

2018 President's Report

LAS was kept busy with eight executive meetings. The first meeting of the new executive was face to face in Saskatoon. The remainder of the meetings were phone conferences (thanks to the generosity of Deloitte.)

LAS currently has 92 members (5 fewer than the previous year). The decline is ironic since numbers of lymphedema sufferers are growing. Membership had declined in other provinces as well.

The main goal for LAS is to educate patients, families, professionals, and the general public. Our website, maintained by Angela Connell-Furi and Les Dixon, is an important means of communication. Thank you to both- well done . Pamphlets and posters have been distributed throughout communities, particularly in doctors' offices. We continue to request that you take a poster for your doctor's office if you have noticed there isn't one present.

Public Lymphedema therapists host telehealth sessions in health regions at regular intervals. LAS endorsed the 811 Regina Qu'Appelle pilot project.

Canadian Lymphedema Framework publishes the Pathways magazine quarterly. LAS submits a insert for each of these. Lori Vereshegan formats the LAS content. Thank you to her for that excellent service. Newsletters are sent out between the Pathways publications. Thank you again to Angela Connell -Furi and Erica Bailey for their work on the newsletters. Angela also tended to the LAS Facebook group- we are thankful for her efforts on this.

Canadian Lymphedema Framework meets quarterly . A Montreal meeting was held in person where Tracy Gardikiotis and myself were able to attend in person. Past president, Verna Schneider, has been so kind as to attend the remaining meetings by teleconference (relating to Kelly's scheduling conflicts) .

Thanks to another generous \$5000 donation from Shoppers Drug Mart, Verna Schneider worked with 10 radio stations across Saskatchewan to raise awareness of lymphedema preceding and on March 6, 2018. She was interviewed by Yorkton, Melfort and PA now. The content of the PA Now interview was posted on E-media.

Ed Lloyd from Magnet Signs donated a double sided 10x5 foot billboard which displayed in Prince Albert a week before and after the March 6, 2018 Lymphedema Awareness Day, to raise awareness and display the sasklymph.ca website.

Richard " Porky" Porter has been liaising with government representatives and coordinated a face to face meeting Apr 25, 2018. LAS delegates Richard Porter and Verna Schneider attended. LAS is invited to return with particular requests! We are extremely pleased with this opportunity. Thank you to both Richard and Verna for their work to date (Verna used air miles to attend the Apr 25 meeting). We are grateful for their for their ongoing effort, preparing for the next meeting.

A focussed, cohesive voice must be heard. Richard's and Verna's professional approach was acknowledged by the government officials with whom they met.

LAS has its executive sign "Conflict of Interest" declarations and "Pledge of Confidentiality" documents. There is also a \$1,000,000 liability insurance package renewed annually through The Guarantee Company of North America.

We are grateful for the contributions of all executive members and others who give so generously of their time. The following members have completed their term with LAS. Two of these executive members are letting their name stand for re-election and one has chosen to retire from the executive.

Thank you the following departing executive: Tracy Farr who was not able to complete her term as secretary. Our exceptional Vicki Doell who has served 2 terms as treasurer. Vickie also assisted in many other ways such as compiling our member list, assisting with newsletter distribution, etc. Angela Connell-Furi has served as vice president and has generously given her time communicating for our organization through the website, facebook and newsletter distribution. She also looked after the advertisement for Pathways. Tracy Gardikiotis has served as a member at large while facilitating educational events including organizing the speakers for May 5, 2018 AGM. She will chair the upcoming 2018 LAS Symposium in Regina. Tracy does much work in Regina and area raising awareness about lymphedema. We are grateful to each of you for your service to LAS and thankful for the contributions of remaining executive.

We look forward to continuing our work advocating for people with lymphedema in Saskatchewan. It is important to raise awareness about the condition.

Kelly Lloyd