

January 22, 2026

President's Message

Sue Amundrud

The calendar has turned to a brand new year – I can hardly believe it is 2026 already – and I hope all of you enjoyed time with family and friends over the Christmas season.

The Executive has just completed its first meeting of this new calendar year, and committee work is proceeding in earnest. Please be sure to read the reports of the individual committees so that you are aware of all the work underway.

While you will read reminders of the following in individual reports, I want to highlight the following:

- Please consider developing resolutions for items important to you and your chapter. The deadline for resolutions to be included in the AGM booklet is March 1, and chapters are encouraged to debate possibilities and submit from the chapter whenever possible.
- We are also looking for Honorary Life nominations with the same deadline of March 1. Please consider your membership – we know there are many who are making significant contributions in retirement, and we would like to honour them.
- Anyone interested in helping to plan next fall's Chapter Presidents Meeting is encouraged to email me at sue.amundrud@gmail.com to indicate your willingness to be involved.

ACER-CART Report

Helen Sukovleff

At our last ACER-CART Executive Meeting, we again discussed Pharmacare. When Prime Minister Mark Carney was sworn in, he expressed a commitment to signing deals with all provinces and territories "as quickly and as equitably as possible". As of late 2025, there has been some political uncertainty and stalled progress regarding signing additional agreements with the remaining provinces and territories. Recent reports suggest a desire to evaluate the impact of existing deals before initiating new negotiations, leading to a potential "patchwork" of coverage across the country.

Status of Bilateral Deals (January 2026)

- **Signed Agreements:** Four jurisdictions have successfully reached bilateral deals to provide universal coverage for contraception and diabetes medications:
 - **Manitoba** - Signed February 2025 (\$219M); coverage began June 2025.
 - **British Columbia** - Signed March 2025 (\$670M); rollout expected March 2026.
 - **Prince Edward Island** - Signed March 2025 (\$30M); coverage began May 2025.
 - **Yukon** - Signed March 2025 (\$9.5M); rollout delayed to March 2026.



Advocacy Committee Report

Huguette Kitchen

The Committee has requested that Murray Wall explore the possibility of linking a collection of webinars, videos, and articles on topics of interest to seniors provided by Ontario Age Friendly to our STS website.

Consideration is being given to adapting our Retirement Lifestyles Session to a webinar based format.

Some members of our Advocacy Committee will join Sue Amundrud, Terri Mitchell and Murray Wall in a meeting with a small group of MLAs at the Legislature in Regina in March.

The Committee has made a recommendation to the Executive to set a time in conjunction with a future Executive Meeting date for the Executive members to participate in a Kairos Blanket Exercise. A suitable date will be sought in relation to our book study of *True Reconciliation* by Jody Wilson-Raybould. The Committee has made a recommendation to the Executive to set time aside in our March meeting to explore what Reconciliation means, why it can be contentious, and why it is so difficult. This was passed by the Executive.

AGM Planning Committee Report

Huguette Kitchen, Anna Wehrkamp

The AGM Committee met on January 13, 2026.

The Annual General Meeting of the STS will be held as follows:

When: May 12-14, 2026

Where: Dakota Dunes

More information will be coming to Chapter Presidents later this month as planning for the meeting takes shape. The format will be similar to prior years and will include the following Interest Session topics:

1. STS Budget, Financials, and “Ask the STS”
2. STS Group Benefits
3. Wills and Estates, Funeral Planning
4. Digging Deeper on AGM Resolutions
5. Whitecap Dakota Nation – History and Culture

Reminder that the deadline for submitting resolutions for printing in the AGM Booklet is March 1, 2026, as are nomination forms for Provincial Executive in order to be printed. The deadline for Honorary Life Membership nominations is also March 1, 2026. These forms can all be found on the website at: [FAQs 1 — Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan](#)



Budget, Finance and Audit Committee Report

Terri Mitchell

Shane Biehn, our investment advisor from Connor, Clark & Lunn (CC&L), was in attendance at our January meeting. He reported that our portfolio performed well in 2025 largely due to changes in the asset mix implemented in 2024.

Shane also gave an overview of market trends, factors influencing market fluctuations and the CC&L market outlook for 2026.

Murray Wall gave an update of Reserve Funds and Account Balances as of December 31, 2025, and indicated that the Operational Budget for 2025-26 is on track with revenues currently exceeding expenditures.

The Committee also devoted time to discussing the draft budget for 2026-27 which will be reviewed again in March and will ultimately be considered at the 2026 Annual General Meeting.

Membership in the STS as of January 1, 2026, is 12,402.

Communications Advisory Committee

Joyce Hoffman

The Communication Advisory Committee continues to monitor the refresh of the STS website with the expertise of our Office Staff using supports from outside individuals. This will be ongoing with the goal of having the website be senior friendly and easy to use by all.

The Committee will also be looking at the other methods of communication with our members, such as the use of Facebook and through distribution of *Executive Notes*.

Over the next month, Chapter Presidents will be contacted by their Executive Chapter Liaison to request feedback on the methods of distribution of *Executive Notes* within your Chapter. The purpose of this is to help the Communication Advisory Committee determine how distribution of this provincial information is allowing the members of your chapter to stay informed regarding provincial events and initiatives. This will allow us to assess the various methods and effectiveness of these distribution methods. Thank you in advance for your input.

Governance and Handbook Review (GAHR) Committee Report

Terri Mitchell

The Committee reviewed the final iteration of the 2025-2030 STS Strategic Plan document, and discussed a plan for distribution. The Committee also expressed appreciation for the time and oversight that Murray Wall dedicated to creating the Strategic Plan, and to working with the production team at the STF to produce the final product. The document will be shared with the Executive at the March meeting, and will be shared with delegates at the 2026 Annual General Meeting (AGM). The document will also be available, when complete, on the STS website.

Drafts of two potential policies were reviewed: Policy 18 - Chapter Advocacy to Government, and Policy 17 - Charitable Endeavours Policy. These policies were considered, feedback provided and, if complete, will be considered at the 2026 AGM.

The Committee also had preliminary discussions regarding the process of establishing Ad Hoc Committees.

The date of our next meeting is March 10, 2026.



Group Benefits Committee Report

Doug Still

Update on Health Spending Account

The STS implemented a Health Spending Account (HSA) starting January 1, 2025, and running to December 31, 2026. This is the second time we have implemented such a program under rules established by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). Single coverage members have an allocation of \$200, couple coverage \$400 and family coverage \$460. **Members must submit a claim to Saskatchewan Blue Cross for expenditures made in order to access their HSA allotment.**

HSAs allow health plan providers to return additional value to plan members where there is financial capacity to do so (for example, due to growth from investment income).

The HSA can be used in the following situations:

- Paying for current services covered by our Plan where a benefit has been maxed out. For example, if you purchase new lenses and frames, you can use the HSA to ‘top up’ beyond what our Plan pays.
- Accessing a benefit that our Plan might not currently cover but which is permitted by the CRA. (Please click here for more information on acceptable medical expenses: [Lines 33099 and 33199 – Eligible medical expenses you can claim on your tax return - Canada.ca](#))

If you do not have any eligible expenses to submit, you can be reimbursed for premiums you have paid. The annual Statement of Premiums Paid for income tax purposes is mailed near the end of January, and this can also be used as your HSA claim up to your eligible amount. If you use the 2025 statement, you will need to submit your claim by the end of February. Otherwise, please contact the STS Office for a statement from 2026.

The first Health Spending Account a few years ago saw just over half of the available funds claimed. The current allocation is \$2.9 million. As of the end of November, around **\$876,000** has been paid out. This represents about **30%** of the \$2.9 million; however, we are almost halfway to the end of program so the uptake is lagging. Unclaimed money will revert to the Group Benefits account in 2027.

We want members to fully access their Health Spending Account. If you are unsure, your Chapter President may be able to assist as information was presented at the Chapter Presidents Meeting on November 6. You can also access information on the STS website [here](#). The site also provides a link to the CRA (click on ‘Eligible Medical Expenses’) where you can find additional information.

Future of the STS Group Benefits Plan

The STS has a number of external service providers who support the organization and membership including those related to financial accounting, auditing, information technology, financial management, and our Group Benefits Plan. It is prudent practice to, on a regular basis, review the quality of the services being provided and to be assured we are getting the best value for money being spent.

As trustees of the Group Benefits Plan on behalf of over 9,300 Plan members, we received significant feedback last year related to service issues experienced when Saskatchewan Blue Cross migrated the STS Plan to a different digital platform in March 2025. The Provincial Executive is of the view that this is an opportune time to closely examine the health benefits industry to ensure that we are indeed getting the best possible group benefits plan.

A motion was passed unanimously at the January Executive meeting to begin the process of ‘going to market’ to look at options for our group benefits program. Going to market means that we will invite a request for proposals from plan providers, including our current provider, Saskatchewan Blue Cross. We will be working with our health plan consultants, Elev8, during the process.



The work will begin in the next few weeks. By spring, the Executive will engage in a significant interview process with three providers. We anticipate making a decision in June with potential implementation January 1, 2027.

The process is not unlike members getting quotes from various suppliers on items ranging from furniture to vehicles to household renovations and other major purchases. Even if we remain with our current supplier, there is value in closely examining the market to reassure us that we are in fact getting the best value for money.

Honorary Life Membership (HLM) Committee Report

Doug Still

Chapters are reminded that the deadline for submission of nominations for the 2026 Honorary Life Membership are due March 1. Information on the HLM is available on the STS website [here](#) and includes the rubric that will be used to determine this year's recipients.

Please structure your nomination letter to mirror the rubric: contributions at the Provincial, Chapter and Community levels since retirement, referencing the appropriate activities within each category. It is not necessary to submit the rubric itself as it is meant as a guide for chapters, and serves as the evaluation tool for the Provincial Executive when reviewing submissions from chapters.

This year's awards will be the first since 2024 as the last AGM featured a tribute to our first STS Executive Secretary, Fred Herron, who passed away in late 2024.

Recreation Committee Report

Helen Sukovleff, Anna Wehrkamp

The Recreation Committee met on January 13, 2026.

Upcoming provincial recreation activities scheduled include:

1. Cornhole on March 26, 2026, in Regina (registration form on website)
2. Pickleball on June 10, 2026, in Elbow (registration form on website)
3. Stitch n' Quilt on September 21-24, 2026, in Swift Current
4. Kaiser on October 14, 2026, in Regina

Midlakes Chapter has been approved to host Pickleball on September 16, 2026, in Davidson.

The Committee is working on a draft Checklist for Hosting and a draft Registration Template. These are being designed to assist chapters who are volunteering to host recreational activities.



Resolutions Committee Report

Owen Sebastian

At its meeting in January, the Resolutions Committee made a recommendation to the Executive to appoint Owen Sebastian as Chairperson and to approve the Committee’s goals. Both recommendations were approved by the Executive.

One of the responsibilities of the Resolutions Committee is to ensure that members are informed about what the STS has done with the resolutions passed at the Annual General Meeting. To do that, we produce a Disposition of Resolutions booklet for the upcoming AGM; however, not all members find this easily accessible. To make this information more accessible to all of our members, we ensure that the website is updated as progress is made on the resolutions so members know what is being done with those resolutions. The latest update was done on November 10, 2025. To see the updates, click [here](#).

Finally, the Resolutions Committee has received no resolutions for the 2026 Annual General Meeting as of yet, so I would like to remind chapters and members that resolutions must be submitted to the office by March 1, 2026, to be included in the AGM Resolutions Booklet. To submit a resolution, please use the “Submission of Resolution” form found on the website [here](#). The form explains what a resolution is and how it should be formatted. To help members understand the resolution better, you can also choose to include background information on the topic. This information is not a formal part of the actual resolution and is not debated at the AGM, but it can provide information that helps members understand the topic of the resolution. The form also includes a quick checklist for resolutions and refers to STS policies and guidelines used to guide the work of the Resolutions Committee. If you have any questions, please contact Chairperson Owen Sebastian or the office.

