



Our 41st AGM Message to Members

We gathered. We visited. We celebrated SEESA's navigation through COVID.

Thanks to all the 117 people who attended SEESA's 41st Annual General Meeting held August 31, 2021 and helped our organization chart a course for a successful future.

Guest speaker

Martin Garber-Conrad, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Edmonton Community Foundation, congratulated SEESA on our 40 years of service, our switch to online services through the pandemic and the number of members who generously bought gift memberships to introduce new people to SEESA.

He praised SEESA's strengths: a talented board, excellent strategic plan, dedicated staff, committed volunteers, good programs and a beautiful facility.

The next 40 years, however, will be even more challenging Garber-Conrad said.

Government funding is increasingly more dependent on measurable criteria such as enhancing skills and community contribution; building opportunities for social connections for people of all backgrounds and being more welcoming and inclusive for everyone regardless of age, culture, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, expression and income.

He called upon SEESA to build on our considerable assets:

- Grow a more diverse membership by reaching out to other segments of the community and find out what they need, what they can contribute and invite them in.
- Increase revenue and diversity of membership and facility use by reaching out to groups who need space for events, cooking, or other money-making enterprises.
- Increase member donations: Give more to the organization we value.

He encouraged SEESA members to engage in understanding and supporting the operations of their organization, saying “ask not what SEESA can do for you but what you can do for SEESA.” With that, Mr. Garber-Conrad handed over a significant donation. Bravo! Several SEESA members followed his lead and provided generous donations after the AGM. Thank You!

Financials

SEESA's audit partner Hahn, Lukey, Houle presented our financials. As expected, revenues from programs and rentals were down significantly as the centre was closed for several months due to the pandemic. Government grants continue to be our main source of revenue. The auditor reviewed a Management Letter outlining improvements to SEESA fiscal processes. He congratulated the Board for sharing this information openly with members, saying not every organization takes transparency to this level.

Board Members

SEESA's 2020 Board members were acknowledged and thanked for their service. A full slate of eight Directors was put forward and elected by acclamation including new board members - Heather Halpenny, Marilyn Mitchell, Gail Gravelines, Genie Tchoryk and Mary Jane McLaughlin. Bill Tkachuk and Brenda Winchester continue on as board members. JudyLynn Archer was elected President.

SEESA Bylaws

All proposed bylaw changes are being edited to incorporate the changes accepted by the membership. Once done, they will be submitted to the Corporate Registry at Service Alberta and posted on the website.

Motion 2021.8 did not pass, so the proposed change to having board members serve three-year terms of office, to a maximum of six years is NOT included in the revised Bylaws. The new Board will have to determine if, how and when they wish to proceed with this motion.

Wine and Cheese

We got back together and caught up with each other at the wine and cheese event following the formal AGM. The event was well attended. Everyone enjoyed Chantal's sweets and savouries over a glass of wine (or in some cases two!)

Huge thank you to all the wonderful volunteers and staff who prepared everything so beautifully and stayed behind late to clean up. AGM's are an important but big task to pull together. Thank you all so very much.

JudyLynn Archer, SEESA President