

NOTES FROM THE SENATE

District 16 was well represented, with Margaret Smith as Senator, and Mary Thomas, Cecilia Dineen, Molly Moore, Bernice McGinn, Elizabeth Patterson, and Phil Hornick as Observers.

Our District had two Resolutions before the Senate. The first, to have STO form a Public Relations Committee, was readily accepted, following comments by Mary Thomas. Our second Resolution, that recalculation be the first priority for the Biennial Review Committee, was withdrawn, following the announcement that the Government had rejected this item.

A motion to adopt a "letter-writing campaign" was carried. This campaign would have each member writing to the Premier of Ontario, Provincial Treasurer, and local MPP, urging the Government to support recalculation.

The current issue of FACTS AND IMPRESSIONS is being sent to all retirees, in an attempt to involve non-members in the "letter-writing campaign".

A motion that the Executive examine the feasibility of sending a special letter to all non-members, pointing out the advantages of joining STO, was carried.

Twenty member Organizations, representing 400,000 people, form the ONTARIO COALITION FOR NURSING HOME REFORM. STO is now a member of this Coalition. The STO Executive will be considering a grant to assist the Coalition in its work.

The Good Will Committee reported that in the past six-month period, thirteen requests for assistance, to a total of \$10,500. had been approved. Grants were also made to local Good Will Committees. The total budget for Good Will costs each member 75¢ per year.

A Resolution that STO send a letter to the Premier of Ontario in support of the Government stand on extra-billing, was defeated.

The Provincial Executive will be considering a Resolution that members in Nursing Homes be exempted from paying STO fees, on the understanding that if exempted, these members continue to enjoy full STO benefits.

As of this meeting, the issues of low pensions, and 60% survivor's pension, have not been resolved.

The ad hoc Committee on "STO and the Future" presented a number of excellent suggestions, which included membership drives, increased research into geriatrics and gerontology, greater communication with the membership, a review of the relationship between STO and OTF, and membership on the Biennial Review Committee and the Superannuation Commission.

During discussion of the Public Relations Committee, one member told of a pensioner who had never heard of STO. Mary Thomas noted that approximately 10,000 retirees are not members of STO, and that an estimated 5000 teachers will be retiring within the next three years.

SENATE (Continued)

The Report from the Health Services Committee included some of the changes in our coverage, and the reasons for the increases in premiums. It was noted that total premiums collected amounted to approximately \$7 million. However, as of June 30, 1985, there was a deficit of \$634,000: which must be reduced or eliminated.

The new eight-page format of the STO NEWSLETTER will allow more space to be devoted to publishing material sent in by members. However, the NEWSLETTER will continue to be the appropriate organ for providing new and up-dated information related to STO.

(For a more detailed report of the May Senate, you should refer to your copy of FACTS AND IMPRESSIONS.)

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NEWS FROM OUR DISTRICT

Our ANNUAL MEETING on Wednesday, October 15, 1986, should be just what you've always wanted: STRICTLY BUSINESS. In addition to the ELECTION OF OFFICERS, there will be the reports from Mary Thomas and Bernice McGinn (see Page 1), and reports from our Treasurer and other members of the Executive. There will also be several important items of business related to STO in general, and to District 16 in particular.

This meeting will be your opportunity to voice your opinion, ask questions, make comments, and participate in the discussions. Take advantage of it!

O yes! Coffee and tea will be available at 1:00 p.m. So, come out, meet your friends, socialize, and have a good time. Learn more about STO and our District. We'll look forward to seeing you!

The ANNUAL MEETING will include a vote on a motion to increase our fees to \$5.00. It seems that with inflation, etc., we have to inflate our treasury, in order to keep our heads above water. But really, it isn't all that bad, yet. We just have to be prepared.

Ron MacKay and John Ball will be recognized at the ANNUAL MEETING for their outstanding contribution to Club 16.

Speaking of Club 16, you should know that your \$2.00 fee paid to District 16 includes your membership in Club 16. Watch for their Bulletins! They sure have wonderful programs and activities!

Club 16's "Show of Antiques and Collectibles", co-ordinated by Jean Watson, gave our members a chance to share their treasures and hobbies. There were some forty exhibitors, showing ironware, glassware, coffee mills, shells, paintings, etc.

The "Markham-Uxbridge Heritage Tour", also sponsored by Club 16, and organized by Hank Condie, was another successful event. Highlights included the Markham Museum, Foster Memorial, Quaker Meeting House, and the Lucy Montgomery Home. Lunch was served in a century-old residence recently converted into a restaurant.

