

Superannuated Teachers of Ontario

District 16 City of Toronto

President:
Margaret Smith

Newsletter

January, 1987

Editor:
Phil Hornick

Dear Friends:

Greetings to all, and very best wishes for the NEW YEAR.

The months ahead should be of importance to members of STO. For some, it's recalculation, for others, it's low pensions, and for about 2000 retirees, it's reduced incomes through "miscalculation".

At the same time, and for all of us, there are issues regarding STO Fees, Budgets, Health Services, and Future Trends.

To be brought up-to-date, come to our next GENERAL MEETING on February 10. Our Guest Speaker will be Jim Causley, the former Director of the Teachers' Superannuation Commission, and now the Executive Director of STO. Jim is fully involved, and most knowledgeable in all matters related to STO and retirees. In short, "He knows the score, and what's in store."

So, come out on February 10. Ask questions, make comments, and get involved in the discussions. It's your business!

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

By now, all members of District 16 should have written their letters to the Premier, Provincial Treasurer, and local MPP. If you have received any answers, please contact a member of the Executive, or the Provincial STO Office, at 962-9463(4).

Two of our members are now on the Provincial Executive: Al Robb, our immediate Past President, is Second Vice-President of STO, and Mary Thomas, a former President, is Chairperson of the STO Public Relations Committee.

One matter which will come up at our February Meeting is the Notice of Motion which was presented at the November Senate. This Motion reads, "That STO Fees be increased to ~~\$1.25~~ per thousand dollars of pension, effective January, 1988." The vote on this Motion will take place at the May Senate.

With our increasing activities, it becomes necessary for our own Executive to have more assistance. Volunteers are needed to help on several Committees, particularly Membership, Good Will, and Newsletter. Please volunteer, or say "Yes" when we ask you.

We shall see you at the February Meeting.

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NOTES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

- * Margaret Smith chaired the meeting, on October 15, 1986, in the absence of Al Robb, who was attending the funeral of his brother.
- * In her opening remarks, Margaret welcomed everyone, and introduced the new members. She then commented upon the "write-in" campaign, urging everyone to send in their letters. Margaret concluded her remarks by saying, "The only people to help retired teachers are retired teachers."
- * Mary Thomas provided a description of the STO Senate, noting that there are seven members of the Executive, ten Chairpersons of Standing Committees, and thirty-four Senators (one per District). She then outlined the procedure at each Senate Meeting referring to the Reports by the Executive Director and Standing Committees, and the part played by the Senators in discussing the proposed motions before voting on them. Mary pointed out that Senators also present resolutions from their respective Districts.

In answer to questions from the floor, Mary commented:

"Districts do have considerable influence within STO. One example was the change in Health Coverage related to vision care and hearing aids...Districts are urged to express their concerns by writing to the Executive of STO or appropriate Committee(s)...STO could not act sooner in the matter of recalculation as Bill 148 came into effect suddenly, and was back-dated for two years. STO is allowed one resource person at the Biennial Review Committee and OTF, but with no voting power... FACTS AND IMPRESSIONS, and the 'write-in' campaign, sent to all retirees, brought in many inquiries re joining STO, and a number of new members..."

- * Bernice McGinn reported that the QUESTIONNAIRE, developed by a Committee from the Public and Secondary Schools, Separate Schools, and Administration, "...was designed to open up communication within the District, and offer direction for the future...as new retirees may have newer expectations." She then added the following comments:

"...While only 17% of the members responded the quality of the responses more than made up for the quantity... Club 16 came in for great praise, with Mr. Condie's one-day bus tours getting special mention...Members showed general approval of our meetings, with suggestions that topics be more closely related to the status of STO and District 16, their problems, concerns, and future trends ...The Breakfasts were also well received, but with many suggestions for fewer introductions, shorter speeches, and more time for socializing...Several members advocated a 'brunch' or luncheon to replace the Breakfast, to allow more time for out-of-town members to attend without having to stay overnight in the hotel..."

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ANNUAL MEETING (Continued)

- * Jean Watson reminded everyone that membership in District 16 includes membership in Club 16. She then provided an up-date on Club 16's activities, and plans for the coming year. She also urged everyone to read the Bulletins.

Jean noted that, with Ron MacKay and John Ball having left the Executive, programs are now arranged by a Committee of seven, and that the Bulletins are now the responsibility of Lillian Gang.

Jean concluded her remarks by paying tribute to Ron MacKay and John Ball for their many years of service to Club 16.

- * Elizabeth Patterson reported on the work of the Good Will Committee, and indicated that she receives many letters and notes of appreciation. She read out one such letter.
- * Molly Moore announced that 181 new members have joined our District, and expressed the hope that our numbers will continue to grow with the appointment of a "Recruitment Officer".
- * Bill Whitehouse distributed copies of the Financial Statement, which was adopted with little discussion. He noted that, "Our deficit is greater than ever, and our fees have not gone up in fourteen years. With costs and services increasing, we can't go on at this rate."

His motion, "That fees for 1987-88 be increased to \$5.00" was carried.

- * Mary Thomas presented the Slate of Officers, which was adopted.

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District 16 Executive: 1986-87

Officers

Past Pres:	Al Robb	Corres. Sec'y:	Cecilia Dineen
President:	Margaret Smith	Record. Sec'y:	June Assad
1st Vice Pres:	Mike Lennox	Treasurer:	Bill Whitehouse
2nd Vice Pres:	Bernice McGinn	Assist. Treas:	Anne Fraser
3rd Vice Pres:	George Hayes		

Executive Members

Membership:	Molly Moore	Recruitment:	Sid Coles
Hospitality:	Anne Fraser	Newsletter:	Phil Hornick
Health Insur:	Sid Coles	Member at Large:	Jean McCaig
Mailing:	Bill Ketcheson	"	Charlotte Hardy
Good Will:	Elizabeth Patterson	"	Mary Thomas

Club 16

President:	Jean Watson	Treasurer:	Is Gang
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THE NOVEMBER SENATE

- + District 16 was represented by Margaret Smith as Senator, and Bernice McGinn, Sid Coles, and Phil Hornick as Observers.
- + Lawson Orser, President, stated, "We share good fortune, in spite of Bill 148, low pensions, and reductions in pension income. But we must work to have all members justly treated. We have the best Health, Travel, and Pension Plans in Canada."
- + Member response to the "write-in" campaign was reported to be "quite good". However, replies from the MPP's were unconvincing, and contained inaccuracies and misrepresentation. STO will continue to press for recalculation.
- + Several motions were passed as follow-up to the "write-in" campaign. These included appointing a volunteer to lobby the Officials, sending petitions from the Districts, and presenting the case to the Ombudsman.
- + STO and OTF will be supporting the appeal by the 2000 retirees who had their pensions reduced through "miscalculation". OTF will also be funding an action by one member against the Superannuation Commission.
- + The Biennial Review Committee has not met since early April, and the Treasurer of Ontario has indicated that he would like to see this Committee discontinued. STO will be following up this matter by requesting a meeting with the Minister of Education.
- + A deficit of \$38,000 was incurred during the past fiscal year. As a result, a provisional budget, to be reviewed at the May Senate, was adopted. Despite protests from the Project Overseas Committee, their budget was reduced from \$15,000 to \$10,000.
- + The Good Will Committee overspent its budget, primarily through increased grants to the Districts, in addition to carrying on its work to "members in need". As a result, grants may have to be reduced, with more work having to be done at District level.
- + Several major changes have been made in our Health Coverage. These changes stem from concerns expressed by the members, and a three-year "recovery" program (with conditions) for the Semi-Private Hospital Plan offered by Confederation Life.
- + Every member should be receiving a copy of STO AND THE FUTURE early in the New Year. The Committee hopes that each District will discuss the recommendations, and make submissions, before the Report is finalized at the May Senate.
- + The Information Booklet, AS WE GROW OLDER, is almost complete. It involved the advice of lawyers, bankers, and social service personnel in its preparation. When completed, this Booklet will be made available to the Districts.
- + FACTS AND IMPRESSIONS will again be sent to all retirees, in the hope that more non-members will consider joining STO.

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DISTRICT NOTES

- o We welcome our new members of the Executive: George Hayes, Jean McCaig, and Charlotte Hardy.
- o Our Good Will Committee, under Elizabeth Patterson, continues its excellent work. If you know of any member who is ill, a "shut-in", bereaved, or in need of assistance, get in touch with Elizabeth, or any member of her Executive.
- o The Directory, with the names and telephone numbers of our Executive, Good Will Committee, and Club 16, is a very ready reference for everyone. Keep it handy.
- o Add the name of Sally McLellan, telephone 248-8824, to your Directory under Good Will Committee.
- o We are still looking for an Archivist to put together a history of District 16. If interested, contact Mike Lennox.
- o Sid Coles has been appointed our "Recruitment Officer". Sid has some excellent ideas for bringing in new members. But we can all help by contacting our friends and associates who are planning to retire.
- o No further action has been taken, for now, on the suggestion of a "one-time" membership fee for District 16. With our fees for 1987-88 being raised to \$5.00, the matter will require a new look.
- o Don't forget our next BREAKFAST on Thursday, May 14, 1987. Guest of Honour will be the Honourable Lincoln Alexander, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. Registration Forms will be sent in the next Newsletter.
- o We received many compliments on our Annual Meeting in October. It seemed to meet the needs of our members who want to know what is going on. That is why we have scheduled a similar meeting for February.
- o Club 16's CHRISTMAS SOCIAL was a most successful affair. About forty new members were in attendance. Entertainment was again provided by music groups from Allenby Public School.
- o Hank Condie's one-day bus tours to the FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS at Niagara Falls were reported as "super" and "delightful", in spite of the bad weather on one of the days.

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G E N E R A L M E E T I N G

Date: Tuesday, February 10, 1987
Time: 1:00 p.m. (Coffee at 1:00)
Place: Education Centre Conference Room
155 College Street, Corner McCaul
Speaker: Mr. Jim Causley, Executive Director
Topic: "Future Trends for STO"

MEET YOUR PRESIDENT

Margaret Smith comes from Vancouver, via Sarnia. She attended MacDonalld Institute in Guelph, and the University of Toronto, graduating in Household Science.

Following three years of "work experience", Margaret went to O.C.E., and then Port Arthur, where she taught for one year. From there, she returned to Toronto as a teacher at Central Tech, and then Danforth Tech. She soon became Vice Principal at Heydon Park Secondary School, and then Principal.

Margaret's interest and involvement in teacher activities did not end with her retirement, but carried on into District 16 as a member of the Executive, and currently President.

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A BUSY MAN

Did you know that Is Gang has been working as a volunteer at the Scott Mission, four mornings a week for the past ten years? What does he do there? According to a write-up which appeared in the Toronto Star (December 16, 1986), Is serves food, greets visitors, shares jokes, helps with the clean-up, and plays Scottish songs on the electric organ. O yes, the article even had his picture.

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TEACHERS LOVE TO QUOTE SHAKESPEARE.

"Lord, what fools these mortals be." (The new class in September)

"Yon Cassius has a lean and hungry look." (The Inspector)

"Let me have men about me who are fat." (The football coach)

"Poor prattler, how thou talkest." (The child in 'Show and Tell')

"Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown." (The Principal)

"O horror, horror, horror." (The Performance Review Report)

"He doth bestride the world like a Colossus." (The Superintendent)

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IN MEMORIAM

Bro. James Fallon, FSC

John Fraser MacDonald

William B. Martin

John Austin Mitchell

Anne M. McLellan

Clayton Peterson

Ian Duncan McLaren

Stanley H. Green

James Leslie Kerr

H. E. Totton

William Goode

Olive J. Purvis

Alicia McRae

Walter Rennie