

AGM Minutes

SAMSPA AGM		
2025-02-01	Scheduled: 10:00am-12:00pm Meeting call to order 10:02am	St. Albert Legion 6 Tache Street
Meeting called by	SAMSPA Board President	
Note taker	Lynda Holden	
Timekeeper	Joel McGovern	
Call to Order	Meeting was called to order by the President at 10:02am.	
Attendees	<p>Grizzlies, Ravens, Rummies, Pedlars, Strikers, Slick 50, Diamond Bears, Naturals, Raiders, Classics 50+, Silver Backs, Silver Backs 70+, Rockers, Auto Selects, Naturals 60+, The Crush, Bad Company 60, Classics 60, Redline, Buzzards, Older Bulls, Can Alta Sox +70, Dynasty Relics, Old Buzzards +70, Old Buzzards 74+, Old Vets, St Albert 70's, Pound, Kamikazes, The Chefs, Broke Bat Mountain, Thirsty Beavers, Big League Boys, Ballers, Sherwood Dodgers, Admirals, Sturgeon River Swallows, VooDoo, Young Guns, Latinos, Shottas, Pudgy Ps Pirates, Breaking Bats, Caribooze (44)</p> <p>Diane Taylor – City of St. Albert, EDSUA President – Ryan Webber and Ed Drewicki</p>	
Absent	<p>Mafia, Mediocre Sluggers, Elite Selects, Wolf Pak, Cobra Kai, Tailgaters, Alchoballics, Big Dickey's, Thirsty Pigeons, Railcore X, Furies, Sox, Ram Ranchers, Riverside Mariners, Slammin Grannys (15)</p>	
Meeting Agenda, Protocols and Procedures	<p>The President, reviewed the meeting agenda, protocols and procedures for the meeting. The President introduced our new City of St. Albert Liaison Diane Taylor.</p>	
Approve Minutes from April 13 th , 2024 GM		
Darren McBride, Secretary confirmed quorum reached		
<p>The secretary informed membership that April 13th, 2024 GM minutes had been circulated before the meeting. The secretary asked for any changes to Minutes presented. Nothing was brought forward.</p>		
<p>Motion was made by Ashley Dobson and seconded by Earl Sloan to approve the minutes of April 13th, 2024 GM as attached. All in favour Motion carried.</p>		
New Agenda Items		
Darren McBride, Secretary		
<p>The Secretary asked for any additions to the agenda as presented, nothing was brought forward. Motion was made by Mike Coxworth and seconded by Erv Krawchuk to approve the agenda as presented. All in favour Motion carried.</p>		
Updates and Information		
Joel McGovern, President		
2024 In Review		
<p>President shared a PowerPoint presentation highlighting successes and challenges from 2024.</p>		

AGM Minutes

Challenges:

- Water
- New Website
- Plumbing Not to Code
- Phone System
- Point of Sale System problems
- Break-in
- Groundskeepers
- Sprinkler Lines
- Several Pieces of Equipment Issues – led to issues with infield quality
- Weed Control malfunction on D2

Successes:

- Intense Perseverance against Innumerable Challenges
- Tremendous work from our Board to step up and address the challenges
- Big help from league members which started with the Spring Work Bee
- Fall work bee to empty concession
- Income Statement was strong despite challenges
- Began Facility Improvements via CFEP Grant
 - Dugout Repairs
 - Painting Projects
 - Pole Barn Maintenance including Lighting, Picnic Table Covering, and Wind/Weather Screens
 - Numerous Concession Upgrades (plumbing, fridges, cabinetry, flooring)
 - Security System
 - POS System
 - HVAC System
- Excellent Fundraising Performance (\$30k) (led by League Operations Coordinator)
 - Silent Auction (\$4k)
 - Crowd Funding with Government 50% Match (\$8k)
 - Oil Kings (\$6k)
 - Tourney (\$12k)
- New equipment for diamond maintenance (SandPro's and Mower)
- Batting Cage – Thank you to Phil Presakarchuk
- New Groundskeeper

The President shared a slide congratulating 2024 Divisional winners and displayed winning team names.

Open Division Winners:

Open A Winner Elite Selects
Open A Consolation Diamond Kings
Open B Winner Thirsty Beavers
Open B Consolation Big League Boys
Open C Winner Alchoballics
Open C Consolation C-Section
Open D Winner Railcore X
Open D Consolation Sturgeon River Swallows

Age Restricted Winners:

Plus 40 Winner Slick 50
Plus 50 Winner Classics 50+
Plus 60 Winner Redline
Plus 60 Consolation Silverbacks

AGM Minutes

Plus 60 B-Side Bad Company
Plus 60 C-Side The Crush
Plus 70 Winner Rockers
Plus 70 Consolation Old Buzzards
Plus 70 B Winner Raiders 70+

2025 Board Elections

Joel McGovern President

The President shared on the screen for all members to see a review of Bylaw Article 8.2. which reads, new business: from the floor requires 2/3rds support. The President shared that regarding elections: Article 9.4 - 2/3rds is based on number of members present at meeting. The President went on to share that Article 9.4 addresses this by placing limits on the number of terms a Board Member may volunteer. He explained that we do have an exemption provision to address issues of under-volunteerism. The Board Principles for elections were reviewed as follows; Healthy boards need regular rotation. Thus, bringing new ideas, energy, and engagement. The President shared that nominations are welcomed from the floor.

He went on to explain the voting process and shared that each team gets one vote only. Should there be a close vote, it will be reviewed after the meeting for any spoiled ballots. Spoiled ballots will be discarded which may affect results. A change in results will be addressed at the next General Meeting.

President reviewed roles of the current Board Members whose terms do not expire until 2026 so they are not up for re-election and thanked them for their ongoing service. The President explained that he would be moving into the Past President role which did not require a vote. That Kelly Porter would be having his name stand for the President position.

Returning Board Members – One Year Remaining

Joel McGovern Past President
Brian Dickson Treasurer
Phil Presakarchuk Director, Concession
Earl Sloan Director, Facility
Marc Savard Director, Maintenance
Bryan Shields Director, Plus 40/50 Divisions
Glen Dolynchuk Director, Health & Safety

Outgoing Board Members

Bobby Weitzel Director at Large
Trevor Zilm Grants Director

The President then presented a slide with the Board's Slate of Nominees for the 2025 season and led members through elections for the open positions.

Kelly Porter President (2nd Term)
Dustin Sloan Vice President (2nd Term)
Darren McBride (*) Secretary (5th Term)
Bob Franks Director, Plus 60/70 Divisions (2nd Term)
Jessy Beley Director, Open Divisions (1st Term)
Brayden Hollett Director, at Large (1st Term)

The President reviewed Board term dates and roles, current Board, and available positions. Nominations from the floor were encouraged and the process, should there be more than one candidate for a director position, was explained. President explained the SAMSPA Bylaw per Article 9.4 of SAMSPA Bylaws, "The maximum number of terms served by a Board member will be three and the Board member will not be eligible for election again until they have been inactive for a two-year term unless otherwise authorized by a two thirds majority vote of the members at the Annual General Meeting." The President shared that this process would be needed this election for the positions of Secretary to extend their time on the Board.

AGM Minutes

Per Article 9.4 of SAMSPA Bylaws, "The maximum number of terms served by a Board member will be three and the Board member will not be eligible for election again until they have been inactive for a two-year term unless otherwise authorized by a two thirds majority vote of the members at the Annual General Meeting."

(*) The President then called for Motion to allow the slate nominee Darren McBride to stand for another term. A vote was taken, all votes were unanimously approved.

Nominations were called from the floor for the position 3 times, there were no other names brought forward at this time. The following was declared by acclamation for another 2-year term. Darren McBride – Secretary will hold this position from 2024 AGM to 2026 AGM.

The President then shared that there are 6 other vacancies and that 6 members have come forward interested in the Board and have agreed to let their names stand for election.

Kelly Porter President (2nd Term)
Dustin Sloan Vice President (2nd Term)
Darren McBride (*) Secretary (5th Term)
Bob Franks Director, Plus 60/70 Divisions (2nd Term)
Jessy Beley Director, Open Divisions (1st Term)
Brayden Hollett Director, at Large (1st Term)

The President then called for nominations from the floor for each position 3 times, Mike Coxworth put his name forward to stand as Umpire Liaison Director. There were no other names brought forward at this time. The following were declared by acclamation for a 2-year term as

Kelly Porter President (2nd Term)
Dustin Sloan Vice President (2nd Term)
Darren McBride (*) Secretary (5th Term)
Bob Franks Director, Plus 60/70 Divisions (2nd Term)
Jessy Beley Director, Open Divisions (1st Term)
Brayden Hollett Director, at Large (1st Term)
Mike Coxworth Director, Umpire Liaison (1st Term)

The President thanked and welcomed returning and new Board Members.

Sign Board Advertising – Joel McGovern, President

The President shared information slides on the Community Sign Board Shared Earnings program that is offered to members through the Money in your Mitt incentive, as well as charities, not for profits and individuals interested in raising funds for their organizations.

The President shared that this is a super generous incentive program available to members that can assist their team in subsidizing League fees. The program applies to: Fence boards, bleacher signs, picnic tables and diamond naming rights He went on to share reasons for program.

Issue: - No Director or employee responsible for signboard sales
- Large supply of unallocated signboard space
- Current incentive program not adequate for sales growth

Opportunity: - Encourage sales through higher incentives

With the SAMSPA facility being over 40 years old, he reviewed the importance of signage for the League and the need to have this income for recovering operating costs. Fence Boards are an economic opportunity. The President reviewed the program and examples of the shared earnings opportunity which shares net earnings equally.

AGM Minutes

Information is currently available on the SAMSPA website. If members or community groups are interested in discussing further, they can speak directly to the League Operations Coordinator.

The President informed the membership about the simplicity of program and that their role would only be to make the initial connection, and secure commitment. The rest is completed by the League Operations Coordinator.

The President acknowledged 2 new companies that have come onboard through this program. Sherwood Dodge and FortisAlberta.

The President asked if there were any questions from the floor. No questions came forward at this time.

The President screen shared the current sponsors of SAMSPA as follows and encouraged SAMSPA Members when out in the community to "Support our Supporters".

All 4 diamonds now have Diamond Naming Sponsors

D#1 Naming Sponsor - St. Albert Source for Sports
580 St. Albert Trail #10, St. Albert
(780) 458-000

D#2 The Canadian Brewhouse
101 St. Albert Trail #50
840 St. Albert Trail #105

D#3 Naming Sponsor – Play it Again Sports
13883 – 156 Street, Edmonton

D#4 Select Equipment Rentals has been bought out by All Choice Rentals
66 Riel Drive
St. Albert, AB
780.419.6100

4 Board Sponsors
Sherwood Dodge
Canadian Brewhouse
Labatt Breweries

Bleacher Packages
Mission Fun and Games
Phoenix Fence
Sturgeon Animal Hospital
Re/Max River Valley- Ross Storoshenko
Tri-Tec Project Mgmt.
Core Networks

Fence Boards
Top Hat Advisory
Sturgeon Auto Body
Grandin Agencies has been bought out by Brokerlink
MFP Resources
St. Albert Inn & Suites
Canadian Fence

AGM Minutes

Musco Lighting
Alley Kat Brewery
Southview Acura
Sparklean Restoration
St. Louis Bar & Grill
FortisAlberta

2024 Financials

Treasurer, Brian Dickson

The President handed the floor over to the Treasurer, Brian Dickson to present and speak to the financial report.

The President screen shared agenda for the financial report that was presented by the Treasurer.

The Financial Report Agenda will be as follows. Auditor's Report for 2024, Appointment of auditors for 2025, Review Financials, Capital Projects, Balance Sheet, Income Statement, Economic Outlook

The Treasurer shared that normally we have 2 auditors, however Andre Hebert solely performed the 2024 financial audit as per our Bylaws. The Treasurer went on to invite members to consider volunteering as the audit can be performed by 2 members of the organization.

Discussion ensued.

The President screen shared the auditor's report which read as follows.
2024 Auditors - André Hebert

"Auditor's Report

I have audited the financial statements and financial transactions of the St. Albert Men's Slowpitch Association for the year ended October 31, 2024.

I reviewed details of material financial transactions (deposits, payments, backup documentation, deposit and payment allocations and spreadsheets) and found them to be properly approved, recorded, reconciled and accounted for. All regulatory filings have been done and were properly documented.

I have reviewed the financial statements of the organization and in my opinion, the statements present fairly the financial position and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

*André Hebert
January 31, 2025*

Appointment of Auditors

The Treasurer shared that Andre would be willing to let his name stand as auditor for the 2025 season if there was not other individual(s) who stepped up at the meeting. The Treasurer then asked 3 times if there was anyone else wanting to put their name forward as an Auditor. Tom Harrison and John Engel from Classics 60+ put their names forward to stand for the 2025 audit role. As per SAMSPA Bylaws, the President called for a motion to appoint the 2025 Auditors.

Motion Board nominates Tom Harrison and John Engel for 2025 Audit and approves the appointment of Tom Harrison and John Engel as Auditor's for SAMSPA 2025 financials. **Motion made by Mike Coxworth, seconded by Terry Willis, vote. Unanimous Motion Carried**

The Treasurer reviewed the capital Projects completed in 2024 as follows.

AGM Minutes

The Treasurer reviewed that in 2024 the following Capital Projects were completed. Pole barn roof painting, kitchen upgrades, screens, dugout refurbishing, lighting upgrades, batting cage repairs, new mower and infield groomers, website conversion, new POS and Security System.

Capital Expenditures totaled \$104, 641.00. with \$42,471.00 of that coming from Grant Funding.

The Treasurer then screen shared the Balance Sheet

SAMSPA Current Assets	\$181,480
less Accounts Payable	(\$ 62,615)
SAMSPA Reserve w/ Grant funds	\$118,865
Unused Grant funds	(\$ 71,559)
2024 Operational reserve	\$ 47,306
2023 Operational reserve	\$ 97,675

The Treasurer then went on to share the Income Statement and reviewed highlights from the statement. Revenues from fees were mostly on target. Revenues from Fundraising Ads diamond rentals were on target. A huge increase from \$35k in 2023. Beverage room missed revenues by \$8k. Repair costs were over budget due to plumbing, irrigation, lights, failing equipment, HVAC, and refrigeration. Food costs were under budget (mostly supplies) while sales were up \$2k
Bev room costs under budget by \$27k

A screen was shared on 2025 Beverage room Rebate.

The Treasurer shared that the Board approved 2025 Bev rebate at 45%.

The Treasurer shared that the 2023 rebate was \$22,852.00 and the 2024 rebate was \$31,322.00.

The Treasurer went on to break it down further. The 2023 rebate averaged \$439 per team. The 2024 rebate averaged \$540 per team. At 45% the 2024 rebate would have been \$28,189; \$486 per team. The 2025 rebate is expected to be \$28k to \$30k.

The Treasurer shared the economic outlook for 2025 as follows.

Extra costs forecasted. Additional screens, flooring, POS system, security system, dugout refurbishing, kitchen. Total of \$48 k
Added revenue objectives, concession menu, 1 more team and more tournaments. Total of \$17k

Forecasting a modest positive variance and increase in our reserves for 2025.

It's worth mentioning that our reserves are right now in line with historic reserve targets from the Board. Since COVID, the Board has raised our target to \$150k to cover an aging facility and increased operating costs.

\$25k – Operational Reserve (to start up league)	\$25k
\$50k – Operational Contingency Reserve	\$22k
\$25k – Equipment Fund*	\$ 0k
\$50k – Capital Improvement Fund*	\$0k

* The Equipment fund was depleted with the purchase of 3 major pieces of equipment in 2024.

*Capital required to match grants, up to \$14k, will need to come from 2025 revenues

The Treasurer went on to share that we are in an ok position, but we will have work to do over the next five years to improve our reserve position to the levels desired.

The Treasurer asked if there were any questions from the floor. A couple questions came forward regarding screens and purpose along with explanation of what pole barn references. The Treasurer shared the pole barn is the area where picnic tables are located and that screens will be utilized on windy, rainy and hot days to keep the elements out from the picnic table area.

AGM Minutes

Motion made by Ashley Dobson to accept the Audited Financial report and financials for 2024 as presented and seconded by Ron Coffin, voting launched Unanimous Motion Carried. 2024 Financial statements adopted.

The Treasurer then handed the floor back to the President who passed it onto the Vice President, Kelly Porter for the Return to Play portion of the meeting.

Looking Ahead

Kelly Porter, Vice President

Return to Play

The Vice President informed the membership of the following return to play items.

Website

Although the transition from League Athletics to Sports Engine was not a smooth one, we will be staying with SportsEngine for 2025. While the mobile app was useful for tracking RSVPs to games, the tool was not good for allowing managers to administer their own rosters. This created a great burden on League Operations Coordinator throughout the year, but heavily at the start of the season. Rosters have been moved over for 2025 so teams will only need to provide new players to the League Operations Coordinator for rostering.

Facility and Fields – the goal is to have an early Spring Work Bee (8 people) to build and set up new tables / cabinets in concession, along with moving equipment, fridges, etc. back into place.

We are also looking to have a Spring Work Bee (40 people) to work on repairs to fencing / netting, and minor repairs here and there.

The Vice President shared that the goal for 2025 is to have field conditions at their best. Recent SandPro purchases will allow us to properly groom infields

The Vice President went on to explain the process used for selection, number of applicants and the hiring a new Concession Operator for 2025. This will be a 1-year term. The new operator, Catharine McGovern was announced.

The Vice President reminded teams of the SAMSPA AGM/GM Attendance Policy that was implemented in 2024 requiring teams to have a team representative present at meetings. He reminded teams that if a team is missing both the AGM and the GM there will be issued a \$50 fine that will be added to their league fee. This policy is to encourage members to show up. Key information is disseminated through these two general meetings and some teams have repeatedly failed to attend.

The Vice President shared the new policy for umpire game charges, forfeits, cancellations. A reminder that if a team forfeits a game, they are required to notify the opposing team (Team Coach/Manager emails and phone numbers are provided to team Coaches and Managers from the League Operations Coordinator), and the League Operations Coordinator via email or text/phone a minimum of 24 hours in advance. If they do not provide this notification within the time limit, a \$250.00 fine will be assessed, with \$150.00 of the fine being allocated to the opposing team. This is a change from \$100/\$50 in prior years.

The Vice President reviewed policy on Game balls distribution - SAMSPA policy is that each team will be provided a maximum of 2 cases of balls per season. Teams will be distributed one case at that start of the season and may request a second case as needed. Any additional balls beyond two cases will be charged at the retail cost for balls.

It was shared that there is a Player Safety/Injury Report available on the website. This should be completed anytime there is an injury that may potentially require submission to insurance.

AGM Minutes

The SAMSPA Policy on player emails was reviewed. - It is SAMSPA policy that all players in the League provide an email on their player profile. If players do not want to receive emails from the league, they have to manage their notification from within their own profile. We cannot do this on our end.

SAMSPA Policy on capturing private member info (Birthdates) was reviewed. - On team roster in divisions that require birth dates, under player profiles, SAMSPA no longer requires day and month, just year must be entered. The website does require entry of birth month and day so you can use 0101 then correct birth year.

Membership was informed that the Bat testing weekend is posted on the home page of the website and team schedule will be sent out to Coaches and Managers by League Operations Coordinator soon.

The Vice President shared that the SAMSPA Board is looking at providing league members with incentives should they choose to host a tournament at the Meadowview Facility. Any inquiries regarding facility rentals should be made to the League Operations Coordinator.

An inquiry from the floor came forward. The member wanted to know if the batting mat we were testing last year would be implemented on all diamonds going forward. The Vice President shared that at this time, we would not be implementing the mats due to the required maintenance required to remove and put them back in after the fastball rentals.

A suggestion from the floor was made that Open division teams should be provided with more than 2 cases of balls. A suggestion was made to have the umpire's responsible for providing game balls. The Board shared that there have been numerous discussions around ball distribution and best cases, however, there is no perfect answer. The challenges are too numerous to have umpires distributing game balls and challenges were shared with membership. Another suggestion came forward to hire someone at a nominal fee to retrieve balls that have been hit outside the fences. As the grounds crew is responsible and already cuts the grass on the entire ground area, balls are being retrieved by them.

Fundraising Update

The annual on-line auction will be launching shortly. The League Operations Coordinator asked if any members had a donation from their company to please let her know and she would pick it up. All members are encouraged to support this initiative and bid on items.

The Oil King ticket fundraiser still has a few tickets to sell. Members were encouraged to see the League Operations Coordinator for tickets if they wanted to support this initiative.

SAMSPA Mixed Tournament 2025

The Vice President shared that SAMSPA is continuing to host the SAMSPA Alley Kat Mixed Tournament event in 2025, to help raise funds for the league. He reminded members that this tournament is a big part of our fundraising objectives. The event dates for 2025 were shared, July 18 - 19 - 20, \$450 Entry Fee, cash payouts, 5 GG. If teams would like to register contact the League Operations Coordinator at admin@samspaslowpitch.com.

Members were encouraged to please help us get the word out and get teams registered. We are also looking for volunteers for this weekend so please reach out to the email address above and volunteer!

Thanks to Alley Kat for their continued support and sponsorship of this event.

Divisional Alignment

AGM Minutes

The President screen shared the current list of teams and the draft divisions stating that in 2024 we had 58 teams and currently in 2025 we have 59.

The Vice President then welcomed 6 new teams to SAMSPA.

Latinos (open C), Caribooze (open D), Breaking Bats (open D), Shottas (open D), Slammin Grannys (open D), Silverbacks 70+ (70)

An inquiry from the floor came forward (from Pound, Open A) asking if the divisional alignment as presented at the meeting is final. The Vice President stated that it was based on the policy agreed to by teams at the last General Meeting in 2024. The policy is that the top 2 teams in each division after the regular season will move up and bottom 2 will move down. Pound shared his concerns with the move. He was encouraged to speak with Dustin Sloan after the meeting to discuss the movement to their team for 2025.

New Business

Kelly Porter, Vice President

The Board has resolved to implement an annual Tracker Survey of all the players in our association.

It was shared with the membership that the overarching goal is to collect broad feedback from our players on how they view SAMSPA and the various components of our operations. From diamond maintenance, to concession, to scheduling, to umpiring, to board performance, etc. We want to establish a baseline and have something to trend against going forward.

With all the calamities of the past year, we did not make progress on this activity as planned. The good news is that we have re-engaged in the process.

We have started down that path again. We are hoping to have a survey out in the next several weeks and report results at the April General Meeting.

Adjournment

Joel McGovern, President

The President thanked all the membership for attending and their support of the Board. He thanked the membership for allowing him to be their President for the past 6 years and the support he has received from many.

Motion was made by Terry Willis to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Marc Savard. All in favour **Motion carried.**
Adjourned at 11:43am.

General Meeting to take place Saturday April 5th, 2025 10am St. Albert Legion