



Let's join and work together

CHAS Mission Statement:

As one voice we will have a strong positive influence while working on collective interests that strengthen all Saskatchewan Co-operatives”

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On Saturday May 23, 2009, CHAS held its AGM in Regina. The weather fully co-operated which made for a good turn out with 10 out of 17 housing co-ops represented.

Lakewood Manor hosted the meeting in their co-op and catered the noon lunch provided by CHAS.

So to the ladies and men of Lakewood Manor who provided such a delicious lunch, please accept thanks from CHAS on behalf of those attending.

We had some first time housing co-op members attending this year and from their comments it appears that they felt they gained valuable information as well as enjoying meeting members from other co-ops.

To any who attended I would appreciate hearing from you on what was helpful to you as well as some thing/s you would like to see discussed at a future AGM, and with your permission I would like to include your comments in the next Newsletter.

Letter of Resignation-

Prior to this AGM the Board received a letter from Henry Schellenberg indicating that due to personal concerns he was unable to continue as President, but would be willing to continue on the Board. Henry has served as President for the past two years, with enthusiasm, and a strong desire to bring CHAS to where it is today.

Thank you Henry for serving as President, your resignation was accepted with regret.

The Co-operative Housing Association of Saskatchewan News Letter

June 2009

Annual General Meeting-

Henry welcomed all delegates before turning the remainder of the meeting over to vice-president James Gilliard.

Guest Speakers-

Laura Ross; MLA for Regina Qu'Appelle spoke on behalf of The Honourable Minister Donna Harpauer and brought greetings from the government.

She also highlighted some of the needs the government is addressing in regards to safe and affordable housing through Sask Housing Corporation, with an announcement to be forthcoming of new funding for seniors and low cost housing.

She also invited Co-ops to share ideas with the government.

Lorna and Shelia from Prairie Lily Funeral Co-operative:

explained that with no other funeral co-op in the province and Prairie Lily is in the planning stages of developing one. They have received a grant of \$10,000 from the Co-operators, and have hired a funeral director to assist with the plan to be operating in about a years time.

They are currently selling memberships at a cost of \$200.00. If your co-op members are interested in learning more about a "Co-op Funeral Home" you can check out their website: www.plfc.ca, or write to Box 33058 Regina, SK S4T 7X2

Karl Baumgartner from the Co-operators; gave a brief history of Co-operators Insurance, along with a criteria for funding.

Myrna Mikkonen from Sask Housing, brought greetings on their behalf, and was pleased to see so

many from the housing co-ops gathered for this AGM.

She touched on 3 points-

1. Problems faced are the same at every housing co-op.
2. Many things can be achieved from housing co-ops getting together.
3. Interaction and exchange of ideas between co-ops and members is invaluable.

Discussion From the Floor

The following 6 points were discussed.-

1. Co-op umbrella falling apart; newer people moving into co-ops appear to be only interested in lower rents and the safety of the building.
2. New members are not grasping how a co-op works nor are they embracing the co-op philosophies.
3. New members are not participating.
4. Perhaps change the terminology used from 'participation' or 'volunteer' to -
MEMBER INVOLVEMENT
5. Education is needed in this area.
6. A need for returning to the old basics of 'co-operation' in our co-ops.

Editors note- the discussion that took place around these 6 points was valuable and interesting in learning about each others co-ops and what each is struggling with.

Election of CHAS Board of Directors for 2009-2010

Bruce Lotts, Leona Volk, Dennis Kid, Henry Schellenberg, Barb Zintel, James Gillard, Ron Richards, Lorraine Schindel, Doris Woit, Irene Young, Emily Stillwell, & Verla Erlendson. An organizational meeting followed the AGM to put in place an Executive for the coming year-

President- James Gillard
Vice President- Bruce Lotts
Secretary/Treas.- Lorraine Schindel
News Letter Editor- Irene Young

Report from CHAS president James Gilliard.

This year at CHF Canada's AGM in Victoria, three (3) SK. Co-ops were represented, they are as follows: Rainbow Housing (2), Argyle Park (1) and Villa Bonheur (1). These are three co-ops that are members of CHF Canada. To my knowledge this is the largest number of co-ops represented at

the AGM from SK. There are six (6) member co-ops in SK. In total there were six (6) people at the AGM this year in Victoria. Also from Rainbow Housing was Bob Shirley, he is on the Diversity Committee as co-chair. He presented the committee report to the all the members at the business meeting on May 30, 2009. And then myself as SK. regional director on Sunday May 31, 2009, I was elected to serve as a member of CHF Canada's executive.

There were two resolutions of particular interest to all SK. member co-ops of CHF Canada.

One is to have the regional director elected in our own province; this way member co-ops have a chance to voice their opinions as to possible candidates, and to get more involved in the democratic process. This seems to be the trend that many regions have been taking in the last few years. Hopefully member co-ops will get more involved and attend the one meeting a year to have their voices heard. We are working to have this meeting in conjunction with the CHAS AGM which is usually held in the latter part of May, with CHF Canada's AGM around the middle of June. This is something CHF Canada will be working on to ensure that member co-ops are aware of this change in the process and that they have an opportunity to get more involved. As for this special resolution passed at the AGM, member co-ops should be prepared now to confirm this in writing to CHF Canada within the next 180 days.

Second is the duration any director can serve on the National Board of Directors. The resolution states that a Director can only sit on the board for 3 – 2 year consecutively (to a maximum of 6yrs). Well in SK. we know how hard it is to get members to run for our own board let alone on a national one. One thing that I can say, being on the board now for 4 years, in order to accomplish what needs to get done and other commitments being on the National Board you must be dedicated to the cause. This resolution passed, so member co-ops of CHF Canada in SK. should start thinking of who they would like to represent SK. on the National Board of Directors. It is paramount that we always have a voice on the board; therefore the first resolution passed is in tandem with the second.

James Gilliard