

2003 Convention recap

by Cindy Miller, AMM Communications Coordinator

With the AMM wrapping up its 5th Annual Convention, it was evident by the smiles on the members' faces that this year's proceedings made for another great success. With all workshops and presentations running smoothly and on time, the trade show attendance skyrocketing, and even the weather in Brandon cooperating the week of November 24 –27, this year's event was every bit of a success as its predecessors.

Presentations

This year's pre-conference seminar was on Facilitative Leadership and was presented by **Gary Hunter** of Hunter's Dynamation. The three-hour session introduced delegates to practical leadership strategies and tools to enhance leadership potential. Gary talked about moving away from managing things to learning to build relationships. He also talked about being a good coach and making people do things they never thought they could.

Kit Grant, the Keynote Speaker, gave a very motivating and inspiring presentation on taking responsibility for your own life and your own success, and how to diminish the effects of a negative attitude. Using his 10 'very important strategies' to make you successful, Kit emphasized that, "if you don't know what you want, it will never be enough." He also encouraged delegates to write out goals in the areas of career, finances, family, spiritual, educational and physical. If you would like more information on Kit's program, or to sign up for his 60-second newsletter, visit his website at: www.kitgrant.com.

At this year's Annual Banquet, delegates enjoyed the musical and comedic show of 6'5" bagpiper, Johnny 'Bagpipes' Johnson. Much to the delight of not only our Scottish municipal officials but all those in attendance, Johnny mused about living in the Prairies, the funny sayings of Canadians, and how to live successfully with the opposite sex.

Delegates also got to hear various workshops on some important issues facing municipalities today: the status of Lake Winnipeg, community policing initiatives, Vision 2020, and the future direction

of the Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation.

Building on the success of last year's Round Table Discussions, the AMM again hosted this event for large urbans, small urbans, and six groups of RMs. The results of the discussions were discussed Wednesday morning with the entire delegate body.

Speakers for this year's Convention included **Larry McDermott**, Chair of the Rural Caucus of FCM; new Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade **MaryAnn Mihychuk**; Leader of the Liberal Party of Manitoba **Dr. Jon Gerrard**; Leader of the Manitoba Official Opposition **Stuart Murray**; **Raymond Simard**, MP for St. Boniface; and Premier Gary Doer who spoke at the AMM Annual Banquet.

Plenary sessions included a presentation from Gerry Braun, the Acting RCMP Commanding Officer for Manitoba, and a presentation on Winnipeg's New Deal proposal.

For the ever-popular 'Bear Pit' session, Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade Minister **MaryAnn Mihychuk** chaired this year's Ministerial Forum, as she was joined by several of her fellow Cabinet Ministers. Some issues that were discussed included financial support for adult education, doctor shortages, BSE, education taxes, social assistance and urban reserves.

Elections

Once again, the AMM membership showed its confidence in the current President by acclaiming **Stuart Briese**, Councillor for the RM of Langford, as AMM President. Stu was joined by **Ron Bell**, Mayor of the Town of Birtle, who was acclaimed as Urban Vice-President.

There was a challenge for the Rural Vice-President position between current Rural Vice-President **Garry Wasylowski**, Reeve of the RM of Armstrong and **Doug Dobrowolski**, Councillor for the RM of Macdonald. With 571 ballots cast, Garry Wasylowski won his seat as Rural Vice-President with 371 votes.

All three officials will be serving their third year on the AMM Executive.



President Stuart Briese



Urban VP Ron Bell



Rural VP Garry Wasylowski



Resolutions

This year's resolution session was a fairly quiet one. There were very few controversial resolutions, with only two close votes requiring a hand count.

Vice-Presidents **Ron Bell** and **Garry Wasylowski** chaired the resolutions sessions while the resolutions committee rotated reading the resolutions. This year's Resolutions Committee members were:

- Central District** Cynthia Bisson, RM of Macdonald
- Eastern District** Bill Danylchuk, RM of Tache
- Interlake District** Don Pepe, Town of Winnipeg Beach
- Mid-Western District** Ron Kostaskey, RM of Rosburn
- Northern District** Garry Zamzow, Town of Snow Lake
- Parklands District** Melvin Graves, Town of Grandview
- Western District** Bill Shackel, Village of Glenboro

There were 56 resolutions brought to the floor for debate, including 6 resolutions that were AMM standing policy and were voted on as one, and 3 late resolutions – 47 resolutions were carried, 1 was tabled, 4 were defeated, and 4 were withdrawn.

Resolutions Summary

Number of Resolutions	53
Number of Late Resolutions	3
Total Number of Resolutions	56
Number carried	47
Number defeated	4
Number withdrawn	4
Number tabled	1

Awards

The Honourary Life Member Award is given out each year in recognition of outstanding and exemplary service to the Association, its member associations and to the community. This year, the AMM awarded two Honourary Life Members at the Annual Banquet.

The first Honourary Life Member Award went to **Alan Beachell**. Over his lifetime, Alan has made countless contributions towards the betterment of his community, the local municipality, and also toward the Province of Manitoba in general. Alan began his municipal career in 1974 after being elected as Reeve of the RM of Rosser, holding that position until 2002.

Alan's interest in politics has kept him very active over the years, first with the Manitoba Liberal Party in the early 1970's followed by the Reform Party of Canada. He also served as a Director and later as the President of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities (UMM) from 1982 – 1987.

The second Honourary Life Member Award went to **Larry Walker**. For 22 years, Larry served as an elected official in the RM of Miniota. Throughout his political career, Larry always took a keen interest in community affairs and committed himself to a number

of local organizations, coaching hockey and baseball, serving as a Director of the Manitoba Angus Association, and countless other community and political activities.

Larry began his municipal career in 1980, when he was elected as a Councillor in the RM of Miniota. In 1989, he was elected Reeve and held that position until his retirement from local government in 2002. In 1989, Larry was elected to the Union of Manitoba Municipalities Board of Directors and, in 1993, was elected Vice President of UMM, serving three terms.

The AMM celebrates the success of both individuals and thanks them for their contribution to the municipal world in Manitoba.

Along with the award for Honourary Life Member, the Manitoba Community Newspapers Association (MCNA) presented an award to the elected municipal official who made an outstanding contribution to their community, which resulted in a better place to live. This year's winner was **Ed Anderson**, Mayor of the Town of Boissevain.

Congratulations also go to **Sandy Thwaites**, Reeve of the RM of Kelsey and **Forbes Stewart**, Councillor in the RM of Woodlands for winning the Icebreaker grand prizes and to **William Landin**, Mayor of the Village of Cartwright who won the Convention grand prize of a 'Trip for Two.'

Trade Show

The AMM would like to thank all the delegates who took the time to visit the Trade Show. The AMM would also like to thank the following businesses for sponsoring the AMM's Icebreaker Event:

Airmaster Sales, Armtec Limited, Westman Steel Industries, Cochrane Engineering Ltd., Brandt Tractor, Fort Distributors, Manitoba Pork Council, Manitoba Heavy Construction Association (MHCA), Royal Bank of Canada, Aikins, MacAulay & Thorvaldson LLP, and Ducks Unlimited Canada.

For a visual review of the 2003 Convention, turn the page for our 'Candid Camera' section. ●

