



June 13, 2025

President's Message

Sue Amundrud

The final Executive meeting of this year was held June 3-4, 2025, and included the three newly elected members as well as our current Executive. This addition to our regular meeting dates has been well received – as well as dealing with regular Executive work, we focus on ways to support the new Executive members (Chris Atkinson, Gail Huber and Sonja Susut) in understanding their new roles and the responsibilities that accompany those. We also took the opportunity to thank our retiring Executive members at an evening gathering – Dean Lucyk (2 years), Diane Selby (4 years) and Alan Laughlin (11 years) are all pursuing new priorities in their lives, and we wish them well. Summer will offer all our Executive members a chance to relax and rejuvenate preparatory to a busy year that will begin in early September.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank members for the support in extending my position as President for 2025-26 and to remind chapters that I, as President, am available to attend any of your chapter meetings upon request and availability. Please feel free to contact me at sue.amundrud@gmail.com with your request.

Advocacy Committee Report

Huguette Kitchen, Devona Putland

The Advocacy Committee discussed the goals for 2025-2026. They will meet again in September to finalize the goals to be recommended to the Executive.

AGM Planning Committee Report

Huguette Kitchen, Anna Wehrkamp

The 52nd Annual General Meeting of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan was held on May 12-14, 2025, at the Dakota Dunes Resort, just outside of Saskatoon. There were 191 Delegates present with representation from thirty-eight of the forty chapters, including the Okanagan Valley Chapter from British Columbia.

Registration began on Tuesday evening under the direction of the STS Office Staff, assisted by the Humboldt Chapter. Following President Sue Amundrud's welcome, awards were presented. The Rosetown Chapter received the Membership Growth Award with 12% growth since 2019. Three individuals who had been given awards by their chapters were recognized: Alan Laughlin of The Battlefords and District Chapter, Paula Ryder of the Okanagan Valley Chapter, and Bob Mitchell of the Regina Chapter.

Candidates running for Executive positions were given opportunity to address the Delegates. The evening concluded with an opportunity for socializing with fellow Delegates.

On Wednesday morning, President Amundrud chaired the plenary session beginning with a Land Acknowledgment, an opening prayer given by Senator Vivian Anderson and the singing of O Canada. The President and Executive Director's addresses followed the Invocation and Moment of Silence. Committee reports were tabled by Murray Wall, Executive Director, who also presented the 2025-26 budget. Delegates then broke into five small groups to discuss resolutions and



the budget. Before lunch was served, McDowell Foundation Manager, Nicole Tainsh, spoke of the research grants that have been awarded. The afternoon consisted of five interest sessions of which Delegates could attend three sessions:

- STS Budget, Financials and “Ask the STS” (Murray Wall, Sue Amundrud and Terri Mitchell)
- STS Group Benefits (Anna Shewchuk, SK Blue Cross)
- Older Adults and Fraud (Chanda Hetzel, Royal Canadian Mounted Police)
- Digging Deeper on AGM Resolutions (Alan Laughlin and Owen Sebastian, STS Executive)
- Forever...*in motion* (Kereen Lazurko, Recreational Therapist – Saskatoon Health Region)

President Amundrud welcomed everyone to the banquet. Jane Isinger and Doug Still introduced the Honorary Life Members and special guests present. Following a delicious meal, time was dedicated to honouring the life and legacy of former Executive Director Fred Herron, who passed away on October 24, 2024. Members of Fred’s family, along with Derwyn Crozier-Smith and Sue Amundrud, shared memories of various aspects of Fred’s life. Joan Herron thanked those in attendance and a slide show was shared. The evening concluded with entertainment by a well-known local group, the No Hurry Trio.

The Annual Business Meeting and elections were held on Thursday morning. STF President Samantha Becotte provided an update and extended appreciation for the support of STS members. For voting on resolutions and elections, Delegates once again used the services of DOTS (Data on the Spot) which has proven to be a very efficient way of voting. The results of the election are as follows:

- **President** Sue Amundrud, Melfort (Acclaimed)
- **Past-President** Doug Still, Ottawa
- **Vice-President** Terri Mitchell, Yorkton (Acclaimed)
- **ACER-CART** Helen Sukovieff, Regina (Acclaimed)
- **Councillors**
 - Martin Berg, Unity
 - Huguette Kitchen, Lloydminster
 - Devona Putland, Moosomin
 - Owen Sebastian, Shaunavon
 - Anna Wehrkamp, Gronlid
- **Members-at-Large**
 - Chris Atkinson, Regina
 - Joyce Hoffman, Regina
 - Gail Huber, Wakaw
 - Jane Isinger, Saskatoon
 - Beverley Magel, Last Mountain
 - Sunil Pandila, Moose Jaw
 - Sonja Susut, Moose Jaw

Following the elections, resolutions submitted by chapters, individuals and the Executive were considered. Resolutions Committee Co-chairs, Alan Laughlin and Owen Sebastian, chaired this session. A two-minute time limit on presentations made by Delegates during the resolution debate was used, which kept the pace moving briskly. A ‘courtesy’ resolution was passed thanking all participants, staff, sponsors and service providers for making the AGM a success. The STS would like to thank Saskatchewan Blue Cross, Elev8 Financial, ESTI, STF, Connor, Clark & Lunn, TCU Financial and the Dakota Dunes Resort for their support. Another very successful McDowell Foundation Silent Auction was held. Please contact the McDowell Foundation if you or your chapter have donations for next year’s auction. Delegates were also reminded that an electronic evaluation would be forwarded the following week asking Delegates for their input and evaluation of the AGM.



In her closing remarks, President Amundrud recognized outgoing Executive members: Alan Laughlin, Dean Lucyk and Diane Selby. The AGM was declared adjourned at 2 p.m.



Members of the 2025-26 Executive:

Front row (L-R): Sonja Susut, Gail Huber, Anna Wehrkamp, Jane Isinger, Helen Sukovieff, Joyce Hoffman, Huguette Kitchen, Sue Amundrud, Terri Mitchell

Back row (L-R): Chris Atkinson, Martin Berg, Devona Putland, Sunil Pandila, Doug Still, Owen Sebastian, Beverly Magel, Murray Wall

Budget, Finance and Audit Committee Report

Terri Mitchell

- Shane Biehn, our investment advisor from Connor, Clark and Lunn, was in attendance at our June meeting. He reported that changes in the asset mix have been implemented and all funds are in compliance to the approved ranges.
- He also reported that considering the present climate of market unpredictability, our investments performed well due to a balanced and diversified portfolio.
- Shane will also work to have a Portfolio Strategist attend a future meeting.
- The Operational Budget for 2025-26 was approved at the 2025 AGM with fees and Chapter grants being held at current levels.
- Funds for The Special Projects Grant were approved with the new budget. ***Note that The Special Project Grant focus for 2025-26 will be expanded to include activities that relate to recruiting and engaging membership.*** This topic is in addition to the original focus topics of Truth and Reconciliation and Celebrating Older Persons.
- The Operational Budget is on track awaiting final expenses from the AGM.
- Membership is presently 12,311.



Communications Advisory Committee

Joyce Hoffman

The members of the Communication Advisory Committee met at a duly called meeting on Tuesday, June 3, to review the draft goals for 2025-2026. These goals will be considered for approval at the next Committee meeting on September 9, 2025.

Governance and Handbook Review (GAHR) Committee Report

Terri Mitchell

The Committee set goals for 2025-26 and a main goal will be to continue the Strategic Plan Development Process working toward a draft document.

Other goals include:

- revisiting discussions of Policy 2 - Establishing and Dissolving a Local Chapter of the STS to consider a process for chapter amalgamation and splitting larger chapters should that be the will of the membership, and
- continuing to discuss Policy 3 - Resolutions along with input from Advocacy and Resolutions Committees.

Our work is informed by membership surveys, AGM Resolutions and discussions and feedback from the Chapter Presidents Meeting.

The date of our next meeting is September 9, 2025.

Group Benefits Committee Report

Doug Still

The STS Group Benefits program consists of two plans: Dental and Extended Health (non-dental benefits). There are now 9,157 members who participate in one or both of the plans, up from 9,023 a year ago.

There are three major changes that came into effect this year: a Health Spending Account, a renewed agreement with Saskatchewan Blue Cross, and a new digital platform rolled out March 4.

On the first item, the Health Spending Account (HSA), \$2.9 million has been allocated for members to access during the period of January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2026. Health Spending Accounts are set up by plan providers under rules established by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

Under the current HSA, members can use their allocation to top up claims for benefits currently covered in the Extended Health or Dental Plan, or to pay for services not included in the current agreement but permitted by the CRA. For example, if you have a service provided which is not fully covered by Saskatchewan Blue Cross, you can use some or all of your HSA to cover the difference. As well, if you pay for a service not covered by our Group Benefits Plan, but it is recognized as an eligible expense by the CRA, you can use your HSA against this cost. A good example would be being reimbursed for premiums paid – this is not covered by our Plan but is acceptable under CRA rules. The CRA website has a list of eligible expenses that can be offset by using your HSA (click [here](#) to view).

The allocations for the current HSA are \$200 for those on a single plan, \$400 for those on a couple plan, and \$460 on a family plan.

After four months, roughly \$185,000 of the \$2.9 million has been claimed by members. We anticipate the uptake to increase as the year goes on, and urge you to use the HSA as this is your money. Ideally, we would like to see the full



\$2.9 million flow to members; should there be money left at the end of the two-year period, this will flow back into Group Benefits reserves, as the CRA limits an HSA to a 24-month open window.

Information about the HSA can be accessed on the STS website [here](#) and also by calling the office for more information: (306) 373-3879. If you call, there is a strong likelihood that staff may be answering other calls – please leave a message with your contact information, and your call will be returned within 24 hours.

With regard to the second item, as of July 1 we are entering into a new agreement with Saskatchewan Blue Cross. A letter with background information was sent to all Plan members in January 2025. There is additional detail on the STS website.

The third major development took place on March 4 of this year, as Blue Cross transitioned members to a new digital platform along with new membership cards. The transition has not been without its challenges, despite Blue Cross ramping up tech and customer support in the past months. If you encounter difficulties, we encourage you to contact Blue Cross – contact information is on the reverse side of your new membership card. The STS Office Staff is available to assist as well; however, they are unable to provide tech support and don't have access to members' claims information.

Honorary Life Member (HLM) Committee Report

Jane Isinger, Doug Still

The next provincial Annual General Meeting is still eleven months away. However, it is not too early to begin thinking about nominating colleagues for provincial Honorary Life Membership. Over 150 superannuates have been awarded with HLM recognition in the 52 years since the STS was formed.

Nominations are made by chapters and/or STS Executive, and weighting is placed on contributions at the provincial level along with activities within chapters and engagement in local communities (since retirement).

Nominators are encouraged to structure their submissions based on a rubric that can be found online on the provincial STS website [here](#). The form can be found in the Membership & Benefits Section under the sub-tab Resources & Forms. A fillable PDF is also available.

Chapters are also reminded that they can resubmit prior year nominations.

The deadline for submissions is March 1. This allows the HLM Committee the opportunity to review nominations in the spring leading up to the next AGM. We look forward to your chapter giving consideration to nominating a member for this award.

Recreation Committee Report

Alan Laughlin, Helen Sukovleff

The Committee discussed the goals for next year and will finalize them in September.

There are three activities scheduled to take place before the end of 2025:

- Pickleball June 18-19
- Stitch 'N Quilt September 22-25
- Kaiser October 22



Resolutions Committee Report

Alan Laughlin, Owen Sebastian

The Resolutions Committee Meeting on June 3 was called to order by Co-chair Alan Laughlin. The agenda and minutes of the March 11 and May 12 meetings were approved. There was no business arising from the minutes.

The Committee prepared draft goals for 2025-26. They will be reviewed at the next meeting and, if necessary, revised and approved for the upcoming year.

The next meeting will be held on September 9.

