

March 21, 2025

## President's Message

### Sue Amundrud

Our March Executive meeting was held March 10-12, 2025, with all committees holding meetings prior to the Executive meeting itself. Individual committee reports are included in this edition of *Executive Notes*.

The Executive continues to be busy. As well as the usual cycle of work for each committee, our GAHR Committee is continuing work on development of a draft strategic plan based on feedback that has been collected throughout the fall.

Another area of focus was finalizing plans for our upcoming AGM – this year, for the first time, being held at Dakota Dunes, just south of Saskatoon. We hope that the new venue addresses many of the issues that have been raised over the past few years, and we look forward to having a full slate of Delegates. As a member-driven organization, we need the views from all of our varied chapters as decisions are made on resolutions brought forward at the AGM. We look forward to seeing you in May.

## ACER-CART Report

### Helen Sukovleff

I will begin my report with an update of our national pharmacare program. On October 10, 2024, Bill C-64, or the Pharmacare Act, received royal assent and became federal law. The first phase of pharmacare covers a range of birth control options and diabetes medications. However, only provinces or territories that have reached an agreement with the federal government are able to take advantage of this program. So far only three provinces have signed agreements. Manitoba was the first province to sign a bilateral agreement and coverage is expected to begin in June 2025. British Columbia was next with coverage expected to begin in March 2026. Prince Edward Island was the most recent province to sign an agreement on March 7 and coverage will begin in May 2025. Where does this leave us in Saskatchewan? On March 7 the Saskatchewan government said in an emailed statement that it needs more information about the program but the province is open to discussions with the federal government regarding the program, the statement said. Feel free to ask your MLA when Saskatchewan will sign an agreement to get access to the national pharmacare program.

By the time you read this report, the federal government may have dropped the writ for the federal election to be held this spring. Watch for a brochure as well as a one-page document with specific questions from ACER-CART that is designed to help you ask good questions when you meet with politicians who come to your door seeking your support in the election. Topics include the National Pharmacare Plan, Opposition to the Privatization of Medical Services, Aging in Place, Ensuring Retirement Income for Canadians as well as information on voting.



## Advocacy Committee Report

### Huguette Kitchen, Devona Putland

The Advocacy Committee received feedback from the Chapter Presidents Meeting that reinforced the fact that STS is a member driven organization. Questions arose from that feedback regarding what it means to be member driven and the expectations that arise from that fact. The question about whether limits of scope of advocacy are required or whether we should continue allowing a broad scope of advocacy to exist based on resolutions passed by Delegates at the AGM. Suggestions from feedback included the ideas that we should advocate for things relevant to our membership, that we need to increase our credibility with other organizations, that we need to continue to show support for the STF, and that resolutions not only need to pass criteria for their format, but also have a focus on relevance. The possibility of narrowing the focus of resolutions in some way, potentially by vote of Delegates at the AGM, was mentioned. Also mentioned was the possible need for a committee comprised of general membership and Executive to examine the area of advocacy and create recommendations regarding these issues.

Discussion of collaboration between the Communications Committee and the Advocacy Committee occurred, noting possible efficiencies in addressing advocacy through the communication of topics to the general membership.

Discussion about the need to continue Executive learning on the topic of Truth and Reconciliation potentially through a relevant book study took place, although this would occur after the AGM with the upcoming Executive.

## AGM Planning Committee Report

### Huguette Kitchen, Anna Wehrkamp

The STS Annual General Meeting will be held in Saskatoon at the Dakota Dunes from Tuesday, May 13 to Thursday, May 15. AGM information has been sent to Chapter Presidents and Delegate packages will be emailed to all Delegates, unless otherwise requested.

Thank you in advance to the Humboldt Chapter who have volunteered to work at the registration table. The agenda for the AGM is similar to previous years, but we would like to remind Chapters that the presentation of Chapter Growth Awards and announcement of Chapter Awards will be held on Tuesday evening prior to the Executive Candidate speeches. Time for socializing will follow.

Wednesday morning will provide Delegates with an opportunity to discuss resolutions and the budget in small group sessions. More time has been allocated for this discussion than in previous years. In the afternoon, five interest sessions will be offered (each one will be offered three times).

1. STS Budget, Financials and “Ask The STS” – Murray Wall, Sue Amundrud and Terri Mitchell
2. STS Group Benefits – Anna Shewchuk (Saskatchewan Blue Cross)
3. Older Adults and Fraud – Chanda Hetzel (Royal Canadian Mounted Police)
4. Digging Deeper on AGM Resolutions – Alan Laughlin and Owen Sebastian
5. Forever...in motion – Kimberly Willison (Senior Recreation Therapist – Saskatoon Health Region)

The AGM is a wonderful opportunity for Delegates to learn the variety of ways that the STS supports superannuated teachers, to have input in the decision-making process, and to network with Delegates from the various chapters. Please encourage new members to get involved. We really look forward to seeing you in May!



# Budget, Finance and Audit Committee Report

## **Terri Mitchell**

Ionie Green (Audit Director) and Mitch Bellefleur (Audit Assistant Manager) from Deloitte presented their Audit Service Plan for the June 30, 2025, audit. They suggested there would be no major changes in the approach. However, the Health Spending Account put in place January 1, 2025, will require some additional audit work as will the Level 3 investments that have been added to our investment asset mix. The base increase for audit services will be 6% with possible additional charges related to monitoring the Level 3 investments.

Reserve Fund and Account Balances for December 31, 2024, were approved as presented, as were the December 31, 2024, Financial Statements.

Reports indicate that operations are on track to be well within budget for the 2024-25 year. Revenue to January 31, 2025, has been \$699,875 and expenses to January 31, 2025, have been \$532,966.

Membership is presently 12,328.

An additional focus topic for the Special Projects Grant was discussed and approved. ***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.***

In addition, the Operational Budget for 2025-26 was approved to be presented at the 2025 AGM.

# Communications Advisory Committee

## **Joyce Hoffman**

The Committee met and discussed some feedback regarding the website and *Executive Notes* that was received from STS members. These concerns will go into the forward planning for the coming year.

The new *Outreach* edition has been distributed in both electronic and paper form and can also be accessed on the STS website [here](#). This issue was well received by our members, particularly the tribute article for Fred Herron.

# Governance and Handbook Review (GAHR) Committee Report

## **Terri Mitchell**

### **Strategic Plan Development Process**

1. Since the January meeting, sub-groups met to assess the data from the various assessment tools according to the themes of Chapters/Membership, Governance (Committees, AGM, Elections, Member Well-Being, (Group Benefits, Social/Recreation), Advocacy, Financial/Operational, and Communications/Technology) to determine potential goals and actions related to the themes.
2. The sub-groups reported their assessments and the Committee discussed the findings with the idea of identifying key issues that surfaced in the assessment process. In this preliminary stage, one topic that emerged as crossing over several of the themes is Resolutions and related issues.
3. The Committee will work on a draft Strategic Plan to be revisited for further discussion in September.
4. Thank you to the sub-groups for arranging extra time to complete this task.



### Duties of GAHR Committee

The duties of GAHR Committee to be placed in Guideline 2 was reviewed and approved by the Executive. This new Guideline will appear in the next printing of the Policy Handbook as Guideline 2.6.

#### 2.6 Governance and Handbook Review Committee

- 2.6.1 Engage in an ongoing and systematic review of STS Bylaws, Policies and Guidelines.
- 2.6.2 Ensure alignment of Bylaws, Policies and Guidelines with the Aims of the organization, with current practice and through the use of accurate and consistent language.
- 2.6.3 Develop and submit resolutions and background information relevant to the work of the Committee for consideration at AGM.
- 2.6.4 Respond to resolutions passed at AGM that are relevant to the Committee and address issues that arise in a proactive manner whenever possible.
- 2.6.5 Gather input and develop background for resolutions from membership when needed.
- 2.6.6 Engage in forward planning and strategic planning processes.

The Committee also reviewed the proposed Resolutions Guide as prepared by the Resolutions Committee.

The date of our next meeting is June 3, 2025.

## Group Benefits Committee Report

### Doug Still

There are four key items for members in this report:

1. The latest Health Spending Account began January 1, 2025. Eligible expenses since that date can be used. Information on the HSA was included in a mailing from the STS office in January. Additional information is available on the STS website under the Health Spending Account (HSA) tab. Click [here](#) to view.
2. In the same mailing, information was also provided on the new two-year agreement between Saskatchewan Blue Cross and the STS which runs from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027. Information on premiums paid in the 2024 tax year was also included for members to potentially use as they fill out their 2024 income tax forms.
3. Saskatchewan Blue Cross has issued new ID cards which took effect March 4, 2025. An informational sheet was included along with the cards. If you have any difficulty in the transition, please touch base with Blue Cross directly by calling their Member Experience Centre at 1-800-667-6853.
4. The Saskatchewan Blue Cross reports and Elev8 (Benefits Consultant) reports for our Group Benefits Plan were reviewed. Although claims paid out were more than premiums brought it for January, the claims ratios for the Plan continue to be close to expectations.

As of January 31, 2025, one month past the half way point of our policy year, our total Group Benefits membership is 9,192 which is an increase of 157 members from a year ago. As of January 31, the claims experience shows a surplus at this point in the policy year of \$335,920.



## Honorary Life Member (HLM) Committee Report

**Jane Isinger, Doug Still**

The Committee met March 11, 2025, and considered one nomination for a recognition as well as whether to award an Honorary Life Membership for this year. After some discussion, it was agreed that no HLM recipient will be named for this year and that a special recognition of another kind will be planned for the Annual General Meeting banquet.

## Recreation Committee Report

**Alan Laughlin, Helen Sukovleff**

Upcoming Recreation Events: Registrations have started coming in for the Pickleball Tournament to be held on June 18 and 19 in Regina. Please go to the STS website and print a registration form [here](#). You can sign up for Mens, Womens, Mixed or both.

Stitch 'n Quilt will be held in Yorkton from September 22 to 25. Registrations will come out in the spring.

Kaiser will be happening as well this year, in Regina on October 22. Watch the STS website for registration forms.

Please contact Helen if you have any questions about any of these activities – [helens@sasktel.net](mailto:helens@sasktel.net).

## Resolutions Committee Report

**Alan Laughlin, Owen Sebastian**

The Resolutions Committee reviewed the Submission of Resolutions form and suggested a few changes which were approved by the Executive. The new form clarifies the purpose and form of resolutions and includes links to the STS Constitution and Policy that members can click on to get instant information on resolutions. The new form is posted on the website [here](#).

The Committee also reviewed the resolutions which were submitted to the Office by the March 1st deadline. Nineteen met the criteria and were sent on for inclusion in the Resolutions Booklet for the AGM. One was sent back to the mover for clarification, and once the clarification was made, it, too, was sent on for inclusion. In total, twenty resolutions will appear in the booklet for debate at the AGM. They will also be included in an email sent to Chapter Presidents and are posted on the STS website [here](#).

