

OUTREACH



To The Superannuated Teachers
of Saskatchewan

President's Report

Doug Haroldson

The STS held the official opening of the new Office on March 3, 2015, from 2:30-5:00 p.m. Approximately forty people attended including representatives from the various groups with whom the STS is associated. We are very proud of our new Office and invite you to drop in to see it Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and noon.

As of December 31, 2014, the STS Operating Fund, the Extended Health Fund and the Contingency Fund are in a very good financial position. Although membership fee revenue is down slightly, the administration commission from the Extended Health Fund is higher than budgeted. On the expense side, most budget lines are as expected. The move to a new office space may mean some additional expenses for equipment but we are still expecting a balanced budget. All reserves for the Extended Health Fund are full and dividend income on the Contingency Fund deposits has improved.

The Budget, Finance and Audit Committee reviewed a second draft of a proposed budget for 2015-16. The Executive accepted the Committee's recommendation of a proposed balanced budget with the same \$30 annual fee and with rebates to Chapters being the same

as this year. The proposed budget is included in this issue of *Outreach*.

The Extended Health and Dental Plan are both in favorable financial positions in the third year of the contract. Due to extensive use and increased costs, the travel portion of the plan is in a deficit position. The travel portion of our plan is pooled with several other group plans. The extensive use and increased costs have affected all groups.

The STS has concluded negotiations with Saskatchewan Blue Cross for another three-year contract from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018, for the Extended Health and Dental Plan. For the past fifteen years (January 1, 2000 to June 30, 2015) STS has had contracts for the Extended Health, Travel, and Dental Plan with Saskatchewan Blue Cross. Our experience with Saskatchewan Blue Cross has been very good in terms of claims ratios and relationships. Our administrative costs have been reduced by approximately fifty percent since joining Saskatchewan Blue Cross. The greatest challenge with the renewal of our contract with Saskatchewan Blue Cross was travel costs. Claims have exceeded premiums by almost three times over the past four years. This resulted in a significant increase in our premiums for emergency travel insurance. Details regarding

improvements in coverage and premiums will be mailed out to all participants of the Plan.

Due to lack of registrations there will be only one Retirement Lifestyles Planning session in March 2015. Three registrants were received for Yorkton and seven for North Battleford, therefore these seminars were cancelled. People who registered for the two seminars being cancelled have been contacted and offered the chance to register to attend the Moose Jaw seminar on March 28, 2015.

On February 28 I had the opportunity to join the other Presidents of STF Locals in a joint meeting with Education Partners. The major items on the agenda were:

1. Final report of the Joint Committee on Understanding and Exploration of Teacher Time and Workload Intensification.
2. Interpretive Bulletin 2013-2017 Provincial Collective Bargaining Agreement
3. The Conciliation Report

It is hoped that each Chapter has a complete contingent of Delegates for the Annual General Meeting May 12-14. You may ask why you should attend the Annual General Meeting. The following reasons are suggested:

1. It is our organization.
2. The resolutions dealt with at the AGM determine the direction of the organization and form the basis for policy.
3. The financial reporting and presentation of a proposed budget for 2015-16 are essential for the health of our organization.
4. The interest sessions may add to

- Delegates' overall quality of life.
5. It is an opportunity to recognize individuals selected as Honorary Life Members.
6. Individual Chapters are recognized for membership growth.
7. Lastly, but not less important, the AGM is an opportunity to be entertained, meet friends and have fun.

Our organization continues to grow. Our membership as of March 3 was 10,629.

Thank you for your support over the past year. It has been an honor and pleasure serving as President of our organization. I will be seeking a second term as President.

42nd Annual General Meeting of the STS

Tuesday, May 12 – Thursday, May 14, 2015

Travelodge Hotel, Saskatoon

Elaine Broughton & Joyce Hoffman

The 42nd AGM will be held on Tuesday, May 12 to Thursday, May 14, 2015, at the Travelodge Hotel in Saskatoon.

Again this year we will have a McDowell Foundation raffle with wonderful prizes. Thank you to the individuals and the Chapters who have so generously donated prizes.

In January, preliminary AGM information was sent to Chapter Presidents. Delegates will receive their information once their names have been submitted to the Office. This must be done before April 1. Delegates are reminded to make their reservations at the Travelodge Hotel in Saskatoon no later than April 12.

Congratulations

The following members were selected for Honorary Life Membership for 2015 and will be presented with their certificates at the AGM Banquet.

Audry Blais, The Battlefords and District Chapter

Orest Machushek, Yorkton Chapter

Nestor Trach, Humboldt and District Chapter

Agenda

Tuesday, May 12

5:30-7:15 p.m.

Registration – Galaxy Ballroom

7:15 p.m.

Welcome – President Doug Haroldson
Address by Candidates for STS Executive
Entertainment – Little German Band
Informal Social to follow

Wednesday, May 13

7:15-8:30 a.m.

Breakfast

8:45 a.m.

Greetings from STF

9:00-11:45 a.m.

Plenary Session followed by small group sessions to discuss resolutions and proposed budget for 2015-16

11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Presentation of Membership Growth Awards and Announcement of Chapter Awards followed by lunch

1:00-3:55 p.m.

Five Interest Sessions

5:00 p.m.

Social Time

6:00 p.m.

Banquet
Presentation of the Honorary Life Memberships
Entertainment – Jeffery Straker

Thursday, May 14

7:15-8:30 a.m.

Breakfast

9:00 a.m.

Annual General Meeting

Nominations

Robert Wuschenny

To date, declared Candidates for the STS Provincial Executive are:

Executive Nominations for 2015-16

(Received to Date):

President:

- Doug Haroldson

Vice-President:

- Maxine Stinka

ACER-CART Representative:

- George Georget

Councillors:

(five to be elected)

- Calvin Bachmeier
- Don Gabel
- Joyce Hoffman
- Mike Kaminski
- Sunil Pandila
- Helen Sukovieff

Members at Large:

(seven to be elected)

- Judy Buzowetsky
- Alan Laughlin
- Roger Marchand
- Kate McCorriston

If you are interested in serving on the Provincial STS Executive, please submit your intention to the STS Office by 4 p.m. of the day prior to elections for the STS Executive. (Bylaw 3, Section 1.2)

Budget, Finance and Audit – Maxine Stinka

Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan Proposed Budget: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

INCOME	2012-2013 ACTUAL	2013-2014 BUDGET	2013-2014 ACTUAL	2014-2015 BUDGET	2014-2015 6 Mo Actual	2015-2016 PROPOSED
Membership Fees	299,416.00	310,000.00	308,352.00	320,000.00	159,772.50	330,000.00
Admin Commission (Benefits Plan)	261,939.00	270,000.00	278,625.00	290,000.00	148,348.30	300,000.00
Dividend Income						
Interest Income	3,090.00	4,000.00	2,818.00	3,000.00	1,450.60	3,000.00
Sundry	206.00		322.00	1,000.00	256.00	1,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$564,651.00	\$584,000.00	590,117.00	614,000.00	309,827.40	634,000.00
EXPENSES						
Annual General Meeting	94,815.00	90,000.00	88,154.00	95,000.00	491.40	98,000.00
Amortization	7,348.00	2,000.00	9,043.00	10,000.00	6,849.88	10,000.00
Chapter Rebates	70,576.00	74,000.00	72,768.00	78,000.00	75,999.00	80,000.00
Executive and Committee Meetings	28,780.00	36,000.00	29,313.00	36,000.00	17,939.02	36,000.00
STS Affiliations	10,214.00	8,500.00	5,640.00	10,000.00	4,167.34	10,000.00
Executive Chapter Travel	9,254.00	14,000.00	10,325.00	12,000.00	5,344.31	12,000.00
Chapter Presidents' Meeting	10,653.00	14,000.00	10,444.00	12,000.00	10,573.96	12,000.00
Communications, Membership Growth, PR	52,242.00	56,000.00	52,044.00	56,000.00	21,057.11	56,000.00
Retirement Life Styles Planning Committee	1,984.00	4,000.00	5,919.00	4,000.00	2,736.07	8,000.00
Support Services Planning Committee	785.00	2,000.00	1,174.00	3,000.00	395.83	3,000.00
Recreation	2,374.00	4,000.00	1,863.00	3,000.00	1,166.49	4,000.00
Office Staff	138,321.00	160,000.00	158,060.00	170,000.00	90,316.74	190,000.00
Office Operation	75,673.00	90,000.00	71,406.00	100,000.00	29,189.36	90,000.00
Computer and Programming	15,208.00	24,000.00	14,914.00	20,000.00	9,475.16	20,000.00
McDowell Foundation	2,000.00	3,000.00	2,000.00	2,500.00	2,000.00	2,500.00
Scholarships	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Bank Service Charge	170.00	500.00	244.00	500.00	432.00	500.00
Gain/Loss on Disp of Assets					784.30	
Management Fees						
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$522,397.00	\$584,000.00	535,311.00	614,000.00	280,917.97	634,000.00

SURPLUS (DEFICIT)

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NOTES:

Note 1: The proposed budget for 2015-2016 is based on an annual fee of \$30.00 per member.

Note 2: A financial statement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, will be prepared as soon as possible after year-end, audited, and made available to all STS Chapters. Copies of the audited financial statement for 2013-2014 will also be made available to all AGM delegates at the 2015 AGM.

Note 3: The Operations Reserve Fund had a balance of \$289,704.00 as at June 30, 2014. Should a deficit be incurred for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, it would be covered by monies from the Operations Reserve Fund.

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. 10,600 Members

2. Rebate to Chapters as follows: <50 = \$10.00 50-100 = \$9.00 > 100 = \$8.00 per member

STS Resolutions 2015

Mike Kaminski

Resolutions Directed to the STS (A)

A 1. BE IT RESOLVED that the STS investigate the inclusion of the pneumonia vaccination for members under the age of 65 into the Extended Health Plan.

Saskatoon Chapter

A 2. BE IT RESOLVED that the STS consider providing each member with an official STS identification card.

Saskatoon Chapter

A 3. BE IT RESOLVED that the STS explore member discounts at hotels and fitness locations.

Background: Presently a business such as Motion Fitness has an annual membership fee of over \$800 but active teachers of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools receive this same annual membership for just over \$300. There is no discount in their annual membership fee for seniors either. Because we promote fitness opportunities for our members, a similar discount could be made available to our members at fitness locations.

Saskatoon Chapter

A 4. BE IT RESOLVED that the STS investigate changing the Extended Health Plan maximum allowance for Paramedical/Health Practitioners from \$300 to \$400 per practitioner per calendar year.

Saskatoon Chapter

A 5. BE IT RESOLVED that the STS investigate the process involved in adding drugs to the Saskatchewan Formulary.

Saskatoon Chapter

A 6. BE IT RESOLVED that the STS negotiate with Saskatchewan Blue Cross to cover \$200 annually towards the cost of lenses for diabetics.

**Carrot River Valley
(Melfort & District) Chapter**

A 7. BE IT RESOLVED that the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan (STS) draft and forward a letter to the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) conveying its support for the SARM lobby to ban the use of plastic grocery bags in Saskatchewan.

**The Battlefords and
District Chapter**

Background:

At their recent convention the delegates from a majority of Rural Municipalities voted to ban the use of plastic shopping bags in Saskatchewan. The resolution will be forwarded to the appropriate government department and will hopefully be brought to the legislature for debate.

The purpose for this initiative is:

- to reduce the bulk of non-biodegradable garbage being placed in provincial landfills
- to reduce the amount of air borne garbage that settles on cultivated farmland and in the natural environment
- to prevent serious consequences to wild life that ingest or become entangled in plastic grocery bags

The motivation for this resolution is entirely ecological. As teachers we have diligently taught the value of environmental and ecological stewardship.

A 8. BE IT RESOLVED that the STS Executive explore the possibility of obtaining a Corporate gym membership with GoodLife Fitness Gym, or similar facility, for STS members.

Prince Albert Chapter

Background:

There are presently two GoodLife gyms in Saskatchewan: Prince Albert and Saskatoon with one in Regina opening very soon. There are 320+ locations across Canada. It is now by far the biggest fitness company in the country, and the fourth-largest in the world. More than 932,000 people are GoodLife members – one in every 37 Canadians. The Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP) have arranged a corporate membership for its members. The cost is \$400/year and includes access to every GoodLife gym in Canada, free towel service, and the option to freeze the membership for up to six months, which fit in with retired people's needs. Regular basic membership for seniors is \$550.00/year, dedicated to one gym site, no towel service, and no freeze option.

These "negotiations" with GoodLife could be more beneficial if we could include all STS and STF members in the corporate membership.

A 9. BE IT RESOLVED that the STS request the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers-Association Canadienne des Enseignantes et des Enseignants Retraités (ACER-CART) to actively lobby the Government of Canada to restructure the calculation of the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) clause to adequately reflect the cost increases faced by retired people to ensure that seniors are able to avoid living in poverty.

Prince Albert Chapter

A 10. BE IT RESOLVED that the STS request the Government of Saskatchewan to extend coverage for vaccines to include the Shingles vaccine.

STS Executive

A 11. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the STS annual fee for 2015-16 be \$30 per person.

STS Executive

A 12. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the STS annual rebate to Chapters for 2015-16 be as follows:

- <50 - \$10.00 per member
- 50-100 - \$9.00 per member
- >100 - \$8.00 per member

STS Executive

Resolutions Directed to STF (B)

B 1. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the STS request the STF to negotiate changes to the Group Life Insurance Plan to provide coverage for superannuated teachers, after age 65, equal to ten percent of the benefit coverage for active teachers.

Saskatoon Chapter

B2. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the STS urge the STF to negotiate changes to the Teachers' Group Life Insurance to raise the termination age from 85 to 90 years of age.

Saskatoon Chapter

Congratulations

To the recipients of the STS scholarships;

M. Fayaz Panhwer, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan.

Suzanne den Ouden, Faculty of Education, University of Regina.

FINAL REUNION of 1955 Class of Teachers' College Graduates

Date: September 11-12, 2015.

Location: Park Town Hotel, Saskatoon

Cost: \$70 per person

To register contact Beth Johnson at 306-374-1757; email: beth.j@sasktel.net

ACER-CART

George Georget

A pamphlet has been written and is in the process of being translated and printed to amplify the voice of the member associations and their 127,500 members. ACER-CART is working to ensure that a caring, consultative and committed Canadian Parliament is the result of the next federal election. All candidates in all federal constituencies must be urged to ensure that Canada re-establishes strong and vibrant parliamentary democracy in the Canadian House of Commons. The pamphlet will be made available to member associations and, through them, to retired teachers across Canada.

"This pamphlet is intended to assist members in ensuring that all candidates seeking a seat in Canada's Parliament and offering to participate in formulating laws and policies are aware of the voice of ACER-CART and its member associations and their members, are responsive to the relevant issues, and are committed to work on behalf of Canadian seniors now and in the future."

The beliefs and policies of ACER-CART are the foundation of what the collective voice of retired teachers are invited to promote during the up-coming election campaign. The message to all candidates and to each political party will focus on achieving a "strong Canadian Health Care System, a National Seniors Care Plan, a Nation-Wide Pharmacare Program and pension and retired income based on the defined benefit plan model. The pamphlet will provide further details and background information will be made available to member associations and members who want to fully engage their MP hopefuls. Imagine the powerful and audible voice of 127,500 members approaching each of the candidates in their respective riding! Thank you for getting involved and helping to ensure that the sensible voice of retired teachers is heard loudly and clearly and that Canada and its seniors, now and in the future, enjoy sound, ethical and reasonable security during their precious retirement years.

Advocacy Report

Robert Wuschenny

Thank you to Chapters and individuals that submitted issues/concerns in preparation for the forthcoming federal election. The responses have been turned into questions which will be categorized and printed in the form of a pamphlet to be distributed to STS Chapters at the AGM in May.

The Advocacy Committee also recommended to the Executive the establishment of a Facebook Group limited to members of the STS Executive and a contact designated by each STS Chapter that wishes to participate for the purpose of advocacy during the federal election. This recommendation was approved by the Executive at its meeting on March 4, 2015.

Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism

Mike Kaminski

SSM is busy implementing the required changes in governance, operations and structure as a result of the new governance model adopted a few years ago. To this end, the Committees established at the February 11, 2015, Board meeting include:

1. Celebrating Seniors
2. Century Club
3. Snowboarding at 80
4. Elder Abuse/Age Friendly
5. Seniors and Isolation
6. Resolutions
7. Gray Matters Editorial
8. Membership
9. Governance
10. Nominations
11. Finance and Audit
12. Research and Issues/Housing

Apart from the internal business, there are a number of programs that are keeping Committees and seniors engaged. These include: Age Friendly Saskatchewan, Senior Neglect and Abuse Response Line, and Celebrating Seniors.

The Celebrating Seniors event is planned for October 4, 2015. The nomination deadline is June 1. Fern Haight chairs the committee, while Rosemary Flaman is the program co-ordinator. Last year was very successful. One objective this year is

to try to increase the engagement of FSIN elders and seniors from throughout the province. Chapter Presidents will be emailed the nominations package for Chapters to use as a reference.

The SSM Conference and AGM is on the horizon. Deadline for submitting nominations is April 30. The nomination form has been amended so that only one signature from a member organization is required.

Superannuates Make a Difference

Jack MacKenzie – Regina Chapter

Jack MacKenzie, Regina Chapter member, has a school named after him. When this happened he established the Random Acts of Kindness Trust Fund for elementary students in the Regina Public Schools.

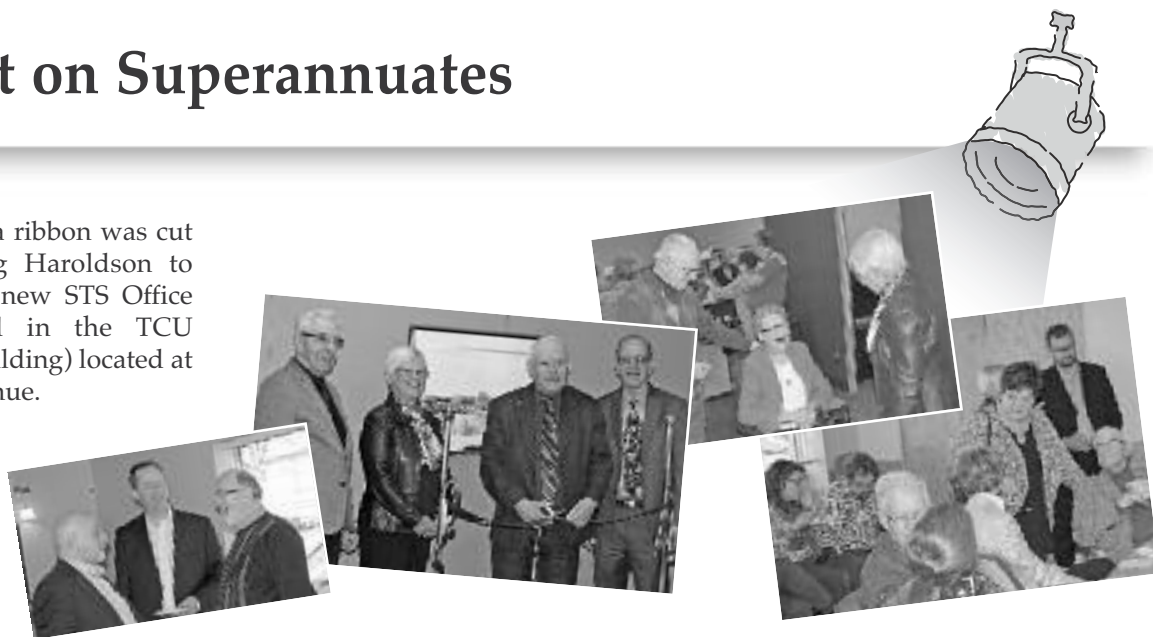
The Jack MacKenzie Elementary School in Regina has auctioned many of Jack's personal items as he downsizes to move into a condo. All proceeds have gone into this Trust Fund.

This act inspired many of the students to raise more money to add to the Fund that will be put to good use in the various Regina communities. This Fund is getting students to think about ways to give back to their community.

The Fund is to provide the opportunity, motivation, guidance and financial resources to initiate and implement worthwhile projects for deserving persons, groups or environmental causes.

Spotlight on Superannuates

On March 3, 2015, a ribbon was cut by President Doug Haroldson to officially open the new STS Office (which is housed in the TCU Financial Group Building) located at 2311 Arlington Avenue.



Group Benefits

Robert Wuschenny

Our current Extended Health and Dental Group Plan with Saskatchewan Blue Cross, is in a good financial position. Many thanks, again, to Plan members who continue to use the Plan prudently.

A new Extended Health and Dental Plan contract has been negotiated, effective July 1, 2015. Once again, our carrier is Saskatchewan Blue Cross. The new Plan does have an increase in premiums; however, it is still very competitive with other self-funded Plans. As with any type of insurance, the more coverage we desire, the more we must pay. That said, it is prudent, therefore for Plan members to temper expectations in order to keep costs reasonable.

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.

Recreation – Calvin Bachmeier



Upcoming Events

Recreational Activities Participation STS Style . . .

Bowling

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

Bridge

Host needed for 2015

Curling

Date: To be announced
 Host: The Battlefords and District Chapter
 Details to follow. Keep checking the website www.sts.sk.ca

Kaiser

Host: Wakaw Chapter
 Date: to be announced

Fishing

Date: June 21, 2015
 Host: South Central Chapter in co-operation with LaFleche Lions Club
 Location: Thomson Lake
 Contact: Mike Klein
 Phone: 306-266-2115 or
 Email: mklein@sasktel.net

Golf

Date: June 22-23, 2015
 Host: Swift Current Chapter
 Place: Elmwood Golf Course, Swift Current
 Contact: Beryl Robinson
 Email: bcrobinson@sasktel.net
 2016
 Host: Weyburn Chapter

Stitch 'N Quilt

Host needed for 2015

STS 2015 Golf Registration

- June 22 and 23, 2015
- Elmwood Golf and Country Club, Swift Current
- All entrants must pre-register by June 10, 2015

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Categories:

- Women Senior Women (70+)
 Men Senior Men (70+)

Usual 18 hole score _____ or Handicap _____

- Monday: noon shotgun scramble
- Tuesday: morning shotgun, medal play

Registration fee:

- \$120 for two days includes green fees and banquet (Elmwood members \$45)
- Monday scramble and banquet only – \$70
- Make cheques payable to : STS Golf – 2015

Registration fee	= \$ _____
Extra banquet ticket(s) ___ X \$25 =	\$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED	= \$ _____

- Mail registration and fee to:
 Beryl Robinson,
 470 Battleford Trail, Swift Current, S9H 4P3
- Information: Beryl or Carson Robinson
 306-773-3562
 or bcrobinson@sasktel.net
- For hotel or campground information:
www.tourismswiftcurrent.ca

From The Editor's Desk

As I write this we have been blessed with warming temperatures and dripping eaves as the sun's warmth is getting stronger.

If you get a chance stop in and view the new office space that STS has for its use. (Much more elegant than the first "janitor's closet" I started in!)

Things are gearing up for AGM in May. Please read the resolutions and let your delegates know your thoughts about them to help them make wise decisions.

The proposal for the budget is a balanced one with no fee increase. Due to increasing costs, especially for travel in the Group Benefits Plan, premiums must be increased slightly.

Take care and may spring be here really soon.

Shirley

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.

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

STS Office Notice:

If there will be a change in your delegates' list for the AGM please notify the STS office no later than May 2.

Chapter Reports need to be forwarded to the STS office by April 12.

If your Chapter has awarded any Chapter merit awards, please send the names of the recipients to the STS office by April 12.

The Chapter Officer's List for 2015-16 should be sent to the STS office by June 30, 2015.

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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Saskatoon SK S7J 2H8

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STS Office

2311 Arlington Avenue

Saskatoon SK S7J 2H8