

OUTREACH

To The Superannuated Teachers
of Saskatchewan

President's Report

Doug Haroldson

The membership of the STS continues to increase. As of January 13, 2016, the membership was 10,907.

The STS remains in a strong financial position. The financial statements for the STS Operating Fund and STS Extended Health Fund as of November 30, 2015, were reviewed and approved by the Executive. Revenues and expenses in the Operating Fund are close to budget and there is a slight surplus in the Extended Health Fund. Work has begun in developing a budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year. Saskatchewan Blue Cross has agreed to an increase in the administration fees transferred to the STS from 3 percent to 3.5 percent effective July 1, 2016.

The Retirement Lifestyles Planning Committee met on January 13. The committee reviewed the PowerPoint presentation and Financial Preparation Workbook. Presenters for each location met to do some planning. Registrations to date are as follows: Prince Albert – March 5 (11), Swift Current – March 12 (6) and Weyburn – March 19 (2). Please encourage teachers who are planning to retire to attend one of these seminars. More information is available through the STS office.

A reminder to all Chapters that the deadline for resolutions to be printed and circulated prior to the

Annual General Meeting is March 1. Resolutions are the basis of policy development.

Vice-President Maxine Stinka and I have been invited to a Presidents' Forum on February 27, 2016, in the Eamer Auditorium, STF building. This invitation went to all locals of the STF. The purpose of this meeting is to strengthen relationships and enhance bilateral communication and leadership with and among local association presidents and the STF provincial organization. Participants will also have the opportunity to hear organizational updates and take part in local association sharing.

The eight councillors representing the STS will be attending the STF Annual Meeting of Councillors on April 27-30, 2016.

At the meeting of the STS Advocacy Committee on January 13, an action plan regarding the upcoming provincial election was developed. This plan was approved by the Executive. The details are outlined in a separate report in this issue of *Outreach*.

Chapters are a major component of the STS. I'm willing to visit any Chapter that would like me to attend one of their meetings. Congratulations to the Yorkton Chapter on their 40th Anniversary. I had the opportunity to attend the celebration on December 2. I also attended the provincial curling hosted by the Battlefords and District Chapter on November 2-4. This event was an opportunity for good fellowship and friendly competition. Special thanks for a job well done!

Cost-of-Living Adjustment

Effective January 1, 2016, retired teachers and beneficiaries receiving a pension from the Teachers Superannuation Plan (TSP) will be paid a cost-of-living adjustment of one percent.

For those teachers who retired from the Saskatchewan Teachers' Retirement Plan (STRP) before July 1, 2015, you will receive an increase in your pension of one percent. If you retired after June 30, 2015, you will receive an increase of one percent on the portion of your pension earned up to June 30, 2015, and 0.60 percent on the portion you earned after June 30, 2015.

For those individuals whose pension payments commenced during the 2015 calendar year, this increase will be pro-rated to reflect their retirement date.

Annual General Meeting

Joyce Hoffman and Jane Isinger

The Annual General Meeting of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan will be held in Saskatoon at the Travelodge Hotel on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, to Thursday, May 12, 2016.

Entertainment

On Tuesday evening, we will be treated to Roman Bergerman and his band Sol and on Wednesday evening, the choir Eclipse.

Interest Sessions

We will offer five Interest Sessions on Wednesday afternoon. Delegates may attend three of the following:

1. Finances – Fred Herron
2. Tourism – Saskatchewan Tourism Education Council
3. Box Gardening – Early's Farm and Gardening Centre – Vicky Berg
4. Physio-Therapy – Blaine Mackie
5. Yoga – One Yoga Studio

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, 2016. The formula this year is the same as last year: two 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 with fantastic prizes will again be held.

Retirement Lifestyles Planning Seminars

Saturday, March 5, 2016 – Ramada Prince Albert, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

Saturday, March 12, 2016 – Holiday Inn Express, Swift Current, Saskatchewan

Saturday, March 19, 2016 – Microtel, Weyburn, Saskatchewan

If you are an active teacher and making plans for retirement, you may be interested in attending the Retirement Lifestyles Planning Seminar. The Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan, with support from the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, has created this program that will assist teachers in the preliminary planning for retirement. We offer teachers a seminar that encompasses holistic retirement planning. The seminar will be tentatively offered on a three-year rotation:

Prince Albert, Swift Current, Weyburn	2015-16
Saskatoon, Regina	2016-17
North Battleford, Yorkton, Moose Jaw	2017-18

This seminar is not intended to replace or be a substitute for the STF Planning for Retirement seminars. Space is limited so register early.

The seminar will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (including lunch) and is limited to 30 participants in Prince Albert and 50 participants in Swift Current and Weyburn.

Spouses are welcome to attend.

There is a \$30 fee for the seminar.

The registration form is available on the STS website.

Deadline for registrations is February 25, 2016.

Contact the STS office at 306-373-3879 or visit www.sts.sk.ca.



Advocacy

Robert Wuschenny

The January 2016 Advocacy Committee meeting centered mainly on preparation for the forthcoming provincial election. Thanks to Chapters that submitted issues as agreed at the Presidents' meeting. The submissions will be collated and put into brochure format. Copies will be sent to each Chapter for distribution to their members. The brochure will also be on the STS website. It may be used by members as a guide during the provincial election campaign.

Further, the Committee will send a letter to the leaders of all political parties, asking them to respond to the five categories of issues identified by the Chapters: Health Care, Seniors' Care, Prescription Drug Issues, Education and Provincial Finances. Responses will be communicated to STS members through the Chapters.

Lastly, the pamphlet may be used as a catalyst for political party leaders' forums or all-party candidates' forums, should a Chapter wish to organize such. The Provincial Advocacy Committee does not intend to organize forums, but certainly applauds Chapters that wish to do so.

Reminder to ALL Members

For any changes to your address and/or group benefits coverage, please contact the STS Office directly at 306-373-3879 or sts@sts.sk.ca.

Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism

Mike Kaminski

The Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism (SSM) held a Member Organization Consultation on November 19, 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for the 16 SSM member organizations:

- To share information about what their organization is doing
- To receive an update on what is happening at SSM
- To learn about the Centre for Aging and Health and how we might connect with them
- To discuss key topics that should be addressed in preparation for the upcoming provincial election.

Group Benefits

Robert Wuschenny

The Group Benefits Committee met on January 13, 2016, and reviewed the Saskatchewan Blue Cross Claims Report. The Committee noted that usage of our Benefit Plan is slightly up. Plan returns are very favourable in the first six months of the contract. Much credit for the favourable returns is due to the membership taking ownership of the Plan.

Several matters related to the Extended Health Plan are worthy of note:

1. The Plan provides for additional vision care for diabetics; however, the onus is on the individual to provide information that additional care is required because of the individual's diabetic condition.

Twelve of the member organizations were in attendance and the sharing time provided an interesting and varied picture of the many initiatives that are taking place across the province. Mike Kaminski, Sunil Pandila and Jane Isinger represented the STS.

Terri Berglund, a representative from Lifeline Saskatchewan, gave a short presentation on the Philips Lifeline Pendant.

Scott Wilson from the Centre for Aging and Health, University of Regina, reviewed the Centre's priorities in the

areas of Research and Innovation, Graduate Education in Gerontology and Community Outreach and Partnerships.

The next Celebrating Seniors Gala Event will be held on September 25, 2016. The committee is considering a new venue, the Connexus Centre, and will have a new Platinum Sponsor. Alvin Law will be the guest speaker. Chapters are encouraged to promote nominations for this event in any one of the 13 award categories. Please check the SSM website for more information on Celebrating Seniors or call SSM at 306-359-9956 to request a nominations package.

2. Saskatchewan Blue Cross will provide STS with procedural guidelines for integration of the Special Support Program with our STS Plan. Guidelines will be made available to Plan members who require them.
3. Flu vaccine is basically free; however, our Plan does not cover the pharmacy cost.
4. With regard to Diabetic Blood Glucose Strips, individuals are responsible for the cost of the portion that exceeds their Blood Glucose Test Strips limit, based on the individual's diagnosis.

Because of a substantial surplus in the unappropriated funds, the following improvements to

the Extended Health and Dental Benefits Plan will be made, effective July 1, 2016:

1. Eye examinations – from \$100 to \$125 every two years, unless a physician approves an annual examination. (The member must send a letter from the Doctor, notifying Saskatchewan Blue Cross that an annual exam is required.)
2. Glasses – from \$150 to \$250 every two years
3. Hearing Aids/Cochlear Implants – from \$600 to \$750 every three years
4. Dental – Major Restorative Benefit from 50% of \$1200 to 60% of \$1500 annually

Nominations

Robert Wuschenny

Nominations for members to the STS Executive are open and will remain so until four o'clock p. m. of the day prior to the elections at the Annual General Meeting. (Bylaw 3.1.2) Nominees, please submit your biographical information to the STS office at your earliest convenience.

How Well Do You Know Your Travel Benefits

Mary Szunyik, Senior Claims Specialist, Saskatchewan Blue Cross

Your Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan (STS) Employer Plan includes the following coverage for travel outside province of residence and outside of Canada:

- Up to \$5 million in emergency medical coverage.
- Common benefits include hospital services, licensed physician charges, prescription drugs, ambulance services, post-emergency evacuation, meals and accommodation, vehicle return.
- You are covered for 65 days per trip including the date of departure from your province of residence.
- You may take an unlimited number of trips per year.
- A three (3) month pre-existing condition clause applies.

Emergency Medical Care

Coverage is limited to emergency medical expenses incurred by a covered person as a result of a sudden illness or accident that occurs outside your province of residence.

Emergency medical coverage does not include medical services for elective, non-emergency, ongoing or follow-up treatment.

Pre-existing Conditions

A pre-existing condition is a medical condition to which at least one of the following applies to the covered

person: consulted a physician, was hospitalized, received treatment or was advised to do so, was prescribed new medication or a change in dosage, or experienced symptoms that required medical investigation.

Pre-existing conditions are covered provided the covered person's condition is stable and/or has been controlled by consistent treatment with prescribed medication for the three months immediately preceding the day of departure, and medical attention is not reasonably anticipated during the travel period. To be considered stable, a condition must not have required medical investigation, diagnosis, treatment or hospitalization in the three months immediately preceding the departure date. Routine checkups with no change in medication or treatment are not considered medical

investigation, diagnosis or treatment, so they will not affect your coverage.

Trips That Last More Than 65 Days

For trips exceeding 65 days, it is your responsibility to purchase top-up insurance. Remember that coverage under a top-up policy is not an extension of your STS travel benefits. The benefits and exclusions (including the pre-existing condition clause) may differ, so be sure you understand your top-up policy.

For peace of mind while you are away, it is beneficial to know your health condition and the type of trip you are taking, and how that information relates to your STS travel benefits.

For help understanding your benefits, contact us by phone at 306-244-1192 or 1-800-667-6853, or by email via http://www.sk.bluecross.ca/about_us/contact/.

STS Travel Claims From 2013-2014

Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan Outside Province of Residence Emergency Medical Claims 2013 & 2014

	Total Claims	Eligible	Declined
2013	176	166	10
2014	190	187	3

Please note that only claims that were declined based on a Contract exclusion for Outside Province of Residence Benefits were included and did not include claims declined for the following reasons:

- claim was incurred outside of the 65 days of emergency travel coverage
- claim was submitted more than one year from the date of service

SDP Reminder

Reminder to STS Group Benefits Planholders

Saskatchewan residents who are 65 years or older can apply for the Saskatchewan Seniors' Drug Plan. If you are approved by the Seniors' Drug Plan, you will receive a confirmation letter from the Ministry of Health. STS Group Benefits Planholders who are eligible for the Saskatchewan Seniors' Drug Plan may be eligible for a reduced premium by providing the STS Office with a copy of the Seniors' Drug Plan confirmation letter.

For information on the Saskatchewan Seniors' Drug Plan, please speak with your pharmacist, or contact the Seniors' Drug Plan office at 1-800-667-7581 or in Regina at (306) 787-3317.

Spotlight on Superannuates



Yorkton Chapter of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Submitted by Theresa L. (Terri) Mitchell, President Yorkton Chapter



From L-R: Cheryl Haroldson, Doug Haroldson, Terri Mitchell (Yorkton Chapter President) and Maxine Stinka

The Fortieth Anniversary of the Yorkton Chapter of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan, was celebrated on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at the Gallagher Centre in Yorkton with a banquet and a short program including greetings from Doug Haroldson, Provincial STS President, who congratulated the Chapter saying, "You should be very proud of your 40 years of service and commitment to practicing teachers, retirees and community. Assuming that the average career is 30 years, approximately 8000 years of teaching service has been provided. Just ponder for a moment how much impact your approximately 271 members have had on Saskatchewan and beyond". Provincial STS Vice-President and Executive Liaison, Maxine Stinka also attended. Greetings and congratulations were sent from MLA Greg Ottenbreit; Mayor Bob Maloney was in attendance and also extended his greetings and congratulations. Donations for the local Salvation Army were collected throughout the evening.

Forty years ago, a very active and forward thinking group of retired teachers from Yorkton and the surrounding area gathered to create a local Chapter of the STS. The original vision was to work for the betterment of education in the province and to provide a means for retired teachers to keep in touch with their former colleagues. Superannuated teachers from the Parkland area were eligible to join. The first Executive included President Miss Mildred Baldwin, Vice-President Mr. Bill Haacke, Treasurer Mrs. R.N. Adamson, and the Program Convenor Mrs. Gertrude Veal.

The twenty original Charter Members have all passed on, but a number of long time members were able to attend the celebration. The gathering was honoured to have the Fortieth Anniversary Cake officially cut by Violet Churko, who retired in 1986 and was Chapter President the following year, and Alma Brown, who retired in 1985 and has served on the Archives committee for many years. Three Honorary Provincial Lifetime members, Ed Magis, Gabrielle

Hamilton, and Orest Machushek were also in attendance.

The Chapter archives were started by Alma Brown, Shirley Huziak and Rila Irvine in 2003.

A rich legacy of memories in the form of books, documents, photos and clippings have found a home, most appropriately, in the Anna Ingham Resource Room at the Fairview Education Centre. Highlights of that treasure trove of forty years of social, recreational and professional activities were shared by way of a PowerPoint presentation prepared by Albert Waldbauer. Displays of archive items were organized by Shirley Huziak, and Alma Brown poured through the minutes of Chapter meetings to help create a commemorative program including Chapter Highlights from 1975-2015. Marj Wlock and Betty Ann Irving also created a display of teaching materials featuring the work of Anna Ingham.

Continued on next page



From L-R: Violet Churko and Alma Brown

Those who attended enjoyed Christmas-themed entertainment by the Yorkton Community Jazz Band under the direction of Larry Pearen in the festive anniversary atmosphere created by the social committee--including door prize gifts from Santa and a 1975 Trivia Quiz. The Fortieth Anniversary PowerPoint, consisting of almost 400 slides, generated a great deal of interest and will be presented again at an afternoon coffee party later in February.

The Yorkton Chapter is presently 271 members strong and for the past forty years has been an active part of the community hosting local and provincial social and recreational events and supporting the cause of education through scholarships,

reading programs, charitable donations and volunteerism. The first fees were \$3-\$1 to the Provincial Organization and \$2 to the Local. One of the most colorful moments of their history happened in 1976 when there was a postal strike and Chapter members delivered pension cheques which had come to Yorkton by bus. In March 1984, this resolution was supported by the local Chapter: Be it resolved that the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan urge the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation to request the Provincial Government of Saskatchewan to restore full indexing in their 1985 pension allowances. In April 1985, an STS Auction Sale netted \$252 - "items for sale included bread, buns, muffins, tarts, an angel food, varied assortment of articles,

a fine number of bedding tomatoes and geraniums, books and a beautiful afghan". Brunch without the Crunch was started in September 1995! In October 2002, the Yorkton Chapter Awards Committee created the criteria and nomination process for the Yorkton Chapter Award of Merit. The first Chapter Award of Merit was presented in 2004.

The Yorkton Chapter would like to thank the Provincial STS for the Chapter Activities Grant in support of our 40th Anniversary celebration. To kick off the next forty years, the Yorkton Chapter is looking forward to hosting the STS Provincial Curling in November 2016, and is hosting Provincial Bowling in April 2016.

1st Annual Mah Jongg Tournament

April 20, 2016

Hosted by the Regina STS Chapter
To be held at Uplands Community Centre
20 Weekes Crescent, Regina

Please print and complete all fields:

First Name:
Surname:
Chapter Member: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, indicate chapter:
Address:
City/Town: Postal Code:
Telephone
Email:

Tournament rules will be emailed to all registered players.

Registration Fee: \$20 (includes tournament fee, gift and lunch)

Make cheques payable to: **STS Regina Chapter**
Mail to Helen Sukovieff, 26 Kerley Bay, Regina S4R 7L1

Players are required to bring their 2015 National Mah Jongg Card with them.

Information will be posted on the Regina Chapter website:
www.STSRegina.com

If you have any questions, please email Helen at:
helens@sasktel.net

2016 Provincial Bowling Championship

Date: Thursday April 28 & Friday April 29, 2016

Registration deadline: Wednesday April 13, 2016

Place: Yorkton Bowl Arena, 49 Broadway St. E.

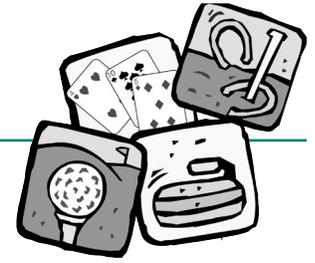
Entry fee: \$65 per bowler (includes bowling fees, banquet, luncheon, awards)

Register as a team, partial team or as an individual

For more information contact Don or Sharon @ 306-783-7849
or donpfeifer@sasktel.net

Team Name:
Team Contact:
Address:
Phone: Email:
Team Members and approximate individual averages:
1. Average:
2. Average:
3. Average:
4. Average:
5. Average:
Individual Registration:
Name:
Address:
Phone: Email:
Entry fee _____ X \$65 = \$ _____
Extra banquet tickets _____ X \$20 = \$ _____
Extra banquet tickets _____ X \$10 = \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$ _____

Make cheques payable to: **STS Recreational Account Yorkton**
Mail Registration Forms and cheques to: **Don Pfeifer,**
36 Wynn Place Yorkton, SK., S3N4A3



Upcoming Events

Recreational Activities Participation STS Style . . .

<p>Bowling Date: April 28-29, 2016 Host: Yorkton Chapter Contact: Don Pfeifer Phone: 306-783-7849 Email: donpfeifer@sasktel.net</p>	<p>Golf Date: June 20-21, 2016 Host: Weyburn Chapter Location: Weyburn Golf Club Contact: Dave Unraw Phone: 306-842-7859 email: unraw1234@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Bridge Host needed for 2016</p>	<p>Kaiser Host needed for 2016</p>
<p>Curling Date: November 7-9, 2016 Host: Yorkton Chapter Contact: Gloria Rathgeber Phone: 306-782-3317 Email: gloriafr@sasktel.net</p>	<p>Mah Jongg Date: April 20, 2016 Host: Regina Chapter Location: Uplands Community Centre Contact: Helen Sukovieff Phone: 306-545-5566 Email: helens@sasktel.net</p>
<p>Fishing Date: June 2, 2016 Host: Nipawin Chapter Location: Tobin Lake Contact: Kate McCorriston Phone: 306-862-3627 Email: mcomr@sasktel.net</p>	<p>Stitch 'N Quilt Date: October 18-20, 2016 Host: Swift Current Chapter Contact: Joyce Hoffman Phone: 306-773-2453 Email: jdthoffman@sasktel.net, or Contact: Clara Loeppky Phone: 306-773-4876 Email: claraloeppky@sasktel.net</p>

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.

Come To Esterhazy

'The Potash Capital of the World'

We are offering a tour package this coming May 2016.

We are inviting you to come to Esterhazy to tour:

- Mosaic K1 or K2 Potash Mine (Tentative)
- Kaposvar Historical Site
- Esterhazy Community Museum
- Potash Interpretive Center
- New Stockholm Lutheran Church
- Swedish Mission Church

- Flour Mill with Provincial and National designation
- Local Art gallery with possible workshop
- Esterhazy Golf Course – refurbished – in the beautiful Kaposvar Valley
- The scenic Qu'Appelle Valley

The tour will be a two day affair. There will be a catered supper with local entertainment. The number of interested tourists will determine our venue. If you are interested in our tour package, please email or call before March 1, 2016 to:

Dianne Kirby, 306-745-6223 (H), 306-745-8866 (C),
k_dianne_@hotmail.com

From The Editor's Desk

Robert Wuschenny

Current temperatures, hopefully only temporary, remind us that Old Man Winter has not forgotten those of us who live on the prairies. If you have escaped to a warmer clime, enjoy! If you have decided to brave the colder weather here, keep warm, stay healthy and take comfort in the fact that officially spring is only two months away.

STS Executive 2015-16

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	Fred Herron, Saskatoon Chapter
Councillors:	
Don Gabel	Wakaw Chapter
Joyce Hoffman	Swift Current Chapter
Mike Kaminski	Assiniboine Chapter
Sunil Pandila	Moose Jaw Chapter
Helen Sukovieff	Regina Chapter
Members-At-Large:	
Calvin Bachmeier	Maple Creek-Medicine Hat Chapter
Judy Buzowetsky	Weyburn Chapter
Jane Isinger	Saskatoon Chapter
Alan Laughlin	The Battlefords and District Chapter
Roger Marchand	South Central Chapter
Kate McCorrison	Nipawin Chapter
Anna Wehrkamp	Carrot River Valley (Melfort & District) Chapter

Resolutions

Mike Kaminski

The Resolutions with their dispositions have been posted on the website. Three resolutions are still being addressed in terms of action responses. Thank you to the Chapters for the resolutions that have been received and approved for presentation at the AGM.

Remember, resolutions are to be submitted to the STS office by March 1, 2016 for review and inclusion in *Outreach* prior to the AGM. However, late resolutions are accepted and are considered on the basis of their merit for inclusion at the AGM.



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 at www.sts.sk.ca.**

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
2311 Arlington Avenue
Saskatoon SK S7J 2H8
Monday to Friday
8:30 a.m. to noon

Reminder

STS Office Hours are Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to noon.

There are three visitor parking spaces located at the East side of the TCU Financial building for STS members.

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