.

Rockin' August

S.A.S.A. will be part of Rockin' August, serving food and drinks. August 2 – 6 th. It is a Car Show Festival, with lots of music, old cars, and fun. If you interested in volunteering, let the front desk know.

Pub Nights

Imagine getting together to cheer on your favorite team and watching them together on a big screen TV? You can have a cold beer and hot snacks, ride the S.A.S.A. bus both ways and enjoy a night of hockey, curling, or soccer – maybe even baseball. Or watch the Best in Show at Crufts, Wimbledon Tennis, or see an old movie together. What we need to do this is a big screen TV and for about \$3200 we can get an 85-inch TV, and have it put on a wall where we can all see it and enjoy some time together. If you wish to donate to this cause of comradery and fun, let the front desk that you wish for your donation to be restricted to Pub Nights.

Parking in the Handicapped Zone

No parking in handicapped zone without a sticker. For people who suffer with mobility, e.g., use a walking frame or a wheelchair, coming to the centre and finding the handicapped parking area full of cars that don't have stickers that allow them to park there is maddening. Because we are good neighbors and want everyone to be able to enjoy the centre, it is important that we leave those spots for those who need them most.

Our core values and making new people feel welcome

The only way we are going to grow is if everyone commits to making others feel welcome and at home when they come into a class. We are talking about having a learning day in spring – A Day when new people can come and try out new activities. To prepare for that, please give your game rules to the front desk so those who have signed up can read the rules before time. Remember what it is like to be new, and how good it felt to have someone take you under their wing and show you how things work? Do that for someone new and make them feel welcome. We are here to have fun, enjoy new things, and make good friends, but the thing that will last it the good friends we make.

Sincerely,

Linda F. Ensley, MBA

Executive Director

St. Albert Seniors Association

