

Superannuated Teachers of Ontario

District 16 City of Toronto

President:
Mary Thomas

Newsletter

September 2, 1985

Editor:
Phil Hornick

Greetings, and best wishes to all, and a very special welcome to our new members. We trust that this Newsletter finds you in good health, rested and relaxed, and ready for the Fall term.

Our General Meeting on October 17, 1985 (see Page 3), should be of interest to all, with our Speaker bringing us up-to-date on STO Health Services. So, come along, bring a new member, meet your friends, and enjoy the afternoon. We'll look forward to seeing you!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: For some time, I have felt that our local and provincial groups could be stronger and more cohesive if we widened our communications. We already have an excellent Provincial Newsletter, but we need further means of communication. Accordingly, at the last meeting of the Senate, I moved the following motion, seconded by Mr. Tom Tait (Cochrane-Temiskaming):

"That an STO Reporter be chosen on a rotating basis from the thirty-two districts to write a concise report of impressions gained from the Senate in the area of resolutions and motions (pros and cons), and that this report be distributed to all members of STO."

I explained that the purpose would be to involve districts and generate interest. This suggestion aroused general interest, and several Senators took part in the discussions. Mr. Tait proposed that money be granted for two or three people to work on such a project, and urged that the motion be referred to the Legislation Committee and the Provincial Executive for further study, and that they deal with this matter before the Fall Senate.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR PRESIDENT? But for a brief spell in a rural school, Mary Thomas had all her experience in the Toronto School System, as teacher, reading consultant, vice-principal, and principal.

In her spare time, Mary served on many Committees, and was President of the Council for Exceptional Children, the International Reading Association, and the Women Teachers' Association. She was also 2nd Vice-President of the Toronto Public School Principals' Association.

Mary is also an author of note, having written and published more than fifteen books on Reading, Spelling, and Mathematics. In addition, she is on the Editorial Staff of the Provincial STO Newsletter.

Mary joined District 16 as soon as she retired, and became Editor of our own Newsletter, a job which she has just left, sorry to say. She ends her term as President this October, but hopefully will stay on the Executive for many years to come. THANKS, MARY!

T H E M A Y B R E A K F A S T

What a wonderful way to spend a morning! The May Breakfast was its usual gala event, in the finest of surroundings, with a tasty meal, and among real friends.

Mary Thomas welcomed everyone, and introduced the Head Table which included, as special guests, Reverend Stephen Oliver, Rector of St. Margaret's Anglican Church, Joan Westcott, President of O.T.F., Lawson Orser, 1st Vice-President of S.T.O., Clare Perry, retired Secretary-Treasurer of S.T.O., and our Guest Speaker, Gretta Riddell-Dixon, who spoke on THE MYTHS OF AGING.

In her address, Gretta Riddell-Dixon noted that:

"...Memory and intelligence don't go down-hill with aging... We don't learn less the older we get...Learning depends on what we are doing...We must keep our minds healthy by keeping up our habits and practices of learning...

Older people are not the only ones who have trouble 'unlearning' but are ahead of younger people who are less motivated...

Speed of learning often does go down with aging, but a little more time may be required by older people...

It is not true that older people can remember the past better than more recent events...Memory depends upon the habit of noticing, and requires a great deal of attention...

We must make the present interesting and important, or else we will go back to remembering events which were much more significant...Mental exercise is very important...

Reminiscing tends to put our lives in order...Older people should be allowed to reminisce...

Flexibility of thinking is important in aging..."

Jim Williamson, making the presentation to Clare Perry from District 16, noted Clare's contribution to STO, and particularly his efforts on behalf of the Goodwill Committee. He described Clare as "a caring, serving person." How appropriate!

In bringing greetings from STO, Lawson Orser urged us to recruit new members, and encourage present members to stay in STO.

As we had overstayed our reservation, and the Maitre d' was standing on pins and needles, there was no chance for anyone to move a vote of thanks to the Committee for arranging the program, and to Mary for chairing the proceedings. So, on behalf of everyone, THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE!

Did you know that once you reach 80, you must take a driving test each year? This examination consists of a written (or oral) test, a vision test, and a road test.

Did you know that almost 31,000 car drivers in Ontario are over 80 years of age?

D I S T R I C T 1 6 E X E C U T I V E

The Executive of District 16 met on May 23, 1985, with Mary Thomas in the Chair. Some points of interest from my notes follow:

- * Our total membership is now 635....Nort Heard has been contacting new retirees to join.
- * There were 234 people at the May Breakfast....It was suggested that, for the future, Speakers be limited to 20-30 minutes, to allow time for members to socialize.
- * Our Treasury is still healthy, with about \$4000 in the bank....The Provincial rebate, and grant, have now been received.
- * Club 16 will be starting its Fall program on the first Monday in October. New members are needed to help with the mailing. If you are interested, contact Jean Watson.
- * The Goodwill Committee reported a balance of \$42.18. Elizabeth Patterson needs an assistant to help with the phoning.
- * The Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers will take place on Thursday, October 17, 1985. Note this new date. The Speaker will be a member of the Provincial STO Health Services Committee. It is hoped that there will be a representative from Confederation Life in attendance.
- * Our next May Breakfast will be held on May 15, 1986. Reserve this date.
- * Mary Thomas will present a motion from District 16 to the Senate, that all members of STO receive a report of the Senate meetings.
- * The Executive is anxious to set up a Speakers' List for General Meetings and May Breakfasts. Suggestions should be given to Margaret Smith or Al Robb.
- * Volunteers are needed to help with the ever-expanding activities of the Goodwill, Mailing, and Membership Committees, and Club 16. In some cases, back-up is also needed for the Conveners. It is hoped that many members will participate, by calling the respective Conveners.

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Date: Thursday, October 17, 1985
 Time: 1:30 p.m. (Coffee at 12:30)
 Place: Education Centre Conference Room
 155 College St. (Corner McCaul)
 Speaker: Mr. Robinson Hamilton,
 Member, STO Health Services
 Topic: "Up-Date on Health Services"

S.T.O. S E N A T E M E E T I N G

The Spring meeting of the STO Senate was held on May 28, 1985, at the Park Plaza Hotel. Mary Thomas was our Senator. Observers were Margaret Smith, Elizabeth Patterson, Al Robb, and Phil Hornick.

It was an interesting and informative session, with the following highlights:

- * A further attempt will be made to have the premiums for Home and Automobile Insurance automatically deducted by the Superannuation Commission.
- * Steps will be taken to have STO become 'incorporated'. STO will also seek advice relative to the need for liability insurance to protect STO and its members.
- * The Budget Committee will continue to seek ways and means of utilizing the Reserve Funds to meet the objectives of STO. A motion that grants to the Districts should be doubled, was withdrawn for want of a seconder.
- * The Biennial Review Committee has already held two meetings with the Government Representatives. A total of 27 items has been 'laid on the table', with 'low pensions' likely to receive first consideration.
- * Three other items in the Biennial Review Package refer to increasing survivor's allowance to 60%, recalculation of pensions for members who retired before May 31, 1982, and refund of contributions for members who teach 20 or fewer days in a year.
- * At least four different motions, each to the effect that the benefits and provisions of Bill 148 should apply to all members who retired before May 31, 1982, were carried.
- * In a report from the Superannuation Committee, it was noted that 'recalculation is feasible'.
- * Sixteen requests for assistance have been received by the Goodwill Committee during the past six months. Twelve have so far been finalized, and four are under study. A total of \$8,400 has been distributed. More members may be in need of assistance, but are too proud to ask. Thus, the Committee must be informed of any members in this situation. It was stressed that all information is handled discreetly, and in the strictest of confidence.
- * The issue of Mandatory Membership in STO, raised again by District 16 (Thunder Bay), was referred to the Executive for further study to find out if automatic membership is legally possible. Art McAdam, one of the founders, had noted that automatic membership was not sought at the time STO was formed, as it could not be legislated.
- * Two motions, "That STO participate in Project Overseas for another year," and "That \$15,000 be placed in the budget for this purpose," were carried. To date, 13 members have been sent to The Gambia, and 2 to Zimbabwe.

S.T.O. SENATE (Continued)

- * The number of subscribers to our Health Plans has shown an increase, with the greatest increase (25%) in Dental. Premium rates, effective July 1, 1985, are as follows:

	<u>Semi-Priv.</u>	<u>Extend. Health</u>	<u>Dental</u>
Single	9.95	7.33	14.82
Couple	19.87	11.25	29.20
Family	23.43	15.10	36.42

Several reasons were given for the new rates:

1. The addition of chronic care, rehabilitation, and convalescent hospitals to Semi-Private, and an increase of approximately 10% in hospital rates.
 2. A deficit recovery of 5% for Extended Health.
 3. A deficit recovery of 5% for Dental, plus a further increase of 8% in premiums to meet the 1983 ODA Schedule.
- * A new motion, "That STO investigate the possibility of having new lenses provided, as needed, for persons who undergo eye surgery," was carried.
- * District 16 (Mary Thomas) presented a motion to the effect that all members of STO should receive a copy of the motions and resolutions from the meetings of the Senate. This motion stimulated some interest, and following discussion, was referred for 'further study and action before the Fall Senate'.
- * By the end of the first six-month period of 1985, some 900 people will have participated in the STO Travel Programs.
- Two new tours are planned for 1986: Yugoslavia/Italy, and Russia.

The present Chairman of the Teachers' Superannuation Commission is Ron Poste, a member of O.P.S.T.F. Mr. Poste, a principal in Hastings County, has been a member of the Commission for the past 11 years. He also writes a feature column called 'Pension Notebook' for the O.P.S.T.F. NEWS.

Founded in 1917, the Commission implements legislation, provides the pensions for retirees, and manages the funds for current and previous contributors.

In the Spring issue of the Provincial STO Newsletter, Jim Causley does an excellent job of clarifying our Health Insurance relative to Paramedical Practitioners, and Travel Insurance. You should review his comments on Page 2, and also refer to these items in your Group Health Insurance Booklet.

Do you know about our District 16's GOODWILL COMMITTEE? This group sends out Birthday Cards to members over 75 years, Get-Well Cards to members who are ill, and Sympathy Cards to families that are in bereavement. Visits are also made to members who are in hospital, and to shut-ins, and contact is kept up with members who are lonely. In extreme cases, referrals are made, in confidence, to the Provincial Goodwill Committee, for members in need of assistance. If you know of any instances where cards should be sent, or visits or phone calls made, contact Elizabeth Patterson, or any member of the Committee.

 CLUB 16, the 'social and recreational arm of District 16', provides many activities for your interest and enjoyment. No membership fee is required. Watch their Bulletins for details. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, call Jean Watson.

 Our mailing, now approaching 700, is looked after by Nort Heard and his Committee. If you are willing to help, give Nort a call.

 Have you moved? Are you getting ready to move? Do we have your new or correct address? Make sure, by calling Mary (Molly) Moore, our Membership Convener. After all, you wouldn't want to miss out on our Newsletters, Bulletins, etc., would you?

 From all reports, Club 16's Field Trip to Cullen Gardens and the Ganaraska Woods Conservation Centre was the promised SPRING TONIC, and appreciation is extended to Hank Condie, who organized the trip. Hopefully, Hank has another outing up his sleeve for the Fall, and we'll look forward to hearing from him. In the meantime, watch for your Club 16 Bulletins.

 Famous Last Words: Stick with teaching, and some day you'll be making \$2000 a year.

Retirement Speech: Thanks for the compliments. But if I'm all that good, why didn't someone suggest I stay on?

Report Card Comment: Jimmy is behaving much better lately, but he is still a little behind.

Grandmother: My son is in politics, and his son is in Grade 1. Sometimes I can't tell them apart.

Examination Howler: Wordsworth did not understand what the Solitary Reaper was singing, as she was singing in Garlic.

 In Memorium: Margaret McCall
 John E. Abraham
 Mary Reagan
 Annie Butler
 Eldon Brethour
 Ted Stubbs
 William Park
 Irene McAfee

Charles Hoffman
 Irvine Perkin
 Bertha Francis Brown
 Margaret Hamilton
 Corinne McClure
 Jessie Davidson
 Beatrice MacLean
 Elizabeth Richardson