

January 17, 2025

## President's Message

### Sue Amundrud

At our January Executive meeting, we incorporated a half-day session on Truth and Reconciliation, with Linda Aspen-Baxter of the STF, as a learning opportunity. This allowed some in-depth and fruitful discussion as to how we, particularly as individuals but also an Executive as a whole, could be moving forward with this important work. We recognize that this is only a small, initial step but it is an important one that we have taken.

Committee reports are included in this issue of *Executive Notes* – please read through them.

I continue to be available to meet with, and answer questions from, individual chapters. Please contact me at sue.amundrud@gmail.com or at (306) 920-7475 to arrange a convenient date and time.

Stay safe in this unusual “up and down” winter weather!

## Advocacy Committee Report

### Huguette Kitchen, Devona Putland

The Advocacy Committee reviewed and discussed the advocacy feedback from the Chapter Presidents Meeting held in November. Thank you to those who attended for participating in this session. Your views are valuable and will assist in guiding the Committee as it considers its advocacy responses and responsibilities.

The Executive engaged in a half-day learning opportunity presented by Linda Aspen-Baxter from STF Professional Learning, named "Reconciliation: Moving Toward Transformative Understanding and Action". Executive members found this to be an excellent learning opportunity which challenged our own personal attitudes and actions regarding what reconciliation involves. This learning opportunity was part of the Executive's plan to attend to the referred resolution from the 2024 AGM: BE IT RESOLVED that the STS explore its responsibilities regarding the actualization of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and report its findings to the STS AGM 2025.

## AGM Planning Committee Report

### Huguette Kitchen, Anna Wehrkamp

The AGM Committee met to review the program for the 2025 AGM, May 13-15 at Dakota Dunes. An update was provided by the Executive Director regarding the preparations and presenters that have been booked to date. Any important communication regarding AGM will be emailed to Chapter Presidents before the end of January.

## Budget, Finance and Audit Committee Report

### Terri Mitchell

- Reserve Fund and Account Balances for December 31, 2024, were not available for the January meeting; however, information from the November report indicates that operations are on track to be well within budget for the 2024-25 year.



- Membership is presently 12,334.
- Shane Biehn from Connor, Clark and Lunn presented information on our investment asset mix and made suggestions regarding adjustments to the asset mix. These adjustments were approved by the Executive and will appear in Guideline 11 in the July 1, 2025, *STS Policy Handbook*.
- Shane also gave an overview of the ethical investment policy in place with Connor, Clark and Lunn. The Executive approved a motion that Guideline 11 indicate that the STS investments and investment processes be consistent with the STF Ethical Investment Policy.
- The Executive considered a draft of the 2025-26 STS Operational Budget, which will be further refined and presented at the 2025 AGM.

## Communications Advisory Committee

### Joyce Hoffman

The Communications Advisory Committee met on January 7, 2025, to review both the duties of the Communications Advisory Committee as well as the Committee Goals. Housekeeping changes were completed to ensure both reflect what the Committee actually does.

The paper copy of *Outreach*, Winter Edition, Volume 47 has been delivered, following the end of the postal strike. It was posted on the STS website prior to the postal strike, with individuals receiving *Outreach* online being notified of it.

Always remember to check the website if you are looking for information on various topics.

## Governance and Handbook Review (GAHR) Committee Report

### Terri Mitchell

#### Strategic Plan Development Process

1. The Governance and Handbook Review (GAHR) Committee reviewed and discussed the SOAR (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations and Results) Analysis data gathered at the Chapter Presidents Meeting.
2. Prior to the meeting, data were reviewed by Sue Amundrud, Terri Mitchell and Murray Wall to determine broad themes. The Committee created small groups to assess the data according to these themes and to determine potential goals and actions related to the themes. The groups will report at the March meeting.

**The GAHR Committee also discussed a *Governance Self-Assessment Tool*.** It was recommended to and approved by the Executive that self-assessment becomes an annual practice for Executive members.

#### Duties of GAHR Committee

A draft of the duties of the GAHR Committee was reviewed and revisions will be ready for the March meeting.

The Committee also reviewed the Chapter Presidents Meeting advocacy feedback, and addressed a plan for the renewal of Policy 3 - Resolutions.

The date of our next meeting is March 11, 2025.



## Group Benefits Committee Report

### Doug Still

Membership in the STS Group Benefits Plan continues to grow with 9,192 members participating in one or both of the plans (Extended Health, Dental). This is an increase from 9,035 a year ago and continues the trend of steady growth in enrolment.

There are three key items for members in this report:

1. There will be a mailing near the end of January or beginning of February from the STS office to Group Benefits Plan members that will include a Statement of Premiums Paid in 2024, which you may choose to use in your 2024 income tax filing.
2. The latest Health Spending Account (HSA) began January 1, 2025, and will run to December 31, 2026. Eligible expenses that have been incurred **since January 1** are eligible for reimbursement. Additional information on the HSA is available on the STS website ([click here](#)) including a set of Frequently Asked Questions, which can be found [here](#). The HSA will also be referenced in the upcoming mailing to Group Benefits Plan members.
3. This mailing will also include information on a new two-year agreement between Saskatchewan Blue Cross and the STS and new premium rates that run from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027. We are in the final months of the current agreement which was originally a two-year package, extended one additional year with no premium increase and some additional enhancements, including a vaccine benefit which has proven to be very popular.

At a time of inflation, especially in the health care sector, there will be an increase in premiums in the new agreement. Potential enhancements to benefits may be considered during the term of the agreement, something that was done most recently in July 2024.

Lastly, one important highlight to draw to your attention is that Saskatchewan Blue Cross will be doing a significant update to their system that will include new Member ID Cards for all Group Benefits Plan members. This will be occurring in February and we want you to be on the lookout for communications from Blue Cross regarding this significant update. We know that this may be disruptive for some members, but together with Blue Cross, we'll work to ensure our members are able to navigate this change.

Further details regarding the 2025-27 Group Benefits Plan Agreement will be included in the mailing from the office.

## Honorary Life Member (HLM) Committee Report

### Jane Isinger, Doug Still

The Honorary Life Membership Committee met on January 8, 2025. Guideline 2.7 HLM Committee duties as well as the HLM Nomination Guide and Selection Rubric were reviewed. The Nomination Guide and Rubric were also presented to chapter presidents at their October 2024 Presidents Meeting. This report is intended to provide a brief review of the process and expectations. Please refer to Policy 4 and Guideline 5 of the *STS Policy Handbook* for additional information.

The HLM Committee makes use of the rubric to assist the Committee in evaluating the nominations. The nomination is to be submitted in 600 words or less according to the following categories:

- Provincial Level Contributions
- Chapter Level Contributions
- Community Level Contributions



These contributions must be ones that have occurred since retirement.

This is a provincial award and therefore within the rubric, a greater weighting has been allocated to participation in provincial activities and a lesser weighting to chapter level and volunteer activities. The rubric scoring is cumulative so that a total of 75 points is possible. However, clear evidence of participation in each category must be provided within the submission.

Nominations must be sent to the STS office so that they arrive prior to March 1, 2025. The Office will then ensure that copies of each nomination are forwarded to the HLM Chairpersons and Committee members for review. The Committee will make their recommendations to the STS Provincial Executive at their March Executive meeting. Up to four superannuates may be awarded an HLM Award at the Annual General Meeting in May 2025.

The Nomination Guide and Selection Rubric are available on the STS website [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the STS office or one of the HLM Chairpersons.

## Recreation Committee Report

### Alan Laughlin, Helen Sukovleff

The Recreation Committee met on January 8 and approved an application from the Regina Chapter to host a Pickleball Tournament on June 18 and 19. Please refer to either the provincial STS website ([click here](#)) or Regina Chapter's STS website to get a copy of the registration form. If you have any questions, please email Helen at [helens@sasktel.net](mailto:helens@sasktel.net).

More details about the tournament will come out as registrations come in.

## Resolutions Committee Report

### Alan Laughlin, Owen Sebastian

It is always interesting to follow what happens to resolutions that are passed or referred to the Executive at AGMs. The STS website provides a quick opportunity to follow the disposition of any resolution and is updated regularly with information.

March 1st is the deadline for the receipt of resolutions. Resolutions received by that date may be approved at the March Executive meeting for presentation at the AGM and if so, will be included in the Resolutions Booklet. To date five resolutions have been received and approved. The Submission of Resolution Form can be found on the STS website [here](#).

The Executive considered feedback that was obtained from presidents at the recent Chapter Presidents Meeting. Chapter presidents seemed to agree that resolutions that are submitted to the AGM should focus on the aims of the STS and not be so broad. Although no decisions were made, the topic will receive further consideration.

A subcommittee was created to examine how SUMA, SARM and STF deal with resolutions and to create a guiding document for the STS.

