

Prairie Regional Mini-Conference September 21-23, 2012 in Regina, SK

Representatives of three of our branches met at the Travelodge Hotel and Conference Centre in Regina on Friday evening for a meet and greet. Prairie Regional Vice President Gerry Adair UE and the Saskatchewan Branch welcomed our Dominion President Bob McBride UE and his wife Grietje UE, Dominion First Vice President Bonnie Schepers UE and Prairie Regional Councilor Barb Andrew UE. Participants gathered for an informal time of conversation and discussion of Branch issues. 2014 Projects were outlined by each Branch present.

Saturday morning presentations started with a welcome from Gerry. Barb as Dominion Membership Chair issued a challenge to members and branches to find ways of promoting membership to all demographics. She suggested that we may need to move into social medias such as Twitter and Facebook to reach the younger crowd. Bonnie as Head of the Finance Committee gave a very informative talk on where Dominion monies come from and go to. She also managed to get a plug in for Twitter. Bob presented information on teamwork making strong members. He mentioned that members, branches, branch executives, and regional representatives all have a place in the strength of the Dominion organization.

This mini conference marked a first in an experiment. All the speakers were video taped in an attempt to get the information to those who could not attend. As in all new projects there were glitches. The question and answer periods, which provided much of the interaction between the branches, may not come through well. How this video will be made available will be discussed at the upcoming Dominion Council meeting.

Saturday afternoon guests were transported to the Saskatchewan Branch Cairn where numerous pictures were taken and then a very interesting tour of the RCMP Heritage Centre was conducted by retired Officer and Saskatchewan Branch President Ken Fader UE. Dominion Executive donned some red serge for a fun photo opportunity. The day concluded with a banquet and Bonnie led us on a "Search and Rescue" mission telling her story of research on her Pastorius line. She spoke to the fact that our generation needs to get this information gathered and stored as future generations will not have the same opportunities as sources are lost. Bob brought greetings on behalf of Dominion Council to the banquet.

Sunday morning participants gathered with the congregation of Knox-Metropolitan United Church for service and Dominion President Robert gave an overview of the Loyalists and the Association. After the service there was an opportunity to mingle with the congregation over coffee and from there everyone made their journey home.

Gerry Adair UE
Prairie Regional VP