



2024 AGM Minutes

**Saskatchewan Music Festival Association, Annual General Meeting (ZOOM)
November 30, 2024 @ 2:00pm**

President Jeri Ryba welcomed everyone to the 2024 Saskatchewan Music Festival Association Annual General Meeting and appointed Nancy Toppings as recording secretary. Jeri explained the voting process.

The roll call was conducted by Past President Tammy Villeneuve. Representatives from **31 District Festivals** were present: Battlefords, Central Sask, Estevan, Eston, Gravelbourg, Humboldt, Kindersley, Lafleche, Last Mountain, Lloydminster, Mainline, Maple Creek, Meadow Lake, Melfort, Moose Jaw, Moosomin, Outlook, Parkland, Potashville, Prince Albert, Quill Plains, Regina, Rosetown, Sand Hills, Sask Valley, Saskatoon, Twin Rivers, Unity, Watrous, Weyburn and Yorkton. Not attending were Assiniboia, Biggar, Borderland, Carnduff, Kipling, La Ronge, Lanigan, Nipawin, Prairie Sunset, Qu'Appelle Valley, Redvers, Spiritwood, Swift Current and Vanguard.

Jeri recognized that SMFA programs reach lands covered by Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10, the traditional lands of the Cree, Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Nakota and Saulteaux peoples, as well as homeland of the Métis. The meeting was called to order at 2:10pm.

A moment of silence was observed for departed volunteers and committee members. Special mention was made to honour Janet McGonigle and Sharon Penner.

Motion: To approve the agenda. Kerry Taylor/Clayton Braybrook. CARRIED.

Tammy Villeneuve announced three three-year board positions to be filled: Abby Fuller (Last Mountain), Karen White (Saskatoon), and Lauren Kells (Quill Plains) have been nominated. Tammy introduced the nominees. Tammy made the first call for nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming.

The minutes of the 2023 AGM as recorded in the Annual Report were presented.

Motion: That the minutes be approved as presented. Yvonne Sutherland/Jordana Thiessen. CARRIED.

Business Arising

Finance Chair Dianne Gryba presented a summary of the Investment Report from Leander Dueck of Beyond Wealth Management. The Trust Investment Portfolio was valued at \$506,773 at year-end.

Leander reports that the rate of return during this fiscal period was 12.20%. During the same period, the Canadian Balanced Portfolio Benchmark was 12.88%. The priority for the SMFA portfolio has been to reduce volatility while still investing the majority of the portfolio for growth – specifically, the SMFA portfolio contains approximately 21% Canadian Equity, 30% US Equity, 17% International Equity, 31% fixed income and cash (less than 100% due to rounding.) The asset mix is balanced in a way that will help to decrease our risk during times of volatility. Though the investment portfolio did not outperform the benchmark over the last year, when comparing the last 3 years, it continued to perform as desired – returning 4.04% per year compared to the benchmark of 3.19%



SMFA also holds 576 BCE (Bell Canada) shares which continue to see steady returns with quarterly interest payments accounted for in investment segregated for future expenditures.

Financial Statement Presentation (as prepared by Marcia Herback and Associates)

Statement of Financial Position (Page 73)

The statement of financial position reports on the total assets, liabilities and net assets of the Association. Cash has decreased mainly due to first payment for the 2023/24 year from Saskatchewan Lotteries being received early and the same not happening for the 2024/25 year. Assets held in trust have increased due to the investment change in January 2024. Deferred revenue has decreased over prior year due to receiving the 2023/24 Sask Lottery funding early, but not so for the 2024/25 funding.

Statement of Operations (Page 74)

The statement of operations reflects the revenue and expenditures from the day to day activities of the Association. Revenue has increased from the prior year mainly due to the realized gain on investments due to the January 2024 change. There was still a decrease in the market value of the investments which is shown as unrealized loss. There was also growth in Affiliation Fees and Provincial Finals revenue due to higher numbers of participants. There were fewer donations received in 2024 than in 2023. Total expenses have increased. The Association hired Mariel full time for the Assistant to the Executive Director position, thus increasing administration costs. There was a change in the insurance premium. The premium for a Festival has increase from \$50 to \$200, this increasing insurance costs. 2023/24 was the Opera Competition year, which had a greater expense than the Concerto Competition of the 2022/23 year. To help with the known decrease in Sask Lottery funding by \$10,000 over the next three years, the Association vacated their office space in June 2024 to work from home.

Statement of Changes in Net Assets (Page 75)

The statement of changes in net assets shows the changes during the year for the various categories of net assets. After recognizing an operational surplus of \$40,866 last year, deducting the current year deficit of -\$25,990, adding \$706 in amortization and \$2,400 withdrawal from the Trust Investment for scholarships, unrestricted net assets are now \$17,982.

Cash Flow Statement (Page 76)

The cash flow statement shows how changes in the statement of financial position accounts and statement of operations affect cash and breaks the analysis down to operating, investing, and financing activities. It outlines the flow of cash in and out of the Association.

Notes and schedules to the financial statements (Pages 72 to 83)

The notes are additional information added to the end of the financial statements. The notes help explain specific items in the statements as well as provide a more comprehensive assessment of the Association's financial condition. The schedules are also additional information which provide a more detailed breakdown of the revenue and expenditure items presented in the statement of operations.

Total Assets for 2023/2024 - \$700,239; Total Liabilities - \$64, 874; Net Assets - \$635,365

Motion: To accept the auditor's report. Clayton Braybrook/Diane Jones. CARRIED.



Motion: To appoint Marcia Herback & Associates as Auditor for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Marcie Carswell/Kristine Cool. CARRIED.

Tammy Villeneuve made the 2nd and final call for nominations from the floor. None were received.

Motion: To close nominations. Elizabeth Heatcoat/Krista Brost. CARRIED.

Motion: To elect by acclamation Abby Fuller, Karen White and Laureen Kells to the SMFA Board of Directors. Clayton Braybrook/Claire Seibold. CARRIED.

Tammy congratulated the new board members and asked them to unmute and introduced themselves. Jeri welcomed Abby, Karen and Laureen to the SMFA Board.

Jeri Ryba presented an overview of the 2024 Annual Report (August 1, 2023 to July 31, 2024).

Motion: To adopt the 2024 Annual Report as presented. Laureen Kells/Yvonne Sutherland. CARRIED.

New Business

Motion: To increase adjudicator fees from \$350/day to \$400/day effective in the 2025 festival season. Marcie Carswell/Diane Jones. Joanne Hillis (Regina Festival) requested that, in future, a year's notice be given to allow District Festivals to budget for increases. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Motion: To increase adjudicator mileage from \$.42/km to \$.48/km effective in the 2025 festival season. Mariel Unger was invited to speak regarding the CMFAA Adjudicator Travel Bursary. Information is found at on the CMFAA website, and District Festivals are encouraged to investigate. **Laureen Kells/Clayton Braybrook. CARRIED.**

Motion: To accept the SMFA Constitution changes as presented:

- **Change SMFA year end from July 31 to August 31.**
- **Removal of the 2nd Vice President in the Provincial Executive terms.**
- **Provincial Membership categories: remove the representative organizations.**
- **District Festival Member categories: remove Sustaining Members and leave the following:**
 - **Active Members: being all persons participating and who pay the prescribed fee. (participants)**
 - **Associate Members: being all persons in the geographic area who pay the prescribed fee. (donors)**
- **Tweaks to the District Festival Executive and Directors wording/makeup.**

Carol Donhauser briefly outlined the Constitution changes including the rationale for each.

Alisha Mann/Mariel Unger. Elizabeth Heatcoat (Sand Hills) raised an issue regarding the number required for quorum at District Festival meetings. Carol Donhauser defended the board's decision to leave quorum at five members. **MOTION CARRIED.**

1st Adjudicator Conference will take place January 10 & 11, 2025 in Saskatoon, providing an opportunity to recruit/retain, educate and network with SMFA adjudicators.

2025 Concerto Competition will be held in February 22, 2025 in virtual format to remove barriers for competitors unable to travel to perform in person. The Concerto Competition is a partnership project with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras. Prize amounts are \$2,000 (1st), \$750 (2nd), and \$500 (3rd) with the winner receiving an opportunity to appear as guest artist with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras.

2025 Provincial Finals Competition will take place May 29 to June 1, 2025 at the Conservatory of Performing Arts and Darke Hall in Regina.



4th Annual Canada West Performing Arts Festival will take place July 24-26, 2025 in Saskatoon and is held in partnership with Alberta and BC Music Festivals. Jeri acknowledged the long-standing support of U of S in providing venues and equipment.

Greetings from Representative Organizations

- Graham Gilmore, Vice President of Saskatchewan Music Educators Association, brought greetings and expressed appreciation for the work of SMFA.
- Laureen Kells, Past President, brought heartfelt greetings on behalf of the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Association.
- Alex Rogalski, Outreach Consultant, SaskCulture spoke on behalf of SaskCulture.

SMFA Volunteer Awards are presented annually to volunteers who have made significant contributions to their District Festival organizations. Jeri acknowledged this year's recipients:

- Trena Wick, Estevan & District Music Festival
- Jeanne Fetsch, Yorkton Festival
- Karen Young, Yorkton Festival

The following District Festivals celebrated anniversaries in 2024 and were recognized:

- Assiniboia & District Music Festival – 90 years
- Estevan & District Music Festival – 60 years
- Eston Music Festival – 75 years
- Moose Jaw Music Festival – 75 years
- Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival – 65 years
- Rosetown & District Music Festival – 90 years

Jeri acknowledged the support received from the SaskCulture and the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, SaskTel and SaskMusic (corporate sponsors of Provincial Finals), as well as our many donors and sponsors.

Jeri thanked the SMFA board, and staff members Carol Donhauser, Nancy Toppings and Mariel Unger, for their work. Retiring board members Tammy Villeneuve, Clayton Braybrook and Krista Brost were thanked for their service in support of the SMFA mission.

Jeri passed the President's gavel to incoming President, Dianne Gryba.

Jeri introduced the new SMFA Board: President Dianne Gryba (North Battleford), Past President Jeri Ryba (Moose Jaw), Vice President Alisha Mann (Estevan), and Directors Heather Macnab (Maple Creek), Penny Miles (Wolseley), Karen Frandsen (Regina), Abby Fuller (Last Mountain), Karen White (Saskatoon), and Laureen Kells (Quill Plains).

The 2025 Conference and AGM date and location will be announced at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57pm.
