

**SAGA Executive Meeting
Room 2D21 Agriculture Building
Wednesday, March 5, 2014
7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Blair Cummins (Chairperson), John Spencer (Recorder), Grant Wood, Darcy Jones, Allan McDougald, Dennis Ewanus, Ewald Lammerding, Vern Racz, Art Delahey, Chris Unsworth,

REGRETS: Barb Larson, Jill Turner, Ken Sapsford, John Spencer, Bob McKercher, Lucas Ringdal, Curtis deGooijer, Mayson Maerz, Don Mitchell, Whitney Cyca

1. Call to order by Chairperson Blair Cummins at 7:00 pm
2. Adoption of Agenda
 - Agenda was circulated electronically prior to the meeting
 - **MOTION:** Ewald / Vern - that the agenda to be adopted. CARRIED.
3. Adoption of minutes from February 5, 2014 meeting
 - Minutes were distributed electronically prior to the meeting. One change to the minutes had been made – Canadian Blood Services was the beneficiary of the ASA bed race, not the Red Cross
 - **MOTION:** Grant/Vern - that the minutes to be adopted with revisions. CARRIED.

Business arising from March 5, 2014 meeting, plus January 11, 2014 AGM meeting

- **ACTION:** Blair to write a short note thanking honorary life members for their contributions to the field of agriculture and their continued support of SAGA, and to send this letter to Trina. **REPORT:** This action item is not complete as Trina has moved to a new job. Grant reported that Trina and Hamish met with him. Hamish has all of Trina's materials and we can continue on using Hamish as a conduit. He can request updates to lists and so forth. **ACTION:** Blair will send his letter etc. to Grant and he will ensure it is sent out. It is critical that membership lists and mailing lists are kept current. It was recommended that Trina be hired to do this work on a freelance basis. Discussion continued on modifying the website setup to engage new and younger members.
- **ACTION:** Grant to get pins to Trina, who will mail pins to remaining honorary life members – **Report:** Complete
- To promote SAGA to AgBio students, it was suggested that the Honorary Life plaques be displayed somewhere in the lounge
ACTION: Trina to work with Whitney to decide where plaques could be displayed ; Grant has plaques in his office. **Report:** Whitney is not in attendance, but reported to Grant that the plaques are not up yet. Action: Grant will check further.
- **ACTION:** Following a suggestion from Irene Ahner, Blair to write a short note to Mike Raine (Western Producer / michael.raine@producer.com) and Crystal Zvacek (SIA /

crystal.zvacek@sia.sk.ca) and ask them to include photos and text highlighting SAGA honorary life recipients for 2014 in their upcoming newspaper / newsletter **REPORT:** Blair has sent emails and is waiting for a response.

- **ACTION:** Ewald to contact photographer and ask for photos to be sent to Blair.
REPORT: Ewald should hear by this weekend. Ewald also mentioned that a cheque for photos is missing. He will keep searching. No one else on the executive could help identify the cheque writer.
- **ACTION:** Grant to write short note to Dr. Murray Drew and thank him for bringing greetings to SAGA members on behalf of College of Agriculture & Bioresources.
REPORT: Complete.
- **ACTION:** executive members are encouraged to get their expenses claims to Dennis as soon as they can. **ACTION:** Executive members were encouraged again to get their expense claims in to Dennis.
- **ACTION:** John to complete necessary signing authority form and send to Dennis.
ACTION: John will get this done ASAP
- **ACTION:** executive members to review the website, make a list of suggested changes and send to Mayson – **REPORT:** This was done by many executive members. See below for discussion.
- Bed Race – **REPORT:** The ASA raised \$13,000.
- **ACTION:** Blair to write short note and send to Trina who will send it via email to the 300 local SAGA members – **REPORT:** Trina has moved to new employment. **ACTION:** Blair will resend the note to Grant who will ensure it goes out.
- **ACTION:** Blair to send same note as above to Crystal Zvacek for inclusion in next SIA newsletter. **ACTION:** Blair will resend the same note to Crystal at the SIA office.
- **ACTION:** Ewald to email pdf copy of the 2012 newsletters to Trina for printing.
REPORT: Done
- **ACTION:** Grant to gather copies of newsletter and minutes and take to archives.
REPORT: Done
- **ACTION:** Grant to create Doodle Poll and arrange a meeting with Hamish, Blair, Ewald, Vern and Trina. **REPORT:** Done
- **ACTION:** Vern to write a letter to all new members; also will encourage annual members to purchase a life membership. **REPORT:** This is in progress. Note: Discussion continued. This is included in new business.
- **ACTION:** All executive to send Ewald a short notice about the past reunion weekend events they coordinated. **REPORT:** Ewald still needs some reports.
- **ACTION:** Grant to follow up with U of S Alumni office regarding filling this position.
REPORT: This was moved to the new business section of the meeting.
- **ACTION:** Grant to send Doodle poll to members of committee to inquire about a potential meeting for first week in March. **REPORT:** Done
- **ACTION:** Grant, Blair and Al to meet before the next executive meeting to gather names of potential reunion chairs from the class photos posted in the hallways of the Agriculture building. **REPORT:** Done.
- **ACTION:** Gift for Trina. **REPORT:** Not done yet.
- **ACTION:** Names for Vic-President. **REPORT:** Still looking. **ACTION:** John will talk to Jessica Clay-Wruck regarding coming on as an MAL to be groomed for service later.

In addition, John will talk to Murray Walker to see if he could come on as Vice-President. (This was actually discussed later in the meeting, but links to this point.)

4. Reading and adoption of financial reports:

- financial report was electronically distributed by Dennis prior to the meeting ; Dennis presented the financial report
- Dennis is still waiting for receipts from the hockey venue. Until that comes in, he can't close off the reunion statement.
- It appears the curling venue will lose money. A disbursement of approximately \$750 will have to go to the ASA – they paid the Louis' bill to preserve the ASA usage agreement with the University. Dennis will need a bill from the ASA to write the cheque.
- TCU Place has been booked for three years to make sure we have a venue.
- Need to change signing authority at bank
- **MOTION:** Dennis/Darcy – that the financial reports be adopted, CARRIED.

5. Correspondence / Website

- Canada Post sent a bill for \$9.00 to cover the cost of returned newsletters.

6. Committee Reports

ASA - No Report

College of Agriculture and Bioresources – No report

- This has been an honorary position. **ACTION:** Grant will talk to Hamish about coming to the meetings from now on.

Membership Committee – report by Vern Racz

- Vern has all the lists from Trina. He is in the process of sending letters to members who have taken out an annual membership. This will allow him recommend an upgrade in membership to Lifetime status by paying \$90.
- **MOTION:** Members who purchased an annual membership in the last year will be offered the chance to upgrade their membership to a lifetime membership by paying \$90 by May 31, 2014. Vern/Grant CARRIED.

Reunion – Report by Blair Cummins

- No report other than to discuss that we need a Vice-President to get that person involved. **ACTION:** Blair and Grant will meet to talk over potential candidates. John will also talk to Murray Walker.

Banquet/Mixer – report by Darcy Jones

- No report
- Discussion followed on the nature of class separate events. The issue of staying at TCU place was also discussed. Discussions had started with the German Cultural Club. Blair reminded the executive that we had received compelling arguments to stay at TCU place from Barb Larson. The option of moving to the German Cultural Club and using a

shuttle bus from the area hotels was discussed. After discussion, it appears we will stay at TCU place for at least the next two years.

- Discussion followed on looking for hotel room blocks to reduce costs for attendees. The problem is the deposit required for the blocks. Art mentioned that we may be able to do this through the University. He knew of a Home Economics class doing their bookings through the U of S and were able to avoid a deposit. **ACTION:** Art will investigate this opportunity and will report at the April SAGA Executive meeting.

Curling – No Report

Hockey – No report

Newsletter – report by Ewald Lammerding

- Materials for next newsletter due April 15

Alumni – No report

- Discussion followed on how best to fill this position. Chris Unsworth has been nominated to serve on the Alumni Board. He could be our link. Chris is willing to take on the challenge.

Hall of Fame – No report

Crop Production Week – No Report

- There is a conference call March 6 at 9:00 AM to discuss next year's agenda. The committee is looking at moving the CropSphere to Monday.

MAL – report by Allan McDougald

- Al said that he is willing to help with finding reunion year chairs.

Past President – report by Grant Wood

- Grant is working on finding nominations for Honorary Life Memberships

President Report – report by Blair Cummins

- No report

7. New / Other business

- The Working Committee on making SAGA more relevant to new grads has begun work.
 - We need to go to a stronger electronics base – social networking is the rule for the new grad pool
 - Chris reminded us that, at this time, the reunion is the only opportunity to interact. We need to build a presence at events such as Crop Production Week, Agribition, Farm Progress Show and even events outside Saskatchewan. We should look for corporate sponsorship.
 - Ewald suggested an idea discussed some time ago, where SAGA branches were proposed in other places to keep people linked.

- The use of new technology to link to the people still in the College. We need to build relationships while they are still in the College.
- The Newsletter and Website were discussed – we should send out the e-version quarterly. We could have links to other information packages. That would avoid copyright issues, but we could start providing extra value for our members, rather than the relatively limited material we now provide. We need to make our product of interest to the five types of graduates within our membership: Professionals, Ranchers, Farmers, Environmentalists and Urbanites.
- It was suggested that we could scan business cards onto the website
- Lengthy discussion was held on how to actually meet with the five groups of students inside the College of Agriculture and Bio-Resources (ASA, CAMA, Hort Club, Environmental/RRM and Animal Science). It was decided to invite leader/drivers from the student groups to a discussion. We need a relaxed but private location. **ACTION:** Grant and Vern will identify the students to invite. **ACTION:** Chris will invite the students to the event. **ACTION:** Blair will book the room and order the food for the meeting, which was set for March 26, 2014 at 5:00 PM at Louis’.
- A regional outreach to our membership was discussed. We should be able to team up with the SIA to do this. **ACTION:** Blair will approach Crystal Zvacek at the SIA office to discuss partnering on this outreach.
- Website issues were discussed further. **ACTION:** Blair will call Mayson Maertz to see what it will cost to have someone do the upgrades proposed to the website.
- **ACTION:** Grant will approach Trina Mortson to do our membership work on contract.
- Darcy raised the concern of privacy issues. We will have to make sure we cover this in any contracting. Grant stated that we would need a confidentiality agreement in place. The possibility of having the SIA manage our website and email lists was discussed briefly. This was tabled, as it is a secondary strategy.
- Ewald brought up a contact he had with James Mann, Farmers of North America. They were looking at putting a ½ page ad/article in the newsletter. **ACTION:** John will talk to a solicitor about can a non-profit sell ads in a newsletter.
- The next executive meeting will be held April 2, 2014, 2D21 Agriculture Building 7:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment – Ewald Lammerding