

**The 2021SSAI convention was held on Oct 13 & 14 at the Heritage Inn Saskatoon.**

24 delegates attended from rural Saskatchewan (representing 10 clubs) and met for presentations, socializing, discussions, resolutions, AGM reports, and elections.

Aspen Films was hired by SSAI to record the presentations, but also to provide a livestream option for people to attend the event online. The technology is complicated to ensure that those attending in person and online are all able to see and hear each other. After the event, video recordings of the presentations will be available on our website (saskseniors.com); some DVD copies were pre-ordered/purchased and will be available at a later date. The SSAI board is thankful for the technical support provided by Aspen Films to make these alternate viewing options possible.

President Lylie Herman welcomed the delegates. Linda Ard led the singing of our national anthem. Lylie recited the Senior Citizens' and Pensioners' Prayer followed by reading the history of SSAI - Birth of Seniors Voice to acknowledge that this is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary for SSAI.

Shan Landry, Board Members of Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism, provided an overview of SSM and the initiatives in place for this coming year.

Trish McAuliffe, President of the National Pensioners Federation joined us via Zoom.

Co-Leads Dr. Amber Fletcher and Dr. Barbara Meneley presented information about the Studio Without Walls project. Their project was supported by SSAI.

The final presentation before lunch was from audiologist Jason Schmiedge who presented via zoom about hearing loss causes and solutions.

1<sup>st</sup> 50/50 Draw winner: Jeanette Holder from Kenaston - \$65

We had a cancellation in our program, which opened up a timeslot for an open discussion in regards to the future of SSAI and the need to have more directors; how the pandemic has affected so many things including meetings, seniors clubs, events, etc.; and a discussion about the need to revise the SSAI constitution in the upcoming year (after 40 years, many items are no longer relevant and procedures have changed). Written reports (walkathon, raffle, financial) are available.

Tornado Hunter Chris Chittick presented virtually (after some technical difficulties).

The afternoon session closed with a presentation on Caring for the Caregiver and Mental Health support by Brenda Beaudry from the Saskatoon Branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association.

5pm - 2<sup>nd</sup> 50/50 Draw winner: Linda Ard from Meota - \$65

[Banquet at 6pm – served 30 people]

Edam club donated \$100 cash door prizes (5x\$20) – winners: Dennis Simpson, Jeanette Holder, Carolyn Debelser-Mayson, Mike Newberry, and Jane Uchacz. Blaine Lake club donated \$25 cash door prize – winner: Linda Wright

After the banquet, Amber Fletcher and Barbara Meneley facilitated a consultation workshop to gather feedback from delegates about art program ideas to assist SSAI with their next application for Sask Arts Funding – Artists in Communities grant.

The remainder of the evening was spent playing cards and socializing.

The second day started off with greetings from Lisa Lambert, MLA Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood. This day had a multicultural theme with presentations from: Amy Seesequasis (Office of the Treaty Commissioner) talking about Truth and Reconciliation; followed by Ukrainian Author Marion Mutala sharing her talents. Before lunch, we had greetings from Betty Nippi-Albright, MLA Saskatoon Centre.

3<sup>rd</sup> 50/50 Draw winner: Ross Reynolds - \$50

Lunch – served 32 people

Silent Auction– a total of 7 items; raised a total of \$148

Arlene Walker (Norwegian) and Pat Ciona (Ukrainian) shared their cultural heritage. After a break, Glenn Wright presented options for advocacy regarding improving long term seniors care in Canada and Saskatchewan. [See additional information regarding opportunity to provide feedback to National Long-Term Care Services Standard – Deadline is December 1, 2021]

The Resolutions Session addressed eight resolutions 1) minimum number of SSAI Directors, 2) Needles, test strips and lancets for Diabetics, 3) Improving Public Health (long term) Care services, 4) Shingles Vaccine, 5) reducing costs for seniors aids, 6) Emergency Response Information Kit, 7) Special Care Homes in rural centres, and 8) Wardell/Gillis letter – Long Term Care. All were voted on and were carried/passed unanimously. These resolutions will be posted on the website, and their disposition will be acted upon as soon as possible.

SSAI Elections – Linda Ard led the nomination/election process. Dennis Simpson nominated Lylie Herman for President; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ilene Harding. Lylie accepts nomination. “Any further nominations?” x 3; Motion to cease nominations.

**Lylie Herman is SSAI President** by acclamation.

Barb Johnson nominated Nici Warnock for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vivianne Lesko. Nici accepts the nomination. “Any further nominations?” x 3; Motion to cease nominations.

**Nici Warnock is SSAI 1<sup>st</sup> Vice** by acclamation.

Elaine L’Heureux nominated Barb Johnson for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nici Warnock. Barb accepts the nomination. “Any further nominations?” x 3; Motion to cease nominations.

**Barb Johnson is SSAI 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice** by acclamation.

Regional Directors – due to pandemic restrictions, district and regional meetings have not taken place to elect coordinators and directors. From the delegates attending convention the following director positions were filled:

**Additional Directors:**

**Linda Ard (Region A), Linda Wright (Region E), Mike Newberry (Region F), Maria Palmer (Region G), and Jeanette Holder (Region G). SSAI is seeking additional directors to fill director and coordinator roles to represent other regions in Sask.**

Glenn Wright led the swearing in of officers



Back Row (Left to right): Nici Warnock (1<sup>st</sup> Vice), Linda Ard, Barb Johnson (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice), Jeanette Holder, and Mike Newberry  
 Front Row Seated (Left to Right): Maria Palmer, Lylie Herman (President), Linda Wright

**SSAI Executive Meeting summary:** Directors completed ISC forms to update director contact info. Convention expenses/financial report will be reviewed at next meeting. The Directors appointed Shannon Wright as the SSAI Secretary/Treasurer for another year. Any 2 of the following 3 will have signing authority – President Lylie Herman, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Nici Warnock, and Sec/Treas. Shannon Wright. The board chose to have Dawn Steeves review the books for the financial year April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022. Resolution Committee – Linda Ard, Nici Warnock, and Barb Johnson. Nomination Committee – Mike Newberry. Convention Committee – Lylie and Shannon. Bowling Committee – Lylie will contact previous bowlers. Walkathon Coordinator – Joan Boyer. The board approved SSAI Lottery/Raffle Tickets for Dec 1<sup>st</sup> – June 9<sup>th</sup> with 50% of sales being returned to clubs after the draw date. Tickets will be mailed out early December. Shannon and Barbara Meneley are working on completing Sask Arts grant application. Board approved giving financial support to SCWW. Telephone consult meeting on Nov 17 at 10 am for long term care standards. Tabled discussions about Wardell/Gillis advocacy. Next directors meeting Jan 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 - 1pm at the Heritage Inn.

**SAVE the DATE:**

SSAI AGM/Convention will be held on June 8 - 9, 2022 at the Heritage Inn, Saskatoon.

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 and also to individuals and clubs for their cash donations.

SSAI would like to acknowledge the support of Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism and the Saskatchewan Lottery Trust Fund for SSAI Outreach to Seniors. Some of their funding pays for the quarterly distribution of the SSAI newsletter in Gray Matters, for printing and postage expenses, and costs associated with providing livestream and recordings of this event. Special thanks to Aspen Films for their technical expertise and for their in-kind discount for this event. Thanks to Staples for their quality print service.

SSAI received \$1,000 Grant from SK Arts for an Artists in Communities – Development Program. SSAI would like to acknowledge the financial support of SK Arts, made possible through funding provided by the Government of Saskatchewan, and the financial support of SaskCulture Inc., made possible through funding provided by the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation.

Special Thanks to Barbara Meneley – Studio Without Walls Co-Lead for In-Kind contribution Artist Consultation and also to Amber Fletcher – Studio Without Walls Co-Lead for In-Kind contribution Research Consultation on this project.

Dip Into Writing Workshop with Judith Silverthorne was held Oct 18 at 9:30pm.

A telephone consultation meeting with Judith Silverthorne, Jamie Reynolds, Barbara Meneley, and the SSAI board of directors was held Oct 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:30pm.



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## SSAI Raffle

SSAI will be starting a new raffle fundraiser December 1, 2021 with draw to be held at AGM in Saskatoon on June 9th, 2022. Tickets will be \$2 each for a chance to win 1 draw of \$1000, 2 x \$500, and 5 x \$100. Ticket books will be mailed to clubs and all sold/unsold tickets and money must be returned to the SSAI Treasurer for deposit in the SSAI raffle account for proper accounting/reporting pertaining to SLGA licence. Clubs may use this as a fundraising opportunity – After the completion of this raffle, SSAI will pay \$1 for every ticket that your club sold. If your club does not wish to sell raffle tickets, please contact Shannon by phone 306-493-3023 or email [info@saskseniors.com](mailto:info@saskseniors.com) prior to December 1<sup>st</sup> (to avoid having tickets mailed to your club) or simply return any unsold tickets.