PRESIDENT’S REPORT JUNE 12, 2014

1. I emailed all of our trustees expressing my concerns re the possibility of again holding provincial elections in schools. That practice had ended with some lobbying by MVTA, our Board and others around 2007 but, with the desire to make schools more accessible to the public, this practice was reinstated. When the Board received a request from the municipality to hold the fall elections in school, this change became evident. Thus, I composed the email, alerted MTS of this change and also wrote a letter as a private citizen to our MLA and the Minister of Education. I am also aware of a teacher who also has written letters.
2. All of our delegates had a good AGM experience this year. Thank you to Sonja, Chance, Chelsea, Marni and Michelle for their time, questions and engagement in this experience. Some highlights:
   1. MTS now has separate, updated booklets for the constitution, by-laws and policies – easier to use that the previous document that had evolved over the years.
   2. There is a new funding formula in place for supporting local association president release time. The size of our reserve fund is now tied to our local association presidential release time subside. Unfortunately, we will lose our subsidy next year as we lost the argument to delay the implementation of the 75% reserve fund (as opposed to the 100% reserve fund that we had been building). We argued that the rules are being changed mid stream and we need time to plan but that was not accepted as a good argument.
   3. Last year, our resolution was accepted to hold a wellness forum during this school year. It was held on February 1 and was highly successful. This year, I asked a question about that event which enabled me to submit a business arising resolution to hold another forum next year, and in speaking to it, I suggested that we need a comprehensive review of what MTS does for wellness. Norm Gould asked if he could amend our motion and make the wellness forum an annual event (seconded by James Bedford). That was fine with me! The resolution passed handily. So MVTA has had a lasting impact on the operations of MTS and its endeavour to keep members well. Thank you also to Kyle McPherson from St. James-Assiniboia who seconded our Business Arising motion). Next project – to call Adele at DBP about getting our association involved in an administrator wellness program.
   4. The Biannual General Meeting resolution was defeated about 140-120. Lots of work went into this resolution and it certainly has its merits. Part of the concern was what exactly would happen during the non meeting year; this became clearer as debate occurred which isn't always the best time to learn new information and make such a momentous decision. A business arising resolution to hold a member engagement event (unrelated to AGM or BGM) was ruled out of order as it was the same as part of one of the defeated resolutions. There is merit in continuing to look at both ideas and we probably will hear more on these ideas.
   5. Membership – in the new by-law on membership (page 14) , it says that if members teach the equivalent of forty days in the current school year, they shall also be entitled to
      1. participate in Society or Local political processes, by nominating other Active or Associate Members in Good Standing to run for, or themselves, run for Provincial Executive, Location executives and vote in Society and Local elections;
      2. be elected or appointed as a delegate to Provincial Council and
      3. access EAP.

This has implications for women who are delivering in the early fall. This also has implications for who is able to serve on our local executive. This oversight became evident during a question period at the end of AGM on Saturday morning. Everyone is now aware of the concerns around this and it will be addressed at next year's AGM. In the meantime, people with concerns are to contact the General Secretary.

* 1. The Fairmont Hotel itself was a story this year. On Tuesday night before we arrived, the following guests stayed – Wayne Gretzky, Stephen Harper, Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cambridge. On Wednesday night, Stephen Harper stayed there (I enjoyed thinking about him sleeping in a hotel that also held over a hundred unionists!) As I reached the lobby to check in, Stephen Harper was walking out the front door. Then Lady Gaga stayed Thursday night as her concert at the MTS Centre was on Thursday evening. Ian McIntyre, one of the MC s, said that she had been invited to put her head in the door of our assembly but she didn't do so. On Friday night near midnight a water pipe on the 19th floor broke and water flowed all the way down to the 4th floor. Some people were moved to other (drier) rooms at the Delta. Lots of drama while we were there!

1. Our team attended the fourth and final Liaison meeting of the year. Minutes are attached.
2. I got myself invited to the New Teachers Orientation Day and the first Admin. Council meeting at the end of August.
3. As per the letter I received from Bart, I contacted Morgan Whiteway (our Board’s bargaining rep from MSBA) about opening the next round of bargaining. We will begin bargaining after the elections in the fall.
4. Some projects I am working on
   1. Gathering information about a wellness program for administrators through DBP (Disability Benefits Plan).
   2. Gathering information on possible formats for School Trustee Candidate Forums in the fall – have been in touch with CKDM and with Ramon Job, the PR person at MTS.
   3. Have contacted Primary Prevention Team about someone working with us on Work Life Balance at our retreat.
5. In January I started using a different system to track of the contacts I have with members. So far I have 39 different names listed on that chart, some of them with multiple contacts