



SRA

SASKATCHEWAN RETIREES ASSOCIATION

THE

ADVISOR

SPRING 2016

SPECIAL INVITATION: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



On Thursday, May 26, 2016, members will gather to review the Saskatchewan Retirees Association's 2015 operations. The annual meeting will receive committee reports, review the financial operations of the Association, appoint an auditor for 2016 and elect five members to the Board of Directors.

During 2015, your Board of Directors has conducted a full review of the Association bylaws to ensure they are current and consistent with the Saskatchewan Non Profit Corporations Act. This review was a collective effort led by Mae Smith and assisted by Ken Lozinsky and Cindy MacDonald on behalf of the Board. The Board is taking an approach to begin to involve our members in key activities and we thank Mae Smith, long time SRA member, for her leadership on this project.

The review looked at the current bylaws, approved in 2013 as well as looked back at the 2005 version for guidance in conducting their review. They also looked at other non-profit associations for guidance as well as the relevant legislation to ensure the

SRA was in compliance. Many smaller changes were made to the proposed bylaws to align them with best practices of the non-profit sector.

Some key changes to the proposed SRA bylaws are to re-institute director term limits as well as reduce the Board to twelve members. These changes are proposed to ensure the Board is focused on succession as well as more robust in its undertakings. Historically, term limits were in place but had been suspended during the pension court challenge to ensure continuity among the directors leading the legal proceedings. For members interested in a more in-depth

review of the bylaws, a special information session is planned before the Annual General Meeting.

Copies of the proposed bylaws can be obtained on the SRA website at www.saskretirees.org or by request by calling 306-584-5552.

We look forward to seeing you at your Annual General Meeting and discussing the various reports and activities of your Board of Directors! 🌾

Saskatchewan Retirees Association
Thursday, May 26, 2016

Information Session-Bylaw Review
9:15 am

Annual General Meeting
10:30 am

Wesley United Church Auditorium
3913 Hillside Street, Regina, SK

FROM THE PRESIDENT

During 2015, the Saskatchewan Retirees Association has been focused on updating its operations to better communicate with members. We have also been working diligently to develop the organizational supports needed for a vibrant non-profit association.



During the year, we have launched the Advisor newsletter with a fall edition and this spring edition. Our plan is to provide all members with this communication link 2-3 times per year. We will publish the newsletter with relevant information to ensure it is fresh and informative. It will focus on member information and member profiles so you continue to have access to information, no matter where you reside as members.

Activity has taken place to develop job descriptions for the Board members and officers, create terms of reference for all Committees and develop a needed policy for code of conduct.

Significant effort has been made to update the SRA Strategic Plan and revise our Vision, Mission and Mandate. Included in this process was the creation of a set of core values for the Association, so that we can indicate our collective commitment to how we will act as trustees of our members.

Our Committees have continued to work on a regular basis to monitor the operations of the SRA Health and Dental Plan, post monthly updates on the website, ensure financial sustainability and monitor marketplace trends in pension policy and preservation.

As we approach the Annual General Meeting, I would invite you to become more involved in your Association. If you have interest in allowing your name to stand for consideration for the Board of Directors, we would like to hear from you through our website or a quick phone call to discuss the opportunity.

As always, as we work together, the SRA will continue to thrive and succeed!

Warmest regards,



Randy Dove, President

SASKATCHEWAN RETIREES ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-16

OFFICERS

President	Randy Dove
Vice President, Finance	Frank May
Vice President, Development	Ken Lozinsky
Vice President, Secretary	Charlotte Dusyk
Past President	Alf Zimmerman

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Group Benefits Committee	Jack Peterson
Membership/Communications	Randy Dove
Finance	Frank May
Pensions	Alf Zimmerman

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Ann Donovan, Rolli Bachelu, Linda Clark, Barry Dixon, Cindy MacDonald, Ron Reavley, Marian Brown

MEMBER PROFILE

The Advisor is starting a regular column to profile SRA members who have participated in the Association over many years.

MEET CHUCK AMES, FROM MOOSE JAW, SASKATCHEWAN

Chuck Ames joined the Saskatchewan Government Superannuates Association (that became the SRA in 2004) in the mid 1990s and has been involved in a variety of ways for over twenty years. Chuck joined the SRA as a logical transition as he was part of the Ministry of Health group that met frequently to discuss issues that were important to them at the time, as well as to continue his social contact with his former co-workers. “It just seemed like a good thing to do”, Chuck explained “and many of my former colleagues were part of the group at the time”.

In joining the SRA, Chuck assisted in outreach

activities through a series of tours and meetings across Saskatchewan. There was a special effort to meet the membership and to promote the SRA to many people, especially in the smaller communities around the province.

He also participated in a series of pre-retirement sessions with public sector employees, attended some regional sessions to explain the SRA and also staffed a table at several of the pre-retirement events to help explain the SRA’s direction and the new SRA Health and Dental plan that was being introduced to retirees. “All our efforts were to promote the SRA to existing members as well as to attract new members”, Chuck explained.

When asked about the future, Chuck quickly mentioned, “the SRA needs to be more visible for members”. He suggests that more effort be put into extending the SRA back to the members across Saskatchewan through regional meetings.



“It’s important to explain what the SRA is doing”; the Advisor Newsletter will help but “greater face to face contact is more effective”. He also suggested adding guest speakers to the various regional events to draw members to the events. Even considering taking the annual meeting out of Regina or looking at regional chapters should be considered.

In the past, the SRA produced a Member Directory, something Chuck believed helped members locate each other and network in ways that were productive and helpful.

“If you do anything, increase your visibility!”, Chuck challenged. The more members know and understand what the SRA is doing and planning, the better members will respond and want to be more involved in the organization. After forty years, the SRA continues to move forward to meet member needs. Merging the best from the past with the ideas of today and tomorrow will mean continued relevance for the Saskatchewan Retirees Association! 🌾

COMMITTEE PROFILE

MEMBERSHIP/COMMUNICATIONS

In 2015, the Membership and Communications Committees merged into one Committee as the activities were increasingly interdependent. The Committee operates through the shared participation of Rolli Bachelu, Chris Pasloske, Ken Lozinsky and Randy Dove.

The Membership/Communications Committee takes an active role in responding to member needs by responding to telephone, mail and email inquiries for information and often is the first point of contact for retirees interested in joining the SRA. The Committee led the development and re-launch of the SRA website to make it more robust for visitors to access information about the Association. Monthly updates are made to www.saskretirees.org to keep it current and available to members. During 2015, there were 7958 visitors to the website, viewing 22,730 pages of information. Since its relaunch, the website has become a valuable resource to members as well as a useful way to communicate information to our members.

Inquiries from both individual retirees and potential new organizational members are dealt with by this Committee.

Meetings with current and potential organizations have taken place to ensure the SRA is responding to the needs of retirees leaving their public sector careers.

The Membership/Communications Committee works closely with the Group Benefits Committee in communicating information, trends and policy changes to members related to the SRA Health and Dental Plan. As a key interest to newer members, information on the benefits plan is vital to keeping members in touch with the SRA.

Recently, the Advisor Newsletter was developed and its publication is being led by this Committee. It's another way to stay in touch with members in Saskatchewan and across Canada. We have found the "Comments" section popular with close to fifty responses from members in the previous edition.

Any questions or comments will be responded to quickly by this Committee as all inquiries are important to the future of the SRA. ✂



MEMBER COMMENTS

Have a question? Suggestion? Need Information?

Let us know:

Send to: SRA Inc.
c/o Walter Scott Building
3085 Albert Street
Regina, SK
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info@saskretirees.org
306-584-5552