

President's Message



Janet Lowndes, President

As the President of the STS Saskatoon Chapter, I take this opportunity to wish all of you a healthy and happy 2026. I hope everyone had a rewarding holiday season, whether that was a time of festivities or quiet reflection.

I enjoy using New Year's as a point in time to reflect on all that has happened in the previous 12 months and a time to look forward to expectations and plans for the next 12 months. More happens than I can fit in the space of this article, so I will touch on a couple of the activities sponsored this year. Because all this reflecting made me curious about changes to the Chapter, I dug out a 2016-17 binder. Here are some things I found interesting.

Membership Numbers: As of November 30, we had 2,947 members in Saskatoon Chapter. Our trend is to gain two new members for each member who passes away so we are steadily increasing in size; in 2017 we had 2512 members. Do you know we have a category called Associate Membership? This allows those who belong to other Chapters to join in our activities without giving up their home membership, or to join in all the activities and events even if they have not met the requirements for superannuation/retirement. Do you have friends or past colleagues that may want an associate membership?

Scholarship Creation: 2017 appears to be the year Saskatoon Chapter introduced a scholarship for students in the Bachelor of Education program. By 2026, the scholarship has increased to \$2500.00. Unfortunately, Education students have not applied the last couple of years, and

some have said they did not know about it. So, members, if you know of a student in the College of Education who graduated from a Saskatoon high school and is entering their practicum in the 2026-2027 school year tell them about the scholarship! If they still cannot find it, call us.

Popular events brought back: This past November, the Saskatoon City Archivist, J. Jeffrey O'Brien, presented an update to the presentation that he provided in 2017. A lot has happened in the city archives since 2017—including their move to a new, permanent location and their adoption of the Star Phoenix archives—so it was fascinating to hear his humorous and informative take on our city. In February 2026, we will host Mayor Cynthia Block, so mark your calendar.

This past summer saw the first three-day Bus Tour organized by Saskatoon Chapter in a long time when a group of members travelled to the Rosebud Dinner Theatre and Drumheller Passion Play in Alberta. The Travel Club is already thinking of something for this summer—stay tuned! And for those who only wanted a one-day tour, there was a summer trip to Honeywood Heritage Nursery to enjoy the orchards and gardens and learn about the propagation of Saskatchewan breeds of trees, flowers, fruits, and vegetables.

Our way of doing business has also evolved. In 2017, our website www.sts-saskatoon.ca came into being. It was a very different beast than what it is now—STF managed the formatting. Now Saskatoon Chapter manages content and format and our members can use it to find all our resources, upcoming events, monthly emails and past copies of *THE Voice*. Another

✦ *continued on page 2*

✦ *President's Message continued from page 1*

fun fact - Do you know that *THE Voice* came to be offered online as a response to requests from members? In 2017, our biggest ongoing expense was printing and mailing; we sent out over 2000 copies of *THE Voice* three times a year—in the Fall, we still mail out over 2100 copies, a paper copy to every member—except those requesting on-line only, but we send out about 200 copies of the Winter and Spring editions.

Looking ahead, I am excited about everything that our Activities, Social, and Program Chairs are proposing for the upcoming year, but I saw some other events in 2017 I would love to see again. How many of you were at the 2017 Antique Road Show or tried your hand with the Remote Controlled Aircraft?

I would also like to give a nod of recognition to the Executive members who were serving as Chairs in 2017 and are still serving in the same or another capacity nine years later. They are a dedicated bunch, and I wish I had the space

to list them all! I am grateful for all that this Chapter has offered, plans to offer, and for the members who keep it running.

Some closing thoughts: We are an organization of superannuates/retirees so we share the experience of having had a professional career in a field that serves others. We can be grateful for what this has provided us personally: pension, social gatherings, learning experiences, and a range of affordable events and activities. Our careers have influenced many of our members to continue to give to community, family, and others. A reality is we are an organization made up primarily of seniors, so we have all too often experienced the passing of friends, family and former colleagues, and we extend sincere condolences to those who have lost loved ones in the previous year. As we close the old year and bring in the new, let compassion and gratitude lead us in 2026.

✦ *Janet Lowndes, President STS-Saskatoon Chapter*

From the Card Committee

"Each New Year, we have before us a brand new book containing 365 blank pages. Let us fill them with all the forgotten things from last year—the words we forgot to say, the love we forgot to show, and the charity we forgot to offer." - Peggy Toney Horton

During the past year, your Card Committee has worked on your behalf to create cards, write thoughtful messages and send them to our membership. Sending Thinking of You, Sympathy, Milestone Birthday, Anniversary, Congratulatory, and Thank You cards is a way to express concern, appreciation or send best wishes.

If you know of a member who would be pleased to be the recipient of any of the above cards on behalf of the Saskatoon Chapter, we are happy to assist you.

We are very thankful for several members who continue to inform us of members within the Saskatoon Chapter who would appreciate a card expressing best wishes, encouragement, or support.

In addition, we thank those who have donated recycled greeting cards which have been used to recreate new cards. We also extend our thanks to Cecile Martell for her generous donation of cards that she has made to add to our supply.



Pat Orchard at 306-373-9905 or
pattymel@sasktel.net

Gladys Somerville at 306-242-6668 or
gsomer@sasktel.net



Activities & Events

Activities: Janet Christ: jlchrist@sasktel.net; Rod Holowaty: r.holowaty@sasktel.net.

STS SASKATOON CHAPTER WALKING GROUP

*We're always walking somewhere —
even in the snow*



Come walk with us...
Monday Mornings —9:00 a.m.
Contact Loretta Metzger at
metzgerl@shaw.ca



Bagel Making Class

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

11:00 am — 3:00 pm

Solar Gardens

Cost: \$90/Person

It's a learning experience; Roger is one of the best and a Pizza lunch is included. Bring a friend. Email Janet: jlchrist@sasktel.net or phone Janet @ 306-934-6722.

Coming in February WINE TASTING EVENING

Hosted by: Erin Vapri & Rod Holowaty
Tuesday, February 10, 2026
7:00-9:00 p.m.
Spadina Legion
606 Spadina Cr W
Cost: \$25 per person
Max # of participants 35
Register with Rod @
r.holowaty@sasktel.net or
call Rod @ 306-381-6016

Nature & Water Colour Class

taught by

Wendy Siemens

Artist, Jewelry Designer, Book Illustrator

Friday, March 6, 2026

Eamer Auditorium. STF Building

Cost: \$10 per person

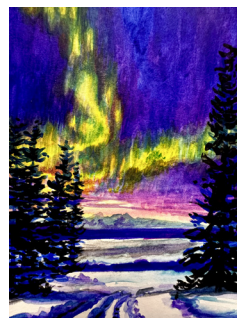
(Includes all supplies you will need)

Max # of participants 20

Register with Janet @

jlchrist@sasktel.net or

call Janet @ 306-934-6722



Northern Lights

by Wendy Siemens.

A very tiny sample of
Wendy's work...

This is actually a 6"x 8",
watercolour on watercolour
paper.

STS Chapter Event

February 18, 2026

Eamer Auditorium, STF Building

1:30 pm

Meet our Mayor - Cynthia Block



Elected as Mayor in 2024, Mayor Cynthia Block has served Saskatoon in many capacities. A former CTV News anchor and owner of Block Communications, Mayor Block has built strong community relationships throughout her career.

Curious about what your Chapter does?

Check out the STS Saskatoon Chapter Website... <https://sts-saskatoon.ca>

Look for **Past Events** featuring Activities, Tours, Chapter Events, and Socials...

ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS

Meetings and Events

Past Events 2025-26

Past Events 2024-25

Past Events 2023-24

STS 50th Anniversary

Summer 2025 Bus Tour

STS Spring Social



featuring

Kris Klyne

Wednesday

April 15, 2026

7:00-10:00 pm

Spadina Legion - 606 Spadina Cr W

No cover charge, cash bar

STS MEMBERS, FRIENDS & FAMILY WELCOME!!

Coming in May...

Museum of Antiquities

- University of Saskatchewan

107 Administration Place

Tuesday, May 26

1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Contact: Email Janet at jlchrist@sasktel.net
or phone at 306-934-6722

Sew Much Fun

The Sew Much Fun group meets 2-3 times each month at Eamer Auditorium, STF Building. Some days are booked for personal projects. This means bringing along an arts or crafts project you are working on at home and doing it in a room filled with like-minded folks that enjoy creating. On other dates, an instructor is hired to teach us how to make a particular craft or learn a particular sewing technique.



Get ready to try something new . . . or to sharpen your skills! Join us on January 23 (and January 30, if needed) at Eamer Auditorium.

Edwina Weninger is going to teach us how to do various embroidery knots and stitches. Embroidery is such a lovely way to do hand work and also helps when embellishing your art quilts or needle felting. Please register with Wanda Drew via wandaldrew@gmail.com. \$25 payable at the door.

There will be space available on January 23 and 30 for those wanting to work on personal projects. Please register with Wanda. \$5 payable at the door.

Classes beyond the January embroidery class and personal project days have not been determined yet, but if you'd like to receive the group's monthly email that announces classes, email Kim at newlove.kim@shaw.ca. Note: Those on the database are typically the first to hear about classes and sewing/personal projects days.

Keep checking the STS Saskatoon Chapter monthly email for more information.

Your Sew Much Fun planning group:

Ann Atchison, Linda Ashley, Mary Lou Ast, Wanda Drew, Kim Newlove and Phyllis Wilson.



Public Relations/Advocacy/Resolutions

As we begin this new year our committee is asking if there are any concerns, issues, or improvements that you feel need to be made to improve our STS organization or the STS Benefit Plans. These changes will need to be suggested in the form of resolutions. These resolutions will be taken to the Chapter Executive, and if passed by the Executive, they are then taken to the Chapter members in February for ratification and then to the STS AGM that will be held on May 12 to 14, 2026. Please contact Randy or Margaret (note email addresses below) with any suggestions for resolutions. We can help with the wording if needed. If you would like to be a Chapter Delegate at this next STS AGM, please contact Linda Ashley at lashley@sasktel.net. Many of our members enjoy spending time out of our province of residence during these winter months. Please note that if you are a member of the STS Extended Health Plan, you also have Outside Province Travel Benefits that are part of your Plan. In the event of an accident or unexpected illness occurring outside your province of residence, charges will be paid for these expenses at 100 percent up to 65 days per trip with a lifetime maximum of \$5,000,000. Please note, too, that these travel benefits will not be payable for certain Travel Exclusions and Limitations. Please review these Travel Benefits and the Exclusions and Limitations on the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan

website before you leave on your vacation (www.sts.sk.ca).

During these winter months many illnesses are being passed around. It is important for each of us to keep our immune systems strong. Any vaccines you may have to pay for up to a maximum of \$500 per calendar year can be claimed under the STS Extended Health Care Plan. A \$6 deductible will be applied to each product dispensed. This is an annual benefit available to each member of the Plan if you have Single, Couple or Family coverage.

We have sent several communications regarding the Health Spending Account (HSA). This benefit is for all STS Benefit Plan members (Primary Plan Holders) who enrolled in the Plan prior to January 1, 2025. This HSA must be used prior to December 31, 2026.

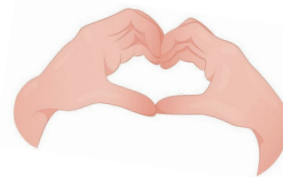
If you have suggestions for resolutions, please contact Randy or Margaret. If you have questions about the STS Extended Health and/or Dental Plans please contact the STS Office at 306-373-3879 or sts@sts.sk.ca.

May 2026 bring each of you much happiness and good health! We look forward to seeing you at our Chapter events!

Randy Danyliw (randydanyliw@shaw.ca)
Margaret Martin (bill.marg@sasktel.net)



Chapter Outreach Committee



During the busy Christmas season our dedicated volunteers took the time to visit shut-ins to deliver a small gift on behalf of the Saskatoon Chapter of Superannuated Teachers. Thank you so much for your service.

Our telephoning volunteers continue to keep in touch with fellow STS retirees (who have no email) about upcoming Chapter events.

Shirley Henderson
306-374-5388
rshenderson@sasktel.net

On behalf of the Outreach Committee we wish both our volunteers and the Superannuates they visit or call a very Happy and Healthy 2026.

If you know of a shut-in who would enjoy a visit from one of volunteers, please contact either Shirley or Carol.

Carol Shanner
306-514-8415
cshanner63@shaw.ca



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Prairie Hospice Society is a charitable, non-profit community organization working to ensure access to compassionate, community-based, end-of-life support in Saskatoon. Our goal is to enhance quality of life at the end of life, wherever people call home. We provide one-on-one companionship and non-medical support for clients and their families, raise awareness, and educate the community about end-of-life care, and advocate for quality end-of-life care.

If this is something you would consider doing, we have a training intake during the week of Jan 31-Feb 6th 2026.

For more information about Prairie Hospice look at the website:

*<https://prairiehospice.org/volunteer/>
or contact:*

*Mary-Anne Parker
Quality Coordinator
302-506 25th St. E.
Saskatoon, SK. S7K 4A7
306.249.5554*



We'd love to have you join our team.

Check your STS Chapter Emails and the STS Saskatoon Facebook page for more Events & Activities coming up...

**Not getting Chapter Emails? Check your junk... add STS Saskatoon Chapter to your address book.
info@stssaskatoon.ca.**

Friends and family are welcome at all events.

STS Events and Meetings are Scent Free!

Help us keep in touch...

**Does the STS have YOUR email address?
Have you moved? Changed your phone number?**

Send your updated information to the STS Provincial Office! Email: sts@sts.sk.ca

eTransfer

Pay for tickets using e-transfer; send to:
saskatoonsts2022@gmail.com

Please include your name(s) and the name of the event you are purchasing tickets for in the Message box.

STS Explore Local...

Together, our group plans short trips throughout Saskatchewan... Another travel opportunity... STS Explore Local is a "private" Facebook Group open to members of Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan. We find activities and then members get together for short trips throughout Saskatchewan. Members should be prepared to help plan trips, provide ideas and actively engage in all aspects to the best of their ability. STS Explore Local is set up so members get an idea for a trip and post it on our Facebook page.

Last summer we went to the Bruno Cherry Festival; the play, Stag 'n Doe in Rosthern. Christmas markets were featured over the festive season. Note to be a member, you must be given "permission" to be part of the group. Open your Facebook page..then search for STS Explore Local.



Your 2025-2026 STS Saskatoon Chapter Executive



Back Row: Kaye Wolfater, Darlene Danyliw, Peter Stroh, Barbara Alberton, Freda Robinson, Corinne Morton, Randy Danyliw, Shirley Henderson, Jane Isinger, Zonia Krushelniski, Pat Orchard, Gladys Somerville, Karen Cymbalisty, Janet Christ, Tom German.

Front Row: Judy Pidskalny, Irma Kittelson, Lyle Markowski, Janet Lowndes, Bonnie Semenoff, Phyllis Wilson, Linda Ashley, Stella Shulhan, Rod Holowaty.

Missing: Linda Kindrachuk, Margaret Martin, Loretta Metzger, Diane Selby, and Carol Shanner.

2026 STS Chapter Meeting & Event Dates

Executive Meetings take place at 9:30 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. Chapter Events are usually held in Eamer Auditorium.

January 2026

Jan 21- Bagel Making Class

February 2026

Feb 4 - Executive Meeting
Feb 10 - Wine Tasting Event
Feb 18 - Chapter Event
Mayor Cynthia Block

March 2026

Mar 4 - Executive Meeting
Mar 6 - Nature & Water Colour Class
Mar 18 - Chapter Event
Estate Planning

April 2026

Apr 1 - Executive Meeting
Apr 15 - Spring Social- Kris Klyne

May 2026

May 6 - Executive Meeting
May 6 - Pre AGM Mtg
May 12-14 - STS Provincial AGM
May 20 - Noon - AGM Delegates Debriefing Mtg
- 1:30 p.m. Elections/Chapter Event

June 2026

June 3 - Executive Meeting
Year-end Reports due
June 10 - Spring Luncheon
June 17 - Spring Texas Scramble (Tentative)

The Editor's Desk

Your Editor: Darlene Danyliw

Deadlines for submissions to *The Voice*:

Spring Issue – March 31, 2026

Fall Issue - June 30, 2026

Please send to: stsvoiceeditor@gmail.com

The STS Website has all the details...
and pictures too.
<https://sts-saskatoon.ca>

**Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon Chapter**

Your 2025-2026 STS – Saskatoon Chapter Executive

President	Janet Lowndes	306-291-4495
Vice President	Bonnie Semenoff	306-229-6751
Past President	Lyle Markowski	306-371-2761
Secretary	Linda Ashley	306-955-2498
Assistant Secretary	Linda Kindrachuk	306-221-8829
Treasurer	Irma Kittelson	306-934-0881
Assistant Treasurer	Judy Pidskalny	306-955-0026

Standing Committees

Activities	Janet Christ	306-934-6722
	Rod Holowaty	306-381-6016
Archives	Stella Shulhan	306-242-9411
	Randy Danyliw	306-249-4494
Cards	Pat Orchard	306-373-9905
	Gladys Somerville	306-242-6668
Chapter Outreach	Shirley Henderson	306-374-5388
	Carol Shanner	306-514-8415
Email	Darlene Danyliw	306-249-4494
	Bonnie Semenoff	306-229-6751
Honourary Life/Member Recognition	Phyllis Wilson	306-380-0684
Hospitality	Zonia Krushelniski	306-221-9158
	Corinne Morton	306-371-5225
Membership/Directory	Barbara Alberton	306-665-1213
	Janet Lowndes	306-291-4495

Program	Freda Robinson	306-374-6722
	Peter Stroh	306-227-4334

PR/Advocacy/Resolutions	Margaret Martin	306-373-4433
	Randy Danyliw	306-249-4494

Registration	Diane Selby	306-373-0080
	Karen Cymbalisty	306-222-6041

Social	Loretta Metzger	306-291-8435
	Kaye Wolfater	306-651-0153

STS Liaison	Jane Isinger	306-281-4662
THE Voice Editor	Darlene Danyliw	306-249-4494

Mail Labeling	Irma Kittelson	306-934-0881
Website	Tom German	306-242-8361

Ad Hoc Editorial Committee:

Margaret Martin, Irma Kittelson,
Janet Lowndes & Bonnie Semenoff

Provincial Executive Members from Saskatoon Chapter:

Member-At-Large	Jane Isinger	306-281-4662
Executive Director	Murray Wall	306-373-3879
STS Office	Michelle Brisson	306-373-3879
	MJ Krips	306-373-3879
	Heather Hase	306-373-3879



Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan

www.sts.sk.ca



Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan - Saskatoon Chapter

www.sts-saskatoon.ca



Your monthly e-mail contains the link when a new issue of "THE Voice" has been posted.

To have **THE Voice** mailed to you, please contact stsvoiceeditor@gmail.com
Note: If you have requested a mailed copy, only one copy is sent to households where both spouses are members.

Website: www.sts-saskatoon.ca
Email: stsvoiceeditor@gmail.com

Disclaimer of Content

All reports in *THE Voice*, excluding Executive reports, represent the information and opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the STS Saskatoon Chapter.



Check us out on Facebook!

Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan –
Saskatoon Chapter or on our website
www.sts-saskatoon.ca

Winter 2026

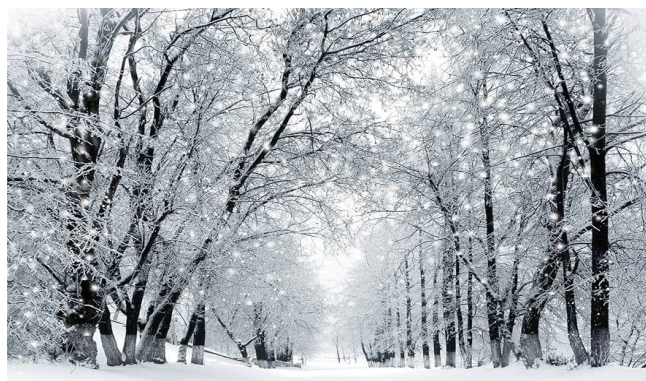


Photo by Irma Kittleson.