

UMAAS UPDATE

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Sept. 2011



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Executive Update 2011 Convention Minutes On The Lighter Side YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011-2012

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Richard Dolezsar, RMA
Editor & Executive Director UMAAS,
Box 730,
Hudson Bay, SK. S0E 0Y0
Phone 865-2261 Fax 865-2800
website: www.umaas.ca
email: rdolezsar@sasktel.net

Eileen Danyluk,
Executive Assistant,
UMAAS Executive Office,
Box 603,
Hudson Bay, SK. S0E 0Y0
Phone 865-2825 Fax 865-2800
email: umaas@sasktel.net

President's Message

- Shelley Funk, RMA President
UMAAS

I can't believe it's almost fall! So much left to do and so little time to do it. In the last Newsletter, I referred to potential flooding, and like many of you, my predictions came true. My municipality had to deal with tremendous groundwater from precipitation and was fortunate to access Provincial funding to assist us in repairs. We escaped the extreme damage events that areas of the Province endured, but it seems these days we are only one storm away from catastrophe. As administrators, we like to have our world planned to be able to handle anything. Fortunately, we are also very good at managing in crisis. So, to all of you who have had to deal with flood and other adverse conditions, hang in there! You are not alone.

From all reports, our June 2011 Convention was a great success. I would like to thank Jason Chornenyko and his Convention Committee members Huguette Lutz, Therese Chartier, and Nicole Lerat for a great job! At the Convention, two Division positions were replaced during the Division elections. I want to publicly thank Deb Mackay from Maple Creek for her work on behalf of Division 2, and as secretary to the Board of Examiners. Deb was on the UMAAS Board for 5 years and Board of Examiner's secretary for 4 years. Board members know how much time she devoted to Convention planning, representation at various functions on behalf of UMAAS, and tireless support of and assistance to our members during their certification process (oh, the phone calls!). Deb's position as Division 2 rep. has now been taken by Gord Murray from Gravelbourg. Gord has already dived into his position with great enthusiasm and we look forward to working with him.

I also want to publicly thank Kathy Reschny from Denzil, who was Division 4 rep. Kathy was on the UMAAS Board for 5 years, and during that time she participated in Convention planning and other activities with great enthusiasm. She was involved in the TCA pilot projects, which provided significant reference material for small municipalities to be able to complete the TCA requirements. Kathy's position has been filled by Aileen Garrett from Unity. Thank you Deb & Kathy, from all of us. We will miss your presence at the

Board table!

Finally, thanks to Michele Schmidt, who was our Past President until her resignation in the spring. Michele served on the Board for 7 years, 4 as President. As Past President, Michele continued to serve as Chair of the Board of Examiners, and to advocate for an internship program for urban municipalities. Michele was passionate in her work on your behalf, and was instrumental in formation of Board of Examiners' policies now in place. Thanks so much Michele. Kim Gartner, our previous Past President, has consented to return to the UMAAS table once again to fill the Past President position. Welcome and thanks Kim!

Your UMAAS Board has, over the summer, continued to be involved in various Provincial Committees, including work on a new Infrastructure Funding model, and formation of Asset Management tools for municipalities. We continue to have a good working relationship with staff in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, including Keith Comstock (now assistant Deputy Minister), Sheldon Green (now Executive Director of Strategy and Sector Relations), Bonnie Bjorndalen (now Acting Senior Municipal Advisor) and others. It seems that like no other time, Municipal Associations are being included in the discussions around issues important to the Department and to municipalities large and small. Our Association will continue to be at those tables to provide input on your behalf.

In September, we will meet jointly with the Rural Municipal Administrators Association and with the Saskatchewan Association of School Board Officials. This annual practice has proven valuable because though we are separate Associations, we have many issues in common. We will report on outcomes of these meetings in future Newsletter editions. Watch for the fall joint workshops which will focus on policy manuals and bylaws. Please do not hesitate to contact me or your Division Rep. with any item that is important to you. We work for you and will advocate on your behalf. We are just a phone call or email away.

Executive Director's Report

- Richard Dolezsar,
RMA

As another summer races by I am again forced to put pen to paper, in an effort to update our members with insightful administrative news and perhaps brighten someone's day with a laugh or two. Either way, it always feels good to script the finishing line on those jobs a person sets aside for the day we hope to feel inspired and resourceful.

In this position one always looks forward to a bit of a break after the annual Conference before the action picks up again in mid-August, however this year the number of current issues we are dealing with has remained constant throughout the summer months.

The following outlines a number of issues your Executive is currently involved with:

- Review of Municipal Government Sustainability Self-Assessment Tool.
- Review of Draft Special Service Area proposal as presented by Municipal Affairs, Policy Development.
- Legislation Review of options relating to Education Tax Exemptions, Discounts and Penalties.
- Review of 2011 Convention Evaluations and 2012 Location Proposals.
- Salary survey analysis and initial development of 2012 Salary Guideline.
- Development of Fall 2011 Professional Development Workshop Program.
- Involvement with review of the Provincial Government's Statements of Provincial Interest.

- Board of Examiners membership and operation.

- Attending University of Regina Career Days September 26, 2011.

Enough of this serious stuff, now let's try for a few laughs.

"A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members. In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Now, as we know, excessive intake of alcohol kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer or wine eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine. And that is why you always feel smarter after a few beers or glasses of wine...."

"One day a housework-challenged husband decided to wash his Sweatshirt. Seconds after he stepped into the laundry room, he shouted, 'What setting do I use on the washing machine?' 'It depends,' replied his wife. 'What does it say on your shirt?' He yelled back, 'DALLAS COWBOYS!' And they say blondes are dumb..."

and finally to hold you over until our next exciting issue:

"A couple is lying in bed. The man says, 'I am going to make you the happiest woman in the world...' The woman replies, 'I'll miss you'...."

MINUTES OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE URBAN MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN HELD AT THE TRAVELODGE HOTEL IN SASKATOON, JUNE 8th to 10th, 2011.

PRESENT WERE:

175 Delegates-12 Spouses-3 Fraternal-39 Sponsors/Exhibitors/Guests = 229

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8TH

CALL TO ORDER

President Shelley Funk called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 8th, 2011.

INVOCATION

The Venerable Larry Mitchell, from the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, gave the Invocation.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

President Shelley Funk introduced the Head Table and gave her welcoming remarks.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Richard Dolezsar provided his annual Report on the operation of the Association and announcements relating to the 2011 Convention Program.

2010 CONVENTION MINUTES

Moved by Richard Dolezsar that the 2010 Annual Convention Minutes be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

2010 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Moved by Richard Dolezsar that the 2010 Audited Financial Statement be accepted as circulated.

CARRIED

GREETINGS FROM SUMA

SUMA Director West Central Region, Mayor Al Heron of Eston provided greetings and appreciation to Municipal Administrators from the SUMA organization.

CONFERENCE KICKOFF SPEAKER BETTY-ANN HEGGIE

Betty-Ann Heggie provided an inspiring and positive Conference Kickoff presentation entitled "Get A Mentor, Be A Mentor".

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS VICE PRESIDENT

Phil Boivin, Municipal Affairs, Advisory Services, conducted the Call for Nominations for Vice President.

Kim Gartner, Macklin, nominated Rodney Audette, Bethune for the position of Vice President.

No further nominations were received upon third call.

Phil Boivin declared Rodney Audette elected Vice President by acclamation.

CAMA PRESENTATION JIM TOYE, PRESIDENT

Jim Toye recently elected President of the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) made a presentation concerning membership benefits, programs and the 2012 CAMA Conference to be held in Saskatoon.

EXHIBITORS' PARADE

Exhibitors were each given 1-2 minutes to introduce themselves and their products to the Delegates.

NOON LUNCHEON

The following attendees brought messages at the noon luncheon:

-Councillor Maurice Neault, welcome from the City of Saskatoon

-Van Isman, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs relayed appreciation for work of UMAAS members.

-Justin Arendt, Manager Informational Services, Southeast Cornerstone School Division

-SASBO Fraternal delegate message.

-Margaret Bonekamp, CAO Town of Powerview Pine Falls, MMAA Fraternal Delegate message.

-Edith Goddard, Division 4 Director RMAA, Administrator R.M. of Kellross No. 247 Fraternal Delegate message.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

District meetings took place from 1:45 to 2:30 p.m.

JOINT OFFICE WORKSHOP 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

A meeting of the administrator group involved in joint office administration was conducted.

TCA UPDATE/ASSET MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Steve Brown provided a workshop to members on the Province's overall progress on Tangible Capital Asset Financial reporting requirements and potential future Asset Management Programs.

ANNUAL BANQUET, RETIREMENTS AND SOCIAL EVENING

Conference participants enjoyed the annual Banquet, Retirement Awards and Elvis Tribute performance.

THURSDAY, JUNE 9TH

SAMA 2013 REVALUATION

Todd Treslan, Assistant Managing Director of Assessment Services, SAMA, provided an overview of SAMA's current service deliveries and projections of Province wide value change trends related to 2013 revaluation.

EMO PLANNING WORKSHOP

Ray Unrau, City of Saskatoon, EMO Coordinator provided an indepth presentation on Emergency Planning, Disaster Definitions and budget emphasis considerations for EMO issues. Looking at social vulnerability reduction in making decisions was highlighted. Presentation will be made available to UMAAS members.

COMMUNITY PLANNING SUBDIVISION UPDATES

Barry Braitman, Director of Community Planning provided a workshop on current Community Planning, Subdivision and Development/Servicing Agreement issues.

NETWORKING AFTERNOON

Delegates participated in a networking afternoon with a choice of either a Texas Scramble Golf Tournament at Warman Legends Golf Course or a Cooking Demo and Wine Tasting Exercise at the Travelodge. This was followed by a BBQ at Rodeo's and a social evening which included Golf and Tour Awards and Prizes and entertainment featuring comedian "Kevin McGrath".

Winners of the Texas Scramble were a team of:

Shelley Funk, Darcy Olson, Kyle Scott and Al Frisky

Individual Winners:

Men's Longest Drive

Chuck Lerat

Ladies' Longest Drive

Samantha Gillis

Men's Closest to the Pin

Al Frisky

Ladies' Closest to the Pin

MaryAnn Piermantier

FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH

KEYNOTE SPEAKER DARREN LANG "STAYING UP IN AN UPSIDE-DOWN WORLD"

Darren Lang, keynote speaker provided an inspiring keynote address relating to stress, coping and overcoming our personal challenges.

STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

Executive Director Rick Dolezsar conducted a review of the 2011 to 2015 UMAAS Strategic Planning Document for members.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS NEWS AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Phil Boivin and Bonnie Bjorndalen, Municipal Advisors:

-Election Act amendments

-5 weeks between nomination day and election day is a major change

-10 business days required as minimum for call for nominations

-other various related amendments

-A question and answer period followed.

SUMA PROGRAMS PRESENTATION

Tania Meyer and Shauna Brown reviewed SUMA programs:

-SUMA Advantage Program

-Municipal Awards Program

-SUMA events

-Melfort Golf Tournament August 18th & 19th, 2011

-107th Annual Convention 2012

-Group Benefits and Insurance Program

INTRODUCTION OF 2011 - 12 EXECUTIVE

Division 1

Huguette Lutz, Carlyle

Division 2

Gordon Murray, Gravelbourg

Division 3

Jason Chorneyko, Wynyard

Division 4

Aileen Garrett, Unity

Division 5

Steven Piermantier, Nipawin

Division 6

Nicole Lerat, Rosthern

Division 7

Therese Chartier, Buffalo Narrows

Associate

Carmen Dodd, Macoun

Vice President

Rodney Audette, Carnduff

President

Shelley Funk, Dalmeny

Past President

Kim Gartner, Macklin

Executive Director

Richard Dolezsar, Hudson Bay

Executive Assistant

Eileen Danyluk, Hudson Bay

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

President Shelley Funk thanked the Delegates and Executive Members for their support and looked forward to working with the new Executive and membership in the coming year. She invited delegates to communicate regularly with Executive members.

ADJOURNMENT

President Shelley Funk declared the Convention adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Executive Editorial

- Gord Murray
Division 2

Having read some past issues of our UMAAS Newsletter - I note that this section seems to be an area where we attempt to extend some "Words of Wisdom" upon each other or to vent on one currently hot topic or another.

Humility prompts me to think I am unworthy of this task but my experiences such as they are indicate that I may be able to provide some comment - so on with the task at hand.....

At the June conference, during our Division break-out and elsewhere, a question seemed to repeat itself about the LGAA program vs. the down in the trenches real world of municipal administration and governance. Some of the questions were of a more technical nature dealing with software training while many surrounded the current lack of more "real life", day to day, operational aspects of the position (if I knew then what I know now!).

My initial thoughts (and responses) were empathy with the persons asking thinking that there could/should be some way to integrate these training needs into one or all of the course modules in an effort to provide those taking it with a more realistic perspective of their chosen field.

Giving this some less selfish second thought I am still convinced

that some "real world" experiences can be provided those taking the program but have come to realize it may not be as simplistic or easy to achieve as first perceived.

Having met with or talked to many administrators from various types and sizes of communities, it is clear that we all do or accomplish many of our day to day tasks from different approaches or means but in most cases with the same net effect or result. That is, we range from a fully automated office environment to still chiselling the minutes on stone. Thus even in the real world there are a number of ways to get to the same point - each as valid or correct as the other. That said each of us could still learn how to deal with some of our day to day affairs particularly when there is some uncertainty or when some of the apples start falling off the cart. Many of us do this already through the miracle of email and telephone with peers. And it is the term "peers" that convinces me that the LGAA program could integrate some of this "real world" into its course content by providing students the ability to engage with a number of administrators on questions of day to day functioning of a municipal office. Now if only administrators had the time to jot a daily diary of all their activities and encounters with little Mrs. Smith who only wants the town to stop the Cottonwoods from

UMAAS Director, Division 2

- Gord Murray

Raised in Regina, I was active with helping organize high school and YMCA youth group activities during the late 60's (ah the Porridge Festival....) and working at the local Brewery during the summer months while attending University of Regina. I obtained my BA/Distinction in Urban Geography in 1975 when I made the tough choice of working in Community Planning field for embarrassingly low wage while gaining "relevant experience" or working at the Brewery for a decent living wage and benefits. Working 27 years with the Brewery, I was active in the Trade Union Movement at the Provincial and National bargaining tables for many years. During the 90's I was seconded by the National Union and

HRSD to provide Layoff and Closure training assistance to food industry workers and employers facing downsizing or closures across Canada. Faced with closure of my own workplace in 2001 I took the opportunity to complete my LGA in 2002 and accepted my current position of Administrator with the Town of Gravelbourg in June 2003. Moving my family (Joanne and 2 high school boys) to Gravelbourg was a frightening challenge but within a month was informed by a resident that my boys had both put their boots on and walked knee deep in cow**** whatever that means. Regardless of what I may feel from time to time the challenges of Municipal Administration are a rewarding and stimulating change sometimes from minute to minute.

Community Profile - Town of Gravelbourg

Referred as the "Jewel of the Prairies" by Pierre Trudeau, Gravelbourg is located 115km southwest of Moose Jaw. Historically founded as a French settlement by Father Gravel in the early 1900's, the community still maintains a strong connection with its French heritage through various organizations. With a current population of approximately 1200 people - Gravelbourg's key community foundations have focussed on Education, Health and Faith serving a primarily agricultural region in those areas. Gravelbourg currently enjoys both primary and secondary educations in French only, English only and Immersion program streams as well as 2 recent full day-care operations provided in both official languages. Having a regional hospital, Gravelbourg is home to 3 family physicians, chiropractic, physiotherapy, dental practices in addition to alternate treatment and healing practitioners.

Gravelbourg has maintained it's historic architecture to the extent that we boast 3 National Historic Properties (Our Lady of the Assumption

Co-Cathedral, its former Bishop's Residence and the former Jesus-Mary Convent which currently houses the Gravelbourg Elementary School. Each of these, along with a number of homes and businesses were built with Claybank brick which makes for an outstanding experience for tourists.

Economic development over the years has seen bursts of population growth and decline but has recently been steadily growing as people move here from various parts of Canada primarily for the safe, peaceful quality of life it offers its residents. With its physical and social amenities, Gravelbourg has become a permanent destination for many.

Gravelbourg is currently home to Trailtech Industries (trailer manufacturing) and Mustard Capital Inc. (Mustard seed processing) which, tandemed with our regional hospital generate significant employment to the community and areas residents.

Board of Examiner's Report:

The Board met on March 30th & July 5th at which time the following certificates were approved:

Conditional:

Tracy Gardner
Bonnie Moleski
Christie Stafford
Kimberly Palmer
Denise Sorrell
Amy Swalm
Donald Robbie
April Williamson
Shelly Ginter
Kelsey Robinson
Rhonda Woelk
Diane Jamieson
Holly Toews
Leah Mullis

Standard:

Juaneta Bendig
Donald Cleaveley
Nancy Duns
Peggy Erickson
Samantha Gillies
Audrey Hebert
Nadine Jensen
Monica Pethick
Andrew Spriggs
Jolynne Woolsey
Terry Hvidston
Holly Maas
Christine Hopkins
Cameron Thauberger
Cindy Larson
Carla Kaeding
Anne Erickson
Carmen Fowler
Joan Caldwell

Advanced Level 1:

Stephen Schury

Joyce Aitken
Secretary
Board of Examiners

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE:

Words with Two Meanings

1. THINGY (thing-ee) n.

Female Any part under a car's hood.

Male The strap fastener on a woman's bra.

2. VULNERABLE (vul-ne-ra-bel) adj.

Female Fully opening up one's self emotionally to another.

Male Playing football without a cup.

3. COMMUNICATION (ko-myoo-ni-kay-shon) n.

Female The open sharing of thoughts and feelings with one's partner.

Male Leaving a note before taking off on a fishing trip with the boys.

4. COMMITMENT (ko-mit-ment) n.

Female A good movie, concert, play or book.

Male Anything that can be done while watching football.

6. FLATULENCE (flach-u-lens) n.

Female an embarrassing byproduct of indigestion

Male A source of entertainment, self-expression, male bonding.

7. MAKING LOVE (may-king luv) n.

Female The greatest expression of intimacy a couple can achieve.

Male Call it whatever you want, just as long as we do it.

8. REMOTE CONTROL (ri-moht kon-trohl) n.

Female A device for changing from one TV channel to another.

Male A device for scanning through all 375 channels every 5 minutes.

AND HE SAID, SHE SAID

A) He said . . . Shall we try swapping positions tonight?

B) She said . . . That's a good idea, you stand by the ironing board while I sit on the sofa and fart!

A) He said . . . What have you been doing with all the grocery money I gave you?

B) She said . . . Turn sideways and look in the mirror!

A) He said . . . How many men does it take to change a roll of toilet paper?

B) She said . . . We don't know, it has never happened.

A) She said. . . What do you call a woman who knows where her husband is every night?

B) He said . . . A widow.

A) He said . . . Why are married women heavier than single women?

B) She said . . . Single women come home, see what's in the fridge and go to bed. Married women come home, see what's in bed and go to the fridge.

"The greatest pleasure in life is doing
what people say you cannot do."
- WALTER BAGEHOT

"You always pass failure on the way to
success".
- MICKEY ROONEY

"If you only do what you know you can
do - you never do very much."
- TOM KRAUSE

"You can delegate authority,
but not responsibility".
- STEPHEN W. COMSKEY

ADVERTISING RATES - UMAAS UPDATE

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**DEADLINES: 15th day of the
preceding month.**

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as Administrator and
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Mr. NussBaum is under annual retainer to
your Association and is available to
members for initial consultations.

E.F.A.P.

**EMPLOYEE AND FAMILY
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Do You. . .

- have difficulty coping at work?
- live in fear and apprehension?
- have more bills than money?
- require legal advice?
- find living stressful instead of exciting?
- have trouble talking with your spouse or children?
- use alcohol and/or other drugs to cope with life?
- want someone confidential to talk to?

Wonder What To Do???

If you need information or assistance to sort out a problem we
invite you to have a private discussion with your Program
Manager, Internal Referral Agent, Supervisor, Employee
Group Representative or your Counseling Service.



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