

OUTREACH



To The Superannuated Teachers
of Saskatchewan

President's Report

Robert Wuschenny

It took a while for summer to don its green mantle but once it did, it came in splendour and produced abundant crops and gardens. Now summer has waned into fall and again we settle into a more scheduled pattern of activity. I hope that each of you had a very pleasant summer, that your harvest is bountiful and that your autumn and winter will be filled with many enjoyable activities.

A warm welcome to all new superannuates. Our numbers continue to grow. We are now over 10,300 members in 43 Chapters. We hope that new superannuates took advantage of the 60-day window to join our Group Benefits Plan. If you are covered by a spouse's or partner's group plan, and should that plan expire, you may join the STS Group Benefits Plan under the same 60-day provision from the expiry date of the other group plan. It is important to note that we own the STS Group Benefits Plan and that our members pay all of the costs of the Plan.

The Provincial Executive met in Saskatoon on September 25, 26, 2013. Welcome to our newest Executive member, Helen Sukovieff. Congratulations to Executive member, George Georget, who has been elected to the Executive of ACER-CART. Each of our Committees

met to elect a Committee Chair, to review their goals and to receive new information as the work of the Committees and the Executive takes shape.

Our eight STS Councillors were invited to attend a STF Regulatory meeting on September 28, 2013, as well as, to the STF Councillors' Conference on October 24-26, 2013. At each of these events, Councillors are updated on educational issues and have the opportunity to participate in the discussions.

Our audit is complete, and I am pleased to report that again we received a clean audit from Deloitte. Similarly, our Group Benefits Plan returns are favourable.

As always, a number of recreational activities are hosted by local Chapters and supported by the Provincial STS. Please check the Recreation Report in this issue. I encourage you to participate in these events.

The Disposition of Resolutions from our Annual General Meeting 2013 will be added to the website. It is not too early to formulate and submit resolutions for the 2014 Annual General Meeting. Due dates for resolutions, nominations for the Executive and for Honorary Life Members have been reviewed and synchronized in the *Policy*

Handbook. Deadline reminders will be published in *Outreach* and may also be checked on the website.

The review of the Teachers' Superannuation Commission has been completed. I am pleased to report that the status quo prevails. Our three STS AGM resolutions were very important in achieving this result. I am confident the Teachers' Superannuation Commission will continue to provide exemplary service to superannuates, as it has in the past.

The STS Provincial Office will relocate in the summer of 2014. More information will be forthcoming as details are finalized.

I look forward to meeting Chapter Presidents at the annual Presidents' Meeting which will be held on October 31, 2013, at the STF building in Saskatoon. Information is being sent to all Chapter Presidents.

I have been asked by many Chapters to take part in their meetings. I welcome the opportunity to meet with you. Please call me at 1-306-545-2512 or email r.wuschenny@sasktel.net if you would like me to visit your Chapter.

Best wishes for success and good health to all STS members during this next year.

Attention Chapter Presidents

Nominate Honorary Life Members

Nominations for Honorary Life Memberships must be submitted to the STS Office by February 1, 2014. If you have worthy candidates for these awards, ensure that the nominations are submitted well before the deadline. Please check the *Policy Handbook* on page 32 for the required information and for the correct format of the nomination.

Advocacy

Margaret Martin

This 2012-13 Ad Hoc Committee as a result of the motion at the STS 2013 AGM, is now a Standing Committee with duties outlined on page 23 (1.1) of the STS *Policy Handbook*.

The Goals for the Advocacy Committee for 2013-14 are as follows:

1. To examine the Guidelines in STS *Policy Handbook* (page 23) and the role of this Committee within the STS.
2. To monitor and identify ongoing issues that may affect our membership.
3. To create and foster better relationships with other senior organizations in Saskatchewan.
4. To collaborate with ACER-CART and SSM to provide leadership for issues that could impact our membership.
5. To continue to foster good relationships with our educational partners.

Budget, Finance and Audit

Doug Haroldson

The committee reviewed and approved a clean audit presented by Deloitte representatives at our September 25th committee meeting for the Operating, Contingency, and Extended Health Funds for the year ending June 30, 2013.

The financial position of the STS as of June 30, 2013, is very favourable:

Operating Fund Surplus	\$ 42,254.00
Contingency Fund Balance.	\$729,216.00
Extended Health Fund Balance	\$644,774.00

The committee has set the following goals for 2013-14:

1. To create the 2014-15 proposed budget.
2. To continue to monitor 2013-14 budget.
3. To provide information to members regarding pension plans.
4. To improve our members' knowledge base regarding the Health and Dental Plans.
5. To be sensitive to new members' expectations through liaison Chapter visits, Pre-Retirement Seminars, *Outreach*, Retirement Lifestyles Planning, and the President's message in the *Bulletin*.
6. To continue to monitor expenses regarding office relocation, additional staffing, AGM costs and their overall financial impact on the organization.

Because the operations Reserve Fund does not exceed fifty percent of last year's expenditures there will be no transfer of funds to the Contingency Fund this year. Copies of the audited financial statements will be distributed to Chapter Presidents.

Annual General Meeting

Elaine Broughton and Joyce Hoffman

The next AGM will be held at the Travelodge Hotel in Saskatoon, from Tuesday, May 13, to Thursday May 15, 2014.

The committee reviewed the 176 evaluations received from the 2013 AGM. Responses were very positive.

The Committee discussed Resolution A14 dealing with topics being discussed at the plenary sessions at the AGM that was passed at the 2013 AGM.

The Executive has referred this resolution back to STS Chapters for discussion and clarification at the Presidents' Meeting.

The goals of the AGM Planning Committee are:

1. To present a quality AGM that provides information to the membership.
2. To keep costs within the budget.
3. To respond to suggestions and concerns expressed in the past AGM evaluations.

Group Benefits

Margaret Martin

The Goals of the Group Benefits Committee for 2013-14 are as follows:

1. To closely monitor the Group Benefits Plan and the financial status of the Plan.
2. To continue to promote and provide information on the Group Benefits Plan to superannuates, including the distinction between a government-funded plan and our plan which is funded by its members.
3. To review the policies and procedures on the Group Benefits Plan as set in the *STS Policy Handbook* (Page 23-24).

The Group Benefits Committee examined the Financial Accounting Schedule for the period July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013. This was the first year of the new contract with Saskatchewan Blue Cross. It was noted that there is a balance in the Deposit Account for the Extended Health Plan of \$376,353.16 and for the Dental Plan of \$268,420.94.

Reminders to be noted by all STS members include:

1. All status changes and address changes from STS members must be sent to the STS Office.
2. It is important that STS members of the Extended Health Plan purchase top-up insurance for their travels beyond 65 days **prior to** leaving for their vacation.
3. Those members purchasing top-up insurance must note that there are different eligibility requirements for these extra days to be purchased. The members must contact Saskatchewan Blue Cross to get information about the possibility of purchasing these days.
4. When STS members of the Group Benefits Plan are leaving on a holiday, please remember to always take along your Saskatchewan Blue Cross membership card. It includes the telephone number on the back that you should

contact in case **emergency travel coverage** is required.

5. It is possible to receive direct deposit of your cheques from Saskatchewan Blue Cross. Please contact Saskatchewan Blue Cross to set this up.

Retirement Lifestyles

Shirley Henderson

The Committee will be presenting two seminars in April 2014, one in Saskatoon and one in Regina.

The STF is reworking the Pre-Retirement Seminars, and the STS may have a greater role in these presentations.

STS Resolutions

Mike Kaminski

The Resolutions Committee reviewed the Disposition of 2013 AGM Resolutions. The resolutions were categorized as A-Directed to STS; B-Directed to STF; C-Directed to ACER-CART; and, D-Directed to the Government. Each resolution or group has a notation in regards to the disposition status to date. Two resolutions A13 and A16 (both dealing with changes to the Group Benefits Plan) will be given further clarification by Saskatchewan Blue

Cross at the Presidents' meeting in October. Two other resolutions, C10 and D1, (dealing with Seniors Home Care, Seniors Home support programs and healthy homes renovation tax credit for seniors) will be forwarded to SSM for further action by their association. Also one resolution, D1, will be forwarded directly to the Federal Minister of Finance and Saskatchewan MPs for a follow-up response. Resolutions that received a written response will have the

response letter attached in order to receive more detailed attention.

The Disposition of Resolutions and responses will be posted on the STS website, further discussed at the Presidents' Meeting and shared by STS Executive members in reports to Chapters as their liaison responsibilities.

Members are also reminded to start considering resolutions for next year's AGM. The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2014.

ACER-CART

George Georget

ACER-CART's 22nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on May 31 and June 1, 2013, in the Ottawa office of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF). Twenty-six participants from twelve of the thirteen member organizations, including, the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan (STS), were in attendance.

A pensions' session was facilitated by Gerry Tiede of British Columbia Retired Teachers Association. He referred to the myths that are commonly used in attacks on public pension plans. He shared national and regional data to dispel the myths, illustrating the real value of pension plans to society, and presenting some of the successful BCRTA initiatives. The delegates determined to find ways to work together to promote the benefits of defined benefits pension plans and

agreed to approach the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) for help in coordinating a nation-wide campaign.

Positions taken to drive the work of 2013-14

1. Enhance ACER-CART political advocacy through its member associations and by collaborating with like-minded organizations on issues of common concern;
2. Urge the Federal Government, Provinces and Territories to negotiate a new, strengthened Health Accord to replace the present Accord expiring in 2014;
3. Support the Canadian Teachers' Federation in their campaign to have Government listen to our voices; and,
4. Seek to establish a cross-country approach to preserving and protecting defined benefit pension plans.

The delegates considered twenty-seven Resolutions, including nine proposed by your STS. Please visit ACER-CART's Website to access a full report of the AGM's deliberations, including the elections of officers. www.acer-cart.org.

Congratulations

Irene Adams, member of the Langenburg Chapter, was awarded a Life Membership Award from the Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils (OSAC). Only 14 other individuals have received this award in the organization's 44 year history.



STS Executive 2013-14

Back row: (from left) Maxine Stinka, Gerald Mamer, Sunil Pandila, Shirley Henderson, Mike Kaminski, Roger Marchand, Judy Buzowetsky, George Georget (ACER-CART Representative), Elaine Broughton, Calvin Bachmeier. Front row: (from left) Helen Sukovieff, Joyce Hoffman, Robert Wuschenny (President), Doug Haroldson (Vice-President), Margaret Martin (Past-President), Kate McCorrison, Fred Herron (Executive Secretary)



Upcoming Events

Recreational Activities Participation STS Style . . .

Bridge

Date: May 1-2, 2014
Host: Moose Jaw Chapter

Curling

Dates: Nov 4-6, 2013
Place: Melfort
Host: Carrot River Valley
(Melfort & District) Chapter
See website for details
2014 Host: Prince Albert Chapter

Fishing

No host at present

Golf

Date: June 9-10, 2014
Place: Humboldt Golf Club
Host: Humboldt Chapter
Contact: Carol Oleksyn
Phone: 1-306-682-2862
Email: carololeksyn@sasktel.net

Kaiser

Date: October 23, 2013
Place: Marengo Community Hall
Contact: Denise Warrington
Phone: 1-306-968-2563
Email: gwffarms1@hotmail.com
(please visit the STS website
for registration form)

Stitch 'N Quilt

No host at present

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.

STS Provincial Golf Tournament 2013

The Northwest Chapter of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan hosted the annual golf tournament on June 10-11, 2013, at the Northern Meadows Golf Club near Goodsoil. There were 62 participants. The first day was Scramble Play followed by supper. Each team received a prize thanks to generous donations from community businesses.

Monday evening was spent visiting and enjoying the beautiful countryside. Although Monday was a little cloudy and rainy, Tuesday turned out to be a very pleasant day. By mid-afternoon prize monies and championship jackets were presented.

Senior Men's Winner: Germain Dauk

Men's Winner: Gary Stinson

Women's Winner: Lin Rigg

Thanks to everyone who made the trip to Goodsoil. See you next year in Humboldt.



Ladies' Championship Flight
(left to right) Rita Purves,
Sylvie Francoeur, Lin Rigg



Men's Championship Flight
(left to right) Gary Stinson,
Gary Loney, Ron Moormann



Senior Men's
(left to right) Archie Bruce,
William Thon, Germain Dauk

Spotlight on Superannuates



Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan

Swift Current Chapter Celebration

The 41st Anniversary of the Swift Current Chapter of STS June 12, 1972- June 12, 2013, was celebrated in grand style.

The white tablecloths, the exquisite mirror table centre pieces with their glowing tea lights and flowers, and the elegant anniversary cake, with its words: *"A teacher affects eternity: he can never tell where his influence ends,"* by Henry Brookes Adam, set the tone as we were welcomed by our President, Joyce Hoffman, and her co-emcee, Shirley Dyck, on June 12th, 2013.

Joyce rang the bell, and we opened our program by singing: "Welcome All" and "School Days." After a moment of silence in memory of our departed members, greetings and congratulations were brought by Doug Haroldson, the Vice-President of our provincial STS. He encouraged us to remember all the hard work in the past and that which is on-going by our Provincial STS to preserve our superannuation and improve the welfare of all superannuates. He was followed by Loretta Romankewicz, editor of our newsletter "In Touch", who gave a brief history and also encouraged us not to take our superannuation for granted but, rather, be thankful for the care and attention it receives from our Provincial Executive. Next was Marg Sillerud, the only surviving Past-President of the first decade of our Chapter, who reminded us of the impact we've had on many young lives and the difference we have made. Several of the members present shared

special memories and certainly corroborated what Marg had just said.

Then we were treated to very special music by Sharon Veer accompanied on the guitar by her husband, Cliff. Sharon sang "Thank God for Kids", "One Day at a Time", "God of the Mountain", "I Have a Dream" and "Grandpa, Tell Me 'Bout the Good Old Days".

After a ceremonial cutting of the cake by our two STS Honorary Life Members, Shirley Dyck and Loretta Romankewicz, we enjoyed the delicious cake and ice cream and coffee or tea while we socialized with colleagues and old friends. It was definitely an afternoon to remember!



Joyce Hoffman,
President Swift Current Chapter

Special thanks to:

- Joyce Hoffman for arranging our celebration venue;
- Joyce and Shirley for decorating the dining room and setting up the display table;
- Shirley Dyck for baking, decorating (with assistance from Jan Noble) and donating the anniversary cake;
- Memory sharers: Leon Eckert, Mel Friesen, Sandra Hill, and Helen McGovern;
- Lorraine Kehler for preparing the registration sheets;
- Loretta for the place mats;
- Leon Eckert (Photographer), Nancy Baumann-Wall (Guest Registry);
- Thank you to all in attendance.



Shirley Dyck (left), Loretta Romankewicz
Provincial Honorary Life Members

Langenburg Chapter Celebration

The Langenburg Chapter of the STS celebrated its 20th anniversary with an informal banquet in late

November 2012. The short program featured a toast to the chapter by Past President Rick Johnson, a brief Chapter history by Irene Adams, and a humorous presentation by Myrna Jenson. As evidenced by the picture, it was a laughter-filled

event. Three current officers in the front row: Treasurer (for all 20 years!) Arnold Yobb, President Jessie Wade, and Secretary Irene Adams. Arnold and Irene, along with Bernice Popick (since deceased) led the way in the formation of the chapter.



Langenburg Chapter Members

Gladys Towriss – Moose Jaw Chapter

Gladys Towriss celebrated her 100th birthday in August, 2013. She is still an active member of the Moose Jaw STS Chapter, attending both of our luncheon meetings and Chapter activities.

As a member of the Chapter Executive until 2011, Gladys served in many areas: cards/visitations, secretary, recreation, and member-at-large. She also attended AGM Meetings in both Regina and Saskatoon. Gladys enjoyed bowling and horseshoes, and attended many Provincial STS Tournaments. During the 2010-2011 term both Gladys and her daughter, Rosalie, served on the Chapter Executive – Gladys as a member-at-large and Rosalie as Vice-President.

Gladys graduated from Normal School in 1932. Her first teaching job was at Forest Edge, near Kipling, Saskatchewan, followed by assignments at Clayhill, Chester and Highland Valley. After pausing her

career to start a family, she resumed teaching at Breadalbane, Royal George, Caron, and Westview Schools. The last years of her career were spent teaching in Moose Jaw at Westmount and Lindale Schools. During her early teaching career, in the rural schools, she taught all grades from grade one to grade ten. Later she worked in the primary grades. Gladys retired in 1978.

In 1938 Gladys married Bill Towriss, and shortly thereafter moved to a Hereford ranch near Caron. There, while teaching, she raised four children: Sharon, Bob, Moira, and Rosalie. She now has seven grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.

While teaching and raising a family, Gladys was also very involved with community activities and for many years was the organist for Caron United Church. In her retirement years she enjoyed league bowling and also was a Roughrider Season Ticket Holder. As part of her 90th birthday celebration she attended a Rider game!

After retiring Gladys spent many hours volunteering with the Literacy Program at the Moose Jaw Public Library.

She is now living at the Mulberry Retirement Home in Moose Jaw where she is still volunteering in the Mulberry Library.

Gladys, you are an inspiration to all of us. Many superannuated teachers and friends have been enriched and influenced by all your wonderful efforts. We salute and thank you!



Gladys Towriss

From The Editor's Desk

Welcome to all new superannuates. After each Executive meeting the *Outreach* is published. In each edition the Chairpersons of the various committees report on the happenings of the STS.

Other features in each issue are the following:

"Spotlight on Superannuates" tells a story about someone who has contributed to the STS and education or about a group of people doing something interesting and willing to share with the rest of the readership.

"Superannuates Make a Difference" tells in a few sentences what your Chapter does to help out your community.

If there is someone who has an issue, concern, or a question that he/she wishes to voice, space allowing, we will put this in. The letter should be short, to the point, and not inflammatory. This section will depend on available space and at the discretion of the editorial staff.

Remember "the best things in life are the people you love, the places you've seen, and the memories you've made along the way."

Shirley

STS Executive 2013-14

President/Councillor

Robert Wuschenny, Regina Chapter

Vice-President/Councillor

Doug Haroldson, Maple Creek-Medicine Hat Chapter

Past-President/Councillor

Margaret Martin, Saskatoon Chapter

Executive Secretary

Fred Herron, Saskatoon Chapter

ACER-CART Representative

George Georget, Saskatoon Chapter

Councillors:

Joyce Hoffman

Swift Current Chapter

Mike Kaminski

Assiniboine Chapter

Gerald Mamer

Saskatoon Chapter

Maxine Stinka

Assiniboine Chapter

Helen Sukovieff

Regina Chapter

Members-At-Large:

Calvin Bachmeier

Maple Creek-Medicine Hat Chapter

Elaine Broughton

Saskatoon Chapter

Judy Buzowetsky

Weyburn Chapter

Shirley Henderson

Prince Albert Chapter

Roger Marchand

South Central Chapter

Kate McCorriston

Nipawin Chapter

Sunil Pandila

Moose Jaw Chapter

Reminder: Seniors' Drug Plan

If you are the primary plan holder of the STS Group Benefits Plan and are eligible for the Seniors' Drug Plan, please send a copy of the confirmation letter to the STS Office in order to have your monthly Extended Health premium reduced. If you are no longer eligible for the Seniors' Drug Plan please notify the STS office.

The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation is regularly looking for ways to improve their service to members. Upon entering the STF building, please report to the staff at the information desk. They will ensure that the person you need to see is available and aware of your arrival. Thank you for allowing the STF to serve you.



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.

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