

The 2019 SSAI convention was held on June 5 & 6 at the Heritage Inn Saskatoon.

72 delegates attended from rural Saskatchewan(representing 30 clubs) met for presentations, discussions and resolution discussions and debate.

Senator Nora Cumming brought greetings on behalf of the Indigenous community and Saskatoon to the gathering.

President Trask welcomed the delegates and provided an overview of the convention.

Holly Schick, provided an overview of SSM and the initiatives in place for this coming year.

Alex Crizzle, gerontologist and assistant prof. at the U of S, engaged by the government to conduct a study of transportation in rural Saskatchewan, provided the findings that represent the current characteristics of transportation services.

Karen Smith. Better Business Bureau, enlightened the delegates with regards to business practises and safety. This was in regards to Fraud prevention and good, safe practices.

The final presentation before lunch was from Bert McNair – educator turned author. He shared how he started writing and some of the key motivating factors leading to some of his short stories.

Dr. Johnmark Oundo, medical health officer with Sask. Health Authority, was the noon lunch speaker. His presentation outlined the importance of seniors getting the Influenza vaccine. The noon luncheon (76 people) was sponsored by Sanofi Pasteur.

1st 50/50 Draw winner: Leona Barth from Kerrobert - \$122.50

The afternoon continued with an open discussion forum by delegates in regards to engaging the new seniors in their communities. Many different ideas were shared – some were very successful in the community where this was initiated. What was also identified was the importance of engaging seniors in the communities and intergenerational activities.

Joan Boyer presented the Walkathon report and certificates to first place finishers. The provincial totals were 23,761 miles walked, 31 clubs participated and 306 members walked in 2019. The first place finishers are as follows: Highest Average Miles per Walker - Denzil Senior Citizens Club with 252 miles, Highest Average Miles per Club Member - Chitek Lake Sunshine Group with 105.07 miles and Highest Percentage of Club Members Walked - Gull Lake with 100%. Way to go Gull Lake. Several of our clubs have members that walked over 200 miles and one member walked 405 miles. Congratulations to Gerald Deck from the Denzil Senior Citizens Club.

The afternoon sessions closed with a much lighter discussion about geocaching. Many shared some personal experiences and the fun they had participating in this type of event.

2nd 50/50 Draw winner: Luella Bosch from Macklin - \$72.50

[adjourned at 3:15pm; Banquet at 6pm – served 70 people]

The first after-banquet speaker was Kathy Evans (mental health). She shared some personal experiences and information researched by the Schizophrenia Society of Sask. used to break the stigma of mental illness. Much of her presentation referred to understanding the condition and how to assist in a positive manner. She referenced “Caring in Advocacy” written by her daughter and published in the book “Much Madness, Divinest Sense”.

The evening concluded with Dr. Murray Scharf, former Dean of the College of Education at the U of S. He presented his research into the changing demographics, the related changes in support structures, and how this is impacting the personal and work lives of seniors. He identified the challenges that these changes are creating in the labour force and market. Certainly, the lifestyle of many seniors is changing as a result of all these other societal changes.

The second day started off with President Trask providing an overview of the activities of SSAI over the course of the year; she identified the senior priority areas and provided encouragement as to why and how seniors need to be engaged in these activities.

Mike Kaminski, NPF 1st Vice president provided and overview of activities of seniors at the national level. In particular he provided and overview of national advocacy in light of 2019 being election year. Nine organizations set aside their unique membership distinctions and agreed to focus on important senior issues. To this end RTO and CFP are playing a lead role. Under the title Vibrant Voices, the group, representing over two million seniors in Canada are focusing on developing a seniors’ strategy with three main parameters – Retirement Income Security, Pharmacare and Primary Care. After much research and strategizing, advocates from the group met in Ottawa in February to make presentations to as many MP’s as possible. Election brochures with this information have been prepared and are being circulated.

Mike Kaminski, resolutions chair, provided an update as to the disposition of the 2018 resolutions and responses from the various government departments in regards to specific resolutions.

Sask 211 – Brad provided an overview of what this phone service consisted of and how it is important for seniors. He provided information as to the various information services and the need for communities to continually update the services available there.

Candace Skrapnek, a lung cancer survivor, shared her personal experience, challenges faced and coping skills. As a mother, nurse and survivor, she provided guidance about the importance of early detection and treatment.

3rd 50/50 Draw winner: Peggy Grandberg - \$102.50

The Resolutions Session addressed ten resolutions. 56 Voting Delegates and 15 Visitors were present for this session. Two resolutions (#1 and #2) were submitted to SSM for their agm at the end of May. Of the remaining eight, one (#9) was referred to the executive and the other seven were passed. These resolutions will be posted on the website, and their disposition will be acted upon as soon as possible.

Lunch – served 69 people

Bob Walker from Silton – presented about Normandy D Day Anniversary followed by moment of silence.

Shannon Wright, sec/treas, presented the Bowling Report and the Financial Report.

The 2018 Sask Wanderer – Kevin Dunn, shared his experiences, travels and videos about discovering Saskatchewan and making the rest of us aware of all the beauty that exists in this province.

SSAI Elections – Grace Strobel, head of the nomination committee, talked about “what do you get for your \$5 membership fee”. Grace thanked Pat Trask for her service as President of SSAI. Dwayne Turcotte was nominated by Mike Kaminski for President. “Any further nominations?” x 3; Linda Ard (Meota) motion to cease nominations. 2nd by Faye Becker. All in Favour. Dwayne Turcotte is SSAI President by acclamation. Mike Kaminski was nominated by Caroline Pappenfus for 1st Vice. “Any further nominations?” x 3; Maurille Corbeil (Edam) motion to cease nominations. 2nd by Pat Trask (Saskatoon). All in Favour. Mike Kaminski is SSAI 1st Vice by acclamation. Harold Pappenfus was nominated by Pat Trask for 2nd Vice. “Any further nominations?” x 3; Pat Radchuk (Shellbrook) motion to cease nominations. 2nd by Lorna Weldon(Wishart). All in Favour. Harold Pappenfus is SSAI 2nd Vice by acclamation.

Grace leads swearing in of officers



Jeanette Holder, Ferne Roadhouse, Bev Obrigewitch, Nicoline Warnock, Pat Trask, Lorna Weldon, Grace Strobel, Harold Pappenfus, Mike Kaminski, Dwayne Turcotte, Linda Ard, Lylie Herman, Barb Johnson, Mike Newberry
Missing from photo (Joan Boyer -walkathon coordinator; Bob Walker from L34)

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Thanks to our sponsors, staff at Heritage Inn, to convention planning committee, to clubs, delegates and to those who purchased 50/50 tickets, raffle tickets and silent auction items.

SSAI Raffle

Ticket fundraiser raised \$1207. Thanks to our top sellers: Mike Kaminski, Harold Pappenfus, and Lylie Herman.

Linda Wright from Vanscoy won the Roughrider prize basket (Signed Roughrider Jersey donated by SaskPower, thermos; water bottle, pen, notepad and laptop bag donated by the Saskatchewan Roughriders)

Pat Trask from Saskatoon won the President's basket (blanket and water bottle donated by SaskEnergy, \$100 donated by Edam Senior Citizens, crystal candy dish donated by Lylie Herman)

Jim Sego from Unity won the SSAI special basket (2 travel mugs donated by Sasktel, \$100 donated by Edam Senior Citizens, Jams donated by Lylie Herman)

SSAI will be starting a new raffle fundraiser in January 2020 with draw to be held at AGM in Saskatoon on June 4th, 2020. Tickets will be \$2 each for a chance to win 8 cash draws for a total prize value of \$2500!

Silent Auction- a total of 25 items plus a \$50 donation from Edam; raised a total of \$749

4th 50/50 Draw winner: Marvin Gilbertson (Nokomis) - \$52.50

Motion to Adjourn Convention by Bev Obrigewitch (Luseland).

SAVE the DATE:

SSAI AGM/Convention will be held on June 3-4, 2020 at the Heritage Inn, Saskatoon.