



## **SUMMER 2021 NEWS**

Your association has been extremely busy since the last newsletter, and the AGM held by zoom in December, 2020. Firstly, I would like to congratulate and compliment the entire board of directors for their participation and thoughtful input in our work so far in 2021. Points of interest are as follows:

**March 10, Board of Directors Meeting:** A tentative date of November 24, 2021 was booked for the 2021 AGM and convention. Discussion occurred regarding a partnership in a fund raising auction at the site, and to have multiple signage throughout the site announcing our presence. A convention hotel was selected, and tentatively booked. A motion was passed to purchase a one year membership in CWA.

Development of the new website: [saskauctioneers.ca](http://saskauctioneers.ca) is ongoing, and is expected to be ready for “tweaking” by our IT fella by mid to late spring. Individual company logos have been inserted into the site, with a link to members’ websites. Ongoing amendments will occur as necessary. Members are encouraged to provide newsworthy items for insertion into the website.

Our new logo has been formatted electronically by a graphic designer, and is available for our members use. Please contact the office if you’d like a digital copy.

The legislation committee will meet on May 5 to discuss changes our Association feels are necessary to address changes that have occurred in the auction business over the past many years. Examples are online sales, whether live on-line or timed, social media sales, and our desire to require Saskatchewan based companies to be licensed and bonded, whatever method of sale they implement.

**Auctioneers Association of Alberta delegation meets with Board of Directors:** Three members of the AAofA joined our March 10 board meeting to discuss changes that are occurring in their association, and their goal of regulating online sales, as well: Jacqueline Biollo, Executive Director, Joe Perlich, President, and Gordon Musgrove, Director. They expressed their strong concerns about the online auction industry, and they are working with their Minister of Service Alberta, advocating for revisions in person to person auction regulations and provide oversight in online auctions. They provided some insight into what has worked for them when working with government agencies. They feel that a customer complaint process is vital for all auction companies, whether hosting live or online sales. They also have no regulations for radio, TV, newspaper and other media auctions that are held online. A question and answer session followed, with the resolution to continue discussions in the future.

**Legislation Committee May 5:** The committee meeting, consisting of President Des Plewman, Past President Riley McChesney, Vice-President Barrie Jung, Director Kelly Clarke and Secretary Jo-Ann Ganzert was held by Zoom. The major work of the meeting was the need for change in the Association Bylaws, in regards to classes of membership. This would then be taken to the Consumer Protection Branch, in an effort to have the Auctioneers Act, or its Regulations changed to include mention of the

various methods of auctioning, and the need to have all companies licensed and bonded, regardless of the method of sale. Two major results ensued: 1. that we propose a meeting with Executive Director Denny Huyghebaert of Consumer Protection, Sask Justice, to discuss changes to the Auctioneers Act. And 2: That a Notice of Motion be prepared for distribution to our general membership, for vote at the November 24 AGM: That the Classes of Membership be changed to include members who hold auctions conducted live, timed online, live online, virtual bidding, or hosting a bidding platform, in the Province of Saskatchewan.

**Legislation Committee and Denny Huyghebaert, Consumer Protection, May 12:** A lengthy meeting was held via Zoom with the Legislation committee and Mr. Huyghebaert, to discuss the Auctioneers Act, and our desire to have certain clauses in it changed. He admitted that the present Act is very antiquated, and could use a little work. He advised that the CP department has received some complaints about online auctions, but feels that online sales would fall under the Consumer Protection Act. His legal counsel has advised that under current legislation, our Act doesn't capture online auctions.

The SAA concern is that online auction companies are not all licensed and bonded. Where is the consumer protection then? The SAA would like to partner with the CP Branch to work towards legislation that protects everyone. Mr. Huyghebaert suggested that we prepare a position paper for presentation to the CP branch. This paper would advise of the impact online auctions are having on the auction industry, and what are priorities are when addressing online sales. The paper will be prepared for approval by the entire Board of Directors at the June 9 meeting.

**Board of Directors June 9:** Again by Zoom, the board met for a regular meeting on June 9. **A major decision was made to cancel our participation in Agribition, and hold the AGM meeting virtually for one more year.** A major goal of the convention and AGM is to hold a fund raising auction, partially for a charitable donation, and partially for operating funds for the association. Due to the lack of live sales since March 2020, the board felt that asking our usual sponsors for donations when our commitment to them was drastically reduced for over 15 months, was unreasonable. We will still hold an online auction for fundraising, as we did in 2020. Additional details of the AGM will be issued in a future newsletter.

A commitment to publish a newsletter on the saskauctioneers.ca website more frequently was made. Members are encouraged to provide news worthy articles for insert. Please send articles of interest to the office and we'll see they get into the news!

Discussion regarding the meeting with Mr. Huyghebaert occurred, and the position paper was approved for remittance to the Consumer Protection Branch.

The secretary reported that she had sent email letters and membership applications to those licensed companies who are not members, or bonded with the SAA, inviting them to join us. Hopefully, along with awareness, we will see additional members in the future. The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 by Zoom.

**Sales of Archaeological Objects in Saskatchewan:** As part of the June 9 board meeting, Dr. Tom Richards, Acting Director, Heritage Conservation Branch of the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, joined to discuss the sale of archaeological objects by auction. Their department has identified 7 offending auction companies in Saskatchewan who have been warned of the illegality of the sale of these objects. **Section 66.2(7)** of the Heritage Property Act (HPA) states that: **No person shall buy, sell, offer for sale, trade, or otherwise dispose of or remove from Saskatchewan any archaeological object or paleontological object found in or taken from land in Saskatchewan without the written permission of the minister.** He stressed that it is an offense to "offer for sale" objects as well as to actually sell them. His entire letter regarding the sale of objects can be obtained from the SAA office.

**NOTICE OF MOTION: That the Classes of Membership of the Saskatchewan Auctioneers Bylaws be changed to include a) regular membership, the members of which shall be entitled to vote at all meetings of members: A regular member being a licensed auctioneer, or the name principal of a licensed auction company conducting live, timed online, live online, virtual bidding, or hosting a bidding platform, in the Province of Saskatchewan.** This motion will be voted on at the AGM of November 24, 2021. Please attend the meeting to discuss this and other important business of the Association.

Covid restrictions are being lifted in their entirety as of July 11, 2021 in Saskatchewan. As the clerk at my favorite small town drug store said today, she's looking forward to going back to reading lips when she converses with her customers! I feel her pain. I didn't know I was deaf until I had to wear a mask everywhere. And, some of our staff at the furniture store say they'll continue to wear a mask for the foreseeable future, at least. So, whatever method of auction sale you decide is right for you and your customer, good luck to you all, and safe selling!

As I finalize the editing of this newsletter, the forecast is for a couple of weeks of incredibly hot, dry weather, throughout the entire western provinces. Some of you may be lucky enough to spend a while near some water, under a shady tree or the awning of your RV. We are planning a week away (July 3-11) at Sask Landing, which is turning out to be one of our very favorite places to go. I'll take my SAA phone, but I can't promise that I'll be carrying it with me all the time! I do promise to check periodically for your messages and emails. I'll get back to you when I can. If it's an emergency please try one of the Board of Directors listed below.

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