



President's Report

Michelle Park

Twenty-five years ago on October 22, 1980, twenty-eight park and recreation professionals gathered at the Adams Hotel during the NRPA Congress in Phoenix, AZ for the purpose of discussing the establishment of an Academy for Park and Recreation Administration. The consensus of the discussion was that such an academy was needed. During the meeting the following resolution was adopted:

“We, the concerned parks and recreation professionals of America, in order to promote understanding of parks and recreation goals and methods, to increase knowledge through encouraging its gathering, organization and dissemination, and to unify and strengthen our purposes, all toward improving the quality of life in America, do hereby decree the establishment of an Academy of illustrious parks and recreation fellows to undertake this charge.”

The list of signatories to that resolution is a “who’s who” in parks and recreation.

A motion to appoint Frank Vaydik as temporary president was made by Mary Grogan, seconded by David Laidlaw and passed and the Academy began its work to advance the profession. Over the past twenty-five years, tremendous work has been accomplished all through the personal commitment and dedication of Academy members.

This year there were over 110 Academy members who served on committees and task forces. Thank you – each and every one of you – for your volunteer leadership and involvement that has advanced our work this year. Every committee and task force achieved almost 100% of the goals they identified and many exceeded their goals as projects

Inside This Issue

- **President's Report**
- **Committee and Task Force Reports**
- **NRPA Congress Schedule**
- **Past Pugsley Award Honoree**

surfaced during the year that needed to be addressed. From the new Technical Assistance program the Academy is implementing in conjunction with NRPA, to submitting grants for new publications documenting our professional history, to refining our membership criteria and by-laws, to increasing the number of Journal subscriptions, to establishing two new extern positions for minority professionals, to surpassing the number of Academy members presenting sessions at the NRPA Congress, to transferring Legends videotapes to DVD's, completing summaries and developing a new brochure, the list of accomplishments goes on and on. At every turn Academy members have stepped forward to give willingly of your time and expertise to advance a goal. You are all to be commended!



But of course we are not done yet. The Academy needs your continued involvement and support now more than ever. If you did not serve on a committee or task force or if you were unable to contribute to the Academy Foundation, please consider

contacting our next president, Dale Larsen, and offer support. He is currently working on recruiting committee chairs and members and I know would welcome your offer to help. I know that a year from now Dale will be feeling the same as I do as I write this report...never more humbled to have served as your president...never prouder to be part of such a dedicated group of professionals making a tremendous difference both in your communities each day and within your profession as true leaders. Thank you for giving me the opportunity.

Special recognition goes to all those who are volunteering to help the victims of Katrina. We hope to hear insights from some of our members during our business meeting to learn what we can do over time to assist with the redevelopment of park and recreation services in those areas.

Please join our new members at a New Member Orientation on Thursday, October 20, 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM in Room 210B of the Convention Center. You'll hear from Mary Grogan, Charlie Hartsoe and John Potts sharing information about our early years and the important projects the Academy has initiated. It would be a great time to welcome them.

Thank you again. See you in San Antonio!

Committee and Task Force Reports

Following are committee and task force reports from the Academy as submitted by chairs and members of these various representative bodies on your behalf.

Annual Banquet and Social

By Tony Cisneros and Susan Eaves

The Annual Banquet and Social Committee has been busy working on making the San Antonio AAPRA Banquet a great evening for all in spite of the competition from the San Antonio River Walk. As a convenience to the membership and in an effort to save expensive travel costs, the Banquet

venue is right across the street from the Hilton Host Hotel at the Hilton Pavilion.

The registration flyers have already gone out to all Academy members in electronic and in some instances in hard copy versions as needed. The \$70 ticket will be a ticket to a San Antonio fun time and good food (including dessert).

The evening's entertainment will be split up into the reception entertainment (including a possible Mariachi Band) and the dinner entertainment. The local musical talents are exemplary and colorful at the same time. We are also bringing in a talented musician from North Texas as a part of the entertainment program for the evening.

The committee is working on the table decorations with the Catering Manager – colors will be silver and black with hurricanes and silver candles on mirror tiles. It should look very elegant and pretty.

We need for everyone to send in their payments for the tickets to the AAPRA office as soon as possible because the seating will be limited to the first 170 registered individuals. Anything after that, and we'll be making up a wait list. See you in San Antonio!

Bylaws Committee

Committee Members

- J. Robert Rossman, Chair
- Jim Donahue
- Steve New
- Bill Scalzo

The Committee helped prepare a ballot for making changes to the Bylaws that will further specify requirements for membership in the Academy. The Ballot was recently mailed to the membership for voting on the changes recommended. Results of the balloting will be reported to the membership at the annual meeting. Ballots were to be returned by September 9.

The Board of Directors also passed a motion recommended by the Bylaws Committee that all language in the Bylaws should be gender neutral.

Young Professional Externship

By Alice Conkey

Four externships were awarded this year. Two new externships were awarded to minority candidates in 2005. The 2005 AAPRA Externship Committee is pleased to announce the selections for 2005 Congress in San Antonio.

1. Jo Ellis - Baldwin City Kansas
2. Teresa Hilton - Columbia Maryland
3. Oralethea Davenport - Chicago Illinois
4. Jonathan Jones - Lake Balboa California

You will have the opportunity to meet these young professionals at our Academy membership meeting and dinner. Thanks to all the members of the Externship Committee for their efforts. The quality of the applicants is more impressive each year.

Academy members will serve as mentors and meet the externs in San Antonio during Academy functions.

Thanks to excellent Committee members who did an outstanding job. The quality of applicants improves each year, so the competition is intense.

The Committee does recommend that the Executive Committee consider increasing the award from 500 to 750-1000 due to the increased costs of lodging and air transportation. Most of these folks do not get additional financial assistance from their agencies as they are middle and entry level employees. If necessary, three instead of four slots could be considered.

Congratulations to our Externs. See you in San Antonio.

Legends in Parks and Recreation

By Vern J. Hartenburg and Linda Quast

The 2005 Academy Legends Committee has selected six distinguished park and recreation leaders to be videotaped as part of the Academy

Legends initiative. The interviews record the "Legends" personal background, professional insight, advice and philosophical beliefs. The interviews, recorded in DVD and videotape format, are available for loan or purchase through the Academy office. Since the inception of the Legends program, over 90 professionals have been interviewed.

For 2005, the largest group of Legends has been identified in a single year to be taped. This group includes the following:

- Jim Brademas, professor emeritus, University of Illinois
- Ron Dodd, retired, executive director, Joliet Park District, Joliet, Illinois
- Terry Dopson, retired, director, Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department, Kansas City, Missouri
- John "Pat" Harden, retired, head of the Quality of Life Department, U.S. Naval Service Warfare Center
- Charles Jordan, chairman, The Conservation Fund, Portland, Oregon
- Joel Meier, retired, professor, Indiana University, Department of Recreation and Park Administration

A Legends brochure and DVD of the above 2005 Legends will be distributed at the Academy banquet in San Antonio, Texas.

Membership

By Randy Vessell

The Membership Committee conducted the evaluations of nominations for the 2004 – 2005 academy year utilizing Board approved procedures resulting from the recommendations of the Membership Criteria Task Force. A total of eighteen nominations were received with the final result of five new members being approved for membership by the Academy Board. The new members are:

Educator

- Linda Caldwell, Penn State University

Professionals

- Richard Grodsky, Elmhurst (IL) Park District
- Paul Romero, California State Parks
- Barry Tindall, NRPA
- Barry Weiss, City of San Carlos (CA) Parks and Recreation Department.

Best Practices

Linda Kotowski

LAST CALL for Citizen Involvement Best Practices

The Academy Citizen Involvement Task Force still **NEEDS YOUR PROJECTS!**

In order to compile a set of best practices, we need more projects that involve citizen volunteers. Don't miss this opportunity to share your successes with fellow professionals and provide pertinent information such as:

1. Description of the program, project, event, or effort
2. Partnerships initiated or formed
3. How was the citizen involvement initiated and mobilized?
4. What was the staff involvement?
5. What 3 key lessons did the P&R Department learn from this?
6. What methods did you use to recognize your citizen volunteers?

Examples received so far include building a skate park, neighborhood park watch program, friends group organized to support an individual park, an analysis process utilizing citizens, and an athletic council of youth sports organizations.

Please return this information (electronically to the extent possible, please) to Linda Kotowski at lkotowsk@auroragov.org no later than September 30, 2005. THANKS!



Academy Journal Subscription Task Force

By Chuck Wilt

We made contact with 41 accredited universities identified as non-subscribers. We ended up with positive responses from Grambling State University, Arizona State University West, Eastern Illinois University, Gallaudet University, Western Kentucky University, Georgia Southern University, University of Tennessee - Knoxville, Virginia Commonwealth and the University of Minnesota. Eastern Kentucky University and the University of North Texas were found to already be subscribers.

The subscription rate is slightly up for 2005 over 2004. Based on some of the responses we received there are more students enrolling as Tourism and Sport Management Majors and this could have an impact on the interest in the journal since it is focused on recreation and parks.

NRPA Congress Schedule

Various calendars have been sent with meeting times and locations for the NRPA Congress in San Antonio. For Academy members, Andee Chestnut sent this information in an earlier email message. This is just a reminder of correct dates, times and locations. Some are slightly different than other printed programs.

- Board Meeting, 7:00 – 9:00 AM, Thursday, October 20, Convention Center Room 210B
- New Member Orientation, 9:30 – 10:30 AM, Thursday, October 20, Convention Center Room 210B
- General Membership Meeting, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM, Thursday, October 20, Convention Center 212B
- Banquet, 6:00 – 10:00 PM, Thursday, October 20, Pavilion by Hilton
- Academy Foundation Board Meeting, 7:30 – 9:00 AM, Friday, October 21, Hilton – Ibiza Patio Restaurant

- JPRA Associate Editors, 8:00 - 9:30 AM, Friday, October 21, Convention Center Room 008A

Past Pugsley Award Honoree



Fran P. Mainella received the regional/state level Pugsley Medal in 1998 “for outstanding leadership in enhancing the Florida State Park system.” She is a native of Willimantic, Connecticut. Her interest in the outdoors emerged early. Although she was raised in Connecticut, many of her father’s family resided in Albuquerque, New Mexico, so family summer vacations consisted of going out west to visit family, and combining this with trips to national parks. A visit to Grand Canyon as a sixth grader made a particularly lasting impression.

Mainella received a bachelor’s degree in physical education from the University of Connecticut and a Master’s degree in counseling from Central Connecticut State College. She credits the two distinct disciplines as contributing to her professional success. The degree in physical education served as a basis for understanding the value of activity for children and adults as well as the environments that support such activity. The degree in counseling proved useful throughout the myriad of supervisory positions she has held.

After graduating with a BS in education in 1965, Mainella taught physical education at a middle school in Croton, Connecticut. At the same time, she had a position as a playground leader at weekends and during vacations. In 1977, she relocated to Florida to become an assistant in a

community center in the Tallahassee Parks and Recreation department. The center’s primary clientele were African-American which gave her useful insights into serving people from different cultural backgrounds.

In 1978, Mainella moved to become director of parks and recreation in Lake Park, Florida, located near West Palm Beach. Her involvement with the Florida Parks and Recreation Association led to an interest in the association’s executive director’s position to which she was appointed in 1983. In this position, she facilitated professional development opportunities for the membership and became involved in political advocacy efforts with the state legislature.

Mainella was appointed director of Florida State Parks in the Department of Environmental Protection in 1989. In that position, she was responsible for the administration of more than 500,000 acres within 153 state parks, museums, preserves, recreation areas, historic sites, geological sites, botanical gardens, archeological sites, wildlife parks and trails. Mainella supervised planning, design and construction within the state park system; coordinated the statewide marketing of the division; and oversaw the extensive volunteer and technical assistance programs. In 2001, the state parks system received the Gold Medal award recognizing it as the leading state parks system in the country.

During her tenure, Florida State Parks became a national model for its volunteer and partnership programs which formalized and strengthened the effective use of interested, talented, and committed individuals and companies to enhance a broad spectrum of programs and services for public benefit. Over the 12 year period of her leadership, volunteerism in the state parks tripled. The prevailing mantra of her professional career has been that partnerships are central to progress in resolving contemporary park and conservation challenges. The complexity of the issues and the limited reserves available to public entities, make partnerships the key to progress. She reflected on her first position as a playground counselor and observed “the kids on the playground taught me

quickly that most jobs are too big for one person. I have remembered these lessons throughout my career. We need partnerships to achieve moderate goals. We need more and better partnerships to achieve larger goals.”

In Florida, Mainella was appointed to her position in a Democratic administration and re-appointed by a Republican administration. This is illustrative of her ability to win the respect of people on all sides of an issue. In 2001, when she was subsequently appointed the sixteenth and first female to be director of the National Park Service, this attribute was again evident as her appointment won praise from environmentalists, park-user groups, and the tourism industry.

During her career, Mainella has held leadership positions in many professional organizations including president of both the National Recreation and Park Association (1996-97), and the National Association of State Park Directors (1997-99).

Sources

Ellen O’Sullivan contributed to the development of this profile.

NRPA Congress

It’s only three weeks until we gather for 2005 NRPA Congress and Exposition in San Antonio.



San Antonio Convention and Visitor Bureau
<http://www.sanantoniocvb.com/>

Memories of Past NRPA Congresses



2006 AAPRA Officers

- President-elect: Joe Wynns
- Secretary: Jim Garges
- Treasurer: Jody Stowers
- Directors: Jane Hodgkinson and Marvin Billups

Congratulations to those elected and thank you to each Academy member for service during the past year.

