

**SAGA 82th Annual General Meeting
January 07, 2017**

TCU Place, Saskatoon

1. President Bossaer called the meeting to order at 8:45 p.m. with 18 members in attendance

2. Agenda

MOTION: The Agenda be approved as circulated. Ewald Lammerding CARRIED

3. Minutes of 81th AGM

MOTION: Approve as circulated. Irene Ahner CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes – none

5. Treasurer's Report- Dennis Ewanus

See attached

Motion: That the report be approved. Dennis Ewanus CARRIED

Motion: That Lorence Peterson appointed auditor for 2017. Dennis Ewanus CARRIED

6. Reports

a) ASA – no Report

b) Membership – Vern Racz

2016 was a year of adaptation and development, and placing 2014 concepts into reality. The website since 2014 has matured so that in 2016 it now offers online registration for the reunion, payment of membership fees, a means to contact other members, current and back issues of the SAGA newsletter, the latest news on the website and with the use of Facebook and Twitter to reach out to our members, histories of departments of the college, Agro events and photos and an Empty Saddles section honoring our grads that have passed on. The website is a work in progress and the Facebook and Twitter site has been revitalized (thanks to Louis Bossaer) with attention now being given to sustainability as we move from less development and more maintenance. The committee of Keith Head, Dennis Ewanus and Vern Racz has as their priority to do this so it less burdensome. Please visit the website at saskaggrads.com, surf the site and maybe contact an old friend.

The hosting of Ag Grad events at Farm Progress Show and Agribition have been great in maintaining contact and selling memberships. Memberships have increased slightly to just over 2000 members. Blair and Ewald have led these initiatives in true Agro style and should be thanked for their commitment to make these new aspects successful.

Tanya Napper from the College Development office continues to assist in maintaining our lists and justifying these with those of the Alumni office and College. We look forward to Tanya's extremely capable assistance in the coming year. Maintaining these lists is truly a cooperative effort between SAGA and the College.

At one point we thought we would have to go to the membership for financial help to make these changes. The good news is that your executive has guided this process and helped where they could, adapting and creating projects making any extra help financially unlikely to be needed. The changes themselves are self sustaining.

c) Curling – Ewald Lammerding

The 2016 SAGA Bonspiel was our last disappointment. It has since been decided unanimously by the SAGA Executive, that we would cease and desist; finally.

Three consecutive years of the same five guys showing up, and no one else, were enough to convince all concerned that it would be a mercy to put the damn thing out of our misery.

However, Curling managed to out-profit Hockey one last time. We sold draw tickets for three jugs of booze, the majority to the hockey players [saps!], to achieve a profit of \$340. {Mind you, they did win all 3 bottles}. The Waldheim Rec Centre had pity on us [perhaps because we sold them 2 for 1 tickets] and charged us next to nothing for wasting their time.

d) Hockey – Curtis de Goojier, Lucas Ringdal

The 2016 SAGA Hockey tournament was held in Waldheim, SK on January 9th. There were six teams in total which included a college team, four returning grad teams, and one new grad team. Once again the Waldheim arena provided a great atmosphere and facility.

Results

The A-final saw the newcomers, the NE Deep Banders (Brandon Smith) against the wiley vets, Schmidt's Sticks (Steve Schmidt). With a controversial ending, the NE Deep Banders were able to secure the title! The B-Champs were the Millimeter Peters (Royce Lodoen) who defeated the Beaver Busters (Gerrit Baan). The C-Champs were the Short Shifts Long Shafts (Mitch Bond) that handily defeated the College Kings (Josh Sanden).

The hockey tournament made a net profit of \$250 after all fees were paid.

The Bouchard Heart award was presented to Lucas Ringdal for helping to bring together his team.

2017 Plans

The 2017 SAGA hockey tournament will be in Waldheim on Saturday, January 7th. There are currently 7 teams registered for the tournament. A 7 team draw has been made up and the puck drops at 8:30AM sharp.

e) Newsletter – Ewald Lammerding

You will have noted from our Treasurer, Dennis Ewanus', financial report, our 2016 Newsletter costs are down significantly from 2015. Two main reasons for this; hard work, and extra money. The hard work was done by our Membership chair, Vern Racz, and our College Liaison, Tanya Napper. Between them, our hard copy mailing list has been streamlined to just over 800 grads who still like to flip pages when reading about classmates, fellow grads and what SAGA and the College has been up to. Thank you, Vern and Tanya. Our decision to advertise in the Newsletter has made a real dent in our costs to publish. One company, Municipal Hail, has renewed, we are hoping Koch Industries does the same, and a third joined in this Dec., Black Fox Distillery. (Owned and operated by two fellow SAGA members and grads). This influx of funds has considerably offset the continually rising of printing and mailing. Combining the streamlining and advertising, we have reduced the Newsletter costs by almost \$1500. We need to give consideration to how much advertising we would like proceed with. As you have seen from the 2016 issues, we redesigned the back page. It was time anyway, but it was also needed to fit in three advertisers and all the information in 16 pages. Our next step would be to expand from a 16 to a 20 page document. We can only go by 4's, as one more sheet of paper to our format gives us 4 surfaces to use. To print and mail 20 pages would cost approx. \$1400 for 815 newsletters. This cost, of course, could be easily covered by more advertising revenue.

One problem we are having is the lack of contributions from members. The flow of anecdotal information has slowed to a trickle, so there was nothing to put into our old standards, Thundering Herd and Pooped Deck. This is an area of concern. Please send us "stuff" so fellow members can read what you are up to, and what may be happening in your area.

In late 2015, a connection was established with the Records Administrator, University Relations, U of S. This enabled us to publish the names of many more deceased Ag Grads. This influx of new information was beneficial, but it pushed the Newsletter's capacity for even edited obits. Keith Head '67 C, our CPW Liaison, has spent much time and effort to install Empty Saddles on the SAGA Website. It is on that page that members can read the full obituaries of grads that have passed on. Thank you, Keith. Please notify us if you know of a fellow grads passing. We pass this onto University Relations and the AgBio College, resulting in all of us having the same information.

e) Sask. Agricultural Hall of Fame – Bryan Harvey, presented by Louis Bossaer

Two major changes have been put in place at the SAHF this year but the objectives remain the same. The first change is in the corporate structure of the organization. Membership is now open to organizations or individuals with an interest in agriculture with no limits on the numbers of members. A board of directors will be elected from this membership. This removes the constraint of a membership cap of 25 and allows for broad representation from across the spectrum. It also allows for individuals to become members.

The second change is the date of the Award Ceremony and AGM. It will now be held in April of each year instead of the August long weekend. We had received complaints about holding it on the long weekend since many families like to get away that weekend. The April date should be before seeding gets seriously underway and after the return of the snowbirds.

As usual 6 new inductees were named this year there were announced at the Canadian Western Agribition and the remaining three will be announced at Crop Production Week. There are a number of ag grads amongst them.

**f) Crop Production Week – Keith Head
2016 Crop Week Recap**

The 2016 Crop Week was held from January 9 to 16, 2016.

Crop Week activities were held at three venues in 2016, 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:

<https://cropweek.com/archived-presentations/2016-presentations/>

The Crop Production Show (Prairie Land Park) had an attendance of 20425, up from 18806 in 2015.

g) President's Report – Louis Bossaer

This year was a bit of a challenge due to the vice president's position being left vacant. I ended up, with the help of Tanya Napper, finding and communicating the reunion chair info along with the Presidents role.

Items organized and/or took part in this past year for future reference.

Helped organize and run Ag in Motion where SAGA had a table top display to be in touch with the students. These events I feel are key to SAGA remaining visual to the public. We need to work on attracting more people to stop by and visit. Since this is a new event I think it will take time to catch on.

Took part in the SIA students Blue BBQ Sept 16th at the U of S Ag College. Meet and mingle with present students. This can be done by any member of SAGA but I feel someone should attend in the future to keep strong ties with the SIA along with meeting new students.

Managed the Twitter account where we went from just of 100 followers to over 350 followers. Maintaining social media is critical to staying in touch with our younger grads. Future discussions need to be had in the new year on how we will continue utilizing these tools as new social media tools come out.

Attended the ASA graduation ceremonies on January 15, 2016 to do a greeting to the grads. Welcomed the new grads to the industry and then did a short blurb on who SAGA is and how we can help connect with them going

forward into their professional life. I have sent a note to inquire on when this takes place this year and if they still want a representative attend this event or not.

Presently the College of Ag does breakfasts for the students during exam time and were looking for SAGA members to attend and mingle with students. The timing of it this year did not allow me time attend but I do feel going forward we should work toward having someone from SAGA try and attend some of these breakfasts.

Verbal: At the reunion estimated that 30 new Twitter followers were added.

h) Past President's Report –

Unfortunately Past President Bryan Harvey was ill and unable to attend.

i) Vice President's Report – Louis Bossaer (2016 SAGA President)

The Vice Presidents job was left empty this year due to a volunteer opting out too late in the year for SAGA to find another person to fill this position. I ended up taking care of this position with "a lot" of help from the College Developments office Tanya Napper.

As people move and transfer more often in today's world it is getting harder and harder to keep track of people so to me it is becoming evident that SAGA and the Development office need to continue to work together closely in the future.

I would like to thank the reunion chairs this year for all their work they did in rounding up old friends and classmates. It is because of the volunteers below that SAGA remains successful

57C-Don Acton

57S-Jack Drew

62C-Bernie Sonntag and Art Flemming

62S-Art Belanger

67C-Roy Button

67S-Wayne Gamble and Harold Fast

77C-Murray Jones 77C (was originally absent so thanks Murray for stepping up)

77S-Blair Cummins

87C-Kevin Dow

87S-Grant Berger

97C-Phil Graham and Ed Schaefer

97S-Vacant

07C-Vacant-possible Tim Fuhr in the future but he was out of country this year. I Think he would be good in the future

12C-Royce Lodoen

The college now has many different designations, with many of them being very small. SAGA has also struggled to keep in contact with these groups. Going forward the BSA reunion chair should be asked to be in charge of contacting these groups with the help of the SAGA and the development office. Somehow we need to remain in contact with them until the other designations get large enough in size to become their own group.

In saying this keeping in contact with "some" people for the reunion has become easier with social media. SAGA's goal will be to keep on top of different social media avenues going forward so that our message continues to get out to the younger generations. We are no longer in a generation where newsletters can be the only line of communication.

This year with our Twitter account, due to SAGA making the effort to utilize it more, we have gone from just over 100 followers to over 350. We have had some Tweets getting over 2000 views. This is all done with someone (me) who is not very good at utilizing social media. What could be done with a better focus.

Something for the new executive to think about in the future is to possibly look at putting a single person in charge of managing our social media.

MOTION: Accept reports: Frank Dunlop - CARRIED

7. New Business

Darcy Jones – Banquet – has resigned. SAGA thanks her for volunteering for this position for the past 5 years.

The proposed Executive for 2017 is as follows:

President	Lucas Ringdal '12C
Honorary President	Frank Dunlop '63C
Past President	Louis Bossaer '95C
Vice President	Mayson Maerz '83C
Secretary	Raelene Petracek '86C
Treasurer	Dennis Ewanus '70C
College Development Coordinator	Tanya Napper
Sask. Ag Hall of Fame	Bryan Harvey '60C
U of S Alumni Rep	to be appointed by Executive
Newsletter Editor	Ewald Lammerding '88S
Memberships/Registrar	Vernon Racz '68C
Website	Vernon Racz '68C
Crop Production Week	Keith Head '67C
Banquet/Mixer	to be appointed by Executive
Hockey	to be appointed by Executive
ASA Rep	Brette Langman
Members at Large	Irene Ahner '65C
	Blair Cummins '77S

Motion: The 2017 executive be approved and that the Executive can fill any unfilled positions. Ewald Lammerding CARRIED

8. Other Items

Dates for 2017 and 2018 Banquet and AGM are Jan 06, 2018 and Jan 12, 2019

9. Adjournment

9:20