

OUTREACH



To The Superannuated Teachers
of Saskatchewan

President's Report

Margaret Martin

As the beautiful autumn leaves continue to fall and the shorter crisper days begin, I realize that my winter boots, warm coat, and snow shovel will all soon become regularly used items at my Saskatchewan home. For our members of the Fraser Valley Chapter, Okanagan Valley Chapter, and Victoria Chapter, our three British Columbia STS Chapters, hopefully, the weather will remain mild for a much longer time.

The STS Provincial Executive met for the second time this year on October 26 and 27, 2011. Our membership continues to grow with 9728 members at present. Deloitte, the STS auditor, reported to the Budget, Finance and Audit Committee that the STS had another clean audit for the year ending June 30, 2011. We must thank Fred Herron, our Executive Secretary, Colleen Bailey, our Office Manager, and Heather Hase, our Assistant Office Manager, for all of the work they do all year to ensure that our financial reports and procedures are accurately completed and reported.

The STS Benefits Negotiating Committee has completed and the STS Executive has approved a new three year agreement with Saskatchewan Blue Cross who are the carriers of our Extended Health and Dental Plan. There have been some improvements in the financial

agreement with Saskatchewan Blue Cross and improvements in the coverage that STS members of the Extended Health Plan will receive. In addition, the STS has received clarification or information about a number of issues related to the Plan. Each member of the STS Extended Health and Dental Plan will receive a copy of the improvements made to the Plan and the new premium rates that will be in effect from February 1, 2012 to January 31, 2015. Please read the report submitted by the Group Benefits Committee in this issue for further information.

Our Recreation Committee continues to seek local Chapters to host our provincial recreation events. If your Chapter is interested in hosting an event, please contact our STS Office. At the present time, a local Chapter willing to host Stitch 'N Quilt in 2012 is required.

The STS AGM Planning Committee has been working to ensure that the 39th Annual General Meeting of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan to be held on May 8, 9, and 10, 2012 at the Travelodge Hotel in Saskatoon will be as successful as those in the past. Please submit any resolutions and nominations for Honorary Life Membership to the STS Office at any time but no later than February 14, 2012. Also please consider submitting your name for a

STS Provincial Executive position. As a result of the resolution at the 2011 AGM, all candidates for STS Provincial Executive positions will be expected to speak to the AGM Delegates on Tuesday evening, May 8, 2012 for no longer than three minutes.

The STS sponsors, with the support of the STF Retirement Lifestyles Planning Seminars each year. We would like to invite local Chapters who would be interested in hosting a Retirement Lifestyles Planning Seminar in your area to please contact the STS Office.

The STS annual Chapter Presidents' meeting held on October 28, 2011 was very successful. Thirty-seven local Chapter Presidents or their designates were present for discussions about issues of importance for Chapters. Chapter Presidents also received updated information about the STS Group Benefits Plans and the new contract with Saskatchewan Blue Cross.

I have visited with members of many local Chapters during these past few months and I would welcome requests from any other local Chapters who would like me to come to visit. Please call me at 306-373-4433 or send me an e-mail at bill.marg@sasktel.net.



Group Benefits Report – Shirley Henderson

The Negotiations Committee has met with Saskatchewan Blue Cross and a new agreement has been signed. The contract will be from February 1, 2012 to January 31, 2015. The following are some of the major highlights which will affect all of the members. All members will be forwarded information about the new agreement.

Background

The first STS Extended Health, Travel and Dental plan was established in 1996.

From 1996 to the end of 1999 the plan was administered by Johnson and underwritten by Maritime Life.

For the past twelve years (January 1, 2000 - January 31, 2012) STS has had contracts for the Extended Health, Travel and Dental plan with Saskatchewan Blue Cross. Our experience with Saskatchewan Blue Cross has been very good in terms of claims ratios and relationships. Our administrative costs have been reduced by approximately fifty percent since joining Saskatchewan Blue Cross.

Coverage Increases

- Benefits previously covered at 75% will now be covered at 80%.
- Increase paramedical coverage from \$250 to \$300 per calendar year for each paramedical service.
- Improved hearing aid coverage from \$500 to \$600 every three calendar years.
- Change the vision care coverage from \$100 to \$150 every two calendar years.
- Increase in coverage for eye exams from \$75 to \$100 every two calendar years.

Premiums

Overall premiums have been increased by approximately 10% for Extended Health, including travel and 16% for the Dental Plan. There will be no change in premiums for at least the next three years.

Conclusion

The STS Executive believes that the improvements to the plan will further

help stabilize our benefits program. The changes in reserves, fees and interest allocations all help to reduce the benefit plan costs. The revised premiums are very competitive with other voluntary plans with similar coverage. Provision for a three-year contract period without additional premium increases during that period enables participants to budget for the Extended Health, Travel and Dental Plan.

Table One – Changes to Premiums

Extended Health

Age	Current Premiums			Revised Premiums (February 1, 2012)		
	Single	Couple	Family	Single	Couple	Family
<55	45	90	100	50	100	110
55-64	55	110	120	60	120	130
65-74	60	120	130	66	132	142
>75	65	130	140	71	142	152

Plan participants who qualify for the Saskatchewan Seniors' Drug Plan or meet a similar means test in another province or territory.

65-74	30	60	70	33	66	76
>75	35	70	80	38	76	86

Reminder

Plan participants turning 65 must submit a copy of the confirmation letter from the Saskatchewan Seniors' Drug Plan to the STS Office indicating that they have coverage under that plan before the premium for the STS Extended Health Plan will be reduced. No retroactive adjustments will be considered.

Table Two – Changes to Premiums

Dental

Age	Current Premiums			Revised Premiums (February 1, 2012)		
	Single	Couple	Family	Single	Couple	Family
<55	27	54	64	32	64	76
55-64	30	60	70	35	70	82
>65	33	66	76	38	76	88

STF Councillors Report – Margaret Martin

On Thursday to Saturday, October 13 to 15, 2011 eight STS Councillors, Calvin Bachmeier, Doug Haroldson, Joyce Hoffman, Mike Kaminski, Gerald Mamer substituting for Robert Wuschenny, Margaret Martin, Jim Sego, and Maxine Stinka, joined more than 200 other STF Councillors and STF Executive at the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation Councillor Conference at the Travelodge Hotel in Saskatoon. The agenda for the three days included information on writing good resolutions, discussions on STF Policy and Bylaw updates and revisions, as well as an opportunity to hear candidates, Donna Harpauer, Saskatchewan Party, Cam Broten, New Democratic Party, and Ryan Bater, Saskatchewan Liberal Party,

who are running for election in the November 7, 2011, Provincial Election respond to questions in a Town Hall Forum. A luncheon followed with other candidates seated with Councillors to allow for informal conversations with them.

Bylaws discussed included Bylaw 3-Executive (Eligibility), Bylaw 5-Committees, Bylaws 10 (Income Continuance Plan), Bylaw 11 (Saskatchewan Teachers' Retirement Plan), and Bylaw 12 (Members Health Plan). Policies discussed included Benefits, Council Meetings, Teacher Education, and Teachers' Working Environments.

The draft revisions to Bylaw 11 (Saskatchewan Teachers' Retirement

Plan) include wording to clearly indicate the basic governance structure of the Plan. This includes the main governance roles and responsibilities of Council, the provincial Executive, and the appointed Board of Directors.

The draft policy on Benefits is to specify the key principles that should form the basis for all benefit plans. This policy would replace existing policies on Paid Parenting Leave, Sabbatical Leave, Superannuation, Group Life Insurance, Income Continuance, Sick Leave, Dental Plan which are either outdated or redundant or because they are statements of collective bargaining proposals rather than principles.

McDowell Foundation Report – Elaine Broughton

The McDowell Foundation recently hired a full-time manager, Lanette Kuchenski. Deborah Rodger remains as a part-time employee to provide support for the researchers. The Board had a conference call to discuss and approve the financial statement of the Foundation as of June 30, 2011. Assets at that time

amounted to almost \$2.5 million. The STF will soon be advertising for interested teachers to serve on the Board that governs the Foundation. The annual Learning from Practice exchange will be held at the STF building on Saturday, November 19. Registration forms are available from the Federation. On Friday,

November 18, the STS will receive the 2011 McDowell Foundation Award for its past and ongoing support of the Foundation. This will be the first time that a group will be the recipient of the award. There will also be a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Foundation's inception that evening at 7:30 p.m. in the Eamer Auditorium.

Resolutions Report – Robert Wuschenny

Some inconsistencies were noted in the 2011 Policy Handbook regarding submission dates for resolutions for the 2012 AGM. Those will have to be addressed, but for this year, please note the deadline for resolutions is FEBRUARY 14, 2012. (See Policy Handbook July 1, 2011 – Policy 3, Pg 21; Guideline 3 – Pg 37- 38; Guideline 5, P.41)

The Resolutions Committee encourages resolutions from Chapters and the membership. It is NEVER too early to formulate and submit a resolution; however, resolutions submitted after April 30, 2012 will be deemed as late resolutions.

AGM Report

**Doug Haroldson
and Elaine Broughton**

The 39th Annual General Meeting of the STS will be on May 8-10, 2012, in Saskatoon at the Travelodge Hotel.

Chapter Presidents, please have the Delegates list into the STS Office by April 1, 2012.

Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism Report

Robert Wuschenny

Celebrating Seniors Awards were recently presented. Included in the list of recipients were a number of superannuates. The awards are now an annual event and STS members are encouraged to submit nomina-

tions to SSM when information regarding next year's awards is made available.

The Fraud Cent\$ Toolkit is currently being translated into French and

key pages of the handbook into Plains Cree.

Stories/memories from anyone 90 years of age and older continue to be collected with the intention of publishing them in a book. Anyone age 90 or over wishing to share a story or memory is encouraged to do so by submitting his/her story to SSM. Guidelines are available from SSM.

Nominations Report

Jim Segó and Fred Herron

If you know someone who is interested in running for the STS Provincial Executive please have him/her submit his/her name to the STS Office.

The candidates will be expected to speak to delegates on Tuesday evening of the AGM, for up to three minutes.

Budget, Finance and Audit Report

Robert Wuschenny

Deloitte provided the audited report of the STS Financial Statements for the Operating Fund, the Extended Health Fund and the Contingency Fund as of June 30, 2011. We received a clean audit.

October 28th Chapter Presidents' Meeting





Upcoming Events

Recreational Activities Participation STS Style . . .

Bowling

2012 Host: Yorkton Chapter
2013 Host: Regina Chapter

Bridge

2012 Host: Regina Chapter

Curling

2012 Host: Saskatoon Chapter
Contact: Bill Meger
Phone: 306-249-1329

Fishing

2012 Host: Nipawin Chapter
Place: Tobin Lake
Date: June 2012

Golf

2012 Host: Moose Jaw Chapter
Place: Lynbrook Golf & Country Club
Date: June 11-12, 2012
Contacts: Sandra Towriss – 306-692-2562
or Adele Owatz – 306-693-0578
(please visit the STS website
www.sts.sk.ca for further information)

Stitch 'N Quilt

Host needed for 2012

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.

STS 2012 Provincial Golf Registration Form

June 11-12, 2012 – Lynbrook Golf & Country Club

Pre-register by May 31, 2012

Registration fee: \$100.00

Make cheque payable to: STS Golf 2012

For further information contact:

Deborah Hyman 306-692-9402 or Elaine Parsons 306-631-6953

Mail registration and fee to:

Deborah Hyman, 1228 Henleaze Ave., Moose Jaw SK S6H 3V9

Registration Fee:		\$ 100.00
Extra banquet tickets:	___ X \$20 = \$	_____
TOTAL ENCLOSED	= \$	_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Divisions:

- Women Senior Women (70+)
 Men Senior Men (70+)

Handicap _____ or average 18 hole score _____

Cart rental: Phone 306-692-2838 to reserve.

Summary STS Provincial Bridge Tournament 2011

The tournament was held at the Saskatoon Bridge Club Friday September 16th and Saturday September 17th.

In the Individual game, the overall winner was Virginia Beaubier. Runners up were Harold Kroeger and Judy Knoll. Twenty players took part Friday evening and twenty-four Saturday morning.

The winners in the pairs competition were Joanne Robertson and Clive Cory. Elaine Pederson and Pat Taylor placed second and Jerry Mamer and Mary Clarke were third.

In the team competition the overall winners were Edwin Anderson, Marjorie Ford, Jeannie Wandler and Marion Mendelsohn. Second place went to the team of Shirley Porter, Mona Woodcock, Audrey Sadler and Evelyn Poole. Thirty-two players took part in the team competition.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Scott, Chairperson

Inspiring Moments

Seven Wonders

A group of students were asked to list what they thought were the present "Seven Wonders of the World".

Though there were some disagreements, the following received the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids
2. Taj Mahal
3. Grand Canyon
4. Panama Canal
5. Empire State Building
6. St. Peter's Basilica
7. China's Great Wall

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one quiet student hadn't turned in her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list.

The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many."

The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help."

The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the "Seven Wonders of the World" are:

1. to see
2. to hear
3. to touch
4. to taste
5. to feel
6. to laugh
7. and to love"

The room was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop. The things we overlook as simple, ordinary and take for granted are truly wondrous.

A gentle reminder that the most precious things in life cannot be built by hand or bought by man.

Each day comes bearing its own gifts. Untie the ribbons."

Author Unknown

Notice

To teachers who taught in Ogema Schools surrounding the community of Ogema: The Town of Ogema, Saskatchewan is celebrating its 100th anniversary on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 6, 7, & 8, 2012. Highlight of the weekend will be the Grand Opening of the Southern Prairie Railway. Come and meet old and new friends. For further information contact: Lorraine Iversen, 306-459-2904: email sew.what@sasktel.net

Compensation for Lost Salary

If you held a teaching contract and lost salary due to the withdrawal of professional services in May 2011, you may be eligible to receive compensation from the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation. Please contact Administration/Governance, Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation at 306-373-1660; 1-800-667-6672, or by email at stf@stf.sk.ca to receive an application.

Congratulations!

Vera (Sylvester) Bissett, member of the Weyburn Chapter, celebrated her 99th birthday October 12, 2011.

Robert Wuschenny upon receiving a Nation Builders Award from the Saskatchewan Ukraine Canadian Congress for "Leadership and Community Service" for his many years of service and volunteerism of service to education, church and community.

The following STS members were recognized during the "Celebrating Seniors" event recently held.

Lorraine Iversen – Heritage and Culture Award

Patricia Cooley – Community Leadership (Rural)

Jim Coulter – Community Leadership (Rural)

Beatrice Struthers – Community Leadership (Rural)

Stan Hawryliw – Community Leadership (Urban)

Spotlight on Superannuates

Remembering Dr. Stirling McDowell

Submitted by Maxine Stinka



During this 20th anniversary year of the Dr. Stirling McDowell Foundation for Research into Teaching, the STS Executive decided to pay tribute to the educator whose name the Foundation bears. All of us, whether retired or current teachers, should be reminded of what Dr. Stirling McDowell contributed to education in Saskatchewan, Canada, and the world.

Stirling was born in Nipawin, Saskatchewan, taught for a few years and then became an STF Executive Assistant. Ten years later he became the General Secretary of the STF, a position he held for 15 years. He was also Secretary General of CTF for 11 years. Throughout his career, he worked tirelessly for teachers and, in his retirement, did the same for superannuated teachers, serving as President of STS, and as ACER- CART representative and was unofficially the first Executive Secretary.

Throughout his career, Dr. McDowell was at the forefront of educational development. He made cooperation in the solving of educational problems a Saskatchewan tradition. He helped to develop the province's system of bi-level bargaining for teachers. He was also instrumental in completing the 1978 Education Act and instituting a minimum four-year, teacher-training program in Saskatchewan that included a full semester of internship. For seven years, he chaired the Saskatchewan Universities Commission, and in 1995, he chaired the independent commission on compensation for Saskatchewan MLA's. On numerous boards, committees, and commissions, he provided valuable leadership with a sound sense of history and a mind fearless in the breaking of new ground. Few people could match



his encyclopedic knowledge of Saskatchewan communities and the province's political and educational history. His clear analysis and deep insight into complex situations made him much in demand as a speaker, not only provincially, but also nationally and internationally.

Stirling was a delegate to many international conferences, including the founding convention of Education International in Stockholm in 1993. He was president of both the provincial and national associations for retired teachers, as well as an honorary life member of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and the Canadian Educational Association. He received the Canadian Teachers' Federation Special Recognition Award in 1993, and in 1997 was awarded the Saskatchewan Order of Merit.

While serving as Secretary General for CTF, he was involved in the establishment of ACER-CART (the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers). As President of STS, he was instrumental in acquiring office space in the STF building for STS and in realizing the need for permanent

staff to perform the daily operations required for the growing organization.

When I talked with some of Stirling's colleagues and asked them their memories of him, I got adjectives like compassionate, dedicated, passionate, committed, observant, articulate, analytical, dependable, knowledgeable, astute, and devoted. He had a great number of leadership qualities and was very positive about teachers and the profession. Stirling was able to see the positive in many situations and viewed the negatives as positive learning experiences. He worked hard to achieve what he believed in. Once he met someone, he had an amazing ability to remember both the individual and things about his/her family. My fondest memories of Stirling were his ability to sit down at a piano and play whatever the audience wanted to hear. His piano playing led to numerous sing alongs and late nights after STF Council meetings. Shirley Henderson, the first STS office manager, stated, "He did things his way because he had a vision. He was gentle; he was kind; and, he knew exactly how things should be done – that vision again." She added that his vision was to see STS grow and head in a direction that would benefit all of its members."

In 1991 the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation established the Dr. Stirling McDowell Foundation for Research into Teaching, a charitable organization that funds research aimed at the improvement of teaching and learning in publicly funded elementary and secondary schools. Few individuals have had such a profound effect on the Saskatchewan education scene, and I believe that naming the Foundation after him was a small recognition of his accomplishments.

From The Editor's Desk

We have completed another busy and informative round of Committee and Executive meetings. The Chapter Presidents' Meeting was held on a beautiful fall day and was quite successful. It is always a pleasure to meet new members who are so enthusiastic about the work that they do for their Chapters.

The Group Benefits recommended to the Executive the acceptance of a new three-year contract. Read all the details in the Benefits Report. One thing to keep in mind is that the premiums in the new contract effective February 1, 2012 will remain in place for three years.

This is also a time we should say a prayer and think of the many men and women who serve in the armed forces. Many have given their lives for our safety.

Continuing from last issue on How to Stay Young:

Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever ... Never let the brain idle. "An idle mind is the devil's workshop." And the devil's name is Alzheimer's!

Enjoy the simple things.

Soon the Christmas season will be upon us. So, to each and every one of you the very best of the season and many blessings and good tidings for the coming New Year!

Shirley

STS Executive 2011-12

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

Attention Chapter Presidents

Nominations for Honorary Life Memberships must be submitted to the STS Office by February 14, 2012. 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 the STS Office.

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.

website: www.sts.sk.ca

Phone: 373-3879
Fax: 374-1122
Email: sts@stf.sk.ca

2317 Arlington Avenue
Saskatoon SK S7J 2H8
Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Publications Mail Agreement No.40017216
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
STS Office
2317 Arlington Avenue
Saskatoon SK S7J 2H8