

# AMM Board of Directors

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Town of Birtle

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Reeve Garry Wasylowski,  
RM of Armstrong

**Vice-President, Urban**  
Mayor Lorne Boguski,  
Town of Roblin

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Town of Altona

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**Val Turner**  
President of the Manitoba Municipal  
Administrators Association



Ron Bell, President

# A huge 'thank you' to members

I would be remiss if I didn't begin this message by saying "thank you" to each and every delegate who attended the AMM 7th Annual Convention in November. Thank you, first of all, for your support and vote of confidence in my ability to lead this organization for another year, and for your support of our two vice-presidents, **Lorne Boguski** and **Garry Wasylowski**. Thank you for your voices, your opinions, and your positions on matters of importance to our association. We may not always agree, but the dialogue we have at events like Convention ensure we are all better informed about the issues we collectively face. Finally, thank you for your patience. Achieving a New Deal for Manitoba was not a quick or simple process, and the negotiations certainly tested our organization's unity at times. However, the fortitude shown by our members is a testament to how strong our association truly can be when we stand together.

Since Convention, a New Deal Oversight Committee has been formed, including members of the Provincial and Federal Governments, the AMM, and the City of Winnipeg. This committee is charged with determining how to best implement the New Deal program. From the AMM's perspective, we want to make sure the process is as simple as possible for our members. There will be reporting requirements, of course, and municipalities will be required to sign a funding agreement prior to receiving their funds. However, all parties involved are committed to ensuring these requirements are not too onerous or burdensome, especially for smaller

municipalities. The AMM will continue to actively participate in this committee on your behalf, and we anticipate the first payments will be processed to municipalities very shortly.

The first week in January saw the AMM Board of Directors meet for our annual strategic planning session. This session helped us to determine our internal direction in 2006. Among other things, we reviewed our 2005 strategic plan, set policy priorities for the coming year, discussed the role of AMM directors, and examined member satisfaction. If there was an overriding theme to this year's session, it was how we can best meet all of our members needs, from north to south, from rural to urban, and from large to small. Our work is sometimes a balancing act and we looked at various ways and means of making sure that work is relevant to each of our members.

In closing, MOS is just around the corner and it promises to be an exciting event, as always. The first day is devoted to professional development and the second day to policy issues. In addition to interesting and stimulating speakers, the largest municipal trade show in Manitoba takes place during MOS and we strongly encourage you to visit the many displays. The trade show runs from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm on Monday, February 27 and concludes with the annual Wine & Cheese reception. I look forward to seeing you at MOS! ☺

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