

OUTREACH

To The Superannuated Teachers
of Saskatchewan

President's Report

Maxine Stinka

Welcome to the 2016-17 STS year, especially those of you who are newly retired. We hope you will have a long and fulfilling retirement and will become active members of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan, both at the Chapter and provincial levels. STS is a voluntary organization and a local of the STF. As of September 21, our membership was 11,118 organized into forty-two Chapters across Saskatchewan and in British Columbia. The annual membership fee is \$30. The rebate to each Chapter is \$400 plus \$8 per member. The rebate provides financial support for Chapters to assist in planning their programs. There is power in numbers and when the STS advocates on behalf of retired teachers, numbers count. If you haven't already joined the organization, I encourage you to do so. Membership entitles you to become a member of the STS Extended Health and Dental Benefits Plan without medical evidence within 60 days of leaving a group plan.

Welcome to the new Executive members elected at the May Annual General Meeting: Sue Amundrud (Melfort), Laurie Dubé (Kennedy), Marie LeBlanc-Warick (Bruno), and Doreen Rathgeber (Yorkton). We look forward to working with you

and to the new ideas you bring to the Executive table.

September 20 was an orientation for the Executive and discussions about our Retirement Lifestyle Planning Program with Committee and Executive meetings the following two days. Chairs of all Committees were appointed and goals were revised for the 2016-17 year. Please note the reports written by the STS Committee Chairpersons for inclusion in this issue of *Outreach*. They will provide updated information of the STS Executive and Committee work.

Over the past number of years, the STS has been sponsoring Retirement Lifestyle Planning sessions for those teachers contemplating retirement. We have just completed a three-year cycle holding these sessions in different communities throughout the province but have been dissatisfied with the attendance. A Committee has been established to study and review the program and to make changes that may attract more participants. STS will also continue to participate in the STF Planning for Retirement sessions.

The Budget, Finance and Audit Committee met with the auditors and received the audited financial

statements for 2015-16. It was a clean audit with a very positive opinion of the cooperation and timeliness received from our Executive Secretary and office staff.

The Group Benefits Committee continues to monitor the Claims Experience Report for our Extended Health and Dental Plan. There is a slight surplus at the end of the first two months of the second year of a three-year contract.

Sunil and I attended the STF Presidents' meeting where the objective was "Local Presidents have confidence in leading members in advocating at the local level with a collective voice for all teachers". Many of the strategies and supports presented will be helpful for our Advocacy Committee. I also attended the STF Local Implementation and Negotiation Committee Symposium. One of the purposes was to "Consider the changing context of education in the province, the government's Transformational Change agenda and the potential implications". Our eight councillors will be attending the STF Councillor Conference at the end of October. We appreciate these opportunities to network with members of other STF locals.

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Continuation of President's Report

Our annual STS Presidents' meeting will be in Saskatoon October 27, 2016. All Chapter Presidents are invited to attend or send an alternate. This is an opportunity for the Provincial Executive to hear from Presidents about the Chapter's expectations for the Executive and for Presidents to share ideas regarding a number of issues they face. Additional information has been sent to Presidents. I look forward to meeting with all in attendance.

To date, I have visited a number of Chapters and have several more visits planned. If you are interested in having me come to a Chapter meeting or function, please contact me by phone 306-563-5567 or email max.stinka@sasktel.net. I look forward to serving all STS members to the best of my ability. Please feel free to contact me regarding any concerns or questions you may have about our organization.

Advocacy

Helen Sukovieff

The STS learned that the Ontario government now provides the shingles vaccine at no cost to seniors between 65 and 70 years of age. As a result, the Advocacy Committee recommended that the STS accept the following motion, which they did:

That the STS pursue with Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism (SSM) to advocate that the provincial government of Saskatchewan provide the shingles vaccination at no cost to seniors.

Group Benefits

Doug Haroldson

The Committee met on Wednesday, September 21 in Saskatoon. The Committee reviewed the Extended Health and Dental Plan Experience Reports for the period ending August 2016. The Plan is showing a small surplus in the second year of a three-year contract. Several factors that have impacted the Plan are: government maximum prescription increase from \$20-\$25, increased number of claims on paramedical provisions, overall increase in membership utilization of the Plan and improvements made in the plan effective July 1, 2016.

Bob Wilhelms of Saskatchewan Blue Cross provided a Paid Claim Analysis. This Analysis clearly indicates where there are increases in various claims.

In response to an AGM resolution, a draft copy of the Group Benefits Handbook was reviewed. It is hoped that this Handbook will be ready for the October Executive meeting.

As of September 1, 2016, total membership in the Plan is 7250

representing an increase of 343 over May 1, 2016, membership.

The following goals were set by the committee:

- To closely monitor the Group Benefits Plan and the financial status of the Plan.
- To continue to promote and provide information on the Group Benefit Plan to superannuates, making the distinction between a government funded Plan and our Plan which is funded by the membership.
- To review the policies and procedures on the Group Benefits Plan as set out in the STS Policy Handbook.
- To consider enhancements to the Plan based on financial implications.

If you have any questions about the Plan, please contact the STS office at 306-373-3879 or email sts@sts.sk.ca.

Annual General Meeting

Joyce Hoffman and Jane Isinger

The 2017 Annual General Meeting will be held in Saskatoon at the Travelodge Hotel from May 9 to May 11, 2017.

The Committee reviewed the evaluations received from the 2016 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.

Budget, Finance and Audit

Sunil Pandila

The Committee met on September 21, 2016, to review STS finances and to examine the 2015-16 audit, as well as, to review the Extended Health Plan funds. The Committee also met with the auditors. We received a clean audit. Our office staff was commended by the auditors for providing timely and concise information.

Two recommendations were made by the auditors: to develop a succession plan and a process for reporting fraud. These were examined by the Committee and will be worked on in the coming months.

Discussion was held on the merits of having Chapter Vice-Presidents attend the Chapter Presidents' Day. The Committee will examine the financial implications.

The 2015-16 Operating Fund ended with a surplus of \$33,695, whereas the Extended Health and Dental Plan ended with a \$264,739 surplus. The Contingency Fund ended with a balance of \$929,951. All reserves for the Extended Health and Dental Fund are full.

The Committee also set the following goals for 2016-17:

- To create the 2017-18 budget
- To continue to monitor the 2016-17 budget
- To provide information to members regarding the pension plans
- To improve members' knowledge base regarding the Extended Health and Dental Plan
- To be sensitive to members' expectations through liaison Chapter visits, Planning for Retirement seminars, *Outreach*, Retirement Lifestyles Planning and the President's message in the *Bulletin*

- To consider financial implications for the attendance of Chapter Vice-Presidents at Presidents' Day

- To report the process for investigating suspected fraud

ACER-CART

Marie LeBlanc-Warick

In June 2016 ACER-CART celebrated its 25th anniversary, a significant benchmark in its history. ACER-CART has thirteen provincial/territorial retired teacher association members representing 136,968 retired teachers. This organization continues to improve its influence at the national level, in collaboration with other like-minded national organizations.

The focus at present is to influence and encourage the establishment of a national health care strategy for seniors that meets the changing needs of the Canadian population and protects, transforms, and strengthens the national health care system for all Canadians. ACER-CART is encouraging all member organizations to endorse A Declaration Concerning a National Health Care Strategy for Seniors, as part of a national advocacy strategy. The following principles are the fundamental tenets of this strategy:

- Quality Care
- Wellness and Prevention
- Health System Integration
- Primary Care
- Appropriate Prescription Medications
- Home Care and Community Supports

- Acute and Specialty Care
- Long-term Care and Assisted Living Facilities
- Palliative Care
- End-of Life Care and End-of Life Decisions

At its AGM in June 2016, ACER-CART adopted a Strategic Plan with priorities and goals that strengthen its role as the national voice for retired teachers. This plan needs to be responsive to the needs and concerns of its members and committed to excellence while continuing a dialogue and collaboration with like-minded groups in advocating for high national standards in health care, a National Pharmacare Plan, a National Formulary with affordable pharmaceutical prices, a new and improved Health Accord, and a national seniors' health care strategy. Other facets of the strategic plan include communication, pension and income security and ensuring conditions for success.

ACER-CART continues to struggle with a lack of funding and has put in place a Committee to review fees. The Committee will report to the next ACER-CART AGM in 2017.

Councillors Report

Doug Haroldson

The eight STF Councillors representing the STS will be attending the Councillor Conference October 27-29, 2016. The purpose of this Conference is to provide Councillors with opportunities to:

- Engage in collegial conversations and participate in a variety of small group and plenary sessions to learn about and discuss current professional and governance issues.
- Engage with political and community leaders about issues in education.
- Review and provide feedback on drafts of three policies and two bylaws.
- Engage in proposal development for the next round of provincial collective bargaining.

The STF Annual Meeting of Council is April 26-29, 2017. At this meeting our Councillors will be involved in the discussion and voting on resolutions that will direct the Federation in the future.

Resolutions

Mike Kaminski

The status report of the 2016 resolutions with their dispositions is in the process of being finalized. When the disposition is complete, the final report will be posted on the STS website. You are invited to visit the STS website and update yourself in regard to the resolutions and the resultant actions. Your resolutions are important. They have resulted in updated policies, improved benefits for members and the need to clarify positions with agencies or departments. As a membership driven organization, the resolutions are very important.

In the meantime, the Committee invites you to begin considering topics/issues that are of importance to superannuates. Resolutions can be submitted at any time during the year. The sooner they are researched and drafted, the better they are.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Regina Chapter member and STS Honorary Life member Amber MacLeod who was the recipient of the Heritage and Culture award at the SSM Celebrating Seniors Awards banquet held in Regina on September 25, 2016.

11,000th Member

Muriel Kasun – The STS is pleased to announce that Muriel Kasun is the 11,000th member! Muriel is a newly retired teacher who is a member of The Battlefords and District Chapter.

Congratulations!

Outreach

Joyce Hoffman

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 the STS at sts@sts.sk.ca.

The Committee asks you to continue with your submissions for “Spotlight on Superannuates” and “Superannuates Make a Difference”. We enjoy reading about what your Chapter or individuals in your Chapter are doing.

Nominations

Doug Haroldson

Nominations for the various positions on the STS Executive are a very important component of our organization. This component requires serious consideration by nominees. If you are considering getting involved, please refer to Bylaw 6 – Duties of Executive and Executive Officers in the *Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan Policy Handbook*. 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).

Hazel Parker – Hazel is a member from Lafleche, formerly from Moose Jaw, who celebrated her 97th birthday on August 19, 2016.

STS Executive 2016-17



Front row (from left)

Laurie Dubé, Executive Secretary Fred Herron, Past-President Doug Haroldson, President Maxine Stinka, Vice-President Sunil Pandila, Helen Sukovieff, Joyce Hoffman.

Back row (from left)

Susan Amundrud, Doreen Rathgeber, Marie LeBlanc-Warick, Mike Kaminski, Alan Laughlin, Robert Wuschenny, Calvin Bachmeier, Don Gabel, Anna Wehrkamp, Jane Isinger.

Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism

Robert Wuschenny

A number of personnel changes have recently taken place at SSM. We have four new Board members: George James (Saskatoon), Sunil Pandila (Moose Jaw), Mae Wesley (Fort Qu'appelle) and Nancy O'donnell-Monk (Regina Beach). Randy Dove was approved by the Board to replace Linda Anderson as Vice-President. Linda Anderson has resigned from the Board to accept a half time three year staff position as Media and Ageism Co-ordinator. This position stems from the Pan

Canadian grant received earlier this year. In addition, Rosemary Flaman, Program person, has moved to Alberta. Michel Sorensen is her replacement.

SSM co-hosted with 211 Sask an open House during Seniors Week. An updated *Fraud Handbook* is available free of charge to anyone who wants one. Please contact SSM to request a handbook. Our annual consultation with member organizations is set for November 17, 2016. The Research and Issues Committee is hosting,

in co-operation with several of our member organizations, a Town hall Forum on How a Canada Health Accord relates to older adult issues.

The seventh annual Celebrating Seniors Awards and Gala was held on September 25, 2016, at the Conexus Art Centre. A brief congratulatory message to one of our STS Honorary Life members who was an award winner may be found elsewhere in this issue.



Upcoming Events

Recreational Activities Participation STS Style . . .

<p>Bowling Date: To be confirmed Host: Regina Chapter Contact: Florent Bilodeau Phone: 306-757-5090 Email: bilodeauflorent@gmail.com</p>	<p>Fishing 2017 Date: June 8, 2017 Host: The Battlefords and District Chapter Contact: Alan Laughlin Phone: 306-824-4535 Email: ar.laughlin@sasktel.net</p>
<p>Bridge Host needed for 2016 and 2017</p>	<p>Golf 2017 Date: To be determined Host: Mainline and Souris Moose Mountain Chapters Location: Kenosee</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 2017 Date: May 3, 2017 Host: Regina Chapter Contact: Helen Sukovieff Email: helens@sasktel.net</p>
<p>Kaiser Date: October 12, 2016 Host: Wakaw Chapter Location: Wakaw Legion – 10 a.m. Cost: Registration fee \$20.00 (includes lunch) Contact: Don Gabel Phone: 306-233-3055</p>	<p>Stitch 'N Quilt 2017 Date: October 17-19, 2017 Host: The Battlefords and District Chapter</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 Clara Loeppky Phone: 306-773-4876 Email: claraloeppky@sasktel.net</p>	<p><i>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.</i></p>

The Recreation Committee set the following goals for 2016-17

1. To continue to seek local Chapters to host Provincial Recreation Events as needed.
2. To promote an active and healthy lifestyle among superannuates.
3. To continue to be open to new activities.
4. To assist Chapters in organizing recreational events.
5. To liaise with local Chapters.

Veronika School Reunion

A school reunion of former students and teachers for the Veronika School #2568, located northeast of Humboldt, Saskatchewan, is planned for July 22-23, 2017.

For further information please contact David Wieggers at 306-445-1083.

STS Office Hours

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.

Please do not park in TCU Financial spaces.

STS Provincial Golf Tournament – Dave Unraw

The STS Weyburn and District Local Chapter was honoured to host the provincial golf tournament at the Weyburn Golf Club on June 21-22, 2016. We had forty participants on the first day and thirty-one on day two. On Monday was the Scramble play. The teams were fairly even. Following the golf, dignitaries Doug Haroldson and local Chapter President, Ray Hamm, shared a few words with everyone. Prizes were then handed out, followed by an excellent roast turkey buffet supper. Later, we were entertained by a local trio who played a mixture of memorable songs that the audience could relate to and sing along with. We had a number of door prizes and the Toonie 50/50 that were drawn for.

Tuesday started out with the individual golf play. Groups were put together according to their handicap scores. The winners of the flights were also based on net handicap scores. Our pro shop manager did an excellent job of selecting prizes.

I feel the tournament went very well. We were blessed with two days of great weather and our golf course was in very good condition.

Although the number of golfers was low, I would like to thank everyone who participated in this event and look forward to the tournament next year in Kenosee.

Winners of the four divisions were:
Ladies' Division – Cheryl Cey
Senior Ladies – Joan Fischer
Mens' Division – Warren Betker,
Alf Paul
Senior Mens – Will Johnson



Team Scramble Winners
(L-R) Carson Robinson, Janie Jordens, Bernard Cey, Glenda Shupe



Men's Individual Play Winners
(L-R) Warren Betker, Alf Paul, Will Johnson



Women's Individual Play Winners
(L-R) Cheryl Cey, Joan Fischer

STS Provincial Fishing Derby

Kate McCorrison

The STS Provincial Fishing Derby was held at Tobin Lake on Thursday, June 2, 2016. The Nipawin Chapter hosted the event.

Twenty-three fishers caught sixty fish. Over fifty people were fed at the fish fry. The largest fish, a Walleye measuring 84 cm, was caught by Randy Wehrkamp from Gronlid. The longest cumulative length of fish (301.5 cm) was caught by Betty Ladouceur from Nipawin.

A great time was had by all!



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 28, 2016**.

For information, please request an information package from:

Todd Pearce,
Administrative Support Unit
Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation
2317 Arlington Ave
Saskatoon SK S7J 2H8
Ph: 306-373-1660; 1-800-667-7762
Email: admin@stf.sk.ca

From The Editor's Desk Robert Wuschenny

September is the time for getting back into a routine after a relaxing summer that passed by all too quickly. By now, you have probably had your first Chapter gathering/meeting and have settled in to another year of activity. *Outreach* is also back to routine with the Provincial Executive and Committees sharing their deliberations at the conclusion of each Executive meeting with the membership through *Outreach*.

Best wishes for an enjoyable year. Don't forget to share good news through *Spotlight on Superannuates* and *Superannuates Make a Difference*.

STS Executive 2016-17

President/Councillor	Maxine Stinka, Assiniboine Chapter
Vice-President/Councillor:	Sunil Pandila, Moose Jaw Chapter
Past-President/Councillor:	Doug Haroldson, Maple Creek-Medicine Hat
Executive Secretary	Fred Herron, Saskatoon Chapter
ACER-CART Representative:	Marie LeBlanc-Warick, Saskatoon Chapter
<i>Outreach</i> Editor	Robert Wuschenny, Regina Chapter
Councillors:	
Don Gabel	Wakaw Chapter
Joyce Hoffman	Swift Current Chapter
Mike Kaminski	Assiniboine Chapter
Alan Laughlin	The Battlefords and District Chapter
Helen Sukovieff	Regina Chapter
Members-At-Large:	
Sue Amundrud	Carrot River Valley (Melfort & District) Chapter
Calvin Bachmeier	Maple Creek-Medicine Hat Chapter
Laurie Dubé	Mainline Chapter
Jane Isinger	Saskatoon Chapter
Roger Marchand	South Central Chapter
Doreen Rathgeber	Yorkton Chapter
Anna Wehrkamp	Carrot River Valley (Melfort & District) Chapter

STS Office Reminders

- 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.

- 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.
- If you are on a temporary contract and wish to suspend your STS Group Benefits, please contact the STS office.



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.

Please email the STS Office if you wish to receive notification when it is posted on the website instead of receiving a hard copy.

***Outreach* is available online at www.sts.sk.ca.**

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Monday to Friday – 8:30 a.m. to noon

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Publications Mail Agreement No.40017216
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
STS Office
2311 Arlington Avenue
Saskatoon SK S7J 2H8