



President's Report

Joseph Wynns, CPRP



There is a national movement being started by The Conservation Fund to get our kids connected to the great outdoors. Research indicates that a disconnect of children to nature/outdoors will have a dynamic negative impact on future environmental policies. I see this challenge as a great opportunity for the Academy to

strategize on how/what role we can plan in this initiative. We are not a service-providing agency; however, we can help shape strategies and policies to make this movement a reality. If we don't do something to connect our children to the great outdoors, the question is, "Who will follow behind us to hold policymakers accountable for environmental issues?"

We are in high gear making preparations for the 2007 National Recreation and Park Association Congress September 25 – 29. Our plans include an exciting time for our Academy Members while in Indianapolis. Leon Younger and Jane Adams are busily putting together a signature banquet! Our Academy Membership meeting will be one of focus and deliverables. Therefore, it is very important that all boards and chairs meet with their committees and assemble the most recent updates on their projects so we can make a precise

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presentation to the Academy Members on what we have been doing this past year. As my term ends as President, I am excited about the future of the Academy and all of the projects we have taken on. The Academy is truly an organization that can make systemic and life lasting changes. We are blessed to have Academy Members who are not afraid to volunteer, roll up their sleeves, and make a commitment to the well being of this organization to help those in the field of parks and recreation.

I am pleased to report that the Ernest T. Atwell scholarship has been approved by the Board Members, and we have taken a bold and significant step to demonstrate that we are serious about diversity within the Academy.

Finally, please make plans to be in Indianapolis for the NRPA Congress. We have a lot to "show and tell" about our city's parks and recreation system and welcome the opportunity to be an outstanding host.

Welcome 2007 New Members!

Jodie Adams

Director of Parks
Springfield-Greene County (MO) Park Board

Harvey M. Feldman

Teaching Specialist & Internship Coordinator
University of Minnesota School of Kinesiology,
Division of Recreation & Sports Studies
(Previously Secretary to Minneapolis Park &
Recreation Board, Minneapolis)

William L. Koegler

Director of Development
The Oglebay Foundation, Oglebay Park
Wheeling, WV

Michal Anne Lord

Executive Director
Texas Recreation & Park Society
Jonestown, Texas

Kathy Perales

Research Biologist
US Army Corps of Engineers
Vicksburg, MS

Michael Shellito

Assistant City Manager/Community Services
Director
City of Roseville, CA

Susan Trautman

Director of Parks & Recreation
City of Des Peres, MO

Positioning Task Force

The purpose of our task force is to develop a suggested strategy for positioning our profession with decision makers to secure resources to provide needed services to our communities. Task force

members are Jane Adams, John Crompton, Lori Daniel, Ron Dodd, Jim Donohue, Jane Hodgkinson, Richard Horton, Jonathan Korfhage, Bill Nelson, Jim Niskanen, Max Ramsey, Paul Romero, Bill Scalzo, Kathy Spangler, Bob Stanton, Barry Weiss, and Judy Weiss

The task force decided to change direction and pursue development of a suggested national positioning strategy rather than focus on three communities in need as a prototype. The positioning should be comprehensive and strategic.

Common language is important as part of a comprehensive strategy to be effective. The common language we suggest consists of a vision statement, mission statements describing our daily work and the Benefits Are Endless categories. A vision statement, mission statements as well as strategies for success have been developed for consideration.

We are conscious about not getting too far out front on the process, until the Academy gets a chance to establish its desire for and roles in the process. There are several other organizations and entities involved in positioning, particularly NRPA.

Our next step is to submit our work to date to the Academy board for direction

AAPRA Committee Reports

Agency Services Committee – Max Ramsey

1. Our appeal for possible candidates for testing the proposed Consulting Services Program, being planned with NRPA, did not result in choices for real clients. We are discussing with NRPA just what steps we take to advertise to possible clients the availability of the service and the testing we are seeking. We have talked with Michelle Park about the possible role of the state societies, and are looking at printed media possibilities. We are currently in discussion with a major university about a team visit as a direct Academy project.

2. The subcommittee on the Park Practice restart will be reviewing a just-completed draft proposal for project startup in the next few weeks, looking toward a presentation to the Academy Board in September. The proposal has been prepared by Clemson University and Sagamore Publishing, and is proposed to follow the format of our current Journal.

3. The proposed new upgraded brochure on the Academy is being drafted under the leadership of Michelle Park.

4. Working with Meredith Bridgers, NRPA, we have come up with an excellent group of Academy volunteers for the revised Ask the Expert program at this year's Congress.

Banquet – Leon Younger

This year's banquet will be at the Indiana State Museum, within walking distance from downtown hotels. More information will be available soon.

Best Paper Award – Jim Hall

Because there are three categories for this award, with each taking place every three years, it is difficult to find consistent information regarding guidelines and procedures. It was determined it would be better to spend this year developing a procedural guide for the entire competition and to offer this award again next year. Materials for the Best Dissertation Award will be distributed immediately after Congress.

Bylaws Committee – Bill Scalzo

The committee has received no inquiries regarding changes, deletions or additions to the bylaws. As a result we have no new action to report, but would welcome any suggestions for our review.

Externship Committee – Andy Kimmel

The Young Professional Externship Committee received twelve for the two standard and two diversity externships available this year.

The four Young Professional Externs selected this year are:

Ms. Stella Husch, President of Strive Recreational Therapy Service in Clarkston, Michigan

Mr. Rameir A. Martin, Superintendent of Recreation, City of Massillon, Ohio

Ms. Bobbie S. Wilson, Administrative Program Coordinator, City of Roseville Parks and Recreation, Michigan

Ms. Stacey K. Worrell, Recreation Coordinator, Town of Fountain Hills, Arizona

The Committee also will be coordinating mentors to assist the externs at the NRPA Congress. Any Academy member interested in mentoring an extern during the congress should contact Extern Committee Chair Andy Kimmel by calling 847-968-3209 or by sending email to akimmel@co.lake.il.us.

Gold Medal Award Committee – Chris Jarvi

The committee continues working with sponsor Musco Lighting, and they have provided necessary information to the finalist agencies. Preparations continue for presentations of awards at NRPA Congress in Indy.

Legends Committee – Vern Hartenburg

2007 Legends Series to Videotape National Park Service Directors/Associate Directors. Currently, five Academy members serve, or have previously served, as director or associate director of the National Park Service. These individuals will be videotaped, in a panel format facilitated by Dr. John Crompton, distinguished professor from Texas A&M University, during the Indianapolis NRPA Congress. The interview will provide an excellent opportunity to historically record the national perspectives, policies, initiatives and leadership of the Park Service over the last several decades.

The five individuals include: Ira Hutchison – Director; Chris Jarvi – Associate Director; Fran Mainella – Director; Robert Stanton – Director; William Walters – Associate Director.

Nominations Committee – Dale Larsen

Following is an outstanding slate for 2008 nominations of officers. You should have received your ballots in the mail.

President-Elect: Steve Messerli and Bill Nelson
Secretary: Chris Dropinski and Lynn Jamieson
Treasurer: Mike Blazey and Rich Grodsky
Board of Directors (two): Bertha Cato; Tom Lovell; Kathy Spangler; and Barry Weiss

NRPA Program Committee – Ray Ochromowicz

Work is complete with the exception of follow-up.

Newsletter Committee – Rich Grodsky

The winter and spring newsletters were sent to members earlier in the year. They are currently posted on the website. I am pleased to report committee chairs have made it easy to report progress on their work plans as they have sent information in on time. Further, members who want information in the brochure have been very timely in getting their information submitted.

NRPA Congress - Academy Meeting Schedule

All meetings will be held at the Westin. Room assignments will be announced soon.

Wednesday, September 26

7-8 a.m.
AAPRA Foundation Board Meeting, Shula's, Westin

Thursday, September 27

7-9 a.m.
AAPRA Board Meeting, Westin, Room TBA

9:30-10:30 a.m.

AAPRA New Member Orientation, Westin, Room TBA

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

AAPRA General Membership Meeting, Westin, Room TBA

Evening

AAPRA Banquet, Indiana State Museum (650 W. Washington St in Indianapolis), Time TBA

Friday, September 28

8-9:30 a.m.

JPRPA Associate Editors Meeting, Westin

Academy Books Available

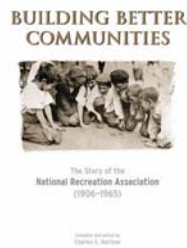
The popular PBS produced series “Antiques Road Show” is required watching in our household. My wife and I jealously look on as road show participants openly display shock and amazement at the financial value of past treasures they have received or purchased for little or nothing. Frequently we share the frustration of not holding onto the memories and treasures of our previous generations. Sound familiar?

One of the principle foundations of the Academy is “to encourage scholarly efforts both by practitioners and educators to enhance the practice of public parks and recreation administration and to promote broader public understanding of the importance of public parks and recreation to the public good.”

While the history of the Academy dates back to 1980-1981, the history of the public parks and recreation movement dates back to the turn of the twentieth century, especially in relation to the historical treasures of our profession – people who devoted their personal and professional lives to the legacy we call parks, recreation and conservation.

My beloved boss and mentor – Jim Colley, would often say, “how do you know where you are going if you don’t where you have been?” Fortunately for every practitioner, educator and student of parks, recreation and conservation, Academy leaders have stepped up to the plate and produced publications that are required reading and belong in our shared personal and public library collections. Who benefits from owning these valuable collections: you, me and the Academy?

First, if you don’t already own “Building Better Communities – The Story of the National Recreation Association,” don’t hesitate – do so! Compiled and edited by Academy founder, historian and member, Charlie E. Hartsoe, this book made available through Sagamore Publishing is the best representation of our modern day history on record.



The printing of this book was made possible through a special grant from the National Recreation Foundation. **The Academy receives 100% of all sales!** This book not only chronicles the history of the modern day parks, recreation and conservation movement, but it is a great primer for practitioners and educators to use for justifying (in Jim Colley’s words) where are we going.

Second, often wonder who the local, state, regional and national heroes of our profession are? Often thought of their formal contributions, biographies, and recognitions? Compiled by Academy leader and icon – John Crompton, the book “Twentieth Century Champions of Parks and Conservation Volume 1,” chronicles the biographical profiles of the Puglsey Medal recipients from 1928-1964. The rich stories of these local and national leaders are printed for your reference in extraordinary custom made fashion. This book was printed through the generosity of the National Recreation Foundation and the American Academy Foundation. All revenues from sales are forwarded to the Academy Foundation.

I can’t imagine a practitioner, educator, advocate or student of public parks, recreation and conservation not having their own personal copy of these outstanding books. These are great editions for personal and university libraries, research, recognition and retirement gifts.

To order your copy, simply log onto the web site www.sagamorepub.com, email books@sagamorepub.com, or give a call to Sagamore at 800-327-5557. Thank you for your support and professionalism. -Dale Larsen

Message From Dale Larsen:

Effective in July, I will be taking on an "Executive On Loan" assignment for one year with Arizona State University - West. My contact information is listed below. I will be working on several shared projects including: assistance in advancing an interdisciplinary Youth Development Leadership Advanced degree for undergraduate and graduate levels; coordinate the completion and funding of a 40 acre community park located on the ASU-West campus; develop an experience for credit practitioner program towards the completion of an undergraduate degree; mutual intergovernmental issues; advance sustained partnerships and community outreach opportunities. I am excited over the prospects of working on this assignment. In many ways, I have the Academy to blame (in a good way) for this exciting opportunity, since I will be working in both of our shared environments. I'm looking forward to working in a shared arena and will avail myself to those of you who might be able to provide assistance.

New Contact Information:

Dale Larsen - Executive on Loan
Arizona State University - West Campus
4701 W. Thunderbird Rd.
PO Box 37100
Phoenix, AZ 85069-7100
(602) 543-6614
dale.larsen@asu.edu

In Memoriam

Charles “Chuck” H. Odegaard passed away on July 9, 2007 in Seattle, Washington. He was 79.

Odegaard spent more than 40 years encouraging youth, families, bureaucrats, and politicians to get out and enjoy their public lands. He was past president of the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, the National Association of State Park Directors, the National Society for Park Resources, and the American Youth Hostel. He was a district representative for the National Recreation and Park Association for the five western states as well as the three western provinces of Canada from 1958 to 1963.

In 1985 and 2006, his lifelong interest in parks and outdoor recreation was recognized by the National Recreation and Park Association when they presented him with their Distinguished Professional Award. Winning the sought after Gold Medal Award, and receiving the prestigious Pugsley State Medal Award from the Academy of State Parks and Recreation during the time he was the director of State Parks were some of the highlights of his career.

Announcements...

Do you have any information for prospective firms or individuals interested in responding to a Letter of Interest to enter into a license agreement for the design, development, operation and maintenance of an Indoor Athletic Field Complex for the Fox Valley Park District in Illinois? If so, please contact Steven Messerli at (630) 897-0516 or smesserli@fvpd.net.

Are you receiving e-mails from the Academy listserv? If you have an e-mail address and are not receiving e-mails, please e-mail Andee Chestnut at AChestnut@aol.com and let her know.

If you have an article, announcement, or committee update you would like to include in the next Bulletin, please send your information to editors, Rich Grodsky and Kim Pugh, at rgrodsky@epd.org.