



Inside this issue

In remembrance...Ira J. Hutchison	2
Committee reports	3
Bob Stanton's story	4
Thanks to our sponsors	4

President's Message... *Communication is Essential*



*Tony Cisneros,
2010-11 AAPRA
President*

Spring has sprung here in Texas, but we are suffering from an extended drought that is not good for anything but construction. The rest of the country may be experiencing the reverse with too much rain and flooding or somewhere in between. I trust that you and your families are doing as well as can be expected under the current circumstances.

Academy Shifts

Please allow me to get on my soap box to share some information with you that you may not be aware of. At the last Academy Board meeting, it became quite evident to the Board that the Academy is currently going through some tough times with regard to membership communications and Academy annual membership renewals. We had a long non-renewed members list to review and a few members remained from last year.

The membership renewal process has always been an exercise in finding which members are prompt in renewing and which members are not. While thankful for the prompt members we are puzzled how other members can be so lax in following up on their renewals. Given that we are leaders in the parks and recreation field, it seems reasonable that we would lead by example and be prompt in our business dealings, or at least communicate with the Academy office if there is a possible problem or change in circumstance. Some members have moved to new positions or have retired from the field. When this happens it can be awkward for Academy office staff to have to identify new contact information when a simple communication to the Academy office would help. If your intent is to no longer be a member, please take the time to inform the Academy office of that fact rather than continue to be on the non-renewed members list.

We are sensitive to the fact that the economy has been tough on many. Some parks and recreation agencies have frozen salaries and/or positions, or eliminated membership or certification renewals completely. Given our obligation as professionals to keep current with

memberships and certifications, it seems reasonable that an individual would accept personal responsibility to cover those expenses as needed. If you are currently on the non-renewed members list, please contact the Academy office to make your intentions known. I'll get off of my soap box now.

Outdoor Deficit Syndrome Updates

There is more attention being paid everyday to the physical condition of our youth here in the United States. NRPA has been busy with a new initiative called "America's Backyard Program". This partnership program is designed to help non-professionals learn ways that they can support their local, state and national parks and recreation systems by serving as advocates. According to NRPA this advocacy program helps to reinforce the fact that parks and recreation services are needed for the nation's health, physical fitness, economic development, social interaction, environmental preservation and community vitality. I'm for anything that will help get children back outside—like when we were kids. For further information on this NRPA initiative, go to www.americasbackyard.org.

I would also like to recognize one of our Academy commercial partners that is leading the way in getting kids back outdoors. Landscape Structures has designed a "nature-inspired playground" that is made from hand-painted concrete and is a take-off on the tree house, log benches and log tunnels that many of us played on and in when we were kids. They have further defined this playground as a "Play Naturally™" design that encourages kids to leave indoor video games and get back outdoors. For further information on this new playground design, go to www.playlsi.com/play-naturally.

That's it for now. I trust that things will continue to improve for us all. In the meantime, keep communicating!

As always,

Tony

Marco A. (Tony) Cisneros
AAPRA President

In remembrance...Ira J. Hutchison

Ira J. Hutchison, 84, an expert on therapeutic recreation who, in the 1970s, became the first African American deputy director of the National Park Service, died Feb. 12 of congestive heart failure at his home in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Mr. Hutchison developed recreation programs for emotionally disturbed people and drug addicts before joining the Park Service in 1972 as chief of community programs for the National Capital Region in Washington.

He served as superintendent of the National Capital Parks-East region and later as superintendent of the Park Service region that included New York Harbor. In 1977, Mr. Hutchison was named deputy director of the Park Service. In that position, the second-highest in the agency, he oversaw more than 300 park and recreation areas throughout the United States.

Six years later, he moved to the office of the Secretary of the Interior, where his mission was to increase opportunities for women and minorities. He organized a cooperative education program with 15 historically black colleges.

He retired from the federal government in 1994. Mr. Hutchison founded the Roundtable Associates, an organization for African American professionals in the fields of parks, recreation and conservation.

Ira James Hutchison was born in Topeka, Kan., and was a 1950 graduate of Kansas State University. He received a master's degree in therapeutic recreation from Columbia University in 1965.

From 1950 to 1963, Mr. Hutchison was recreation director of Topeka State Hospital in Kansas.

He worked in the rehabilitation of emotionally disturbed hospital patients in New York City from 1963 to 1967. He moved to the Washington area in 1967 with the National Recreation and Park Association and directed its therapeutic branch.

In 2004, the association presented him with its Ralph C. Wilson award for long-term service.

Mr. Hutchison wrote articles for professional publications and won many awards, including the Cornelius Amory Pugsley National Medal in 1997 for his contributions to parks and conservation.



Barbara Tulipane, NRPA's CEO, pictured with Joe O'Neil at left and Tom Shuster, spoke at the January MRPA winter general membership meeting stating that "NRPA is here to serve the field and the public... the

reality is it's not an either or, but rather a dual mission to serve both". During Barbara's remarks she emphasized that "now is the time to talk with officials about how parks and recreation programs provide an essential service that impacts the community, and how we can change behavior. Utilizing a technology like GIS mapping park locator and benchmarking data is a way to see how we compare to other agencies. NRPA is now 22,000 members strong and that includes both citizens and park and recreation professionals", which is a very strong voice to be heard.

"Each morning when I open my eyes I say to myself: I, not events, have the power to make me happy or unhappy today. I can choose which it shall be. Yesterday is dead, tomorrow hasn't arrived yet. I have just one day, today, and I'm going to be happy in it."

-Groucho Marx



American Academy of Park
and Recreation Administration

Committee reports & updates

AGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE – Max Ramsey

- ▲ Collaborated with NRPA editorial staff on article in February Parks and Recreation Magazine concerning Best Practices.
- ▲ Preparing drafts of standard agreement forms to be used between the Academy and other agencies and/or organizations or institutions who may request our consulting services.
- ▲ Working with former Pugsley winner, Victor Ashe, to market our Consulting Services program to city and town mayors through the National Council of Mayors. Victor is a former president of that organization. He is a former U.S. Ambassador to Poland, and served one year on the NRPA Board.
- ▲ Brett Wright, Academy member and head of Clemson University's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management, is our chair for Park Practices Publication efforts. He is looking for persons within our profession who are willing to write timely articles on best park practices in the management of people, on-the-ground resources, and new how-to concepts of today; people who want to share and potentially be published. If you know of such candidates, contact wright@clemson.edu.
- ▲ We are seeking comments from anyone on these matters.
- ▲ We have had five recent contacts on Consulting Services.

BANQUET COMMITTEE – Marvin Billups

Tentative plans have been made to secure a wonderful banquet facility in Atlanta, which will be within walking distance from the downtown hotels. Details on the venue should be available very soon.

BEST PAPER AWARD COMMITTEE – Jim Hall

The Best Paper Award Committee received three Executive Summaries for the 2011 Best Paper Award. The committee will review the submissions to determine their eligibility by June 1. Full research paper(s) will be requested from the finalists, and a winner will be notified by August 1, 2011.

EXTERNSHIP COMMITTEE – Michal Anne Lord

- ▲ Procedures and applications for the 2011 AAPRA Young Professional Externship Program have been sent to committee members (11) and are being reviewed for needed revisions or potential modifications before developing distribution materials.
- ▲ Recruitment materials will be sent to all Academy members, the state park and recreation associations (Council

Executive Directors) and to the presidents of the state associations (Council of State Affiliate Presidents). State associations will be asked to not only distribute information but also post it on their respective web sites.

- ▲ Committee members are investigating additional avenues for distribution of recruitment information and improving outreach to potential diversity candidates.
- ▲ Target date for distribution of initial recruitment flyer and application is early May.

NRPA PROGRAM COMMITTEE – Ray Ochromowicz

The NRPA Congress Program Committee met in Atlanta in January to select the educational sessions for the 2011 Congress. The Academy will once again be well represented as at least two dozen sessions will be presented by or chaired by Academy members. This is the final year the Academy will have a guaranteed seat on the Congress Program Committee as the NRPA restructuring reshapes the committee from regional/branch and affiliate representation to topical representation. The committee restructuring was written about last year and reported in the annual report. The Academy will continue to be well represented, at least in the short term, as I and several other Academy members have a year or two left on our Program Committee terms.

For anyone interested in presenting at the 2012 Congress, October 10-19 in Anaheim, proposals are NOW being accepted. You can submit on line at the NRPA web site www.nrpa.org.

PUGSLEY AWARD COMMITTEE – Vern Hartenburg

The Pugsley Committee is making arrangements for the presentations of this year's Pugsley Awards at the Academy Banquet, Thursday, November 3, 2011.

We are also excited to announce that Henry Diamond, who was awarded the Pugsley Medal in 2008 for his significant leadership in the parks and conservation movement, has agreed to serve as one of two authorized non-Academy members on the Pugsley Committee. His involvement will be a great addition to the selection process of this prestigious award.

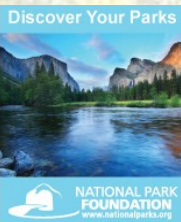
Thanks to our sponsors!!

We cannot say enough about the entities that provide financial support for various Academy endeavors.

Musco Lighting Company continues to be the sole sponsor of the Gold Medal Award program. Their enthusiastic involvement not only kept this program going when it was in danger of ending a few years ago, but it has allowed the program to become even stronger each year.



The **Davey Tree Expert Company** is in its third year of sponsoring the Pugsley Award program. We gratefully acknowledge their continued support of this prestigious award program.



The Academy and the **National Park Foundation** have been partners in the Pugsley Award program for decades, and we are very happy to announce that in spite of the hard times many non-profit organizations are facing right now, the National Park Foundation has agreed to continue this partnership.

Lastly, as you may remember, **Landscape Structures, Inc.** signed on last year as a sponsor for the annual Academy Banquet. They wanted to become more involved, so this year, they are continuing their support for the banquet, and in addition, they are contributing to the Legends Program. They recently agreed to a three-year agreement to do so, and again, we are most grateful.



If you wish to contribute to the AAPRA quarterly newsletter, please email your articles or other contributions to jsabbach@110percent.net.

The remaining 2011 newsletter schedule is as follows.

	<u>Summer Newsletter</u>	<u>Fall Newsletter</u>
<i>Deadline for articles</i>	July 29	December 2
<i>Distribution</i>	August 3	December 7

Bob Stanton's Story: Honoring Our People By Remembering Our Past



Posted by Bob Stanton on February 17, 2011

Editor's note: This post was part of the [Celebrating Black History Month series](#), which highlighted the contributions of African Americans throughout the Administration whose work contributes to the President's vision for winning the future.

Black History Month has special meaning to me. As a son of the segregated South, I was twenty-four before I was able to walk through the front door of the café where my mother worked as a short-order cook and I was bused nearly 30 miles away each day for high school under the doctrine of "separate but equal." Growing up, I could never imagine the opportunities I had in my lifetime that came from the sacrifices and struggles of those who came before me.

I worked for the National Park Service for 39 years, the last four of which I had the great honor of serving as the Director. I was the first Director to undergo confirmation hearings before the United States Senate and the first African American to serve in this position.

At the National Parks Service, we preserve and protect over 390 national parks, three-fourths of which tell the story of our Nation's history and development. Some of the stories told or events commemorated in the national parks reflect injustices and wrongs done in our Nation's history. Nevertheless, they are places that should give us hope that we can move beyond our difficulties "towards a more perfect union." Moreover, the national parks also help us remember those who have advanced the freedoms and liberties that we enjoy today -- who have come down the pathways of struggle -- people like Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Mary McLeod Bethune.

It is a sure sign that we as a people are growing and maturing that we can recognize some of our mistakes with the hope that we can learn and grow from them. May we continue to seek to remember all of our past and honor all our peoples.

Bob Stanton is a Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar



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