

OUTREACH



To The Superannuated Teachers
of Saskatchewan

President's Report

Margaret Martin

I wish to begin my message with some sad news. On Wednesday, January 5, 2011 I received word that Dan Palsich, my friend and colleague, had passed away near his home in Paradise Hill on January 4. Dan was an STS Provincial Executive Member At Large and also the STS Lloydminster Chapter President. Not only was Dan very committed to the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan both provincially and locally, but he also was committed to his community and our province through his work on numerous boards and organizations. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to his family and friends and all members of the Lloydminster Chapter. We will all miss you, Dan!

The Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan Provincial Executive met in Saskatoon on January 12 and 13, 2011. The organization's membership continues to grow and is now at 9 416 members. All of our Committees are working hard to achieve the goals they established at the September, 2010 meeting. Our Budget, Finance and Audit Committee scrutinized the financial reports and noted that they show that the STS Operating Fund and Extended Health Fund both are financially sound. This Committee also began work on the proposed

budget for 2011-2012 and updated and reviewed the STS Operations Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plan. The Group Benefits Committee also reviewed the Saskatchewan Blue Cross Claims experience reports for the second year of our three year contract with Saskatchewan Blue Cross. We have noted that the costs associated with dental claims have risen more than anticipated during this second year. The Recreation Committee discussed each of the STS Provincially supported recreation events for the 2010-2011 year. No host for the fishing event has yet been found, but golf, kaiser, bridge, bowling, and Stitch 'N Quilt are all to be hosted by Local Chapters during this year. Curling was already successfully hosted by the Parkland Chapter in November 2010, and will be hosted by the Swift Current Chapter in 2011. The Resolutions Committee reviewed all resolutions received to date and is requesting all members and local Chapters to submit their resolutions as soon as possible. The Annual General Meeting Committee has reviewed and completed all documentation for the 38th AGM to be held in Saskatoon on May 10, 11, 12, 2011. The STS Office has mailed information to all Chapter Presidents. The Support Services Committee reviewed the STS website usage and noted that the

Disposition of Resolutions for the previous five years has now been placed on the website. Please check the STS website for further information about Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan, its programs, benefits, and publications at www.sts.sk.ca and read the reports written on the following pages for more information about each of the STS Committees and their work.

As Saskatchewan anticipates several more cold, snowy, or "indoor recess" days as we used to call them when we spent our days in Saskatchewan schools, I want to assure you that your STS Executive and our STS Office Staff will continue to work on your behalf. Our next STS Provincial Executive meeting is planned for March 8 and 9, 2011. I know, too, that our Local Chapters have several interesting meetings planned for this season. I have received invitations from several more Local Chapters to visit in the coming months, and I look forward to meeting many of our members at those meetings. I would welcome your invitation to visit your Chapter, as well. Please call me at 306-373-4433 or send me an email at bill.marg@sasktel.net.

Have a very happy and healthy winter season!

Group Benefits Report

Shirley Henderson

The Committee met and discussed the following:

- Question in regards to a pharmacist substituting a generic drug for a brand name and how this affects travel benefits because of a change in medication.

Saskatchewan Blue Cross Response: After some investigation, we have determined that this type of change is not indicative of a physician prescribing another version of a drug. At certain times, there may only be one brand of a particular drug. As generic versions become approved and available, a pharmacist may dispense the generic instead of the brand name. Therefore, we have decided that this should not affect a client's travel benefits.

- Clarification on diagnostic and other procedures:

Saskatchewan Blue Cross Response: Diagnostic procedures and radiology (when not confined to hospital), blood transfusions and their administration. Radiology services must be medically necessary and have prior approval for payment from the appropriate Provincial Government Health program

and from Saskatchewan Blue Cross.

Without extending the foregoing, radiology services for the following procedures are expressly excluded from coverage: Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Computed Tomography (CT) scan, Position Emission Tomography (PET) scan.

- Questions concerning pre-existing conditions and travel:

1) If a member of the plan has a pre-existing condition, that has not been stable for three months, does the exclusion of coverage apply only to that specific pre-existing condition, or has it a much broader interpretation?

Saskatchewan Blue Cross Response: The exclusion would apply to the specific pre-existing condition, however, anything relating to the pre-existing condition would not be covered.

2) If a member chooses to travel outside their province of residence in excess of 65 days, and that member has a pre-existing condition that has not been stable for the three month period, will

Saskatchewan Blue Cross sell that member top-up insurance.

Saskatchewan Blue Cross Response: Top up coverage could be sold, however, pre-existing conditions would not be covered, and anything relating to the pre-existing condition would not be covered.

3) Will the top-up insurance cover all conditions except the pre-existing condition, which has not been stable for three months?

Saskatchewan Blue Cross Response: If you are between the age of 55-69 and travelling in excess of 65 days, you are not eligible to purchase the Daily Travel Plan if, during the 24 months prior to the date of departure, you have certain conditions that you were treated for or had been diagnosed within that 24 month time frame.

4) Does Saskatchewan Blue Cross sell top-up insurance to cover a pre-existing condition?

Saskatchewan Blue Cross Response: There is no coverage available through Saskatchewan Blue Cross to cover any pre-existing conditions.

Reminder to Group Benefit Members:

Please contact the STS Office directly regarding any changes to your Group Benefits; (dependents, cancellations, addresses, etc.). If your dependent(s) is no longer a full time student or is turning 26, please contact the STS Office.

Congratulations!

We would like to commend and congratulate our STS Scholarship recipients, Branden Moore from the University of Regina and Anthony Dudar and Lauren Schensney-Chery from the University of Saskatchewan.

AGM Report

Shirley Dyck & Doug Haroldson

The 38th Annual General Meeting of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan will be held in Saskatoon at the Travelodge Hotel on Tuesday, May 10 – Thursday, May 13, 2011.

Entertainment:

Tuesday evening entertainment will be “**No Hurry**”. Following the banquet on Wednesday evening the entertainment will be, “**Jean and Doreen**”.

Interest Sessions:

We will offer five Interest Sessions. Delegates may attend three.

- Bird Watching – *Presenter Gordon Taylor*
- Out of Country Travel Saskatchewan Blue Cross – *Presenter Michelle Fleming*
- Retirement Decisions at 65 and Beyond – *Karen Tzupa (TCU Financial)*
- Saskatoon Horticultural Society – *Bill and Marj Meger*
- The Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan Benefits Program – *Fred Herron*

Chapter Presidents:

You should have received a package of information from the STS Office. Please send your list of delegates to

the STS Office before April 1. As printed in the previous *Outreach*, the Executive has determined that the formula for this year will allow each Chapter to send two delegates for the first 60 paid members or portion thereof and one delegate for each additional 60 paid members or portion thereof.

Each delegate will receive a package of information in early April, after the office has received the list of delegates from the Chapter.

We are planning another exciting Annual General Meeting.

Surviving Spouse of an STS Member

(Some suggestions in the event of the death of an STS member)

1. Notify the Teachers' Superannuation Commission 1-877-364-8202 if the allowance of the former member was paid by the Teachers' Superannuation Commission.

OR

Notify the Saskatchewan Teachers' Retirement Plan 1-800-667-7762 or 306-373-1660 if the allowance of the former member was paid by the Saskatchewan Teachers' Retirement Plan.

The pension plan will advise you about allowances and insurance that you may be entitled to receive.

2. Notify the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan 1-800-667-7762 Ext. 6324 or 306-373-3879. STS will advise you about membership in the STS and coverage under the STS Group Benefits Plan.

Attention Chapter Presidents

Nominations for Honorary Life Memberships must be submitted to the STS Office by February 14, 2011. If you have worthy candidates for these awards, ensure that the nominations are submitted well before that deadline. Please check the Policy Handbook pages 38 and 39 for the required information and for the correct format of the nomination.

If you have any questions or require additional information please contact James Slough at 306-586-0397 or email sloughja@sasktel.net

Cost of Living Adjustment

All superannuates who have received an allowance from the Teachers' Superannuation Commission or the Saskatchewan Teachers' Retirement Plan for the full 2010 year will have their allowances adjusted upwards by 1.3% effective January 1, 2011. Superannuates who have received an allowance for less than the full 2010 year will have their increases prorated.

ACER-CART Report

George Georget

ACER-CART will be Twenty Years Old in June of 2011

Our STS is a member of the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers-Association Canadienne Des Enseignantes et Des Enseignants Retraités (ACER-CART). ACER-CART is a national bilingual organization that was founded on June 15, 1991. Its creation was inspired by critical areas of common interest and the zealous work of leaders and representatives from across Canada including the late Dr. Stirling McDowell who was Secretary General of CTF and who became ACER-CART Executive Director two years later. Mac Hone from the STS became the Secretary of the first Executive. Mac Hone served as President from 1992 to 1994 and Stirling became President for 1996-97. STS has made a significant contribution to the growth and development of ACER-CART and this was highlighted last June when Fred Herron was given a Special Recognition Award for his significant contribution on the Board of Directors.

Currently, thirteen member organizations representing 117,235 retired teachers from across Canada belong to ACER-CART. Together, along with an Executive Director and an Executive and Board of Directors, our national organization works to achieve its objectives which are:

- To facilitate and promote liaison and mutual assistance between and among member organizations.
- To promote the interests of its member organizations.
- To develop strategies for joint action on matters of common concerns to member organizations.

- To cooperate with other seniors' organizations on matters of common concern.
- To promote excellence in education in Canada.

In addition to its own direct lobbying efforts, ACER-CART also achieves its lobbying and supportive work through its membership in the Board of the Congress of National Seniors Organizations (CNSO).

Be sure to celebrate the existence of ACER-CART and please consider visiting its website: www.acer-cart.org. In *Option*, ACER-CART's publication you will note the following as examples of the critical work done on behalf of retired teachers. ACER-CART has been lobbying the Government of Canada on the following:

- To change tax legislation in such a way that charitable donations up to the amount of \$1200 be accorded the same tax credits as those of political contributions;
- To improve the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), ... particularly the automatic inclusion of eligible pensioners; and
- To increase CPP/QPP, OAS, and GIS benefits and to take other measures to ensure that seniors are able to avoid living in poverty.

Much of the work of ACER-CART is defined through annual resolutions passed and forwarded by its member organizations, such as we have through our STS Annual General Meetings.

Celebrate ACER-CART's 20th Anniversary and visit its website.

STS Provincial Executive Nominations

Have you considered letting your name stand for the provincial Executive? If you are interested, please submit your name as a candidate.

Please contact the STS Office to obtain a nomination form.

Support Services Report

Calvin Bachmeier

The information packed Support Services website created by the Provincial STS may be accessed at www.sts.sk.ca/support_services or contact your Chapter support person.

Resolutions Report

Robert Wuschenny

STS members are invited to submit resolutions to AGM by the deadline of March 1, 2011. Resolutions received after the deadline will be deemed to be late resolutions. Chapter Presidents have criteria and format information. The information is also on the website www.sts.sk.ca

Spotlight on Members

Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan



A Life Sketch – Henry Teichrob



Perhaps the most fortuitous event in my life was to escape the former USSR with my family when I was a young lad. After four years in

Mexico we settled on a farm at Indian Head where I attended Sunny Slope School. Learning English by immersion and finding a growing love for learning, I decided, in grade six, that I wanted to become a teacher. Grade ten was finished by correspondence. Through a family member, I made a brief acquaintance with Dr. James D. Denny, recently retired Elementary School Superintendent of the Regina S.D. This brought me an invitation to come to Regina to reside in his home so that I could attend Central Collegiate for grades eleven and twelve.

After graduation and a six week Normal School I became an “instant teacher” in a remote school of 36 pupils, grades one to ten, in the hills south of Avonlea, SK. My teaching career begun, university classes completed, and another Normal School summer course in Moose Jaw provided me with a Permanent First Class Teaching Certificate. I thought I had it made! After teaching at Zehner, I became the Principal of the Robsart School in the south west corner of the province. Teaching grades eight to twelve in all subjects was an impossible challenge but students fared remarkably well – for which I take no credit. While in Robsart, I

was also elected an STF Councillor and learned the importance of the work of this great organization. Marriage to wonderful woman, building of a family, and subsequent years at Caronport High School gave me a wonderful life. Teaching was a delight – I loved it!

After completing a BA at UBC with majors in Math and History, I began teaching for the Regina School Board. We loved Regina. Marvelous opportunities in education came my way. They included stints as a Science Department Head, Principal of the Regina Collegiate Summer School, member of the Provincial Physics Curriculum Committee and Chair of the Regina Science Committee. I also set the Provincial Physics final exam for years and conducted Science Teachers’ workshops in southern Saskatchewan. It was a pleasure to chair the organizational meeting of the Saskatchewan Science Teachers Association. After completing a BEd degree (with Great Distinction) I became the Vice Principal of Martin Collegiate, losing my first love – the classroom.

Advancing to the role of acting Principal I saw nothing but administration ahead. Before proceeding, I requested a one year leave of absence, having completed thirty years in education. My wife and I began teaching in churches on Christian values and their impact on church and cultural life. I developed a seminar and surprisingly, found a great interest in this topic. Requests became so numerous and our travels so

extensive that I had to make a difficult choice. Would I continue a career in education or take up this new, unfolding venture? We followed our hearts and took up the challenge.

For ten years we carried on this new work in many American, Canadian and European cities. I spent a summer at Oxford University and followed a rigorous teaching schedule with over a thousand adults in some of the sessions. My wife, who is a superb public speaker, and I taught together in this very rewarding work for a decade. Then I suffered a heart attack.

Relocating to Abbotsford in semi-retirement, I became very involved in local politics, beginning as trustee on the Abbotsford School Board and concluding as a City Councillor. For fourteen years I immensely enjoyed seeing Abbotsford grow and develop as a city.

Now, my wife and I live in a comfortable condo in a pleasant high rise. Volunteering, having wonderful friends and good health, we feel very blessed. I owe an immense debt of gratitude to my parents who had courage to escape to this wonderful country. So many opportunities have come my way. Countless kind people have helped a small lad from Siberia find a wonderful life. Thank you, friends, thank you, Saskatchewan, thank you, STF, thank you, Canada and thank you, God. I can never repay the debt I owe!

Spotlight – Prince Albert Chapter History

Margaret Spademan

In the spring of 1972, Emma Stewart and Carrie Robins met with six retired teachers to encourage them to form a group of Superannuated teachers in Prince Albert. The idea was further discussed at a meeting hosted by Myrtle Strangways later that year.

On January 26, 1973, at the home of Miss Gwen Graham, ten women Superannuates of the Prince Albert Public Schools organized a group with Mrs. Louise Carrick as President and Mrs. May Tomlinson as Secretary. This formed the nucleus of the Prince Albert Chapter, STS. They contacted every superannuated teacher in Prince Albert and district.

On September 13 of the year, at the Red Cross Rooms in P.A. the local chapter was officially organized with Arnold Friesen as the first President and Margery Steinsvoll as Secretary Treasurer. Art Loucks volunteered to act as the Chapter representative at a meeting of Superannuates in Saskatoon on October 10, 1973.

The first meeting had 20 members present but by April there were 63 members, thanks to a letter that had been sent to each of the over 100 Superannuates in the district. By the end of 1974 the membership had increased to 93. At the present time our membership is over 550.

Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month and are highlighted by programs that have enlightened the membership in many, many areas.

Globally, we have been treated, through slide presentations, to scenes from such areas as Greece, Iceland, China, Columbia, Brazil, Shenandoah National Park in

Virginia, USA, a trip to the Orient, an agricultural project in Zambia, the art school at Emma Lake, and many other beautiful areas.

Socially, President's Night gives us an opportunity to meet the Provincial STS President. We enjoy a pot-luck wind-up picnic each May and exchange greetings at the annual Christmas party.

In the world of sports, the Chapter has hosted the Provincial Golf

tournament, the Provincial Kaiser tournament, the Provincial Bowling and the Provincial Curling over the years.

With these programs, sporting events, and social events, the Chapter has attempted through its business meetings, to promote the goals and aspirations of the STS, and at the same time, attempt to keep in close contact with fellow members of the teaching profession.

McDowell Foundation

The McDowell Foundation, an independent charitable organization that was established by the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation in 1991, supports research focused on teaching and learning within the publicly funded PreK-12 education system.

Join a distinguished list of teachers, superannuates, business leaders and parents by actively supporting through donations the work of the Foundation. Every contribution helps to ensure that the work of the Foundation will continue to benefit teachers and students in Saskatchewan.

In 2011, the Foundation will celebrate 20 years of success, a success that has benefited our schools, teachers and society at large. Through the generous donations from individuals like you, our Foundation is growing steadily. Please contact the Foundation for donation options. Thank you on behalf of the hundreds of teacher-researchers for your contribution and continued support.

www.mcdowellfoundation.ca

\$1,081,366 awarded

212 grants approved

20 years of research



DR. STIRLING MCDOWELL
Foundation
FOR
RESEARCH INTO TEACHING

From The Editor's Desk

First and foremost our thoughts and prayers go to Dan Palsich's family upon his untimely death.

To each and everyone of the members a Happy New Year. Just to keep you updated with the local weather (as I seem to be doing in each issue) winter has hit, and I am tired of shoveling the sidewalk. But, at least we didn't get hit as hard as members in the southern part of the province or in Alberta. So, if I wait long enough, Mother Nature will take care of the snow, and then I won't have anything to complain about.

Till next time.

Shirley

Check out our website at www.sts.sk.ca with links to ACER-CART and the McDowell Foundation

STS Executive 2010-11

President/Councillor	Margaret Martin, Saskatoon Chapter
Vice-President/Councillor	Robert Wuschenny, Regina Chapter
Past-President/Councillor	Jim Segó, Unity Chapter
Executive Secretary	Fred Herron, Saskatoon Chapter
Councillors:	
Calvin Bachmeier	Maple Creek-Medicine Hat Chapter
Shirley Dyck	Swift Current Chapter
Doug Haroldson	Maple Creek-Medicine Hat Chapter
Mike Kaminski	Assiniboine Chapter
Maxine Stinka	Assiniboine Chapter
Members-At-Large:	
Elaine Broughton	Saskatoon Chapter
Shirley Henderson	Prince Albert Chapter
Gerald Mamer	Saskatoon Chapter
Roger Marchand	South Central Chapter
Kate McCorriston	Nipawin Chapter
James Slough	Regina Chapter
ACER-CART Representative	George Georget, Saskatoon Chapter

Reminder

STS Group Benefit Primary Plan holders

If you qualify for the Saskatchewan Seniors' Drug Plan and have not already done so, please send a copy of the confirmation letter to the STS Office in order to receive the reduced premium for Extended Health.

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.

The Outreach is available online. 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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Phone: 373-3879

Fax: 374-1122

Email: sts@stf.sk.ca

2317 Arlington Avenue

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Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Publications Mail Agreement No.40017216

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

STS Office

2317 Arlington Avenue

Saskatoon SK S7J 2H8