



RURAL MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION

2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION REPORT

May 11th to May 14th, 2026

A total of 346 administrators, visitors and guests gathered at the Delta Hotel by Marriott Regina for the 106th Annual Convention of the Rural Municipal Administrators' Association of Saskatchewan.

The conference commenced with the annual RMAA Golf Tournament on Monday at the Tor Hill Golf Club. Or, the 'Admin on the Go' Tour to Wood flame Candles, and The Lobby Kitchen & Bar. The golf event was sponsored by the 'Gang of Three' - ATS Traffic, Finning Canada, & Prairie Steel. Following a meal for the golfers at the clubhouse, awards and prizes were presented.

Convention registration throughout the week was courtesy of staff from Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association. Monday evening concluded with a Welcome Reception and social evening for delegates.

At 9:00 am on Tuesday, the convention was called to order by President Sheila Keisig. Delegates observed a Moment of Silence in remembrance of members who passed away during the past year. The Singing of 'O Canada' was led by Micah Walbaum, Administrator of the RM of Chaplin No. 164. The convention was officially opened by Janet Hollingshead-Leslie, retired Rural Municipal Administrator, RM of Hillsdale No. 440.

At 9:10 am President Sheila Keisig introduced the current Executive Board and delivered her formal address to the delegates.

At 9:25 am Executive Director Rose Zimmer provided convention announcements as well as the Executive-Director's Report.

Motion: Moved by RM No. 335, Seconded by RM No. 313

That the 2025 audited financial statement of the Association as prepared by Dudley & Company of Regina, Saskatchewan, be adopted as presented. Carried.

Motion: Moved by RM No. 241, Seconded by RM No. 49

That Laurel Feltin be appointed as returning officer. Carried.



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Following the opening ceremonies, President's Address, and Executive Director's Report, twenty-five new members were inducted into the Association as a result of achieving their

Rural "C" Municipal Administrator Certification:

Candice Cieckiewicz	Dakota Pilat
Stacey Poirier	Kyla Thomason
Sarah Koshinsky	Rhonda Schmaltz
Jeanne Shaw	Gaylene Quiring
Charmain Wowk	Jennifer Deobald
Jessica Schoenroth	Pamela Holliday
Shannon Ostrom	Miranda Petryshyn
Melanie Yanoshewski	Kaleigh Haugo
Tim Marcus	Tammy Roe
James Puffalt	Joanne Weinheimer
Logan Resch	April Williamson
Shynese Carlson	Pam Lyons
Katelyn McCracken	

Presentations were then made by the Rural Board of Examiners to administrators who attained advanced certification designation during the past year.

Class 'A' Certificates:

Kim Adams	RM of Progress No. 351
G. Craig Baird	RM of Dundurn No. 314
Krystal Ferguson	RM of Tramping Lake No. 380
Carrie Jansen	RM of Lacadena No. 228
Michelle Klein	RM of Wellington No. 97
Brittany Knoll	RM of Chester No. 125
Natasha Brown	RM of Carmichael No. 109
Teja Bugera	RM of Foam Lake No. 276
Ashlee Friess	RM of Cambria No. 6
Twila Hadubiak	RM of Keys No. 303
Rebecca Matthews	RM of Garden River No. 490
Amanda McCormick	RM of Rosthern No. 403
Michelle Riecken	RM of Arm River No. 252
Bridgette Shwytky	RM of Aberdeen No. 373
Jenna Smolinski	RM of Weyburn No. 67
Kelsie Walkeden	RM of Perdue No. 346



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Class Superior 'A' Certificates:

Danielle Thall	RM of Rosedale No. 283
Tracy Luscombe	RM of Indian Head No. 156

Following the presentation of Advanced Certificates, one **25 YEAR MEMBER** was recognized and presented with a pin for their long-standing service to rural local government.

Darrin Beaudoin	RM of Douglas No. 436
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At 10:20 am the main convention adjourned to a tradeshow/networking break until 11:00am

At 11:00 am Danielle Schindelka & Jenna Sambrook from SARM Legal Department, presented on Common Legal Issues RMs encounter.

The Honorable Eric Schmalz – Minister of Government Relations brought greetings on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, and addressed the delegates.

Convention was adjourned for a buffet lunch.

Following the luncheon, greetings were brought by Fraternal Delegates – Sarah Palson, Manitoba Municipal Administrators Association and Kyle Van Den Bosch, Urban Municipal Administrators' Association of Saskatchewan. The reply was given by Vice-President Michelle Buechler.

At 1:15 pm Dustin Resch, Jodi Hughes, and Colin Warnecke from SARM did a presentation to delegates on SARM Liability Insurance, Health Benefits, & Education Programs offered through SARM.

At 2:20 pm Chace Kozack, Community Planner Ministry of Government Relations Community Planning Branch addressed delegates.

At 2:30 pm Rodney Schoettler, CEO, Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association, spoke to the delegates about the previous hail season, and changes for this year. Mr. Schoettler introduced Jeph Maystruck, StratLab Marketing as the keynote speaker. Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance sponsored the keynote presentation. This concluded the Tuesday session.

A social featuring the 1980's Band Dangerous Cheese was held on Tuesday evening sponsored by Concrete Sask., Kortech Calcium Service, & Titan Environmental. The evening was well attended and everyone had a good time singing and dancing the night away to some classic rock!



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Wednesday proceedings commenced at 8:30 am. in the main convention hall. Stephen Eger, Knibbs HR Consulting kicked the day off with part one of a two-part human resources presentation; Performance Conversations that Work; Making Evaluations More Meaningful.

At 10:00 am Saskatchewan Privacy Commissioner Grace Hession David presented to delegates on LAFOIP.

Jamie Lewis from Sask Power provided delegates with a brief update at 11:10 am.

Tradeshow exhibitor door prizes were drawn for at 11:30 am, and the convention program recessed for lunch.

After a buffet lunch Stephen Eger, Knibbs Consulting returned to present part two of the human resources presentation: When Coaching Isn't Enough, Using Discipline Fairly and Effectively.

At 2:00 pm upon the deadline for receiving nominations, Returning Officer Laurel Feltin announced that two Nominations for President of the RMAA has been received as follows, and an election for President would be held at 8:00 am, Thursday, May 14th

- Tara Harris – RM of Wallace No. 243
- Sheila Keisig – RM of Tullymet No. 216

At 2:30 pm – Chantal Beaudry, Nancy Freeman, and Francine Paton, representatives from Canada Revenue Agency provided a Virtual Presentation via Microsoft Teams to delegates on Uploading T4 Information, Accessing CRA Online Services, and Managing Authorizations. Service Canada provided a virtual presentation on filing Records on Employment through the online ROE Web platform.

The Wednesday evening convention banquet sponsored by Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance took place in the Lombardy/Umbria Rooms. Following the meal, the head table guests were introduced. A moment of Silence was observed for previous Lou Jacobs recipients who had passed since last convention. Margaret Dufour, daughter of Lou Jacobs gave greetings on behalf of the Lou Jacobs Family and presented Fern Lucas, with the honor of the 2026 Lou Jacobs Award.

It was an extra special night, as this was only the second time Margaret Dufour has attended an RMAA banquet on behalf of her father Lou Jacobs, and the Jacobs family. Also in attendance were Dan Dufour and his wife Meena, Dave Dufour, and his wife Irene, and Robert Dufour. Dan, Dave & Robert, are sons of Margaret, and grandsons of Lou Jacobs.



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Fern Lucas is a very deserving recipient of the prestigious Lou Jacobs Award which acknowledges persons who have made outstanding contributions to rural government, and community life in Saskatchewan. Ms. Lucas was an RM administrator for 40 years before retiring in 2019. She served as Division 4 Director for the RMAA Executive from 2015 – 2019, and is currently in her second year of working as an advanced officer inspector for the Rural Board of Examiners. During her tenure Fern trained eight individuals in order for each of them to be eligible to obtain Rural Municipal Administrator Certification. Congratulations to Fern, and her family.

A public Service Award was presented to Past RMAA Board Member Ex-Officio Ray Orb. Past RMAA President Wendy Gowda was also recognized, as unfortunately Ms. Gowda was unable to be attendance. Past RMAA Division Two Director Carol Bellefeuille was presented a public service award earlier in the week on Tuesday, May 12th as Ms. Bellefeuille was not able to be in attendance at the banquet.

Retirement Recognition Awards were presented to RMAA retiring members present:

Vicki Baptist – RM of Willow Creek No. 458
Janet Hollinghead-Leslie – RM of Hillsdale No. 440
Marilyn Larson – RM of Reciprocity No. 32
Stephen Schury – RM of Caledonia No. 99
Rose Zimmer – RM of Wolseley No. 155

During the evening delegates also heard from SMHI CEO Rodney Schoettler, and SMHI President Jason Friesen. Mr. Schoettler and Mr. Friesen presented a number of awards to various administrators in recognition of successful sales of SMHI and AMHI hail insurance products during 2025.

Thursday morning commenced at 8:00 am with the election for RMAA President. Delegates heard from a nominator for each candidate, as well as each of the two candidates. The election was conducted by secret ballot, with all Active RMAA Members in attendance receiving a ballot.

While election officials were counting ballots, convention presentations continued. Brennan Schmidt – Aleus Consulting Group presented on AI Strategies for Rural Municipal Administration.



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At 8:40 am Returning Officer Laurel Felton announced the President Election Results:

- Tara Harris – 63 Votes
- Sheila Keisig – 125 Votes
- Spoiled or Objected Ballots: 0

Sheila Keisig was declared elected, and addressed the delegation

Followed by a set nomination period, Laurel Felton declared Michelle Buechler acclaimed as Vice President.

Motion: Moved by RM No.96

That the Executive Director be authorized to destroy the presidential election ballots.
Carried.

Division Two Director Jan McCann spoke on the RMAA Humanitarian Effort focus for this convention, and presented a donation cheque to the Canadian Cancer Society for \$15,449.00. Congratulations and well done to everyone who participated in the humanitarian effort! Special shout-out to Division 5 for being the division that raised the most money!

At 9:50 am Megan Istace, Carrie Turnbull, and Allan Williams from the Ministry of Government Relations presented on Bill 43: *The Municipalities Modernization and Red Tape Reduction Act* regarding expected changes to legislation once they comes into effect.

Delegates then broke into their respective divisional meetings. Elections were held in Divisions 1, 3 and 5.

Following the divisional meetings, President Sheila Keisig introduced the new Executive of the R.M.A.A. for the year 2026-2027 as follows:

President	Sheila Keisig, Balcarres
Vice-President	Michelle Buechler, Paynton
Immediate Past President	Guy Lagrandeur, Wilcox
Executive-Director	Jill Palichuk, Rosetown
Director Ex-Officio	Bill Huber, Tullymet
<u>Division Directors:</u>	
Division 1	Amanda Baumgartner, Corning
Division 2	Jan McCann, Viceroy
Division 3	Tammy Knight, Swift Current
Division 4	Jaime Orr, Tisdale
Division 5	Trent Sim. Broderick
Division 6.....	Joanne Loy, Marsden



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The Resolutions Committee, Director Sim & Director Loy received no resolutions for consideration.

The RMAA Executive moved one bylaw amendment. An amendment to Bylaw No. 1 was considered to include any office administrative staff regardless of certification to be eligible to obtain an associate membership of the RMAA, and to update the language in the Bylaw to reflect current terms. The amendment to Bylaw No. 1 was passed by the delegates.

SARM President Bill Huber made the draw for four door prizes that were sponsored by the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and Prosperity Credit Union.

The convention concluded with a draw that for one night stay with breakfast at the Delta Hotel.

The convention adjourned at 11:45 p.m.