

OUTREACH



To The Superannuated Teachers
of Saskatchewan

President's Report

Doug Haroldson

For many newly retired teachers this will be your first fall of not being involved in school registration, welcoming new students and attending inservice sessions. I hope your retirement will meet your expectations. If you are not a member of STS, I encourage you to join. More information regarding the STS is available by going to our website at www.sts.sk.ca or contacting the STS office at 306-373-3879. Membership in the STS is voluntary at an annual fee of \$30. I encourage you to seriously consider our Extended Health and Dental Plan. In order to have these benefits membership in STS is compulsory. In addition to STS membership, joining a local Chapter is very rewarding. The STS Provincial Organization is very dependent upon the strength and involvement of our Chapters.

Welcome to all new members to our organization. Special welcome to Don Gabel and Alan Laughlin who were elected to the STS Executive at the AGM in May. I hope you find it a rewarding experience, and I look forward to your involvement.

The STS is a policy driven organization. Resolutions from individuals and Chapters are dealt with at the AGM. Policy 3 in the *Policy Handbook* deals with

resolutions. Guideline 3 outlines the criteria and format of resolutions. Chapters or individuals do not have to wait for the resolution deadlines. Resolutions can be submitted to the STS office at any time.

The first fall Committee and Executive meetings were held September 23-25, 2014, in Saskatoon. A Retirement Lifestyle Planning Session was held on September 23. The STS and STF will be jointly presenting three sessions namely at Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Yorkton in March and April 2015. It is hoped that these sessions will present a holistic approach to retirement planning. More details will be available as planning proceeds.

The STS is a local association of the STF. As such our eight STS councillors attended the STF Special Meeting of Council held in Saskatoon on September 27 dealing with collective bargaining. Our councillors will also be attending the STF Councillor Conference October 30 - November 1, 2014. In addition to these meetings the President and Vice-President attended an STF local presidents' meeting on September 12, 2014. I also attended the STF Local Bargaining Symposium on September 13 in Saskatoon. The

Symposium provided me with some understanding of STF local associations and local bargaining.

Maxine Stinka, STS Vice-President, is the Chairperson of the Budget, Finance and Audit Committee. Her report is included in this issue of *Outreach*.

Robert Wuschenny, Past President, is the Chairperson of the Group Benefits Committee. Our Group Benefits Plan is performing well. A

Attention Chapter Presidents

Nominate Honorary Life Members

Nominations for Honorary Life Memberships must be submitted to the STS Office by February 1, 2015. 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.

more detailed report is in this issue of *Outreach*.

The Chapter Presidents' Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 29, 2014. I urge all Chapter Presidents, or a representative to attend. This meeting is important for distributing information, sharing ideas and networking. The Chapter Presidents play an important role in the STS. Strong vibrant Chapters are a key part of the STS.

The Provincial Executive members liaise with the Chapters. Each

Executive member is responsible for specific Chapters.

As President I look forward to visiting Chapters. I presently have several booked for September, October and November. If you would like me to visit your Chapter please call me at 306-662-3004 or (cell) 306-662-8284 or email me at doug.haroldson@gmail.com

I hope you are having an enjoyable and rewarding retirement. I look forward to working on your behalf for the coming year.

ACER-CART

George Georget

ACER-CART has been invited by the Canadian Teachers' Federation to participate in a two-day meeting on October 4, 5 entitled CAMP VOX which will consider best practice for effective campaigns i.e., advocacy work. This two-day training will invite participants to establish goals, develop campaign strategies and tactics, and to strengthen the necessary campaign skills in order to implement successful campaigns. This event will strengthen the collaborative work between active and retired teachers with regards to advocacy including the important work facing both groups prior to and during the next Federal Election. Member Associations like the STS and its Chapters are invited to consider how best to be involved in the election and what is important to teachers in retirement. This has been a focus of ACER-CART, and it will invite and facilitate the critical involvement of its member organizations and the engagement of Chapter members at the local level.

Annual General Meeting

Elaine Broughton and Joyce Hoffman

The 2015 Annual General Meeting will be held in Saskatoon at the Travelodge Hotel from Tuesday, May 12 to Thursday May 14, 2015.

The committee reviewed the 173 evaluations received from the 2014 AGM. Responses were very positive. Committee members are pursuing some of the numerous suggestions for Interest Sessions

and Entertainment included in the evaluations. Thank you to all who completed the evaluation.

The goals of the AGM Planning Committee are to present a quality AGM that keeps in touch with membership, to keep costs within budget and to respond to suggestions and concerns expressed in the AGM evaluations.

Advocacy

Robert Wuschenny

The Advocacy Committee adopted the following goals for 2014-15:

1. To examine the guidelines in STS Policy and the role of the Committee
2. To identify and monitor ongoing issues that may affect the membership
3. To create and foster better relationships with other seniors' organizations in Saskatchewan
4. To collaborate with ACER-CART

and SSM to provide leadership on issues that could impact our membership

5. To continue to foster good relationships with our educational partners

In light of a Federal election in the not too distant future, the Advocacy Committee wishes to identify issues that may affect seniors, and thus, our membership. This will also

entail researching party platforms to ascertain how these may impact our members. In addition, the Committee invites input from STS members in helping to identify issues pertinent to superannuates. Individuals may submit issues and concerns directly to the STS Office. Issues may also be identified at the Chapter level and Chapter Presidents may bring them to the Presidents' Meeting on October 29, 2014.

Group Benefits

Robert Wuschenny

The Group Benefits Committee adopted the following goals for 2014-15:

1. To closely monitor the Group Benefits Plan and 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

The Committee also reviewed the Claims Experience reports for the Extended Health and Dental Plan for the period ending August 2014 and the Claims Analysis for August 2013-August 2014. Saskatchewan Blue Cross representatives were in attendance to provide information and answer questions.

Our Committee also addressed two 2014 AGM resolutions: Resolution A5, Be it Resolved that the STS attempt to negotiate an increase to the current maximum of \$1700.00 per year for drug coverage with Saskatchewan Blue Cross for the STS Extended Health and Dental Plan.

The Committee recommended to the Executive an increase to a maximum of \$2000 per year. The Executive accepted the recommendation to raise the maximum coverage to \$2000 per year, effective January 1, 2015.

With respect to Resolution A16, Be it Resolved that the STS Provincial Executive investigate the possibility of including the shingles vaccine as a part of the next negotiations of the Extended Health and Dental Plan with Saskatchewan Blue Cross, it

should be noted that the shingles vaccine is not on the Saskatchewan Formulary. Since STS Policy has been not to deviate from the Formulary, the Committee did not recommend action at this time but will continue to monitor and seek further information on this issue.

Reminders to all STS members include:

1. Status and/or contact changes from STS members must be sent to the STS office.
2. For travel beyond 65 days, STS members of the Extended Health Plan should purchase top-up

insurance. Since there are different eligibility requirements for top-up insurance, members must contact Saskatchewan Blue Cross or another travel provider to inquire about purchasing top-up insurance.

Once again, we remind Group Benefit Plan members to take along your Saskatchewan Blue Cross membership card when travelling outside your province of residence. The back of the membership card includes the telephone number to contact in case of an emergency while travelling.

Budget, Finance and Audit

Maxine Stinka

The Committee met with Curt Wagner, an auditor from Deloitte, who went through the STS financial statements and the STS Extended Health Fund audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2014. Both were reviewed and approved by the committee. The funds are in very good financial positions with the STS Operating Fund showing a surplus of \$54,806 and the Contingency Fund a balance of \$833,664. All reserves for the Extended Health Fund are full. Copies of the audited financial statement will be distributed to Chapter Presidents and provided at the Annual General Meeting in May.

The Executive also voted to transfer \$22,000 from the Operations Reserve Fund to the Contingency Fund as per STS policy (Guideline 9.12).

STS membership as of September 24, 2014, is 10,565.

Goals of the Committee were discussed and the following were accepted as goals for 2014-15:

1. To create the 2015-16 budget.
2. To continue to monitor the 2014-15 budget.
3. To provide information to members regarding the pension plans.
4. To improve members' knowledge base regarding the Extended Health and Dental Plan.
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*.

STS Resolutions

Mike Kaminski

The STS Resolutions Committee is pleased to report that the *Disposition of the 2014 Resolutions* is now available on the website.

In addition, the Committee encourages all Chapter Presidents to direct their members' attention to the importance of resolutions for the operation of STS as a member-driven organization. To that end we invite Chapters to begin considering drafting resolutions for submission. The earlier resolutions are drafted, the better they are researched and the more easily they are processed for the AGM. Please refer to Policy 3 page 17 of the *Policy Handbook*.

Retirement Lifestyles

Shirley Henderson

The Committee met for a full day on September 23. We have many new members in the group so the morning was spent reviewing the presentations done in the past covering the headings of: introduction, transition, vision of retirement, STS organization; STS Group Benefits, finances and "Just In Case" file.

The afternoon was spent looking at improvements, additions, deletion of items and clarification on others. A PowerPoint presentation accompanies each of the sections described above when a seminar is given.

Milton Block is the STF liaison and he was with us for the day. The STF

for this year will still be presenting the Pre-Retirement Seminars dealing with the financial aspect of retirement with some input by the STS about the organization and the Group Benefit Plan. The STF supports our presentations for the holistic view of retirement through our Retirement Lifestyles workshops.

This year we hope to do three presentations – Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Yorkton. These will be near the end of March and/or beginning of April.

Please spread the word to the active teachers. More information will be published in the *STF Bulletin* and *Outreach*.

Support Services

Calvin Bachmeier

Our Committee met on September 24, 2014. There are several important developments that teachers should consider.

Sunil Pandila has been engaged to update and monitor the website. We feel that the website should always be as current as possible, because there is nothing more frustrating than to find that information and links are no longer valid. Since he is a member of our Provincial Executive he is readily available if changes or updates have to be made. He will also be sensitive to the concerns of teachers.

You should pay particular attention to a new link which has been added to our website. The website is sk.211.ca. It contains information on a number of topics. One of the advantages of this website is that it groups topics regionally. For example if you searched seniors' housing and you were near Prince Albert it would tell you what is available in that geographic region. This could save you a lot of time on the computer. The funding for this website is not permanent so please check out the website and if you find it useful, please contact them and let them know you found their website valuable. The website is funded by the United Way. Its role is to help you find the right community or social services.

"What's New" continues on the website. It changes monthly and features an article of interest to superannuated teachers.

This is the time of year that Chapters are planning their activities for the year. If you would like to sponsor a program which would be of value to your Chapter members, please consider the Chapter Support Program. The application form is only one page long, so it is not time consuming. If two or more Chapters want to go together to sponsor an event additional funds are available.

Outreach

Joyce Hoffman

The *Outreach* Committee would like to thank our members for submitting articles for **Spotlight on Superannuates** and **Superannuates Make a Difference**. Due to the increase in mailing costs, please consider receiving your *Outreach* on-line, rather than as a paper copy. If you wish to receive email notification when *Outreach* is posted on the STS website, please email your request to the STS at sts@sts.sk.ca

Secondly, if there are two copies of *Outreach* arriving in your mail and you only require one copy, please contact the STS Office at sts@sts.sk.ca.

Notice from the Office:

As passed at the 2014 AGM there is a new formula for calculating Chapter rebates. Please keep this in mind when submitting membership fees for STS.

- Less than 50 members rebate of \$10 per member;
- 50 - 100 members rebate of \$9 per member;
- Greater than 100 members rebate of \$8 per member

STS email address:
sts@sts.sk.ca

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

Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism

Mike Kaminski

SSM held its first new Board orientation meeting in Regina on September 10. Much time was spent with the Board orientation for the coming year. Committees are being named for functions and programs. A motion was passed which will require staff and the Executive Director to provide a Police Record check. A Conflict of Interests Policy is being reviewed to determine if such a tool is for the Board.

SSM will be contracting with Linda Anderson to pull together the resources in a binder in regards to the Age Friendly/Elder Abuse Free Communities project. SUMA and

SSM are in the process of finalizing a partnership agreement. November 13 is tentatively scheduled as the date for the next member consultation meeting.

Office and Staffing

Fred Herron

The STS welcomes MJ Krips as Office Assistant. MJ joined the office staff on September 1.



STS Executive 2014-15

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



Upcoming Events

Recreational Activities Participation STS Style . . .

Bowling

Date: April 30-May 1, 2015
Host: Saskatoon Chapter
Contact: Rick Murza
Phone: 306-374-6323
Email: ramurza@shaw.ca
or stellashulhan@yahoo.ca

Fishing

Host needed for 2015

Bridge

Host needed for 2014 and 2015.

Golf

Host needed for 2015.

Curling

Date: November 3-5, 2014
Host: Prince Albert Chapter
Contact: Merv Wiesner
Phone: (h) 306-922-4444
or (c) 306-961-2473
Email: mj4.wiesner@sasktel.net
(Please note corrected email address)

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 2015 Bowling Registration Form

**Eastview Bowl – 2929 Louise St., Saskatoon, SK
April 30 – May 1, 2015**

Mail entries to: STS Bowling 2015 c/o Rick Murza
32 Leyden Crescent, Saskatoon SK S7J 2S4
Phone: 306-374-6323
Email: ramurza@shaw.ca or stellashulhan@yahoo.ca

- **Registration Deadline** is Wednesday, April 8, 2015.
- Limit – 80 bowlers.
- Register as a full team, partial team, or as an individual.

Tournament Fee:	_____ X \$69 = \$ _____
Extra banquet tickets	_____ X \$22 = \$ _____
Extra lunch tickets	_____ X \$11 = \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED	= \$ _____

NB: Make cheques payable to STS Saskatoon Chapter

Team Contact Person: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

STS Provincial Golf Tournament 2014

The Humboldt and District Chapter of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan was pleased to host the 2014 STS Golf Tournament at the Humboldt Golf Club on June 9-10, 2014.

There were 67 participants for the Saskatchewan Scramble on the first day. Following the Scramble golfers and guests enjoyed a banquet at the Humboldt Golf Club and then were treated to fabulous entertainment by the Little German Band.

The second day was the start of the medal play round and at the conclusion of play prizes were awarded in each flight.

Senior Men's Winner: Germaine Dauk

Men's Winner: George Cornwell

Senior Women's Winner: Sylvie Francoeur

Women's Winner: Jodi Bruce

The Tournament Committee wishes to thank all who braved the elements to participate and all who helped make this event a success.

Spotlight on Superannuates



Richard Towriss (Moose Jaw Chapter)

Submitted by Adele Owatz

Richard (Rich) Towriss exemplifies a community volunteer, parent, husband and friend. He has been a member of the Moose Jaw Chapter of the STS since retiring from the Moose Jaw Public School Division in 1998. Within our Chapter Rich has held the position of Treasurer for six years, also volunteering as treasurer for both the Provincial Golf and Bowling Tournaments held in Moose Jaw. He has attended several leadership workshops in Saskatoon, sharing that knowledge with our Chapter.

Within the community Rich has volunteered with the Early Bird Lions Club for over 25 years, serving as President and Treasurer for several terms as well as deliver-

ing Meals On Wheels for that organization. On behalf of Hunger in Moose Jaw, Rich delivers school lunches to several local schools. When his children were at home, he was President of the Sunningdale Community Association, Boy Scout Parent Chairperson, boys' baseball coach, girls' fastball coach and, as well, held a position on the Senior Baseball Executive.

Much of Rich's life has revolved around his children and their ball careers as he continues to support his adult daughter and his grandson, by watching their games and cheering them on.

Bowling is now a priority for Rich and his wife, Sandra. They have been

bowling very successfully for over 40 years. They have participated in the STS Provincial Tournaments held throughout the province. Both are also superior fans for our local and provincial teams, having held season tickets for many years to the Saskatchewan Roughriders, the University of Saskatchewan Huskies and the Moose Jaw Warriors. When these games fall on the same day you will see the Towrisses traveling from Moose Jaw to Saskatoon to Regina, not wanting to miss any of these games.

In conclusion, we are fortunate to have Rich, Sandra and their children, spouses and now six, soon to be seven, grandchildren as a part of our community.

Congratulations to

Mindy Anderson, recipient of the University of Regina STS Scholarship; Judy Warick, Saskatoon Chapter member, was inducted into the Canadian Masters Athletic Hall of Fame; and, Birthday Greetings to:

- Hazel Parker, Moose Jaw Chapter (95)
- Edna Burns, Moose Jaw Chapter (90)
- Madge Bennett, Moose Jaw Chapter (99)
- Gladys Towriss, Moose Jaw Chapter (101)
- Edythe Cowan, Mainline Chapter (90)

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, 2014.

For information, please request an information package from:

Todd Pearce, Administration/Governance
Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation
2317 Arlington Ave, Saskatoon SK S7J 2H8

Our Apologies

Our apologies to the Regina Chapter. The following names should have been included in the 2014 Chapter Awards list: **Cheryl Scherle** and **Ed Stelmaschuk**.

The following picture of **Eileen Butler**, the Spotlight on Superannuates, May-June issue was omitted.



Our apologies to Eileen and the Battlefords and District Chapter.

From The Editor's Desk

Welcome to all new superannuates. After each Executive meeting the *Outreach* is sent out. You can view it earlier on the STS website by requesting notification when the edition is ready. In each edition the Chairs of the various committees will report on the happenings of the STS.

Other features in each issue (depending on available space) are the following:

Spotlight on Superannuates tells a story about someone who has contributed to the STS and education or tells about a group of people doing something interesting and who are 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, or concern or 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 the discretion of the editorial staff.

If someone in your Chapter has reached a milestone birthday (90 or older), please provide his/her name to the STS office so he/she can be acknowledged in *Outreach*.

"Three things in life that can destroy a person: anger, pride, and unforgiveness."

Shirley

STS Executive 2014-15

President/Councillor

Doug Haroldson,
Maple Creek-Medicine Hat Chapter

Vice-President/Councillor

Maxine Stinka, Assiniboine Chapter

Past-President/Councillor

Robert Wuschenny, Regina Chapter

Executive Secretary

Fred Herron, Saskatoon Chapter

ACER-CART Representative

George Georget, Saskatoon Chapter

Councillors:

Calvin Bachmeier

Maple Creek-Medicine Hat Chapter

Joyce Hoffman

Swift Current Chapter

Mike Kaminski

Assiniboine Chapter

Sunil Pandila

Moose Jaw Chapter

Helen Sukovieff

Regina Chapter

Members-At-Large:

Elaine Broughton

Saskatoon Chapter

Judy Buzowetsky

Weyburn Chapter

Don Gabel

Wakaw Chapter

Shirley Henderson

Prince Albert Chapter

Alan Laughlin

The Battlefords and District Chapter

Roger Marchand

South Central Chapter

Kate McCorriston

Nipawin 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.

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Email: sts@sts.sk.ca

Fax: 306-242-2538

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