

# OUTREACH



To The Superannuated Teachers  
of Saskatchewan

## President's Report

Jim Sego

Christmas is coming, and we have spring temperatures in November. I could claim Apocalypse, but I think the results of our Executive meetings indicate that all is operating as it should in the world of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan. Carole and I have travelled north and south from Prince Albert to Maple Creek and east and west from Humboldt to Lloydminster this fall. While there are rows and rows of cold, damp swaths in the fields, there is still warmth and hospitality in Saskatchewan faces.

The Budget, Finance and Audit Committee looked at the first quarter financial statements and found nothing but surplus in both the STS Operating Fund and STS Benefits Plan. The Resolutions Committee is gathering background information on the first resolution sent this year. The *Outreach* Committee is setting up a style book. The Recreation Committee has a variety of activities scheduled from curling to fishing. The STS is performing as it should – carrying out your business smoothly and seamlessly. Please read the more detailed reports in the body of this newsletter.

Our annual Presidents' Meeting was held on Saturday, November

14. At the meeting this year and in the debate among Presidents, new friendships were forged. Presidents were able to identify different visions of their roles in their Chapters; some see their role as running a good meeting; others were concerned about creating attractive programs for their members; and, some saw their role as letting the membership concentrate on socializing and helping to keep members from becoming isolated as they aged and contemporaries pass. Worthy roles all! Presidents had the opportunity to see a hands-on demonstration of the web site provided by its creator, Dalton Tamney, and to see some informative ways of surfing the site to solve problems. A problem in STS Support Services policy was identified and ideas of what needed to be corrected along with wording changes were proposed. I'm sure from this session alone that the Executive and Presidents have seen the value of this annual communications event. Time ran out in all sessions while people were engaged in these exchanges. I'm sure that, like me, Presidents are anticipating their next opportunity to meet.

Our organization is one driven by policy. Policy is created by

resolutions. If you would like to see some issue tackled or some initiative started that benefits seniors and superannuated teachers – in benefits improvement, in recreational opportunities, or in governance, write a resolution, share it with your Chapter members to refine it and get their support, and submit it to the STS office.

Our organization also values the people who make it up. Please consider your fellow Chapter members and the heroic things they do or have done on your behalf and the STS's behalf and nominate them for Honorary Life Membership either at the Chapter level or at the provincial level. Recognition and a pat on the back are important at all stages of life.

Carole and I have enjoyed our travels and look forward to visiting with you. Have a blessed Christmas and loving times with your families during the holy days that we celebrate at this time of year.



# Highlights of the Executive Meeting

## Annual General Meeting

Shirley Dyck &  
Doug Haroldson

The 37th Annual General Meeting of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan will be held in Saskatoon at the Travelodge Hotel on May 11-13, 2010.

### Entertainment:

On Tuesday evening, May 11, we have the renowned Gold Medalist, Catriona Le May Doan, as our guest speaker.

Wednesday evening following the banquet, a group called "No Hurry" will entertain. This trio is well known in the teaching circles for their fabulous singing and entertainment.

### Interest Sessions:

We will be offering five Interest Sessions again this year.

### Chapter Presidents:

You will be receiving a package of information in January. Please submit your list of delegates to the STS Office by April 1. As printed in the last *Outreach* the Executive has calculated that the attendance formula for this year will allow each Chapter to send two delegates for the first 60 paid members or portion thereof and one delegate for each additional 60 paid members or portion thereof.

For the delegates attending the AGM, the STS pays for two nights accommodation, breakfast for Wednesday and Thursday, lunch for Wednesday and Thursday and the banquet on Wednesday evening. When delegates receive their package of information, we will be requesting that they return a

form to inform us if they wish to partake of these meals. This is necessary for the AGM Planning Committee and catering service at the hotel.

We are planning another entertaining and wonderful AGM!

## Group Benefits

Shirley Henderson

The Committee met and reviewed the claims experience reports. This is the first year of our three year contract which started February 1, 2009.

The Extended Health Plan has shown a surplus every month of the new contract. The Dental Plan has fluctuated but has ended with a surplus. The claims ratio for Extended Health is averaging at 83.4 per cent and the Dental Plan is averaging 90 per cent. The overall claims ratio is 86.2 per cent.

Comparing the membership report from last November to this November shows a significant increase in membership.

The Committee dealt with some issues and concerns of members. If you as a member of the Group Benefits Plan have a concern or issue, please notify the STS Office in writing.

The Committee established the following goals for 2009-2010:

- To closely monitor the provisions of the Plan and the financial status of the Plan;
- To continue to promote the Group Benefits Plan to new superannuates; and
- To review the Policies and Procedures of the Group Benefits Plan as set in the Policy Handbook.

Some reminders to note for our members:

- If you are a family of high prescription use, please apply for the provincial support program for assistance in coverage. Forms can be obtained at your pharmacy.
- If you are a member of the STS Group Benefits Plan, are over 65 years and live in Saskatchewan, you can apply for the Senior Drug Plan offered by the Saskatchewan Government. If accepted in this Plan, please send to the STS Office a copy of such acceptance. This will qualify you to receive a reduced rate for Extended Health Premiums.

## McDowell Foundation

Maxine Stinka

At its September meeting, the Board of the McDowell Foundation received the report of the sub-committee appointed to study the findings of Board Dynamics. The report set out the challenges and options for the organization to consider in achieving its goal of facilitating the ongoing production and use of quality teacher-led research. The terms of reference for the subcommittee were to make recommendations on: a clear statement of overall purpose, mission and vision of the McDowell Foundation; the best suited structure and organizational design to achieve the stated purpose and vision; the appropriate Board structure and role; and, the scope of research applicability. This subcommittee had discussed the essential purpose and mission of the McDowell Foundation as well as its vision, key values and critical success factors. After considering four organizational alternatives, the sub-committee recommended that the McDowell Foundation, with

enhanced systems and capacity, would best be able to deliver the stated mission and vision. The Board approved this recommendation. It was decided that a transition team was needed to develop a transition plan and that the subcommittee would be in the best position to do this. It was also decided that since the STF is the sole member/owner of the McDowell Foundation, it is necessary to determine its level of commitment to the Foundation. Decisions and recommendations of the subcommittee and Board were presented to the STF Executive at its last meeting.

The Annual Report for 2008-2009, including the audited financial statement as of June 30, 2009, is now available online and to anyone requesting a copy. Net assets are at about \$1.9 million, down from \$2.3 million last year, and expenses outstripped revenues by approximately \$50,000. This past year saw donations drop to less than half that of the previous year. The only year where donations were less was the year after the Foundation was established. The average donation per teacher donor was about the same as the average donation per superannuate donor and the greatest amount was the donation of honoraria or fees particularly by members of the STF administrative staff. Indications are that there is a definite need for a fund-raising campaign in order to raise sufficient funds to enable the Foundation to continue its mandate of funding teacher-led research.

The report on the first year of the Interagency Family Literacy Research Project – “What Really Matters in Family Literacy? Research Findings – Year One” is now available online. Additional funding has been provided for the next year of this project and the McDowell Foundation will continue to administer it. The Annual Report lists the eleven McDowell projects that were completed in 2008-2009.

## Surviving Spouse of an STS Member

*(Some suggestions in the event of the death of an STS member)*

1. Notify the Teachers' Superannuation Commission 1-877-364-8202 if the allowance of the former member was paid by the Teachers' Superannuation Commission.

**OR**

Notify the Saskatchewan Teachers' Retirement Plan 1-800-667-7762 or (306) 373-1660 if the allowance of the former member was paid by the Saskatchewan Teachers' Retirement Plan.

The pension plan will advise you about allowances and insurance that you may be entitled to receive.

2. Notify the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan 1-800-667-7762 Ext. 6324 or (306) 373-3879.

STS will advise you about membership in the STS and coverage under the STS Benefits Plan.

The annual call for research projects was issued in January, 2009, and the Project Review Committee met May 2 and awarded \$83,514 to the 2009-2010 projects. The project names along with the researchers and the amount they were awarded are listed in the Annual Report. Deborah Rodger has been contracted for 1/4 time to provide support to the researchers presently working on projects. SPDU organized the Learning from Practice Exchange for November 21, 2009, at the Radisson Hotel in Saskatoon. The theme was “Connecting Classrooms to Research” and the format was the same as that of previous years except there was no Friday session. The McDowell Foundation Award was presented to Verna Gallén in recognition of all of the work she has done to enable the Foundation to perform its mandate.

For more information on the McDowell Foundation and the research projects it has funded, as well as reports of the completed research projects, refer to the website [www.mcdowellfoundation.ca](http://www.mcdowellfoundation.ca).

## STF Councillors

### Margaret Martin

Eight STS Councillors, Calvin Bachmeier, Shirley Dyck, Michael Gorkoff, Doug Haroldson, Mike Kaminski, Margaret Martin, Jim Segó, and Peter Wiebe, attended the STF Councillor Conference and Special Meeting of Council on October 15 to 17, 2009 at the Travelodge Hotel in Saskatoon. The Councillor Conference began on Thursday, October 15 with a Conference Briefing which all Councillors were encouraged to attend. The Councillor Conference continued all day Friday and Saturday morning. Sessions on these days included STF Organizational Updates on Governance and Administration, the role and responsibilities of Council and the Councillor in the development and renewal of organizational policies, and the Draft Resolutions Policy that has been worked on by the Council Resolutions Working Committee. This Draft Resolutions Policy was made available to Councillors for

*continued on page 4*

discussion and feedback and will be presented for discussion and decision at the Annual Meeting of Council 2010. The Councillor Conference also included sessions on Provincial Collective Bargaining. A significant amount of time was spent on teacher narratives, "stories of teaching and learning in these times", and the professional commitments embedded within these stories that could be told on behalf of teachers at the bargaining table.

On Friday, October 16, 2009 at noon, Councillors enjoyed an MLA/MP luncheon. One MLA or MP was designated to each table seated with seven other Councillors. Our guests were shown the video made for the 75th Anniversary of the STF

highlighting important people and dates from the past. Discussions at each table focussed on educational issues including the work and work life of teachers.

The Special Meeting of Council held on Saturday afternoon, October 17, included 21 Resolutions all deemed by the Resolutions Committee to be related to provincial collective bargaining only. The STS submitted resolution: "Be it resolved that the STF negotiate changes to the Saskatchewan Teachers' Superannuation Plan to provide indexing of superannuation allowances based on the Saskatchewan CPI or the Canadian CPI, whichever is highest." was passed and will now be considered for inclusion in the Teacher Proposals to determine the

bargaining package for the next STF Provincial Collective Bargaining Agreement. Please note that in 2008 Council passed the STS resolution: "Be it resolved that the STF negotiate changes to the Saskatchewan Teachers Superannuation Plan so that teacher pension allowances are indexed at 100 per cent of Consumer Price Index." This resolution will also be included in the teacher proposals. Our 2009 AGM resolution "Be it resolved that the STF examine all options and pursue the best alternatives for achieving full Canadian CPI annual adjustments to teacher superannuation allowances." was not considered to be part of the agenda for the Special Meeting of Council. This resolution will be submitted to the STF Annual General Meeting of Council, April 2010.

# Resolutions

Robert Wuschenny

The following is an update on the disposition of resolutions from AGM 2009. A reminder to Chapters to submit any resolutions to the STS Office by the March 1, 2010 deadline.

## Resolutions Directed to the STS

Resolutions 2-6 were referred to the STS Executive

### Resolution Two

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS request the STF to negotiate changes to the TSP to provide 100 per cent indexing of superannuation allowances.

### Resolution Three

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS request the STF to negotiate changes to the TSP to provide 85 per cent indexing of superannuation allowances effective January 1, 2010, 90 per cent indexing effective January 1, 2011, 95 per cent indexing effective January 1, 2012,

and 100 per cent indexing effective January 1, 2013.

### Resolution Four

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS request the STF to negotiate changes to the TSP to provide 100 per cent indexing of the first \$30,000 of all superannuation allowances.

### Resolution Five

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS request the STF to negotiate changes to the TSP to provide 100 per cent indexing of superannuation allowances for the term of the next STF Provincial Collective Agreement.

### Resolution Six

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS continue to work with the STF to obtain 100 per cent indexing for Teacher pensions.

### Response:

The Executive considered these resolutions and decided to take no further action.

### Resolution Fourteen

BE IT RESOLVED that Policy 4 be amended to provide that an Honorary Life Member, who attends the AGM as a non-delegate, be granted the same breakfast and lunch privileges as a delegate. Payment would be required for these meals for a spouse or guest of the HLM.

### Response:

Policy 4 has now been amended in the 2009-2010 Policy Handbook

### Resolution Fifteen

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS annual fee for 2009-2010 be \$30.00 per person.

### Response:

The annual membership fee for 2009-2010 was set at \$30.00 per person.

### Resolution Sixteen

BE IT RESOLVED that the annual rebate to Chapters for 2009-2010 be \$8.00 per person.

**Response:**

The annual Chapter Rebate for 2009-2010 was set at \$8.00 per person.

## Resolutions Directed to the STF

### Resolution One

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS urge the STF to examine all options and pursue the best alternatives for achieving full Canadian CPI annual adjustments to teacher superannuation allowances.

**Response:**

This resolution will be dealt with at the 2010 STF Annual General Meeting.

### Resolution Seven

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS request the STF to negotiate changes to the TSP to provide indexing of superannuation allowances based on the Saskatchewan CPI or the Canadian CPI, whichever is highest.

**Response:**

The resolution was passed at the STF Fall Council and will be included in the progress report that will be sent out to members in December.

## Resolutions Directed to the Ministry of Education

### Resolution Thirteen

BE IT RESOLVED that the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan request the government of Saskatchewan and the government of Canada to call for public consultation on proposed nuclear power generation by Bruce Power and/or other nuclear development corporations anywhere in Western Canada.

**Response:**

Audrey Roadhouse felt the resolutions were best directed to the ministry responsible for nuclear power, therefore she forwarded a copy of our letter to Kent Campbell,

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy and Resources for a response.

No response has been received from Mr. Campbell to date.

## Resolutions Directed to ACER-CART

### Resolution Eighteen

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS request ACER-CART to lobby the federal government to phase in a national prescription drug strategy which would begin with coverage for key catastrophic drug costs with gradual expansion of coverage as finances permit, until the plan is universal in application.

### Resolution Nineteen

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS request ACER-CART to lobby the federal government to eliminate the renewal of protection of drug patents so cheaper generics are available sooner, saving money for the health care system, patients, hospitals and provinces.

**Response:**

The resolutions were presented at the ACER-CART Annual General Meeting held on June 5 and 6, 2009. Both resolutions were passed.

## Attention Chapter Presidents

Nominations for Honorary Life Membership must be submitted to the STS Office by February 14, 2010. 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 [sloughja@sasktel.net](mailto:sloughja@sasktel.net)

## Birthday Greetings

Dorothy Lane celebrated her 90th birthday on July 23, 2009.

Ada Hunter celebrated her 90th birthday on September 30, 2009.

## Congratulations

University of Regina recipient of the STS Scholarship is Jed Huntley.

## Kudos

Kudos to Shaunavon Chapter

Congratulations to the Shaunavon Chapter for making a donation in support of the Shaunavon Courtesy Van for transporting seniors – a great way to help your community. This Chapter of only 31 members donated \$250 to support this project.

The Red Deer River Valley Chapter of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan held their October Potluck Supper Meeting on Wednesday, October 14 in Weekes where they honored two members on reaching a milestone in their lives. Congratulations to Irene Brehmer and Larry Lozinski who both turned 80 in September.



Irene Brehmer and Larry Lozinski.

# Recreation

Calvin Bachmeier



## Upcoming Events

Recreational Activities Participation STS Style . . .

### Bowling

2010 Host: Moose Jaw Chapter  
Date: May 6 & 7, 2010  
Contact: Brenda Brodie  
Phone: (306) 693-5625

### Fishing

2010 Host: Nipawin Chapter  
Date: June 24, 2010  
Location: Tobin Lake  
Contact: Kate McCorrison  
m.mccorrison@sasktel.net  
Phone: (306) 862-3627

### Golf

2010 Host: Souris-Moose Mountain Chapter  
Date: June 14 & 15, 2010  
Location: Golf Kenosee  
Contact: Merv Walker  
mwalker@sasktel.net  
Phone: (306) 443-2207

2011 Host: Assiniboine Chapter  
Contact: Tom Jordens  
Phone: (306) 542-3265

### Kaiser

Date and location to be determined for 2010

### Bridge

2010 Host: Moose Jaw Chapter  
Contact: Len Davidson  
len.el@sasktel.net  
Phone: (306) 693-4756

### Curling

2010 Host: Parkland Chapter  
Date: November 1, 2, & 3, 2010  
Location: Shellbrook  
Contact: Clarence Bowes  
Phone: (306) 747-6268

### Stitch'N Quilt

Photographs below are from the Stitch'N Quilt held in Calling Lakes Centre Monday October 5 to Wednesday, October 7, 2009. It was well attended and all 37 participants had a great time.



Linda Bray and Gladys Oleksyn.



Peter Wiebe and Gladys Oleksyn.

*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.*

### Bridge Tournament

The STS Bridge Tournament was hosted by the Saskatoon Chapter at the Saskatoon Bridge Club on Friday, October 23 and Saturday, October 24, 2009.

The trophies were presented by Peter Wiebe, STS Executive Member.



Individual: 1<sup>st</sup> Lynne Goshawk



Pairs: tied for 1<sup>st</sup> (l to r) Moe Hnatic, Gloria Hnatic, Peter Wiebe



Team: 1<sup>st</sup> (l to r) Peter Wiebe, Donna Hall, Larry Hall, Sandra Topinka, Marg Dufour



Pairs: tied for 1<sup>st</sup> (l to r) Peter Wiebe, Elaine Panchuk, Maureen Scott

# Spotlight on Members

## Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan



### Elsie Mironuck

Elsie Mironuck's interest in teaching began in a country school in southern Saskatchewan which included grades one to ten. Upon completing grade twelve in a neighbouring town, she went on to Normal School in Regina. After teaching in rural schools for a number of years, Elsie joined the staff of the Regina Public School System in 1948, where she became known as a caring and dedicated teacher and later, a helpful consultant and innovative elementary school principal. Her last school was Sherwood School which, upon her retirement, was renamed by the Board in her honour. Her interest in the staff and students at Elsie Mironuck School has continued to this day.

One of the first things Elsie did upon retiring in 1987 was to become an active member of the Regina Chapter of STS. Given the task of recruiting new members, she approached this assignment with her usual zeal, bringing dozens of retired teachers into the STS family. She continued to be concerned with their welfare, being a source of support to her colleagues and friends, especially during times of grief or poor health. Visits to hospitals and seniors homes are an important part of Miss Mironuck's busy life.

Elsie Mironuck has brought her enthusiasm and dedication to almost every aspect of the life of the Regina Chapter, including service on the Executive and as President for two terms. Over the years she has been a phoning captain, taken part in special trips, assisted at the Alex Youck School Museum, and arranged for Chapter functions, such as the annual Out to Lunch with the Bunch. A regular meeting without Elsie being there would seem to be an unusual occurrence, since she has been a faithful member not only locally but at the provincial level as well, having attended numerous STS meetings over the years.

In the citation for Elsie Mironuck when she received the Regina Chapter Award of Merit in 2001, it was noted that Miss Mironuck is a remarkable person who has done much to make retirement a worthwhile and enjoyable time. As a result of her caring nature and



her organizational skills, the lives of countless superannuated teachers have been enriched by the efforts she has made and the example she has set as an STS member.

In 2005 when the Regina Chapter launched a centennial production honouring teachers during the past 100 years, it was Miss Mironuck who was asked to take on the role of St. Elsie, ensuring that only those teachers who were most deserving would get into heaven. Those who know Elsie in person have no doubt that her good works will place her well up in the line when her time eventually comes. As St. Peter would no doubt discover, it's not easy to say "no" to St. Elsie.

*Submitted by Amber McLeod and Terence McKague*

## From The Editor's Desk

My days as a weather reporter are at an end. Last issue I wrote that heat records were being broken across Saskatchewan and the day the issue went to print it snowed. But isn't that the joy of living in Saskatchewan - wait a few minutes and the weather will change.

Another successful Chapter Presidents' Meeting has taken place. It was very well attended and I hope fruitful for all. This seems to be a most worthwhile time to touch base with Chapters from across the province and British Columbia.

As editor I am tapping shoulders requesting articles for publishing in *Outreach*. These can be about a member from your Chapter or how about even talking about your Chapter? How did it come about? Do you as a Chapter do something that you would like to share with the rest of us? Is there someone in your Chapter who has some special skills? Thank you to those who have thought of us and send in articles for us to publish. It is greatly appreciated.

The STS Office will be closed from December 21, 2009 and reopening on January 4, 2010.

From our desks at STS to each and everyone of you a very special Christmas and a blessed Happy New Year.

**Shirley**

## STS Executive 2009-2010

<b>President/Councillor</b>	Jim Sego	Unity Chapter
<b>Vice-President/Councillor</b>	Margaret Martin	Saskatoon Chapter
<b>Executive Secretary</b>	Fred Herron	Saskatoon Chapter
<b>Councillors:</b>		
Calvin Bachmeier	Maple Creek / Medicine Hat Chapter	
Shirley Dyck	Swift Current Chapter	
Michael Gorkoff	Red Deer River Valley Chapter	
Doug Haroldson	Maple Creek / Medicine Hat Chapter	
Mike Kaminski	Assiniboine Chapter	
Peter Wiebe	Regina Chapter	
<b>Members At Large:</b>		
Elaine Broughton	Saskatoon Chapter	
Shirley Henderson	Prince Albert Chapter	
Roger Marchand	South Central Chapter	
Kate McCorriston	Nipawin Chapter	
James Slough	Regina Chapter	
Maxine Stinka	Assiniboine Chapter	
Robert Wuschenny	Yorkton Chapter	
<b>ACER-CART</b>		
Fred Herron	Saskatoon Chapter	

## Reminder

### STS Group Benefit Primary Plan holders

If you qualify for the Saskatchewan Seniors' Drug Plan and have not already done so, please send a copy of the confirmation letter to the STS Office in order to receive the reduced premium for Extended Health.

## OUTREACH

To The Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan

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.

**The Outreach is available online. Please e-mail the STS Office if you wish to receive notification when it is posted on the website instead of receiving a hard copy.**

**website: [www.sts.sk.ca](http://www.sts.sk.ca)**

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2317 Arlington Avenue  
Saskatoon SK S7J 2H8  
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