

THE Voice

VOLUME 16 NO. 4
SUMMER 2009

SUPERANNUATED TEACHERS OF SASKATCHEWAN — SASKATOON CHAPTER

Editor: Irma Kittelson 934-0881 ijkitt@sasktel.net

President's Message



The STS Saskatoon Chapter is based on dedicated volunteers. Many thanks to the hard working Executive and assistants; as well as the many additional volunteers in telephoning, visiting, the pianists, telephone directory mailing and the delegates who volunteered to attend the AGM.

At the monthly chapter meetings a variety of life long learning experiences and great entertainment is being offered. The Fall Welcoming Breakfast, the Christmas Banquet and the June

Luncheon offer a time to socialize and to meet new members. New members come from the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division, Saskatoon Public School Division, Prairie Spirit School Division, SIAST, the University of Saskatchewan and from other divisions to be part of the Saskatoon Chapter.

For those who are unable to attend during the day, Wine and Cheese evenings were provided. It was good to see many individuals that came that we didn't see in our afternoon meetings.

One 55 Alive Safe Driving Course was offered in October by Al Reichert.

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2009-2010 Saskatoon Chapter Executive

President	Irma Kittelson	934-0881	Honorary Life Members	Stella Shulhan	242-9411
Past President	Stella Shulhan	242-9411	Social Chair	Cecile Martell	934-5849
First Vice President	Peter Stroh	374-3543	Social Assistant	Corinne Sturby	955-9008
Second Vice President	Gerald Mamer	668-3951	Activities	Bill Meger	249-1329
Secretary	Faye Kunkel	934-7163	Activities Assistant	_____	
Secretary Assistant	Jane Isinger	933-2927	Archives	Sadie Urban	343-6451
Treasurer	Esther Molina	955-3810	Cards	Marie Grimsen	244-2454
Treasurer Assistant	Barry Peters	652-4915	Cards Assistant	Mary Anne Nicholson	374-5517
Membership/Directory	Marion Kimberley	242-2204	PR/Resolutions	Hannorah Ledding	652-4883
Membership Assistant	Judy Schmid	373-0569	Newsletter Chair	Linda Ashley	955-2498
Membership Consultant	Terry Manley	343-6297	Newsletter Assistant	Donna Rolston	249-4547
Program Chair	Freda Robinson	374-6722	E-mail Chair	Judith Luciuk	477-0059
Telephoning Co-Chair	Irene Fahlman	242-0117	E-mail Assistant	Gail Dust	242-4393
Telephoning Co-Chair	Nettie White	249-2855	Web Page/ Mailing	Willmer Willems	343-0858
Registration	Judy Schmid	373-0569	STS Liaison (Prov. VP)	Margaret Martin	373-4433
Registration Assistant	Rita Laramee	373-9875	STS Liaison (Prov. Exec)	Elaine Broughton	242-3205
Visiting Co-Chair	Pat Orchard	373-9905	Support Services Liaison	Elaine Broughton	242-3205
Visiting Co-Chair	Stella Shulhan	242-9411			

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At the Christmas Banquet we honored Verne Alldred and Stella Shulhan the recipients of the Honorary Life Memberships for the Saskatoon Chapter 2008-2009. Congratulations to Ernie Epp, a past president of our Saskatoon chapter, who received a Provincial Life Membership at the STS AGM in May. Ernie's citation was read by Stella Shulhan at the AGM banquet.

The Saskatoon Chapter Executive has the STS welfare of teachers at the forefront. Our Chapter submitted seven resolutions to be voted on at the Annual General Meeting held on May 12-14 at the Travelodge in Saskatoon. Our Chapter has thirty-eight delegates attending. Resolutions submitted from the various chapters across the Province deal with all levels of government.

The Constitution, Bylaws and Guidelines has been revised by Committee members Sadie Urban and Stella Shulhan. Feedback obtained from the Executive members was appreciated. A Notice of Motion was given at the April 8 Chapter meeting. The Constitution, Bylaws and Guidelines will be voted on at the May 6 Chapter meeting. The printing will take place over the summer.

The Saskatoon Chapter had a couple of bowling teams attending the Provincial STS Bowling Tournament in Prince Albert on April 30 and May 1. We were happy to see them bring home both gold and silver team medals from the tournament.

This May 10 we have Florence Bennee who will be celebrating her 100th birthday. Happy Birthday Florence and what an achievement!

I will continue to work on behalf of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan. It has been my privilege to serve as your president the past two years. I've met so many wonderful people who have enriched my life. These many individuals were willing to help and share their skills at the various meetings and venues.

To all superannuates who participated in our meetings and various venues – Thank you. A welcome is always extended to all superannuated teachers, spouses and escorts to our various meetings and venues.

Congratulations to our 2009-2010 STS Saskatoon Chapter Executive and to those serving on the 2009-2010 STS Provincial Executive.

Web Page/Mailing

Willmer Willems

The Chapter newsletter, *The Voice*, is posted on the Saskatoon chapter web page about five or six days before you receive your copy in the mail.

If you wish to save a tree and read it only on the web page, please contact me to remove your name from the mailing list.

If you have plans to move to a new address, please inform me as soon as you have your new address and moving date.

E-mail your address change to wfwillems@sasktel.net



Back to Boom Town June Luncheon



Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Socializing 11:00-12:00 / Lunch 12 Noon
Butler Byers Century Hall
Western Development Museum, Saskatoon

\$20.00



Tickets available until May 30 from Executive members June 1-4 at the STF reception, or Esther Molina (955-3810)

Fall Welcome Breakfast

Honouring New Superannuates

Everyone Welcome!

Wednesday, September 9, 2009
at 9:30 a.m.

Eamer Auditorium
(STF Building)

Advance Tickets Only \$5.00 from Executive members, or the STF reception desk. Only 200 available – get your tickets early.



First Vice President

Irma Kittelson

As the school year draws to a close, so does our STS year. Filling the Executive positions for 2009-2010 has preoccupied me for the past couple of months. I am confident that we have a group of dedicated volunteers ready to tackle the job of managing our Saskatoon STS Chapter.

I do find it disconcerting that from a membership of over 1800, we continue to have such difficulty finding about thirty members willing to serve on Executive. Many retirees are involved with new jobs, or are busy looking after family members, both young and old. Some have extensive or regular winter travel plans. These are very valid reasons for keeping their involvement with STS to attending chapter meetings, when possible.

A couple of members have commented on our rather large executive – in fact one member said he had never seen such a large executive list and wondered how we fit them in for meetings. Of course the answer to that is that we rarely have all our members at a meeting. We deliberately have assistants or co-chairs for many positions so that our executive members are free to travel when they wish. Even the President and Vice Presidents have traveled during this past year – feeling quite confident that the organization is in capable hands back home.

Many of the executive positions have occasional busier times, and then other slow times when attendance at the monthly executive meeting may be all that is required for the month. I would urge you to consider saying “yes” if you are approached next spring to join our Chapter executive. You may find it very rewarding.

I would like to thank members who are leaving the executive in June. Thanks to Lindsay Fast for his leadership and guidance over the past six years. Thanks also to Vic Anton for his many years as Activities Assistant, and to Doreen Kerby who has served two years on our executive. I would be remiss if I ignored the executive members who are continuing on or perhaps changing their duties. Thank you all so much for the commitment and enthusiasm with which you have carried out your duties this past year. I am looking forward to working with you in the coming year. A list of the 2009-10 Executive is on page 1 of this *Voice*.

Please remember to get your tickets early for the September 9 Welcome Breakfast. We have many new retirees to welcome and tickets are limited to 200.

Please be sure to let us know your thoughts about Directory publication, by submitting the questionnaire to the right of this article. The Directory is a very major budget item for our chapter and we need to know the wishes of our membership.

Congratulations to Marg Martin and Elaine Broughton who were reelected to the Provincial STS Executive on May 14. Marg will serve as Provincial Vice President, and Elaine as a Member at Large.

Have a sun and fun filled summer, everyone – we look forward to seeing you at the June 10 banquet at the WDM, or at other meetings in the fall of the year.



Directory Future Planning

- **Annually, the Saskatoon chapter receives \$8 per member from the provincial organization. This results in a yearly budget of under \$15,000.**
- **Printing and postage for the 2009 Saskatoon STS Directory was over \$5,000.**
- **Saskatoon chapter is the only STS Chapter to publish a membership directory.**

In light of the above facts, your STS Executive members have questioned the value of this publication to the general membership. We invite your input to the following questions:

1. Do you make enough use of the *Directory* to warrant publication every two years?
 YES NO
comment: _____
2. Do you prefer publication of a new *Directory* every:
 2 years 3 years 5 years not at all
comment: _____
3. Could you make use of a CD containing the *Directory* information?
 YES NO
comment: _____
4. Saskatoon and surrounding area members: Would you be willing to pick up your *Directory* at an STS meeting, or special event (banquet, fall breakfast, evening meeting)?
 YES NO
comment: _____
5. Unless otherwise directed, the Saskatoon Chapter executive currently mails a *Directory* to each chapter member. Should distribution be limited only to members who request a *Directory*?
 YES NO
comment: _____

FURTHER COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS:

Please submit your response before October 31, 2009, by e-mail to sts.saskatoon@gmail.com (You may access this questionnaire on the www.sts.sk.ca/saskatoon/newsletter/index.html website for use in an e-mail response.) by Canada Post to M.M. Kimberley, 202 Skeena Cr., Saskatoon, SK S7K 4G8, or drop off your response at any upcoming STS meeting or special event.

Phyllis Speers Donated Unique Parcel of Land to SWF

The Voice is grateful to Darlene Polachic who gave permission for this synopsis, taken from her articles in the *Sunday Sun* and *Grainews*.



Phyllis Dawson Speers



Phyllis Dawson Speers, a member of the Saskatoon chapter of STS since 1970, had the whole community in mind when she gifted a parcel of land near Battleford to the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation.

Phyllis's teaching career was the kind many of us have read about. Normal school in 1933-34, paid for with a \$100 promissory note. Her first teaching job, at Chatham School, came complete with an uninsulated teacherage, and no pay until she resigned after a year and a half. A second teaching job at Rouse School included a two mile walk to school, and mustard pickle sandwiches for the whole winter. The "Help Along Club" she started there is having its 70th Anniversary this year, and Phyllis plans to attend.

Finally she moved back to her home town, Saskatoon, where she taught in several public schools, while earning two university degrees. She attended a summer course at Columbia University in NYC, before becoming a reading consultant and working out of the downtown guidance department. Her career spanned thirty five and a half years.

In 1960, ten years before her retirement, Phyllis married Robert James Duke Speers, the son of homesteading pioneers who settled in the Eagle Hills near Battleford. Jim's grandfather, Robert George Speers came west from Ontario in 1884.

After the 1885 Riel Rebellion was quelled, Robert Speers sent for his family who became the first family to cross the plains after the rebellion. In 1902 Robert Speers Jr. established "Breakspeer Farm" - this was the farm Phyllis's husband was still farming when they married in 1960. Phyllis commuted on weekends from Saskatoon to North Battleford for the last ten years of her career.

1959 was 'Universal Biological Year' when universities were asked to identify areas which "should be preserved for their biological uniqueness". The 47.07 acre "Speers Spruce Stand" was singled out as the most southerly outcropping of the northern boreal forest in Saskatchewan, a glacial remnant 1.5 miles long, with its own flora and fauna.

Following Jim's death in 1988, Phyllis decided to gift this biologically significant piece of land to the Battleford chapter of the SWF. She felt this unique environment would thus be protected and maintained in its pristine state. Her conditions were that no trees in the stand would be cut, no plants or flowers removed, and the land be an educational destination for interpretive excursions for students. A monument was erected on high land above the river, dedicating the gifted land in the memory of her late husband and his parents.

We are proud to pay tribute to a community minded person like Phyllis who is a long time member of our STS chapter.

Future meeting dates for 2009-2010

... MARK YOUR CALENDAR

	EXECUTIVE MEETINGS	CHAPTER MEETINGS
September	01	09 - Welcome Breakfast (see ad in this issue)
Tentative dates, below, pending confirmation with the STF, for use of the facilities.		
October	05	14 (Evening - FALL Social)
November	02	04
December	01	09 Banquet @WDM (confirmed)
January	04	13
February	01	10
March	01	10
April	12	14
May	03	05
June	01	09 -June Banquet



Receipts for Membership Fees

The Chapter issues receipts for fees on a request basis only. If you require a receipt for your personal records or for income tax purposes, you may request one from the Treasurer at the address below. Please include a stamped self-addressed envelope with your request. It is preferable that requests for receipts be submitted before December 31 of the year.

Please check with your tax preparer to determine if you need a receipt.

In most cases the deposit information letter which you receive from the Superannuation Commission in January (or at any time your deposit changes), is acceptable documentation.

Esther Molina
Treasurer, STS Saskatoon Chapter
317 - 930 Heritage View
Saskatoon SK S7H 5S6
Phone 306-955-3810



or **Donna Rolston**
Asst. Treasurer, STS Saskatoon Chapter
230 Wickendon Crescent
Saskatoon SK S7N 3X5
Phone 306-249-4547

CARD Committee

The Card Committee sends out thank you, congratulations (for a special anniversary, a special birthday, or other accomplishments) thinking of you, speedy recovery and sympathy cards to all Saskatoon Chapter members when needed. We also send out email cards, when specifically requested by families in the case of sympathy cards. Most often, however, we send out conventional STS cards through Canada Post.

We truly do rely upon **YOU** to help us with the names of members who would benefit from hearing from our Chapter. Please contact either Mary Anne or Marie with the names of members you feel should receive a STS card. Along with the person's name, please include any supporting information you may have.

Thank you.

You can reach **Mary Anne Nicholson**:
email: m.a.n@shaw.ca
phone: 374-5517.

You can reach **Marie Grimsen**:
email: ggrimsen@sasktel.net
phone: 244-2454

Activities

Bill Meger

Golf

Texas scramble

Thursday June 4 - 1:00 p.m.
Warman Golf Course
Register by Monday June 1.



Fall Tournament

Thursday September 10 - 1:00 p.m.
Greenbryre Golf Course
Register by Tues. September 8.

Horseshoes

Thursday June 18 - 1:00 p.m.
Exhibition Horseshoe Pitch
Register by Monday June 15.



Bocce Tournament

Thursday September 17 & 24 - 1:00 p.m.
Mewasin Park, Whiteswan Drive
Register by Tuesday September 15.

Remember

Weekly STS Bowling at Eastview Bowl.

Fall season begins
Tuesday, September 1 at 1:30 p.m.

Call Terry Manley at 343-6297 or
Shirley Bird at Eastview Bowl 373-4333



Other Possible Fall Activities

- Disc Golf
- Scrabble
- Regular Bridge and Board Games Event
- Floor Curling (at Hafford)

(These events will be held if members are interested, if you want to know more about these events contact Bill at 249-1329)

Bridge Tournament

Please join us for the Annual Provincial Bridge Tournament.

When: Friday October 23 7:00 p.m. (Singles)
Saturday 24 9:00 a.m., (Pairs) 1:00 p.m. (Teams)
Swiss Teams Saturday p.m.

Deadline Friday October 16

Cost: \$40.00 for all 3 sessions
(Includes snacks Friday evening, continental breakfast and lunch Saturday, prizes and cards.)



Where: Grace Westminister United Church
505-10th Street East, Saskatoon

Open to all Superannuated Teachers, current teachers and non-teacher guest partner. One member of each partnership must be a Superannuate or teacher.

To Register Contact: Maureen Scott- 373-0408

There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take the time to look for it ...
For example, I am thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.

Laugh a little each day, it's better than chicken soup! At least that is what the chickens say ...



Bowling Results



April 20, 2009 - STS Saskatoon Chapter - Eastview Bowl
 Provincial Triples - 55 plus Bronze medal winners
 Gayvin Franson, Ray Simmer, Tom Brophy



April 21, 2009 - STS Saskatoon Chapter - Eastview Bowl
 Grand Aggregate Winners - Recycled Teenagers
 Back: Tom Brophy, Norma Hrychak
 Front: Rose Yaworski, Stella Shulhan

April 30 - May 1 Provincial Bowling, Prince Albert



1st Place - Gold medal winners - brought home the Flora Henderson Home Team Trophy.
 Back: Tom Brophy, Rick Murza
 Front: Rose Yaworski, Cecile, Martell, Stella Shulhan



2nd Place - Silver Medal winners
 Bob Chaben, Dennis Kittelson, Jane Isinger, Peter Rolston, Leslie Szabo



High Single Winner (234) Sylvia Mardell presents the prize to Cecile Martell.



Travelling Team - 1st place - Gold Medal winners
 Sylvia Mardell, Ken Mathers, Madeline Schmitz, Orest Machushek, Rose Yaworski



High Single and High Triple Winner
 Rick Murza with presenter Sylvia Mardell.

Willing to fill the need – Communication Committee

Nettie White, Irene Fahlman Telephone Coordinators

“There are three kinds of people in our society: those who can’t see or refuse to see problems; those who see the needs and because they didn’t personally create them are content to blame someone else; and those who see the needs and though they didn’t create them are willing to assume personal responsibility for solving them.” (John Perkins)

Our Communication Committee is in the third category. The willing workers assume personal responsibility to make sure that the large membership is aware of the various activities that are available through the year, because of the diligent efforts made by the Program Committee, Activities Committee, and other members of the executive.

At this time the Chapter Executive extends a generous THANK YOU to the following members:

Mary Bowerman	Elaine Broughton	Ruth Bruce	Patricia Chubb
Joyce Chycoski	Marion Clark	Margaret Cooper	Gail Dust
Connie Franko	Alice Fyke	Fran Gordon	Marie Grimsen
Kathy Guenter	Carol Hanson	Patricia Hawryliw	Louise Hefner
Jim Holtlander	Olga Kaye	Anne Klaassen	Linda Kolynchuk
Eileen Lambert	Judy Luciuk	Marion Marcotte	Rose Marie MacKenzie
Therese Morin	Donna Nelson	MaryAnne Nicholson	Ruby Parkinson
Brian Parsons	Mel Petty	Freda Robinson	Grace Skrudland
Elin Sletmoen	Lenore Streiker	Carmelle Toner	Phyllis Umpherville
Norma Wilson	Annie Young	Darlene Zook	

We would especially like to acknowledge Judy Luciuk and Gail Dust who now contact the majority of the membership through email.

Poetry by Carl Krause

Clear Horizon

my horizon’s clearer now

the fog ghost-like
obscuring real / unreal
and touching damp
has shifted lifted
burned away

my horizon’s clearer now

the pencil-line of earth and sky
once stigmatic
now sharp and focused
bold and crisp
in silhouette
like swallows on a line

Batoche in June

With roll of greening hills
And slip of silted waters,
Bones of rebels rest in boxes,
Their dreams and hearts now empty.

And there the church—

And rectory—

And then beyond to peasant fields
Bloodied long ago
With sputtering musketry.

The image falters,
As eyes refuse to see
This pastoral Batoche,
With simple easy farmsteads—
This garden of the river—
A battlefield!

Visiting Committee

Volunteer visitors have continued to visit superannuates who are confined to their homes or in a hospital. During 2008-2009, we were saddened to lose three of our superannuates. Our sympathy is extended to the families of Ben and Mary Fast and Mona Murray.

For cheerful visits and caring concern, we thank the following volunteer visitors. You are appreciated.

Bill Bender	Herman Berg
Laura Chernoff	Joan Fast
Lindsay Fast	Lorraine Friesen
Helen Lewis	Joey Kiss
Deanna Krug	Terry Manley
Bergit Manley	Pat Orchard
Florence Parkinson	Stella Shulhan
Anne Stachniak	Corinne Sturby
Norma Wilson	
Aldean Glass - City Hospital	
Fern Adair - Royal University Hospital	
Marion Shutiak - St. Paul's Hospital	

Visiting Committee Co-Chairs:

Pat Orchard (373-9905)

Stella Shulhan (242- 9411)



We are welcoming a few new members to our STS Chapter Executive for 2009-2010. Their term will begin July 1.

- Gerald Mamer as Second Vice President
- Hanorrah Ledding as Public Relations chair
- Barry Peters as Assistant Treasurer
- Rita Laramée as Assistant Registration.
- Judy Schmid (not new, but assuming duties as Assistant Membership in addition to being Registration Chair)

A Little Bit of History

Sadie Urban

Historian

Before there was the STS, there was the RTC – Saskatoon's Retired Teachers' Club. In fact, it was members of the RTC who initiated the concept of a province-wide organization of superannuated teachers back in the early 1970's. There were several aspects to the RTC – it provided a means for retired women teachers to maintain contact with their colleagues, meetings were social events, with lunch, a roll call, and sometimes a guest speaker. The idea was to keep it light, entertaining, and provide camaraderie.

We have been fortunate to come into possession of some of the records of the RTC, which have proven to be fascinating reading. The club ran for many years before it was disbanded – the most recent material we received was a membership list from 2002-2003. And guess what? Some of the people on the list are members of our Chapter. This material provides interesting perspectives on retirement many years ago, and also serves as a prequel to our organization.

And so some interesting questions arise. Are these materials sufficiently relevant to the Chapter to be included in our archives? (My response is a resounding yes) However, these materials, which include not only membership lists, but financial records and minutes of meetings belong to the RTC. I would like former members of the RTC to contact me regarding their records. Do they want the Chapter to incorporate these into the archives – we could easily establish a separate file for RTC memorabilia. Are there more RTC materials out there that we could acquire? What are the wishes of the RTC members regarding these records?

I would like to hear from the membership, especially former RTC members about how to proceed. Please contact me at 306-343-6451, or email at [HYPERLINK "mailto:s.urban@sasktel.net"surban@sasktel.net](mailto:s.urban@sasktel.net). I'm really looking forward to pursuing this intriguing aspect of our Chapter's history.

E-mail

If you are not receiving e-mail notices of monthly meetings and events, but would like to receive them, please e-mail Judy Luciuk jluciuk@sasktel.net> Please remember to e-mail Judy if your e-mail address changes or has recently changed. .

The Voice

This newsletter is the last of four publications of *The Voice* for the 2008-09 year. Submissions of interest to Chapter members continue to be encouraged-your article about travel destinations or ideas, activities, special events, creative writing and tips for retirement living are suggestions.

The deadline for the first 2009-2010 issue of *The Voice* is June 30, 2009. You may e-mail submissions to l.shley@sasktel.net. If you wish to access past issues of *The Voice* go to www.sts.sk.ca/saskatoon/newsletter/index.html.

Scent Alert

Because some of our members experience harsh and often debilitating reactions to strong scents, we ask your cooperation in not wearing perfumes, scented deodorants, or other scented grooming products to the meetings. We want everyone to be able to enjoy our get-togethers in comfort and good health.

Support Services Website

The information packed Support Services website created by the provincial STS may be accessed at:
www.sts.sk.ca/support_services/index.htm

