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## VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE TO SMFA'S MISSION OF PROMOTING MUSIC

The theme for the October 26 & 27, 2018 Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) Conference & AGM was "110 Reasons to Celebrate!", as representatives from 21 of the 47 affiliated District Music Festivals gathered at the Kerry Vickar Centre in Melfort, to network, learn and share experiences. Presentations, Annual General Meeting, and roundtable discussions took place with the theme revolving around events in celebration of SMFA's 110<sup>th</sup> year. Special guest speakers and presenters for the weekend included Lyndon Linklater (Cultural Inclusivity Through the Arts), Barb Keck (Solarislive!), and Joel Windsor (Music Festival Suite). Karen Unger presented the new 2019-2021 SMFA Syllabus, and board and staff shared information on risk management, fundraising, the 2019 National Music Festival, creating an impactful festival program, festival reporting, and guidelines for musical theatre repertoire.

The Volunteer Award Luncheon is a highlight of Conference, and this year Todd Goudy, MLA (Melfort) was the keynote who spoke about the importance and the benefits of volunteering. Karen Unger, SMFA President, presented volunteer awards to: **Pam Dechief (Estevan), Valentina May (Mainline), Sandra Senga (Meadow Lake), Bernice McCosh (Melfort), Rosemarie Oddie (Regina), Irene Hildebrand and Martha Pankratz (Saskatoon), and Pattee Flett (Yorkton).** SMFA Past Presidents **Theresa Brost and Joy McFarlane-Burton** were awarded **Honorary Life Memberships for their work at the District, Provincial and National Levels of Music Festival.** **Darren Schwartz** was awarded a **Distinguished Service Award (posthumously)** for his dedication to the music festival movement. Darren was instrumental to the operations of Saskatoon Music Festival and served a three-year term on the SFMA Provincial Board of Directors, acting as Public Relations Chair for the 2009 Nationals Host Committee.

Delegates were entertained by local Melfort musicians, Angela Hoffman and Stephanie, Baylee and Lucy Turner. The Melfort Host Committee went above and beyond, with theme decorations, treats, gift bags and door prizes.

Two new directors, **Krista Brost, of Prairie Sunset Music Festival and Valentina May of Mainline Music Festival,** were elected for three-year terms at the AGM. Past President Karen MacCallum (Swift Current) and retiring Director, Kari Mitchell (Carnduff) were thanked for their service on the Provincial Board.

SMFA, now in its 110<sup>th</sup> year of operation, is funded by grants from Sask Lotteries Trust for Sport, Culture & Recreation, administered by SaskCulture Inc. SMFA is grateful for the sponsorship received from SaskEnergy, Champion of Volunteers, for this event. For further information, please contact Carol Donhauser, Executive Director

### **SMFA Board of Directors**

Sherry Sproule – President  
Wendy Thienes – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Tammy Villeneuve – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Past President – Karen Unger  
Directors – Bonnie Nicholson, Dianne Gryba, Jeri Ryba, Krista Brost and Valentina May  
Executive Director – Carol Donhauser



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