

Apr 25, 2013 FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Summary

On April 24, 2013 at the Blue Quill Community Hall, the SouthWest Edmonton Seniors Association (SWESA) held their first annual general meeting.

There was a great turnout of 68 SWESA members. Roughly 25% of these members were new to the organization, having registered that night. Clearly, the word and support for SWESA is growing.

Outgoing Chairman David Faber provided an overview of accomplishments since the Nov 2013 public meeting:

- Business planning has started
- Grant submissions are underway with a federal New Horizons Grant for \$25,000 and a municipal Emerging Seniors Centres Grant for \$100,000.
- Communication on need for SWESA in local media and seniors publications.
- Networking and meetings with groups and individuals in southwest Edmonton (e.g. SAGE, Heritage Seniors, West End Seniors Centre).
- Meetings with all 3 levels of government (municipal, provincial, federal).
- Website enhanced to provide more information on SWESA, programs, events and resources and enable members with computer access, to register on line.

Treasurer David Nichiporik presented the 2012 Year End Financial Statements and the projected 2013 Budget, largely based on the anticipated success of grant funding.

David Faber presented the work of Vice Chairman Richard Poire on Bylaw Revisions which primarily centered on changing the reference of “over 54” to “55 years or older” - and the addition of a Friends category which enables people younger in age or living outside this geographical area to receive notice of all SWESA events and meetings. After some discussion to clarify the intent behind these revisions, they were voted on and passed.

After two years, leading the initial work to get SWESA started, David Faber is stepping down to pursue many other community projects. He will remain somewhat involved as Past Chair to aid in the transition. David thanked the members and Board. At the end of the meeting a motion from the floor was made to formally thank David on behalf of the membership.

The following people voted in as the new Board. In the next few weeks, they will constitute the board executive and this information will be posted on the website.



Phil Brooks
Carol Bigam
Elnora Hibbert
Barbara Ann Olsen
David Faber - Past Chair
Mary Fung
Joe Roberts
David Nichiporik
Richard Perry (not shown)

The meeting concluded with next steps for the board which includes: formalizing out membership, becoming grant recipients, continuing communication with officials, launching some programs this fall, completing the needs assessment and creating the business plan to move forward.

Kathy Trepanier, a SWESA Volunteer, spoke about the many volunteer opportunities. During the refreshment break, over 34 volunteer jobs were filled by 18 individuals who signed up to join the Volunteer Team. Volunteering is a wonderful way to enjoy the benefits of SWESA as you meet more and more of the people in our southwest seniors community.

After refreshments, the GeriActors and Friends performed several short plays, entertaining everyone with their enthusiasm, imagination and sense of humor.

