

# OUTREACH

To The Superannuated Teachers  
of Saskatchewan

## President's Report

Maxine Stinka

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer enjoying great weather and all that summer brings. Now that fall is in the air, it is time to start a new STS year. Many Chapters have already had a function to coincide with the start of the school year, and the STS Executive has recently completed three days of meetings in Saskatoon. Welcome to our new Executive members: Doug Still of Regina and George Huczek of Prince Albert. Also welcome to new members of our organization; we encourage you to become active members of both your Chapter and the provincial organization. We have 40 Chapters in Saskatchewan and two in British Columbia with Chapter boundaries closely resembling those of the former school divisions. There are 11,321 members with an annual budget of over \$750,000 and an optional Extended Health and Dental Plan which members may join (without medical evidence) within 60 days of retiring or leaving a group plan. It is important to note that we own the STS Group Benefits Plan and that our members pay all the costs of the Plan. More information is available on the website [sts.sk.ca](http://sts.sk.ca).

The purpose of the first day of our Executive meetings was to provide orientation to our new members,

inservice to all Executive members and an opportunity to plan for the year. The *Executive Handbook* was updated and some additional material provided. Those interested in running for the provincial Executive will be provided with the *Handbook*. Honorary Life Membership will not be conferred posthumously and sitting members of the Executive will not be eligible while they are serving on the Executive. Other items discussed were editor of *Outreach*, Presidents' Day, Executive Secretary position, Planning for Retirement, Retirement Lifestyles Planning, Executive meeting dates, Liaison responsibilities, SPTRB, and STS Extended Health and Dental Plan. Some decisions will require changes to our *Policy Handbook* and several items were referred to Committees for further discussion throughout the year.

The following day the various Committees met and made recommendations to the Executive. Chairs of each Committee were selected and reports of their deliberations are included in this edition of *Outreach*. At the Executive meeting, contracts of employment were ratified for Colleen Bailey, Heather Hase, and MJ Krips effective January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018.

We have been very pleased with their continued outstanding service to us and our members. This was a very difficult summer with all of the work required to implement the government's six percent tax on the Extended Health and Dental Plan premiums, and we are very appreciative of their dedication. Jane Isinger was selected as our representative on the McDowell Foundation Board effective December 1, 2017.

STS Vice-President Sunil Pandila and I attended the STF Presidents' meeting where the objective was "To review changes in the education sector over the previous year and to exchange ideas for more effective local association work in the areas of communications, work intensification and responses to fiscal restraint." The agenda included a presentation of the significant events in the education sector over the last school year and the STF response to them. Susan Burton presented communication strategies to increase engagement and involvement. I also attended the STF Local Implementation and Negotiation Committee Symposium. One of the purposes was to "Consider the current state of collective bargaining in the province, previously initiated and currently contemplated changes

# ACER-CART

## Marie LeBlanc-Warick

to the legislative frameworks for bargaining as well as the potential implications." Our eight councillors will be attending the STF Councillor Conference at the end of October. We appreciate these opportunities to network with members of other STF locals.

STS Presidents' Day will be held Thursday, October 26, 2017, and each Chapter is invited to send their President or a designated alternate. It is very important that each Chapter is represented as this day gives us the opportunity to exchange information with our Chapter members. This is our best opportunity to receive feedback. The agenda and additional information have been sent to Chapter Presidents. I look forward to meeting with all in attendance.

If you are interested in having me come to a Chapter meeting or function, please contact me by phone at 306-563-5567 or email max.stinka@sasktel.net. I look forward to serving all STS members to the best of my ability.

At last year's AGM, ACER-CART defined three priorities. The following actions were taken to fulfill each priority.

### 1. **Maintain co-operation and collaboration with other groups on issues of similar concern.**

- a. ACER-CART remains in close touch with the Canadian Medical Association whose goals, with respect to senior health, mirror those of ACER-CART.
- b. ACER-CART participated in the Lobby on the Hill, organized by the Canadian Health Coalition. Around 150 participants lobbied 96 MPs to initiate a national drug plan for all Canadians.
- c. Primarily through the work of JoAnn Lauber, ACER-CART has maintained a close connection to Seniors Voice, a collation of numerous retired voices.
- d. ACER-CART stays connected to the McMaster University Health Portal that gives seniors a window to information on many health issues.
- e. ACER-CART has also engaged a connection with Cogniciti and with Waterloo University in their respective research on aging.
- f. ACER-CART continues to collaborate with the National Pensioners' Federation, as part of an effort to raise the voice of seniors at the national level.
- g. Roger Régimbal, ACER-CART's Executive Director, continues to use his expertise in pensions to work with the Canadian Coalition for Retirement Security to ensure the protection of already accrued pensions and to protect the concept of Defined Benefit Pensions.

### 2. **Continue to work on being a voice for seniors at the national level.**

The following issues have been communicated to the federal government, and we continue to strive for:

- a. The establishment of a Ministry for Seniors
- b. A national seniors' health care strategy
- c. The implementation of a national drug plan
- d. The implementation of a pharmaceutical formulary
- e. The preservation of the Canada Health Act and its principles

### 3. **Continue to advocate for health goals identified in the Strategic Plan and from Member Resolutions.**

ACER-CART is awaiting response from the federal government.

## **Priorities of ACER-CART 2017-18**

1. Develop strategies and produce resources for retired teachers and seniors featuring the advantages of defined benefit plans both to the economy and to the individual.
2. Continue to work on being a significant voice for retired teachers and seniors at the national level, maintaining co-operation with other groups on issues of common concern.
3. Develop strategies and produce resources for retired teachers and seniors supporting a one Canadian purchaser national pharmaceutical formulary.
4. Investigate and develop strategies to produce resources for retired teachers and seniors to counter elder abuse.

# Budget, Finance and Audit

Sunil Pandila

The Budget, Finance and Audit Committee met September 19 and reviewed the financial statements of the STS Operating and STS Extended Health Funds. We met with the auditor, Mitch Hymers (Karren Gordon-Green was unable to attend) from Deloitte to review the draft of the 2016-17 audit for the year ending June 30, 2017. We received a clean audit, and with some minor corrections to the draft, the final copy will be available shortly. Thanks was expressed to Deloitte for their work.

Our 2016-17 STS Operating Fund ended on a positive note with a surplus of \$104,426.00. The Extended Health and Benefit Plan, however, ended with a deficit of \$1,317,893.80. This shortfall was covered through a maturing term deposit from our Unappropriated Reserve Fund.

Our Contingency Fund had a surplus of \$68,530 and ended with a balance of \$998,481. STS Guideline 9.12 calls for the transfer of funds from the Operations Reserve Fund to the Contingency Fund if the Operations Reserve Fund exceeds fifty percent of the previous year's expenditures. As per our Guideline, we were able to transfer \$64,926.00 into our Contingency fund.

The Committee will monitor the current budget as we progress through the year.

As of September 20, STS membership was 11,321 members.

The Committee also set the goals for the 2017-18 year as follows:

1. Create the 2018-19 budget.
2. Continue to monitor the 2017-18 budget.

3. Provide information to members regarding the pension plans.
4. Improve members' knowledge base regarding the Extended Health and Dental Plan.
5. Be sensitive to members' expectations through liaison Chapter visits, Planning for Retirement seminars, *Outreach*, Retirement Lifestyles Planning and the President's Message in the *Bulletin*.
6. Consider financial implications for the attendance of Chapter Vice-Presidents at Presidents' Day.
7. Report the process for investigating fraud.

## Group Benefits

Doug Haroldson

As we are in the third year of our current contract with Saskatchewan Blue Cross, it is necessary to consider the performance of the Extended Health and Dental Plan during the second year of the contract and the first two months of the third year.

In summary, the financial status of the Extended Health and Dental Plan for the year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, is as follows:

<b>1. Extended Health</b>	
Total Premiums	\$6,408,745.00
Total Plan Costs	\$7,194,784.00
Year End Financial Position	(\$786,039.00)
<b>2. Dental</b>	
Total Premiums	\$4,478,799.00
Total Plan Costs	\$4,760,654.00
Year End Financial Position	(\$281,855.00)
<b>3. Travel (Pooled)</b>	
Total Premiums	\$1,464,600.00
	<i>(including \$250,000.00 cash injection)</i>
Total Claims	\$661,294.78

Even after the cash injection of \$379,795.00, we still had a deficit of \$688,099.00. The total operating deficit for 2016-17 was \$1,067,894.00.

The financial status of the plan for July 1, 2017 – August 30, 2017 is as follows:

<b>1. July</b>	
Extended Health	\$1,801.20
Dental	\$47,666.47
<b>2. August</b>	
Extended Health	(\$172,631.78)
Dental	(\$2,371.95)

# Councillors Report

Doug Haroldson

The eight STF Councillors representing the STS will be attending the Councillor Conference October 26-28, 2017.

The purpose of the conference is to provide Councillors with the opportunity to:

- Engage in collegial conversations and participate in a variety of group and plenary sessions to learn about and discuss current professional and governance issues.
- Review and provide feedback on drafts of policies related to teacher workload and work life.
- Discuss matters related to a review of Bylaw 2 (Council) in relation to the recommendations of the governance renewal committee.

- Be aware of the progress to date of provincial collective bargaining.
- Engage in collegial conversations and increase awareness around advocacy of the Federation and the role local leaders have in the Federation's advocacy efforts.

The participation of our Councillors is important as the STS is a local of the STF. Matters dealt with by the STF are important to teachers and retirees.

## Congratulations!

**Hazel Parker** – Hazel is a member from Lafleche, formerly from Moose Jaw, who celebrated her 98th birthday on August 19, 2017.

# Annual General Meeting

Joyce Hoffman and Jane Isinger

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

The AGM Committee reviewed the evaluations from the 2017 AGM, as well as evaluations submitted by the Saskatoon and Regina Chapters. Responses were very positive. Committee members are pursuing some of the numerous suggestions for interest sessions and entertainment. Feedback relating to all areas of the AGM is taken very seriously and changes will be made if possible. Thank you

to everyone who completed the evaluation form.

The goals of the AGM Planning Committee for 2018 are:

1. Present a quality AGM that keeps in touch with the membership.
2. Keep costs within budget.
3. Respond to suggestions and concerns expressed in the AGM evaluations.

Please consider representing your Chapter as an AGM Delegate in 2018.

# Advocacy

Helen Sukovieff

The Advocacy Committee met on September 19 and discussed a number of items including some of the resolutions from the 2017 STS AGM. As decisions are made, information will be shared.

It was brought to our attention that the College and University Retiree Association of Canada has a position paper on Pharmacare, Isn't It Time For A National Pharmacare Plan For Canada? This document can be read at the following site: [www.curac.ca/bulletin-9/](http://www.curac.ca/bulletin-9/)

The committee received several emails requesting STS inform members about the SaskCrowns project. SaskCrowns is a community-based group of individuals who want Saskatchewan people to determine the fate of our Crown corporations. The purpose of SaskCrowns is to have the Saskatchewan government hold a plebiscite that, if approved, would require the Saskatchewan government to hold a referendum before selling any interest in or winding up any Crown corporations. A link to their website is available on the STS website ([www.sts.sk.ca](http://www.sts.sk.ca)) for those who are interested.

Lastly, SSM (Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism) is sponsoring an Advocacy Workshop for members of their member organizations on November 16, 2017. All members of STS Advocacy Committee plus other executive members are planning to be in attendance.

## STS Executive 2017-18



Back row (from left)  
Laurie Dubé, Joyce Hoffman, Don Gabel, Mike Kaminski, George Huczek, Alan Laughlin, Marie LeBlanc-Warick, Doug Still, Doreen Rathgeber.

Front row (from left)  
Jane Isinger, Helen Sukovieff, Executive Secretary Fred Herron, Vice-President Sunil Pandila, President Maxine Stinka, Past-President Doug Haroldson, Sue Amundrud, Anna Wehrkamp.  
Missing from picture—Robert Wuschenny (*Outreach* editor).

## Outreach

Maxine Stinka

Joyce Hoffman was selected as Chairperson of the *Outreach* Committee. Several other members of the Committee volunteered to proof *Outreach*. The Committee decided it would be helpful if someone from each Chapter that submits names of Chapter Award recipients would submit an article to *Outreach* in recognition of their contributions.

The following goals were set by the committee for 2017-18:

1. Continue to request that the Executive members use the STS Style Guide when preparing reports.
2. Continue to monitor the printing and distribution of *Outreach*.
3. Continue to request contributions for “Spotlight on Superannuates” and for “Superannuates Make a Difference” in *Outreach*.
4. Encourage members to check the website for additional information.
5. Continue to encourage members to receive *Outreach* online.

## Spotlight on Superannuates

Anna Wehrkamp



### Grace Ellis

The Diocese of Saskatchewan held a service in Prince Albert celebrating the investiture of members of the Order of Saskatchewan, one of them being Grace Ellis, of Melfort. She was recognized for her exemplary lay ministries.

### Doug Lyon

A long-time volunteer with the Melfort Curling Club, Doug Lyon, has been named an Honour Roll inductee as builder by the Saskatchewan Curling Association.

Doug began curling in 1947 and his love of the game lead him to volunteer his time to ensure the club’s success. Recognition was given for his involvement in competitive curling, committee work, coaching school teams, chairperson of the 1995 Tankard and innovator for stick curling in the province.

Both are long-time active members of the Carrot River Valley (Melfort & District) Chapter.



# STS Provincial Golf Tournament

## Brenda Scheirer

The STS Mainline and District Chapter, along with volunteers from the Souris Moose Mountain Chapter, were pleased to welcome golfers from across the province to the Provincial Golf Tournament at Golf Kenosee, Moose Mountain Park, on June 20-21, 2017.

On Tuesday, we had 54 players join in the scramble, mixing teams so they were fairly evenly matched. After registration and a short meeting, the teams headed off for their starting holes. Following an afternoon of great weather and golfing, a roast beef banquet was served at Club 19. Laurie Dubé, our STS Member at Large, MC'd our program. Following grace and the supper, STS President, Maxine Stinka said a few words and Mainline thanked our donors and Committee. Prizes of gift certificates, as well as donated and purchased items were awarded. Novelty prizes were awarded for closest to the line, longest putt, longest drive, closest to the pin, and a 'water sacrifice'. Then we drew the lucky winners of the 50/50 and "Get a Birdie" birdhouse. "Voices of the Valley", a talented quartet including two of our Mainline Chapter members, entertained with popular songs.

On Wednesday, the individual golf play started at 9 a.m. with 51 golfers. Groups were made according to handicap (or average 18 hole) scores. There were three flights for the women, one for the men, one for the senior women, and two for the senior men. The weather was favourable, and the course was in great shape!



Top golfers L-R : Alf Paul (Men's), Carol Oleksyn (Sr Women's), Cheryl Cey (Women's), Carson Robinson (Sr Men's)



Scramble Team L-R: Beatrice White, Eileen Plackett, Doug Haroldson, Larry Folk

The Pro Shop Manager, Club 19 manager, and Grounds Keeper were great to work with and helped to make it a successful event. Mostly though, the event was enjoyable because of such terrific participation and cooperation of the golfers themselves, and of course, all of the volunteers who stuffed welcome bags or made up teams or did whatever was needed.

It was great to see so many come, especially from farther points in the province. We look forward to seeing many of you return to golf here in our part of the province and hope you will get the word out that the Carrot River Valley (Melfort & District) Chapter is hosting in 2018!

# Recreation – Don Gabel and Alan Laughlin



Your Recreation Committee met on September 19, 2017. Members of the Committee include: Alan Laughlin, Don Gabel, Doug Haroldson, Fred Herron, Joyce Hoffman, Anna Wehrkamp and Maxine Stinka. Alan Laughlin and Don Gabel were recommended as co-chairs of this Committee.

The change in the Chairperson position is a result of Calvin Bachmeier's retirement from the Executive of the STS. Thank you, Calvin, for your many years of service to the STS and the Recreation Committee. We will hold the torch to the high standard that you have set.

The Committee approved two requests to host provincial events for the following activities:

- Wakaw Chapter to host the Fishing Derby for 2018
- Melville Chapter to host Golf for 2019

We also established liaisons for the Provincial Activities:

- Kaiser – Don Gabel
- Bowling – Doreen Rathgeber
- Stitch 'N Quilt – Sue Amundrud
- Curling – Alan Laughlin
- Fishing – Don Gabel
- Bridge – Fred Herron
- Golf – Maxine Stinka and Anna Wehrkamp
- Mah Jongg – Helen Sukovieff

Hosts are needed for the following events for 2018: Kaiser, Stitch 'N Quilt, Curling, Bridge, Mah Jongg.

*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.*

## Upcoming Events

	Recreational Activities
<p><b>Contract Bridge</b>                      Date: October 12, 2017                      Host: South Central Chapter                      Location: Assiniboia Club 55 Seniors' Centre                      Contact: Marian Spagrud                      Phone: 306-476-2504 or                      Contact: Lois Giraudier                      Phone: 306-268-2097</p>	<p><b>Stitch 'N Quilt 2017</b>                      Date: October 17-19, 2017                      Host: The Battlefords and District Chapter                      Contact: Carol Stevenot                      Phone: 306-481-5345 or                      Contact: Bonnie Flahr                      Phone: 306-386-3116 or                      Email: battlefords.sts@live.ca                      Registration information on STS website</p>
<p><b>Curling</b>                      Date: November 6-8, 2017                      Host: Saskatoon Chapter                      Location: Sutherland Curling Club                      Contact: Darlene Danyliw                      Phone: 306-249-4494                      Email: darlene.danyliw@shaw.ca</p>	<p><b>Bowling 2018</b>                      Date: May 2018                      Host: Saskatoon Chapter</p>
<p><b>Kaiser</b>                      Date: October 17, 2017                      Host: Unity Chapter                      Location: New Horizons Hall                      Contact: Jim Sego                      Phone: 306-228-3981                      Email: jimsego@sasktel.net                      Registration Deadline: October 14, 2017</p>	<p><b>Fishing 2018</b>                      Date: June 2018                      Host: Wakaw Chapter</p>
	<p><b>Golf 2018</b>                      Date: June 2018                      Host: Carrot River Valley (Melfort &amp; District) Chapter</p>
	<p><b>Golf 2019</b>                      Date: To be determined                      Host: Melville Chapter</p>

## Congratulations!

Prince Albert Chapter retired teacher, Janice Olesko, was among nine individuals to receive a Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal, awarded by Lieutenant Governor Vaughn Solomon Schofield on April 24, 2017. Janice has been an active community volunteer for several Prince Albert organizations.

## Honorary Life Membership

### Don Gabel

Members of the Committee are Don Gabel, Laurie Dubé, Fred Herron, Alan Laughlin and Maxine Stinka.

Nominations are open now for Honorary Life Membership. Deadline for nominations is February 1, 2018.

## From The Editor's Desk Robert Wuschenny

A warm welcome is extended to all new superannuates. As "seasoned" superannuates, we encourage you to get involved in your Chapter activities and meetings and hope that you will find these to be enjoyable experiences.

*Outreach* is available in print form and online. If you wish to receive notification of the *Outreach* being online, please email the STS office (sts@sts.sk.ca) to advise that you wish to do so as this results in considerable cost savings.

Again, we ask you to share good news through Spotlight on Superannuates, Superannuates Make a Difference and milestone birthdays of 90 and over.

Have a wonderful "superannuated" year!

## 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

George Huczek

Jane Isinger

Doreen Rathgeber

Doug Still

Anna Wehrkamp

Carrot River Valley (Melfort & District) Chapter

Mainline Chapter

Prince Albert 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.
- 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**.



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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Monday to Friday – 8:30 a.m. to noon

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