

SAGA COMMUNICATIONS INC

Form 11-K

June 24, 2005

**Table of Contents**

**United States  
Securities and Exchange Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 11-K**

**(Mark One)**

**Annual Report Pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

For the Fiscal Year ended December 31, 2004

or

**Transition Report Pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission file number 333-63321

**Saga Communications, Inc. Employees 401(K) Savings and Investment Plan**

(Full title of plan)

**Saga Communications, Inc.**

73 Kercheval Avenue  
Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236

(Name of Issuer of Securities Held Pursuant to Plan and Address of its Principal Executive Office)

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Saga Communications, Inc.  
Employees 401(k) Savings and Investment Plan

Table of Contents

Financial Statements and Supplemental Schedule

Years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003

	Page
<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	3
Financial Statements:	
<u>Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits – December 31, 2004 and 2003</u>	4
<u>Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits – Years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003</u>	5
<u>Notes to Financial Statements</u>	6
Supplemental Schedule:	
<u>Schedule H line 4(i) – Schedule of Assets (Held At End of Year)</u>	11
Other Information:	
<u>Signatures</u>	13
Exhibit 23.1 – Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	14
<u>Ex-23.1 Consent of Ernst &amp; Young LLP</u>	

**Table of Contents**

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Plan Administrator  
Saga Communications, Inc.  
Employees 401(k) Savings and Investment Plan

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of Saga Communications, Inc. Employees 401(k) Savings and Investment Plan as of December 31, 2004 and 2003, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. We were not engaged to perform an audit of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Our audit included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan at December 31, 2004 and 2003, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audits were performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2004, is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. This supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan's management. The supplemental schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audits of the financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

June 15, 2005

/S/ Ernst & Young LLP

**Table of Contents**

Saga Communications, Inc.  
 Employees 401(k) Savings and Investment Plan

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Investments, at fair value:		
Mutual funds	<b>\$ 9,670,233</b>	\$ 7,931,357
Guaranteed Investment Fund	<b>1,931,202</b>	1,895,974
Saga Common Stock Fund	<b>2,491,078</b>	2,370,803
Participant loans	<b>291,992</b>	194,769
	<b>14,384,505</b>	12,392,903
Employer contributions receivable	<b>247,742</b>	217,281
Net assets available for benefits	<b>\$ 14,632,247</b>	\$ 12,610,184

*See accompanying notes.*

**Table of Contents**

Saga Communications, Inc.  
Employees 401(k) Savings and Investment Plan

Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

	<b>Years ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Additions</b>		
Participant contributions	\$ 1,793,612	\$ 1,604,711
Employer contributions	247,742	217,281
Investment income:		
Interest and dividends	76,694	75,779
Net realized and unrealized appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments:		
Mutual funds	927,793	1,615,394
Saga common stock fund	(253,170)	(48,543)
Total additions	<b>2,792,671</b>	3,464,622
<b>Deductions</b>		
Benefit payments	770,608	751,766
Net increase	<b>2,022,063</b>	2,712,856
Net assets available for benefits:		
Beginning of year	<b>12,610,184</b>	9,897,328
End of year	<b>\$ 14,632,247</b>	\$ 12,610,184

*See accompanying notes.*

**Table of Contents**

Saga Communications, Inc.  
Employees 401(k) Savings and Investment Plan

Notes to Financial Statements  
Years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003

**1. Description of Plan**

The following description of Saga Communications, Inc. (the Company) Employees 401(k) Savings and Investment Plan (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the summary plan description for more complete information.

**General**

The Plan is a defined contribution plan which includes, as participants, all employees who have completed one year of employment and reached the age of twenty-one. The Plan is administered by the Company and is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

**Contributions**

Contributions to employees' accounts are effected through voluntary reductions in their compensation. Annual contributions for each participant are subject to the participation and discrimination standards of Internal Revenue Code Section 401(k). In accordance with Plan provisions, the Company may make a discretionary match; for 2004 and 2003 the discretionary employer match was \$247,742 and \$217,281, respectively.

Upon enrollment, a participant may direct their contributions to any of the Plan's fund options. Employer contributions are invested in Saga Communications, Inc. class A common stock.

**Participant Accounts**

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions and allocations of the Company's contributions and Plan earnings. Allocations are based on participant earnings or account balances, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's account.

**Table of Contents**

Saga Communications, Inc.  
Employees 401(k) Savings and Investment Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**1. Description of Plan (continued)**

**Vesting**

Participants are immediately vested in their contributions and the employer discretionary match plus actual earnings thereon.

**Participant Loans**

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested account balance. Loan terms range from 1-5 years or up to 15 years for purchase of primary residence. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at a rate as determined by the Plan Administrator which approximates the prime interest rate in effect on the first business day of the calendar quarter plus 1%. Principal and interest are paid ratably through payroll deductions.

**Distributions**

Participants or their beneficiaries may receive distributions of their account balances upon the earlier of reaching age 59-1/2, disability, death or termination of service, as defined in the Plan. Further, the Plan Administrator may permit a participant who experiences a qualified financial hardship, as defined, to receive a distribution or a portion of the participant's account balance. Such distributions are generally made in a lump sum.

**Plan Termination**

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA.

**Administrative Expenses**

Administrative expenses of the Plan are paid by the Company.

**Table of Contents**

Saga Communications, Inc.  
Employees 401(k) Savings and Investment Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**2. Significant Accounting Policies**

**Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

**Investment Valuation and Income Recognition**

Except for guaranteed investment contracts, the Plan's investments are stated at fair value which equals the quoted market price on the last business day of the plan year. The shares of mutual funds are valued at quoted market prices which represent the net asset values of shares held by the Plan at year-end. The participant loans are valued at their outstanding balances, which approximate fair value.

Guaranteed investment contracts are recorded at their contract values, which represent contributions and reinvested income, less any withdrawals plus accrued interest, because these investments have fully benefit-responsive features. For example, participants may ordinarily direct the withdrawal or transfer of all or a portion of their investment at contract value. There are no reserves against contract values for credit risk of contract issues or otherwise. The average yield was approximately 3.3% and 3.5% for 2004 and 2003, respectively. The crediting interest rate for these investment contracts is reset semiannually by the issuer but cannot be less than zero and was 3.6% and 3.7% at December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

**Use of Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with United States generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Table of Contents**

Saga Communications, Inc.  
 Employees 401(k) Savings and Investment Plan  
 Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**3. Investments**

Investments that represent 5% or more of fair value of the Plan's net assets are as follows:

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
Guaranteed Investment Fund*	<b>\$ 1,931,202</b>	\$ 1,895,974
Saga Common Stock Fund**	<b>2,491,078</b>	2,370,803
Vanguard Wellington Admiral Fund*	<b>1,166,821</b>	990,076
American Century Ultra Investors Fund*	<b>1,167,127</b>	1,101,563
Fidelity Contrafund Account*	<b>2,164,247</b>	1,928,801
S&P 500 Index Fund*	<b>1,025,353</b>	842,648
Fidelity Growth & Income Account*	<b>827,354</b>	674,492

\*Fund is sponsored by Plan Trustee

\*\*Non-participant directed

**4. Nonparticipant-Directed Investments**

Information about the significant components of changes in net assets related to the nonparticipant-directed investment is as follows:

	<b>Year ended</b>	
	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Saga Common Stock Fund:</b>		
Contributions	<b>\$ 420,335</b>	\$ 383,816
Net depreciation in fair value	<b>(253,170)</b>	(48,543)
Benefit payments	<b>(176,200)</b>	(114,821)
Transfers in	<b>129,310</b>	5,203
Net increase	<b>120,275</b>	225,655
Net assets available for benefits at beginning of year	<b>2,370,803</b>	2,145,148
Net assets available for benefits at end of year	<b>\$ 2,491,078</b>	\$ 2,370,803

**Table of Contents**

Saga Communications, Inc.  
Employees 401(k) Savings and Investment Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**5. Income Tax Status**

The underlying volume submitter plan has received a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) dated September 4, 2001, stating that the form of the plan is qualified under Section 401 of the Internal Revenue Code, and therefore, the related trust is tax exempt. In accordance with Revenue Procedure 2002-6 and Announcement 2001-77, the Plan Sponsor has determined that it is eligible to and has chosen to rely on the current IRS volume submitter plan determination letter. Once qualified, the Plan is required to operate in conformity with the Code to maintain its qualification. The plan administrator believes the Plan is being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code and, therefore, believes that the Plan is qualified and the related trust is tax exempt.

**6. Risks and Uncertainties**

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of assets available for benefits.

**Table of Contents**

Saga Communications, Inc.  
Employees 401(k) Savings and Investment Plan

Employer ID # 38-2683519 Plan #001

Schedule H, line 4i Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

December 31, 2004

<b>Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor or Similar Party</b>	<b>Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par or Maturity Value</b>	<b>Current Value</b>
*Prudential Retirement Insurance Company	Guaranteed Investment Fund	\$ 1,931,202
*Prudential Retirement Insurance Company	S&P 500 Index Fund	1,025,353
*Prudential Retirement Insurance Company	Artisan Partners Growth Fund	234,883
*Prudential Retirement Insurance Company	Timesquare Investment Grade Corporate Bond Fund	13,471
*Prudential Retirement Insurance Company	Fidelity Contrafund Account	2,164,247
*Prudential Retirement Insurance Company	Fidelity Growth and Income Account	827,354
*Prudential Retirement Insurance Company	Balanced I/ Wellington Management Fund	651,725
*Prudential Retirement Insurance Company	American Century Ultra Investors Fund	1,167,127
*Prudential Retirement Insurance Company	Vanguard Wellington - Admiral Fund	1,166,821
*Prudential Retirement Insurance Company	Credit Suisse Emerging Growth Fund	484,471
*Prudential Retirement Insurance Company	Goldman Sachs Large Cap Growth Fund	177,221
*Prudential Retirement Insurance Company	Janus Fund	437,537
*Prudential Retirement Insurance Company	TCW Small Cap Value Fund	239,327
*Prudential Retirement Insurance Company	High Yield Bond/Caywood-Scholl Fund	164,473
*Prudential Retirement Insurance Company	Large Cap Value/Barrow Hanley	78,856
*Prudential Retirement Insurance Company	American Century Equity Income Fund	41,487
*Prudential Retirement Insurance Company	Templeton Growth Fund	92,302

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*Prudential Retirement Insurance Company	Oakmark Equity and Income Class I	125,402
*Prudential Retirement Insurance Company	Lifetime20	61,122
*Prudential Retirement Insurance Company	Lifetime30	4,273
*Prudential Retirement Insurance Company	Lifetime40	20,947
*Prudential Retirement Insurance Company	Lifetime50	32,376
*Prudential Retirement Insurance Company	Lifetime60	1,564
*Prudential Retirement Insurance Company	Oppenheimer Global Class A	331,696
*Prudential Retirement Insurance Company	International Equity Julius Baer	126,198
**Saga Communications, Inc.	Saga Common Stock Fund	2,491,078
*Participant loans receivable	Interest rates 5.00% to 10.50%	291,992
Total investments		\$ 14,384,505

\*Party-in-interest

\*\*Party-in-interest, nonparticipant directed fund

**Table of Contents**

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

Exhibits

23.1 Consent of Ernst & Young LLP

12

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**Table of Contents**

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the administrator of the Plan has duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

SAGA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
EMPLOYEES 401(K) SAVINGS AND  
INVESTMENT PLAN

Date: June 22, 2005

/S/ Marcia K. Lobaito

Marcia K. Lobaito  
Plan Administrator

Date: June 22, 2005

/S/ Catherine Bobinski

Catherine Bobinski  
Vice President, Corporate Controller and  
Chief Accounting Officer