

2014 Rural Municipal Administrators' Association (R.M.A.A.) 94th Annual Convention Highlights

Monday, May 12th

Annual Golf Tournament:

On Monday, May 12th, the R.M.A.A. held its annual convention golf tournament at the Murray Golf Course in Regina. 128 golfers participated in the shotgun start event. The 'Gang of Three' (Canada Culvert, Kramer Ltd and Signal Industries Ltd.) were once again major sponsors for this event. SGI Canada sponsored the buses that transported golfers to and from the golf course. In spite of the cool weather conditions, participants enjoyed the golf and the comradery.

A new option, the ladies tour, was introduced this year as an alternative activity for those who do not golf. From all reports, the day's activities were a big hit with the 18 Administrators and spouses who enjoyed a day of shopping and fun with 'Women on the Go Tours' who hosted the outing.

On Monday evening, the staff of Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association registered the delegates for the annual convention. Delegates enjoyed a wine and cheese reception at the Delta Hotel Regina. Special thanks to Fosters Wine Estates for their sponsorship of the wine and cheese reception.

Tuesday, May 13th

Morning Seminars:

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

1. Seminar conducted by: **Ted Koch** – Transportation Project Manager with AECOM Canada Ltd. Consulting Engineers
Dave Labbe – Project Manager with AECOM Canada Ltd.
Andrew Svenson – Legal Counsel for SARM
"R.M. Administration and Engineering for Municipal Construction"
2. Seminar conducted by: **Ann Nostbakken**,
ISC Customer Development Trainer
"How to use ISC OLS for Tax Enforcement"
3. Seminar conducted by: **Sean McEachern**,
Director, Policy and Communication, SUMA
"Dealing with Difficult Citizens"

Opening Luncheon:

The 94th annual convention of the R.M.A.A. officially opened at Noon on Tuesday with a luncheon. There were 251 Administrators, 13 Spouses, 8 Associate Members, 5 Honourary Members and 31 Visitors for a total number registered of 308. President Tim Leurer 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, Hugh Otterson, the former Administrator of the R.M. of Canwood No. 494 , officially opened the convention. Honourable Jim Reiter, Saskatchewan Minister of Government Relations, David Marit, President of S.A.R.M. and Barbara Young, Councillor, City of Regina, brought greetings to the delegates from their respective organizations. R.M.A.A. Past-President Don McCallum responded to the greetings. President Tim Leurer presented each of the 28 new members of the R.M.A.A. in attendance with a membership certificate and an association pin.

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 2013 and a resolution to appoint Ms. Laurel Feltin, Acting Executive-Director of S.A.R.M., as returning officer for the 2014 elections. Mr. Ritchie then introduced R.M.A.A. President Tim Leurer, who gave his address to the delegates.

25 Year Members:

President Tim Leurer presented the 25 year membership pins to six members.

Board Of Examiners:

President Tim Leurer, Rural Board of Examiners Representative Don McCallum, 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 Leurer introduced the visiting delegates from our fraternal organizations.

U.M.A.A.S. – Aileen Garrett, Administrator, Town of Unity, Saskatchewan

A.A.R.M.A. – Rod Hawken, CAO, County of Wetaskiwin, Alberta

M.M.A.A. - Wally Melnyck, CAO, Town of Russell, Manitoba

S.A.R.M. Update:

David Marit, President of S.A.R.M., Laurel Feltin, Acting Executive-Director of S.A.R.M. ,and Annette Ellert, Programs Manager of 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:

Lory Neumann, Financial Adviser for Edward Jones sponsored the afternoon address by comedian, “Ol’ Ugly”.

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

Wednesday, May 14th

The morning began at 9:00 a.m. with an address by the Deputy Minister of Government Relations, Al Hilton.

Deputy Minister Hilton’s address was followed by an address by Alanna Koch, Deputy Minister, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture.

Deputy Minister Koch’s address was followed by an Advisory Services Branch Staff presentation reviewing several amendments to The Municipalities Act.

Duane McKay, Commissioner and Executive-Director of Emergency Management & Fire Safety gave a presentation updating the 911 Rural Addressing project.

A soup and sandwich luncheon, sponsored by BHP Billiton, was served to the delegates.

Beginning at 1:00 p.m., the 2014 Blood Donor Challenge Award was presented by committee Chair Sheila Keisig.

President Elected:

At 2:00 p.m. Returning Officer, Laurel Feltin, announced that Tim Leurer, Administrator for the R.M. of Kelvington No. 366, had been re-elected by acclamation as President of the R.M.A.A. Mr. Leurer spoke briefly to the convention thanking them for putting their trust in him.

S.M.H.I. Address:

S.M.H.I. CEO Rodney Schoettler gave a brief address concerning changes to the S.M.H.I. process for 2014. Mr. Schoettler then introduced the S.M.H.I. sponsored keynote speaker, Mr. Bob Gray. Mr. Gray gave an interesting and amusing presentation on improving memory.

For the majority of the delegates, the afternoon session was recessed at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Those administrators who have organized hamlets were encouraged to remain in the Trentino Room for an educational session conducted by Colleen Christopherson and Diana Lee, Advisory Services Branch staff.

S.M.H.I. Banquet:

At 6:00 p.m. delegates enjoyed a banquet sponsored by S.M.H.I.

Master of Ceremonies for the banquet was Tim Leurer, President of the R.M.A.A. Also at the head table was Don McCallum, Past President of the R.M.A.A., David Marit, President of S.A.R.M., Wayne Black, President of S.M.H.I., Dan Dufour, grandson of the late Lou Jacobs, and Mr. Graham McNamee, recipient of the 2014 Lou Jacobs Award along with his partner Marlene Duffee.

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

Mr. Wayne Black and Mr. Rodney Schoettler made presentations recognizing outstanding sales and performance in 2014.

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

Thursday, May 15th

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

R.M.A.A. Committee Reports were presented by the R.M.A.A. Board from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.

Returning Officer Laurel Felton announced that nominations for Vice President were closed at 9:15 a.m. and Wendy Gowda, Administrator for the R.M. of Leroy No. 339 was declared elected by acclamation as Vice President. Ms. Gowda gave a brief address thanking the members for placing their trust in her.

Divisional Meetings:

At 10:15 a.m. all members went to their respective divisional meetings. The Divisional Directors for Division 1 (Sheila Keisig, R.M. of Tullymet No. 216) and Division 3 (Lori McDonald, R.M. of Monet No.

257) were re-elected by acclamation. Gary Dziadyk, Administrator of the R.M. of Aberdeen No. 373 was elected as the new Director for Division 5.

At approximately 11:00 a.m. the divisional meetings adjourned and the main meeting reconvened. President Leurer introduced the members of the executive for 2014-2015.

There were no resolutions brought forward.

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

Annette Ellert , S.A.R.M.'s Trading Department Manager, drew for several door prizes.

CAA Travel:

The CAA Travel Voucher was won by Elaine Esopenko from the R.M. of Garden River No. 490.

The 2014 R.M.A.A. convention adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.