

OUTREACH



To The Superannuated Teachers
of Saskatchewan

President's Report

Jim Sego

Whoosh! 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 reformatting 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 Segio

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

in the office. During the summer months there were also significant increases in plan membership and utilization of services that have implications for premium levels in future negotiations. As a result close watch on the experience in utilization is necessary to ensure plan success.

After six years without a change in premiums, it appears that an increase in the range of ten to fifteen percent is required in the Extended Health and Dental Plan premiums in order to ensure the future financial stability of our Benefit Plan.

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 manage-

ment 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.

McDowell Foundation - Maxine Stinka

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.

Retirement Lifestyles - Shirley Dyck

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.

The Seniors' Information Hotline: 1-888-823-2211

Please Note: This is not an STS hotline. This is a general hotline for all seniors.

Saskatchewan HealthLine: 1-877-800-0002

Surgery Wait Time Hotline:

Saskatoon Health Region: 1-866-543-6767 / Regina-Qu'Appelle Health Region: 1-866-622-0222

STS Support Services: www.sts.sk.ca

Recreation

Calvin Bachmeier



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 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 pension under a pension plan or Superannuation Act covering members of the Federal or Provincial Public Service.

In 1985 the Constitution was revised to allow the three groups who had been Associate members to become full members.

Our current bylaws read as follows:

Full Membership shall be granted to:

1. Any superannuated teacher who has received or is receiving an allowance or pension under the *Saskatchewan Teachers' Superannuation Act* or the Saskatchewan Teachers' Retirement Plan.
2. Any surviving spouse of a teacher or of a superannuated teacher receiving an allowance or pension under the *Saskatchewan Teachers Superannuation Act* or the Saskatchewan Teachers Retirement Plan.
3. Any Superannuated Teacher, or the surviving spouse of a superannuated teacher, receiving a pension under a teachers' or university superannuation plan or act, and who resides in Saskatchewan, or who is a member of an STS chapter outside of Saskatchewan.
4. Any superannuated teacher or the surviving spouse of 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.

Estevan – February 22, 1973 with President Marie Vantomme.

Carrot River Valley-Melfort – April 23, 1973 with President John Kyba.

Moose Jaw – June 21, 1973 with President M.G. Sillery

Prince Albert – First organized January 26, 1973 with President Louise Carrick - Formally in September 1973 with President Arnold Friesen.

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 Segó	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	Maple Creek/Medicine Hat Chapter	
Shirley Dyck	Swift Current Chapter	
Michael Gorkoff	Red Deer River Valley Chapter	
Mike Kaminski	Assiniboine Chapter	
Peter Wiebe	Regina Chapter	
Members At Large:		
Elaine Broughton	Saskatoon Chapter	
Doug Haroldson	Maple Creek/Medicine Hat Chapter	
Shirley Henderson	Prince Albert Chapter	
Kate McCorriston	Nipawin Chapter	
James Slough	Regina Chapter	
Maxine Stinka	Assiniboine Chapter	
Robert Wuschenny	Yorkton Chapter	
ACER-CART		
Fred Herron	Saskatoon Chapter	



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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