

**SAGA 83rd Annual General Meeting
January 06, 2018**

TCU Place, Saskatoon

1. President Ringdal called the meeting to order at 8:40 p.m. with 35 members in attendance

2. **Agenda**

MOTION: The Agenda be approved. Bryan Harvey / Bob Dodds - **CARRIED**

3. **Minutes of 82nd AGM**

MOTION: Approve as circulated. Irene Ahner / Vern Racz - **CARRIED**

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes** – none

5. **Treasurer's Report- Dennis Ewanus**

See attached

MOTION: That the report be approved. Dennis Ewanus / Ewald Lammerding - **CARRIED**

MOTION: That Lorence Peterson appointed auditor for 2018. Dennis Ewanus / Bryan Harvey - **CARRIED**

6. **Reports**

a) **ASA – Carson Jorgensen (Public Relations Officer)**

This year we have been looking on revamping some traditions as well as creating a larger community presence. We want both past and present students to be more connected and feel more involved in everything we do. For many, these are some of the most memorable times of their lives and we want everyone to still feel a part of the AGRO family. We have continued with many events like; Drag, Mixers, and Senior stick to name a few. We have looked at the opportunity to bring back traditions like belt buckles and curling bonspiels. As well we have been growing relationships with organizations such as Ronald McDonald House, the new Children's Hospital and Telemiracle. In October we presented a check for \$10 000 to the new hospital. Continuing with the theme of past and present involvement we are hoping for many of you from SAGA to come join our Bed Push this year in effort to reach our \$30 000 goal.

We do however battle like SAGA to adapt to the ever changing dynamics of the college and to allow incorporation of many different fields and faculties. Our goal is to create an experience while attending the University that everyone can feel apart.

Many of our clubs have been very successful in competitions around North America in the past year as well. More detailed information is in the newsletter.

Thank you for all your help and involvement and I hope we can continue to grow on this great relationship we have had this year.

Comment at meeting: the ASA has been much more engaged in the last few years

b) **Membership/Website** – Vern Racz Vern Racz, Keith Head, Dennis Ewanus

Website: The website continues to be improved and added to with both Keith and Dennis being heavily involved. Empty Saddles and other news regarding the college past and present continues to grow. The capability of the website to handle on line sales of the Sodbusters book, memberships, and most importantly Reunion tickets has significantly improved our efficiency in dealing with the membership and others. The committee has spent endless hours not only individually but meeting with Steve Dawes our webmaster. The committee having now successfully completed one full year looks forward to these tasks being less onerous. Louis Bossaer manages our twitter and Facebook accounts attached to our website and has proven to be a quick and easy way to provide news to those using these accounts.

Our sincere thanks for all their hard work.

Membership: As of November, 15, 2017 we had 1948 members in SAGA. This number has not changed over the last several years with acquisition being approximately equal to attrition even though college graduate numbers have increased. The SAGA executive has tried through hosting events at Agribition and Summer agriculture events to promote membership and at college events such as breakfasts at exam time and sponsorship of ASA events. The name change, and recognition of the greater diversity of graduates should be of help in this regard of increasing memberships. This diversity is the new reality.

The aspect of maintaining membership lists on the website continues to be a popular way to confidentially allow members to contact other members on a voluntary basis. In short, we are continuing to look at ways of increasing membership and SAGA's relevance to its membership. Suggestions are always welcome. The name change, and avenue for scholarship gifting will be paramount in this regard.

Comment at meeting: SAGA is at approximately 2000 membership but we need to keep in mind that we are graduating more students but not getting more members.

c) Hockey – Billy Brown

The 2017 SAGA Hockey Tournament once again took place in Waldheim on January 7th and was originally supposed to consist of a 7 team draw, but there was a last minute drop out. This resulted in a quick adjustment to a 6 team tournament which included 4 returning Alumni teams and 2 Undergrad teams.

Results

In a repeat of last year, the A-side final saw NE Deep Banders (Brandon Smith, '15) going up against Schmidt's Sticks (Steve Schmidt, '00). In the end, the NE Deep Banders were able to keep the dream alive and win two years in a row.

The B-side saw Long Shifts Short Shafts (Mitch Bond, '14) going up against the old timers Sticks out for Harambe (Royce Lodoen, '12) with the young guns, Long Shifts Short Shafts coming out on top.

The final revenue from the tournament was \$1042.00

2018 Plans

There are 7 teams signed up for the tournament this year, first game will begin at 8:30 and the last game will be done at 6:30. This will allow for a two games per team in the round robins and 3 finals. Due to one team having their 10 year reunion, the schedule for the finals is subject to change to ensure they get back for the SAGA Banquet.

d) Newsletter – Ewald Lammerding

2017 was a good year for Saga in regards to costs of publishing. For the first time we had three advertisers for both editions. These fees of \$800, along with the continued efforts of Vern Racz and Tanya Napper of the AgBio Development Office to whittle our hard copy mailing list, kept our costs for 2017 below 2016 even though the actual costs of printing and mailing rose again.

Both the June and December issues had excellent stories and articles from members. Thanks in particular to Irene Ahner for the narrative of her Prairie Chicken, Les Henry for his Soil Science History and Bob Mckercher for his visit with Harold Chapman. Blair Cummins and Louis Bossaer did another great job expanding our presence at the 3 Saskatchewan Ag shows, then supplying The SAGA with comments and pictures.

And we would like to thank Carson Jorgenson, the ASA-SAGA Liaison, for his excellent contribution to the Dec. issue. It was a wide-ranging and informative piece that showed us just how busy students are these days with so many extra-curricular activities.

Thanks to Dean Mary Buhr and Hamish Tulloch for keeping our membership informed and up-to-date with how the College of Ag Bio is expanding its already sizable footprint, and that our Alumni continue to be the best donators at the U of S.

But, we still need to hear more from our Alumni. We want to share the successes of our members with ALL of our members, and that means you sending us the stories, the information, or at least an email pointing us towards a source.

Comment at meeting: The newsletter goes out to all student as well as all faculty and so is a good way to get our message out.

e) Banquet/Reunion – Ewald Lammerding

The 2017 Reunion/Banquet ran into several snags, some of our own doing, some caused by forces beyond our control {at the time}. Darcy Jones was bed-ridden by that nasty flu/cold of last year, plus a terrible case of laryngitis. However, Raelene Petracek did an excellent job jumping in, delegating and saving our bacon so that we got off with just a few hitches. Vern and Dennis and their wives kept the front table under firm control so that when members came they were quickly processed.

Two particular problems we created ourselves. We were introducing three HLM's instead of the usual two, and we did not control our timing. We did get through that, but in so doing, we did not have time to properly introduce all the Honor years, the efforts by the various Chairs, our oldest classes and the older SAGA members in attendance. The other was that we had too many latecomers, who had not purchased Banquet tickets previous to the deadline, show up. There were several members who had bought tickets but could not attend due to the flu/cold; we tried to make the numbers work, but we lost track. Therefore we were in excess of the numbers we had given TCU, plus their 2% extra of food. So we must make sure we do not allow any stragglers in. They have a ticket or they have to go home, unless previous arrangements have been made.

Unfortunately, the most complaints concerned the meal itself. Darcy had arranged for 3 buffet tables, but the new Chef at TCU arbitrarily decided to use only two. Our mistake was taking his word for this; hence the last members were still in the food lines when we began our program. The dinner supplied also left much to be desired; some of the chicken was leather, too much pasta salad and not near enough green. The worst however, was running out of beef. The TCU Chef used a 2/3 – 1/3 split on the entrees, instead of the customary 3/4 – 1/4. We received a \$200 discount on the bill due to these meal errors on behalf of TCU Place. We have held extensive talks with TCU staff, and hope that we will have corrected any future problems.

On the bright side, Imagery Photography did another excellent job. Second year in a row without a complaint. The Mixer proceeded on time. Louis Bossaer had connected with Black Fox Distillery, Nine Mile Legacy and Living Sky Winery to let us sample their wares. This new function was very well received, as in, we drank them dry in very short order. We plan to do the same this year. We will have tables set up to sell Sodbusters and Forever Young books, plus tables for the ASA to sell Agro paraphernalia. We'll even have some Voc Ag of yore yearbooks.

For the future, in 2019 we will move to the basement and make use of the Centennial Halls. This area is preferable to the main floor Gallery. We hold the first ask for the years 2019, 20 and 21. Imagery Photography is already booked for those years.

f) Sask. Agricultural Hall of Fame – Bryan Harvey

The Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame is now well established in its new format. Membership is now open to individuals or organizations with an interest in agriculture. Membership is now over thirty and growing. A board is elected from the membership at large and the current Chair is Reed Andrews, ably assisted by Beth Herzog the staff administrator. In addition to the structural changes two other changes have been made the induction ceremony is now being held in April instead of the August long weekend and in 2018 it will be April 21st at the Western Development Museum. The other change is in the announcement of the new inductees at a separate event. Past practice was to announce them at Agribition and Crop Production week. This year the announcement was made on January 4th at the WDM. This year's inductees are as follows:

- Henry (Hank) Classen (UofS BSA 1971), renowned poultry expert,
- Douglas Howe a cattle producer from Moose Jaw,
- Joan Heath a producer from Radisson active with the Saskatchewan Canola Growers,
- Brian Fowler (UofS BSA 1964, M.Sc 1965) Internationally recognized expert in winter wheat agronomy and breeding

- Vern Racz (UofS BSA 1968, M.Sc. 1971) an animal nutritionist involved with the Western Feed Grains Centre and the Feed Test laboratory.

Congratulations to these outstanding individuals.

Comment at meeting: There are lots of our grads that qualify so please look around and make sure they get nominated.

g) Crop Production Week – Keith Head
2017 Crop Week Recap

The 2017 Crop Week was held from January 6 to 12, 2017.

In 2017 CropSphere was held at Prairie Land Park. Crop Week activities were also held at The Saskatoon Inn, the Western Development Museum, and TCU Place.

Groups meeting at the Saskatoon Inn:

Canaryseed Development Commission of Saskatchewan
 Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association
 Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission

Groups meeting at Prairie Land Park:

Agri-Arm Applied Research Management
 Saskatchewan Mustard Development Commission
 CropSphere
 Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission
 SaskCanola
 Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission
 Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission
 Saskatchewan Pulse Growers
 Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission

Groups meeting at TCU Place:

Sask Agricultural Graduates Association

Groups meeting at Western Development Museum:

Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association

The Crop Production Show (Prairie Land Park) had an attendance of 20,394, similar to the 2016 attendance of 20,425

Crop Production Week 2018

Crop Week 2018 will be January 5 - 11.

Details available at <https://cropweek.com/>

Change in 2018:

CropSphere has moved back to TCU Place

g) President's Report – Lucas Ringdal

I joined the executive five years ago to help take care of the hockey tournament and passed on the torch last year for this year's reunion. Thank you, Billy Brown for taking over this responsibility from Curtis de Gooijer and myself. As the 2017 reunion approached I rejoined the executive as incoming President. Having not been on an executive outside of hockey executive groups, there has been a lot to learn. The entire executive team has been very helpful in showing me what I need to do and pitching in their time and effort into accomplishing the presidential duties. Mayson Maerz covered me at the ASA grad banquet in January 2017 and gave a very

influential speech to the upcoming graduates. Several young people in attendance approached me after and were interested in our alumni association. Thank you, Mayson for taking that on.

Our Past President, Louis Bossaer has also filled in at different events this year where SAGA presence has been suggested by our College representative Tanya Napper. Thank you, Louis and Tanya for all of your contributions. Tanya has put in a tremendous amount of time into helping us engage the new generation through email, social media and events on and off campus. Various executive members have attended Dean's breakfast for student in the agriculture lounge during exams. This has allowed SAGA to interact with students to offer words of advice and talk about the future. Members that attended agreed that this benefitted our organization in helping get our name out there so students know who we are when they graduate and its's time to join.

Our executive has done a good job of being present in magazine articles such as AgKnowlege and events such as the college Bean Feed, opening week for classes and various farm events such as Crop Production Show and Ag in Motion. We have been struggling to get a significant turnout to these gatherings so we are looking for ways to get better at reaching out to past graduates and present students. One thing we are going to try in the upcoming season of show is to name the events Cheers to our Peers or something along that line to get people talking about it.

Thank you, members of SAGA, for this opportunity to serve as President, best of luck to Mayson this upcoming year.

h) Past President's Report – Louis Bossaer

Presented verbally at meeting:

Thanks to Bryan and Blair for their work on the Honorary Life Member selection committee.

The last few years we have had the distillers/brewer sampling at the Reunion. It has been nice to showcase some Saskatchewan businesses. Please give us some feedback on this addition to the Reunion.

i) Vice President's Report – Mayson Maerz

In the Vice President role my primary focus has been to ensure Reunion chairs were found early; that they understood and accepted the role to organize their classmates; and to assist Tanya Napper in the Alumni Office communicate the various aspects of the Weekend to these Chairs.

Between Tanya, Ewald Lammerding (SAGA Editor/Banquet) and myself we were able to secure thirteen chairs by October 01, leaving five of the Reunion Years vacant. Subsequently one of these vacancies were filled (1963S) unbeknownst to myself, leaving four. Of these, three represent our most recent graduate years, 2013 and 2008S classes. This is an area of concern, and we as an organization must continue to engage the newest graduates. I would like to recognize Tanya for her invaluable organizational skills and support in helping communicate with the Reunion Chairs. As of writing this report we have 337 Banquet registrations in the system.

Secondary focus has been growing our social media reach, specifically on the Twitter application. Goal has been to connect with the newer grads on a platform they identify with. Louis Bossaer, Past President, initiated the account and to date we have grown to 542 followers. It is safe to say 90% are U of S Ag and Bioresources graduates and undergraduates. The approach has been promotional with a light-hearted bent (we 'broadcast' from the 'Infirmary') linking to as many of our outreach projects as possible (ex: Cheers w/Peers events, Reunion activities, etc).

Thirdly, as Vice President I have been participating in College events when the President has been unable to. This included a Welcome to the Graduates at the January 2017 College Graduation ceremonies, as well as representing SAGA at the 2017 Been Feed.

Lastly as Vice-President I have begun the search for my replacement, with limited success. I am currently in discussion with two candidates who are hesitant to jump in.

Additions to report at meeting:

- Taking the onus of collecting money off of the chairs on onto the website has been great.

- We have been working on the Twitter feed and are now at over 500 followers.

MOTION: Accept reports: Bryan Harvey / Frank Dunlop- **CARRIED**

7. New Business

a) SAGA Scholarship

Background information presented by Vern Racz. The Executive has discussed the possibility of creating a SAGA sponsored scholarship. A Scholarship Committee consisting of Mayson Maerz, Keith Head, Ewald Lammerding, Vern Racz and Carson Jorgensen was formed

MOTION: That the Scholarship committee proceed with the investigation of setting up a scholarship for students in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. Vern Racz / Keith Head- Following some discussion on how donations to the College are managed now and very general discussions on scholarship setup the motion – **CARRIED**

b) SAGA name change

RESOLUTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of THE SASKATCHEWAN AGRICULTURAL GRADUATES’ ASSOCIATION INC., JANUARY 6, 2018

Whereas, The College of Agriculture and Bioresources offers undergraduate degrees in Agriculture, Agribusiness, Animal Bioscience, and Renewable Resource Management, along with four diploma programs and two certificate programs; and,

Whereas, The Saskatchewan Agricultural Graduates’ Association recognizes this diversity and wishes to accommodate all graduates of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources;

Resolved, That the Saskatchewan Agricultural Graduates’ Association Inc. amend **Constitution Article 1. Name**, by striking out “THE SASKATCHEWAN AGRICULTURAL GRADUATES’ ASSOCIATION INC.” and inserting “THE SASKATCHEWAN AGRICULTURE AND BIORESOURCES GRADUATES’ ASSOCIATION INC.”

Whereas, The original SAGA logo of the Saskatchewan Agricultural Graduates’ Association has historical significance, is well recognized, and is the banner of the Newsletter;

Resolved, That, if the resolution to amend **Constitution Article 1. Name**, is carried, The Saskatchewan Agriculture and Bioresources Graduates’ Association Inc. retain the original SAGA logo.

MOTION: That SAGA approve the above Resolution on the name change. Vern Racz, Jacqueline Taves. Motion defeated (see below)

Discussion followed around the reasons for the name change of the College of Ag & Biosources, actual agriculture content of the curriculum, reasons that the SAGA executive thought the name change would help include all students and increase membership.

Following the discussion the following motion was put forth:

MOTION: That the name change decision be tabled for one year. Irene Ahner, no seconder – **MOTION FAILED.**

Question called on motion for name change: results: 17 in favour, 13 opposed – **MOTION DEFEATED** (2/3 required). This rendered the second part of the Resolution redundant.

The proposed Executive for 2018 is as follows:

President	Mayson Maerz ‘83C
Honorary President	vacant
Past President	Lucas Ringdal ‘12C
Vice President	vacant
Secretary	Raelene Petracek ‘86C
Treasurer	Dennis Ewanus ‘70C

College Development Coordinator
Sask. Ag Hall of Fame
Newsletter Editor
Memberships/Registrar
Website
Crop Production Week
Banquet/Mixer
Hockey
ASA – SAGA Liason
Members at Large

Tanya Napper
Bryan Harvey '60C
Ewald Lammerding '88S
Vernon Racz '68C
Vernon Racz '68C
Keith Head '67C
Ewald Lammerding '88S
Billy Brown '14C
rep appointed by ASA
Irene Ahner '65C
Blair Cummins '77S
Page Newton '89C
Ken Warkentin '65C

MOTION: The 2018 Executive be approved and that the Executive can fill any unfilled positions. Murray Westby/Ewald Lammerding- CARRIED

MOTION: The 2018 Executive recruit and name a new Honorary President. Bryan Harvey/Mayson Maerz - CARRIED

8. Other Items

none

9. Adjournment

9:40