

Resolutions

Be it Resolved: that non-profit organizations, including seniors' groups, be exempt from paying the federal carbon tax on heating and energy costs.

Background: Most non-profit organizations in rural Saskatchewan are struggling to remain viable due to the rising cost of living and declining populations. Seniors in rural areas struggle to maintain their premises, pay their utility bills and taxes and still enjoy a social life, which the Seniors' groups provide.

Arguments: Since individuals and corporations receive a carbon tax rebate from the government, why is there not a mechanism in place for non-profit organizations that also pay the carbon tax on heating and energy costs.

Moved by Judy Lawes Seconded by Brian Masear -- Dinsmore Gaiety Group

Re: **Bylaws: Article 3 – Members at Large (2.)**

Moved by Lorraine Thibeault (Club #68); Seconded by Bruce Clements (Club #68)
THAT 'members at large' shall not be entitled to a vote at the Provincial Convention.

Reasoning:

1. The 'member at large' does not represent anyone but themselves. A vote gives them a lot of power as compared to a Club voting delegate who represents a large number of members when they vote. Since the 'member at large' must join a Club within one year, he/she should wait until the time that they are a Club member when they may be elected to be a voting delegate for the Club.
 2. The Provincial Executive could approve as many 'members at large' as they wish; they could approve people who hold certain views that the Provincial Executive wants to see moved forward and therefore influence the outcome of a vote at Convention. This could negate the voice of the 'Club' delegates who represent a large number of members.
-

Re: **New Bylaw**

Moved by Lorraine Thibeault (Club #68); Seconded by Bruce Clements (Club #68)
THAT a member not hold two or more of the positions of Provincial President, Director and Co-ordinator at the same time except for the short time (1 – 2 months) between the District, Regional and Provincial Annual Meetings when elections are held.

Reasoning:

1. A variety of people in these positions will allow for a broader spectrum of views, skills and will encourage a shared work load. Grass-roots members will have greater representation.
 2. A variety of people in leadership positions allows for more accountability. For example, let's say that a co-ordinator, who is also a regional director, does not hold a required meeting or a required election in his/her district. After approaching the co-ordinator, if nothing changes, the Club members would need to approach the director to share their concerns... but the director is the co-ordinator whose action or lack of action they are concerned about. This is not a good situation.
 3. This applies to the Director position as well if the Director is also the Provincial President. If the Director does not follow the Constitution & By-laws and does not do so after being approached by the members, who do the members approach to remedy the situation? They would have to approach the Provincial President who is also the Director who is not following the Constitution & By-laws. Again, this is not a good situation.
-

Re: Bylaws – Region - Article 10 (2.)

Moved by Lorraine Thibeault (Club #68); Seconded by Bruce Clements (Club #68)
THAT Bylaw – Region - Article 10 (2.) be rescinded and replaced by the following:
THAT the Region leadership (Regional Council) will be comprised of a Director, Secretary Treasurer and the Co-ordinators of each District within the Region.
The Director will be elected yearly at the Annual Regional Meeting from amongst the registered members of the Clubs comprising the Region.
The Secretary/Treasurer will be appointed by the Regional Council.
The Co-ordinators will be elected from amongst the registered Club members in the District at their respective Annual District Meeting.

Reasoning: At the present time, with the exception of District 6a, Regions have three districts and, therefore, three co-ordinators. Only the present Co-ordinators may run for the position of Director.

With the new motion:

1. We would have a broader pool to choose from for nominating and electing a director.
 2. It will allow the Director to focus on one position and not be forced into holding two positions (i.e.) Co-ordinator and Director, at the same time.
 3. It will allow for more representation from throughout the Region
-

Re: Review of SSAI Handbook, Constitution & Bylaws

Moved by Lorraine Thibeault (Club #68); Seconded by Bruce Clements (Club #68) THAT the SSAI Handbook, Constitution & Bylaws be reviewed at least every two years with the first review beginning six months prior to the upcoming convention (December 2023), and THAT Club members be approached at the beginning of the review so that they may submit suggestions for changes to the above.

Reasoning:

1. We always experience change over time and sometimes these changes need to be reflected in our Handbook, Constitution and By-laws. Covid19 is an example of a drastic change. The on-line participation in the Provincial Convention is a good example of positively dealing with a situation which affected our attendance at Convention.
2. Constitutions and Bylaws sometimes prove to be ineffective. Rather than continuing with ineffectiveness and inefficiency, we should be prepared to change in a timely manner... not five or ten years down the road.
3. I, Lorraine Thibeault, am willing to recruit members to form a committee to review the Handbook, Constitution and Bylaws and to investigate why many members aren't interested in taking on leadership positions. I am also willing to lead that committee. If, at Convention, the voting delegates agree with this, then a motion should be made stating THAT a committee be formed to review the Handbook, Constitution & Bylaws of the SSAI and THAT they bring their recommendations to the 2024 Convention of the SSAI. That way, the committee will have the authority to contact members to gather their suggestions for additions, deletions, and retaining what is working for us. All recommendations would then be brought to all members attention in a timely manner for consideration at Convention.

“No one wants to take on a leadership position!” When I began inquiring about the shortage in leadership, I was informed that “no one wants to hold a leadership position” and that is why so few people are holding many of the positions and why elections aren't being held. If this is the case, then I believe that we have a “leadership crisis”. We need to consider the following: “Why do so many people not want to hold a leadership position? Is the SSAI not following its mandate? Has the leadership become clique-ish in a way that discourages others from taking on leadership positions? Are we expecting too much of the people taking on leadership positions? Is the SSAI effective in representing the grass-roots members?” There

could be many reasons why we are struggling to get people to take on leadership positions. Let's investigate why we are in the situation that we are in and try to resolve it before the SSAI fades away.

Moved by Lorraine Thibeault (Club #68); Seconded by Bruce Clements (Club #68)
THAT the Provincial SSAI Executive take greater care to ensure that those in leadership positions follow the SSAI's Constitution & Bylaws.

Examples when this has not happened:

1. Election to Office: Article 8 – “each district will elect a co-ordinator to hold office for one year.” This means that the co-ordinator's position ends after one year. In a timely manner, registered members in a District, through notification to the Clubs, should be informed of any vacancies (end of terms) and of an upcoming election and asked to submit nominations or offer their own name to stand for the position of co-ordinator. At this time, the present co-ordinator could decide to let his/her name stand for the position. He/she would go through the election process the same as anyone who lets their name stand for the position. If only one person lets his/her name stand for a position, then an election is still held and the person is ‘elected by acclamation.’
 - a. It would be advantageous for some members to form a nominating committee to seek candidates and to run the election. If the incumbent is letting his/her name stand for a second term, that person should not be part of the nominating committee and should not run the election.
 - b. It would be useful for Clubs to receive a biography/write-up of each person who is letting their name stand for the position of Co-ordinator, Director and Provincial President so that Club members can make an informed decision of who would be best for the position. They can then instruct their voting delegates to vote in accordance with the Club's wishes.
 - c. At the present time, in some districts/regions, no one is ensuring that elections are being held annually. The incumbent is staying in the position without being elected to another term and without the position being advertised as open so that others may allow their names to stand for election.
2. Formation of a District Council: In the SSAI Handbook, it is “strongly recommended” that district councils be formed. When this doesn't happen, who encourages the district co-ordinator to form such a council?