

OUTREACH

To The Superannuated Teachers
of Saskatchewan

President's Report

Sunil Pandila

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the second decade in this century! While fall seems to be making an early entrance with natural changes preparing for winter, I can't help but reflect on the winds of change in education for the past 12 years since I retired. What a changing period of time for education we have gone through. It has impacted the teaching landscape in our province in many ways. The STS was not immune from the effect of some of these changes; however, we continue to move forward and serve the interests of our members. As we start the 2018-19 school year, on behalf of the STS, I would like to wish all teachers and students across the province a very successful educational journey. For STS Chapter members, I hope the start to your year was rewarding and filled with anticipation of the events to come in your communities.

In August we received an invitation to meet with the Minister of Education, the Honourable Mr. Gordon Wyant. All Local Associations received this invitation to discuss education in our communities. It was not intended to be a representation to government on behalf of the profession, but rather, "to foster relationships with those closest to the classroom." The STS arranged to meet with Minister Wyant on September 17. The STS representatives selected were Fred Herron (Executive Secretary), Sunil Pandila (STS President), Don

Gabel (STS Vice-President), and Maxine Stinka (STS Past-President). We did change the content of the meeting to share our thoughts of moving forward for the future of education and to reflect the needs of superannuates and seniors in the areas of housing, transportation and health. We also made it very clear that we are members of the STF and fully stand behind our parent organization. The Minister heard our concerns and suggestions for moving forward. On a personal note, Mr. Wyant appeared very sincere and genuine and appreciated what we had to say.

The STS Executive just finished our annual September meetings. At the outset, I would like to welcome the new members elected to our Executive. They are Adeline Wuschenny from Regina, Diane Marchand from Gravelbourg, and Lyle Markowski from Saskatoon. We appreciate your contribution of time and dedication for the benefit of all of our members. I would also like to thank those Executive members who served last year and are not returning. They are Doug Haroldson from the Maple Creek-Medicine Hat Chapter, Laurie Dubé from the Mainline Chapter and Robert Wuschenny from the Regina Chapter. We thank you for years of service and wish you the best for the future! Our membership has grown so I would like to acknowledge those new members who made the

transition to the wonderful world of retirement! Our membership now stands at 11,448 members. While it may be difficult to forget your past career, you are part of a new family, and I would encourage you to make an effort to join your local Chapter and serve in some capacity. I know this is the biggest recess break of your life, but do remember to keep active and healthy and chase your passions. Make your local Chapter a part of those new memories.

This year we have a change that will affect our office operations. The STF has purchased the TCU Financial building and now it is being redesigned. The current STS Offices will be relocating to a new, smaller office space in the same building. Expenses for data storage needs, new computer hardware and furniture for this relocation have been allocated.

The Executive Planning Session decision items dealt with planning Presidents' Day coming up on October 25, selecting an *Outreach* Editor, and setting the formula for STS AGM Delegates in May. Updates to the Executive Handbook, Group Benefits Handbook and *STS Policy Handbook* were also noted.

Vice-President Don Gabel, and I attended the STF Presidents' Day and LINC Symposium Day on September 14-15. The STF has embarked on a new initiative titled, "Re-Imagine Education."

This was first introduced at the 2018 Annual Meeting of Council in April. This was intended to be a study involving educational sector partners and others across the province. Since that time, some key members have backed away leaving some uncertainty for the near future. Local Associations were left with a challenge at the end of the day, "Can we go back and organize meetings within our jurisdiction for such an event in this time frame?" The second day focused mainly on the results of the 104 page Arbitration Ruling and information for LINC teams. The arbitration award was handed down on September 7. There are no implications for superannuates.

The STS Committee meetings brought their recommendations, including selection of Committee Chairs and goals for the year to

the Executive table on Thursday for approval. An update of the various Committee reports is included in this issue of *Outreach*. Our eight Councillors will be attending the STF Special Meeting of Council on October 25-27.

Most Local Chapters started the year with their "To Hell With the Bell Breakfast" – always an interesting event. I had the privilege of attending the Mainline Chapter Breakfast in Grenfell. It was wonderful to see two new superannuates and of course, the regulars. I know the rest of the Chapters also had successful starts as we shared liaison information around the Executive table.

I am looking forward to my new role as President and have already scheduled a busy fall with visitations to various Chapters across the

province. You are the backbone of our organization. I am excited about this year and want to serve our organization to the best of my ability. We have a very dedicated group of people supporting all of us. They include the Office Staff, Colleen Bailey, Heather Hase, MJ Krips, and our Executive Secretary, Fred Herron, and of course, our current Executive members. I can't say enough about how fortunate we are to have all of these individuals helping to move our organization forward.

For more information about any of our programs, initiatives, or how we can support you in your Chapters, please do not hesitate to call the STS Office at 306-373-3879 or visit the website at www.sts.sk.ca. You can contact me at sunil.pandila@sasktel.net or 306-630-8866.

Group Benefits

Maxine Stinka

As of July 1, 2018, we are in the first year of our new contract with Saskatchewan Blue Cross. Although we have only the Plan Experience for July and August, it is very positive with a surplus in both the Health and the Dental portions of the Plan.

The audited financial statement for the Extended Health and Dental Plan for the year ending June 30, 2018, indicates that Extended Health Total Premiums were \$11,426,316 and total Plan costs were \$12,973,696. The total operating deficit for 2017-18 was \$1,162,500. This shortfall was covered by the Unappropriated Reserves (surplus of the Plan) accumulated since the STS began administration of the Plan. All of the reserves are full and the expectation of the first year of a contract having a surplus is being

met at present. Plan Experience for July 1, 2018, shows a surplus in Extended Health of \$127,427 and Dental \$102,951. The August Extended Health surplus was \$13,345 and Dental \$116,049.

Total membership in the Plan as of September 1, 2018, was 7893 up from 7582 as of May 1, 2018.

Bob Wilhelms from Saskatchewan Blue Cross was present at the Committee meeting and provided more detailed information regarding particular expenditures that may appear unusual. He reminded the Executive that the Extended Health Plan will cover paramedical services that a member incurs outside their province of residence provided the practitioner is licensed in the province of practice and his/her license number is provided on the receipt for services. Claims are based on the Saskatchewan fee guide.

The Committee approved the following goals for the year:

1. Closely monitor the Group Benefits Plan and the financial status of the Plan
2. Continue to promote and provide information on the Group Benefits Plan to our superannuates, making the distinction between a government-funded plan and our Plan which is funded by the membership
3. Review the policies and procedures on the Group Benefits Plan as set out in the *STS Policy Handbook*
4. Consider enhancements to the Plan based on financial implications
5. Monitor and update the STS Group Benefits Handbook

ACER-CART

Marie LeBlanc-Warick

2018 Annual Meeting ACER-CART

New Executive Elected for 2018-19

President:	Bill Berryman RTO-NSTU
Vice-President:	Gerry Tiede BCRTA
Past President	Brian Kenney RTO/ERO

Regional Representatives:

East:	Marg Urquhart NVSRT
Ontario:	Martin Higgs RTO/ERO
West:	Gordon Cumming ARTA

ACER-CART Committees:

Pension & Retirement Income:	Gerry Tiede
Communications:	Martin Higgs
Health Services:	Marg Urquhart
Nominations & Elections:	Brian Kenney
Political Advocacy:	Gordon Cumming
Legislation:	Brian Kenney

Committees are composed of at least three members, not necessarily directors of ACER-CART. At its September Executive Meeting, the STS recommended to the ACER-CART Executive the nomination of Marie LeBlanc-Warick to the Pension & Retirement Income Committee.

ACER-CART Priorities 2018-19

The number one priority for ACER-CART for 2018-19 is to “participate in the 2019 Federal election by cooperating with other like-minded groups to protect pensions and to advocate for a single-payer national pharmacare program.

In support of this priority ACER-CART will continue to:

- Monitor the 10-year bilateral health funding agreements with the provinces,
- Oppose the surrender of the accrued benefits inherent in defined benefit plans,
- Support the enhancement of the CPP, and
- Oppose the privatization of health care.

Filomena Tassi was introduced in July 2018, as the Federal Minister for Seniors. President Berryman wrote a letter of congratulations and also indicated the organization’s delight with her appointment. He indicated that ACER-CART was looking forward to working collaboratively with her department on a National Pharmacare Program and a National Seniors Strategy.

Advocacy

Sue Amundrud

Sue Amundrud was elected chair of the Advocacy Committee for 2018-19. Members of the Committee also include Don Gabel, Fred Herron, Jane Isinger, Doreen Rathgeber, Doug Still, Adeline Wuschenny and Sunil Pandila (ex-officio).

The Committee established the following goals for this year:

1. To examine the guidelines in STS Policy and the role of this Committee within the STS
2. To monitor and identify ongoing issues that may affect our membership
3. To create and foster better relationships with other seniors’ organizations in Saskatchewan
4. To collaborate with ACER-CART, SSM and STF to provide leadership for issues that could impact our membership
5. To continue to foster good relations with our educational partners
6. To explore ways in which we can support members and Chapters in their advocacy work that are consistent with goals and principles of the STS and STF

We invite Chapters to alert Committee members, their liaison representatives or the office to areas in which they believe an advocacy initiative would be appropriate.

Budget, Finance and Audit

Don Gabel

The Budget, Finance and Audit Committee met September 19, 2018, with the Auditors from Deloitte who explained the audited financial statements for the STS Operating Fund, and the STS Extended Health Fund for the 2017-18 year ending June 30. A clean audit was received with no concerns.

Our 2017-18 STS Operating Fund had a surplus of \$79,131 while our Extended Health Plan and Benefit Plan had a deficit of \$1,162,500. Our Contingency Fund had a surplus of \$60,345 and ended with a balance of \$1,123,752.

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

The Committee set goals for 2018-19 year as follows:

1. Create a 2019-20 budget
2. Continue to monitor the current year's budget
3. Provide information to members regarding the pension plans

Councillors Report

Maxine Stinka

The eight STF Councillors representing the STS will be attending the Councillor Conference and Special Meeting of Council on October 25-27, 2018.

The purpose of the conference is to provide councillors with opportunities to:

- Participate in a variety of plenary and breakout sessions to learn about and discuss current professional and governance issues.
- Contemplate the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action and their impact on the teaching

4. Improve members' knowledge base regarding the 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. Monitor financial implications for the attendance of two representatives from each Chapter at the Presidents' Day
7. Be proactive with the process for investigating fraud

The Committee members are Don Gabel (chair), Susan Amundrud, Fred Herron, Joyce Hoffman, Jane Isinger, Mike Kaminski, Marie LeBlanc-Warwick, Diane Marchand, Lyle Markowski, Doug Still, Maxine Stinka, Helen Sukovieff, Sunil Pandila (ex-officio).

profession and the Federation.

- Consider amendments to STF Bylaw 3 (Executive) as part of a Special Meeting of Council.
- Gain awareness of recent developments in provincial collective bargaining.

The participation of our STS Councillors is important as we are a local of the STF. Matters dealt with by the STF are important to teachers and retirees. Our opportunities to represent the STS at Councillor events allows us to network with active teachers and talk about their concerns and initiatives.

Annual General Meeting

Jane Isinger and Doug Still

The 2019 Annual General Meeting will be held in Saskatoon at the Travelodge Hotel from May 14-16, 2019.

The Committee has begun the planning process for the AGM. Evaluations from the last AGM, as well as input from Committee members and feedback from members around the province, are guiding our preparations. Based on this input we are exploring many excellent suggestions for interest sessions, entertainment and some tweaks to what we have done in recent years. At the next Executive meeting in October, we will begin to move forward with further planning in order to deliver another high quality event.

The AGM is an excellent opportunity for Chapter representatives to learn more about the STS and to engage with over 200 colleagues. Please consider contacting your local Chapter if you are interested in serving as a Delegate.

Recreation

Don Gabel, Alan Laughlin



Upcoming Events

Recreation Activities: Participation STS Style ...

Bridge 2018

Date: November 14, 2018
Host: Mainline Chapter
Location: Fifty Plus Centre,
Qu'Appelle SK
Contact: Bruce Farrer
Phone: 306-699-2613
Email: farrbr@sasktel.net

(Registration form is on page 6
and the STS website)

Curling 2018

Date: November 5-7, 2018
Host: Regina Chapter
Location: Callie Curling Club
Contact: Liz Duncan
Phone: 306-949-0235
Email: dunliz@sasktel.net

(Registration form is on the
STS website)

Kaiser 2018

Date: October 16, 2018
Host: Wakaw Chapter
Location: St. Joseph's Seniors
Club
151 Riverside Drive,
St. Louis SK
Contact: Don Gabel
Phone: 306-278-7918
Contact: Mel Osolinsky
Phone: 306-233-5596

Stitch'N'Quilt 2018

Date: October 23-25, 2018
Host: Saskatoon Chapter
Location: Travelodge Hotel
Contact: Ann Atchison
Phone: 306-955-2671
Email: atchisona@sasktel.net

Bowling 2019

Date: May 2-3, 2019
Host: Yorkton Chapter

Golf 2019

Date: June 10-11, 2019
Host: Melville Chapter
Contact: Robert Simpson
Phone: 306-728-2714
Email: simps@sasktel.net

Mah Jongg 2019

Date: May 9, 2019
Host: Saskatoon Chapter
Location: STF Building, Eamer
Auditorium
Contact: Darlene Danyliw
Email: darlene.danyliw@shaw.ca

(Registration form on
STS website)

Honorary Life Membership

Don Gabel

Nominations for Honorary Life Membership are due February 1, 2019. Nominations will be accepted up until that date.

The Committee members are: Don Gabel (Chair), Fred Herron, Joyce Hoffman, Alan Laughlin, Diane Marchand, Lyle Markowski, Maxine Stinka, Helen Sukovieff, Adeline Wuschenny and Sunil Pandila (ex-officio).



Congratulations Hazel Parker!

Hazel is a member from Lafleche, formerly from Moose Jaw, who celebrated her 99th birthday on August 19, 2018.

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.

Mah Jongg

Helen Sukovieff



The Third Annual STS Mah Jongg Tournament was held in Regina on May 17, 2018, with 36 participants. As the players arrived they enjoyed coffee and snacks while socializing with those they had met at previous tournaments. Play began at 10:00 a.m. followed by lunch. After lunch there was another two-hour session of Mah Jongg, followed by the tallying of scores and awarding of prize money.

2018 STS Bridge Registration

Hosted by STS Mainline Chapter

Wednesday, November 14, 2018 | 10:00 am to 3:30 pm | Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan

Noon meal and snacks included in price of registration!

Venue: Fifty Plus Centre Located at 38 Qu'Appelle Street in Qu'Appelle

Registration fee: \$30/couple

Prizes: 1st \$100, 2nd \$80, 3rd \$60, 4th \$40

Couples Duplicate Bridge. Preference for at least one of the partners to be an STS Member.

Make cheques payable to: STS Mainline Chapter

By November 1, please mail registration & fee to:
Bruce Farrer
Box 37
Qu'Appelle, SK S0G 4A0

Name of STS Member		Partner's Name	
Street Address or Box Number		Street Address or Box Number	
City/Town		City/Town	
Postal Code		Postal Code	
Phone Number		Phone Number	
Email Address		Email Address	

Questions? Contact Bruce Farrer: Phone: 306-699-2613 | Cell: 306-699-7897 | Email: farrbr@sasktel.net

Spotlight on Superannuates

Lyle Markowski

This summer, the Canadian senior games were held in Saint John, New Brunswick August 21 to 24. 155 Saskatchewan competitors took part in a wide variety of activities and brought home a total of 30 gold, 26

silver and 20 bronze medals. These activities included mens', womens' and mixed curling, hockey, cribbage, golf, 8-ball pool, pickleball, duplicate bridge, bowling, cycling, track and field. Many of these competitors

were our fellow superannuates. All attended through their involvement with the Saskatchewan Seniors Fitness Association (SSFA). Check the results at ssfa.ca to see which of our superannuates brought home medals.

STS Provincial Bowling

Stella Shulhan

A very successful provincial Bowling tournament was hosted by the STS Saskatoon Chapter on May 3-4, 2018, at Hunter's Eastview Bowl. STS President Maxine Stinka extended greetings on behalf of the Provincial STS and Don Gabel brought greetings from the Provincial Recreation Committee. There were sixteen teams

of five, participating from across Saskatchewan. Three games were bowled on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning.

Thursday evening a delicious banquet was catered by Grasswood Park Catering in the Eamer auditorium at the STF building, along with entertainment by the

Paddlewheelers. On Friday there was a buffet luncheon by Eastview Red's Bar and Grill, followed by the award presentations.

Thank you to the bowling Committee: Stella Shulhan, Rick Murza, Rose Yaworski, Cecile Martell, the assistants and all of the bowlers!



Eliminators (Home Team) – Flora Henderson Trophy – Gold Medallists. Back row (left-right) Ray Simmer, Renelle Gauthier. Front row (left-right) Jane Isinger, Peter Rolston, Donna Rolston.



Sunflowers (Tournament Team) – STS Saskatoon Teachers' Plaque – Gold Medallists. Back row (left-right) Peter Rolston, Rick Murza. Front row (left-right) Patricia Bilodeau, Pat Dubets, Sue Amundrud.

STS Executive 2018-19



STS Executive 2018-19. Front row (left-right): Jane Isinger, Fred Herron (Executive Secretary), Maxine Stinka (Past-President), Sunil Pandila (President), Don Gabel (Vice-President), Helen Sukovieff. Back row (left-right): Diane Marchand, Adeline Wuschenny, Marie LeBlanc-Warick, Alan Laughlin, Doug Still, Lyle Markowski, Doreen Rathgeber, Anna Wehrkamp, Mike Kaminski, Joyce Hoffman, Sue Amundrud.

From The Editor's Desk

Joyce Hoffman

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all superannuates. I would also like to encourage you to get involved in your local STS Chapter by attending and participating in the various planned activities. Also, consider attending one or more planned events at the Provincial level.

If you are receiving *Outreach*, as a paper copy, consider receiving it online. To receive notification when *Outreach* has

been posted on the STS website, please email the STS Office to advise them of your wishes at sts@sts.sk.ca. This will result in cost savings to our organization.

Again, we ask for submissions for "Spotlight on Superannuates" and "Superannuates Make a Difference". These articles can be submitted directly to the STS Office and will be included in future publications as space permits.

Have a great "superannuated" year!

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 Benefit 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. If you live in Regina please call 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.

STS Executive 2018-19

President/Councillor	Sunil Pandila, Moose Jaw Chapter
Past-President/Councillor:	Maxine Stinka, Assiniboine Chapter
Vice-President/Councillor:	Don Gabel, Wakaw Chapter
ACER-CART Representative:	Marie LeBlanc-Warick, Saskatoon Chapter
Executive Secretary	Fred Herron, Saskatoon Chapter
<i>Outreach</i> Editor	Joyce Hoffman, Swift Current Chapter
Councillors:	
Sue Amundrud	Carrot River Valley (Melfort & District) Chapter
Joyce Hoffman	Swift Current Chapter
Alan Laughlin	The Battlefords and District Chapter
Doug Still	Regina Chapter
Helen Sukovieff	Regina Chapter
Members-At-Large:	
Jane Isinger	Saskatoon Chapter
Mike Kaminski	Assiniboine Chapter
Diane Marchand	South Central Chapter
Lyle Markowski	Saskatoon Chapter
Doreen Rathgeber	Yorkton Chapter
Anna Wehrkamp	Carrot River Valley (Melfort & District) Chapter
Adeline Wuschenny	Regina Chapter



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