Speakers (Top L-R) Mitch Rezansoff, P.Ag., Brent Van Koughnet, P.Ag., and Jill and Myron Krahn.

2015 Professional Development Event

Research and technology and data use were brought together in two thought-provoking presentations. Mitch Rezansoff, P.Ag. Integrated Solutions Manager for Enns Brothers illustrated the use and effects of technology and data including an interesting 2014 case study of the Steinbach area.

Brent van Koughnet, P.Ag. Executive Director of the Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers Association introduced members to the new organization highlighting the continuing importance of Agrologists to the industry. Audience members also heard perspectives on the importance of sustained research funding and the value of producers and producer groups collaborating to develop impactful results.

Jill and Myron Krahn then inspired members by telling their own story of developing and growing a modern Manitoba farm operation. The Krahns were selected as Canada’s 2014 Outstanding Young Farmers. They shared how their philosophy and passion for producing safe food for Manitobans have resulted in a focused approach to their farm business.
The 65th Annual General Meeting (AGM) recorded another strong turnout by a wide cross-section of members from around the province. It shows members are interested in the affairs of the self-regulatory body for Agrology professionals in Manitoba.

Highlights included a brief informational presentation by committee lead, Allen Tyrchniewicz, P.Ag., regarding the actions of the Admission and Registration Committee during 2014.

**2014 ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION COMMITTEE ACTIONS**

- 7 committee meetings
- 144 member files reviewed (all categories)
- 66 new applications assessed
  - Education qualifications – transcript based
  - 25 AIT to full status / 53 Status change (i.e., reinstatement)
  - Professional development requirements

Lori-Ann Kaminski, P.Ag., Audit Committee Lead formally brought forward the 2014 Audit results and introduced Carol Edwards, CGA, MIA’s Appointed Auditor. Edwards spoke briefly about the audit including its purpose, process, and results. She also complemented MIA on member attendance at the AGM and commented positively about the organization’s financial controls and prudent decision-making. Members voted on and passed motions to accept the audit results and to re-appoint Carol Edwards Professional Corporation as auditor for the year-end November 30, 2015.

Gordon Earl, P.Ag., leads the MIA Governance Committee. G. Earl in his presentation highlighted keys aspects of the Committee to members.

G. Earl also introduced and led a panel discussion entitled, “Meeting Expectations – Understanding and Setting the Professional Bar”. Panelists gave 3-5 minute presentations sharing their perspectives about providing professional information and service and public expectations of an Agrology Professional. Myron and Jill Krahn also participated in the panel by offering ideas from the perspective of recipients of services and professional advice.

Member Engagement: “Meeting Expectations—Understanding and Setting the Professional Bar”
Panel/Member Dialogue

Contributors and members of the panel were Jason Voogt, P.Ag. Jill and Myron Krahn, Cindy Horrigan, P.Ag., and Kristen Podolsky, P.Ag.

Service Recognition Awards

Service Recognition Awards were presented to Dr. Digvir Jayas, P.Ag., (L) and A. Tyrchniewiz, P.Ag. (R) whose terms on Council expired. James Fehr, P.Ag., was unable to attend and receive his award. Richard Kieper, P.Ag. (center) Vice-President, presented the recognition service awards.
Executive Director’s Report

MIA’s Executive Director, Jim Weir, summarized the 2014 operations year and thanked members, Council and staff for their contributions to accomplishments in 2014. J. Weir noted registration numbers continue to climb modestly in 2014.

Financial results included that while revenues were below budget mainly in the registration area, expenses were managed to come in well below budget while maintaining the required level of services. He also commented that sustained members’ support for registration compliance lead to optimism concerning results for the 2015 operating year and the proposal for registration fees to remain unchanged at the current levels.

Annual Registration Fee Proposal for 2016

R. Kieper summarized the factors Council took into account prior to proposing the 2016 annual registration fees. Factors included Council’s conclusions regarding progress on registration compliance and confidence that effective financial control will ensure regulatory mandates are achieved.

Members voted nearly unanimously for a motion for fees to be unchanged from current levels for 2016.

Election Results

Members voted to elect six peers to the Provincial Council for a three-year term. Elected Councilors assume office effective the first working day following publication of the results [Bylaw Article XIII (13)].

Elected to Council were:

- Terry Betker, P.Ag.
- Casey Fox, P.Ag.
- L.A. Kaminski, P.Ag., 2nd-term
- D. Keam, P.Ag. 2nd-term
- Ray Redfern, P.Ag. 2nd-term
- Karin Wittenberg, P.Ag.

Newly elected Councilors (L-R) Terry Betker, P.Ag., Casey Fox, P.Ag. and Karin Wittenberg, P.Ag.