

President's Message



Teachers around the world retire. Only Saskatchewan teachers on the TSP (the old plan) superannuate. Whether you are fully retired, work full time, or work part time, the STS means the same to you and the 2105 members of Saskatoon Chapter Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan.

You were a member of the STF for 30 to 35 years. You may be a member of the STS for perhaps 30 to 50 years.

The STS is a collective that means the same to all of us – support, advocacy, fellowship. We support the members' health plan. We support each other and members in need, communication between colleagues, and volunteerism in the larger community.

Second, we are an advocacy group for improved pensions, improved health care, and improved supports for retirees and seniors. We advocate for education and teachers everywhere.

Third, we provide fellowship opportunities. Each year hundreds of members join us for events such as the welcome breakfast, wine and cheese entertainment evenings, Christmas and June banquets, and regularly scheduled monthly program events. In addition we have offered dozens of tours, trips, gatherings, sport and cultural events. You may have joined for the health plan, but you stay for the full experience.

Your executive has been extremely busy this year with major projects and revisions of the organization from rewriting of Bylaws and Policies, to the development of a mission, vision, goals, objectives and action plans. The next steps will require members' input. We have set up four groups to:

- receive input and suggestions
- plan forums and information events
- evaluate our progress toward chapter objectives
- develop a new process for member recognition and awards.

Each of these four groups invites you to join and offer your input. Please contact any member of the executive if you are willing to help.

Your continued vigilance and support is needed for provincial issues such as indexing of pensions and improvements to our health plan. The provincial STS Annual General Meeting will again take place, in May 2012. We welcome your ideas for resolutions to the AGM and remind you that we have openings for delegates and alternates. Please sign up at a chapter meeting if you are interested in attending.

In closing, I hope you have an opportunity to escape to a warm climate or the means to enjoy our four season climate. Do join in the activities of the chapter and please volunteer to help with any of the numerous committees providing support, advocacy, and fellowship for you colleagues.

Best wishes for the year,

Peter Stroh
STS President



Positive Aging through Lifelong Learning

Whether it is learning how to dance salsa, speak Japanese, repair your car or improve your golf swing, staying engaged and trying stimulating new things has wonderful benefits for older adults. Improved memory, skill building, a feeling of accomplishment, opportunities to develop new interests and meeting new people are just a few of the benefits of lifelong learning. As part of our vision of positive aging for all, the Saskatoon Council on Aging (SCOA) is offering a roster of winter programs designed to build skills, strengthen social networks and foster independence for older adults. Here are some of the upcoming winter programs you can watch for in the near future:

Financial Literacy – SCOA partnering with Investors Group Financial Services bring four presentations:

- Introduction to Financial Management (January 26)
- Taxation in Retirement and Estate Planning Essentials (February 23)
- Cost of Health Care and how it can affect your retirement plan (March 22)
- Checklist for Snowbirds (April 26)

Technology – beginner Internet Classes (geared to adult learners) will start in February

Art – for relaxation, pleasure, self expression and creativity with instructor Gisele Bauche:

- Painting Nature with Watercolour (Mondays January 30 - March 5)
- Experiencing the Wonder of Acrylic (Wednesdays February 29 - March 28)

On My Own: Women Learning New Skills Together – a two part series that features:

- Car Care for Women
- Personal Finance

Ongoing Activities – regularly offered by the SCOA:

- free blood pressure clinics – 1st Tuesday of each month (9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.) – SCOA office- #301, 506-25th St. E.
- free Drop In programs – 3rd Wednesday of each month (2-3:30 p.m.) – YWCA Studio Room – 506-25th St. E.

For more details or to register for programs call (306) 652-2255 or visit our web site www.scoa.ca.

The Saskatoon Council on Aging is dedicated to promoting the health, dignity, and independence of older adults. The Council operates a Resource Centre and works with local agencies to initiate, implement, and evaluate projects useful to older adults in our community.

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by George Georget, treasurer, and on behalf of Judy Pidskalny, assistant treasurer:

Please be advised that our Chapter is in a very strong financial position. While anticipated major expenses have not yet been realized, the approved budget for 2011-2012 is on track. Much of the Chapter's program activity is on a cost-recovery basis; therefore, the anticipated surplus budget for this fiscal period is secure.

The TCU account balances as of December 5, 2011 are: Credit Union Membership Account – \$5.00; Investment Savings Account – \$17,967.15; Organization Maximizer Account – \$6,191.66.

This autumn our Chapter received, from the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan, a Chapter Rebate cheque in the amount of \$16,832.00 – this represents a rebate of \$8.00 for each member (2104) who has paid the provincial STS fee of \$30.00 and who has indicated the intention to be affiliated to the Saskatoon Chapter.

CARD Committee

We continue to encourage all Saskatoon Chapter members to email or telephone the names of chapter members who would benefit from receiving a Sympathy, Thinking of You, Speedy Recovery, Thank You, Congratulations or Special Occasion (milestone birthday or anniversary) card to either Bev Pacholik or Marie Grimsen. We are also able to send out animated electronic cards (for all occasions) if preferred by the sender or receiver.

An email address is required to send out the electronic cards.

Contact:

Marie Grimsen

Email: ggrimsen@sasktel.net

Phone: 244-2454

Bev Pacholik

Email: bpacholik@shaw.ca

Phone: 978-7155



Visiting Committee Report

“The world is hugged by the faithful arms of volunteers.”

Our volunteer visitors made Christmas brighter for STS Chapter shut-in members. A special holiday wishes card was created and presented along with a gift on behalf of the STS Saskatoon Chapter. Thanks volunteers for making the world special just by being in it.

At this time we require three or four volunteers to cheer up housebound STS members. Also, please phone us regarding anyone you know who would appreciate a visit.

A Merry Christmas to everyone and the best in 2012.

Visiting Committee Co-Chairs: Stella Shulhan (242-9411) and Pat Orchard (373-9905)



At the Christmas Banquet on December 14, 2011, President Peter Stroh presented a Special Service Award to Nettie White. This recognizes her many years of work on our Chapter Executive as Telephoning Co-Chair.

STS/STF Liaison Report

Margaret Martin

The Provincial STS Executive has completed negotiations for another three year contract with Saskatchewan Blue Cross who is the carrier for the STS Extended Health and Dental Plans. The premiums will increase less than 10 per cent for the Extended Health Plan and 16 per cent for the Dental Plan. These new premiums will remain unchanged for the term of the agreement which is February 1, 2012 to January 31, 2015. Some improvements to the financial agreement with Saskatchewan Blue Cross were agreed to, and some improvements to the coverage for the Extended Health Plan have been achieved. A letter indicating all of these changes and the new premium structure will be sent to all members of the Plan. Please submit a copy of the letter from the Saskatchewan Government indicating you are covered under the Saskatchewan Seniors Drug Plan to the STS Office so you will receive the reduced premium rates for your Extended Health Plan.

As winter approaches many STS members think of travel to warmer climates. It is important to remember that our members of the STS Extended Health Plan have Outside Province Travel Benefits included in their plan. In the event of an accident or unexpected illness occurring outside of your province of residence, reasonable charges and/or expenses will be paid at 100 per cent up to 65 days per trip with a lifetime maximum of \$2,000,000. Please take your STS Saskatchewan Blue Cross card with you when you travel. There is a contact number on the back of the card in case of an emergency. Please take note of the Travel Exclusions and Limitations of the STS Extended Health Plan before you travel. If you have any questions about the STS Extended Health and Dental Plan, please contact Colleen or Heather at the STS Office (306) 373-3879 or by email at sts@stf.sk.ca.

May each of you enjoy a very happy and healthy 2012!

Resolutions

2012 STS Saskatoon Chapter Resolutions which have been submitted to the Resolutions Committee to be voted on by Chapter Members for Presentation to the STS AGM.

1. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the STS continue to examine ways of improving the indexing provisions of teachers' superannuation allowances.
2. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the STS request the STF to continue to examine ways of improving the indexing provisions of teachers' superannuation allowances.
3. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the STS request the STF to negotiate, as a priority, improvements in the indexing provisions in allowances under the TSP.
4. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the STS request the STF to negotiate indexing of teachers' superannuation allowances which are 100% of the national CPI for the first \$30,000 of allowances in the TSP.
5. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the STS request the STF to negotiate changes to the TSP to provide minimum allowances which are no less than \$1000.00 per year of eligibility service.
6. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the STS request the STF to negotiate changes to the TSP to provide indexing of superannuation allowances based on the Saskatchewan CPI or the Canadian CPI, whichever is higher.
7. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the STS request the STF to add a representative from the STS Executive to the STF Collective Bargaining Team.
8. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the STS direct all resolutions from the AGM which deal with superannuation allowances directly in a meeting with the STF Executive as well as to STF Council.
9. **BE IT RESOLVED** there be a study undertaken to look at reducing the cost of pharmacy dispensing fees via negotiating with a number of large pharmacy groups.

A Little Bit of History

Sadie Urban

It's interesting the things people do to bring in a new year. Celebrations, resolutions, over-indulgences! We've all had our share, with diverse outcomes... spectacular... mundane... or downright embarrassing! Over the years our Chapter has started the year off with interesting meetings. Meetings have focused on safety for seniors, government programs for seniors, finance, wills and senior life styles, tapping into the expertise of the community and our own members.

Our first new year's meeting in January, 1972 was an Executive meeting. Two reports were presented, highlighting innovations being initiated across the educational landscape. Stan Fowler spoke of the Superannuation Committee, reporting with optimism that progress was being made. He was followed by Gib Eamer who discussed the progress of the S.S.T.A. in Regina, and the plans that were in the works for further organization in other centers. The financial report indicated a membership of 145, total fees of \$142, and a bank balance of \$100.86.

In 1988 we started the year off in style with folk singing and songs of the past, led by Dr. Jake Ens.

Six years later, in 1994, we enjoyed a new meeting location, the Eamer Auditorium. Sylvia Birnie promoted the *Outreach*, and announced that she was stepping down as editor. Stan Fowler provided a history of the struggles of the STS to become established and achieve credibility. Chapter growth had been slow, but both, teamwork and members unified toward common goals, led to progress.

In 2006, we heard from two Saskatchewan personalities. Glen Sorestad discussed the realities of being a writer, and entertained with readings from his works. Pat Derbowka presented slides entitled "North of 54", and took us up the Hanson Lake road to Flin Flon.

Our Chapter knows how to start a year off right and this year will be no exception. In this newsletter you will find information on what our Activities Committee has for us this January. Happy New Year Everybody!!!

Poem by Carl A. Krause

Ms Dottie Martin

A composite of two very good teachers

When Dottie Martin came to town,
We knew things would be different;
A strict no-nonsense teacher she
Of handsome build and temperament.

An athlete and most scholarly,
Ms Martin loved a challenge:
She asked to teach the Eights and Nines,
A group she felt she'd manage.

The last three teachers of this lot
Had lasted only months;
These kids knew how to irritate—
They were a nasty bunch.

So on the day the term began,
You guessed it, they were waiting;
They talked as was their wont to do
And set about to baiting—

Plotting ways to bug this dame:
Some boys belched loud, some snorted,
The girls in mawkish fits of pique
Squealed loud, "I'm all contorted!"

Ms Martin sat behind her desk,
Quite taking in the moment;
She looked each miscreant in the eye
With neither word nor comment.

This noise and silliness amok,
Continued as before;
Ms Martin, seeming had her fill,
Now headed for the door.

She grasped the knob but didn't turn,
Touched fingers to her lips,
Then walked back to the classroom front
And stood with hands on hips;

She looked again about the room,
The students now were still;
Indeed they didn't talk at all,
The atmosphere seemed chilled.

Ms Martin quietly raised her hand.
The students were confused;
Just what were they supposed to do?
Was this some kind of ruse?

The students eyed each other now,
Then slowly, one by one,
They raised their hands, now wondering,
"Is this what she wants done?"

Ms Martin slowly dropped her hand;
The students on cue followed.
Then quietly the teacher spoke,
The students now leaned forward:

"I am the teacher, you are not."
She paused and looked around,
Then slowly broke into a smile;
Some students sighed out loud.

"Let's make this work," she added then.
"We're in this thing together.
I've made a vow to work with you;
We're to each other tethered."

And that is how the year began.
You ask, "How did it end?"
Ms Martin never missed a beat
Her time seemed heaven sent.

It's been a while since that event:
Ms Martin is retiring.
For after thirty glorious years
Her contract is expiring.

The town has planned a special day
To recognize their teacher,
And even now they all agree
She's still their school's best feature.



Activities

Co-Chairs: Bill Meger and Loretta Metzger

Spring Horseshoes 2012

New format: A Horseshoe League will run for about six weeks in May and June. One component will be **Learn to Play Horseshoes**. Please come out and give this game a try.

We will also provide Bocce Balls for anyone wanting to play this game. These events will take place in the Kiwanis Park just east of Market Mall. Dates and times TBA.

Spring Texas Scramble

The Spring Texas Scramble will be held at the Legends Golf Course at Warman on June 11, 2012 at 1 p.m. See you there!

For more information on these or any other activities you would like to take part in, contact **Bill Meger at 249-1329**.



STS Activities for 2011-12

Please call **Loretta at 382-6769** if you are interested in any of the following activities.

Tuesday, January 10 – Relax at the Movies

Sign up and you will be contacted with the exact time and title. We go for coffee after.

Monday, February 13 –

Western Development Museum – Curatorial Tour

The cost is \$8.00, pay in advance. You must register by January 13 so enough guides will be available. Remember, this is not at the Museum but at 2935 Melville St., about a block farther down Lorne from the museum.

May 13-15 (yes, that Mothers' Day) – 3 days/2 nights trip to Edmonton

This will include bus transportation, accommodations at River Cree Casino, shopping, a tour of the state of the art Enjoy Garden Centre (formerly known as Hole's Greenhouses) and a whole lot of fun and fellowship. Cost will be approximately \$200 plus tax. Deposit required.

Future meeting dates for 2012 ... MARK YOUR CALENDARS

All meetings except December and June are held at the Eamer Auditorium at the STF Building.
(Reminder: All STS activities are Scent Free!)

January 25, 2012 – 1:00 p.m. Speaker – Riverboat Cruise

February 2012 No Chapter meeting

March 14, 2012 – 7:00 p.m. Evening Social

April 18, 2012 – 1:30 p.m. Speaker – Margaret Martin on Health Plan & Pensions

May 16, 2012 – 1:30 p.m. Square Dancing Demo – Election of the Executive

June 13, 2012 Year End Luncheon at the WDM
Social at 11:00 a.m. Dinner at noon.
**Last day to purchase tickets at the
STF Information Desk: Thursday, June 7**



Fall 2011 Bowling Tournament Results



Teachers' League Bowling Tournament Winners (left to right):

Shulhan Trophy Team Champions:
Jake Froese, Christine Haldorson, John Slusar

Irene Baerg Ladies' High Single Trophy:
Cecile Martell

Sam Baerg Men's High Single Trophy:
Rick Murza

Missing:
Grace Skrudland (Stella Shulhan's Ladies'
High Triple winner)
Ray Simmer (Terry Manley Men's High Triple
Winner)
Dennis Kittelson (member of Shulhan's Trophy
Championship Team)

Fall Golf Tournament Results



The Fall Golf Tournament was held at Greenbryre on September 7 with 25 members taking part. The talk of the Tournament wasn't the golf scores, but the temperature near the mid-thirties. We are pleased that several new members came out for this event.

First place (pictured to the left) went to the team of Gary Ferguson, Elaine Pederson, Vic Anton and Bill Meger. Second place (tie) went to the team of Dave Lockerbie, Orla Lockerbie, Don Mansfield, Eileen Mansfield, and the team of Bill Brand, Murray Strankay and Kathy Strankay.

Next years' Fall Tournament will be looking for a new location, as Greenbryre is being revamped.

Interested in Riverboat Cruises?

Riverboat cruising is becoming increasingly popular and in response to requests for a presentation on this topic, John Lovell, Sales Manager for Western Canada with Uniworld, will speak to our Saskatoon Chapter members at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, January 25, 2012. Tara Schmidt, riverboat cruise specialist with the 8th Street location of CAA, will also be in attendance.

Uniworld offers river cruises on the major rivers of Europe as well as the Yangtze, Mekong and Nile.

Following the presentation on what to expect on a river cruise, questions will be addressed and information on various cruises will be available.

Please note: The January 25th meeting will start at 1 p.m. to allow sufficient time for the business meeting and presentation.

2011-12 Saskatoon STS Chapter Executive

President	Peter Stroh	374-3543
Past President	Irma Kittelson	934-0881
First Vice President	Jerry Mamer	668-3951
Second Vice President	Jane Isinger	933-2927
Secretary	Joan Caruk	384-6321
Secretary Assistant	Diane Selby	373-0080
Treasurer	George Georget	955-0484
Treasurer Assistant	Judy Pidskalny	955-0026

Standing Committees

Membership /Directory		
Co-Chair	Faye Kunkel	934-7163
Co-Chair	Carol Shanner	374-8415
Program Co-Chair	Freda Robinson	374-6722
Program Co-Chair	Marion Kimberly	242-2204
Telephoning Co-Chair	Irene Fahlman	242-0117
Telephoning Co-Chair	Lois Pyne	978-8248
Registration Co-Chair	Alicia Klopoushak	242-2753
Registration Co-Chair	Donna Rolston	249-4547
Visiting Co-Chair	Pat Orchard	373-9905
Visiting Co-Chair	Stella Shulhan	242-9411
Honorary Life/ Members' Recognition	Irma Kittelson	934-0081
Social Co-Chair	Cecile Martell	934-5849
Social Co-Chair	Corinne Sturby	955-9008
Activities Co-Chair	Bill Meger	249-1329
Activities Co-Chair	Loretta Metzger	382-6769
Archives	Sadie Urban	343-6451
Cards Co-Chair	Marie Grimsen	244-2454
Cards Co-Chair	Bev Pacholik	978-7155
PR/Resolutions		
Co-Chair	Leslie Sichel	477-2839
Co-Chair	Rae Vogel	343-8361
Newsletter Editor	Susan Livingstone	477-0123
Newsletter Asst. Editor	Linda Ashley	955-2498
Email Co-Chair	Judith Luciuk	477-0059
Email Co-Chair	Gladys Somerville	242-6668
Database/Website	Irma Kittelson	934-0881
Support Services Liaison	Elaine Broughton	242-3205

Ad Hoc Mission/Vision/Goals/Objectives Committee:

Peter Stroh, Sadie Urban, Jane Isinger

Ad Hoc Constitution and Bylaws Committee:

Donna Rolston, Faye Kunkel, Peter Stroh

Provincial Executive Members from Saskatoon Chapter:

President	Margaret Martin
ACER-CART	George Georget
Members At Large	Elaine Broughton and Jerry Mamer
Executive Secretary	Fred Herron

Email

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

The Voice

This newsletter is the second of three publications of *The Voice* for the 2011-12 year. Submissions of interest to Chapter members are encouraged. Your articles about travel destinations, activities, special events, creative writing and tips for retired living are suggestions.

The next *Voice* deadline for submissions is **April 2, 2012** to Susan Livingstone at livingstone@sasktel.net.

If you wish to access past issues of *The Voice* go to www.sts.sk.ca/saskatoon/newsletter/index.html.

Web Page/Mailing

Irma Kittelson

The Chapter newsletter *The Voice* is usually posted on the Saskatoon Chapter web page before you receive your copy in the mail. If you wish to comment on the website or to change to reading *The Voice* online only, please contact Irma. If you received a paper copy and prefer to read it online – please also email Irma.

Mailing labels: If there is an error in your name or address, **please contact Irma** at ijkitt@sasktel.net or 934-0881.

If your address has changed or will be changing, please inform Irma as soon as possible.

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 or contact Elaine at 242-3205.

