

**Membership Services Committee Report
for the 2021
BC Fruit Growers Association**

Membership Committee Structure

The Member Services committee is made up from the Northern District Council Chair, Southern District Chair, Northern Region Chair and Southern Region Chair, and several members of the board of directors. The committee helps provide oversight of services provided to members and provide feedback on how effective these services are.

Services Provided to Growers

- One program that the BCFGGA provides for growers is PAC (Pesticide Applicator Credits). Although the BCFGGA tracks these points, the lack of industry meetings this year due to COVID-19 and the lack of industry extension saw a decreased chance to give out these points
- Assistance with SAWP and TFW- Ag. Streams Applications.
- Free subscriptions to Ag. Magazines
- Communications with growers through regional meetings and Friday File communications.

The BCFGGA bursaries for 2020-2021 which will be formally announced at the Annual Convention are:

- Bailey Burdett, Summerland, the BCFGGA Golden Jubilee Bursary, \$1,000
- Parmeet Brar, Kermeos, the Joe Sardinha Memorial Bursary, \$1,000

Congratulations to our bursary recipients, it is great to see these young students are so engaged in agriculture.

During these tough financial times, the BCFGGA is exploring ways to provide benefits to our members. Several projects are included in the budget and will have the input of the Member Services Committee and be decided by the Board. The projects include encouraging (paying a small grant) to growers to participate in the

Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Program and the WorksSafeBC Certificate of Recognition (COR) Program. By participating, growers will not only receive the grant from the BCFGA, but also be eligible for grants from the EFP Program and reduced premiums for WorksafeBC coverage. We are also looking at a small grant to members for having the COVID-19 inspection for SAWP housing or the On-Farm Campsite. Finally, we are looking at a reduced-cost horticulture advisory service for members. The hope is that these financial benefits will encourage more growers to join the BCFGA and at the same time ensure our members are maximizing the funding and premium reductions, as well as keeping the members, families and their employees safe, and finally helping growers to get the best horticultural advice possible for an economical cost.

Membership Services Meeting

The Membership Service Committee met only once this year, and only for an hour Zoom call to discuss the merits of two proposed changes to the by-laws that would allow the election to take place this year in a manner that staff and members were comfortable with. The downside of having such a short, focused agenda is that it did not allow members of the committee to put forward their ideas for how to improve services and communication with the grower body.

The two proposed changes are:

Section 21 Nominations and election of the Board of Directors' Positions
(a) Nominations for positions within the Board of Directors shall be as follows:

- 1. For the position of President, elected in even-numbered years, nominations must be*
 - a. received on the form approved by the Board of Directors*
 - b. be received at the BCFGA office completed as described on the form, and*
 - c. be received at a date no later than 14 calendar days counting from the start date of the Annual Convention.*

- 2. For the position of Vice-President, elected in odd-numbered years, nominations must be*
 - a. received on the form approved by the Board of Directors*

