



SRA

SASKATCHEWAN RETIREES ASSOCIATION

THE

ADVISOR

FALL 2020

SRA ENTERS THE VIRTUAL AGE

With the continuation of the global pandemic, the SRA Board of Directors made decisions to shift to the use of virtual technology to continue to conduct the business of the organization. With about 70% of members now able to access technology through the internet and with almost all the new members have Internet access, there was agreement to look at using Zoom to conduct meetings.

In September, an agreement was reached with Webcast Canada to support the production of a Town Hall event with members to discuss future pension options as well as to build awareness of key issues for older adults before the provincial election.



The Town Hall event resulted in 181 registrations, representing members from across Saskatchewan plus several members from other parts of Canada. There were actually 121 members that logged into the event to hear the various speakers. About 95 members stayed through the one hour event, considered a good response for a virtual webcast.

On September 24th, the SRA held the 2019 Annual General Meeting using the same virtual technology. The quorum of 40 members was achieved with 43 members on-line when the meeting was called to order. During the meeting, as many as 68 members participated, only slightly different than a traditional in-person meeting from previous years.

For members that missed either of these events, both events were recorded with the full versions available for viewing on the SRA website at www.saskretirees.org. Questions that were raised have been dealt with and the responses will be posted on the SRA website by November 1, 2020. Printed copies of the 2019 annual report are also available for interested members by contacting info@saskretirees.org or leaving a message at 306-584-5552.

With these successful events, the SRA Board will be considering using the Zoom technology as a way to better engage with members in the future. We continue to look to you for feedback and guidance as the SRA evolves to meet your needs now and into the future.

VIRTUAL EVENTS - MEMBER FEEDBACK

In September the SRA held a virtual Town Hall event attended by 121 members and guests. Following that, the Annual General Meeting was held on September 24th, attended by up to 68 members that logged in during the meeting. The two events provided an opportunity to ask members for feedback. You responded with your feedback and suggestions. The following is a summary of key responses to the survey:

Town Hall:

- The overall impression was positive with a 3.9/5 rating with 80% of respondents indicating the event was of good or excellent value.
- Respondents rated the pension and positive aging topics of equal interest at 49%.
- 43% of members mostly liked the update on pensions; however, 57% did not find the presentation on pooled risk pensions useful as they are members of the defined benefit pension plan, so the information was not applicable.
- 37% of members mostly liked the efforts to build pre-election awareness with information about positive aging; however, 46% indicated they wanted more focus on solutions, not just on the issues facing older adults.

Annual General Meeting:

- The overall impression was positive with a 4.2/5 rating with 88% of respondents indicating the event was of good or excellent value.
- 54% of members liked the Committee reports and 45% liked the opportunity to ask questions.
- 62% of respondents indicated they were disappointed in not being able to gather for the AGM like previous years.
- The virtual format was well received with 85% of members reporting that the format was "good to excellent" on meeting their needs and 55% indicated that the virtual format gave them a greater opportunity to participate as they reside outside of the Regina region.

Directional Comments:

- 66% of members responded that they would appreciate additional webcasts in the future with a focus on health and wellness (49%), advocacy issues (41%) and post retirement lifestyle planning (31%) as the highest priority topics.
- Surveyed members encouraged more use of virtual events (68%) with suggestions that SRA use social media more (18%) to communicate with members.
- Of the survey participants 82% joined the SRA to enrol in the SRA Health and Dental Plans while 37% joined for pension advocacy support, an indication of the changing interests of the membership.
- SRA members are showing increased interest in being involved in the organization with 67% suggesting they would be willing/interested in working on a short term project to support the organization.



CHANGING FACE OF SRA MEMBERS

Based on the recent surveys conducted after the SRA Town Hall and Annual General Meeting, we are seeing a shift in the membership of the SRA. From the survey completed in 2017 vs. the 2020 surveys, the following are the comparisons:

Subject	Town Hall	AGM	2017
Survey Response Rate	47%	61%	17%
Members on Email	70%	70%	45%
Communication Usage – Now:			
Website	55%	86%	-
Newsletter	71%	78%	28%
Email	78%	69%	27%
Cda Post	12%	14%	12%
Communication Choices – Future:			
Virtual	84%	75%	64%
Social Media	38%	18%	-
Chat	14%	0%	-
Gender:			
Female	34%	31%	38%
Male	64%	61%	62%
Age:			
<55	6%	6%	-
55-64	40%	14%	23%
65-74	36%	44%	32%
75-80	9%	19%	19%
>80	6%	17%	25%
Community:			
>100,000	72%	75%	55%
10,000-100K			18%
Town	9%	8%	17%
Outside SK	0%	8%	11%
Pension:			
Defined Benefit	24%	46%	64%
Defined Contribut'n	73%	46%	30%



Note:

The three surveys are indicators of the trends in the SRA membership. They can be used for future planning; however, they cannot be seen as fully “factual” as the correlation between respondents is unknown.

Observations:

The trends in the responses indicate that SRA members are becoming younger, more urban and have greater access to technology. Interest in The Advisor newsletter and email have increased during the three year period. With the evolution to a younger membership, the shift to the defined contribution pension plan has followed with the policy change by government in 1977.

COMMITTEES 2020-21

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President:	Randy Dove
Vice President, Finance:	Chris Oleson
Vice President, Development:	Laverne Williams
Vice President, Corporate Secretary:	Charlotte Dusyk

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Lyle Fluter
Shane McLellan
Brian McKay
George Meredith
Mae Smith

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Executive:	Randy Dove
Finance:	Chris Oleson
Membership/ Communications:	Randy Dove
Group Benefits:	Laverne Williams
Pensions/Issues	Ken Lozinsky/ Harold Hugg
Nominations	Christine Fuchs/ Charlotte Dusyk



STANDING COMMITTEES

Committee	Members
Finance	Chris Oleson, George Meredith, Cindy MacDonald
Group Benefits	Laverne Williams, Ann Donovan, Frank May, Mae Smith
Membership/Communications	Randy Dove, Lyle Fluter, Penny Hendrickson, Shane McLellan, Rolli Bachelu
Pensions/Issues	*Ken Lozinsky/ Harold Hugg, Frank May, Mae Smith, Christine Fuchs, John Mowbray, Dale Schoffer
Nominations	*Christine Fuchs /Charlotte Dusyk, Brian McKay, member at large -TBD

*co-chair