

**SAGA 81th Annual General Meeting
January 09, 2016**

TCU Place, Saskatoon

1. President Harvey called the meeting to order at 8:25 p.m. with 29 members in attendance

2. Agenda

Bob Rugg/Glenn Hass: that the Agenda be approved as circulated CARRIED

3. Minutes of 80th AGM

Bob McKercher/Bob Dodds: Approve as circulated. CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes – none

5. Treasurer's Report- Dennis Ewanus

See attached

Lorence Peterson/Vern Racz: that the report be approved with the addition of the note that Art Delahay donated \$75.00 for the Sask Hall of Fame. CARRIED

Vern Racz/Bob McKercher: that Lorence Peterson appointed auditor for 2016. CARRIED

6. Reports

a) Membership

SAGA's new website is up and running for well over 6 months and continues to be added to, increasing its value as a focal point for SAGA news. To date we have posted all the recent newsletters and the website can serve as a quick way to access the most recent newsletter or back issues. The front page also allows access to Twitter and Facebook to give an idea of other agro thinking on certain topics. There are links to allow direct access to others such as the college or farm production show. Upcoming events are listed and if registrations are required a portal by which you can do this. Our upcoming Jan. 9, 2016 reunion is being handled through this website which links you at the click of a button to the U of S CCDE site where you can register and pay.

To circumvent having ID and passwords we took a more simplified approach and in our Members section you will find the capability to contact other grads that are members by doing a search on first or last name or grad year. All you will have access to is the name and grad year, But you can send them an email privately through the website and whoever receives the email has the option of responding or not. Keep in mind he or she may not regularly read their email or is away if you do not get an answer. This is a good means to securely and privately connect.

Other sections contain the History of SAGA, the book "Forever Young", our bylaws and other articles about SAGA. There is a section which contains the history of the department of Plant Sciences (Crop Science) written by Bryan Harvey and more is in the works for Animal and Poultry Science history by Dave Christensen, for Soil Science by Les Henry. These will be posted as they come available. But for now we have Crop Science Department history.

The whole SAGA executive was behind this website development and certainly made life easier for our Website committee of Keith Head, Dennis Ewanus and Vern Racz . What has been unexpected as we switch from greater use of electronic communications is the far greater problem of individuals changing email addresses and loss of contact. We will endeavor to set up a means by which we can maintain contact through the website. The number of life memberships continues to increase and we ask our members to encourage other Ag Grads if not a member to join SAGA by using the website.

Verbal:

Thanks to Keith Head and Dennis Ewanus for the work on the website. We are trying to elevate the website so it can become a means of communication between members. We are still grappling with students in other degrees ie Biotechnology and making sure they come back into fold with SAGA.

1850 life memberships

b) Curling – Ewald Lammerding, Blair Cummins, Don Mitchell

No one showed up, 'nuff said.

We are trying to combine with the hockey tournament in Waldheim for 2016 in hopes of better participation. If this plan doesn't work, you will know by the time of the AGM on Jan. 9th. And we will go from there on the future of SAGA Curling.

Small profit from bottle raffle.

c) Hockey –

6 teams

Profit \$250.00

Winning team: NE Deepbanders

d) Newsletter – Ewald Lammerding

As can be seen in the Treasurer's Report, costs have climbed again for the production of *The SAGA*. The \$985.54 increase from 2014 to 2015 is twofold. Increases to the ways and means – assembly, paper and postage – required to mail a hardcopy format of the Newsletter, are our largest expense. But also, Tanya Napper, of the College of AgBio Development office has done a great job correlating SAGA membership lists with the College and the U of S Alumni office.

In past years names, addresses and emails have slipped through various cracks, mostly beyond our control. Canada Post makes changes in their mailing systems, not everyone notifies us, and we have an unreliable address. We are pushing membership to switch to email in an effort to reduce costs for us, but in doing so some land addresses get lost. By finding the correct information, Tanya has given us better numbers of our total membership. That increased our mailed Newsletters from 863 in Dec. '14, to 919 for June '15. But since then, many members have notified Vern and Tanya, to send the email version, thereby reducing the Dec. 2015 issue to 856 mail-outs.

Offsetting the increase in publishing costs was our decision to allow paid advertising, for what we believe is the first time. Federated Co-op and Municipal Hail put ads in the December Newsletter. Our plan is to expand this role Ag companies may play for us.

As you may already be aware, a connection was made with the Alumni Office concerning the passing of the many Ag Grads that are not mentioned in the Newsletter. As there would be far too many to publish even with a condensed obituary, the Executive will be deciding on a different format for Empty Saddles. Suggestions are welcome on what that may be.

We wish to thank Glen Hass, Ron Plunz, Tanya Napper, Bayley Blackwell, Lloyd Streifel and Louis Bossaer for sending pictures along with their commentary contributions. Thanks to all others who sent us something to include, or notified us of where to locate news. And it is only while writing this report they we realize an omission, 2 actually. The history of Plant Science in the June issue was written by Bryan Harvey. The Animal Science treatise in December was authored by Dave Christensen. Both are such interesting reading, we are looking forward to Les Henry's tale about the origins of Soil Science.

A thank you to Debbie Brown who assembles all the material sent by us, she is also the liason who contributes the 4-H article. And to SAC {Saskatoon Abilities Council - re: Shauna Hunchak} who prints, staples and folds, labels and mails the completed Newsletter. Both parties have been doing an excellent job for SAGA many years.

Verbal: Advertising is important.

Discussion:

Obits: list should include year of grad and S or C.

Mailing: some still want mailed newsletters but some are not arriving.

e) Sask. Agricultural Hall of Fame – Bryan Harvey

In the spring of this year I replaced Bob McKercher as the SAGA representative to the SAHF. Bob served us in this capacity for many years and in his quiet competent way provided excellent service both to the SAGA executive and the SAHF Board. He was their go to constitution expert. A big thank you to Bob for that service.

This year the SAHF Board approved six nominees for induction into the Hall in August of 2016. Final announcement of these names will be made in the near future.

The SAHF Board took the opportunity of the retirement of its long time Board chair to do some strategic planning. This process is a work in progress but there has been agreement to move ahead with recommendations to change the membership and governance structure. The proposal is to expand the membership and in the process to provide for individual membership. The new Board instead of being made up of representatives of each of the member organizations would now be elected from the membership at the AGM with time limited terms of office. The task group assigned to putting details to these changes hope to have recommendations ready for consideration by the 2016 AGM. It should be noted that the intention is to involve a broader base but not to change the criteria for induction into the Hall.

Discussion:

Question: How are we doing on space for portraits? Have adjusted size, now have room for several years.

Question: Will there be a new fee structure associated with the new structure. Yes, but it is not finalized yet.

f) Crop Production Week – Keith Head

The 2015 Crop Week was held from January 10 to 17.

Crop Week activities were held at three venues in 2015, The Saskatoon Inn, Prairie Land Park, and TCU Place.

Groups meeting at the Saskatoon Inn included:

Canaryseed Development Commission of Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Fruit Growers Association

Saskatchewan Mustard Development Commission

Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association

Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission

Groups meeting at Prairie Land Park included:

Agri-Arm Applied Research Management

Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association

Groups meeting at TCU Place – CropSphere included:

Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission

SaskCanola

Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission

Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission

Saskatchewan Pulse Growers

Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission

Many of the presentations have been posted on the Crop Week website:

<http://www.cropweek.com/2015-presentations/>

The Crop Production Show (Prairie Land Park) had an attendance of 18806, similar to the 2014 attendance of 18,693.

Crop Week 2016

Crop Week 2016 runs from January 9 to 16. Groups will be meeting at the same times and venues as in 2015.

A shuttle has been implemented to get around.

g) President's Report – Bryan Harvey

The president's report is probably the least useful of the reports we consider at the AGM. It typically reports on work done by others on the executive not the work of the president. This will be no different.

The year has been a good one for which I need to thank a number of people not in any particular order. The dean of Agriculture and her office are always willing to be of assistance in small ways and in larger ways. For example Colleen found a space to hang the Board listing all of our Honorary Life Members in the hallway outside the college office. Dean Buhr has agreed to facilitate and provide coffee for our experiment with a Friday evening "hang-out" in the ASA Lounge and Atrium of the Agriculture Building. Tanya Napper and her colleagues provide

essential assistance to us in a number of ways but especially in management of our mailing lists. I also want to thank the SAGA Executive who, as always, carry the load with efficiency and good will. Thank you all. We redid our webpage this year and if you have not visited it please do so. They have done a great job. Thanks to Vern Racz, Keith Head and Dennis Ewanus. Also of course to our web service provider.

Darcy Jones has done a great job of putting together the annual banquet and I am sure it will be a very enjoyable evening. The numbers are up over last year despite the rather high ticket cost.

One of our big jobs is newsletter editor and Ewald Lammerding continues to do a really professional job. This he did despite having to do it long distance since he had to spend an extended amount of time in Ontario looking after his father. We made the decision to distribute the newsletter widely and thus it now goes to all agriculture graduates. All faculty and all students enrolled in the college. Our first crack at this unfortunately was plagued by a glitch in the university email sending system so a number of people got multiple copies, it ticked off some people while others took it with good grace. Needless to say Tanya got a lot of feedback on that one. Anyway the last newsletter went smoothly and I believe that we even managed to get Irene Ahner her hard copy by traditional mail. Feedback has been positive. We managed to get some uptake for our venture into paid advertising in the letter and have received no complaints so far. If we can build on this start we should be able to make the newsletter pay its own way so that we do not have to "tax" the banquet tickets to balance the budget. That in turn should help attendance at the banquet to give us an even better get together.

As indicated above we are trying an experiment this year with an informal get together at the University for those who would like to look at pictures of themselves in their prime, those who would like to do a bit of touring around the Agriculture Building, those who would like to visit in a less formal setting than the banquet/mixer, those who would like to tell wild tales to the current student's and those who just want something to do on Friday evening. If it is successful we will of course continue and build on it. It may help us in our efforts to engage younger people in SAGA.

We also teamed with the College again this year to contact graduates and students at Agribition and Crop Production Week. A little processed malting barley does a good job of lubricating interactions. A number of people took advantage. Thanks to Blair Cummins for taking the lead on this.

My congratulations to this year's Honorary Life awardees Elaine and Grattan. Thank you for your contributions to Agriculture and to Saskatchewan.

Thank to all the members for the privilege of serving as your president this past year. It has been a pleasure.

Verbal Corrections: Irene Ahner did not receive her copy via traditional mail. The Crop Production event was not feasible.

Friday Night event had 60-70 people attend which exceeded expectations. We had lots of positive feedback and will do it again. Thanks to Tanya Napper and Hamish Tulloch, they did a lot of work.

h) Past President's Report – Blair Cummins

Verbal Report:

SAGA will not be doing the Crop Production Event this year, no space, we tried in the lounge last year but no room. This all started a couple of years ago, met with the students in Louis and they suggested that we should do more things at ie Agribition with students. We may try to do something at Ag in Motion in Langham.

i) Vice President's Report – Louis Bossaer

With the online tickets purchases we have done over the past number of years the reunion chairs no longer have to order and pay for the tickets for their years taking a lot of pressure off these people. I am hoping this message will get out in the industry and make finding future reunion chairs easier as time goes on.

With Tanya Napper's office (College Development Office), and the support we received from them, tracking down people has gotten easier for the most part.

The challenge now is that some people are moving more often than years past and often not passing on their info to the Alumni office or SAGA so it makes tracking some people more difficult. SAGA needs to stay on top of how we will track people going forward.

A big thanks need to go out to Tanya's office and all their help. Whenever asked to help myself and the reunion chairs they were always there.

This year we didn't end up finding an '86S reunion chair due to a change in the diploma times that year and there not being many students if that year.

We did invite the 55, 65 reunion years this year due to feedback in the past that class lists are getting smaller as people age. Some people felt that a 5 year get together might be useful and by the looks of the turnout we got for these year I think it is something SAGA continues to do. SAGA needs to make sure in the future we work equally as hard to get this group out as well. We did get reunion chairs for some but since it was new we didn't get chairs for each group so this is something we can work harder at achieving for future years.

I would like to thank the reunion chairs this year for all their work they did in rounding up old friends and classmates. Some people say some years just naturally have a great relationship and keep in contact. I disagree. It takes great people who work hard at keeping a strong bond with classmates that makes those years special. So thank you to the reunion chairs for being that person. You're the people that helps keep those relationships strong year after year.

46S-Mason Simmons

51S John Blakely/Bill Cooper

56C-Norm Bray

56S-Clare Philips

61S-Marcel Dubois

66C-Bill Turner

66S-Lorne McConaghy/Neal Moyse

76C-Carman Read

76S-Wayne Bird

86C-Harvey Petracek/Lorna Stephen

96C-Mike Kirzinger

96S-Jody Rysavy

06C-Colleen Vany

06S-Mark Delage

11C-Katie McMillan

Last of all going forward SAGA needs to find ways to reach out to some of the new designations that the College has. We have gone from a Diploma and Degree to 4 or 5 designations with some designations being very small in numbers at this time. Reaching out to them and getting them involved may become a challenge in the future so this is something SAGA will need to discuss and see if we can find a creative way to reach out to them.

Verbal: We have added the 55 and 65 years at their request to have reunions more often as they age and lose more of their class- went well.

Will be meeting with Dean Buhr re: now have many designations and some only have 5 or 6 so how to get them involved.

Question; how many sold? Last year 275 this year 310.

Comments: used to be more Dept heads etc but not as many now. All profs are members and are welcome to attend. Was noted that other associations have the same issue with fewer faculty attending, contributing to newsletters etc. It is a broader problem for service clubs and volunteer organizations.

MOTION: Accept reports: Carmen Berg/Ewald Lammerding - CARRIED

7. New Business

The proposed Executive for 2015 is as follows:

President	Louis Bossaer '95C
Honorary President	Frank Dunlop '63C
Past President	Bryan Harvey '60C
Vice President	to be filled by Executive
Secretary	Harvey '86C and Raelene Petracek '86C
Treasurer	Dennis Ewanus '70C
College Development Coordinator	Tanya Napper

Sask. Ag Hall of Fame
U of S Alumni Rep
Newsletter Editor
Memberships/Registrar
Website
Crop Production Week
Banquet/Mixer
Curling
Hockey
ASA Rep
Members at Large

Bryan Harvey '60C
Chris Unsworth '12C
Ewald Lammerding '88S
Vernon Racz '68C
Vernon Racz '68C
Keith Head '67C
Darcy Jones '80C
Ewald Lammerding '88S, Blair Cummins '77S
Lucas Ringdal '12C, Curtis deGooijer '12C
Bayley Blackwell
Irene Ahner '65C
Blair Cummins '77S

Blair Cummins/Rick Bellamy: that the 2016 executive be approved Ammendment B. McKercher Executive can fill any unfilled positions. CARRIED

8. Other Items

none

9. Adjournment

9:20