President’s Report

Jim Sego

Whooosh! Another summer has come and gone! Everything that’s good in our lives speeds by only to be succeeded by opportunities to bring more good into people’s lives! I had an excellent summer visiting my children, my granddaughter, and filling my visitations calendar with chances to meet with you. I’m looking forward to the many visits I’ve already booked. I’m also looking forward to getting feedback on the directions you’d like STS to go as we, retired teachers, move forward. As we hear how disjointed relationships are between teachers and retirees in other provinces, we can truly bless the organizational relations that exist here in Saskatchewan.

Our Executive meeting on September 8 and 9 heard of the communications glitches that occurred when people were asked to take sudden changes in direction as some of us were when the new drug plan rules came into effect. However, our excellent staff worked in a calm professional manner with the people who phoned or wrote and with our Benefits Plan provider to solve the problems.

Our meeting with Blue Cross also made us optimistic that we can renegotiate a secure, fully-funded, somewhat extended Benefits agreement with a company which values its relationship with superannuated teachers. We are looking at utilization of the plan to ensure that a minimal increase in premiums is necessary to keep the plan secure as benefits increase.

I note that once again our auditor, Deloitte and Touche LLP, has given us a clean audit, that the Budget, Finance and Audit Committee has accepted it, and that copies of the audited financial statements will soon be sent to Chapter Presidents. Another kudo to our excellent office staff!

Our planning committee for the Chapter Presidents’ Meeting is meeting soon and further information will be sent to all chapters as soon as possible.

The Executive has more detailed reports on various areas throughout Outreach and I encourage you to read this major communications medium thoroughly; it is the way we can find current information on matters that affect our lives.

Between Executive meetings I am meeting with the following Chapters: Langenburg (Sept. 29); Swift Current (Oct. 9); Tisdale (Oct. 20); Prince Albert (Oct. 21), and Carrot River Valley (Melfort & District) (Oct. 22). I hope that I make more new friends whose names I can remember to match with the new faces.

Attention Chapter Presidents

Nominations for Honorary Life Memberships must be submitted to the STS Office by February 14, 2009. If you have worthy candidates for these awards, ensure that the nominations are submitted well before that deadline. Please check the Policy Handbook pages 38 and 39 for the required information and for the correct format of the nomination.

If you have any questions or require additional information please contact James Slough at (306) 586-0397 or email at sloughja@sasktel.net
The 17th Annual General Meeting of ACER-CART (Association Canadienne Des Enseignantes et Des Enseignants Retraites – Canadian Association of Retired Teachers) was held in Ottawa on June 6 and 7, 2008. ACER-CART is made up of fourteen provincial and territorial retired teacher organizations in Canada.

Major issues addressed at the meeting included revisions and reformattting of the Constitution and Bylaws and the establishment of policy and guidelines for the ACER-CART Reserve Fund. In addition, each of the member organizations tabled reports of their activities during the 2007-2008 year.

It was determined that the major priority for 2008-2009 was to lobby the Government of Canada to uphold the five historic principles of the Canada Health Act (1984). Other resolutions passed at the meeting called on ACER-CART to work towards a national childcare program that is affordable, accountable and accessible, urge government to revise and amend the Privacy Act to ensure that the privacy of personal information is respected, develop national strategies to inform seniors of their rights and to reach out to victims of elder abuse. ACER-CART was also called upon to urge the government of Canada to establish a national pharmacare program with a national drug formulary.

The Executive for 2008-2009 includes President Helen Biales from Ontario; Past President Pat Brady from British Columbia; Regional Representatives Dr. Thomas Gaskill from Nova Scotia, Patricia Steele from Quebec, Arnold Hull from Ontario and Vaughn Wadelius from Manitoba. Vaughn Wadelius will also serve as Vice-President. Executive Director Pierre Drouin has submitted his resignation effective December 31, 2008 and ACER-CART has undertaken a search for a new Executive Director.

Annual General Meeting

Shirley Dyck/
Doug Haroldson

The 2009 Annual General Meeting will be held in the Travelodge Hotel in Saskatoon on Tuesday, May 12th to Thursday, May 14th. According to the 158 evaluations we received and many comments, we did have another successful 35th Anniversary AGM. A special thank you to Darlene McCullough for collating the evaluation forms again this year. That is a huge job and we certainly appreciate your efficiency. We reviewed the evaluations at our first meeting of the AGM Planning Committee and there are many very useful suggestions for presenters and topics for Interest Sessions. We are again planning what we hope will be a very exciting AGM for 2009.

Budget, Finance and Audit

Margaret Martin

The Budget, Finance and Audit Committee reviewed the STS Financial Statements and STS Extended Health Fund Financial Statements as of June 30, 2008 as presented from our auditors, Deloitte and Touche LLP. The Committee approved these statements and recommended that they be circulated to all Chapters. As of September 8, 2008 we now have 8598 members.

The Committee discussed STS Grants to Chapters hosting provincial recreational activities. An increase has been requested by some Chapters hosting events. The Budget, Finance and Audit Committee obtained input from the Recreation Committee and the STS Executive and it was decided that the incentive grant remain the same as in the past – $100 plus $50 upon receipt of the report after the completed event.

The Committee also discussed the mileage rates for Chapter Presidents attending the Presidents’ meeting on November 1, 2008. It was approved that the rate be the same as that provided at the AGM – $0.35 per km.

The Budget, Finance and Audit Committee established goals for 2008-2009:
1. The Committee continue its fiduciary responsibility to scrutinize all the financial reports of the STS.
2. The Committee continue to monitor the financial situation of the organization.
3. Each of our Committee members continue to take personal responsibility to improve his/her knowledge base.
4. The Committee continue to assist in the STS annual budget planning process.
Group Benefits

Jim Sego

The period since the Annual General Meeting has been interesting for the office staff in two ways. In light of the new means test for the Seniors Benefit Plan, the need to provide copies of letters of eligibility for benefits arose. Despite lengthy communication of the changes in Outreach, misunderstanding did occur for some members. The office staff, Colleen, Heather and Fred, handled all questions and issues with the professional skill we have come to expect. All outstanding issues of premium adjustment will be handled expeditiously when copies of letters of eligibility are received.

The Benefits Committee met with Blue Cross to explore the reasons for the sudden rise in claims. During that meeting Blue Cross emphasized its admiration of our plan management and the importance of our business to them. In preparation for negotiations, the Committee presented some possible positions and asked Blue Cross to provide costing for them. The Committee also struck a committee to negotiate a new agreement to commence in February of 2009.

The issue of a pay card and changes in software were discussed. The former is very costly and would add 15 per cent or more to premiums; the latter change is being undertaken but will be a slow one or two year process. The changes to software must be tested against all the Blue Cross plans for security of service and the protection of the company and the individual plans it administers.

Outreach

Margaret Martin

The Outreach Committee reviewed the Printing and Distribution Guidelines that were established last year. The guidelines have been working well, and Outreach has been received by our members in a timely manner. It was noted that as Outreach edition is put on the STS website, members who have chosen Option 1 or 2 will be notified that the current edition is now on the website.

The Outreach Committee has established the following goals for 2008-2009:

1. As requested by AGM 2008, the Committee will examine the In Memoriam issue and the options that may be possible.
2. The Committee will continue its ongoing scrutiny of the printing and distribution of Outreach so that it will be received by members in a timely manner while maintaining a professional newsletter.
3. The Committee will continue to inform STS members that the electronic edition of Outreach is an option available to them.
4. The Spotlight on Superannuates page should continue, if the size of the issue permits.
5. The Committee will monitor the number of pages of each issue and try to avoid duplication in reports, if possible.

Councillor’s Report

Margaret Martin

The Teachers Superannuation and Disability Benefits Amendment Act reached Royal Assent on May 14, 2008. As a result of these legislative changes, superannuates will benefit from the provisions negotiated during the last round of bargaining and the ratification of that collective agreement by teachers in the fall of 2007. This means that superannuates who continue paying premiums will be covered by Group Life Insurance up to age 85. The following guidelines will apply:

1. The same coverage ($16,000.00) and premium will apply for all superannuates age 65 to 85.
2. Any superannuate who was insured on August 31, 2007 and turned 76 during the 2006-2007 insurance year will be given the option to take up the insurance again. The government will match the premium for active teachers and disabled teachers and those on leave. All others will pay the full premium.
3. The new insurance will take effect on September 1, 2008 at the beginning of the insurance year.
Over the past year, discussions regarding the mandate and status of the McDowell Foundation have continued. The role of Research Coordinator will be replaced by a McDowell Foundation Administrator who will work in collaboration with the Board, a project team of STF Administrative Staff members and the STF Administration to complete an organizational review within 12 to 18 months. The Advisory Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that it develop a business plan for the McDowell Foundation that attends to succession, branding, staffing, research on researchers, fundraising, and marketing. The Project Review Committee considered 20 applications for funding and approved nine awards totaling $82,530.00. The Board decided to issue a Call for Research Proposals in January 2009, and to select projects for funding that total no more than $85,000.00 in research grants.

The financial position of the Foundation as of May 31, 2008, indicated assets of about $2.3 million. The year’s donations were over $68,000.00 and investment income was over $230,000.00. Research grants were just over $53,000.00. Five projects were withdrawn in 2007-2008 resulting in an unusually low number of projects in progress. Eight projects were completed in 2007-2008 and their reports have been added to the McDowell Foundation website and may be downloaded as pdf documents. The Saskatchewan Instructional Development and Research Unit (SIDRU) was granted $30,000.00 and commissioned to conduct research, from a teacher perspective on assessment in Saskatchewan schools. The research will be completed in time for presentation at the 2009 Learning From Practice Exchange. The Foundation also received a $30,000.00 grant from the Saskatchewan Literacy Commission to develop and facilitate an inter-organizational research project on family literacy to be presented to the Literacy Commission by the end of 2008. The McDowell Foundation will assess its experience with both of these projects to determine whether facilitation of research with outside funding and/or commissioned research should be ongoing activities of the organization. The Annual Report for 2007-2008 will be available later this fall.

The Retirement Lifestyle Planning Committee consisting of Shirley Dyck (chair), Bert Gordon, Calvin Bachmeier, Elaine Broughton, Darlene Kidd, Dianne McLeod, Doug Haroldson and George Georget, (the STF Liaison), met on Monday, September 8, 2008 at the STF. Shirley Henderson was absent due to her recent operation. We reviewed the 200 evaluations received from the over 450 teachers who participated in our seminar at SHOWCASE 2008. These evaluations were very positive and we were very pleased to have been in contact with so many teachers at these conventions. Our major concern now is how to continue to be in contact with teachers wishing to have a Lifestyle Planning Session in their area. To facilitate this, we decided to prepare a brochure advertising our program, to place an ad in the STF Bulletin, and to send letters to Presidents of local associations and Convention Chairpersons in the School Divisions advising them of the Lifestyle Planning Program that is available for teachers planning to retire.
Upcoming Events
Recreational Activities Participation STS Style . . .

Curling
Hosted by the Saskatoon Chapter
Sutherland Curling Club,
141 Jessop Ave.
Saskatoon SK
Monday, November 3, 2008
8:00-10:00 p.m.- Social
Tuesday, November 4, 2008
8:00 a.m. Curling starts
6:00 p.m. Banquet
(Extra tickets-$20.00)
Wednesday, November 5, 2008
8:30 a.m. Day 2 of Curling
Registration Fee: $140.00 per rink.
Maximum of 20 teams.
Contact:
Bill Meger
571 Adilman Dr.
Saskatoon SK  S7K 6E8
Telephone: (306) 249-1329
Motel:
Colonial Square
1301 8th St. East
$89.00/night
(Make reservations early)
Telephone: 1-800-667-3939

Bridge
Hosted by the Regina and Mainline Chapters
Date:
October 7 and 8, 2008
Place:
Best Western Seven Oaks
777 Albert Street
Regina SK  S4R 2P6
Telephone (306) 757-0121
Contact:
Amber MacLeod
228 - 2330 Hamilton Street
Regina SK  S4P 4M4
Telephone (306) 586-2785

STS Wine Soiree/ Octoberfest 2008
Hosted by the Wakaw Chapter
Date:
Saturday, October 18, 2008 at 2 p.m.
Place:
Royal Canadian Legion
(314–3rd Ave. So., Wakaw)
Tickets:
$25.00 each; must be purchased prior to October 7, 2008
Contact:
Mel Osolinsky @
(306) 233-5596
or mooroz@sasktel.net

Stitch ‘N Quilt Retreat
Hosted by the South Central Chapter
Date:
October 27, 28 & 29, 2008
Place:
Bengough Community Center
Registration fee:
2 days $150.00 or 1 day $85.00
Please submit your registration and full payment by October 1, 2008 to:
Belva Boynton, Box 443,
Bengough SK  S0C 0K0.
Contacts:
Donna Morris (306) 268-4549 or Belva Boynton (306) 268-2192

Kaiser
Hosted by the Prince Albert Chapter
Date:
October 19, 2008 registration at 9:30 a.m.
Place:
Prince Albert Inn,
3680 Second Ave. West
Prince Albert
Contact:
Con Honish (306) 763-6633

If Chapters are interested in hosting provincial events, please contact the STS office or a member of the Recreation Committee. We would also be open to any proposals for new events.

Chapters Presidents’ Meeting - November 1, 2008
Spotlight on Members
Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan
WHAT – WHO – WHY – WHEN

In 2005 Saskatchewan celebrated its 100th birthday. For this occasion we published some highlights as to how and why and when the STS came into being.

This being the 35th Anniversary of the STS we will again publish the article.

Thank you to Bert Gordon for his wonderful work.

Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan
WHAT – WHO – WHY – WHEN

What?
The STS is an organization of retired teachers who are dedicated to promoting the welfare and well-being of all superannuated teachers and their spouses, and with maintaining the ties that bind them to fellow professionals.

Who?
The first Constitution, drafted in 1973 and formally passed at the Second Annual Meeting in 1975, defined membership as follows: “Any superannuated teacher receiving an allowance or pension under the Saskatchewan Teachers’ Superannuation Act shall be eligible for regular membership”.

The Constitution then continued: “The following persons shall be eligible for associate membership:

a) The surviving spouse of a deceased superannuated teacher.
b) Any superannuated teacher receiving an allowance or pension under a Teachers’ Superannuation Act of any province or territory of Canada.
c) A superannuated Teacher receiving a pension under a pension plan or Superannuation Act covering members of the Federal or Provincial Public Service.

Note: For the purposes of this Bylaw “teacher” shall mean any person holding a valid certificate of qualification to teach in schools of Saskatchewan

Why?
The formal aims, as set out in our Constitution, have remained relatively constant over the years. We aim to promote the interests of members of STS, to establish and maintain a working relationship with STF and other organizations, to promote the formation of STS chapters, to maintain a continuing and supportive interest in education, and to provide leadership in matters which pertain to the welfare of members of STS. However, the overriding reason for the formation of the STS was the need to protect and improve the pensions of superannuated teachers. That reason has not changed. In a later column we will trace the development of teacher superannuation plans in Saskatchewan.

When?
The inaugural meeting of the STS was held in the Saskatoon Public Library on October 10, 1973. The following members were elected to the Executive at that time:

President – Avery McDowell from Regina
Vice President – Stan Fowler from Saskatoon
Second Vice President – Carrie Robins from Saskatoon
Third Vice President – Floyd Johnston from Swift
Current
The impetus for this meeting came from the Saskatoon Chapter. Emma Stewart and Carrie Robins had invited Saskatoon retirees to a meeting on April 14, 1971, and the Saskatoon Chapter was officially formed on May 12, 1971 with Eric Marriott as President.

Several other chapters were formed before the first provincial meeting, and were invited to send representatives to that meeting. They were:

Regina – December 14, 1971 with President F. Greenough.
Swift Current – June 12, 1972 with President Floyd Johnston.
Carrot River Valley-Melfort – April 23, 1973 with President John Kyba.
Moose Jaw – June 21, 1973 with President M.G. Sillery

Notification that Outreach is posted on the STS Website

In an attempt to reduce both mailing costs and our impact on the environment, the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan will begin a procedure with the September/October issue, whereby STS members can be notified by e-mail that Outreach is posted on the STS website.

There are two options available:

**Option One**
I want to be notified that a new issue of Outreach has been posted on the STS website and I do not want to receive a hard copy of Outreach.

**Option Two**
I want to be notified that a new issue of Outreach has been posted on the STS website and I also want to receive a hard copy of Outreach.

Please e-mail haseh@stf.sk.ca with your name, e-mail address and the option you wish to select.

The STS is committed to maintaining your privacy so please be assured that your e-mail address will be held in confidence.

**NOTE:** All STS members that do not select one of the above options will continue to receive a hard copy of Outreach.

**STS Benefits Plan ALERT**

**TO:** ALL STS MEMBERS 65 AND OVER PARTICIPATING IN THE STS GROUP BENEFITS EXTENDED HEALTH PLAN AND LIVING IN SASKATCHEWAN

**FROM:** STS EXECUTIVE

**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 2008

**RE:** IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE CHANGES TO THE SENIORS’ DRUG PLAN AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE STS EXTENDED HEALTH PLAN

If you are over age 65 and live in Saskatchewan, you should have received information from the Government of Saskatchewan regarding the Seniors’ Drug Plan. The March/April and May/June 2008 issues of the Outreach, outlined the procedure necessary in order to maintain the reduced premium for those members on the STS Extended Health Plan. The STS Office needs a copy of the confirmation letter for the Seniors’ Drug Plan eligibility by the 15th of the month, in order to adjust the premium for the first of the following month. This letter should be forwarded to the **STS OFFICE, 2317 ARLINGTON AVE., SASKATOON SK S7J 2H8. THERE WILL BE NO RETROACTIVE PREMIUM ADJUSTMENTS.**

Please call the STS office at (306) 373-3879 if there are any questions.
From The Editor’s Desk

Our thoughts and prayers go out to George Georget, our STF liaison, upon the death of his wife. Michelle was a superannuate and a member of the Prince Albert Chapter.

As STS celebrates its 35th year of existence we can reflect on the changes and the growth that has taken place.

One steady factor throughout this growth has been the use of Outreach as the means of communication to the members.

Shirley

Awards of Merit

At the May meeting of the Victoria Chapter, Awards of Merit for Outstanding Long Term Service were presented to Ruth and Harold Riddell and Anne Walker.

Reminder

Any change to or cancellation of coverage to the STS Group Benefits must be received in writing by the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan office, 2317 Arlington Ave., Saskatoon SK S7J 2H8 by the 15th of the preceding month to be effective the 1st of the following month. Please notify the office as soon as your dependants are no longer eligible.

STS Executive 2008-2009

President/Councillor  Jim Sego  Unity Chapter
Vice-President/Councillor  Margaret Martin  Saskatoon Chapter
Past President/Councillor  Siegrid Schergel  Moose Jaw Chapter
Executive Director  Fred Herron  Saskatoon Chapter

Councillors:
Calvin Bachmeier
Shirley Dyck
Michael Gorkoff
Mike Kaminski
Peter Wiebe

Members At Large:
Elaine Broughton
Doug Haroldson
Shirley Henderson
Kate McCorriston
James Slough
Maxine Stinka
Robert Wuschenney

ACER-CART  Fred Herron  Saskatoon Chapter

ACER-CART

The newsletter of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan, is published five times a year.

To control costs, one copy is sent to households where both spouses are members. If this is not satisfactory, please contact the STS office in Saskatoon.

Phone: 373-3879 • Fax: 374-1122
E-mail: sts@stf.sk.ca
2317 Arlington Ave.
Saskatoon SK S7J 2H8
Monday to Friday
8:30 A.M. to 12:00 noon
website: www.sts.sk.ca

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