

President's Report

Dale Larsen, CPRP

"The best way to predict the future is to create it."

Peter Drucker



Drucker's well known quote is alive and well in the Academy. I was reminded of the quote several times this past week as I conversed often with the likes of Charlie Hartsoe, Joe Bannon, and Max Ramsey. These three esteemed professionals have

contributed more to the rich history of parks and recreation than most of us; yet, they are not satisfied with yesterday. They are retired in name only. They continue to push for an even better tomorrow. I just hope we are worthy of helping to guide their shared legacies into a brighter future.

On that note, I have several items to share with Academy members in relationship to our shared futures. First, all of us received a memo from Tony Cisneros, Chairman of the Membership Committee. This year there are openings for two educators and eight practitioners. Deadline for applications is June 15. Please help the future of the Academy out by encouraging new candidates to apply for membership consideration.

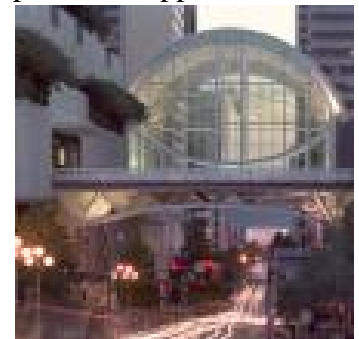
Second, you also should have received a notice from John Crompton, Chairman of the Pugsley Award, seeking nominees for the 2006 Pugsley Medals. If ever there was a word to describe John it is "indefatigable." John and his committee have raised the leadership awareness of this esteemed program to high standards. John urges all of us to help fulfill our shared responsibility by making an effort to nominate qualified individuals. The awardees will be honored at the Academy's annual banquet in Seattle at the NRPA Congress in October. This ultimate recognition is the highlight

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of our yearly Academy experience. Applications are due by June 30.

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Convention and Trade
Center



Third, Alice Conkey, Chair of the Externship Committee has announced the

application timeline for the 2006 Young Professional Externships. Alice and her committee have also raised the awareness of recognition and diversity for the future leaders of our profession. Similarly to new member applications and the Pugsley nominations, it is only appropriate that we help recruit worthy nominees for our 2006 Externs. The deadline for the Externship program is June 30.

Fourth, another legacy group, working in partnership with NRPA – the Hall of Fame Committee, chaired by Peter Witt – has announced recommended committee members representing the Academy. They are: Peter Witt (Chair); Jane Adams, Vern Hartenburg, and Genie Zakrzewski. The Academy Board of Directors approved the slate of members during the May 12 Board Meeting. Three other Academy members: Charlie Hartsoe (Vice-Chair) Bob Stanton and Doug Sessoms have been recommended as NRPA nominees and will be considered by the NRPA Executive Committee.

Congratulations to Peter and this esteemed group of Academy leaders.

And finally, it is with enormous pleasure that I am able to also announce that the Academy's Board of Director's has approved Dr. James Busser, University of Nevada – Las Vegas, as the new JPRA Editor. Dr. John Hultsman chaired an Academy Search Committee and has been working diligently since the San Antonio Congress in recruiting and evaluating candidates. The committee recommended Jim after assessing his extensive scholarly research contributions to the Journal for many years. Jim Busser replaces a truly dedicated research leader – Peter Witt. Please join the Academy Board, John, and Peter in congratulating Dr. Jim Busser as our new JPRA Editor.

So, to Charlie, Joe and Max – the future continues to be guided with your support and that of the Academy. Thank you for not letting us forget. You have established a challenging pace.



Puget Sound Ferry

Finalists for the 2006 National Gold Medal Awards

Ashburn, Va., April 2006 – The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA) in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is proud to announce the finalists for the 2006 National Gold

Medal Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management. Proud sponsors of the Gold Medals include Porter Athletic Equipment Company and Musco Lighting LLC. The 2006 Gold Medal finalists are:

Class I (population 250,000 and over)

- City of Long Beach (CA) Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine
- Indianapolis (IN) Department of Parks and Recreation
- Fort Worth (TX) Parks and Community Services
- Gwinnett County (GA) Parks and Recreation

Class II (population 100,001 – 250,000)

- Boise (ID) Parks and Recreation
- City of Peoria (IL) Community Services Department
- Tempe (AZ) Parks and Recreation Department
- City of Westminster (CO) Department of Parks, Recreation and Libraries

Class III (population 50,001 – 100,000)

- Bend (OR) Metro Park and Recreation District
- Bolingbrook (IL) Park District
- Foothills (CO) Park and Recreation District
- City of Bloomington (IN) Parks and Recreation

Class IV (population 25,001 – 50,000)

- Elmhurst (IL) Park District
- Homewood-Flossmoor (IL) Park District
- City of Lake Oswego (OR) Parks and Recreation
- Town of Parker (CO) Parks and Recreation Department

Class V (population less than 25,000)

- Bloomingdale (IL) Park District
- City of North Platte (NE) Leisure Services Department
- Frankfort (IL) Square Park District
- Vernon Hills (IL) Park District

The Gold Medals honor communities throughout the United States that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development, and agency recognition. Each agency is judged on its ability to address the needs of those it serves through the collective energies of citizens, staff and elected officials.

A panel of five parks and recreation professionals reviews and judges all application materials. Judges are chosen for their considerable experiences and knowledge in parks and recreation on both local and national levels.

This year's finalists will compete for Grand Award honors this spring, and all winners will be announced live during at NRPA's Annual Congress & Exposition in Seattle, Washington, October 10 – 14, 2006



Seattle and Mt. Rainier

Urban Park and Recreation Summit Makes History in Chicago

CHICAGO, Illinois – May 18 – Nearly 400 big-city park and recreation directors, civic leaders and advocates from metro areas across the United States arrived in Chicago this week for a two-day summit aimed at launching a National Agenda for Urban Parks and Recreation to bring increased commitment and funding back to city centers.

Facing a \$38 billion funding deficit for basic needs over the next four years, local parks and recreation

departments have an uphill battle to fight, but one worth winning.

In many cities, parks and recreation services are not viewed as essential services. According to Beverly O'Neill, mayor of Long Beach, Calif. and president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, park and recreation services need to be seen as core services that affect the health, livability and quality of life of city residents.

“Let's face it,” O'Neill explained to attendees, “nobody is going to give [parks and recreation] any resources until you demonstrate that your services are just as important as the health and safety of our communities—as important as police officers, fire fighters, streets and sidewalks.” O'Neill continued by saying, “I think parks and recreation have more things going for them than almost any other entity because you reach so many people.”

Implementing a national movement for urban parks and recreation will take the support of national, state and local organizations, civic leaders and individual citizens. Support from high-powered leaders such as Mayors O'Neill and Chicago's Richard M. Daley are a great starting point, but buy-in from the nation's other largest cities is key.

In June, the nation's big-city mayors will convene at the annual meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Las Vegas where Mayor Daley will bring a resolution that will support and endorse the National Agenda for Urban Parks and Recreation.

At the week's end, the theme was clear—more support, funding and collaboration is needed at the federal, state and local levels, and from those in the public and private sectors.

Bringing the summit to life was collaboration in its own right. Funded by a grant from the National Recreation Foundation, the summit was led by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), with partners Trust for Public Land, City Parks Alliance, Roundtable Associates, and the Ethnic Minority Society.

“In order to launch a successful national movement for urban parks and recreation, these organizations with like-minded missions came together to create one voice. There is strength in numbers,” stated executive director, John Thorner.

Udert W. Hella Cornelius Amory Pugsley State Medal Award, 1964



Udert W. “Judge” Hella (1908-1993) received the state level Pugsley Medal in 1964 “in recognition of his outstanding public service as director of state parks for the state of Minnesota.” Hella was born in Cloquet, Minnesota. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1931 with a degree in civil

engineering and later did graduate work in the area of public health. After two years as a draftsman and member of a field survey crew with the state highway department, Hella joined the NPS in 1933. His first position was engineering foreman in a CCC camp at Scenic State Park. Soon after, he was transferred to Cascade River Park as project superintendent for the CCC camp in operation there. From there, he spent time at the NPS regional office in Omaha as an acting NPS inspector for CCC projects and in the state of Wyoming, before becoming camp superintendent at Sibley State Park. Throughout his career, Hella was called “the Inspector” by some of his co-workers based on his role in the New Deal’s CCC program. Hella returned to Minnesota in 1936 to become supervisor of the *Minnesota Park, Parkway and Recreational Area Study*, a long range plan for the Minnesota state park system. The financing of this study was transferred in 1937 to the state and Hella moved with the funding to become an employee of the state of Minnesota.

When the study was completed in 1938, he was hired as northern region supervisor for the state parks system which incorporated all facilities north of the Twin Cities, and he remained in that position until 1942 primarily supervising the work of CCC crews in state parks.

With the onset of World War II, Hella was identified as a “war essential project engineer” and left state parks to work for Northwest Airlines. After the war, he held a variety of positions outside the parks field, including one as general manager of production and corporate secretary of Kol Inc. of St. Paul, a manufacturer of tubular steel and sheet metal products. It was from that position that Hella was recruited to become director of state parks in 1953.

Hella’s appointment marked the beginning of a new era for Minnesota’s state parks. Immediately after accepting the position, he toured the park system and was appalled at the deterioration that he found at the 62 areas comprising 82,000 acres. This deterioration reflected the unavoidable curtailment of funds for parks during the World War II era. He later recalled: “Through my mind passes a weary and seemingly endless procession of unpainted buildings, rotting steps, leaking roofs, bulging camp grounds, new areas being ruined due to lack of planning. Much of the havoc is not apparent to the casual visitor, but a closer inspection will bring it to light.” To begin to address these problems, Hella persuaded the legislature to impose a one dollar fee per year for each vehicle entering a park and to designate those funds for the operation and maintenance of the parks.

During Hella’s 20 years as director, the state park system realized many of the goals that were set in the plan he supervised in the 1930s. The state park system grew rapidly. He was known for his strong sense of ethics and remained as director through several changes in governors from both parties. By the time he retired in 1973 as director of the Division of Parks and Recreation Hella had served with six commissioners of the Department of Natural Resources.

In the first ten years of his leadership, the state park system doubled its acreage to 160,000 acres as thirteen new state parks were established and substantial increases added to some previously established parks. The first decade of Hella's tenure from 1953 to 1962 was known as "A Time of Change" in which the Minnesota state parks system grew both quantitatively and qualitatively. For many people, these were relatively prosperous years, and one way for families to spend their increased disposable income was to visit state parks, so there was increased public pressure to improve and expand the park system.

Perhaps the most significant feature of his administration was his effectiveness in arousing and organizing the public and civic interest groups to support the state park system. This support was key to the success of his expansion effort. He founded the Minnesota Council of State Parks whose membership was comprised of distinguished business and professional leaders from around the state who were instrumental in influencing legislation and raising the money to buy land for future parks. As individuals they commanded the attention of governors and the legislature. This support was key to Hella's success in passing the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Resources Act in 1963 which provided \$54 million for a 10 year program of acquisitions and development of recreational resources for the state.

This was perhaps the most important piece of legislation in the history of the Minnesota state parks system. It authorized and funded the acquisition of an additional fourteen state parks. The legislation, based on requests and recommendations from Hella, was actively promoted by the influential members of the Minnesota Council of State Parks. Soon after its passage, the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund passed in 1965, and it provided a new source of funding for state parks which reinforced the impact of the state's Outdoor Recreation Act.

Hella played a prominent role in the preservation of the St. Croix Riverway and its ultimate designation by the NPS as a wild and scenic river. The state

park system first obtained a lease of 7,000 acres bordering 12 miles of the upper river in 1943 from the Northern States Power Company and this area became St. Croix State Park. The company had acquired the lands within the river valley in the 1800s with the intention of developing a series of hydroelectric plants in the valley. When fossil fuels emerged as a more viable option for power generation, the company had no operational need to retain this land. The company expressed an interest in 1962 in working with Minnesota and Wisconsin to determine how its lands could be the best conserved, and the passing of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1965 provided momentum to develop a plan and program for the restoration and long-range preservation of the St. Croix with which Hella was centrally involved. The planning commission created trail systems on both sides of the river; implemented programs of land acquisition and transfers; ensured protective zoning; and implemented the state legislation needed to bring the project to function in 1968.



St. Croix National Wild and Scenic River

Hella was a primary instigator of the movement to establish Voyageurs National Park. Earlier studies had suggested a national park be established in the area, but it was only after Hella became state parks director that the project moved forward with purpose. He undertook a survey of the proposed park area on foot with Dr. Breckenridge, a noted biology professor at the University of Minnesota, and another member of the Council of State Parks.

In 1958, he brought together all the state and federal land agencies that would be impacted by establishment of the national park, secured their support for the project, and persuaded the National Park Service to produce a plan. Hella was aware

there would be fierce local opposition to the federal government taking responsibility for the area. Hence, throughout the process, Hella remained in the background out of public gaze so he would not be exposed to conflict of interest charges with his role as the chief steward of Minnesota's state park lands, some of which would be included in the new park. Hella effectively organized highly influential leaders in Minnesota into a formidable support group to counter the opposition.

The NPS director was Conrad Wirth, a native of Minneapolis and a good friend of Hella. Their personal relationship was important in facilitating the collaboration needed to bring the project to fruition. It was a long process, but Hella and the support group were tenacious and persistent. The state's governor, over 1,400 organizations, and thousands of individuals lobbied for the park. The first bill to establish Voyageurs was filed in 1969, it was signed into law in 1971, and the park opened in 1975.

Hella's passion and perspective relating to state parks emerged in his communications to fellow professionals: "We who are in the business of managing parks feel a deep sense of gratitude to those of the past and present whose foresight and wisdom successfully implemented the preservation of choice and significant bits of our history, and our natural landscape as the rightful heritage of all men."

We also feel a deep sense of responsibility that these areas be so managed that the "countless numbers who are still unborn" may realize the same benefits as do we, the "few who are living" that they might profit, as do we, from the scientific values of natural areas and find them islands of solitude and refuge from the noise, confusion and speed inherent to our civilization.

His contributions from his work with the CCC, his role in creating Voyageurs National Park, and his long and effective tenure as director resulted in Hella's influence on state and national parks in Minnesota being greater than that of any other individual.



Membership

Marco A. Cisneros, CPRP, Membership Committee Chair

The Membership Committee has been busy working on achieving some of the 2006 Plan of Work goals. The ones that are most important at this time include establishing a timeline for the Academy's membership selection process and identifying the Administrative Policies and Procedures associated with the membership selection process. These goals have been tough to work with given the number of changes that this process has experienced over the years. The work accomplished thus far has been forwarded to the AAPRA Board for their review and consideration.

The next challenge, as indicated in the following notice, is for the AAPRA membership to search for qualified candidates to nominate for membership consideration into the Academy. Thank you for your help in this very important recruitment effort.



AAPRA Membership Nominations

Marco A. Cisneros, CPRP, Membership Committee Chair

It is that time of year again when we need to think long and hard as to who is worthy of nomination for consideration to become a member of the Academy for Park and Recreation Administration. This year there are openings for **two (2) educators and eight (8) practitioners**. Please keep in mind the original purpose and goals of the Academy as you decide whom you can nominate. Remember that with these nominations we are not seeking to honor individuals for their years of service, rather we are seeking to recognize outstanding leadership in the parks and recreation field from those individuals that have made major contributions during their career in our field.

Nominations are due by June 15. For further information or nomination forms, contact:

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Recruiting Accreditation Visitors

Lowell Caneday, Ph.D., C.P.R.P.

Since the late 1970s, the NRPA/AAPAR Council on Accreditation has been the recognized authority to accredit institutions of higher education in recreation, park resources, and leisure services. The Council was initially recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation (COPA) in 1986 – a momentous day in our profession, headed by several members of the Academy. The most recent recognition of the Council was by a successor to COPA, the Commission on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). Now, most recently, the Council on Accreditation reflects changes in the former American Association for Leisure and Recreation, now renamed the American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation (AAPAR)

Approximately one hundred institutions are accredited by the Council on Accreditation. Each institution requires an on-site visit by qualified representatives of Council upon initial review and every five years thereafter. Those qualified visitors typically include two academicians and one professional practitioner. During the spring 2006, several institutions scheduled for on-site visits were deferred due to lack of qualified visitors. If accreditation is valued by our profession, members of the profession must step forward to accept the responsibility of serving as visitors.

During the past several years, retirement of qualified visitors from both the academic and professional practitioner portions of the field has exceeded the rate of preparation of new visitors. Council needs the assistance of the Academy in recruiting the next generation of visitors – those who value the academic preparation; quality of the baccalaureate programs in recreation, park resources and leisure services; and the linkage between academic preparation and a strong profession. Academy members have the opportunity to influence that next generation regarding the importance of accreditation.

In particular, members of the Academy can influence young faculty members as to the value of the scholarship related to curricular evaluation.



Members of the Academy in professional practice can influence the next generation of leaders as to the importance of high quality academic programs to prepare future professionals. Further, as the Council moves from standards reflecting programmatic inputs to standards reflecting learning outcomes, practitioners must have a significant voice in preparing new standards and criteria on which programs will be evaluated.

Information on NRPA/AAPAR accreditation is available on the NRPA webpage through links to accreditation and certification. These pages provide information on becoming a visitor, the schedule of upcoming visits, and more in-depth material for those interested in the process.

Visitor training will be provided at the NRPA Congress in Seattle. That training provides 0.3 CEUs and will be detailed in the conference schedule.

