

# OUTREACH



To The Superannuated Teachers  
of Saskatchewan

## President's Report

Doug Haroldson

During September and October, I had the opportunity to visit nine Chapters in Saskatchewan. In each of the Chapters there is a core leadership group that is committed to providing service to the retirees in the Chapter. Special thanks go to their leaders. Every effort is made by local Executives to distribute information and seek feedback. Many of the Chapters use newsletters, email, mail, and telephone to distribute information. Some of the Chapters support and show appreciation to teachers through "Teacher Appreciation Day" and involvement in teacher induction ceremonies. Service to the community is an important priority of all the Chapters I visited. A few examples of such service are Meals on Wheels, birthday cakes to seniors in homes, financial assistance to a facility, catering to adults with special needs, and various charities and scholarships. These Chapters confirmed the fact that "once a teacher, always a teacher" means our members are interested in working with people for the betterment of all.

Approximately 34 Chapter Presidents or designates attended the Chapter Presidents' Meeting on October 29. This meeting provided an opportunity for receiving information, discussing issues, and initiating the

discussion of federal election issues.

As the STS is a policy-driven organization, ongoing development of resolutions is very important. The deadline for resolutions to be printed in *Outreach* and circulated is March 1, 2015. The Disposition of Resolutions dealt with at last year's AGM is available on the website or from your Chapter President.

The financial statement of the Operating Fund for the first three months from July to September is favourable. Revenues and expenses are both up slightly. However two expenditures (Chapter Rebates and Annual General Meeting) are not made in the first three months. The Extended Health and Dental Plan has a surplus after the completion of the second year of a three-year contract. The audited financial statements for 2014, are available from your Chapter President.

The Advocacy Committee recently received concerns about the potential availability of private MRIs in Saskatchewan. The Committee discussed and made recommendations to the Executive at their meeting on October 28. Based on the Committee recommendation and reference to our Policy Eight regarding Health Care, a letter outlining our concerns and

questions was drafted and sent to the Honourable Dustin Duncan, Minister of Health.

Our present contract for the Extended Health and Dental Plan with Saskatchewan Blue Cross ends on June 30, 2015. We are presently seeking suggestions for proposed improvements that may be included in the next three-year contract. It is hoped that this agreement will be nearly finalized during the first quarter of 2015.

Plans for a holistic approach to Retirement Lifestyle Planning by the STS and STF are proceeding well.

### Please note

The STS office will be closed **November 27-28** to allow for the relocation to the new office space. The office will reopen **December 1 at 2311 Arlington Avenue (east entrance of the TCU Financial Building)**

Phone Number: 306-373-3879  
Email: sts@sts.sk.ca  
Fax: 306-242-2538

**The STS office will be closed for the holidays at noon on December 19 and will reopen January 5, 2015.**

Final plans regarding presentation teams will be made in the beginning of 2015. The presentations planned for 2015 are in North Battleford on March 7, Yorkton on March 21, and Moose Jaw on March 28. We encourage Chapters to promote these presentations to future retirees.

The STS membership as of October 29, 2015 was 10,590.

The eight STF Councillors representing the STS attended the STF Councillor Conference held on October 30-November 1 in Saskatoon.

## Advocacy

**Robert Wuschenny**

In light of recent media news that the Provincial Government has received an offer to establish a private MRI service in the province, the Advocacy Committee recommended that a letter be sent to the appropriate ministry requesting information on the number of MRIs in the province as well as the number of technicians available to operate MRIs. In addition, the letter

More details are included in the Councillors Report in this same issue.

The Prince Albert Chapter hosted an excellent curling bonspiel on November 3-5. Special thanks to Merv Wiesner and his Committee for a job well done.

As the Holiday Season approaches, I wish each one of you and your family a Joyous Holiday and prosperous, healthy New Year. I look forward to serving you in the new year.

reiterates STS Policy in favour of equal accessibility for all residents in the province.

With a Federal election on the horizon, the Advocacy Committee is interested in noting issues or concerns that may be of interest to our members. Please forward any issues, concerns or items for consideration to the STS office.

## STF Councillors

**Robert Wuschenny**

The STF Councillor Conference was held in Saskatoon October 29 to November 1, 2014. Our eight STF Councillors attended. The first day was devoted to governance renewal and draft bylaws as well as an update on provincial negotiations and progress on teacher regulation.

Councillors were also privileged to hear Gary Aldridge speak on advocacy.

In his address to Council, Education Minister Don Morgan announced an additional 4.6 million dollars to be allocated to classroom resources and support. Councillors also had an opportunity to enjoy lunch and conversation with guest MLAs and educational leaders.

The remainder of Council was an opportunity for councillors to discuss and provide feedback on various STF draft policies.

# ACER-CART

**George Georget**

During the recent Chapter Presidents' Meeting on October 29, an invitation was issued to Chapter Presidents and their Chapter membership to consider the following questions and submit responses and other relevant comments to the Advocacy Committee in care of the STS office (sts@sts.sk.ca):

What are the expectations of STS members regarding the next parliament and government and opposition? (i.e., issues or concerns that need addressing from the perspective of retired teachers.)

What is your preferred approach to contact each candidate in your constituency?

Who is willing to volunteer to assist your Chapter in fulfilling this advocacy objective?

Is there a potential in your Chapter's area to collaborate with other groups advocating for similar goals? If so, please specify.

Please note that the suggested timeline described for responses to be submitted has been extended to the end of January 2015. ACER-CART will be inviting its member associations, i.e., STS and Chapters, to share this feedback and to assist in ensuring that all candidates in each federal constituency for each federal political party will receive a copy of the elections pamphlet that ACER-CART is preparing to ensure that the advocacy directed by member associations and their members is clearly amplified during the election campaign.

# Annual General Meeting

Elaine Broughton and Joyce Hoffman

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

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

Information about the AGM will be sent to Chapter Presidents early in

February 2015. Please have your delegate list to the STS office by April 1, 2015. 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, of portion thereof."

For delegates attending the AGM, 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 requested to inform the STS office if they wish to have these meals. This is necessary for the AGM Planning Committee and the catering service at the Travelodge Hotel.

## McDowell Foundation

Elaine Broughton

At the recent Chapter Presidents' Meeting on October 29, Lanette Kuchenski, Manager, Dr. Stirling McDowell Foundation, presented Certificates of Appreciation to Chapters who had made contributions to the McDowell Foundation for Research Into Teaching for 2013-14. Mainline Chapter, Weyburn Chapter and the Provincial STS were also awarded certificates.



Back row (from left) Dave Unraw (Weyburn Chapter), Doug Haroldson (STS President), Annette Fahl (Unity Chapter), Marv Mackie (Wadena Chapter), Bert Gordon (Prince Albert Chapter), Sandra Lewis (Last Mountain Chapter).

Front row (from left) Elaine Broughton (STS Executive, McDowell Foundation Board), Karen Jordan (Carrot River Valley (Melfort & District Chapter), Lanette Kuchenski (Manager, McDowell Foundation)



Attending the Chapter Presidents' meeting Ken Moore (Victoria Chapter), Shirley Henderson (Provincial Executive and liaison) and Lyall Einhorn (Okanagan Chapter).

## Group Benefits

Robert Wuschenny

The Group Benefits Committee is pleased to report that our Extended Health and Dental Plan is doing well in terms of financial returns. The plan is experiencing steady growth in membership.

As this is the third-year of our Extended Health and Dental Plan contract with Saskatchewan Blue Cross, negotiations for a new contract will commence shortly. The STS welcomes suggestions for consideration in a new contract. Please send your suggestions to the STS office.

# Resolutions

Mike Kaminski

The Resolutions Committee would like to remind Chapters and their members that the STS is a resolutions-driven organization. Resolutions passed by the Annual General Meeting become either short-term action directives or policy statements of the organization.

To effect this, STS invites members to draft resolutions as soon as possible, but before March 1. Use the *Policy Handbook* page 31, Guideline 3 – Criteria for the Format of Resolutions to ensure that resolutions are well-written. Late resolutions will be processed by the Resolutions Committee before being forwarded to the AGM.

## 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  
Ph: 306-373-1660; 1-800-667-7762

# Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism

Mike Kaminski

SSM has experienced a number of events – some very enjoyable and one, quite sad. On October 5 the fifth Annual Celebration of Seniors Awards was held in Regina. Jim Hopson, the guest speaker, addressed the 28 nominees, family, friends and guests. Twelve awards were presented to seniors and one special award to Betty Pickering (in her absence), SSM president, in recognition of her leadership. Unfortunately, since then she has passed

away and Robert Wuschenny, SSM Vice-President, has been serving as the acting president.

SSM has a number of ongoing activities. Age Friendly Communities is one which was held in Yorkton and is scheduled for Weyburn and Moose Jaw in the next few months. The SSM Board meeting on November 12 will be followed by a Member Consultation meeting. It is hoped that the

# Retirement Lifestyles

Shirley Henderson

The Committee will be presenting three Retirement Lifestyles Seminars in March 2015:

North Battleford . . . . March 7  
Yorkton . . . . . March 21  
Moose Jaw . . . . . March 28

Please let active teachers with whom you are in contact know about these dates. Additional information will be upcoming.

## Nominations

Robert Wuschenny

If you or someone you know in your Chapter has interest in the workings of the Provincial Executive please consider running for office and submit a nomination to the STS office.



## 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

(Please visit the STS website  
www.sts.sk.ca for the registration  
form and more information)

### Bridge

Host needed

### Fishing

Host needed

### Golf

Date: June 22-23, 2015

Host: Swift Current Chapter

Place: Elmwood Golf Course,  
Swift Current

Contact: Beryl Robinson

Email: bcrobinson@sasktel.net

### Kaiser

Date: date to be announced

Host: Wakaw Chapter

### Stitch 'N Quilt

Host needed

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*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.*

### Stitch 'N Quilt Retreat 2014

Mary Field and Adeline Wuschenny, Co-Chairs



Thirty-two passionate quilters enjoyed three days of quilting instruction, sharing of ideas and renewing friendships at the 10th Annual Stitch 'N Quilt Retreat on October 6-8, 2014, hosted by the STS Regina Chapter. Twenty-three attendees were STS members.

Following a group dinner on Monday evening, participants shared projects from the past ten years in a "Show and Share" conducted by co-chair, Mary Field. Past-President, Robert Wuschenny, brought greetings on behalf of the Provincial STS Executive. STS Executive member, Judy Buzowetsky, stopped by, as well as, several Regina Chapter members to see the projects.

The Stitch 'N Quilt Retreat was an enjoyable event and easy to organize.

## Congratulations

The following STS members were nominated for the SSM Celebrating Seniors Volunteer Awards

Elsie Mironuck – Centenarian Category

Phyllis Jones – Education Category

Rick Rohatyn – Fitness Category

Ruth Robillard – Nominated and winner of the Contributions to  
a First Nations or Métis Community

# Spotlight on Superannuates



## Former Teachers Enjoyed 55+ Saskatchewan Senior Fitness Provincial and Canada 55+ Games

Submitted by Judy Warick

Humboldt hosted the SSFA Provincial 55+ Games July 8-10, 2014. Sixteen Saskatoon Track and Field athletes, many of them teachers, brought back over 40 medals for top three placings, though the weather was hot and the mosquitos plentiful. The host committee did a wonderful job of treating athletes to several breakfasts, a delicious banquet and a closing day luncheon. It was a thrill to see many of our people who had not competed in years perform to new personal best performances. Events we competed in were Discus, Shot Put, Javelin, Long Jump, Triple Jump, 100m, 200m, 400m, 1500m, and 3000m.

This goes to prove the old adage "You're never too old to learn".

Eleven of this same group went on to the Canada 55+ Games in Sherwood Park, Alberta, August 28-30. Over 20 athletic and artistic events were staged. Saskatchewan placed second in Canada, thanks

largely to 34 medals earned by our track team. Several set Canadian records. Former teacher, Art Battiste broke the National 70+ discus record.

These "young" men and women had trained hard twice a week from April til the end of August. Everyone found the experience rewarding and exhilarating, both physically and socially.

The Saskatchewan Senior Fitness 55+ Games event is held in a different city every two years and is

followed by the Canada 55+ Games during the same summer. There are over 20 events to choose from. Anyone interested can search "Sask Senior Fitness Association" for details or [www.ssfa.ca](http://www.ssfa.ca).

The following is a photo of the Saskatoon Track and Field group. The former teachers are noted.

Anyone wishing more information on Senior fitness events can call me at 306-373-3604 or email me at [judywarick@sasktel.net](mailto:judywarick@sasktel.net)



Front L. to R. Ev Robson, Jean Healey (teacher), Angeline Battiste (teacher), Vi Mizuno, Deb Heit, Mary Ore, Joanne Philips, Judy Warick (teacher)

Back L. to R. Garry Gentle, Art Battiste (teacher), Alf Healey (teacher), Massey Mizuno, Dale Ross, Wayne McLaren, Brian Berquist, Jerry Heit, Roland Delhomeau

## Superannuates Make A Difference – Carol Stevenot

The Battlefords and District Chapter of the STS hosted a 55-ALIVE Workshop on September 20, 2014, through the Saskatoon Safety Council. We invited other seniors' groups and were very pleased to have thirty-seven people, both superannuates and other seniors, in attendance. The presentation was made by volunteers, Retired Staff

Sergeant, Ron Lawford (RCMP) and Lorraine Bunyan (retired teacher). Much information was provided about best practices concerning our driving habits. As well, guidelines were shared to increase your awareness and help you recognize the need to alter your driving habits (quit driving after dark; make several right turns to avoid left turns,...) or discontinue driving

altogether as vision, hearing and reflexes diminish with age and/or health conditions. All questions were welcomed. Along with wallet-sized certificate and certificates to frame, we received coupons for free hearing tests. Special thanks to Ruby Rafuse who provided a variety of goodies, including homemade doughnuts, for our coffee breaks.

# Saskatchewan Retired Teachers and the Canada 55+ Games

Maxine Stinka

One purpose of the STS is to promote the well-being of superannuated teachers in Saskatchewan. Many retired teachers have continued to remain active physically and intellectually by becoming members of the Saskatchewan Senior Fitness Association (SSFA) and competing in 55+ games at all levels. SSFA has district committees in all areas of Saskatchewan who host annual competitions for those 55 and older in a variety of activities including poetry and short story writing, Kaiser, bridge, whist, cribbage, scrabble, darts, five-pin bowling, track and field, golf, curling, slo-pitch, hockey, swim-ming, pool, tennis, table tennis, and pickleball. Every two years there are provincial games and national games. This issue of *Outreach* includes an article about a group of Saskatoon track and field athletes, (including retired teachers) who competed at all three levels – district, provincial, and national. There were also many other retired teachers and/or their spouses from across Saskatchewan who qualified for the Canada 55+ Games held in Strathcona County, Alberta in August this year.

Although participants must pay their own expenses to travel to various communities for the event, many return year after year to join in the competition and camaraderie. This year there were 544 competitors at the SSFA Provincial Games and 295 competitors representing Saskatchewan at the Canada 55+ Games. The oldest medal winner was a 101 year old woman from Alberta who won silver in the javelin competition for women over 85. The next provincial games will be in North Battleford and the Canada 55+ Games in Brampton, Ontario, both in 2016.

Curling teams: Gold – Peterson 55+ mixed; Bronze – Bottcher 65+ mixed



Brian Peterson, Elaine Meachem, *Ivan & Gail Peterson*, Eleanor Murray, *Arnold Makowsky*, *Maxine Stinka*, *Murray Bottcher*. (Names in italics are those of retired teachers or spouses).

SSFA districts are the same as those for Sask Sport and are shown on the SSFA website – [www.ssfa.ca](http://www.ssfa.ca). Membership in the provincial organization is \$5/year (April 1 – March 31) plus an administration fee that helps the districts organize their local activities. Funding is also received from Saskatchewan

Lotteries through Saskatchewan Senior Mechanism. SSFA is always looking for new members so if you are interested or require more information, please check the website [www.ssfa.ca](http://www.ssfa.ca) or call provincial president Margaret Gailing-Stepp (306-842-4807). There are activities for all interests and all age groups 55 and over.

## Victoria Chapter Visit

John Cook of the Victoria Chapter, which was celebrating its 40th Anniversary in October was really impressed and honoured with Robert Wuschenny's visit and what he called his 'state of the union address'. We are also thankful that Mrs. Wuschenny accompanied her husband and brought greetings from the Regina Chapter. A very delightful time was spent with them at our meeting on the occasion of the STS Victoria Chapter's 40th Anniversary.



Front row: Elaine Zandee, Adeline Wuschenny, Robert Wuschenny, Marion Richards, John Cook  
Back row: Ken Moore, Jean Rongve, Warren Rongve, Dick Mooney, Adina Mooney, Marg Cook

## From The Editor's Desk

Another successful Chapter Presidents' meeting has concluded with good discussions, meeting of new and old friends, and sharing of information.

A few reminders to our readers:

- Nominations for Honorary Life Members need to be in to the STS office before February 1, 2015.
- Resolutions to be presented at AGM need to be in to the STS office by March 1, 2015, for publication in *Outreach*.
- As the holiday season is fast approaching let's say a prayer for the many men and women who are sacrificing so much for us to have peace and freedom.
- "Three things in life that are most valuable: love, family and friends, and kindness."

Shirley

## 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 this award, 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.

## 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 Saskatchewan Seniors' Drug Plan

If you are the primary plan holder of the STS Group Benefits Plan and are eligible for the Saskatchewan 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

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.

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