

Annual General Meeting Edition  
2023-2024

## Save the Date

June 20th

### ARM Annual General Meeting

547 Victoria Ave.  
Windsor

Plan to attend this year's AGM to learn about the proposed plans for the coming year.

If you are interested in being part of the Chapter 9 Executive, please call Jacques Aharonian at 519-567-8671 or email

[j29aharon@gmail.com](mailto:j29aharon@gmail.com)

Lunch will be available at the meeting.

Any questions can also be forwarded to

[armchapter9@outlook.com](mailto:armchapter9@outlook.com)



*"It does not require many words to speak the truth."*

– Chief Joseph

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## President's Message from Bruce Awad

Greetings ARM Chapter 9 members. This is our final newsletter for the 2023-2024 year and will mainly focus on the ARM Annual General Meeting (AGM). Later in this newsletter you will find the Agenda for the AGM. A financial report and proposed budget will be sent in a separate email. You will also find a list of executive positions up for election on the agenda. Please consider putting your name forward for one of the positions.

As summary of the 2023-2024 year, this is what I will present at the OSSTF District 9 AGM:

*ARM Chapter 9 has had a busy year with many events for our members.*

*ARM members attended the Labour Day parade in September 2023. Several ARM members attended the Ontario Health Coalitions rally in Toronto at Queens Park against the government's privatization of health care agenda.*

*ARM provided two educational workshops for our members and active OSSTF D9 members, one by the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre and another by Educators Financial on Estate Planning.*

*ARM attended the OSSTF pension workshop and at the OTIP retirement planning workshop, promoting ARM to the attendees.*

*We have had 8 First Friday breakfasts from September to June at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 594. Breakfasts have been provided free of charge.*

*Annually, we host two fundraising luncheons for our members at the Ciociaro Club. We held one in December and another in April. At the April 2024 event, a full buffet lunch was provided free of charge. A silent auction with gifts donated by our members and raffled off. Proceeds from the raffle raised \$450.00 which was donated to IRIS House, a facility that provides residential care and other services for persons with PSMI (persistent serious mental illness). Our members also donated over 100 personal hygiene care items for IRIS House.*

*At our December 2023 event proceeds from our raffle provided \$540.00 for the Unemployed Help Centre and the food banks in Windsor and Essex County. Our members also donated more than 300 nonperishable food items for the UHC.*

*ARM Chapter 9 is a member of the Windsor and District Labour Council, The local United Way and the Ontario Health Coalition.*

*Every year ARM Chapter 9 donates up to \$1500 to local charities suggested by our members.*

**You are all invited to the ARM AGM, I hope to see many of you there.**

Finally I would like to thank the executive for their efforts and commitment to our chapter. Our events and activities would not be possible without them. Please see the newsletter for a list of our executive members. As always, your comments and suggestions are welcomed.

***Yours in Federation, Bruce Awad, President***

## Anti-Harassment & Equity Declaration History

The Federation not only seeks to protect members from harassment in the workplace but also in the union. In the mid-1990's, work began at 60 Mobile Dr to develop internal policy and mechanisms to address discrimination & harassment within OSSTF district and provincial organizations. The result was the passing of Anti-Harassment policy at AMPA that required local leadership to ensure all OSSTF events have an officer who can respond to any complaint. To learn more about the policy, visit [www.osstf.on.ca](http://www.osstf.on.ca) where you can find the entire document.

## Indigenous Acknowledgement History

In keeping with our commitment to Truth & Reconciliation, ARM Chapter 9 has a history of taking time to acknowledge the Indigenous people who first lived on this land.

We are grateful to United Way – Windsor Essex, who shared the statement used by their organization.

This statement recognizes the Caldwell First Nation, who we share this land with. This statement also makes clear that the earlier actions of Colonial governments included theft and genocide – very serious acts which have resulted in generational trauma of Indigenous peoples.

ARM Chapter 9 remains committed to Truth & Reconciliation.

# AGM Annual General Meeting Information

Active Retired Members (ARM), Chapter 9, Greater Essex  
Annual General Meeting Thursday, June 20, 2024 – 10:00 AM

## PROPOSED AGENDA

1. Appointment of Anti-Harassment Officer and Reading of Anti-Harassment & Equity Declaration

***A member of OSSTF has the right to an equitable work and union environment free from the destructive effects of discrimination and harassment. Anyone who feels targeted by harassment or discrimination must be able to speak up and know their concerns will be responded to immediately in accordance with OSSTF Policies and Procedures which are available on the provincial website. The anti-harassment officer for this meeting is***

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2. Indigenous Acknowledgment Statement

***In the spirit of our journey to reconciliation, we would like to honour the truth of our shared history and acknowledge that our service region is located on the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibwe - including Caldwell First Nation, the Odawa, the Potawatomie. As Treaty 2 and Treaty 35 people, we are grateful for the opportunity to live and work here and are thankful for the generations of people who have taken care of this land for thousands of years - including the Haudenosaunee (hoh-DEE-noh-SHoh-nee), Attawandaron (Add-a-won-da-run) (Neutral), and Huron (Wyandot) peoples. We also recognize the contributions of First Nations, Metis, Inuit, and other Indigenous peoples who have and continue to live in these communities. It is also important to atone for the colonial theft and genocide that has taken place, and the oppression of Indigenous peoples that continues today. This acknowledgement is one small part of OSSTF's journey. Moving forward, we are dedicated to listening to, learning from, and collaborating with Indigenous communities and partners.***

***Please take a moment to recognize the land on which we gather and to reflect upon the journey to reconciliation with the Indigenous peoples of this land.***

3. Approval of the Agenda

4. Approval of the minutes of the AGM June 16, 2023.

5. Business arising from the AGM minutes of June 16, 2023.

# PROPOSED AGENDA CONTINUED

6. Report of the Executive and Recommendations

7. 2024-2025 Budget

(a) Review of the Proposed 2024-2025 Budget –

(b) Approval of the Budget

***BIRT THE proposed budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year be approved as presented by the Treasurer.***

***Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_***

8. Amendments to the Constitution.

9. Election of Executive Officers for 2023-2024

Advance nominations are listed in this newsletter. Nominations will also be accepted during the meeting.

(a) President –

(b) Vice-President –

(c) Member Services Officer –

(d) Recording Secretary –

(e) Treasurer –

(f) Communications Officer –

(g) Political Action Officer –

(h) Program Coordinator –

(i) Membership Officer –

j) Community Advocacy Officer -

(k) Member(s)-At-Large 1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

10. Appointment and/or Election of ARM Chapter 9 Representatives for 2022-2023

(a) ARM Biennial Meeting – 2025 Toronto, in person

President and two delegates:

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

# PROPOSED AGENDA CONTINUED

(b) CURC Triennial Meeting – next meeting June 17-19, 2025

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

(c) OFUR Biennial Meeting – next meeting 2024

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

11. New Business

12. Adjournment



# TEAMWORK

The 2023-2024 Executive hopes to see you on Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at the District 9 OSSTF office located at 547 Victoria Avenue in downtown Windsor.

## **Motions for the Annual General Meeting Recommended by the Executive**

BIRT the ARM Executive recommend that we donate \$300.00 to each of the following organizations under the ARM Charitable Donation Policy for the 2024-2025 fiscal year:

- Autism Services – The Windsor Fastpitch Softball Hall of Fame (WFSHOF) Charity Golf Tournament, September 28, 2024
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters – Books for Mentees
- Caldwell First Nation

Moved by Sandra Sahli

Seconded by Suzette Clark

BIRT ARM Chapter 9 continue its membership in the Ontario Health Coalition for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Cost - \$50.00

Moved by Bruce Awad

Seconded by Sandra Sahli

BIRT ARM Chapter 9 donate \$250.00 to the Ontario Health Coalition to support their continued campaign against the privatization of our health care system, including home care and long-term care.

Moved by Bruce Awad

Seconded by Sandra Sahli

BIRT ARM Chapter 9 continue to be a member organization of the Windsor and District Labour Council (WDLC) effective July 1, 2024 for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Cost - Based on membership numbers – not to exceed \$750.00

Moved by Bruce Awad

Seconded by Sandra Sahli

### **EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION – PROPOSAL TO SUPPORT UNITED WAY – 2024-25**

Prepared by Sandra Sahli, Community Advocacy Officer

#### Motion

***BIRT that ARM Chapter 9 continue its support for United Way in 2024-25 as outlined in the proposal presented at the 2024 Annual General Meeting. Cost – Up to \$2,500***

***Moved by Sandra Sahli***

***Seconded by Suzette Clark***

## United Way - ARM Chapter 9 Representation

- Sandra Sahli will continue as our representative on the United Way Cabinet. Sandra has completed her two term and is willing to remain on the Cabinet for another year.
- Sandra Sahli will continue as our representative on the United Way Retiree Volunteer Council (RVC).

### Summer Eats for Kids (July and August 2024)

The Summer Eats for Kids program (<https://www.weareunited.com/summerprograms/>.) provides children and families in Windsor-Essex County with a week's work of nutritious snacks, fresh fruits and vegetables. The program is provided at six school locations across the community, where families can come and receive a food box. In addition to this, the program provides over 500 lunches daily during the first three weeks of July to students in the Greater Essex County District School Board's *Camp Wonder* program. Once again, the Executive is recommending a \$1,000 donation to support this program.

### Retired Volunteer Council – 1<sup>st</sup> Cornhole Tournament (August 2024)

On Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> the United Way Retiree Volunteer Council (RVC) will host their 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Cornhole Tournament. The Executive is recommending we enter up to two teams for the event and sponsor a cornhole at a total cost up to \$500.00.

### United Way Campaign (September 2024)

Last year, we held our first donation campaign for ARM Chapter 9. Your Executive is recommending we continue with an annual campaign. This year the campaign will run from Friday September 6<sup>th</sup> thru Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. The dates were selected so the campaign can be featured at two Friday ARM Breakfasts. The purpose of the campaign is to educate our members about the work of United Way and to encourage our members to make a one-time donation or an ongoing monthly donation to United Way. All donations will be identified as part of our campaign by United Way and credited to our ARM Chapter.

### Tampon Tuesday (March 2025)

Tampon Tuesday is held annually on International Women's Day. This national event is delivered in cities across Canada in partnership with United Way, the Canadian Labour Congress and Bell Media. The purpose of this event is to raise awareness by collecting and distributing menstrual hygiene products to address the local need for such products at local food banks and community services. Your Executive is recommending that members be encouraged once again to bring their donations to the January and February ARM Friday Breakfast.

### Book Drive for United Way (June 2025)

*Women United* is a committed group of women leaders working together to advance and support the programs offered by United Way. Each year, this group hosts a book drive to collect books for United Way's summer programs. ARM Chapter 9 collected books for this initiative in 2023, and we are recommending we continue to support the book drive. In addition to the book collection, we are recommending the Executive purchase books for pre-school and early years at a total cost of \$300.00.

### Attendance at United Way Community Events

- Labour Appreciation Dinner – Fall of 2024
- Celebrating Women Who Inspire Us – May 2025
- On Track to Success Dinner – June 2025
- Gary Parent Labour Activist Award – June 2025

In addition to the activities in this proposal, we will encourage our members to volunteer for United Way activities throughout the year. We will communicate opportunities to volunteer on our website, in our newsletter and through regular emails.

## **Nominations for Executive positions for 2024-2025**

The following people have put their name forward for the executive for 2024-2025, to be elected at the AGM:

Position	Nominee	Mover	Second
President –	Bruce Awad	Jacques Aharonian	Annette Nelson
Vice- President –	Jacques Aharonian	Suzette Clark	Annette Nelson
Member Services Officer -	Rosanne Herold	Annette Nelson	Sandra Sahli
Recording Secretary –	Annette Nelson	Jacques Aharonian	Rosanne Herold
Treasurer –			
Communications Officer –	Suzette Clark	Sandra Sahli	Annette Nelson
Political Action Officer –			
Program Co-Ordinator –	Jacques Aharonian	Rosanne Herold	Annette Nelson
Community Advocacy Officer -	Sandra Sahli	Jacques Aharonian	Suzette Clark
Membership Officer –	Brian Robinson	Sandra Sahli	Annette Nelson
Member(s) At Large (1) –	Patricia Morneau	Suzette Clark	Jacques Aharonian
Member At Large (2) –	Margaret Villamizar	Sandra Sahli	Annette Nelson
Member At Large (3) –			
Member At Large (4) –			
Member At Large (5) –			

NOTE: nominations from the floor of the AGM are also accepted for any position.

## **Important Information from our friends at OTIP**

### **Be prepared for an emergency**

Did you know that natural disasters are increasing in frequency and severity? Whether it's wildfires, tornados, ice storms, or hurricanes, disasters can strike anytime and anywhere. Increase your family's emergency preparedness with these four steps.

#### **Step 1: Create an emergency plan and kit**

Ensuring the whole family knows what to do during a specific disaster or emergency, such as a fire, earthquake, or severe weather event, is crucial. You may not always be together when such an event occurs, so you should have a plan in place to contact and find one another.

Determine the best ways to evacuate your home in case of an emergency. Make sure adults and older children know the location of your fire extinguishers and water, electric, and gas utilities. Reiterate that everyone should be aware of the location of your emergency kit. Establish a safe place for your family to meet outside your home and neighbourhood. If a family member has unique needs that require extra assistance, incorporate those details into your preparation. And remember a plan to evacuate your pets. The Canadian Red Cross has created a [Home Plan Template](#) that you can download and fill out to help you prepare an emergency plan and kit. They also recommend practicing your emergency plan regularly to maintain a sense of control and readiness.

If you can't evacuate, prepare to be self-sufficient in your home for at least three days (or seven to ten days in a health emergency). Feeling prepared and secure is essential. That's why it's also helpful to become familiar with the evacuation plans for different buildings, such as your work, school, community centre, etc., in case a disaster happens when you're not home.

Collaborate with your neighbours to identify individuals who may need extra assistance during an emergency or who you can rely on for help. In the event of a disaster, stay tuned in to local radio and television stations. If officials or community leaders advise you to evacuate your neighbourhood, follow the designated routes and proceed to the specified location. Avoid taking shortcuts, as they could be blocked or hazardous.

Communication is key during emergencies. Plan for each family member to communicate with the same out-of-town emergency contact. Choose someone that lives far enough away that they won't be affected by the same event. This designated person should be aware that they're your family's emergency contact and ensure that everyone in your family knows their contact information.

## **Step 2: Secure your home**

You can do many things to prepare your home for a disaster or emergency. Here are some actions you can take to get started:

- Install impact-resistant windows and doors.
- Anchor heavy objects within your home that could fall over and cause injury.
- Consider purchasing a portable power generator and keeping extra fuel on hand to use in the event of a power failure. Use caution when operating a gas generator, and store the fuel outside or in a well-ventilated area.
- Perform regular home maintenance on your roof, chimney, electrical, heating, plumbing, and landscape grading.
- Install or maintain a backflow valve that only allows water to flow in one direction, away from your home. Check with your municipality before you install one.
- Ensure your downspouts extend at least 2 metres away from your foundation and your yard slopes away from your home to prevent flooding.
- Store toxic or flammable products away from heat sources, and avoid storing them in your basement.

## **Step 3: Maintain a home inventory list**

A [home inventory list](#) is a record of all your belongings in your home. It typically includes the name of the item (with the brand and model number), a brief description, the value, the serial number (standard for electronics), and a receipt/warranty. Maintaining a list of your belongings is recommended to help you determine the appropriate insurance coverage that meets your needs and prepares you in case of a loss. Remember to store your home inventory list somewhere safe, ideally outside your home.

## **Step 4: Know what's covered**

Most home insurance policies cover damage and destruction caused by fire and severe weather. In certain circumstances where homeowners can't return to their homes because of insured damage, they may be entitled to additional living expenses like hotel accommodations and meals. If insured with OTIP, check with an OTIP broker to see the limit on your policy for those additional living expenses. Vehicles that experienced damage from hail, ice, wind, or water are usually covered under comprehensive or all-perils auto insurance – these are additional optional coverages, so check with an OTIP broker if you would like them added to your policy.



## **10 items you need in your emergency car kit**

Since the first full week of May was Emergency Preparedness Week, it's a great reminder to re-stock your 72-hour emergency car kit. It's essential to have one even when you least expect the worst to happen. Here, we'll detail what items should be in your kit to ensure you're prepared.

You can customize your kit based on your needs, but there are a few items that may come in handy:

### **1. Food and water**

Food and water are essential to every basic emergency car kit. It is recommended that you pack two litres of water per person in small plastic bottles that won't break if they freeze<sup>1,2</sup>. Include non-perishable foods that won't spoil, such as canned food, granola bars, and dried foods, and be sure to replace them at least once a year<sup>2</sup>. Don't forget a manual can opener and utensils to eat the food!

### **2. First aid kit**

In the event of an accident where someone sustains minor injuries, having a first aid kit readily available will help you respond effectively. Store it in a dry place and regularly replace any used or outdated contents. A first aid kit should contain phone numbers for EMS/911 and emergency contacts, gauze pads, tape, bandages, instant ice packs, disposable non-latex gloves, antiseptic wipes, etc. For a complete list of contents, visit the [Canadian Red Cross website](#).

### **3. Seatbelt cutter or pocketknife**

It's useful to have a seatbelt cutter or pocketknife on hand if someone is trapped in their vehicle and needs to get out as quickly as possible. However, don't move them if they're injured, as this could worsen their injuries. Instead, call 911, follow the operator's directions, and wait for help.

### **4. A blanket**

Depending on your circumstances, you may not be able to rely on your vehicle's heater to stay warm in cold temperatures. To retain body heat, keep your kit stocked with a heavy blanket, a change of clothing, and extra footwear.

### **5. Portable power bank**

Don't let your cell phone die when you need it most! A portable power bank will keep it charged and running so you can make those emergency phone calls.

### **6. Flashlight**

It's helpful to have a flashlight handy, whether wind-up or battery-powered. If battery-powered, include extra batteries because they don't last long in extreme cold. Additionally, a candle in a deep can (with matches) can be your backup light or a heat source.

### **7. Portable radio**

Avoid relying on your vehicle's radio; it will drain your battery. It's best to have a wind-up or battery-powered portable radio to receive important emergency updates.

### **8. Jumper cables**

If you get stuck with a dead battery, you can connect it to that of another vehicle with jumper cables. The cables will give your battery the boost it needs to get your vehicle started and moving again.

### **9. Antifreeze and windshield washer fluid**

Always store an extra supply of antifreeze and windshield washer fluid in the trunk of your vehicle. Antifreeze keeps your engine from overheating in the summer and freezing in the winter, while windshield washer fluid provides you with a clear view.

### **10. Sand or kitty litter**

## In Memoriam

- **Walter Nicodemo**

On May 20, 2024, former teacher from Forster and Walkerville high schools passed away. Walter Nicodemo, a history teacher and football coach, is fondly remembered by family, former colleagues and students. He was also a founding member of the Fogolar Furlan Club of Windsor where many OSSTF members have celebrated Labour Day for many years.

**ARM Chapter 9 endeavours to acknowledge the passing of all former OSSTF members but in the event that we are not aware of the death of a former colleague, please advise any member of the Executive so that we are able to include information in a future newsletter.**



### NOTE - ARM Chapter 9 DOES NOT:

- **Sell or trade your name, address or email information to any outside organization**

## Remembering June 6, 1944

This year marks the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day

“At half past 3 o'clock this morning, the government received official word that the invasion of Western Europe had begun. Word was also received that the Canadian troops were among the Allied forces who landed this morning on the northern coast of France. Canada will be proud to learn that our troops are being supported by the units of the Royal Canadian Navy and the Royal Canadian Air Force. The great landing in Western Europe is the opening of what we hope and believe will be the decisive phase of the war against Germany.”

*-Prime Minister Mackenzie King, national radio broadcast, 8 a.m. EST, June 6, 1944*

ARM Chapter 9 remembers the Canadian soldiers from across the country who demonstrated tremendous courage on this day. We now know that the actions of these brave Canadians on the beaches and fields of Normandy helped lead the way to the final and total collapse of Hitler's much-vaunted Thousand Year Reich less than a year later.

When we meet at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 594 for our First Friday breakfasts, take a moment to look around the room and remember the Canadian soldiers who put their lives on the line for the freedoms we enjoy today.

*Source: The Greatest Landing by John Boileau  
LEGION, May/June 2024*

## STAYING CURRENT

ARM Chapter 9 has a number of ways you can stay informed about things that matter to our membership.

### ARM Chapter 9 Website



The Chapter 9 website contains information for Retired members of OSSTF. Current and previous newsletters can be found along with details about the work of your Executive.

The website has been created in an easy-to-navigate format offering our membership uncomplicated access to its content.

[www.armchapter9.ca](http://www.armchapter9.ca)

If you have suggestions about what you might like included in the website please email [armchapter9@outlook.com](mailto:armchapter9@outlook.com)



## Noteworthy Dates

June 19<sup>th</sup> – Juneteenth Day

June 20<sup>th</sup> – Summer Solstice

June 21<sup>st</sup> -National  
Indigenous Peoples Day

July 1<sup>st</sup> – Canada Day



September 2<sup>nd</sup> – Labour Day

September 6<sup>th</sup> - First Friday  
Breakfast & Brick Memorial  
Ceremony

September 22<sup>nd</sup> – Autumnal  
Equinox

September 30<sup>th</sup> – Truth &  
Reconciliation Day



## September 6, 2024 Brick Ceremony Recipients

As of the printing of this newsletter, Chapter 9 will honour the following members:

- Louis Pocock
- Robert Houston
- Mary Piccinin
- Irene Taylor
- Betty Learmouth
- Doreen O'Brien
- Linda Daniels
- Irene Andriash
- William Clinansmith
- Janet Pundyk
- Michael Thomson

The Executive invites you to join us following our First Friday breakfast, at the Udine Fountain, in Dieppe Park, at the northwest corner of Riverside Drive and Ouellette Avenue. Family and friends of our former Chapter 9 Active Retired Members are invited to this celebration of their contributions to education and the Windsor Essex community.

**Please note: This event will take place at NOON – rain or shine!**

Chapter 9 News Issue 05 Annual General Meeting Edition 2024

## 2023-2024 ARM Chapter 9 Executive Members

### **President**

Bruce Awad

### **Vice President**

Jacques Aharonian

### **Recording Secretary**

Annette Nelson

### **Treasurer**

Dan Eberwein

### **Communications Officer**

Suzette Clark

### **Political Action Officer**

Margaret Villamizar

### **Community Advocacy Officer**

Sandra Sahli

### **Membership Officer**

Brian Robinson

### **Member Services Officer**

Rosanne Herold

### **Program Co-Ordinator**

Jacques Aharonian

### **Members At Large**

Patricia Morneau

### MEMBERSHIP VOICE MATTERS!

This final edition of Chapter 9 News is the last planned for this year.

The Newsletter Editorial Team includes Suzette Clark, Editor, Bruce Awad, Jacques Aharonian, Sandra Sahli and Rosanne Herold. We welcome submissions for future Fall, Winter and Spring editions.

Contributions for the Fall edition can be forwarded to

[suzetteclark13@gmail.com](mailto:suzetteclark13@gmail.com)

[armchapter9@outlook.com](mailto:armchapter9@outlook.com)

by September 27, 2024

We look forward to hearing from you!