

OUTREACH

To The Superannuated Teachers
of Saskatchewan

President's Report

Maxine Stinka

It has been a busy time since the last Executive meeting with visits to several Chapters as well as meetings with Saskatchewan Blue Cross, Retirement Lifestyles Planning Ad Hoc Committee, other STS Committee meetings, another Executive meeting, our annual Presidents' Day, and the STF Fall Conference. Reports about these activities will be provided by the various Committees in this edition of *Outreach*. Over the last month I visited several Chapters. I thoroughly enjoyed each of these visits and would like to thank those who attended for the welcome, hospitality and good food. These visits also provide me with the opportunity to meet new superannuates and to renew acquaintances with others. I would also like to thank the liaisons who have accompanied me to the Chapters. If you would like me to attend one of your Chapter functions, please contact me to arrange a date.

The Retirement Lifestyles Planning Meeting resulted in a number of changes to the Retirement Lifestyles Planning Sessions that we hope will encourage more teachers to attend.

STS Retirement Lifestyles Planning is a program that has been provided for teachers who are considering



Chapter representatives that were presented with McDowell certificates in recognition of donations by their Chapters to the Foundation.

retirement. Response has been very positive but attendance much lower than anticipated. An Ad Hoc Committee recommended to the Executive a number of changes that we hope will encourage more teachers to attend. It was decided that we would continue to sponsor these sessions but would shorten them to two hours and make them available upon request. The program goals are: to assist participants to vision and transition from work to retirement; to promote the STS and its activities; to provide a venue for participants to interact with others who are at the same place in their career paths; to raise ideas and questions that foster deeper thinking about retirement; and, to promote retirement as a positive life transition. A Retirement Planner would be included in the program to acquaint participants with the services of such a professional. Facilitators would be STS Executive

members who live nearest to the location of the session whenever possible and would provide a consistent program. The STF Planning for Retirement sessions will continue to be offered by the STF with STS participation.

Our membership number remains at 11,118. The rebates and list of members have been sent to each Chapter Treasurer. They were based on the formula: \$400 per Chapter plus \$8 per member and totalled \$94,216. With the increased cost of mailing, we would encourage members to receive notification of *Outreach* online if you have a computer. Simply send your request by email to sts@sts.sk.ca. The Advocacy Committee discussed the implications of Social Impact Bonds and the government decision to cease funding NORTEP.

The Disposition of Resolutions passed at the 2016 AGM is now available on the STS website. Resolutions referred to the Executive were dealt with and recommendations made. Scholarships to each university (University of Regina and University of Saskatchewan) will be increased to \$1500 from the present \$1000 provided this is passed in the budget at the 2017 AGM. Expenditures to date are on

... Continued on page 2

Continuation of President's Report

budget. The most recent provincial recreation events (Kaiser and Stitch 'N Quilt) were well attended and proved very successful. **For more information about Committee activities, please refer to their reports.**

The Executive decided to discontinue the Support Services Committee as its major functions were no longer required.

The Presidents' Day was very informative with 33 Chapters represented. Participants asked questions and provided several suggestions regarding activities and expectations of the provincial organization. The ideas generated at table discussions will be distributed to the various Chapters. Certificates were presented to those Chapters who made donations to

the McDowell Foundation during the past year. Representatives were also provided with the Audited 2015-16 Financial Report and any questions regarding it were answered. The Bear Pit Session gave Executive members the opportunity to update Presidents on the activities of each of the Committees and provided an opportunity for questions. The Executive is studying the feasibility of inviting Vice-Presidents to the meeting as well. If you have any suggestions in that regard, please contact the STS office.

On behalf of the STS Executive and staff I would like to wish all of you a wonderful Christmas holiday season filled with family and friends. Merry Christmas and all the best in 2017.

The STS office will be closed for the holidays at noon on December 19 and will reopen January 3, 2017.

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.

Group Benefits

Doug Haroldson

The Committee met on Tuesday, October 25 in Saskatoon and reviewed the Extended Health and Dental Plan Experience Reports for the period ending September 2016. For the period July 2016 to September 2016 the Extended Health Plan is running a deficit of \$171,614.77. The deficit is mainly due to a large number of claims for prescription drugs. It is expected that this financial picture will level out during the next nine months. For the same period the Dental Plan is running a small surplus of \$39,221.89. As a result of this small surplus the Extended Health and Dental Plan is running a deficit of \$132,392.88. Remember this Plan is member owned and funded.

Our President, Vice-President, Past-President and Executive Secretary met with representatives of Saskatchewan Blue Cross on October 14 to review the cost of the travel provision. In the previous contract the travel portion of the monthly premium was \$3.75 per plan participant. The financial experience for that period was very negative and as a result required a substantial increase in the travel portion of the monthly premium to \$9.50 per plan participant. Based on this information and discussion with Saskatchewan Blue Cross representatives the Committee recommended:

- The STS Executive approves a cash transfer of \$250,000.00 from the Unappropriated surplus in

order to attempt to achieve a levelling of future premiums for the travel portion of the Extended Health and Dental Plan.

- The Executive approved this recommendation, and it will not change the member premiums for the duration of our present contract (June 30, 2018).
- The Committee received a final draft of the Group Benefits Handbook and after a few changes the final amended version was approved by the Executive. One copy was given to each Chapter representative at the Presidents' Meeting on October 27. The Group Benefits Handbook is available to members upon request and will be posted on the STS website.

Advocacy

Helen Sukovieff

At the October STS meetings, the Advocacy Committee and the STS Executive dealt with two issues affecting education in Saskatchewan – Social Impact Bonds and the funding cuts to NORTEP.

Social Impact Bonds

The issue of Social Impact Bonds arose in the Saskatchewan education sector when the provincial government announced that the Mosaic Company Foundation would be loaning \$1 million to Mother Teresa Middle School in Regina. If 82% of the 88 students graduate on time, the Government of Saskatchewan will pay the Mosaic Company back the \$1 million plus 1.3 percent annually. The Advocacy Committee is very concerned about the funding of education. There are three issues: the privatization of education, the erosion of public education, as well as, the issue of equity for all students. While not all students are the same, funding to support them must be distributed fairly and according to individual needs. As stated in the October 5, 2016, issue of the *Saskatchewan Bulletin*, "Social Impact Bonds undermine the public's responsibility to properly fund and govern the education system because they allow private industry to dictate matters that are normally decided by the government and the public."

The STF VISION is "A strong collective professional voice for Saskatchewan teachers and quality publicly funded public education for the benefit of all students and society." In addition, in their document "Creating and Sustaining Change in Education" the following is stated: "Publicly funded public education provides a shared benefit for all of society. It should not be

commercialized or privatized as this creates inequities in opportunities for students and teachers." The STS supports the STF and has informed them that we have 11,118 members who stand behind these statements of opposition to the privatization of education in our province.

Northern Teacher Education Program (NORTEP)

The second issue discussed by the Advocacy Committee is that of the decision to cut the funding from the Government of Saskatchewan for NORTEP. As a group of over 11,000 teachers who have a valued history in public education, we are deeply concerned by the provincial government's decision to discontinue funding for NORTEP. We see great value in continuing this program because we believe in:

- a) the value of the cultural richness that Northern trained teachers foster in Northern communities,
- b) the continuity that resident teachers bring to students' lives and community futures,
- c) the leadership that NORTEP teachers provide to Northern communities,
- d) the role models that teachers provide for students and communities.

We believe NORTEP teachers are well trained and are quality teachers. We also recognize the commitment of STF teachers who developed, provided instructors to, and promoted the NORTEP program.

The STS urges the STF to press the provincial government to reverse its decision regarding funding for NORTEP.

Because the STF Councillor Conference was held following

the STS meetings, there was an opportunity for STS to inform the councillors present that we support their efforts on these issues and that we want to work together with them to keep public education sustainable in Saskatchewan.

Attention Chapters

Nominate Honorary Life Members

Don Gabel

The deadline for nominations is February 1, 2017.

Information on the format for applications is on page 33 and 34 of the *STS Policy Handbook*. The deadline is also mentioned on page 3 of the STS diary.

Please forward nominations to the STS office.

If you have any questions please contact the STS office at 306-373-3879.

Nominations

Doug Haroldson

Nominations for the Provincial Executive are welcomed. Deadline for submission of nominations is 4:00 p.m. the evening of the day prior to STS Executive elections (Bylaw 3). However, in order for nominations to be printed in the March issue of *Outreach*, they must be submitted by March 1, 2017.

Councillors Report

Doug Haroldson

The eight STF Councillors representing the STS attended the Councillor Conference in Saskatoon October 27-29. The Opening Plenary Session on Thursday evening involved four teachers from across Saskatchewan who responded to three questions giving their perspective on things that sustain and inspire them in these times of uncertainty.

Other items dealt with at the conference were:

- 1) Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board (SPTRB) Update
- 2) Review of Draft Bylaw 6 (Ethics and Practice)
- 3) Review of Draft Policy (Teacher Success)

4) Review of the recommendations from the Report of the Governance Renewal Working Committee

5) Consideration of the implications of the transformational change agenda announced by the Government of Saskatchewan in June 2016.

There was also an opportunity for advocacy with Leadership Guests during a noon luncheon on Friday.

At the Open Forum on Friday our STS Councillors raised the issues of Social Impact Bonds and discontinued funding for the Northern Teacher Educational Program (NORTEP). Saturday's agenda included Collective Bargaining, Education and Engagement.

Resolutions

Mike Kaminski

The Disposition of the 2016 Resolutions is being finalized. The report has now been posted on the STS website. You are invited to visit the STS website for an update in regard to the resolutions and the resultant actions.

The Committee invites you to consider topics/issues that are important to superannuates and the teaching profession. Resolutions can be submitted at any time during the year. The sooner they are researched and drafted, the better they are.

Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism

Robert Wuschenny

SSM held its Seventh Annual Celebrating Seniors Awards Night and banquet on September 25, 2016. Awards were presented in 12 categories, encompassing a wide range of areas in which seniors volunteer. Congratulations to all nominees and winners. Please consider nominating someone for next year. Information is on the SSM website.

SSM continues to meet on a regular basis with Health Ministry officials to apprise them of seniors' issues and concerns.

Recently, SSM was invited to meet with the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. We presented on Age-Friendly communities, pointing out benefits of Age-Friendly for the community as a whole, for older adults, for businesses and for non-profit organizations. We also spoke on Home Care, a National Pharmacare program and on Expansion/Enhancement of CPP, OAS, and GIS.

On October 20, 2016, SSM was invited to participate in a House of Commons Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates panel, with respect to a study on Canada Post. We presented possible alternatives to door to door mail delivery with emphasis on how postal services may best serve seniors.

SSM, along with three of its member organizations, will host a Health Accord Strategy Forum on November 9, 2016, as well as a Member Organization Consultation on November 17, 2016.

Budget, Finance and Audit

Sunil Pandila

The Budget, Finance and Audit Committee is pleased to inform the membership that our 2015-16 STS Operating Fund ended with a surplus of \$33,695 while our Extended Health and Dental Plan ended with a surplus of \$264,739. Our Contingency Fund had a surplus of \$18,362 and ended with a balance of \$929,951. All reserves for the Extended Health and Dental Plan are full, and there were net revenues for the year of \$501,804.

We reviewed the financial position of the Operating Fund and the Extended Health Fund as of August 31, 2016, two months into our current operating year. We continue to have a good financial position in both our Operating Fund showing net revenues of \$68,211.86 and our Extended Health Fund showing net revenues of \$16,195.31.

To date, we continue to be on track in our budget in all expenditure lines. Our two biggest expenditures are the Chapter rebates and our AGM in May. We will continue to monitor the finances of the STS and report to the membership through *Outreach*.

Support Services

Calvin Bachmeier

At the last Committee Meeting on October 26, 2016, a motion was passed to recommend to the Executive that we dissolve the Support Services Committee. We did this for the following reasons:

1. One of the duties of the Committee was to evaluate applications to the Chapter Support Program. At the last AGM a resolution was passed

to award each Chapter \$400 per year without making an application. Therefore, the Committee is no longer required for this function.

2. The Committee was also in charge of maintaining the Support Services Website. At the time the website was created it was required to serve our

membership. However, other websites have been developed which better meet the needs of superannuated teachers.

The Executive accepted the recommendation of the Committee. I would like to thank all members of the Committee, past and present, for their hard and dedicated work on this Committee.

Annual General Meeting

Joyce Hoffman and Jane Isinger

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

The AGM Planning Committee reviewed the evaluations received from the 2016 AGM. Based on these evaluations, there will be no entertainment on the Tuesday evening. Welcome, Opening Remarks and Candidates' Speeches will begin at 7:30, followed by a social evening with background music, bar and snacks. This change will also allow everyone ample time for supper prior to the opening events.

Planning for the Interest Sessions and Banquet Entertainment is also based on the feedback received. Thank you to all members who took the time to complete the evaluations. The majority of responses were very positive. Any concerns that were identified in relation to the facility or meals have been addressed with the Travelodge representative.

Spotlight on Superannuates

Time Capsule Prediction

Submitted by Red Deer River Valley Chapter



The following prediction was written by Margaret Petrinchuk in 1980 for the time capsule that was opened in 2005. Margaret is a member of the Red Deer River Valley Chapter.

In 2005, if I'm still alive
I'll be too old to supervise in the cold
Or do all those things when the school bell rings.
Like collect for the vico, and clean up if they're sick
And find mitts, scarves, and toques for Mary and Dick.
And reading and writing and arithmetic
Will not be in books that are flimsy or thick
They'll all have computers and neat little games
All art will be done on paper in frames.
The pupils all brilliant, the lessons all snappy
The teachers all rested, the parents all happy.
They may have some transplants in head, ear or toe
And there'll be no such a thing as "an ordinary Joe".
With survival of fittest and culling and selection
There'll be no need for Remedial teacher detection
Of any weak students, who are now in our schools
And our generation will be classed as stupid old fools
Who haven't kept up with the progress of time
And they'll likely be right by the sound of this rhyme.
I'll not worry about commas, semi-colons or spelling
'Cause I doubt if the computer who reads this will be yelling
"You haven't indented, your writing is poor"
Or make me stand out in the hall by the door.
I wonder if computers will be able to write verses
Or hug tears away or get vexed at school nurses.
Or mend any books, untie knots in shoe laces.
Or open up presents and watch happy wee faces?
If schools in the future have only computers and such
I don't think I'd like to be there very much
Working with T.V.'s and some such machines
I'd enjoy it more with just plain "human be-in's".

Margaret Petrinchuk – Room 1A

Stitch 'N Quilt Retreat 2016

– Rosalie Flynn



Twenty-eight quilters came together for three days of quilting instruction, sharing of ideas, making friendships, and sharing their expertise with new quilters at the 11th Annual STS Stitch 'N Quilt Retreat 2016 hosted by the STS Swift Current Chapter. The dates were October 18-20, 2016 and the venue was the Days Inn Motel in Swift Current.

A variety of classes were offered over the three days as well as space provided for those who opted to work on their own projects.

The retreat included a banquet followed by the Trunk Show hosted by Heather Grover.

Participants included Sharon Baker and Gladys Oleksyn who have attended all 11 retreats.

Joyce Hoffman and Clara Loeppky were the co-chair persons for the quilting retreat. The Committee was made up of Joyce Hoffman, Clara Loeppky, Sheila Pool and Rosalie Flynn.



Upcoming Events

Recreational Activities Participation STS Style . . .

<p>Bowling 2017 Date: May 4-5, 2017 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>Mah Jongg 2017 Date: May 3, 2017 Host: Regina Chapter Contact: Helen Sukovieff Email: helens@sasktel.net</p>
<p>Bridge 2017 Date: To be determined Host: South Central Chapter Contact: Marian Spagrud Phone: 306-476-2504 OR Lois Giraudier Phone: 306-268-2097</p>	<p>Golf 2017 Date: June 20-21, 2017 Host: Mainline and Souris Moose Mountain Chapters Contact: Brenda Scheirer Phone: 306-577-1255 Email: bren.scheirer@sasktel.net Location: Kenosee Lake</p>	<p>Stitch 'N Quilt 2017 Date: October 17-19, 2017 Host: The Battlefords and District Chapter Contact: Carol Stevenot Email: battlefords.sts@live.ca Phone: 306-481-5345 OR Bonnie Flahr Phone: 306-386-3116</p>
<p>Curling 2017 Host: Saskatoon Chapter</p>	<p>Kaiser Host needed for 2017</p>	

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

Provincial Kaiser Tournament – Don Gabel

On Wednesday, October 12, the Wakaw Chapter of Superannuated Teachers hosted the Provincial Kaiser tournament at the Wakaw Legion Hall. Twenty people came to play! Competitors from Rabbit Lake, Prince Albert, St. Brieux, Saskatoon and Wakaw participated in this year's activity.

The morning began with a welcome from Don Gabel, STS Executive, and greetings from Gail Huber, Wakaw Chapter President.

High Score winners for women included: 1st Mary Palidwar (Prince Albert), 2nd Brenda Gabel (Wakaw), 3rd Pat Holinaty (Wakaw).

High score winners for men included: 1st Mel Osolinsky (Wakaw), 2nd Peter Stroh (Saskatoon), 3rd Alan Laughlin (Rabbit Lake).

Thanks to Donna Moore and Poullette Nemish for the delicious homemade soup at lunchtime!



STS Provincial Kaiser tournament participants

From The Editor's Desk Robert Wuschenny

Overhead, the geese honk their goodbyes, signalling the approach of winter. We can only wish it will be an "easy" winter as it was last year.

This issue of *Outreach* has important information from recent Provincial Committee and Executive meetings, followed by the annual Chapter Presidents' meeting. Thanks to Committee chairs, SSM and President Maxine for your newsy reports.

Soon the holiday season will also be here. Best wishes for an enjoyable holiday and for the New Year.

STS Executive 2016-17

President/Councillor

Vice-President/Councillor:

Past-President/Councillor:

Executive Secretary

ACER-CART Representative:

Outreach Editor

Councillors:

Don Gabel

Joyce Hoffman

Mike Kaminski

Alan Laughlin

Helen Sukovieff

Members-At-Large:

Susan Amundrud

Calvin Bachmeier

Laurie Dubé

Jane Isinger

Roger Marchand

Doreen Rathgeber

Anna Wehrkamp

Maxine Stinka, Assiniboine Chapter

Sunil Pandila, Moose Jaw Chapter

Doug Haroldson, Maple Creek-Medicine Hat

Fred Herron, Saskatoon Chapter

Marie LeBlanc-Warick, Saskatoon Chapter

Robert Wuschenny, Regina Chapter

Wakaw Chapter

Swift Current Chapter

Assiniboine Chapter

The Battlefords and District Chapter

Regina Chapter

Carrot River Valley (Melfort & District) Chapter

Maple Creek-Medicine Hat Chapter

Mainline Chapter

Saskatoon Chapter

South Central Chapter

Yorkton Chapter

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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Phone: 306-373-3879

Email: sts@sts.sk.ca

Fax: 306-242-2538

2311 Arlington Avenue
Saskatoon SK S7J 2H8

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STS Office

2311 Arlington Avenue

Saskatoon SK S7J 2H8