

STS Annual General Meeting

The Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan has an enviable history of member engagement and good governance. One of the highlights of the STS year is the Annual General Meeting where delegates gather to renew old acquaintances, discuss and debate issues of importance to retired teachers and mindfully attend to the good governance of the organization. Planning for an AGM begins a full year in advance even as a previous AGM is adjourned.

In early 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic began to spread into Canada, the staff and Provincial Executive closely monitored the situation and potential impacts on the STS, including the implications for the Annual General Meeting. On March 24, 2020, the STS Provincial Executive passed a motion postponing the 2020 Annual General Meeting due to the rapidly unfolding COVID-19 situation. Legal counsel was sought to ensure that the postponement and subsequent plans for a postponed AGM would still meet legal requirements and governance obligations. The COVID-19 situation was unprecedented in terms of its impact on the STS organization and the Provincial Executive met often via conference call and in a Zoom format as the situation continued to develop.

Although preliminary plans were made to hold the AGM in November, it became obvious in late summer that this would not be possible and on August 18, 2020, after the consideration of a number of options and legal advice, the Provincial Executive passed a subsequent motion to further postpone the 2020 AGM to immediately prior to the 2021 AGM in May 2021. Even though the COVID-19 vaccines are beginning to roll out in 2021, current indications are that vaccines will not be available to the general public in Saskatchewan until mid 2021. Given this information, the STS Provincial Executive has determined that **the 2020 AGM and 2021 AGM will occur on May 13-14, 2021, via a virtual (electronic) format.**

A virtual AGM will, by necessity, look and feel different than an in-person AGM. At a minimum, the virtual AGMs will need to fulfill the governance and legal requirements of the organization. The various challenges and options for a virtual AGM were examined by the STS Executive in January 2021 and decisions were made, together with legal advice, on how to address the key governance and legal requirements as well as facilitate the grassroots involvement in the organization that the STS so highly values.

As such, the Provincial Executive is asking that Chapter Delegates be identified to participate in the 2020 and 2021 AGMs occurring on May 13-14 that would be willing to engage in a virtual (electronic) format. Although further information will be forthcoming, the Provincial Executive wishes to foreshadow the following:

- The 2020 AGM portion of the meeting will be shortened to deal with only the items necessary for legal and governance purposes.
- The 2021 AGM portion of the meeting will deal with a fuller agenda including various reports, awards, resolutions and elections.
- Resolutions previously submitted for the 2020 AGM will be held and dealt with in the 2021 AGM portion of the meeting.

The STS Provincial Executive invites your patience and cooperation as we continue to navigate this unusual situation as best as possible. Thank you for your work on behalf of members in your Chapter.

STS Extended Health and Dental Plan

Effective immediately, Audiologists and Dietitians have been added to the STS Group Benefits Plan as additional Paramedical / Health Practitioners with an 80% reimbursement level and \$500 limit for each category of practitioner. In addition, effective immediately Social Workers and Counsellors have been added to the paramedical category of Psychologists so that the services of a Registered Psychologist, Social Worker or Counsellor will have an 80% reimbursement level and a combined \$500 limit. To be eligible, the provider must be registered with an association or governing body. *Individuals are welcome to contact Saskatchewan Blue Cross if they wish to confirm the eligibility of a counsellor prior to attending sessions.*

These enhancements are in response to Saskatchewan Blue Cross recommendations regarding changing industry standards as well as in response to needs expressed by the STS membership. The STS Provincial Executive continues to explore various ways in which the STS Group Benefits Plan can best meet the needs of the membership while ensuring the Plan is sustainable, affordable and predictable.