

OUTREACH



To The Superannuated Teachers
of Saskatchewan

President's Report

Doug Haroldson

If you are reading this issue of *Outreach* you have likely already joined the STS. Welcome to an organization of 10,888 members as of September 23, 2015. Many may have joined the organization to become a member of the Health and/or Dental Plan. The annual membership fee is \$30. Of the \$30, depending upon the size of the Chapter, \$10, \$9 or \$8 is rebated back to the Chapter. This rebate provides financial support for Chapters to assist in the planning of their programs. There are many other reasons to join the STS such as:

1. The STS works to promote the well-being of the superannuated teachers of Saskatchewan.
2. The STS has eight Councillors on the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation Council which gives input into provincial bargaining when superannuation and the welfare of retired teachers are at stake.
3. The STS is always alert to issues of concern to our members and is ready to intervene when the occasion arises. There is power in membership. Remember that the STS needs YOU and YOU need the STS. When the STS advocates on behalf of superannuates, numbers count.

Membership in the STS is not all work and no play. Provincial recreational events such as Bowling, Curling, Golf, Fishing, Quilting, Bridge and Kaiser are generally held every year. STS Chapters sponsor these events with support from the provincial organization. These events provide an excellent opportunity for physical activity, friendly competition and meeting new friends.

Attendance at the AGM as a Delegate provides an opportunity for direct input into the governance of the organization.

Welcome to all members to a new year in our organization. Special welcome to Jane Isinger and Anna Wehrkamp 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.

Resolutions from individual members and Chapters dealt with at the AGM form the basis for policy. These policies drive our organization. Policy 3 in the *Policy Handbook* deals with resolutions. Guideline 3 outlines the criteria and format for resolutions. Resolutions can be submitted to the STS office at any time. The deadline for distribution of the resolutions to the representatives before the STS Annual General Meeting is March 1.

The first Committee and Executive Meetings were held September 23-24. A Planning Orientation and In-service was held on September 22. A Retirement Lifestyle Planning Session is scheduled for October 26, 2015.

The Health and Dental Plan is in a strong financial position. At the end of June 30, 2015, the Plan had a surplus. Based on this fact plus a request from Chapters, the Benefits Committee recommended to the

Attention Chapters

Nominate Honorary Life Members

Nominations for Honorary Life Memberships must be submitted to the STS Office by February 1, 2016. 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.

Executive that the paramedical benefit be increased from \$350 to \$500 effective January 1, 2016. The Executive approved the recommendation. The approximate increased cost for this benefit is \$65,000.

As a local association of the STF our eight Councillors play a major role in the STS and STF. The Councillors will be attending the STF Councillor Conference on October 29-31 including a Special Meeting of Council on October 31.

The STF held a Presidents' Forum on September 11 for Presidents and Vice-Presidents. Vice-President Maxine and I attended the Forum. The purpose of the Forum was to strengthen relationships and to enhance bilateral communication and leadership with and among local association presidents and the provincial organization. The tone of the Forum was positive and open. The next Forum is planned for February 2016.

Federal Election brochures have been circulated and have received a favourable response from members. The brochures have been incorporated by other retired groups. On October 19 please exercise your right to vote.

The Chapter Presidents' Meeting will be held on October 28, 2015. Presidents, please make every effort to attend. If the President isn't available, register the Vice-President or a designate.

As President I look forward to visiting Chapters. If you would like me to visit your Chapter, please contact me at 306-662-3004 or (cell) 306-662-8284 or email 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

Fred Herron

The 2015 ACER-CART Annual Meeting held in Ottawa on June 5 and 6 was a very productive meeting. In addition to the ongoing affairs of ACER-CART, the focus was on senior issues as they relate to the federal election on October 19 such as Health Care in Canada, A National Seniors Care Plan, A Universal Pharmacare Program and Pension and Retirement Income.

A Pre-AGM Seminar that focused on the federal election was held the day prior to the Annual Meeting. The Green Party, the New Democratic Party, the Liberal Party and the Conservative Party were invited to respond in writing to the seniors' issues of importance to ACER-CART. In addition, representatives from each of the political parties were invited to make a presentation to the ACER-CART Executive. Lorraine Rekmans, a Green Party Candidate, MP Irene Mathysen, NDP Caucus Chair and Official Opposition Critic for Seniors, and Liberal MP John McCallum made presentations and engaged in discussion with the Executive. The Conservative Party chose not to respond in writing to any seniors' issues nor did they send a representative to meet with the Executive.

The Executive meeting dealt with Reports from the Communications Committee, the Health Services and Insurance Committee, the Legislation Committee, the Pension and Retirement Income Committee and the Political Advocacy Committee. In addition each member presented a report on the 2014-15 activities in their organization.

The priorities of ACER-CART for 2015-16 include the following:

1. Continue to foster and engage in alliances that promote the goals, policies and values of ACER-CART.
2. Employ effective advocacy strategies to amplify the voice of ACER-CART and engage members and their membership in the political process.
3. Develop a strategic plan.

President JoAnn Lauber has provided tremendous leadership for ACER-CART. She is supported by Vice President Brian Kenny, Past President Dr. Thomas Gaskell, Regional Representatives Dr. James MacAuley, Norbert Boudreau and Wayne Hughes, Executive Director Roger Regimbal and Special Advisor Vaughn Wadelius.

Budget, Finance and Audit

Maxine Stinka

The Committee met with Joanna Klimaszewski, an auditor from Deloitte, who went through the STS Operating Funds and the STS Extended Health Fund audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2015. Both were reviewed and approved by the committee. We received a clean audit with no corrections required. Appreciation was expressed for management's co-operation and assistance in doing the audit. The Operating Fund had a deficit of \$27,688 due largely to the addition of one staff member. As of June 30, 2015, the Contingency Fund had a balance of \$911,589. All reserves for the Extended Health Fund are full and there is a Plan surplus for the year. Copies of the audited financial statement will be distributed to Chapter Presidents and at the Annual General Meeting in May.

The Committee also compared the approved budget for 2015-16 with the actual expenses for the year 2014-15 and agreed that we should still be able to maintain a balanced budget as passed at the 2015 AGM.

There was clarification and a discussion of the Operating Fund

Reserves and the Contingency Fund as outlined in the *STS Policy Handbook* (pages 8 and 41).

STS membership as of September 23, 2015, is 10,888.

Goals of the committee were discussed and the following were accepted as goals for 2015-16.

- Create the 2016-17 budget.
- Continue to monitor the 2015-16 budget.
- Provide information to members regarding the pension plans.
- Improve members' knowledge base regarding the Health and Dental Plans.
- Be sensitive to new members' expectations through liaison Chapter visits, Planning for Retirement seminars, *Outreach*, Retirement Lifestyles Planning and the President's message in the *Bulletin*.
- Improve members' understanding of our budgeting process and the financial statements.

Advocacy

Doug Haroldson (Acting Chair)

The committee recommended Robert Wuschenny as Chairperson.

The Advocacy Committee adopted the following goals for 2015-16:

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 STF, 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.

The committee shared feedback regarding the Federal Election brochures. The feedback was positive.

The committee was provided information on Private MRIs from the Saskatchewan Health Coalition. The committee recommended to the Executive that a letter be written to Saskatchewan Health seeking information and their present position on Private MRIs. The Executive approved the recommendation.

Annual General Meeting

Joyce Hoffman and Jane Isinger

The 2016 Annual General Meeting will be held in Saskatoon at the Travelodge Hotel from May 10 to May 12, 2016.

The Committee reviewed the evaluations received from the

2015 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 evaluations.

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

Outreach

Joyce Hoffman

The *Outreach* committee would like to welcome Robert Wuschenny as the new editor of *Outreach*. We know he will do a great job.

As in past years, we encourage you to receive your *Outreach* online. This saves the STS postage costs as well as paper costs. If you wish to receive email notification when *Outreach* is

posted on the STS website, please email your request to sts@sts.sk.ca.

The committee asks you to continue with your submissions for "Spotlight on Superannuates" and "Superannuates Making a Difference". We enjoy reading about what your Chapter or individuals in your Chapter are doing.

Group Benefits

Doug Haroldson (Acting Chairperson)

The committee recommended Robert Wuschenny as Chairperson.

The Extended Health and Dental Plan had a surplus as of June 30, 2015.

Goals for 2015-16:

1. To closely monitor the Group Benefits Plan and the 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 the members.
3. To review the policies and procedures on the Group Benefits Plan as set out in the *STS Policy Handbook*.

The committee recommended and the Executive approved that the paramedical benefits be increased from \$350 to \$500 effective Jan 1, 2016.

Correction:

Please note a correction to the McDowell Foundation Raffle winners listed in the May-June 2015 issue of *Outreach*. Karen Hiebert won the Lap Quilt and Laurie Hnatuk won the twin quilt.

Resolutions

Mike Kaminski

The Resolutions Committee would like to remind all Chapters and STS members that it is time to start considering drafting and submitting resolutions for the 2015-16 year. Resolutions are very important. Resolutions passed by the Annual General Meeting become short-term action directives or policy statements of the organization. Through this process, members collectively become the driving force of the STS.

Members are reminded that the disposition of the previous years' resolutions and the resultant actions are all posted on the website. This reference information is of great benefit when one begins drafting a resolution for submission.

Another source of reference is the *STS Policy Handbook*:

- Policy 3, Resolutions (p.17)
- Guide 3, Criteria for Format of Resolutions (p.31)
- Guideline 5, Overview of Activities: March – March 1st (p.35).

These will assist in ensuring that resolutions are written in the proper format and submitted on time.

It is also a good idea to have your resolutions reviewed by your Chapter prior to submission to the Resolutions Committee. This increases the validity of the resolution and the probability of it getting endorsed at the AGM.

The Committee looks forward to your submissions.

Congratulations

Hazel Parker

A member from Lafleche, formerly from Moose Jaw, who celebrated her 96th birthday on August 19, 2015.



Upcoming Events

Recreational Activities Participation STS Style . . .

Bowling

Host needed for 2016

Bridge

Host needed for 2015 and 2016

Curling

Date: Nov 2-4, 2015

Host: The Battlefords
and District Chapter

Location: Northland Power
Curling Centre

Contact: Bob Krismer

Phone: 1-306-445-8267

Email: argkay@gmail.com or
battlefords.sts@live.ca

Registration form can be found on the
STS website

2016: Hosted by Yorkton

Golf

Date: June 20-21, 2106

Host: Weyburn Chapter

Location: Weyburn Golf Course

Contact: Dave Unraw – 306-842-7859
or unraw1234@hotmail.com

Kaiser

Date: October 14, 2015

Host: Wakaw Chapter

Location: Wakaw Legion – 10:00 a.m.

Cost: Registration fee \$20.00
(includes lunch)

Contact: Mel Osolinsky – 306-233-5596
or Don Gabel – 306-233-3055

Stitch 'N Quilt

Hosts needed for 2015 and 2016



Golf Report

Beryl Robinson

On June 22-23, the Swift Current Chapter hosted the STS provincial golf. Sixty players participated in the scramble held on Monday and fifty golfers took part in medal play on Tuesday. Winners of the four divisions were: Alf Paul of Moose Jaw (Men), Carol Oleksyn of Humboldt (Senior Women), Linda Blake of Regina (Women), and Dale Blake of Swift Current (Senior Men). Good weather and fine fellowship made for an enjoyable tournament.

If Chapters are interested in hosting provincial events please contact the STS office or a member of the Recreation Committee. We would also be open to any proposals for new events.

Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism

Robert Wuschenny

The 25th Annual SSM Conference was held on June 10-11, 2015. The theme was Changing the Culture in Long-Term Care. Approximately 150 delegates came to hear how long-term care might be altered to become safe, healthy, happy places for everyone.

Keynote speaker, Mary Schulz, Alzheimer Society of Canada, described how person-centered care is paramount to improving long-term care for seniors, while panelists, Debra Morgan and Julie Kosteniuk, Rural Action Dementia Research Team, shared some different approaches to person-centered care.

The Honourable Dustin Duncan, Minister of Health, also addressed long-term care in Saskatchewan and fielded a large number of delegates' questions. Panelists from Alzheimer Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Ombudsman dealt with reporting long-term care concerns.

The Annual General Meeting followed the conference. Reports were presented by the President, Treasurer, Executive Director and Program Committees. Four resolutions were passed: that SSM Board of Directors have a vote at the AGM, that SSM request the Government of Saskatchewan to eliminate ambulance fees for seniors, that SSM request that the Saskatchewan Government eliminate ambulance fees when transferring anyone between medical facilities and that SSM express concern to the Saskatchewan Government about any potential changes to MRI procedures that would give priority access based on an individual's financial resources and further that stakeholders be consulted before any changes are made.

Several Bylaw changes which can be accessed on the SSM website were also made.

Thanks to retiring Board Member Mike Kaminski for contributions to the Board. Congratulations to Wilma Mollard, Andre Nogue and Margaret Gailing who were re-elected to the Board and to newly elected Board members Louise Nichol and Brian Harris.

The Sixth Annual Celebrating Seniors Volunteer Awards and Gala were held on Sunday, October 4, 2015. Seniors' Volunteer Awards were given for: Advocacy, Community Leadership (rural and urban), Centenarian, Education, Contribution to First Nations or Metis Community, Intergenerational, Fitness, Heritage and Culture, Lifetime Achievement, Teamwork and Senior Friendly Business.

Several Saskatchewan communities have engaged in becoming more age friendly by journeying toward achieving the milestones set out by the World Health Organization: Regina Beach-Buena Vista, Yorkton, Ituna, Ponteix, Moose Jaw, Weyburn and Humboldt. The Age Friendly Committee has been invited to make presentations to Regina Airport Authority, Strasbourg, Rosetown, Prince Albert, and Midlakes STS Chapter this fall. Presentations to SUMA, Days Inn (Saskatoon) and the Saskatchewan Nurse Practitioners Conference were made in the recent past.

SSM and the STS Regina Chapter held an All Party Candidates Forum focussing on seniors on September 29, 2015. Other Chapters held similar events.

Support Services

Calvin Bachmeier

The committee approved Chapter Support Grant applications for Yorkton and Potashville Esterhazy Chapters. Yorkton Chapter is celebrating its 40th Anniversary and Potashville Esterhazy Chapter has organized tours of the area. They include a mine tour and other historical places in the community. Superannuated teachers from other Chapters will be invited to participate.

We discussed our Chapter Support Program Guidelines and agreed to review them at our January 2016 meeting. This was made necessary because very few awards have been made since the program was introduced. The committee will

review the guidelines and come to the January meeting with ideas of how to modify the program to make it more in line with Chapter needs.

Our goals for 2015-16 are:

1. Maintain and monitor existing programs.
2. Strengthen the relationship between the STS liaison person and local Chapters.
3. Keep the STS website current, pertinent and informative.
4. Be responsive to needs of our membership.
5. Review the guidelines of the Chapter Support Program.

Superannuates Make A Difference

Potashville Esterhazy Superannuates Make Many Contributions

Submitted by: Dianne Kirby (Secretary), STS Potashville Esterhazy Chapter

The superannuates in our local Chapter are extremely busy. Many of our members are involved in various church functions. They serve as choir directors, on mission, worship and service fund committees, cater for funerals and teas, organize rummage sales, provide church maintenance, act as financial secretary, mutual ministry member, pancake supper chairperson and organizer, lead Bible studies, convenor for the rummage sale, serve as Altar Guild at church, provide service as treasurer and financial support, President of UCW and lay ministry. Their just reward comes in the true sense of serving our fellow man through servitude to God.

Many of our retired teachers find time away from church functions and family to support the seniors in the area. Many of our members participate in Meals on Wheels, provide DJ music to the Care Home and seniors' functions, serve on the Care Home Auxiliary, visit with seniors and help with activities at seniors' facilities, provide rides for seniors in our community, read to seniors and provide an outreach program to seniors from the museum. These rewarding services all provide such a rich holistic environment for our seniors to have love and care and keep them active and involved and stay independent as long as possible.

The superannuates of Potashville enrich their free time by contributing time to the Arts, History and Culture of this Parkland area. Some of the involvement in this area is: Past President of the Arts Council, quilting for cancer patients, quilts for the Quilting Guild, President of the Friends of the Flour Mill, Flour

Mill committee member, President of Museum Board, Museum Board members. These partnerships help to enhance the area's past in a meaningful way. The contributions members make to arts and culture help to celebrate the talents of residents in the community.

Our membership likes to be involved in recreational happenings that entertain the community. They do this by becoming recreation chair, entertainment chair, cribbage tournament organizer, serving as club captain for golf, providing maintenance at the golf course and by becoming President of the Valley Social Club. These services provide a way to be engaged in social and physical happenings.

A few of our members are politically involved, serve on Credit Union Boards, volunteer at the Legion, are on the Housing Board, are involved

in horticulture, provide workshops for museums and pre-school parents, volunteer for Donor's Choice and are involved in Life Long Learning. These are well rounded and grounded superannuates with a will and a desire and a thrill to share and care and give back to the community through their skills and abilities.



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 **October 30, 2015**.

For information, please request an information package from:

Administration/Governance
Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation
2317 Arlington Ave
Saskatoon SK S7J 2H8
Ph: (306) 373-1660; 1-800-667-7762

From The Editor's Desk

Welcome back superannuates and a special welcome to our new superannuates. I hope you will find your retirement everything you dream it will be.

Outreach is available on the website and in print form. In each edition committee chairs report on pertinent information from their committee, thus providing members with an opportunity to keep abreast of STS happenings.

We continue to encourage Chapters to submit information for Spotlight on Superannuates, highlighting what members are doing or about someone who has contributed to education and to the STS. Similarly, we welcome submissions for Superannuates Make a Difference, telling what your Chapter does to help your community. Also, if someone from your Chapter has reached a "milestone birthday" (90 and over) please provide their name to the office so they can be acknowledged.

Now is your time to enjoy the splendour of fall with its many vibrant colours. Happy fall!

Robert Wuschenny

STS Executive 2015-16

President/Councillor

Doug Haroldson,
Maple Creek-Medicine Hat Chapter
Maxine Stinka, Assiniboine Chapter
Robert Wuschenny, Regina Chapter
Fred Herron, Saskatoon Chapter
Fred Herron, Saskatoon Chapter

Vice-President/Councillor

Past-President/Councillor

Executive Secretary

ACER-CART Representative

Councillors:

Don Gabel
Joyce Hoffman
Mike Kaminski
Sunil Pandila
Helen Sukovieff

Wakaw Chapter
Swift Current Chapter
Assiniboine Chapter
Moose Jaw Chapter
Regina Chapter

Members-At-Large:

Calvin Bachmeier
Judy Buzowetsky
Jane Isinger
Alan Laughlin
Roger Marchand
Kate McCorriston
Anna Wehrkamp

Maple Creek-Medicine Hat Chapter
Weyburn Chapter
Saskatoon Chapter
The Battlefords and District Chapter
South Central Chapter
Nipawin Chapter
Carrot River Valley (Melfort & District) 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

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of Saskatchewan

To control costs, one copy is sent to households where both spouses are members. If this is not satisfactory, please contact the STS office in Saskatoon.

***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.**

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