

# OUTREACH

To The Superannuated Teachers  
of Saskatchewan

## President's Report

Maxine Stinka

After a beautiful and colourful fall, it appears that winter is upon us. The provincial STS Executive has recently completed its October meeting along with the Presidents' Day. We were saddened by the death in October of George Huczek. As a new member of the Executive, we were looking forward to his contributions to the organization. Other Executive members have accepted his liaison responsibilities. The STS donated \$1,000 to the McDowell Foundation in his memory according to the STS *Policy Handbook* (Policy 10, Page 22).

As of October 24, 2017, our STS membership was 11,312. Chapters have been issued a statement of their membership along with the Chapter rebate. The Executive received the financial statements for the Operating Fund for August and September. Additional costs due to the 6% sales tax on insurance premiums meant an increase in costs for staff time and computer support to facilitate the collection of the tax. The Experience Report for the Extended Health and Dental Plan shows a deficit in Health but a surplus in Dental over the first three months of 2017-18. Saskatchewan Blue Cross provided a cost analysis for the effect of potential changes on our Extended Health and Dental Plan.

The *Outreach* Committee continues to encourage members to receive the publication online if possible. This enables you to receive *Outreach* about two weeks earlier and saves money. At present there are 1413 members who subscribe to the online version. The Disposition of Resolutions is updated regularly and is available on our website. The Advocacy Committee discussed the STF Advocacy Project, as well as, the ACER-CART dissatisfaction with Bill C-27 related to pensions. The Recreation Committee discussed the need for a template for the final report for Chapters to complete after hosting a provincial recreation event. This report would be sent to the liaison before the final grant payment is made. The Succession Planning Committee continued its work towards more detail in the Succession Plan for an Executive Secretary. Further information from most of these Committees is found in this edition of *Outreach*.

STF President Patrick Maze and Executive Director Randy Schmaltz were unable to meet with the Executive but have rescheduled for our January meeting. All eight councillors attended the STF Fall Council where we were presented with a strategy to bring education issues to the forefront of the political

agenda for all leadership candidates during their campaigns prior to the parties' leader selections in the new year.

Presidents' Day was very successful with 33 of 42 Chapters represented despite the weather. Presidents received the Audited Financial Statement for the period ending June 30, 2017. Also provided were details of the financial impact of the provincial sales tax on the 2017-18 provincial budget. Chapter Presidents have a copy of a study commissioned by the STS titled "Overview of the Current Status of the Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board". Copies of the study are available by contacting the STS office and might be of particular interest to retired teachers who substitute or have temporary contracts. Chapter Presidents engaged in interesting and informative table discussions and had an opportunity to ask questions of, and make suggestions to, the Provincial Executive.

As a reminder, the Teachers' Superannuation Commission is sending letters to all those receiving a superannuation allowance. This is to ensure that those who are entitled to receive a pension are doing so. About one third of superannuates will be contacted by letter each year.

# Budget, Finance and Audit

**Sunil Pandila**

If you receive such a letter along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope, be sure to sign, date and return it. Also the STS has a Retirement Lifestyles Planning seminar that is available for active teacher or retired teacher groups. It is a two-hour program that can be hosted by STF locals, a group of teachers, or an STS Chapter. For more information, contact the STS office by phone or email.

By the time this reaches you, many will be busy preparing for Christmas. 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 2018.

The Budget, Audit and Finance Committee met October 24 to review the current financial position of the STS in both the Operating and the STS Extended Health Fund. The report we reviewed for the Statement of Operations was as of September 31, 2017. We continue to have a good financial position in our Operating Fund showing Net Revenues of \$27,081.21. The data for the Extended Health Plan showed a deficit of \$168,705.04 for the first three months of this fiscal year.

The Committee received information from Chapter Presidents to address the resolution of having an additional person attend the Chapter Presidents' Day. The information and data received will be considered and a decision made at the January Executive meeting. Financially, the approximate costs for 20 additional participants would be about \$6000.

Some additional work by Deloitte for the preparation of the 2017 final audit cost an additional \$1700.

## Annual General Meeting

**Joyce Hoffman and Jane Isinger**

The STS Annual General Meeting will be held at the Travelodge Hotel in Saskatoon from May 8 to May 10, 2018.

The AGM Planning Committee reviewed the evaluations from the 2017 AGM. Based on the positive feedback received there will be no entertainment on Tuesday evening to allow more time for socializing. Welcome, Opening Remarks and Candidates' Speeches will begin at 7:30. Announcement of Chapter Awards and the presentation of Chapter Growth Awards will also move to Tuesday evening, followed by the social evening with background

music, bar and snacks. The 7:30 start time should allow ample time for supper prior to the opening events. The Travelodge offers an excellent buffet for Delegates.

Planning for the Interest Sessions and the Banquet Entertainment is also based on the feedback received. Thank you to all members who took the time to complete the evaluations. If you have never been a Delegate, please consider contacting your local Chapter and offering to be one of their representatives. The AGM is an excellent opportunity to learn more about your STS organization.

## Resolutions

**Mike Kaminski**

The updated Disposition of Resolutions 2017 is posted on the website for reference. Some of the resolutions have been finalized and others are still in progress. To date, no response has been received for a few resolutions.

Once again, you are reminded of the important role that resolutions play in a membership driven organization. In addition, in spite of fall/winter tasks, holidays, and meetings, please ensure that your Chapter dedicates some time to discussing issues important to superannuates and formulating resolutions. A little time and commitment is required. In addition, the number of Chapter meetings you have annually might reduce the opportunities for good discussions and resolutions.

# Group Benefits

Doug Haroldson

The Group Benefits Committee met on Tuesday, October 24. The Committee reviewed the Experience Reports for the Health and Dental Plan.

The financial status of the Health Plan for the first three months of the third year of the contract is as follows:

July	\$1,801.20
August	-\$172,631.78
September	-\$45,657.41
<b>Total</b>	<b>-\$216,487.99</b>

The financial status of the Dental Plan is as follows:

July	\$47,666.47
August	-\$2,371.95
September	\$2,488.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$47,782.95</b>

The status of the Health and Dental Plan for the first three months of the third year of the contract shows a deficit of \$168,705.04

Bob Wilhelms from Saskatchewan Blue Cross reviewed the Paid Claims Analysis with the Committee. The Committee also reviewed some preliminary cost analysis of possible changes in benefits in the next contract.

Any deficits incurred by the Plan are paid for by the Unappropriated Funds. As of June 30, 2017, the balance in these funds was \$3,678,814.00.

There are many factors that have contributed to the deficits. Some of the factors are:

1. An overall increase in the cost of prescription drugs of 20%.

2. Increased utilization of the plan particularly in paramedical services and prescriptions.
3. Government maximum prescription increase from \$20.00 to \$25.00, for those eligible for the Saskatchewan Seniors' Drug Plan.

In light of the present financial status of the Plan, members can expect:

1. Increase in premiums
2. Minimal changes in benefits and possibly a decrease in some benefits.
3. Possible change in the terms of the agreement until the Plan is back on track.

We must remember that this is the first time that our Plan has been in this deficit position since its beginning.

The negotiating team for the next contract is the President, Vice-President, Executive Secretary and the Past-President. The team met with Saskatchewan Blue Cross November 9 with the hope of finalizing a contract by January 2018. Preparation is already being done in the areas of projected costs and future trends. The team has many suggestions based on resolutions and suggestions from Chapters and individual members. When considering the various possibilities, we are faced with the challenge of concluding a contract that is affordable and sustainable.

As members (7,564 as of October 20, 2017) of the Plan, we own the Plan and pay for the Plan.

# Advocacy

Helen Sukovieff

The STF is rolling out a new political advocacy campaign intended to highlight public education in our province. This campaign will include conducting interviews with the candidates for the leadership of the Saskatchewan Party and then again for the leadership of the NDP. The questions will be pre-determined and answers will be recorded and posted on the STF website. In addition, STS members will be included in campaign events hosted by STF locals. STS will notify Chapter Presidents of the time and place of the STF meetings.

The Advocacy Committee is monitoring the ACER-CART decision to oppose Bill C-27. This national bill seeks to amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act of 1985. A strategy has been articulated in Bill C-27 whereby vested guaranteed pension benefits can legally be converted to non-guaranteed, conditional pension benefits. It introduces a target benefit plan framework and allows for secure defined benefits to convert to target benefit plans, where all the risks are transferred to plan members.

# Congratulations!

**Patricia Suchorab**, Prince Albert Chapter member, was the recipient of the Celebrating Seniors Award for education, sponsored by Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism.

# Councillors' Report

Doug Haroldson

Our eight Councillors attended the STF Councillor Conference October 26-28 in Saskatoon. Registration and a reception were held on the evening of October 26.

On October 27 the keynote address "Uncertainty, Opportunity, and Change: The Teaching Profession in Canada 2025" was presented by Steven Murgatroyd PhD, an academic, author, and communications expert. He is a consultant for major corporations and the education sector regarding change management, mentoring and strategy.

An Open House for exploring programs and services offered by the Federation was held during the noon hour on October 27.

There were also five group sessions:

1. Scenarios for the Future of Teaching
2. Local Leaders as Advocates
3. The Changing Landscape of Teacher Professionalism
4. Governance 201
5. Be it Resolved

Each Councillor had an opportunity to attend three group sessions.

On Saturday, October 27 a Plenary Session was held on Advocacy. Information was provided regarding approaches to put the importance of public education to the forefront of the political agenda.

On Saturday morning there was also an opportunity for Councillors to provide feedback on Draft Bylaw 2 (Council) and the following Draft Policies:

1. Teachers Involvement in Extracurricular Activities

2. School Division Reorganization
3. Contracts of Employment
4. Teacher Redundancy
5. Teacher Transfers

Based on Councillor input these items will be dealt with as Resolutions at the Annual Meeting of Council April 25-28, 2018.



## Spotlight on Superannuates

### Midlakes Chapter

Agnes Zeleny is an STS Honorary Life Member who celebrated her 90th birthday on May 22, 2017.

She began her teaching career in 1946 in Vallar School near Gerald, SK and retired 33 years later in Davidson, Saskatchewan. It was in Gerald that she met her husband, Steve, at a Teachers Conference, and they were married four years later in 1950. They spent many summers advancing their education taking summer school classes at the University of Saskatchewan and Regina Campus.

Agnes has been a member of the Catholic Women's League for over 50 years and was President for four terms. She has served on the Catholic Parish Council Board, as well. As a Brownie and Girl Guide Leader, she led the girls in campouts and weekly meetings while her daughter was young. She gave time as a 4-H Leader sharing her cooking and sewing skills to many young girls in the neighbourhood. She also served



as Midlakes Chapter President for many years.

Agnes is a person who exemplifies serving her community and her profession. The continued growth of STS membership over the years reflects the dedication and hard work of local Chapter members like Agnes. Though an individual's participation may seem insignificant, it is that very contribution that has made the STS an effective and strong organization.

# McDowell Foundation



At the recent Chapter President's Meeting on October 26, 2017, Ellen Whiteman (far right), Manager of the McDowell Foundation, presented Certificates of Appreciation to the following Chapters that made contributions to the McDowell Foundation for 2016-17: Carrot River Valley (Melfort & District) Chapter, Fraser Valley Chapter, Humboldt and District Chapter, Last Mountain Chapter, Mainline Chapter, Maple Creek-Medicine Hat Chapter, Moose Jaw Chapter, Moosomin Chapter, Nipawin Chapter, Prince Albert Chapter, Regina Chapter, Saskatoon Chapter, Souris-Moose Mountain Chapter, Unity Chapter, Wadena Chapter, and Weyburn Chapter.

## Red Deer River Valley Chapter Anniversary

Lynda Gudjonson

May 9, 2017, was the 25+2 year Anniversary of the Red Deer River Valley Chapter of the STS. At our Spring wind up BBQ we celebrated the event with a "25+2" Anniversary cake. The cake was cut by two of the original members - Larry Lozinski and Bill Zolkavich.



l - Larry Lozinski r - Bill Zolkavich

# Superannuates Make a Difference

## Regina Chapter

What do you do with a small broken but sturdy cupboard headed to the landfill, some building scraps, and great neighbours? Greg Lawrence, STS Regina Chapter member, researched online to find any regulations governing small free community libraries. Finding only the requirement that the wee library be on private property, Greg repaired and painted the cupboard, and added glass doors. Greg met with other residents in the condo building seeking their ownership of the idea and ongoing donations of books. With strong support on the home front, there was just one problem. There was no visible accessible spot on



Greg Lawrence

the lawn of the condo property. Greg phoned the neighbour with a proposition. "I've a proposal from your neighbours to the north that won't cost you any money and won't require any of your time." The response was quick, "We're in already!" "Would Speers Funeral Chapel be willing to house a wee free library on the northwest corner of the Speers Family Centre property?" "Absolutely we will!" Those conversations occurred in the spring of 2015. The wee free library jointly sponsored by MacKenzie Manor and Speers Funeral Chapel still experiences a healthy turnover in books supplemented by the condo residents.

## STS 2018 BOWLING REGISTRATION FORM

**Date:** May 3 – 4, 2018

**Place:** Eastview Bowl, 2929 Louise St., Saskatoon, SK

**Registration Deadline:** April 11, 2018

Entrants may register as a member of a team or as a single bowler (single registrants will be paired or added to teams of fewer than five players).

**Entry Fee:** \$70 per bowler (includes bowling, 1 banquet ticket, 1 luncheon ticket).

*For more information contact:*

Rick Murza: 306-374-6323 or ramurza@shaw.ca or Stella Shulhan: stellashulhan@yahoo.ca

### Team Contact Person

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Team Registration

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Members :

1. \_\_\_\_\_ tel. # \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ tel. # \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ tel. # \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ tel. # \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ tel. # \_\_\_\_\_

### Tournament Registration Fee:

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 70.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

### Extra Banquet tickets:

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 22.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

### Extra Luncheon tickets:

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 11.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

Cheques payable to: STS Saskatoon Chapter

Mail Registration Forms and cheques to:  
**Rick Murza, 32 Leyden Cres, Saskatoon, SK  
S7J 2S4**

Limit of 80 bowlers.

# Recreation – Don Gabel and Alan Laughlin

The Recreation Committee met on October 25, 2017, to review Provincial Recreational opportunities for STS members. At the present time we are excited about Curling being hosted by the Saskatoon Chapter on November 6-8, Bowling being hosted by the Saskatoon Chapter in May, Golf being held in Melfort in June 2018 and Fishing being hosted by the Wakaw Chapter on June 12, 2018. We were pleased that Stitch 'N Quilt was so well attended in North Battleford and Bridge was much enjoyed in Assiniboia. We were disappointed that Kaiser had to be cancelled in Unity.

We look forward to approving requests to host Bridge, Curling, Kaiser, Mah Jongg and Stitch 'N Quilt for 2018. Recreation is a great way to get involved either as a host or as a participant.

## Contract Bridge

**Marion Spagrud,  
South Central Chapter**

On October 12, 2017, the South Central Chapter of the STS sponsored a Provincial Contract Bridge Tournament in Assiniboia at the Senior Club 55 Centre.

There were very few STS members in attendance but with the cooperation of Club 55 members, the tournament turned out to be a success. Perhaps a more central location in Saskatchewan would be more of an incentive for more members of the STS to attend a Contract Bridge Tournament in the future.



## Upcoming Events

### Recreational Activities

#### Bowling 2018

Date: May 3-4, 2018  
Host: Saskatoon Chapter  
Location: Eastview Bowl  
Contact: Rick Murza  
Phone: 306-374-6323  
Email: ramurza@shaw.ca  
Contact: Stella Shulhan  
Email: stellashulhan@yahoo.ca  
(registration form on STS website)

#### Fishing 2018

Date: June 12, 2018  
Host: Wakaw Chapter  
Location: Wakaw Lake  
Contact: Don Gabel  
Phone: 306-233-3055  
Email: gabeldon@hotmail.com

#### Golf 2018

Date: June 4-5, 2018  
Host: Carrot River Valley Chapter  
Location: Melfort

#### Golf 2019

Date: To be determined  
Host: Melville Chapter

*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.*



## Please Note

The STS office will be closed for the holidays on December 20 and will reopen on January 4.

## Honorary Life Membership

### Don Gabel

The deadline for nominations is February 1, 2018. 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.

## From The Editor's Desk

Robert Wuschenny

Many reports in this issue of *Outreach* reflect recent realities facing the STS, particularly with respect to our Health and Dental Plans. There are also many issues affecting both education and older adults which give rise to advocacy. Just as many opportunities await superannuates, so do many pitfalls lurk to beset us. Let us work then in a spirit of co-operation to meet the challenges before us.

May this winter time, the approaching holidays and the New Year be for each of you a time of good health, good fortune and peace.

## STS Executive 2017-18

### President/Councillor

Past-President/Councillor:

Vice-President/Councillor:

ACER-CART Representative:

Executive Secretary

*Outreach* Editor

Maxine Stinka, Assiniboine Chapter

Doug Haroldson, Maple Creek-Medicine Hat

Sunil Pandila, Moose Jaw Chapter

Marie LeBlanc-Warick, Saskatoon Chapter

Fred Herron, Saskatoon Chapter

Robert Wuschenny, Regina Chapter

### Councillors:

Don Gabel

Joyce Hoffman

Mike Kaminski

Alan Laughlin

Helen Sukovieff

Wakaw Chapter

Swift Current Chapter

Assiniboine Chapter

The Battlefords and District Chapter

Regina Chapter

### Members-At-Large:

Sue Amundrud

Laurie Dubé

Jane Isinger

Doreen Rathgeber

Doug Still

Anna Wehrkamp

Carrot River Valley (Melfort & District) Chapter

Mainline Chapter

Saskatoon Chapter

Yorkton Chapter

Regina 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](mailto:sts@sts.sk.ca).
- If you are on a temporary contract and wish to suspend your STS Group Benefits, please contact the STS office.
- Please make sure that you are using the correct email address for the STS: [sts@sts.sk.ca](mailto:sts@sts.sk.ca).



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.

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