

OUTREACH



To The Superannuated Teachers
of Saskatchewan

President's Report

Jim Sego

Carole and I, along with the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan Executive and staff, extend wishes to you all for a Happy New Year. At present, there are 9,022 of us including Patricia Jamison who recently became the 9,000th member of the STS. Our organization and its Benefit Plans are operating smoothly and successfully with surpluses in all our accounts!

The Executive has been able to make long-sought after improvements to the Extended Health Plan as outlined in the Benefit report in this issue. One of the improvements is a Client Reimbursement Drug Card. This new type of reimbursement process is convenient and easy to use. It does not come without a significant cost to the Extended Health Plan. We hope to avoid extraordinary costs which might lead to a premium increase being needed in the course of this contract.

Four hundred seventy-five members now receive *Outreach* via email notification.

It's time to get resolutions drafted, delegates chosen and Honorary Life members nominated. Those deadlines are all approaching. It is time,

too, to get nominations in if you wish to serve on the STS Provincial Executive for next year. An election keeps the organization vibrant and gives those interested a provincial perspective that is considerably different from that seen at the Chapter level. See the Nominations report for more information.

Since our last Executive meeting, Carole and I have not travelled to any Chapters, but invitations are again coming in. We will visit the Yorkton and Weyburn Chapters on January 25 and February 17 respectively. We look forward to meeting with you.

Attention Chapter Presidents

Nominations for Honorary Life Membership must be submitted to the STS Office by February 14, 2010. If you have a worthy candidate for this award, ensure that the nomination is 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

Cost of Living Adjustment

All superannuates who have received an allowance from the Teachers' Superannuation Commission or the Saskatchewan Teachers' Retirement Plan for the full 2009 year will have their allowances adjusted upwards by point three per cent (0.3%) effective January 1, 2010. Superannuates who have received an allowance for less than the full 2009 year will have their increases prorated.

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.

Guest Speaker – Catriona Le May Doan

We were so very proud of Catriona Le May Doan when she won her second Olympic Gold Medal in speed skating in 2002. Now we are elated to have her as our guest speaker on opening night of our AGM.

Catriona was part of the Vancouver Olympic 2010 bid team and then spent three years on their Board of Directors. Charity and community involvement are very important to Catriona and she is associated with Right to Play as an Athlete Ambassador, spokesperson for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of Canada, the Saskatoon Foundation, the Lakefield Oval project, and the Children's Health Foundation of Saskatchewan to name a few.

She has two beautiful children who remind her each day how lucky we are to treasure family and friends.

Today, Catriona is fortunate to follow her passion of speaking, broadcasting, charity and community projects and to continue to explore new paths.

Entertainment:

"No Hurry" a trio, who are well known in Saskatoon, will entertain following the banquet.

Blaine Morrison and John Panio will be available for our "sing-a-long".

Interest Sessions:

We will offer five sessions. Delegates may attend three.

- Gardening: Perennials and gardens of Devon and Cornwall
Presenter – Sara Williams
- Drumming Circle
Presenter – Cathy Chicoine
- Preparing for the Worst, death of a spouse and Power of Attorney
Presenter – Karen Tzupa TCU Financial
- Gambling: Is it Affecting your Community?
Presenter – Rachel Clare
- Intersection of Youth Criminal Justice and Education
Presenter – Kearney Healy, author of Tough on Kids

We are hoping for a great Annual General Meeting!

Archives

Robert Wuschenny

Chapters that keep a Book of Reminiscences (History Book) are asked to provide a contact person to the Archives Committee c/o the STS Provincial Office if they wish to have their histories put on the STS electronic archives (website).

Group Benefits

Shirley Henderson

Many issues were discussed and resolved at the Committee and Executive meetings:

- Saskatchewan Health continues to provide prescription drug assistance to the residents of Saskatchewan through its Special Support Program. Any member and/or dependent of the STS Extended Health Plan who has a high usage of prescriptions needs to apply for the Special Support

Program. The application forms are available at any pharmacy. Once you have applied and have received approval or denial, a copy of this letter from Saskatchewan Health needs to be sent to Saskatchewan Blue Cross each year. Do not confuse this drug support program with the Seniors' Drug Plan for Saskatchewan people over 65. The drug support program is for anyone in Saskatchewan who uses prescriptions.

At present Saskatchewan Blue Cross sends to the member a reminder once a certain level of usage/ cost of prescriptions has been reached to apply for the drug support program. The Executive has given Saskatchewan Blue Cross the mandate to send a letter with an application form requesting that the member apply for the Support Program once expenditures for his/her drugs reach \$800 in any one year. After six weeks another reminder will be sent. If still no action is taken then Saskatchewan Blue Cross will withhold the reimbursement of the prescriptions until a copy of the letter from Saskatchewan Health has been received. Once Saskatchewan Blue Cross has received this copy then the prescription costs will be reimbursed according to the plan.

- Effective April 1, 2010 a Client Drug Reimbursement Card will come into effect again. This is a follow up to the 2006 pilot project with such a card. Each member must pay for the drugs at time of purchase. The claim will be sent electronically into Saskatchewan Blue Cross. The reimbursement will be processed immediately. Members may wish to have

the reimbursement electronically deposited into their bank account by notifying Saskatchewan Blue Cross and including a void cheque the next time a claim is submitted. Saskatchewan Blue Cross will be sending out new cards with information on how they are to be used.

- The Office now has the capability to produce receipts for the premiums paid for Group Benefits for income tax purposes. These will be sent out in February.

Budget, Finance & Audit

Margaret Martin

Financial Statements for the STS Operating Fund and the STS Extended Health Fund for the period ending November 30, 2009, were examined and approved by the Executive.

As of January 13, 2010 the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan have 9,022 members. Congratulations to Patricia Jamison who has become our 9,000th member!

The annually updated Operations Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plan was reviewed and approved by the Executive. This Plan has the two functions: Operations Continuity which seeks to resume the critical functions of the office (staff wages, salaries, and Group Benefits) and Disaster Recovery which involves the re-establishment of office space, communications, access to computer networks, and replacement of furniture and equipment for our organization.

Nominations

Margaret Martin

Please consider letting your name stand for a position on the STS Provincial Executive. You can nominate yourself or your Chapter can nominate you. Please forward your name with a brief resumé and

the position for which you would like to stand to the STS office. The positions to be filled at the STS AGM in May 2010 include President/Councillor, Vice President/Councillor, five additional Councillors, seven members-at-large, and the ACER-CART representative. Nominations received by March 1, 2010, will be published in the March edition of *Outreach*.

Resolutions

Robert Wuschenny

Attention Chapter Presidents – consider putting forth resolution from your Chapter. To have these published in the next issue of *Outreach* they must be into the Office by March 1, 2010.

Support Services

Calvin Bachmeier

Dalton Tamney provided us with a detailed analysis of the STS website. He explained that the visits to the site show that it is a valuable resource for superannuated teachers. If we compare this year's visits to last it appears visitors are spending more time at the various pages. This would seem to indicate that visitors are requiring more detailed information. The most popular site visited deals with health care and all of the related issues.

Dalton also explained that he and the Office Staff had spent considerable time updating the site. Since the site uses a number of links, they must all be checked out to make sure that they are still functional and useful. The Committee feels very strongly that it is very important that the website remains very user friendly. It must also provide up to date information. A list of all changes to the website will be emailed to Chapter liaison officers and Presidents. This should aid them in serving their Chapter members.

The Committee reviewed the notes taken from the table discussions at the Chapter Presidents' Meeting regarding the Chapter Activity Support Program. We feel that these notes gave us a very good idea of what our membership is thinking and where they are at in relation to these guidelines. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that we would not make any changes in the guidelines at this time. We did approve an award to two co-operating Chapters. We felt the application was very well prepared and followed the guidelines set out in the application form. We would like to remind all Chapters that applications are dealt with five times a year at the same time as our Executive meetings. However, we can deal with applications between meetings if they are of an emergent nature.

We all agreed that it would be a valuable addition to our website if we added a category for Disposition of Resolutions. This could be updated on an ongoing basis, when new information becomes available. Chapters could have advance information which might aid them in preparing resolutions for the next Annual General Meeting.

Retirement Lifestyle Planning

Shirley Dyck

The Retirement Lifestyle Planning Committee has accepted two invitations to make presentations at the following teacher association conventions:

The Prairie Valley Teachers' Association Convention will be held on February 18 and 19 at the Queensbury Downs Convention Centre in Regina.

The Prince Albert and Area Teachers' Association Convention will be held on March 16 at the Carlton Comprehensive High School in Prince Albert.

STS 2010 Bowling Registration Form

South Hill Bowling Lanes
500 Home Street West, Moose Jaw
Thursday, May 6 and Friday, May 7, 2010

Mail entries to:
STS Bowling 2010
1507 Spadina Street West
Moose Jaw, SK S6H 7E1
Phone: (306) 693-5625

- registration deadline is April 22, 2010
- register as a full team, a partial team, or as an individual.

Hotel reservations: Check www.discovermoosejaw.com

Tournament Fees:	___ X \$50 = \$ ___
<i>(Includes bowling, 1 banquet, 1 luncheon)</i>	
Extra banquet ticket	___ X \$18 = \$ ___
Extra luncheon ticket	___ X \$10 = \$ ___
TOTAL ENCLOSED	= \$ ___

Make cheques payable to: STS Moose Jaw Chapter

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Team Registrations:

Team name: _____

Team Members:

1) _____ Phone: _____

2) _____ Phone: _____

3) _____ Phone: _____

4) _____ Phone: _____

5) _____ Phone: _____

STS Provincial Golf Tournament

June 14-15, 2010 Golf Kenosee
STS Golf Tournament 2010

PRE-REGISTER BY JUNE 1, 2010

- Cost: \$100.00 includes 2-18 hole rounds: a banquet at Club 19 at Golf Kenosee on Monday night.
- Extra banquet tickets are available at \$20.00 each.
- Cart rentals are available.

Accommodations:

- Kenosee Lake:
Kenosee Inn (306) 577-2099
Kenosee Mini Mart (306) 577-2264
- Carlyle:
Skyline Motor Inn (306) 453-6745

Camping:

- Kenosee Lake:
Moose Mountain Provincial Park (306) 577-2611
- Carlyle
Carlyle Lions Campground
(306) 577-0198
(306) 453-6156

Note: Names of interested participants will be noted if received by phone or email, but registration requires the receipt of the \$100.00 fee.

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Extra Banquet tickets ___ X \$20.00 each.

Senior Division (must be 70+)

Cart Rental required

Return completed registration form and fees to:

Leo Grossman
Box 252
Carlyle SK S0C 0R0

*Please make cheques payable to:
STS Golf Tournament 2010*

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.

Spotlight on Members

Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan



The Saskatchewan Band Association has recognized Saskatoon musician and educator Wayne Toews with its 2009 Distinguished Band Director award. The award recognizes his outstanding contribution to band, strong musical leadership and consistent promotion of musical excellence in the province of Saskatchewan. He is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan and Northwestern University. In 1969 Toews established the band program in City Park Collegiate and in the area's elementary schools. The City Park Concert Band was well known through its recordings and television performances. Mr. Toews was music director at Aden Bowman Collegiate from 1976 until his retirement in 2001. The ABCI music program toured widely and was a consistent winner in music festivals with groups under his direction earning more than 50 first place awards including two first place national jazz awards. Seven of his former students direct bands in Saskatoon. From 1983 until 2009 Mr. Toews was music director of the Saskatoon Youth Orchestra. He has been guest conductor of the Saskatoon Symphony on several occasions including the opening of SaskPlace. In 2005 he created a school for music conductors that has attracted students from around the world. Toews is a founding board member of the Saskatchewan Orchestral Association, chair of the orchestra division of Musicfest Canada and serves on the board of the Canadian Music Centre, Prairie Division. He is a conductor, adjudicator, composer, arranger and author.



Photo credit: Adam Toews

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.

STS Scholarship Appreciation

Following is a letter that was sent to the STS Office. At this time this may not be classed as the "Spotlight on Superannuates", but this woman may one day be a superannuate and we, as a group, helped her in a very small way to become a teacher. (The Editor)

Dear Donor,

I sit here today happily typing this thank you letter and thinking about you. I wrote a couple of different versions before this one but they sounded so formal and so unlike me so I decided to write you this letter like I would write to a dear old friend. I guess you already know that I won the Superannuated Teacher of Saskatchewan Bursary but what you do not know how that made me feel when I opened that letter I received informing me of the great news. Actually I left the letter sitting for a couple of days on my coffee table, I was so afraid to open it. I would look at the unopened letter, get a knot in my tummy and leave the room. I thought the letter was to inform me that I was failing my internship and that it was better for me to withdraw or some other bad news. I was not expecting something so good especially at a time when I/we really need it. I guess what I am trying to say is that good things do not often come my way and I appreciate that you chose me to receive this gift from you. Like I was saying, I thought the letter was not going to be good news. I waited until everybody was in bed one night and finally opened it up. I nearly fell over because I was so proud and excited. I had nobody to share the good news so I went and woke up my kids – Paige 14, Chase 11, and Brady 8 years old. I was waving the letter in the air and doing my happy dance, they did not know what to think. Chase thinks I received the letter because I am a great teacher and Paige thinks I received it because I am so smart. I have not told them the criteria for receiving this award nor have I not told them the award also has monetary value and; I think I will keep that to myself for now. I realize that there are many students completing their last year in education and I am honoured that I was the chosen one.

I hope you realize this award means a lot to me and my children. We have all worked so hard. We sacrificed a lot so that I can go to school and get my degree and we all deserve a little something. Paige wants to get contact lens because she is on the basketball team and glasses hinder her game so she says, paying for contact lenses for her will be a great gift for Christmas. Chase really wanted a new snowboard last Christmas so now maybe he'll get one this year and as for my baby Brady I am sure he would love to get a new video game, since he rapped the ones he already has and they are no longer a challenge to him. As for myself, I owed the library some money and could not register for my classes until it was paid. I have since registered for the required classes I needed. I hope this letter comes to you in a good way and you and your family receives many good blessings and good health.

As for my internship, it is going great, my co-operating teacher is wonderful and I feel like I have grown so much from being in her classroom, correction *OUR* classroom. She is warm, patient, funny and so smart. She is very supportive and basically lets me do what I want and if I start getting off track she gently steers me in the right direction. I want to be like her when I grow up, just kidding, but she does have many admirable qualities and best of all she thinks I am going to be a great teacher someday; her opinion is valuable to me. I absolutely love my students, they are so smart and friendly and helpful. I could go on and on about them but I do not want to take anymore of your time.

*Sincerely,
Alicia Moosomin*

Macklin School Reunion – June 18-20, 2010 at Macklin, SK

Wanted: All teachers who taught at Macklin School between the years 1955 and 1973. Check our website for more information: www.mhs2010.myevent.com. If you are interested please contact us: Linda Burns 780-417-2528 or Bonnie Schmidt 306-753-2594.

From The Editor's Desk

A very productive Executive meeting has taken place. Many decisions were made especially affecting those on the Group Benefits Plan. Please read that report for further information.

I had said that I may need to "tap some shoulders" in requesting articles for the Spotlight on Superannuates page for *Outreach*. It is time to do that. If you have someone in your Chapter who has contributed to the Chapter, the community or has a talent for "something", please consider sharing his/her contributions. Maybe your community has some highlighted spots that tourists should see. Maybe your Chapter has a history that could be shared with us.

Please consider contributing an article to the *Outreach*. Pictures also always make it interesting.

Thank you and Happy New Year to all!

Shirley

Congratulations

Minnie Roske celebrated her 94th birthday on November 10, 2009.

Terriann Walling and Alicia Moosomin received the STS University of Saskatchewan Bursaries.

STS Executive 2009-2010

President/Councillor	Jim Sego	Unity Chapter
Vice-President/Councillor	Margaret Martin	Saskatoon Chapter
Executive Secretary	Fred Herron	Saskatoon Chapter
Councillors:		
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	
Members At Large:		
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	
ACER-CART		
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 email 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

Phone: 373-3879

Fax: 374-1122

Email: sts@stf.sk.ca

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