

# OUTREACH



To The Superannuated Teachers  
of Saskatchewan

The AGM scheduled for May 12-14, 2020, has been postponed. Due to the postponement the Proposed Budget and Resolutions are not included in this issue. Please visit the STS website for updates at [www.sts.sk.ca](http://www.sts.sk.ca).

## Budget, Finance and Audit

Don Gabel

The Budget, Finance and Audit Committee met on March 11 to review the current financial position of the STS for both the Operating and the Extended Health Funds as of January 31, 2020. We are in a sound financial position. Our Operating Fund having net revenues of \$203,000, an increase of just over \$39,000 from a year ago. The surplus is largely due to the positive experience from the Group Benefits Plan. All budget expense lines are below budget projections.

The Committee met with the Deloitte Audit team members. They reviewed the Audit Service Plan for the year. The cost of the Audit is \$10,600. The Audit Plan was received and reviewed.

As of March 11, 2020, our membership was 11,719 this is an increase of 146 from a year ago.

The Committee will continue to provide oversight of the current budget and expenditures.

## President's Report

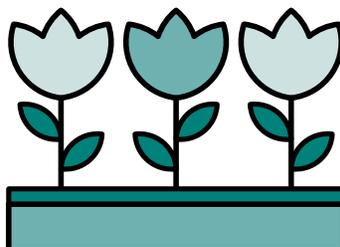
Sunil Pandila

Welcome to a new world, after we started with an optimistic view heading into 2020! How quickly world events can change the lives of people around the globe and nationally! But the health and safety of people is paramount and on behalf of the STS, I would like to say that our thoughts are with everyone who is facing this crisis. Let's hope that by working together and following guidelines by Government and Health officials, we can put this pandemic behind us and learn for the future. Even as I write this article, events and circumstances are changing by the hour.

The STS Executive met on March 11-12 and time was spent discussing the effects of COVID-19 and how they may impact on our operations, whether they are at the Chapter level or at STS Provincial events. But a week later, as this crisis spreads, it is prudent for Chapters to be proactive and consider cancelling

all Chapter activities for the near future. We have sent out a memo to all Chapter Presidents (also posted on the STS website) providing them with the current information and cancellations as of March 17. The memo outlines what we are doing to protect our membership during this time.

Due to quickly changing nature and evolution of new information, please do whatever is necessary at your Chapter level to promote the health and safety of your members. That is our first priority. So to all members, please stay safe, help your neighbours, and we will get through this together.



# Advocacy

Sue Amundrud

At our March Executive meeting, the Advocacy Committee focused its attention on what might be relevant issues for our membership during the 2020 provincial election, and how we could best support our members in determining which candidates they will choose to support.

By legislation, the election is set for October 26, 2020; but the Premier does have the prerogative of deciding to call an election earlier. Since he has announced that there will not be a provincial election in April, we know we have at least some time to coordinate our efforts with the Saskatchewan Seniors' Mechanism. SSM has a meeting planned for April to determine their next steps following the November 2019 release of their report "Strategizing for Positive Aging in Saskatchewan".

Our own discussion determined that the highest priority at this time is government infrastructure to support seniors, preferably in the form of a Seniors' Advocate. Our first step will be to develop a background information/context piece that will assist members to understand the issue and what the desired approach is.

With time, and in sync with SSM, we will work to develop a list of questions that can be shared in pamphlet form.

As these are developed, they will be shared with the membership through various avenues available to us.

# ACER-CART

Marie LeBlanc-Warick

## Pharmacare

Pharmacare Now is a coalition of national and provincial organizations, including ACER-CART, calling on the Federal Government to immediately implement universal, public pharmacare. For more information on pharmacare, please see the fact sheets provided by the Canadian Health Coalition, *10 Pharmacare Myths and Saving Money with a National Public Drug Plan*. You can find these fact sheets as well as other online resources at [www.healthcoalition.ca](http://www.healthcoalition.ca).

President Bill Berryman sent a thank you to STS and other member organizations for co-signing a letter to Minister Morneau asking for the necessary commitments for pharmacare in this year's federal budget. Over 150 national and provincial organizations co-signed the letter.

## Meeting with Federal Minister of Seniors Minister Deb Schulte.

President Bill Berryman met with Minister Schulte on February 11, 2020, regarding pharmacare and pension and income security, expressing ACER-CART's strong opposition to Bill C-27. He expressed disappointment that a National Seniors Strategy was not in her mandate letter for the ministry. She indicated that the government is committed to providing more funding for homecare, palliative care

and setting national standards for access to mental health services.

## Communications

Alberta Retired Teachers Association is working with the ACER-CART communications committee to host and re-design the ACER-CART website.

The Options newsletter will not be available this year.

## Pension Security

One of the key issues in the October 21, 2019, Federal election was making retirement income more secure. ACER-CART's belief is that all Canadians deserve a dignified retirement, with a guaranteed sufficient source of income. This continues to be a priority in view of changes occurring in other provinces and requires vigilance at all levels.

For example, the Alberta government has recently enacted Bill 22 which includes a requirement that the Alberta Teachers Retirement Fund (ATRF) transfer management of their assets to the Alberta Investment Management Corporation (AIMCo). While the government has provided assurances that the ARTF Board can continue managing its present investments, the legislation requires that AIMCo become the exclusive provider of investment management for ATRF's pension funds no later than December 31, 2021.

# Congratulations!



Congratulations to the following Assiniboine Chapter members who celebrated their birthdays in March; **Ernie Gabora** (90), **Edith Kotzer** (90) and to **Valentina Konkin** who will be celebrating her birthday in April (97).

Congratulations to Regina Chapter member, **Elsie Mironuck** (96), who celebrated her birthday in January.

# McDowell Foundation

Colleen Ostoforoff

## Do you remember your life-changing teaching moment?

Did you have a teacher or a research project that continued to inspire and structure your teaching career? At the McDowell Foundation, we want to continue to inspire and support many worthwhile research projects, just like those that changed your life.

Our projects and activities are student-centered and relevant to successful instruction in today's classrooms. Teachers are doing research every single day. This year we have had an amazing group of research projects. Topics this past year include Early Years Education, Fine Arts, Inclusive Education, English as an Additional Language, Indigenous Education, Literacy and Language Arts, Mathematics and Science, Physical Education and Health, Social Justice and Equity, Teaching and Learning, and Technology and Education. If you would like to check out our current projects, please go to our website at <http://mcdowellfoundation.ca/research/?status=current>.

Current and completed research projects represent countless hours of dedicated research by teachers and other educators in Saskatchewan. Please consider supporting the future of education for our children by giving to the McDowell Foundation through a Legacy Gift.

## Congratulations!

The following members were selected for Honorary Life Membership 2020 and will be presented with their awards at the AGM:

**Stella Ewanchuk**  
The Battlefords and District Chapter

**Mike Kaminski**  
Assiniboine Chapter

**Doris McDougall**  
Wakaw Chapter

**Albert Waldbauer**  
Yorkton Chapter

## Group Benefits

Maxine Stinka

The Committee reviewed the Summary of Health Revenue and Claims for the Extended Health Fund for the first seven months of the second year of the contract with Saskatchewan Blue Cross (July 1, 2019 - January 31, 2020). Our Plan continues to do well although the Claims ratio for January was higher than other months during this time period. Total health revenue was approximately \$6 million and expenses approximately \$5 million for a surplus of approximately \$1 million. Revenue for the Dental Plan was approximately \$3.6 million and expenses approximately \$3.2 million for a surplus of approximately \$426,000. The audited financial report for the first two quarters of year two indicated a surplus of approximately \$1.28 million after

all reserves were filled. The Travel Claims ratios were extremely good for the first two quarters (July 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019) but these claims tend to be higher in the third quarter as more people are out of the province during this period. The overall results of the Extended Health Fund continue to be better than expected and should be ahead of schedule by the end of the fiscal year, if they continue.

Leslie Donsberger from Saskatchewan Blue Cross was present and answered a number of questions and concerns. If a Plan member is travelling outside of their province of residence and is hospitalized beyond the 65 day coverage, such coverage will be extended until the person is deemed well enough to return home.

Saskatchewan Blue Cross provided the following information as well. "If a plan member is quarantined in relation to COVID-19, in any location outside of Saskatchewan at any point in their trip, coverage will be automatically extended until the quarantine is lifted and the member can return home. Additional costs for meals and accommodations while quarantined can be submitted and will be reviewed."

Although the STS does not offer "top up" travel insurance, we were assured that if members purchase this insurance from Saskatchewan Blue Cross, there is a savings.

Total membership in one or both of the Health and Dental Plans was 8,143 as of March 1, 2020.

# Regina Chapter 50th Anniversary in 2021

## Doug Still

The STS Regina Chapter which was formed on December 9, 1971, is preparing for the celebration of its 50th anniversary in 2021.

While the official date of formation was in December, the celebration is not restricted to that month as a range of activities all year long will be considered.

Starting in mid-February and running until April 30, members of the Chapter are invited to submit ideas to the Anniversary Planning Committee (APC). In late April/early May, the Committee will review all the submissions and prepare recommendations to the Chapter Executive for celebrations in 2021. The annual newsletter which will be mailed in the week of August 10 will have extensive coverage on what has been planned as of that date.

Please pass along any ideas you have to:

**Doug Still**, President  
socrates@sasktel.net  
12062 Wascana Heights  
Regina, S4V 3C2

# Recreation

Don Gabel, Alan Laughlin



Due to the circumstances surrounding COVID-19, the following activities have been cancelled; Bowling, Bridge and Cribbage, Mah Jongg and Multi Genre Art Workshop. Please visit the STS website for information regarding other provincial activities.

## Nominations

### Maxine Stinka

The deadline for submission of nominations is 4:00 pm the evening of the day prior to the STS Executive elections (Bylaw 3). To date, declared Candidates for the STS Provincial Executive are:

**President:**

Don Gabel  
Sunil Pandila

**Vice-President:**

Joyce Hoffman

**ACER-CART:**

Marie  
LeBlanc-Warick

**Councillors:**

**(Five to be elected)**  
Sue Amundrud  
Jane Isinger  
Alan Laughlin  
Doug Still

**Members-At-Large:**

**(Seven to be elected)**  
Diane Marchand  
Terri Mitchell  
Devona Putland  
Diane Selby  
Helen Sukovieff  
Anna Wehrkamp  
Adeline Wuschenny

## OUTREACH

To The Superannuated Teachers  
of Saskatchewan

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.

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