

OUTREACH



To The Superannuated Teachers
of Saskatchewan

President's Report

Robert Wuschenny

*First, the leaves slowly cascading down
Suddenly, a rush of wind-swept leaves
accompanied by flakes of snow
Soon a winter wonderland!*

How aptly the lines above describe the season soon to be with us. This fall was perfect for travel and travel I did! It was a pleasure to visit Chapters, each with different goals, different programs, in different locations, but all very warm, welcoming, and hospitable. I look forward to more visits to Chapters between now and Christmas and in the new year. If you would like to have me visit your Chapter, please call at 306-545-2512 or email r.wuschenny@sasktel.net.

The STS Provincial Committees and Executive met for the second time this year on October 29, 30, followed by the annual Chapter Presidents' Meeting on October 31, 2013. The Budget, Finance and Audit Committee and the Group Benefits Committee tell us that our finances are in good order and our Health Plan is experiencing favourable returns. We are currently into the second year of a three year contract with Saskatchewan Blue

Cross, our Extended Health and Dental Plan carrier. Other Committee reports are highlighted in *Outreach*.

Chapter Presidents met for their annual exchange of ideas, programs, successes and difficulties. The afternoon Bear Pit Session, led by Provincial Committees, resulted in a mutual exchange of ideas, suggestions, reminders and information. Items dealt with were Resolutions, Chapter liaison, Advocacy, Retirement Lifestyles, Pre-retirement seminars, *Outreach*, and AGM format and plans.

Your eight STS Councillors attended the STF Fall Council in Saskatoon on October 24-26, 2013, where they had the opportunity to hear an address by Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall, to meet with MLAs and one MP, as well as, to provide input on governance matters.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to our Provincial Recreation Committee Chair, Calvin Bachmeier, who recently suffered a fractured hip.

Our Recreation Committee is always on the lookout for Chapters interested in hosting Provincial recreation events. Please contact the STS Office if you wish to host.

Plans are currently being made for the Annual General Meeting to be held at the Travelodge Hotel in Saskatoon on May 13-15, 2014. A format similar to that of the recent past is being planned.

Please don't forget to submit for *Outreach*, reports and pictures of significant events in your Chapters. Also, please submit articles for *Spotlight on Superannuates*.

Last March, the Retirement Lifestyles Committee held a successful seminar in Saskatoon. STF Pre-Retirement seminars and STS Retirement Lifestyles seminars are currently undergoing changes in format and content. To this end, the Retirement Lifestyles Committee is planning to hold two seminars in April 2014: one in Saskatoon and one in Regina. It is important to remember that the Retirement Lifestyles seminar deals with how retirees will choose to "live out" their retirement; whereas, Pre-Retirement seminars focus more on the monetary aspect.

As 2013 rushes to a close and the Holiday Season approaches, I wish each of you and your family warmest wishes for a Blessed and Joyous Holiday, and I look forward to serving you in the new year.

STF Councillors

Margaret Martin

On September 28, 2013, eight STS Councillors and STS Executive members met at Saskatoon Prairie-land Park to receive information regarding the STF submission to the Ministry of Education, "Teacher Professionalism in Saskatchewan: Strengthening Regulation". This document details the historical context, as well as, the current context regarding teacher certification and disciplinary authority in cases of alleged professional misconduct and incompetence. The Federation has proposed some immediate administrative changes to address perceptions of conflict of interest and improve public awareness, accessibility and reporting, as it prepares to work with our educational partners and the community to plan and implement a strengthened regulatory environment within the next two years for all teachers who are certificate holders in Saskatchewan.

On August 1, 2013, Dr. Dennis Kendel was appointed by the Ministry of Education to conduct a review of teacher regulation in Saskatchewan. His report has just been released. We support the STF as it looks forward to the opportunity to engage with all of the educational partners to develop a regulatory system which reflects the best interests of the students.

On October 24 to 26, 2013, the eight STS Councillors met in Saskatoon for the Annual Councillor Conference. The agenda included a keynote address by Dr. Don Lenihan, a senior associate at the Public Policy Forum in Ottawa, on Rethinking Public and Teacher Engagement. He spoke about three approaches: consultative, deliberative, and engagement.

Premier Brad Wall addressed the Councillors on Friday, October 25, 2013. We also had an opportunity over lunch to advocate for a

sustainable, high quality education system with invited MLAs and MPs.

We reviewed draft policies in Professional Stewardship and Responsibility: Intellectual Freedom and Intellectual Property and in Governance: Access to Information. These draft policies will be brought back to the STF Annual Meeting of Council in 2014 for final approval.

A presentation on the Saskatchewan Teachers' Retirement Plan was given by Deanna Napen, a partner and senior retirement consultant at Mercer in Calgary. She informed us of the new plan design framework considered by the board to ensure the STRP Plan is fair, equitable, and sustainable into the future. We were assured that all of the current retired teachers of the STRP Plan are guaranteed the benefits that were in place when they retired. The new STRP Plan is expected to be in place for 2015.

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.

Annual General Meeting

Elaine Broughton and Joyce Hoffman

The Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan Annual General Meeting will be held at the Saskatoon Travelodge Hotel on May 13-15, 2014.

Interest Sessions

We will have five interest sessions from which delegates can choose to attend three.

Chapter Presidents

Information about the AGM will be sent to Chapter Presidents early in February. Please have your list of delegates in to the STS Office by April 1, 2014. The formula for

determining the number of delegates remains the same: "Two delegates for the first 60 paid members, or portion thereof, and one delegate for each additional 60 paid members, or portion thereof." For delegates, the STS pays for two nights accommodation - breakfast and lunch on Wednesday and Thursday and the banquet on Wednesday evening. When delegates receive their information, they will be asked to please inform the STS office which meals they will be attending either by returning the form or by emailing the office.

Group Benefits

Margaret Martin

The Committee examined the Claims Experience Reports for the STS Extended Health Plan and Dental Plan for the period ending September 2013. It was noted that the Plan is doing well financially.

Bob Wilhelms, from Saskatchewan Blue Cross, responded to our request for information about the impact to our Plan of Resolutions A13 (coverage for Chronic Disease Management Programs such as Pulmonary, Diabetes, and Stroke at the same level as Cardiac Rehab--\$300 every calendar year) and

Resolution A16 (adding cochlear implant processors with the same coverage as hearing aids--\$600 every three calendar years). The Committee recommended and the STS Executive approved that both of these benefits be added to the STS Extended Health Plan effective January 1, 2014.

Members of our Plans may now submit receipts using an on-line submission process. Our members may go to www.sk.bluecross.ca and follow the directions to submit their claims on line. If you have any

questions about this claims submission process, please contact Saskatchewan Blue Cross. If you have a change of address or any other questions about the STS Group Benefits Plan, please contact the STS Office at 306-373-3879.

Retirement Lifestyles

Shirley Henderson

STS Resolutions

Mike Kaminski

The Resolutions Committee would like to remind members of the importance of resolutions. We are a resolutions driven organization! The directive actions and basis for policies for the organization originate from well-written resolutions discussed by Chapters and debated on by the membership at

the AGM. Background information assists in providing basic understandings regarding the intent of a resolution. This can happen only if the process is started on time and resolutions are submitted to the office by March 1, 2014. We look forward to hearing from as many Chapters as possible!

The Committee will be presenting two Retirement Lifestyles Seminars in April 2014 – one to be in Saskatoon and the other in Regina.

The STF have completed and are now using a Power Point presentation at the Pre-Retirement seminars. The STS has also done a Power Point presentation which will be used at these presentations to show the reason one should join the STS and the benefits of the Group Benefits Plan.

ACER-CART

George Georget

ACER-CART Addresses Teacher Pension Plan Myths

Pension Plan Myths are all too often imposed on public opinion and threaten to mislead policy makers. Work is being done to prepare “generic” letters and background notes to support ACER-CART

Member Organizations and their members to assist in educating the Canadian society on the significant value of pension plans to the economic well-being of Canada. A fair and factual understanding of what pension plans mean to the economy should neutralize the

potentially destructive myths that, all too often, are raised by leaders and others. Canadian citizens and their leaders should be encouraged by the facts and information about pension plans and the dismissal of dangerous misunderstandings about defined benefit pension plans in particular.

Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism

Maxine Stinka

The SSM Board has had two meetings since the beginning of this school year. Its Annual Conference was held in June along with the Annual General Meeting. The theme of the conference was affordable housing and a wide variety of personnel were available to discuss the topic. Michael Kaminski was re-elected to the Board for a two-year term. The Mechanism also hosted the fourth annual "Celebrating Seniors" provincial senior volunteer awards October 6. There were 28 nominees in nine categories and the recipients live in a variety of Saskatchewan communities.

The highlight of the October meeting was the announcement that Victims Services has approved a grant application for a Seniors Abuse and Neglect Victim's Response Line. This idea of a response line grew out of the work done over the last few years by the Elder Abuse Committee. The funding meant SSM was able to hire Dianne Barrow as a Research Project Co-ordinator to oversee the work required to set up this response line.

Other items of interest include the following:

- The Advocacy Committee will be conducting a number of forums throughout the province during February and March, 2014. The focus will be on housing, long term care and homecare.
- 211 Saskatchewan is an initiative of the United Way Saskatoon and Area and the United Way Regina. The Boards have committed three year funding for the program's website and database. The vision is "to be THE provider of real time

community information and referral in Saskatchewan" and their mission is "to strengthen communities by effectively connecting people with appropriate information and services". The website is www.sk.211.ca. If the funding becomes available, they will proceed with a phone system.

- Rosemary Flaman was hired as the new SSM Program Coordinator.
- SSM President, Betty Pickering, and Executive Director, Holly Schick, continue to meet regularly with personnel from Saskatchewan Health.

- The Christmas open house is planned for Thursday, December 5 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the SSM headquarters in Regina and everyone is welcome.
- The SSM member organization consultation will be postponed until February 11, 2014. Three people from each organization will be invited plus the SSM Board and Staff.
- The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, February 12, 2014.

For more information about SSM visit the website:
www.skseiorsmechanism.ca

Advocacy

Margaret Martin

The Advocacy Committee recommended and the STS Executive approved the rewording of the following two resolutions that were passed at AGM 2013. These will be forwarded to SSM to seek their support as well.

D 1.

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS request that SSM encourage the Government of Saskatchewan to provide a Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit for seniors.

C 10.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan request SSM urge the Government

of Saskatchewan to develop plans to expand and improve Seniors Home Care Programs and Seniors Home Support Programs to assist seniors to remain in their homes.

As a result of the C10 resolution the Committee recommended that a letter of congratulations be sent to the Government of Saskatchewan in response to the recent Provincial Speech from the Throne noting the additional funds promised for Seniors Home Care Programs and Seniors Home Support Programs. We are requesting the details of how these funds will be distributed.



Upcoming Events

Recreational Activities Participation STS Style . . .

Bowling

(please note corrected information)

Date: May 1-2, 2014

Host: Moose Jaw Chapter

Contact: Richard Towriss

Phone: 1-306-692-2562

Email: richtowriss@hotmail.com

Contact: Elaine Parsons

Phone: 1-306-692-4634

Email: elaineparsons@hotmail.com

Curling

2014 Host: Prince Albert Chapter

Fishing

Host needed

Golf

Date: June 9-10, 2014

Host: Humboldt Chapter

Place: Humboldt Golf Club

Contact: Carol Oleksyn

Phone: 1-306-682-2862

Email: carololeksyn@sasktel.net

Stitch 'N Quilt

Host Needed

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.

Saskatchewan Senior Fitness Association (SSFA)

The Saskatchewan Senior Fitness Association (SSFA) is holding the Saskatchewan 55+ Games in Humboldt in 2014. Curling will be March 19-21, 2014, and the remaining activities will be July 8-10, 2014, all in Humboldt. Competitors may choose from almost 20 different activities ranging from poetry writing, contract bridge, and Scrabble to golf, swimming, and track and field. Some of the events require playoffs at the district level while others are direct entry to the provincial games. Gold medal winners at the provincial level have the opportunity to advance to the Canada 55+ Games being held August 27-30, 2014, in Strathcona County, Alberta. More information is available on the website www.ssfa.ca.

STS Provincial Bridge Tournament

On October 4-5, 2013, STS Midlakes Chapter members and their bridge partners gathered at the Davidson Senior Center to vie for the provincial trophies. The tournament began Friday with a social evening featuring entertainer Jim Cross followed by bridge. Gift certificates for high scores for the evening were presented to Jim Taylor, a member of the local bridge club and Larry Hall, a member of STS.

The formal tournament began on Saturday with a round robin format. Greetings and a formal welcome were delivered by Agnes Zeleny, President of STS Midlakes Chapter, host Diane Taylor and Jerry Mamer, a representative of the Provincial STS.

Following a hot turkey dinner, bridge continued culminating with presentation of medals and trophies. Jerry Mamer presented the STS provincial plaque and gold medals to Larry and Donna Hall of Regina Beach. Receiving the silver medals were Gordon and Diane Taylor of Davidson. Bronze medals were earned by Donna Whitta and Charlotte Klempp of Lumsden.



Individual High Score Trophy – Larry Hall (left) and Jerry Mamer (STS)



Gold Medals (l to r) – Donna and Larry Hall, Jerry Mamer (STS)



STS provincial plaque (l to r) – Donna and Larry Hall, Jerry Mamer (STS)



Silver Medals (l to r) – Gordon and Diane Taylor, Jerry Mamer (STS)



Bronze Medals (l to r) – Donna Whitta, Charlotte Klempp, Jerry Mamer (STS)

Superannuates Make a Difference

Maple Creek – Medicine Hat Chapter Volunteer Activities:

- Maple Creek and District Music Festival
- Organizing a “Greek Night” fundraiser for the new Integrated Healthcare Facility coming up on January 11, 2014
- Deliver “Meals on Wheel” for the month of October every year
- Volunteers collect for the Salvation Army Christmas Kettles program
- Selling 50/50 tickets at various retail outlets --- the funds go to the new Integrated Healthcare Facility Equipment Fund
- Some of our members organized a Senior Appreciation Tea at the Maple Creek Senior Centre in October 2013. Seniors over the age of 90 were recognized at this event.

Attention Superannuated Teachers

If you withdrew teaching services during a legal strike over the course of your career and as a consequence were required to delay your superannuation in order to accumulate additional contributory service, you may be entitled to a benefit from the Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation. Applications will be received until December 31, 2013.

For information, please request an information package from:

Todd Pearce, Administration/Governance
Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation
2317 Arlington Ave
Saskatoon SK S7J 2H8
Phone: 306-373-1660; 1-800-667-7762

Congratulations

Hazel Parker (STS member) of Lafleche, formerly of Moose Jaw celebrated her 94th birthday in August.

Rita Bouvier (Saskatoon Chapter) recipient of the Indspire Award, formerly the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, for her commitment to Aboriginal education.

Manitoba STS Members

For those members living in Winnipeg and surrounding areas who would be interested in the formation of an STS Chapter please contact Joseph Smith at 1-204-231-9562 or by email zadodz1@mymts.net.



Spotlight on Superannuates



Potashville Esterhazy STS celebrates 35 years

Local members of The Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan (STS), met at the Canalta Hotel in Esterhazy to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Potashville Esterhazy Chapter. The members and their guests enjoyed a superb evening of memories, speeches and fellowship, as they looked back upon the three and a half decades since the Chapter was founded.

Eunice Martin opened the meeting, and a moment of silence was requested for those members who have passed away over the years. Then Bea Twardzik discussed the

history of the Chapter before passing the podium to Walter Gorkoff who recounted some of the events the Chapter has been involved in.

The special guest speaker was then introduced, and he was no stranger to most of the gathering. President of the STS, Robert Wuschenny, interlaced his presentation about the benefits and successes of the STS with anecdotes and stories that solicited more than a few laughs from the audience.

Following the speeches, the cake was cut by Betty Willway, Mary

Norek and Edythe Cowan, and then it was time for the taking of a group picture. Thereafter, attendees mingled and enjoyed informal chatter and the snacks.

The STS provides a host of services and supports for superannuated teachers throughout the province. This organization of retired teachers is dedicated to promoting the welfare of all superannuated teachers and to maintaining the ties that bind them to fellow professionals. Congratulations to the local Chapter on achieving this milestone!



Potashville Esterhazy Superannuates

Check out our website at www.sts.sk.ca

From The Editor's Desk

Another successful Chapter Presidents' meeting has concluded. Good discussions, the meeting of new and old friends, and the sharing of information was on the agenda for the day.

A few reminders to our readers:

Nominations for Honorary Life Members need to be in to the STS Office before February 1, 2014.

Resolutions to be presented at AGM need to be into the Office by March 1, 2014, for publication in *Outreach*.

I am sitting here listening to Christmas carols – yes, I said Christmas carols! Thank goodness Halloween is over and now I can concentrate on Christmas – which I love. I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and everyone of you the very best of the Holiday Season, and I wish you many blessings for the New Year.

So until next year: "Today is a gift". Unwrap and enjoy!

Shirley

Notice:

The STS Office will be closed for the Christmas holidays from **December 20 at noon and re-opening January 6 at 8:30 a.m.**

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.

OUTREACH

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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

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Fax: 242-2538

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