**2016 Rural Municipal Administrators’ Association (R.M.A.A.) 96th Annual Convention Highlights**

**Monday, May 16th**

**Annual Golf Tournament:**

On Monday, May16th, the R.M.A.A. held its annual convention golf tournament at the Royal Regina Golf Club in Regina. 104 golfers participated in the par 3, shotgun start event. The ‘Gang of Three’ (Canada Culvert, Finning Canada and Signal Industries) were once again major sponsors for this event. The weather was sunny and warm and participants enjoyed the afternoon of golf and the comradery.

On Monday evening, the staff of Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association (S.M.H.I.) looked after the registration of delegates for the annual convention. Delegates enjoyed a wine and cheese reception at the Delta Hotel Regina.

A Food Bank donation area (complete with donation barrels) had been set up near the convention registration area. It was earlier noted that donations to the Food Bank was the target for the Humanitarian Services Committee’s efforts for 2016. At the conclusion of the convention, the food drive was deemed to have been a success.

**Tuesday, May 17th**

**Morning Seminars:**

 **Campania A & B Room**

 Seminar conducted by **Clint Krismer**

 **– Gord Krismer & Associates Ltd.**

 **TOPIC: Municipal Assessment Appeals**

 **Tuscany A & B Room**

Seminar conducted by: **Cindy Schreiber**

 **R.M. of Wilton No. 472**

 **TOPIC: Construction Procedures**

 **Trentino Room**

Seminar conducted by**: Denise Harry**

 **Supervisor, Records Management, SGI Canada**

 **TOPIC: Records Management**

Convention delegates had the choice of attending any two of three training seminars in the morning:

**Opening Luncheon:**

The 96th annual convention of the R.M.A.A. officially opened at Noon on Tuesday with a luncheon. There were 255 Administrators, 33 Spouses, 9 Associate Members, 1 Honourary Member and 11 Visitors for a total number registered of 309. President Wendy Gowda called the luncheon to order and asked for a moment of silence for those Administrators who had passed away during the previous year. Following the meal, Rick Kindrachuk, former Administrator of the R.M. of Fish Creek No. 402 , gave a brief address and officially opened the convention. Ray Orb, President of S.A.R.M. and Wade Murray, Deputy-Mayor, City of Regina, brought greetings to the delegates from their respective organizations. R.M.A.A Vice-President Darren Elder responded to the greetings. President Wendy Gowda presented each of the 31 new members of the R.M.A.A. (that were in attendance) with a membership certificate and an association pin.

The meeting recessed at 1:30 p.m.

**Tuesday Afternoon**

**President’s Address:**

Executive-Director Kevin Ritchie reconvened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Ritchie made several convention announcements, asked for and received a resolution to accept the annual audited financial statement for 2015 and a resolution to appoint Mr. Jay Meyer, Executive-Director of S.A.R.M., as returning officer for the 2016 elections. Mr. Ritchie then introduced R.M.A.A. President Wendy Gowda, who gave her address to the delegates.

**25 Year Members:**

President Wendy Gowda presented 25 year membership pins to four members.

**Rural Board of Examiners:**

President Wendy Gowda, Rural Board of Examiners Representative Darren Elder, and Secretary to the Rural Board of Examiners, Kevin Ritchie, presented the advanced Rural A Certificates and Rural Superior A Certificates to the successful applicants.

**Fraternal Delegates**:

President Gowda recognized the visiting delegates from our fraternal organizations that were in attendance:

U.M.A.A.S. – Kim Gartner, Macklin, Saskatchewan

A.A.R.M.A. – Tyler Lawrason, Provost, Alberta

M.M.A.A. – Chad Davies, Onannole, Manitoba

**S.A.R.M. Update:**

Ray Orb, President of S.A.R.M., Jay Meyer, Executive-Director of S.A.R.M., and Laurel Feltin, Director of Programs and Operationsof S.A.R.M., brought greetings and spoke about a number of current issues that S.A.R.M. was working on that involved rural municipalities.

**Keynote Speaker:**

Vice-President Darren Elder introduced Jeff Milligan as the Tuesday afternoon guest speaker. Mr. Milligan’s presentation had been sponsored by S.M.H.I.

The convention adjourned for Tuesday at 5:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 18th**

The morning began at 9:00 a.m. with greetings from Keith Comstock, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Government Relations.

Advisory Services Branch Staff presented a review of several amendments to various legislation.

Cynthia Mamer, Rural Addressing Administrator, Emergency Management & Fire Safety Branch, Prince Albert, gave a short presentation updating the 911 Rural Addressing project.

At 11:45 a.m. a pizza buffet luncheon was served to the delegates.

Beginning at 12:30 p.m., participants were encouraged to begin round table discussions. Several topics were suggested and those topics were displayed as a slide show on the screen.

**President Elected:**

At 2:00 p.m. Returning Officer, Jay Meyer, announced that Wendy Gowda, Administrator for the R.M. of Leroy No. 339, had been re-elected by acclamation as President of the R.M.A.A. Ms. Gowda spoke briefly to the convention thanking them for their support and for putting their trust in her.

**S.M.H.I. Address:**

S.M.H.I. CEO Rodney Schoettler gave a brief address concerning small changes to the S.M.H.I. process for 2016. Mr. Schoettler then introduced the S.M.H.I. sponsored keynote speaker, Mr. David Irvine. Mr. Irvine gave an interesting and amusing presentation.

The afternoon session was recessed at approximately 3:45 p.m.

**S.M.H.I. Banquet:**

At 6:30 p.m. delegates enjoyed a banquet sponsored by S.M.H.I.

Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Wendy Gowda, President of the R.M.A.A. Along with President Gowda at the head table were Darren Elder, Vice-President of the R.M.A.A. and his wife Leeta, Government Relations Minister Jim Reiter and his wife Bonnie, Ray Orb, President of S.A.R.M. and his wife Val, Wayne Black, President of S.M.H.I., Dan Dufour, grandson of the late Lou Jacobs, and Kevin Ritchie, recipient of the 2016 Lou Jacobs Award and his wife Tammy.

Eleven Retired Members were recognized for their years of service to rural Saskatchewan.

Mr. Wayne Black and Mr. Rodney Schoettler made presentations recognizing outstanding S.M.H.I. sales and performance in 2015.

Ray Orb, President of S.A.R.M., made three draws for door prizes at the conclusion of the evening.

**Thursday, May 19th**

At 9:00 a.m. it was announced that nominations for Vice President would be received until 9:15 a.m.

From 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Steve Suchan gave a presentation on behalf of S.A.M.A.

Returning Officer, Jay Meyer, announced that nominations for Vice-President were closed at 9:15 a.m. and Darren Elder, Administrator for the R.M. of Wilton No. 472 was declared elected by acclamation. Mr. Elder gave a brief address thanking the members for placing their trust in him.

R.M.A.A. Committee Reports were presented by the R.M.A.A. Executive from 9:30 a.m. until 10:15 a.m.

**Divisional Meetings**:

At approximately 10:15 a.m. all members went to their respective divisional meetings. The current Divisional Directors for Divisions 1 and 5 (Sheila Keisig, R.M. of Tullymet No. 216 and Gary Dziadyk, R.M. of Aberdeen No. 373) were re-elected by acclamation. Linda Boser, Administrator for the R.M. of Swift Current No. 137 was elected by acclamation as the new Director for Division 3, replacing Lori McDonald, who did not seek re-election.

At approximately 11:00 a.m. the divisional meetings adjourned and the main meeting reconvened. President Gowda introduced the members of the RMAA Executive for 2016-2017. As well, President Gowda introduced Janet Black as the incoming Executive-Director of the RMAA. Ms. Black will replace Kevin Ritchie as the RMAA Executive-Director effective July 1, 2016.

There were no resolutions brought forward from the divisional meetings.

**S.A.R.M. Door Prize Draws:**

Several draws were made for S.A.R.M. door prizes.

The 2016 R.M.A.A. convention adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.