

OUTREACH



To The Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan

Ready-Set-Go – President's Perspective

It is Thursday, September 16, 2004 – I am going through a final check list before tackling the first STS executive meeting for 2004-05. Ready or not here I go.

What is this? Heavy Fog hangs on the windshield, is this a sign that I (we) will be in the dark? Preston Avenue North, an obstacle course of pylons and construction crews – what questions or challenges will present themselves as we step through the agenda today? Oh no, Grosvenor Park, do not stop, do not collect any hot dogs. I do get to the Federation building on time; there are Fred, Doreen, Shirley, Ed, Don, etc. all of the executive ready for action. Ok, let's get at it.

It is interesting to step through a well-planned agenda. The committee reports become our focal points as they become targets for discussion, debate, and action plans. Much of what was recommended for action or information will be highlighted in the individual committee reports in other sections of this *Outreach*. I share with you a couple of observations.

In general terms all aspects of this organization are finely tuned. Our Health and Dental Plans are experiencing great success in terms of claims ratio and membership growth. Claim Fluctuation Reserves targets are met.

How healthy are the financial targets? Current spending and

incomes are well in line of the 2004-05 budget. Let's check some collective memories. When did STS last have an operating balance and transferred funds to the Contingency Fund in the same fiscal year? On June 30, 2004 we met our financial Guideline 9.1.1, 9.1.2 criteria -- we have an operations reserve at a level equal to 50% of 2003-04 years expenditures and transferred some funds to the STS Contingency Fund.

Plans for the 2005 AGM were swiftly hammered out on Wednesday night. Armed with 10-15 pages of 2004 AGM survey forms the committee stepped through proposed program items, entertainment suggestions, guest speaker candidates and menus. The skeleton for the 2005 AGM is ready. The fleshing

out will be the on-going-work for the November meeting. Good work team.

The Executive Liaison reports were very interesting. Many chapters started this school term with a bang – HELL WITH BELLS – the common theme. Several chapters welcomed new members to their numbers – I had the privilege to meet 4 new members during my visits with the Weyburn and Langenburg Chapters. Our membership growth has taken us to 7165.

'Work in progress' best describes the items left on the table for the next meeting. A certain enthusiasm around the table might translate itself in a new look of reports, creative website, etc. I am looking forward to the proposed outcomes.

2005 Annual General Meeting

The 2005 Annual General Meeting will be held in the Ramada Hotel, Regina on Wednesday, May 25 - Friday, May 27. Plans are underway for a great AGM in 2005, Saskatchewan's centennial birthday.

The 167 evaluations received from the delegates of the 2004 Annual General Meeting were very positive. They remarked that this was the best AGM ever. The Planning Committee wishes to thank the delegates for the thought and effort put into completing the Evaluation Form. At our first meeting on September 15 the Planning Committee spent a great deal of time reviewing the Evaluation Report and considering the comments. We would also like to report that the expenditure of the 2004 AGM came in under budget.

Group Benefits Committee

Present: Bert Gordon (chair), Don Bartel, Derwyn Crozier-Smith, Shirley Dyck, Fred Herron, Doreen Lloyd, Ed Magis, Horst Sawatzki, Shirley Henderson, Randy Lewis (Blue Cross)

Membership in the Benefit Plans continues to increase. As of September 15, 2004, 2780 members are participants in one or both of the plans, up from 2564 on July 1, 2004. Well over 50% of new retirees have joined the Plans. The open window for June retirees is now closed, but applications can still be submitted. Now a medical form must be completed and approved by Blue Cross. APPLY NOW. Don't wait until you need the insurance - that will be too late.

New retirees are reminded that the drug cards issued by the STF are no longer valid under the STS Plan. All payments must be made up front and the receipts submitted to Blue Cross.

Any change to, or cancellation of coverage must be received in writing to the STS office by the 15th of the preceding month.

The Claims Ratio (ratio of paid claims to revenue) over the first 17 months of the current contract is 78.5% and our surplus is growing, slowly but steadily. Our Plans remain stable and viable.

The STF will be hosting the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) on July 14-16, 2005. STS has been asked to provide assistance. STS will be generating a list of volunteers. Would YOU like to be on this list? Contact Susan Bates @ 384-7221.

– Bert Gordon

Our Membership
Now Stands at
7226

Councillors' Report

The STF Councillor Conference and Special Meeting of Council are planned for October 15 and 16 and will be held in the Radisson Hotel in Saskatoon.

The format of the Conference is intended to provide an opportunity for councillors to focus on some of the larger policy issues during the conference part of the program. Council will move into a formally constituted Special Meeting on the second day to make decisions on the policy questions and to deal with any resolutions from members.

The following STS Councillors will be attending: Don Bartel, Shirley Dyck, Mike Kaminski, Margaret Martin, Jim Segó, President Horst Sawatzki, Vice-President Wally Derkach and Past President Doreen Lloyd.

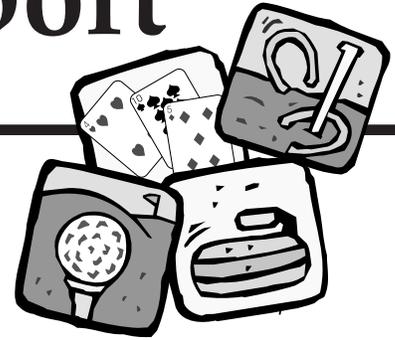
Provincial STS Executive 2004-2005

Past President/ Councillor:	Doreen Lloyd, Prince Albert	764-4368
President/ Councillor:	Horst Sawatzki, Moosomin	435-2551
Vice-President/ Councillor:	Wally Derkach, Nipawin	862-5381
Executive Secretary:	Fred Herron, Saskatoon	374-7265
<i>Outreach:</i>	Loretta Romankewicz, Swift Current	(f) 773-5244
Members at Large:	Calvin Bachmeier, Leader	628-3804
	Audry Blais, Battleford	937-7115
	Ernie Epp, Saskatoon	249-3277
	Ed Magis, Yorkton	783-3350
	Ernest Mazur, Canora	563-6642
	Darlene McCullough, Tisdale	873-2030
	Siegrid Schergel, Moose Jaw	691-0719
Councillors:	Don Bartel, Regina	779-1010
	Shirley Dyck, Neville	627-3225
	Mike Kaminski, Invermay	593-2222
	Margaret Martin, Saskatoon	373-4433
	Jim Segó, Unity	228-3981
Cart:	Fred Herron, Saskatoon	374-7265
Office Manager:	Shirley Henderson, Saskatoon	373-3879

Be an active member of your STS Chapter,
your Community, your World

STS Activities Report

Ed Magis, Audry Blais, Calvin Bachmeier



And the Winner Is . . .

STS Bowling Tournament

Hosted by Moose Jaw • May 6 & 7, 2004

Tournament Team:

1st The Sealyham T's: Lilian Vargo - Regina; Arnold Maki - Ogema; Iris Derenowski - Yorkton; Geri Huber - Regina; Harold Anderson - Moose Jaw

2nd The Welsh T's: Bev Stewart - Prince Albert; Lloyd Lovequist - Moose Jaw; Bev Lapointe - Regina; Ralph Karasinski - Assinboine; Rich Towriss - Moose Jaw

Home Team Winners Team:

1st Challengers - Prince Albert: Ann Elmer, Dot Junor, Sheila Righi, Bev Stewart, May Kerr

2nd Yorkton/Moose Jaw: Omar Sather, Ann Sather, Rich Towriss, Jim Dixon, Lorraine Dixon

Women's High Single and High Average: Geri Huber, Regina

Women's High Triple: Gloria Leniuk, Moose Jaw

Men's High Single, High Average & High Triple: Omar Sather

STS Golf Tournament

Hosted by Regina • June 9 & 10, 2004

Winners of the Texas Scramble: Bill Doidge - Swift Current; Marjorie Popenia - Wishart, Ron Meyers - Swift Current; Darryl Walls - Chaplin

Winner of the Open Men's: Bryan Matheson- Lumsden (1st time participant)

Women's Title: Glenda Berard - Lumsden(defended her 2003 title)

Senior Titles: George Holizki - Regina (George's 6th title in the last 7 years) and Lillian Lownsborough- Carnduff

Upcoming Activities

Curling

November 18-19, 2004

Prince Albert

Not Limited to 16 Teams providing that teams of four are entered at a time. Register by October 22, 2004

Entries to Al Subchyshyn 760 - 20th Street W. Prince Albert S6V 4H3; Phone: 306-763-6870

Please note the registration fee is \$150.00 + extra banquet tickets @\$20.00 each.

2005

Centennial Curling - Moosomin

Bowling - Saskatoon

Golf - Nipawin

Hosts are needed for
Bridge, Kaiser, Fishing,
Quilting

Internet Gem

This is the message that the Pacific Palisades High School (California) Staff voted unanimously to record on their school telephone answering machine. This came about because they implemented a policy requiring students and parents to be responsible for their children's absences and missing homework. The school and teachers are being sued by parents who want their children's failing grades changed to passing grades even though those children were absent 15-30 times during the semester and did not complete enough school work to pass their classes.

This is the actual answering machine message for the school:

"Hello! You have reached the automated answering service of your school. In order to assist you in connecting the right staff member, please listen to all your options before making a selection:

"To lie about why your child is absent - Press 1

"To make excuses for why your child did not do his work - Press 2

"To complain about what we do - Press 3

"To swear at staff members - Press 4

"To ask why you didn't get information that was already enclosed in your newsletter and several flyers mailed to you - Press 5

"If you want us to raise your child - Press 6

"If you want to reach out and touch, slap or hit someone - Press 7

"To request another teacher for the third time this year - Press 8

"To complain about bus transportation - Press 9

"To complain about school lunches - Press 0

"If you realize this is the real world and your child must be accountable and responsible for his/her own behavior, class work, homework, and that it's not the teachers' fault for your child's lack of effort: Hang up and have a nice day!"

Nature Sask

Excellent spring (June) and fall (September) meetings. Tours to Turtle Lake, Spruce Lake and Paradise well attended. John Acorn from the ITV series "John Acorn - the Nature Nut" was well-received as banquet speaker.

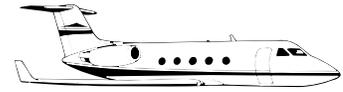
Watch for further announcements and notices for next season.

For further information contact:

**NatureSask at info@naturesask.com or
Audrey Blais (STS) at ray.blais@sasktel.net**

Cuba

Discovery Tour



2 Weeks All Inclusive

Havana City, Vinales Valley, Vinales City, cigar factory, banana & tobacco plantations, small country school; week at Sol Palmeras Beach Resort

Departs Winnipeg Feb. 7, 2005 \$2940 + tax = ~ \$3040.00;

Contact:

Linda Koroluk

Yorkton CAA

Call Collect: 306-783-6548

Fax: 782-1499

CAA dollars accepted

Grampa:

*Now that you are in KG
how do you like school?*

Grandson:

I like recess grampa.

Fairhaven School

25th Anniversary

Tuesday, October 19

2:00 p.m.

Special Assembly

5:30-7:30 p.m.

barbecue, socializing, displays

For information: 683-7210

2004 ACER-CART AGM Report

Fred W. Herron, ACER-CART Representative (Saskatchewan)

The Thirteenth Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers (ACER-CART) was held in Ottawa on June 4 – 5, 2004 with representatives from all thirteen provincial retired teachers' organizations in attendance.

The ACER-CART Communications Committee brought forward the following recommendations that were adopted by the AGM:

1. That the official acronym of the organization be ACER-CART.
2. That each member organization designate a person to ensure that their posted information on the ACER-CART website is kept current.
3. That a person from each member organization be selected to ensure that ACER-CART is informed of any significant events or developments in the member's province or organization. (Such information would be posted on the ACER-CART website and, if necessary, communicated by other means to member organizations).

The ACER-CART Health Committee brought forward two recommendations that received approval of the AGM.

1. That a comprehensive policy on long term care for seniors be adopted based on the principles that seniors receive long term care for as long as possible in their homes; that seniors would have access to long term care homes with the same provisions for nursing care and medication delivery as would be provided in a hospital setting; that seniors not be threatened by income splitting when a spouse has to be institutionalized and that savings are not

taken into account when their contributions towards long term institutional or home care are assessed by governments.

2. That representation be made to the Federal Minister of Health to expand the scope of the Canada Health Act to include uniform national provisions for the principles of long term care for seniors.

In addition to those resolutions brought forward by the Health Committee, member organizations brought forward the following resolutions that were accepted:

1. That ACER-CART strongly urge the Government of Canada to establish a National Prescription Drug Agency under the Health Care Act to:
 1. Control costs, evaluate new and existing drugs, ensure quality, safety and cost effectiveness of all prescription drugs;
 2. Encourage provinces and territories to adopt the national formulary of prescription drugs, ensure objective assessment of drugs including adverse reactions and contain costs;
 3. Review the Canada patent law as related to prescription drugs;
 4. Use the Catastrophic Drug Transfer to offset the cost of provincial and territorial drug plans to reduce disparities in coverage across Canada.
2. That ACER-CART strongly urge the Government of Canada to amend the Health Care Act to ensure accountability for funds transferred to provinces and territories and

that the audited reports be widely publicized to the citizens of Canada yearly.

3. That ACER-CART recommend to its members that they write to their provincial or territorial government requesting that they publish yearly an audited health report to demonstrate public accountability for health care expenditures.
4. That ACER-CART recommend to the Government of Canada that increased funding be provided for direct compensation for care givers and for adjustments to CPP and EI to relieve the pressure on personnel who

50 Year Reunion

June 17-19, 2005

Saskatoon

Welcome Alumni of

*Saskatoon
Teachers' College
Class of 54-55*

Contact:

Alice Hanlin

1604 Early Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7H 3K1
javlin@vaniff.com

OR

Gladys Nahachewsky
747 Wilkinson Way
Saskatoon, SK S7N 3L6
gnah@sasktel.net

must discontinue regular jobs to care for sick family members.
– STS

5. That ACER-CART recommend to the Government of Canada that national training programs and national standards for homecare givers be established and that the homecare system be integrated into the health care system. – STS

The Pension and Retirement Income Committee forwarded recommendations that: RRSP and pension contribution limits be increased, that the age at which RRSPs must be amortized or converted to a Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF) be raised, that Registered Pension Plan pensions be shared under the same rules as CPP/QPP pensions, that accrual rates for defined benefit pension plans be increased, that “Household Income Splitting” for tax purposes be implemented, that deductions for medical expenses be treated in the same manner as charitable donations for tax purposes in order for unusual medical expenses to be carried forward for up to five years, that age tax credit benefits be raised and not tied to income and that fees levied by professionals for advising or managing self-directed RRSPs and RRIFs be treated as an investment expense and be eligible for an income deduction. All of their recommendations were accepted.

Also member organizations brought forward the following two resolutions on pension and retirement income that were passed:

1. That ACER-CART endorse the following position of the CTF and its Member organizations in respect to the CPP:

Where a retired contributor to CPP dies leaving a surviving spouse, the spouse should receive a survivor’s benefit that is unaffected by any other benefit paid to the individual under CPP. – STS

2. That premium withdrawal rates

from RRIFs be lowered to take account of low inflation rates.

Finally the following “miscellaneous” resolutions brought forward by member organizations were passed:

1. That ACER-CART request that the Federal Government raise the current tax credit of 16% of the first \$200.00 of charitable donations to 100% of all charitable donations.
2. That ACER-CART request that the Federal Government change the current tax credit for medical expenses to include any medical expenses over the lesser amount of \$1775.00 or 2% of net income.
3. That ACER-CART request that any provincial medical service plan premiums be considered a medical expense for tax purposes.
4. That ACER-CART request the Federal Government reduce the GST on transportation fuels to 4% or less.
5. That ACER-CART strongly urge the Government of Canada to:

- a. reduce the effect of bracket creep by indexing tax brackets to inflation;
- b. increase the basic exemption or give a special tax credit for low income earners;
- c. increase tax credits for home care to reflect the true cost of service. – STS

ACER-CART AGM approved a balanced budget and a set of priorities including enhanced communications, increased networking with other seniors’ organizations and strong advocacy with governments for 2004 – 2005.

Re-elected to the ACER-CART Executive were Val Alcock, President; Pat Brady, Vice-President; Pat Steele, Executive Member; and George Little, Executive Member.

The reports submitted by the thirteen member organizations of ACER-CART are available on request by any STS member by contacting the STS Office.

My ears tell me that summer’s here

Trilly-be, trilly-be, trilly-be

A robin sings from a nearby tree

Trilly-be, trilly-be, trilly-be

We have a nest and babies three

Trilly-be, trilly-be, trilly-be

My heart responds to the sound of song

Trilly-be, trilly-be, trilly-be

That sound will follow me all life long

Trilly-be, trilly-be, trilly-be

It’s really wonderful to be alive

And have a song in my heart on which to thrive

Trilly-be, trilly-be, trilly-be



At age 99 **Sylvia Birnie** is still writing poetry for us to enjoy. Sylvia used to be the editor of *Outreach*. (Perhaps someone could specify the years involved. Thanks!)

Not only is Sylvia writing poetry, she is in the process of completing her third book called *Stories that Need To Be Told*.

In Memoriam

*With great appreciation
we remember our
colleagues for their
many years of
educational services
to the children and
young people of
Saskatchewan.*

Name (Nee)	Death Date	Last Taught
Arn, Mary	May 19/04	Saskatoon S.D.#13
Beaver, Margaret	Jul 25/04	
Bender, Hazel (Newhouse)	Jul 13/04	Davidson S.D. #31
Berezowski, Eugene	May 18/04	Carlton Comp High School
Bigelow, Hazel	Jun 22/04	
Bowman, Doris	Jun 18/04	Indian Head S.D. #19
Boyd, Dorothy	Jul 16/04	
Broderick, Laura	Jul 17/04	Regina S.D. #4
Brodoway, C. Grace	Jun 24/04	
Brown, Grace	Jun 8/04	Wood River S.D. #70
Bruce, Alexander	May16/04	
Claire, Inderjit	May 6/04	
Crooks, Mary	May 9/04	
Davidson, Vera	May 5/04	
Dennis, Maria	May21/04	
Eldstrom, Orpha	Jul30/04	
Farquharson, Sheila	May24/04	Moose Jaw S.D.31
Fergusson, George	Jun21/04	
Finlay, Kathrynne	Jun30/04	
Fitzsimmons, Caroline	Jun 28/04	Potashville S.D. #80
Gabriel, Donald	Jul 20/04	Hudson Bay S.D. #52
Gamble, Mabel	Jul 17/04	
Giesbrecht, Peter	May 28/04	
Gillen, Rosalie	Jun 11/04	Lloydminster S.D. #99
Gitterman, Carolina	Jul 5/04	
Greaves, Norman	May 24/04	Saskatoon S.D. #13
Greunding, Phyllis	Jun 7/04	Prince Albert RC.S.S.D. #6
Gushulak, William	Jul 6/04	
Hagerman, Edith	Jun 11/04	Saskatoon S.D. #13
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. F. Alvin	Jun 29/04	
Hawryluk, John	May 15/04	
Herman, Olive	Jul 11/04	Canora S.D. #37
Himsl, Doreen	Jul 15/04	Holy Trinity R.C.S.S.D. #22
Hintze, Cameron	Apr 17/04	
Inderjit, Claire	May 6/04	
James, Patricia (Lawrence)	Jun 12/04	Meadow Lake S.D. #66
Keller, Jacob	Jun 6/04	Saskatoon S.D. #13
Knuff, Florence	Jun 7/04	
Koroluk, Mary	Jul 15/04	Kamsack S.D. #35
Larson, Marion	Jun19/04	
Laxdal, Grimur	Jun 9/04	
Leeseberg, Irma	Jul 8/04	Saskatoon S.D. #13
Leppky, Gladys (Boon; Ready)	Jul 3/04	Codette, SK
Marshall, Anna	Jun 14/04	
Marshall, Constance	Jun24/04	
Mathers, Bertha	Jun 4/04	Davidson S.D. #31
McNaught, Madge	May 12/04	Saskatoon E. S.D. #41
Mireau, Betty (James)	Jun 1/04	Saskatchewan Rivers S.D. #119
Murdoch, Elizabeth	Jun 3/04	Regina S.D. #4
Murray, Lena	Jun 27/04	
Mychan-Nett, Geraldine (Crump)	May 13/04	
Mykietiak, Helen	Jun 17/04	
Naik, Jaya	May 4/04	
Oliver, Mary Sr.	Jun 21/04	Regina R.C.S.S.D. #81
Oscienny, Anton	May 29/04	Northern Lights S.D. #113
Potts, Gwendolyn	Jun 3/04	
Reis, Peter	Jun 17/04	Prince Albert R.C.S.S.D. #6
Ruuth, Helen	May 24/04	Radar D.N.D. School (Sagehill)
Russell, Kenneth	Jul 8/04	Arcola S.D. #72
Selinger, Teresa	May 12/04	Long Lake S.D. #30
Simpkins, John	May 10/04	
Steger, Andrea	Jul 30/04	Regina S.D. #4
Thomsen, Edythe	May 11/04	Arcola S.D. #72
Vandenbergh, Gladys	Jul 20/04	
Vawter, Ralph	May 4/04	Wilkie S.D. #59
Voth, Henry	May 5/04	
Wake, Muriel (Elliot)	Jul 2/04	
Wheeler, Alice (Gleason)	May 28/04	
Wright, Grace	Jul 6/04	

Retirement Lifestyle Planning

Two joint STS-STF Lifestyle Planning Seminars are being planned for this fall in Saskatoon. They will be held at the STF building on Saturday, October 30 and Saturday, November 6. The Planning Committee will meet in conjunction with one or both of the seminars. Over 70 participants applied for the October 30 session so the second one was organized for November 6.

– Bert Gordon

From Your Editor

Welcome to STS YEAR 2004-2005. No need to ask where the summer went as I listen to raindrops pelting on the window and dire forecasts of snow tomorrow morning. That has to be something of a record if we are to have snow on September 20th. Nonetheless I am very thankful to live in Saskatchewan free from threats with names like Ivan and Charlie. Snowflakes we can handle with our well built homes, excellent heating and warm clothing. Take a moment to appreciate what we have and include on your list, the STS executive, who work so hard on our behalf. We are blessed!

God bless and take care!

Loretta A. Romankewicz
409 - 5th Ave. S.E., Swift Current, SK S9H 3N5
Telephone: 773-5244; E-mail: allorosa@sasktel.net

Saskatchewan Health Line

1-877-800-0002 (24 hrs)

Non-Emergency

English language service with access to translation for French, Cree, Dene, and a wide variety of other languages. Provides free, confidential, health advice and information by registered nurses throughout Saskatchewan. Enables callers to make informed decisions about their own situation based on a timely, professional review of the relevant factors. (This is a public service provided by Sask Health)

Bienfait Homecoming 2005

**June 30th -
July 3rd, 2005**

For Information: [http://
bienfaitreunion.tripod.com](http://bienfaitreunion.tripod.com)

To Register: Box 2005,
Bienfait, SK S0C 0M0

Congratulations to Beth Robertson & Elaine Kowpak

who received a plaque – a congratulatory Award of Merit for writing and producing “Pull of the Land” from the Rosetown Branch of STS.

OUTREACH To The Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan

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.

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Monday to Friday
8:30 A.M. to 12:00 noon

Publications Mail Agreement No.40017216
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
STS Office
2317 Arlington Avenue
Saskatoon, SK S7J 2H8