

What you need to know about SSAI and Annual Spring District/Region Meetings

Saskatchewan Seniors Association Inc. (SSAI) is a provincial organization with a long history of advocating for seniors. The network of this organization brings together seniors from across the province and provides a stronger voice. Our constitution mentions that when SSAI was formed in 1981, it had a membership of over 25,000 seniors. In 2016, paid memberships equated to ~4,200 members from 110 clubs. The COVID pandemic really affected seniors' clubs all across the province. Our SSAI membership dipped to 2,300 from 68 clubs in 2021 and has been steadily increasing again – as of Feb 2026, we are currently at just over 3,000 members from 85 clubs.

The organization relies on representation from across the province. Members and clubs should meet annually in their districts to elect a coordinator and within their region to elect a director. Coordinators and Directors are invited to attend provincial meetings (Regional Directors have a vote at the SSAI board table). SSAI hosts an annual convention – all are welcome to attend. SSAI clubs forward resolutions to be discussed at convention. Resolutions that are passed at convention are acted on - i.e. advocating with MLAs and MPs. The convention features speakers and presentations on a wide variety of topics of interest to seniors and provides an opportunity for members to network.

SSAI has been contacted by media to speak about various issues of concern to seniors. There is a need for SSAI to have representatives who are willing to speak to media on these issues. This is an opportunity for seniors to fill leadership roles and have their voice amplified by being involved in a provincial organization representing the interests of seniors.

As a provincial organization, SSAI has been approached by funding agencies to provide programming for seniors. Because SSAI is limited in our capacity to provide for seniors across the province we rely on our connections to clubs and with our coordinators and directors. Funding has been provided to SSAI member clubs who were able to create programs/workshops within their own communities.

Also, with respect to funding, SSAI has provided letters of support for seniors clubs to apply for their own funding applications and this has contributed to their success.

SSAI has also been running the annual raffle ticket fundraiser. SSAI covers the cost of printing the raffle tickets and the cost of the prizes. Clubs can choose to sell raffle tickets as a fundraiser for their club. Clubs receive half of the proceeds from their ticket sales (i.e. Tickets are \$2 each and clubs will receive \$1 for each ticket they sell). Last year 51 clubs sold raffle tickets and raised \$9,229 for clubs and over \$10,600 for SSAI (after the 25% SLGA top-up).

SSAI also networks with Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism (SSM). We receive SPRA & lotteries funding through SSM to assist with our communications to seniors across the province. Our 4-page SSAI newsletter is printed/distributed in the SSM quarterly magazine Gray Matters.

SSAI is also a member of NPF (National Pensioners Federation). We try to send representatives and delegates to their meetings and national conventions to advocate for seniors at the federal level.

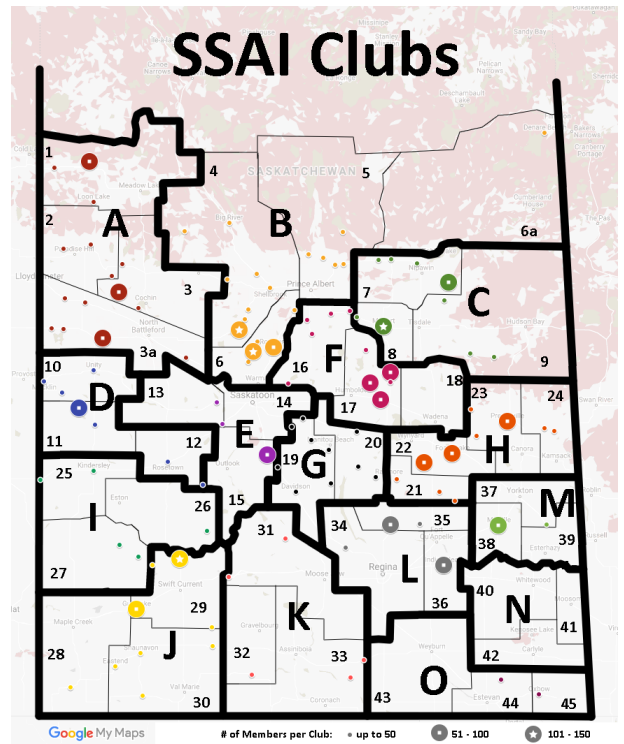
The network of this organization provides clubs who are struggling with a way to find support and ideas from clubs that are thriving. The isolation in rural Saskatchewan can be overcome by networking with seniors and clubs in neighboring communities.

SSAI provides an opportunity for seniors from across the province to network and amplify their voice. The organization will only be as strong as the membership, and it functions because of the seniors who are active in leadership roles. It's really the members that hold the power to get involved, volunteer, and elect representatives to actively engage at the provincial and national level to speak/act on matters that concern seniors. It is the SSAI executive board with regional representatives that steers the direction and actions of this provincial organization.

Saskatchewan Seniors Association Inc. as an organization provides opportunity for seniors to take on leadership roles to advocate for seniors and plan events & activities.

A Coordinator represents seniors in each of the **numbered districts** and is elected at a district annual meeting. A Director from each of the 15 **Regions (A-O)** will be elected at the respective regional meeting. Coordinators and Directors are invited to attend the SSAI provincial board meetings to ensure that seniors from across the province are represented. Regional Directors are voting members on the SSAI provincial executive board.

It is important to host annual district and regional meetings to network with others in your area and to elect district coordinators and regional directors to strengthen this organization. Ideally, these annual meetings are held in the spring (April/May) before the annual SSAI convention: June 3 – 4, 2026 at the Travelodge in Saskatoon.



Clubs/Coordinator within a numbered District organize/host an annual district meeting.

SSAI members may attend their local annual district meeting, vote, and run for election of a Coordinator. If there are no clubs in a District, there will be no meeting, therefore no Coordinator for that district.

Clubs/Coordinators/Director within a Region (A-O) organize/host an annual regional meeting.

SSAI members may attend their local regional meeting, vote, and run for election of a Regional Director.

*Note in some cases, the District and Regional meetings may be combined into one event on the same day in one location. Ensure that attendees break up into groups based on their District and vote to elect a Coordinator for their local district. And then as a larger group elect a regional director.

*Note: historically the Director was selected from the pool of elected Coordinators in the Region.

However, to encourage more people to get involved, any member within the region can be nominated for the Director position; a person may act as district coordinator and region director if necessary.

Boundaries will be flexible enough to accommodate necessary changes. If a club wishes to move to a different district or region, a letter stating their intent must be submitted to the SSAI Executive board.

District Coordinators – elected annually in the District at a District Annual Meeting for a 1-year term; shall communicate with and report to: clubs in their district, regional director, and provincial SSAI; shall assist clubs in identifying local problems and possible solutions; invited to attend SSAI executive board meetings (not eligible to vote) and convention; shall assist with planning next annual district meeting.

Region Directors – elected annually in the Region for a 1-year term; shall attend SSAI executive board meetings (eligible to vote) and convention; shall act as a liaison between the provincial association (SSAI), the district coordinators, and clubs/members within their region; shall sit on committees of the Association and help with SSAI functions; shall assist with planning annual region/district meetings.

*Note: SSAI Executive board typically meets in person at convention, and then by telephone/dialpad at least 3 more times and as needed for strategic planning or committees. If funds are available, Officers, Directors, and Coordinators may be compensated for mileage and other expenses. They shall submit expense sheets to the SSAI Treasurer.