



President's Report

Well this has been an interesting winter so far. For many of us we have had to deal with an incredible amount of snow in a short period of time. We also had an extended period of cold weather which was a real challenge to deal with high levels of snowfall in very cold weather. But we survived and have come through more resilient. I had the pleasure of attending the TCO AGM in Saskatoon. It was once again hosted at the Western Development Museum. TCO continues to run a tight operation that keeps its fees as low as possible while offering excellent service and a staff that is dedicated to serving its members .

This will be my last message to you as President of AOPA. I can't believe it has been six years already. It has been my privilege and honour to serve you all as members, to connect with some of you at our meetings and field days, and to network with many of you and learn so much from how you manage your operations. We never stop learning and I have learned so much from my time as President. I will continue to be a intricate part of the organization moving forwards, however my time as President is coming to an end.

I hope each of you that can make it out to our AGM in March that we are hosting in conjunction with Organic Alberta, do come out. If I have never met you yet, please stop by and introduce yourself. If we have, let's catch up. We have some amazing promotions for or AGM. New members and existing members are each eligible for some significant prize opportunities. I hope to see many of you there.

Be blessed and may God bring you good health and peace.

Michael Strebchuk

Certification Report

I am looking forward to another year to serve each member and hopefully greet some of you I have not had the privilege of meeting. As we work together for the benefit of each other our chapter will flourish.

The year is starting with 106 members. Retirements which are not all voluntarily and drought took a toll on our members.

IMPORTANT CHANGE

At our Fall Annual Meeting, it was decided to accept the offer from Tracey Smith, COE of Organic Alberta to move our AGM to coincide with their convention. AOPA will be sharing a booth with TCO at the tradeshow at this event. Do stop by for a visit. Their convention is March 13 & 14 in Beaumont, AB. at the Beaumont Community Centre, 5204-50 Ave. The BOD has chosen March 13 and we will have our AGM in room 3 from 1:15-2:15pm.

To promote your AGM the Board of Directors are offering valuable certificates. The Grand Prize certificate entitles one member of AOPA to receive the total deduction of the chapter's operating fee per member, which is \$390.00 Second prize, is an AOPA jacket. The member must be in attendance at the AGM to qualify.

For new members, who apply for their conversion period or switch from another certifying body to AOPA in 2026, each one will receive the total deduction of the chapter's operating fee per member, which is \$390.00. The application MUST be received by June 20. Do share this good news with anyone who has been sitting on the fence considering switching to organic practices or choosing another certifying body.

The contracts with our 3 main verification officers Bernie Ehnes, Dave Thompson and Sabrina George have been signed. We appreciate their continued diligence in working for us. Not all the evaluations by TCO for the new VO's hired have been received.

All the different applications were emailed out to the members January 30. The main thing missing last year by members was forgetting to add their inputs to the Field Management Summary, no matter if planned or actually using. Please correct that this year.

A reminder that if you are selling product into the United States you need to request the paperwork from Rachel at the head office. This is an extra step in the NOP Strengthening Organic Program.

Thought for today: "If you always have sunshine, you end up with a desert." Allister Beggs
PS I am thankful for the snow hills I have created so far this winter!

Kathy Petterson

AOPA Bylaw and Policy Procedure Report January 2026

The Board held an online Web meeting Jan. 13, 2026 at which an extensive discussion took place on how to attract more members and potential members to the General meetings and the Board holding in person meetings.

The AOPA Policy and Procedure document stipulates in Article 17 the Fees for Lunch at these meetings. At times the Board choose to offer no cost for the meals to attract individuals to the meetings and in turn engaged in the AOPA. The Board is working to strengthen its team by holding in person meetings not just by phone or on line Web Cam meetings.

A proposed Motion is scheduled to be presented at the Spring General Meeting to Amend Article 17 to reflect this Development direction for the AOPA.

Encouraging engagement from more Members and encouraging New Members is a Core Value of the AOPA. Thank you

Rick Pysyk

R&D : Research & Development.

Drips on Dips - the drip is a result of something going wrong and the dip is where the drip ends up at. So as we do some research we will figure out what development we can do to make our farms more effective and less work for us.

So you may have heard that I hate leaks, last time I wrote about battery leaks--- **Did you hear about the guy giving away dead batteries, They were all free of charge**

Okay enough of that, here is another leak that pains me, you come out to your equipment , usually in spring or fall and there is a tire that is leaked out a bunch of your air you put in last time you used it....so now you have to drive back and get the air tank, fill it up and hope it has enough for a fill on the tire so you can drive the equipment over to where ever your air compressor is housed and fill it up completely.

Here is what I bought this last year to get rid of the dips in the tires - a battery operated air pump.

https://www.amazon.ca/dp/B0D2P2QWQ9?ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_fed_asin_title&th=1

You can buy these air pumps to match your type of battery on the power tools you use, this one is a Milwaukee -- just plug in the batt, hookup to the tire, set the pressure you want it and let it fill up the tire. They are 50 to 200 dollars depend what you want. I bought the cheap one and have had no problems at all with it so far.

NOW LETS Back up and I'll tell you what I have done to prevent these real slow leaks that take weeks and weeks and weeks to leak down, it is called soap -- DAWN Soap is what works for me. , Take out the tire valve , fill up a syringe with soap and inject into tire stem. Depends how big the tire is as some times you have to put in few syringes or more. Screw back in the valve and fill it up. Go for a drive so that the soap gets all around the inside of the tire and eventually gets to where to air was seeping out, no more having to fill that tire up---well some times it may take a few more shots of soap as it has not got to the leak, but when it does it should give you bunch of leak free years -- that's what I do to make my farm more productive and I would never have know about it but a friend passed it on to me so I am passing on to you.



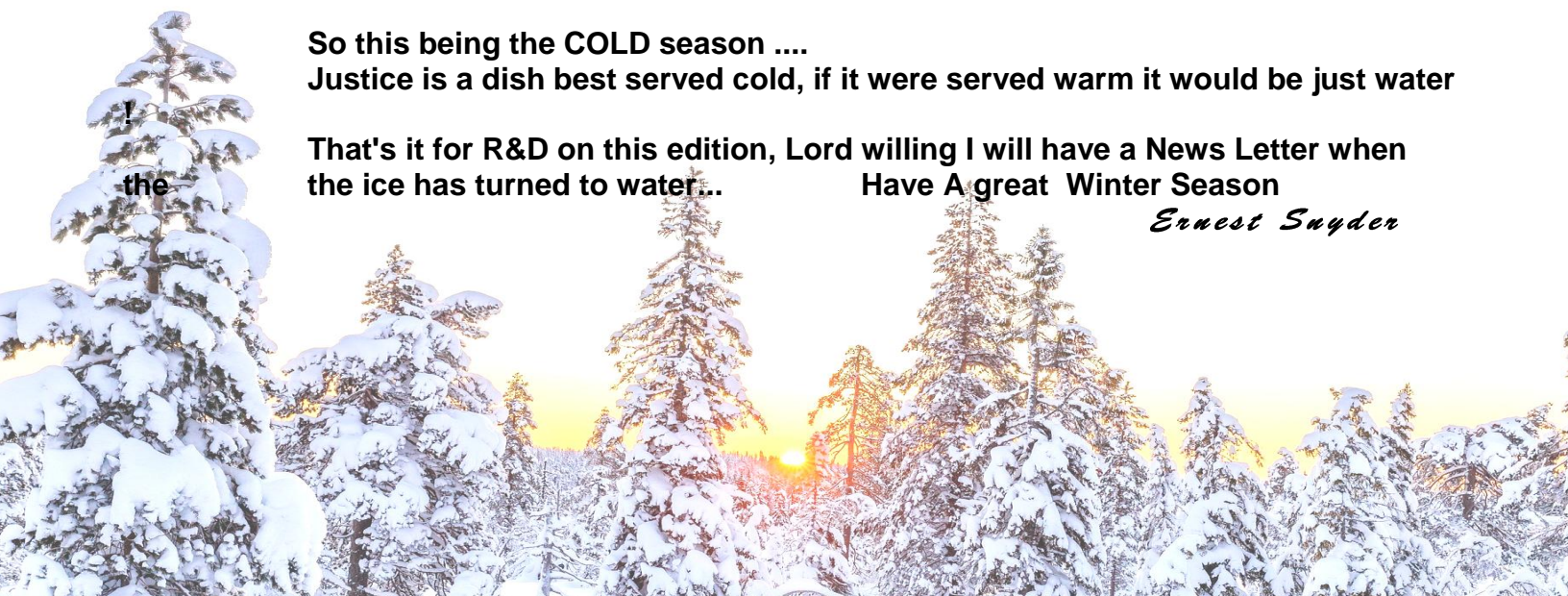
So this being the COLD season

Justice is a dish best served cold, if it were served warm it would be just water

That's it for R&D on this edition, Lord willing I will have a News Letter when the ice has turned to water...

Have A great Winter Season

Ernest Snyder



ALBERTA ORGANIC PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION Winter ANNUAL MEETING

AGM-- Friday, March 13th

1:30-2:15PM in Room #3 at the Beaumont Community Centre 5204 50 Ave

<https://www.beaumont.ab.ca/recreation-activities/facilities/community-centre/>

AOPA Field Day Coming Up This Summer in July : Thursday July 23rd, 2026

Ten Brummelhuis Dairy #32461 HWY 791 - Mountain View County

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/WX4SwYaLk3fRwSXq9>

2026's Best and Worst to Eat ...

Dirty Dozen

spinach
strawberries
kale, collard, mustard greens
grapes
peaches
cherries
nectarines
pear
apples
blackberries
blueberries
potatoes

Clean Fifteen

pineapple
corn
avocado
papaya
onion
sweet pea frozen
asparagus
cabbage
watermelon
cauliflower
bananas
mango
carrot
mushroom
kiwi

Good websites for the organic producer:

Canadian Organic Growers - www.cog.ca
Organics in Alberta - www.organicalberta.org
Organic Trade Association - www.ota.com
Organic Consumers Ass - www.organicconsumers.org
Canada Organic - www.choosecanadaorganic.ca
TCO - www.tcocert.ca

AOPA is Certified by



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