

REPORT OF THE 2008 CONVENTION OF THE RURAL MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN

By Kevin Ritchie, Executive-Director,

Rural Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan

A total of 328 administrators, spouses and visitors gathered at the Delta Regina Hotel for the 88th Annual Convention of the Rural Municipal Administrators' Association of Saskatchewan.

The conference commenced with the annual RMAAS Golf Tournament on Monday afternoon at the Tor Hill Golf Course. The event was sponsored by the 'Gang of Three' - Canada Culvert Ltd., Kramer Ltd. and Signal Industries Ltd. Following a meal for the golfers at the clubhouse, the awards were presented. Convention registration was carried out by the staff of Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association. The evening concluded with a Wine and Cheese reception and social evening hosted by Saskatchewan New Holland Dealers, AMEC Earth and Environmental and the Delta Regina Hotel.

Tuesday began with seminars being held in the morning: The Public Employee Benefits Agency (PEBA) presented a seminar entitled "MEPP STAKEHOLDER PRESENTATION". Jim Angus, Secretary to the Rural Board of Examiners presented a seminar "BOARD OF EXAMINERS UPDATE – TIPS AND INSIGHTS"

At noon on Tuesday, the convention opening luncheon was held. Don McCallum, President of the Rural Municipal Administrators' Association, called the convention to order. 'O Canada' was performed by Rhonda Hall, R. M. of Walpole #92 accompanied by Audrey Law, R. M. of Cana #214. The convention was officially opened by Jim Nichols, retired Rural Administrator, R. M. of Moose Jaw No. 161. During the luncheon, the delegates heard from the Honorable Bob Bjornerud (Minister of Agriculture), Dave Marit (President of the S.A.R.M.), Shari Blair (Manager Call Centres & Collections, Sask Power Corporation) and Rene Reid (Local Area Manager for the SOG Postal Code Area, Canada Post). Saskatchewan Power and Canada Post Corporation are sponsors of the opening luncheon.

Tim Leurer, Vice President, Rural Municipal Administrators' Association, responded to the greetings

Following the luncheon, 14 new members were inducted into the association by President Don McCallum, Vice President Tim Leurer and Executive-Director Kevin Ritchie

Christin Baynes	Medstead #497	Medstead
Jennalee Beutler	Silverwood #123	Whitewood
Sonya Butuk	Insinger #275	Insinger
Pamela Garner	Morris #312	Simpson

Wilma Hrenyk	Ituna Bon Accord #246	Ituna
Cheryl Joel	King George #256	Dinsmore
Guy Lagrandeur	Redburn #130	Rouleau
Brian Shauf	South Qu'Appelle #157	Qu'Appelle
Gail Sloan	Moose Creek #33	Alameda
Robert Trott	Argyle #1	Gainsborough
Patti Vance	Sarnia #221	Holdfast
Gail Wolfe	Big Quill #308	Wynyard
David Yorke	Hoodoo #401	Cudworth
Nicole Walker	Paynton #470	Meota

Tuesday afternoon commenced with the Executive-Director Report by Kevin Ritchie

Motion: Moved By R.M. #2, Seconded By R.M. #313

"That the 2007 audited financial statement of the Association as prepared by Gilchrist and Co. of Rosetown, Saskatchewan, be adopted as presented." Carried

Motion: Moved By R.M. #158, Seconded By R.M. #160

"That Ken Engel be appointed Returning Officer for the 2008 RMAA annual elections and that Kevin Ritchie, Dave Marit and Dale Harvey be appointed as Deputy-Returning Officers." Carried

RMAA President Don McCallum introduced the current Executive Board, followed by the President's Address.

At this point in the program the 25 YEAR MEMBERS were recognized and presented with a pin noting their achievement by President Don McCallum, Vice President Tim Leurer & Executive-Director Kevin Ritchie

Spencer Abbs	Bjorkdale #426	Crooked River
Joyce Axten	Surprise Valley #9	Minton
Patrick Clavelle	Viscount #341	Viscount
James Hoff	Chester #125	Glenavon
Quinton Jacksteit	Big Stick #141	Golden Prairie
James Spriggs	Rosthern #403	Rosthern

Presentations were then made by the Rural Board of Examiners for certificate upgrades by administrators who have achieved their Class 'A' or Superior 'A' designation during the past year. RMAA Board of Examiners was represented by Vice-President Tim Leurer, President Don McCallum and Board of Examiners Secretary Jim Angus:

CLASS 'A' CERTIFICATES:

Cathy Holt	Spalding #368	Quill Lake
Lorie Jackson	Fertile Belt #183	Esterhazy
Kim Lacelle	Reno #51	Consul

Donna Litzenberger Orkney #244	Yorkton
Carey Nicholauson Spy Hill #152	Spy Hill
Sherry Green Lake Johnston #102 and Sutton #103 Mossbank	

CLASS SUPERIOR 'A' CERTIFICATES:

Donna Tymiak Big River #555 Big River

The Fraternal Delegates to our convention were introduced and each addressed the delegates:

- U.M.A.A.S. – Jason Chorneyko, Town of Wynyard, Saskatchewan
- A.A.R.M.A. – Dave Dmytryshyn, Sturgeon County, Morinville, Alberta
- M.M.A.A. – Mitch Duval, R. M. of Montcalm, Letellier, Manitoba
- S.A.S.B.O. – Val Hvidston, Tisdale, Saskatchewan

At 3:00 p.m. the Honorable Bill Hutchinson, Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, addressed the delegates.

At 3:30 p.m. Wendy Crumley, Senior Financial Analyst, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, addressed the delegates concerning "TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS"

This concluded the Tuesday session

To commence the Wednesday session, Kathie Caleval, S.A.R.M. Manager of Insurance & Benefits Programs provided members with an update respecting S.A.R.M.'s Long Term Disability Plan & Extended Health and Dental Programs

This was followed by the annual the Canadian Blood Services award presentation by Terry Hvidston, RMAA Director for Division 4. The blood donor challenge was again won by Division 2.

David Marit, President of S.A.R.M., followed by Ken Engel, Executive Director of S.A.R.M., addressed the delegates.

At 10:15 a.m. Harley Olsen, Deputy Minister, Saskatchewan Ministry of Municipal Affairs addressed the delegates. Deputy Minister Olsen's address was followed by a presentation by Advisory Services personnel. Municipal Advisors Bonnie Bjorndalen, Colleen Christopherson and Phil Boivin spoke on a variety of topics.

Following lunch, Brad Korbo, Managing Director of Technical Standards & Policy, S.A.M.A. provided a presentation entitled "2009 ASSESSMENT REVALUATION OVERVIEW"

At 2:00 P.M. Deputy Returning Officer Kevin Ritchie called for nominations for President of the R.M.A.A.S. for the year 2008-09. There was one nomination received. Mr. Donald McCallum of Cut Knife was declared elected President of the R.M.A.A.S. for the year 2008-09. Mr. McCallum thanked the delegates for their support.

Murray Otterson, C.E.O., and Rodney Schoettler, C.O.O., Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association, gave a presentation entitled 'INTRODUCTION TO SMHI CHANGES FOR 2008'.

At 2:30 p.m. JEANNE MARTINSON gave the keynote address. The content of her address was "Personal Leadership for the 21st Century". Once again, our friends at Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance had sponsored the keynote speaker, who was very well received by the delegates.

On Wednesday evening, the convention banquet was held. This evening is sponsored by the Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 'Lou Jacobs' Award to Jim P. Reiter, a Past President and Past Executive-Director of the RMAA. During the evening we heard from Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall, Bob Jacobs (on behalf of the Jacobs family), Wayne Black, (President of S.M.H.I.) and Dave Marit (President of S.A.R.M.). Our Association was honoured to have Premier Brad Wall and a total of 21 Saskatchewan Party M.L.A.s in attendance at the banquet to pay tribute to Mr. Reiter, who is the current M.L.A. for the Rosetown-Elrose constituency.

Also during the banquet, Public Service Awards were presented to our retiring members. President Don McCallum, Vice President Tim Leurer and Executive-Director Kevin Ritchie presented awards to:

Karen Assailly	Spy Hill #152	Spy Hill
Coral Dale	Snipe Lake #259	Eston
Lois Haug	Senlac #411	Senlac
Isabelle Jasper	Frenchman Butte #501	Paradise Hill
Bruce Kosolofski	North Battleford #437	North Battleford
Catherine Mazurkewich	Hoodoo #401	Cudworth
Brian Miller	Mount Pleasant #2	Carnduff
Diane Olech	Ituna Bon Accord #246	Ituna
Shirley Parker	Gravelbourg #104	Gravelbourg
Howard Paterson	Lakeland #521	Christopher Lake
Sharon Pope	Big Quill #308	Wynyard
Jody Walz	Moose Jaw #161	Moose Jaw

Ms. Ida-Mae Leek, retiring R.M.A.A.S. Director for Division 3, was presented with a retirement plaque for her many years of dedication and service to the Association.

S.M.H.I. presented a number of awards to various administrators in recognition of successful sales of both the S.M.H.I. and A.M.H.L. hail insurance products during 2007.

The evening concluded with a draw for four door prizes sponsored by the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities

Thursday morning began with Committee reports presented by the various Committee Chairs.

Ken Engel, Returning Officer, handled the election for Vice-President for the year 2008-09. Only one nomination for Vice President was received by the Secretary of the Convention during the stated period. Mr. Tim Leurer, Administrator for the R.M. of

Kelvington No. 366, was elect as Vice-President of the R.M.A.A.S. for 2008-09. Tim thanked the delegates for their support.

Delegates now broke into their respective divisional meetings. Elections would be held in Divisions 1,3 and 5

The Executive of the R.M.A.A.S. for the year 2008-2009 was introduced as follows:

President	Don McCallum, Cut Knife
Vice-President	Tim Leurer, Kelvington
Immediate Past President & Executive-Director	Kevin Ritchie, Wilcox

Division Directors:

Division 1	Kim McIvor, Weyburn
Division 2	John Eberl, Moose Jaw
Division 3	Grace Potter,Shaunavon
Division 4	Terry Hvidston, Tisdale
Division 5	Wendy Gowda, Prince Albert
Division 6	Glenda Giles, Kindersley
Director Ex Officio	David Marit, Fife Lake

The convention concluded with a draw for a \$600.00 travel voucher courtesy of CAA Travel. Representing CAA Travel was Don Johnson.

In conclusion, the R.M.A.A.S. would like to thank our many convention sponsors. Their generous support made our annual conference a huge success once again!

R.M.A.A.S. CONVENTION

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