

OUTREACH



To The Superannuated Teachers
of Saskatchewan

President's Report

Doug Haroldson

As of December 1, 2014, the STS office moved to the TCU Financial Building at 2311 Arlington Avenue. The membership owes a vote of thanks to our staff for the efficiency in which the move was carried out. You are encouraged to visit the new office when you are in Saskatoon.

Special welcome to new retirees who joined us at the end of December. I hope that you have made arrangements to join our Extended Health and Dental Plan. Please remember that if you were under contract until the end of December you have a sixty day window to join the plan without medical evidence. In addition to joining the plan there are many other benefits to STS membership. Benefits include advocacy in such areas as provincial bargaining, representation at STF council, scrutiny of funding arrangements of pension plans, presentations to government on major issues and affiliation with other retiree groups.

Membership opportunities include Chapter meetings, recreation opportunities, leadership positions, and the STS newsletter, *Outreach*. Like any other organization, the more effort you put into it the more you will get out of it.

During November and December I visited four Chapters. One of the

Chapters recognized retirees who were members of the Chapter for twenty-five years. The members of all Chapters that I have visited are very active within their communities. A common challenge is the lack of involvement by young retirees. If Chapters are to remain strong, responsibilities for leadership must be shared.

The financial position of the STS remains healthy. Although there have been additional expenditures due to our move and an additional staff member, we are still striving to have a balanced budget this year. The first draft budget for 2015-16 provides a balanced budget with no fee increase. Both the Extended Health and Dental funds are operating at a surplus.

Our present contract for the Extended Health and Dental Plan with Saskatchewan Blue Cross ends on June 30, 2015. Thank you to Chapters and individual members for the suggestions for improvement in the plan. We are presently negotiating with Saskatchewan Blue Cross regarding the next three-year agreement. When negotiating a new agreement, we must carefully consider our first objective for benefit plans which states "To continue to provide affordable safety net Extended Health, Travel

and Dental Plans to eligible STS members". We are hoping to complete the next agreement by March 2015.

As introduced at the STS Presidents' Meeting, a few Chapters have already responded by noting issues or concerns relevant to the upcoming 2015 Federal election. Thanks to those who have responded and hopefully more will respond. The Advocacy Committee is in the process of categorizing the issues and concerns in the hope of

Cost of Living Adjustment

Effective January 1, 2015, retired teachers and beneficiaries receiving a pension from the Teachers Superannuation Plan (TSP) and the Saskatchewan Teachers Retirement Plan (STRP) will be paid a cost of living adjustment of 1.4 per cent.

For those individuals whose pension payments commenced during the 2014 calendar year, this increase will be pro-rated to reflect their retirement date.

providing assistance to Chapters and individuals when they meet various candidates.

The Honorable Dustin Duncan, Minister of Health, has responded to our letter regarding the potential availability of private MRIs in Saskatchewan addressing some of our concerns. A copy of the letter sent to and received from the Minister of Health is on the STS website.

Thank you to Chapters that have already sent in resolutions for the AGM. The deadline for resolutions to be printed in *Outreach* and circulated is March 1, 2015.

The presentation teams have been finalized for the Retirement Lifestyle Planning sessions scheduled in 2015 at North Battleford on March 7, Yorkton on March 21 and Moose Jaw

on March 28. The teams have done some preliminary planning regarding presentation responsibilities.

As President of a STF Local, I joined other STF Local Presidents in a meeting with the STF Executive on January 24.

The STS membership as of January 14, 2015, was 10,611.

Information regarding the STS AGM will be going out to Chapter Presidents in January. Please seek this information out if you are interested in attending the AGM.

I have had the opportunity to visit several Chapters and I am willing to visit others during February, March and April. 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.

Annual General Meeting

Elaine Broughton and Joyce Hoffman

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

Entertainment:

Tuesday evening we will be treated to the Little German Band and on Wednesday evening, Jeffery Straker.

Interest Sessions:

We will again offer five interest sessions on Wednesday afternoon. Delegates will attend three of the following:

1. Gardening
2. Public Library – online systems and book clubs
3. Active Living
4. Travel Tips
5. How to Choose a Financial Planner

Chapter Presidents:

You will soon receive a package of information from the STS Office. Please forward your list of delegates to the STS Office by April 1, 2015. The formula this year is the same as last year: 2 delegates for the first 60 paid members or portion thereof and one delegate for each additional 60 paid members or portion thereof.

Each delegate will receive a package of information in early April, after the STS office has received the list of delegates from the Chapter President.

A McDowell Foundation Raffle will again be held with fantastic prizes.

Congratulations

Happy 100th Birthday Della Bekker

(Born February 2, 1915)

After attending Normal School, Della started teaching at Wesson School, in 1934, when she was 18 years old. She taught grades one to eleven, in a one-room school, receiving a wage of \$426 for the year.

The following year, she found herself teaching grades one to ten at Pelletier School south of Gravelbourg. Della lived one mile from the school and naturally had to walk to and from school. Her wage improved to \$550 for the year.

From there, Della moved to Frenchville, located about 30 miles from Shaunavon, where she taught for eight years. Her starting wage was \$484 and eight years later, in 1945, she was paid \$1,030. After taking two years off, she went back teaching in Frenchville for the next two years.

Della took the next ten years off to raise her family. She then got a position in the village school where she ended up teaching grades four and five. Her beginning salary was \$4,000 and when she retired in 1975, her salary was a grand total of \$7,954.

At present, Della is doing well and enjoying living at Foyer d'Youville in Gravelbourg.

Support Services

Calvin Bachmeier

There has been a new link added to the STS website, 211 SASKATCHEWAN.

Members can obtain information about thousands of community and social services available throughout the province by clicking on 211 SASKATCHEWAN (www.sk.211.ca) which is supported by the United Way in Regina and Saskatoon. Since services are listed by both category and geographical location, it can provide a valuable supplement to the existing STS website. 211 SASKATCHEWAN can also be accessed through the "Links" section of the website www.sts.sk.ca.

Group Benefits

Robert Wuschenny

The Group Benefits Committee reviewed the Health and Dental Claims Experience Reports. Overall year-to-date figures are very positive in this, the third year of our current contract with Saskatchewan Blue Cross, our carrier. The Committee noted extensive use of the travel portion of the Plan.

Thanks to STS Chapters and individual members for your suggestions for items to include as we consider a new Health and Dental contract. Discussions on a new Group Benefits Agreement are currently taking place. Just a reminder, that in order to keep the Plan affordable, it is prudent to temper expectations. As always, we thank the membership for taking ownership of the Plan. This has allowed us to keep the Plan viable.

Information about the STS Group benefits Plan can be located on the STS website (www.sts.sk.ca) or by calling the STS Office at 306-373-3879.

STF Councillors

Robert Wuschenny

STS Councillors attended the STF Council on October 30 - November 1, 2014. Councillors devoted considerable time to discussion and feedback on Governance, Bylaws and STF Policies. Steps leading to Teacher Regulation were reviewed and Councillors were also updated

on Provincial Bargaining which is now in conciliation.

Minister of Education, the Honorable Don Morgan, addressed Council where he announced an additional 4.6 million dollars to be allocated to classroom support. Councillors also

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. The registration form is available on the STS website.

Nominations

Robert Wuschenny

Please consider letting your name stand for election to the STS Provincial Executive.

Please submit your name and short autobiography to the STS Office as soon as possible.

Candidates will be requested to present a short speech on Tuesday, May 12, 2015, at the STS AGM.

took the opportunity to advocate with members of the Provincial Legislature who were in attendance.

STS Councillors also presented a resolution which carried, that STS Councillors have access to the same information as other STF Councillors.

McDowell Foundation

Elaine Broughton

The McDowell Foundation is pleased to feature stories of current teacher-led action research through the “This is the Classroom” website. With support from the McDowell Foundation, teachers are conducting research into a wide range of issues of major importance to teaching and learning.

Scott Allen and a group of Saskatoon colleagues have embarked on a successful action research project funded by the McDowell Foundation, in which the group will explore how teachers can use graphic novels to improve engagement in student learning (particularly for English language arts classrooms).

With grant support from the McDowell Foundation, Dana Sanders and Tina Anderson developed a sixth component to the Daily 5 program they were already using to address language errors and strengthen French immersion students’ oral language skills.

An exciting McDowell Foundation research project for determining best practices in early reading intervention was carried out at Hepburn School by Barb Ludba, Corey Holowachuk and Diana Jemieff.

Tammy Boychuk, a grade four teacher, and Bing Cui, the resource room teacher, have been collaborat-

ing on a McDowell Foundation action research project focused on the teaching and learning of mathematics in a variety of ways. Boychuk and Cui wanted to improve students’ automaticity with mathematics in order to devote more attention to the conceptual understanding and application of mathematics principles.

Action research provides educators with opportunities to better understand, and therefore enhance their educational practices to improve learning for all students. Visit “www.thisistheclassroom.ca” and click on the teaching tab to read more about these and other teacher-led research projects supported by the McDowell Foundation.

McDowell Foundation thanks all donors and contributors who support our teaching and learning grant programs. With your support the Foundation will continue to inspire, support and provide guidance for teacher, classroom and school-based research.

For more information or to make a donation, contact:

Lanette Kuchenski
Manager, McDowell Foundation
2317 Arlington Ave
Saskatoon, SK S7J 2H8

Outreach

Joyce Hoffman

The *Outreach* Committee would like to continue to encourage members and Chapters to submit articles for the “Spotlight on Superannuates” and “Superannuates Make A Difference” and to encourage members to receive *Outreach* online. At present there are 975 members receiving it in this manner. If you wish to receive email notification when *Outreach* is available online, please email your request to the STS office at sts@sts.sk.ca.

Advocacy

Robert Wuschenny

Since the STS Chapter Presidents’ meeting on October 29, 2014, the Advocacy Committee has been engaged in collecting feedback from STS Chapters on seniors’ issues, concerns, and wishes in light of an upcoming federal election. Thanks to the Chapters that submitted responses. Chapters are encouraged to submit their concerns/issues as soon as possible but not later than February 15, 2015. The committee plans to compile the submissions and to distribute them for Chapter and individual use when an election is called.

Resolutions

Mike Kaminski

The Resolutions Committee would like to remind all STS members of the importance and need for resolutions. The STS is a membership driven organization directed by

policies formulated from resolutions passed at AGMs.

The Resolutions Deadline for submission is March 1, 2015. Late resolutions may be considered, but

will not receive the exposure of one submitted on time.

Refer to Guideline #3, page 31, of the policy Handbook for criteria in formatting resolutions.



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

Bridge

Host needed for 2015

Curling

Host needed for 2015

Fishing

Host needed for 2015

Golf

Date: June 22-23, 2015
Host: Swift Current Chapter
Place: Elmwood Golf Course,
Swift Current
Contact: Beryl Robinson
Email: bcrobinson@sasktel.net

Golf 2016

Date: June 20-21, 2016
Host: Weyburn Chapter
Contact: Dave Unraw
Phone: 306-842-7859
Email: unraw1234@hotmail.com

Provincial Curling

The Prince Albert Chapter hosted the Provincial Curling on November 3-5, 2014, which was held at the Prince Albert Golf and Curling Club.

This year's format was a four event bonspiel with all teams playing four games. Thank you to all of the teams that participated and to the organizing Committee who made everything run smoothly.



Champions

Left to right: Merv Wiesner, Garth Ward (Skip), Stan Marlin (Third), Ron Yaganiski (Second), Morris Kosman (Lead)

Kaiser

Host: Wakaw Chapter

Stitch 'N Quilt

Host needed for 2015

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.

Congratulations

Dwayne Johnson

A member of the Sturgis Chapter, Dwayne will be celebrating his 97th birthday in March. Dwayne still attends most meetings of the Chapter.

Superannuates Make a Difference

The Battlefords and District Chapter – Carol Stevenot

In October, The Battlefords and District Chapter invited Garth Wall, a local pharmacist, to discuss shingles and the treatments currently available, as well as answer questions about conditions and medications relevant to seniors. Besides the vaccine to prevent/reduce the severity of shingles, there is now a medication for people who develop shingles. It combats the condition IF received within 48 to 72 hours of onset of the discomfort/burning caused by shingles. This may actually mean that you can and should seek

treatment before the rash appears. Mr. Wall provided guidelines for taking medications in general, stressing the need for your doctor's input when you decide you no longer want to take or think you do not need to take a medication – do not just quit. Many medications may require you to be 'weaned' from them, and by ignoring that fact, individuals may suffer severe discomfort or problems such as a heart attack. Mr. Wall also shared a list of 14 situations wherein a pharmacist can now prescribe

medication for a patient so the patient does not have to wait until he/she is able to get a doctor's appointment. Acne and cold sore medications come to mind. He indicated that these pharmacist prescriptions would be treated as prescriptions for Income Tax purposes.

Chapter members were joined by other seniors from the community. Once again, thanks to Ruby Rafuse for providing treats to go with the coffee.

Regina Chapter – Adeline Wuschenny

Cheryl Scherle and her husband Darcy, volunteer for the Canadian Cancer Society by providing rides to cancer patients who need to get to the hospital or to appointments.

HLM Jim Slough volunteers with the Golden Greeters who appear at Archbishop M.C. O'Neill High School on a regular weekly basis to greet students as they enter the school. After classes begin, the group takes time to socialize over coffee. They then remain at the school to help students by playing cribbage to improve math skills or they work one-on-one in conversation with immigrant students. They have interacted with interesting students from many different countries and enjoy the inter-generational contact with today's young people.

Jack MacKenzie established a Random Act of Kindness Trust Fund for elementary students in Regina Public Schools. The fund is based on



L-R
Robert Wuschenny,
JP Cullen,
Adeline Wuschenny

his beliefs that "we are at our best when we are kind to others." Recently, as he was downsizing, he allowed the Jack MacKenzie School (named in his honour) to auction off many of the possessions he accumulated during his world travels and donated the proceeds to the Fund. By helping others, Jack hopes the students will experience "the joy of effort" that will make them realize that what they do will make a difference.

Robert and Adeline Wuschenny volunteer at the Regina General Hospital, Robert in Spiritual Care and Adeline in Day Surgery and the Auxiliary. Presenting their five year pins is Robert's former student, JP Cullen, Executive Director – Strategy, Safety and Wellness at Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region. Teachers at Colonsay, Holy Cross, Saskatoon and Peacock High School, Moose Jaw may remember JP Cullen as a student.

Spotlight on Superannuates

Swift Current Chapter

Submitted by Shirley Dyck



In 1940 the Sauer family was delighted to bring home from the Maple Creek hospital, a beautiful daughter who was named Loretta. She and her four brothers were raised in Fox Valley and that is where they received their early education. Loretta always wanted to become a teacher and in 1957-58 she attended Teachers' College in Moose Jaw. She completed her education at the U of R and U of S. Loretta's first teaching position was in Hazlet for two years and then she taught in Fox Valley for eight years where she recalls the fantastic Christmas Concerts. She then took a position in Swift Current where she taught for twenty years. To quote Loretta, "I loved the Grade sevens". Loretta married the love of her life Al Romankewicz in 1987. The light of their lives is Al's granddaughter, Heidi and her son, Noah.

During her teaching career, Loretta served on the STF Public Relations Committee in addition to the local LINC and area bargaining committees. Loretta and three colleagues received the Hilroy Fellowship

Award in 1984 for a team teaching initiative in O.M. Irwin Middle School.

Loretta became a member of our STS Chapter in 1988 immediately after retirement. Since 1991 she has been editor and publisher of *In Touch*, the Chapter newsletter, and is delighted that it has recently become available on the Chapter's website, www.scchapter.ca

When we initiated honorary awards in 2001, Loretta was the first recipient. She is valued for her help with the "To Heck with the Bell" breakfast and golf tournament, Christmas banquet, and yearly travel outings. Many other responsibilities fall on her shoulders.

Loretta has made a significant contribution to our STS provincial organization as Editor of *Outreach* from 1993, ending with her 69th issue in 2007. With STS Executive help she was responsible for enhancement and modernization of the content and format of this paper.

When the Swift Current Chapter hosted provincial tournaments

such as golf, bridge, and bowling, Loretta assisted in various capacities. The Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan presented Loretta with an Honorary Life Membership in 2007 "For outstanding Services Rendered In the Cause of Education".

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church where Loretta became a member in 1968 also benefits from her commitment. She has served as Bulletin Secretary and Editor of the monthly newsletter since 1994. She enjoys making the PowerPoint presentations for the worship services. As Stewardship Chair she was responsible for fundraising for many years. Once a lady commented, "Loretta, aren't you tired of raising money?" She is also the Financial Secretary for the church.

Loretta has been a great asset to our schools, our Swift Current Chapter and our Provincial Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan. We sincerely thank her for her continued service.

Our New Space

To visit the STS Office in our new space at 2311 Arlington Avenue (the TCU Financial Building), come to the east side of the building and ring the doorbell. Please use the TCU Financial parking lot on the west side of the building as there is no visitor parking by the east entrance.

From The Editor's Desk

A special thank you to the Office staff for helping put together this issue of the *Outreach*.

At this time I am sitting under a palm tree overlooking the ocean.

So to each and everyone of you the very best in the New Year.

I'll "see" you in March.

Shirley

Three things
in life that are
never certain:
FORTUNE
SUCCESS
DREAMS

STS Group Benefits

If there are any changes in your address and/or group benefits coverage please contact the STS Office immediately at 306-373-3879 or sts@sts.sk.ca.

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.

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: 306-373-3879

Email: sts@sts.sk.ca

Fax: 306-242-2538

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