

# OUTREACH



To The Superannuated Teachers  
of Saskatchewan

## President's Report

Sunil Pandila

Happy autumn everyone! I am sure that everyone is busy with their fall routines of getting things ready for winter. Gardens are getting tilled, yards are being fall fertilized, leaves are being raked and composted, Halloween decorations are ready to put up, last minute house renovations are being completed, and cars are being serviced to ensure no worries during winter. And, I am sure there are many more fall activities superannuates are carrying on around the house.

I would like to welcome our Chapter Officers back for a new year as you start the process of planning activities for your members. Thank you for your service on behalf of all superannuates who are grateful for the work you do! Of course, September is also a busy time as schools get back to business, and students across the province are excited about the new school year. On behalf of the STS, I would like to welcome teachers back to their busy and exciting classrooms. We hope all of you have fun and enjoy great opportunities for student learning throughout the year. No matter which year of teaching you are in, please take time to plan for your years of retirement. It is time well spent and from my own experience, well worth the effort to enjoy your passions after the last bell.

For those who have retired in the past year, I extend to you warm

greetings from the STS. I hope that you joined the STS to take advantage of the many benefits available to members. While you are in for a change in lifestyle, I hope that you take the time to participate in Chapter activities and to strengthen ties with fellow superannuates. Having an identity and being part of social connectedness are parts of human nature, so take advantage of the many Chapter opportunities offered throughout the year to help keep you fit and active. Besides, there is always a great meal to go along with the events.

The fall season also signifies the start of Executive meetings in a new fiscal year for the STS. I appreciate the work that Executive members put in to making sure that we are meeting the goals of our organization. We just met on September 16-18, and all the Committees set their goals for the year.

I would like to focus on the Advocacy Committee's work to start the year. It is nearly Federal Election time. Some Chapters have already scheduled candidate forums to question candidates to help get a better understanding and perspective of where the political parties stand on important issues facing Canadians. The Advocacy Committee encourages everyone to do the same and be better informed before voting. We will be working with ACER-CART and the

Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism (SSM) to hold candidate nights to highlight responses to issues affecting older adults across Canada.

My phone and email have already been busy scheduling Chapter visits this October and November. Thank you to all those Chapters who have contacted me to attend their Chapter meetings. To the rest who may yet be in the planning stage for the year, please contact me. I would love to come out and provide information on the work of the Provincial Executive.

For more information about any of our programs, initiatives, or how we can support you in your Chapters, please do not hesitate to call the STS Office at 306-373-3879 or visit the website at [www.sts.sk.ca](http://www.sts.sk.ca). You can contact me at [sunil.pandila@sasktel.net](mailto:sunil.pandila@sasktel.net) or 306-630-8866.



# Annual General Meeting

Jane Isinger and Doug Still

The 2020 Annual General Meeting will be held in Saskatoon, at the Travelodge Hotel, from May 12-14, 2020.

The Committee has begun the planning process for the AGM. Evaluations from the previous AGM, as well as feedback from Chapters, individual members and the Executive are guiding our decisions. Based on this input, we are exploring many excellent suggestions for interest sessions and entertainment, as well as improvements in other areas. At the next Provincial Executive meeting in October, we will begin to make decisions based on the information

## Advocacy

Sue Amundrud

The Advocacy Committee focused on two main areas at our September meeting: what might our focus be in the upcoming federal and provincial elections, and how might we incorporate sessions into the Chapter Presidents' Meeting and our AGM on items of particular interest to retired teachers and retirees in general. We encourage members to raise any issues that they believe are of importance to the STS with any member of the Executive or by contacting the office.

For the federal election on October 21, we echo the areas of focus identified by ACER-CART, and encourage you to raise these with your local candidates:

- **Making retirement income more secure** by protecting accrued pension benefits, protecting employees and retirees in corporate insolvencies, and strengthening Defined Benefit Plans

that has been gathered since our September Executive meeting.

Our AGM Planning Committee Goals for 2019-20 are as follows:

1. To present a quality AGM that keeps in touch with the membership
2. To keep costs within budget
3. To respond to suggestions and concerns expressed in the AGM evaluations

The AGM is an excellent opportunity for Chapter representatives to learn more about the STS and to interact with members from across the province. Please contact your local Chapter if you are interested in serving as a Delegate.

- **Achieving National Pharmacare** to ensure considerable savings in the cost of drugs, and eliminating the disparity in drug costs, insurance coverage and drug availability
- **Opposing the privatization of medical services** so that all Canadians have equal access to quality medical care; that the Canada Health Act is enforced, and that the delay of timely access to care is eliminated
- **Developing a National Seniors' Strategy** to ensure that Seniors receive the right care, at the right time, in the right place at all stages of aging; to provide more long term, community and home care closer to home; to enable more primary caregivers and geriatricians to provide a consistent and appropriate quality of care; to support the eight million informal caregivers who support a family member or friend; and, to address social isolation, elder abuse, and a lack of age-friendly strategies

# Budget, Finance and Audit

Don Gabel

The Budget, Finance and Audit Committee met September 17, 2019, with the auditors from Deloitte. They explained the 2018-19 audited financial statement for the STS Operating Fund and STS Extended Health Plan for year ending June 30, 2019. We received a clean audit with no concerns.

Our 2018-19 STS Operating Fund had a surplus of \$231,964. Our Extended Health Plan and Benefit Plan is doing well. Details will be provided in the Group Benefits report. Our Contingency Fund has a balance of \$1,234,481, an increase from last year of \$110,729.

The Committee will monitor the current budget as we move through the year. Our organization is in a sound financial position.

As of September 17, 2019, our membership is 11,711, an increase of 263 from last year at this time.

The Committee will review our goals for 2019-20 at our October meeting.

## Resolutions

Alan Laughlin

The Executive is presently receiving resolutions to be debated at the 2020 AGM. Please forward resolutions to the STS Office by March 1, 2020.

# ACER-CART

Marie LeBlanc-Warick

## ACER-CART Executive 2019-20

- Bill Berryman, President
- Gerry Tiede, Vice-President
- Margaret Urquart, Regional Representative – East
- Martin Higgs, Regional Representative – Ontario
- Marilyn Bossert, Regional Representative – West
- Brian Kenny, Past-President

ACER-CART's focus for fall 2019 is centered around Elections 2019 at the same time as being committed to promoting healthy, active and dignified retirement living for retired teachers and Canadian Seniors. ACER-CART's areas of focus for 2019 Federal Election are;

a. Making Retirement Income More Secure by protecting accrued pension benefits, protecting employees and retirees in corporate insolvencies, and

- strengthening Defined Benefit Plans,
- b. Achieving National Pharmacare to ensure considerable savings in the cost of drugs, and eliminating the disparity in drug costs, insurance coverage and drug availability,
- c. Opposition to Privatization of Medical Services so that all Canadians have equal access to quality medical care, that the Canada Health Act is enforced, and that the delay of timely access to care is eliminated,
- d. The development of a National Seniors Strategy to ensure that Seniors receive the right care, at the right time, in the right place at all stages of aging, to provide more long term, community and home care, closer to home, to enable more primary caregivers and geriatricians to provide a

consistent and appropriate quality of care, to support the 8 million informal caregivers who support a family member or friend, and to address social isolation, elder abuse and a lack of age-friendly strategies.

## Highlights ACER-CART AGM June 2019

- The resolutions submitted by STS to ACER-CART were carried with some changes in wording
- Presentation by Minister of Seniors Filomena Tassi at AGM

### Note:

- Dr. Eric Hopkins Final Report A Prescription for Canada: Achieving Pharmacare for All, Final Report of Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare June 2019 is available online

## Group Benefits

Maxine Stinka

The Committee reviewed the audited financial statements for the Extended Health Fund for the year July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019. Both the Extended Health and the Dental portions of the Plan had surpluses of about \$700,000 for a total surplus of about \$1.4 million. All of the reserves are full, and a surplus is consistent with expectations for the first year.

The Committee also reviewed the Health and Dental Experience Report for the year ending August 31, 2019. Revenue for the Extended Health Plan was about \$9 million, and expenses were about \$8 million for a surplus of just over \$1 million. Revenue for the Dental Plan was about \$6 million, and expenses were about \$5.4 million for a surplus of about \$686,000. Total surplus for the year is about \$1.7 million. The first

two months of the second year of the 2018-21 contract show a surplus of almost \$368,000 for Health and about \$224,000 for Dental for a total of about \$592,000.

Bob Wilhelms from Saskatchewan Blue Cross was present and provided more detailed information regarding particular expenditures that may appear unusual and answered any questions posed by the members of the Committee.

Total membership in the Plan as of September 1, 2019, was 8,151 up from 7,910 as of March 1, 2019. The Committee also discussed the percentage of retirees for January to August of 2019 that indicate about 57% of retirees join the STS and about 40% join the Benefits Plan.

Resolutions passed at the 2019 AGM

regarding the Benefit Plan will be forwarded to Saskatchewan Blue Cross.

Goals set for 2019-20 are:

1. Closely monitor the Group Benefits Plan and the financial status of the Plan
2. Continue to promote and provide information on the Group Benefits Plan to superannuates, making the distinction between a government-funded Plan or other private Plans and our Plan which is funded by the membership
3. Review the policies and procedures on the Group Benefits as set in the *STS Policy Handbook*
4. Consider enhancements to the Plan based on financial implications
5. Monitor and update the *STS Group Benefits Handbook*

# 2019 Provincial Golf Tournament

Submitted by Gail Simpson, Melville Chapter

The Melville Chapter hosted the STS Provincial Golf Tournament at the Melville Golf and Country Club on June 10 and 11, 2019.

For the first time a women's two-person event was added to the Tuesday Medal play events. This was very well received. There were 12 Senior Men, 14 Men's Medal Play,

10 Women's Medal Play, seven Senior Women's Medal Play and eight teams of Women's Two-Person Alternate Shot team play for a total of 59 golfers on Tuesday at 8:30 am.



Ladies Division - 1st to 4th Place Winners  
2019 Provincial Superannuated Teachers' Golf



Sr. Ladies Division - 1st to 3rd  
2019 Superannuated Teachers' Provincial Golf

The clubhouse staff prepared a wonderful banquet which was enjoyed by 78 golfers and guests. Thank you to all of our many sponsors. The evening ended with Len Gadicia, accordionist, playing and singing songs from around the world.

A new award, the CHALLENGE CUP, was presented to the Chapter, excluding the host, having the most golfers participating. This year's winner was the Saskatoon Chapter.

Thank you to all the golfers, the inside and outside golf course staff, Committee members and their volunteers, and especially the many sponsors and raffle prize donors who made this event such a success.



Senior Men's Division 1 and 2 - 1st to 3rd  
2019 Superannuated Teachers' Provincial Golf



Ladies 2-Ball Division - 1st to 4th  
2019 Superannuated Teachers' Provincial Golf



Men's Division 1 and 2 - 1st to 3rd  
2019 Superannuated Teachers' Provincial Golf

# Mah Jongg Tournament

Submitted by Darlene Danyliw, Saskatoon Chapter

STS Saskatoon Chapter hosted the 4th Mah Jongg Tournament on May 9, 2019. Fifty-two participants from all around Saskatchewan brought their Mah Jongg suitcases to the Eamer Auditorium. This year an "I Love Mah Jongg" luggage tag was the participant gift. A total of 16

games were played, eight in the morning and eight in the afternoon. Points ranged from five to 265 with cash prizes given for the top six scores.

Thank you to the organizing Committee: Ardelle Chicilo,

Eileen Deneiko, Marilyn Denis, Bev Summach and Margaret Symon-Lungal; Helen Sukovieff who was our Tournament Director; Randy Danyliw and Jim Chicilo who assisted with set-up; and the Saskatoon Bridge Club for lending us their tables.



## Congratulations Hazel Parker!

Hazel Parker, a member formerly of Lafleche, celebrated her 100th birthday on August 19, 2019.

## Spotlight on Superannuates

Submitted by Lynda Gudjonson

Red Deer River Valley Chapter of the STS have two members who turned 90 in September.

Larry Lozinski taught nine miles south of Hyass, Carragana, and Porcupine Plain schools.

He was very involved in the STF serving as Councillor, as Executive, Vice-President and as President. He was presented a HLM – Honorary Life Membership as well.

On retirement Larry joined the STS and was instrumental along with Bill Zolkavich and Ivan Popoff in establishing the local Red Deer River Valley Chapter. He served as President for the RDRV Chapter

for five years. Larry was a Delegate to the STS AGM, on the Executive, Vice-President and finally President. He is an Honorary Life Member as well and still often attends the AGM as a Delegate for our local Chapter.

Irene Brehmer taught in many small schools in the Hudson Bay School Division during her career - Limberlost, Golden Glow, Bertwell, Shady Lane, Weekes, Torrance, Carragana and Porcupine Plain Elementary. She was one of the founding members of the Red Deer River Valley Chapter and served as the Secretary – Treasurer for 20 years. Irene has been a Delegate to the AGM three times.

# Spotlight on Superannuates

submitted by Terri Mitchell, Yorkton Chapter

## Don Pfeifer Inducted into Volleyball Canada's Sport Hall of Fame



Congratulations to Don Pfeifer, member of the Yorkton Chapter, who was inducted into Volleyball Canada's National Sport Hall of Fame on June 6, 2019, in Ottawa. Other inductees for 2019 included the 1984 Men's National Olympic team, many of whom Don either officiated or travelled with over the years.

Don has been involved as a coach, administrator and official in many sports throughout his lifetime; however, his involvement with volleyball has been rather special. From 1968 to 1977, Don achieved every level of certification possible for a volleyball referee, reaching the international level in 1977 after working at the Pre-Olympics and Olympics in Montreal in 1976. Don remained the only international official in Saskatchewan from 1977

to 1998; to date we still only have one other international official from our province.

Don has officiated at every level of competition in and throughout Canada, and internationally he has represented Canada either as a Referee or Special Referee Committee member at four Pan-American Games and five FISU Games, (World University Games) travelling to eight different countries. In 1983, Don was chosen to be the first (head) referee for the Gold Medal match at the Pan-Am games in Caracas, Venezuela between the USA and Cuba-- the first time a Canadian referee was appointed as first referee for a Pan-Am Gold Medal match. He has also held positions such as Rulebook Editor for Canada, National Promotions Chair, International Committee Chair, and Chief Clinician for Canada. However, developing and mentoring officials at every level starting at the grassroots was important to him, and he still works within the Yorkton area both as a mentor and official. Full retirement, he says, lies somewhere down the line!

Already a lifetime member of the Saskatchewan Volleyball Association and of Volleyball Canada's Officials Committees, Don is humbled by this latest recognition. He says the joy of having worked with so many great people, (coaches, players, administrators and referees), within this great sport will long outlast the joy of any induction recognition!

## Office Notice

**Please note that the STS Office is now open in our new space at 2311 Arlington Avenue.**

**Our temporary entrance is located on the east side of the building. Please ring the STS doorbell.**



## Holiday Notice

**The STS Office will be closed after December 20, 2019, for the holidays and will reopen on January 6, 2020.**

# STS Executive 2019-20



Front row (from left) Diane Marchand, Jane Isinger, Fred Herron (Executive Secretary), Maxine Stinka (Past-President), Sunil Pandila (President), Don Gabel (Vice-President), Sue Amundrud, Anna Wehrkamp. Back row (from left) Doug Still, Devona Putland, Terri Mitchell, Alan Laughlin, Lyle Markowski, Marie LeBlanc-Warick, Joyce Hoffman, Adeline Wuschenny, Helen Sukovieff.

## Recreation

Don Gabel, Alan Laughlin

### Upcoming Events

Recreational Activities  
Participation STS Style . . .

### 2019 Events

#### Stitch 'N Quilt

Date: October 15-17, 2019  
Host: Carrot River Valley Chapter  
Location: Melfort  
Contact: Sue Amundrud  
Email: [stitchnquilt2019@gmail.com](mailto:stitchnquilt2019@gmail.com)

#### Curling

Date: November 4-6, 2019  
Host: Moosomin Chapter  
Location: Moosomin Curling Rink  
Contact: Barb Swallow  
Phone: 306-646-4324  
Email: [bswallow@sasktel.net](mailto:bswallow@sasktel.net)

### 2020 Events

#### Bowling

Date: April 23-24, 2020  
Host: Regina Chapter

#### Bridge

Date: TBA  
Host: Swift Current Chapter

#### Curling

Date: TBA  
Host: Yorkton Chapter

#### Mah Jongg

Date: May 7, 2020  
Host: Northwest Chapter  
Location: Meadow Lake Seniors Activity Centre  
406 – 5th Ave West, Meadow Lake  
Contact: Evie Danilkewich  
Email: [eve.d@sasktel.net](mailto:eve.d@sasktel.net)

### Multi Genre Workshop

Date: April 16-17, 2020  
Host: Lloydminster Chapter  
Location: Legacy Centre  
5101 46 St,  
Lloydminster AB  
Contact: Huguette Kitchen  
Email: [huguettekitchen@hotmail.com](mailto:huguettekitchen@hotmail.com)

### Stitch 'N Quilt

Date: September 29-30,  
October 1, 2020  
Host: Wakaw Chapter  
Location: Wakaw Recreational Centre, Wakaw  
Contact: Brenda Gabel  
Email: [b\\_gabel@hotmail.com](mailto:b_gabel@hotmail.com)

**Hosts for Fishing, Golf and Kaiser are needed for 2020.**

*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.*



## From The Editor's Desk

Joyce Hoffman

Summer is quickly changing to autumn. We welcome all new superannuates to our great organization. I hope you have signed up to receive *Outreach* electronically. This can be done by contacting the STS Office, and helps to save both trees and postage.

## STS Executive 2019-20

President/Councillor	Sunil Pandila, Moose Jaw Chapter
Past-President/Councillor:	Maxine Stinka, Assiniboine Chapter
Vice-President/Councillor:	Don Gabel, Wakaw Chapter
ACER-CART Representative:	Marie LeBlanc-Warick, Wakaw Chapter
Executive Secretary	Fred Herron, Saskatoon Chapter
<i>Outreach</i> Editor	Joyce Hoffman, Regina Chapter
Councillors:	
Sue Amundrud	Carrot River Valley (Melfort & District) Chapter
Joyce Hoffman	Regina Chapter
Jane Isinger	Saskatoon Chapter
Alan Laughlin	The Battlefords and District Chapter
Doug Still	Regina Chapter
Members-At-Large:	
Diane Marchand	South Central Chapter
Lyle Markowski	Saskatoon Chapter
Terri Mitchell	Yorkton Chapter
Devona Putland	Moosomin Chapter
Helen Sukovieff	Regina Chapter
Anna Wehrkamp	Carrot River Valley (Melfort & District) Chapter
Adeline Wuschenny	Regina 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 Benefit 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. If you live in Regina please call 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 via email prior to the 15th of the month to be effective the 1st of the following month.
- 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.

***Outreach* is available online at [www.sts.sk.ca](http://www.sts.sk.ca).**

Website: [www.sts.sk.ca](http://www.sts.sk.ca)  
Phone: 306-373-3879  
Email: [sts@sts.sk.ca](mailto:sts@sts.sk.ca)  
Fax: 306-242-2538  
2311 Arlington Avenue  
Saskatoon SK S7J 2H8  
Monday to Friday – 8:30 am to noon

### Disclaimer of Content

All reports in *Outreach*, excluding STS Executive reports, represent the information and opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the STS.

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