

SUMMER SPECIAL 2015

# The Bulletin

A Quarterly Publication of the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration

## Special Issue of the Newsletter

Welcome to a special issue of the AAPRA Newsletter.

This issue has some important information regarding the Legends Program, Board actions, and Externships. It's a little shorter length and a little easier turnaround from submissions to publication which seems beneficial. It seems we've discovered that the newsletter size, number of news items, and size need some altering as we roll out this email version of the newsletter supported by AAPRA website updates. It seems like smaller newsletters, more frequently might be the best approach.

If you have suggestions, or wish to comment on the newsletter style, approach, distribution, and frequency, just let me know as we work on improvements. Email me at [sawolter@indiana.edu](mailto:sawolter@indiana.edu) and thanks.

*Steve Wolter*

*AAPRA Newsletter Editor*

---

## 2015 AAPRA Legends Announced

Congratulations to Charles Eatherly, Arizona State Parks; Nancy E. Lewis, Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center; and J. Robert Rossman, Ph.D., Professor and Dean Emeritus, Illinois State University, recently selected as AAPRA 2015 Legends. These are all very deserving individuals, wonderful additions to our recognized

Legends, and great contributions to our Legends library. [Click here](#) to read on to learn more about each of these Legends in Parks and Recreation.

---

## Legends Session at NRPA Congress – Las Vegas

A small research team has been reviewing past tapes and has planned an NRPA session “Lessons from the Legends” for Thursday morning, 8-9:15am, before the AAPRA general business meeting. The researchers have “enjoyed reviewing and pondering the Legends series” and found it to be a “significant history lesson.” Read on to learn more about their effort and the Congress session.

*Lessons from the Legends*

*NRPA Congress, Mandalay Bay Hotel and Conference Center, Las Vegas, NV*

*Thursday, September 17*

*8:00 AM–9:15 AM*

“Lessons from the Legends” will discuss what was learned from examining more than 60 videos from the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration’s “Legends” video series. The results are categorized according to 1) significant early life experiences that led to a career in parks and recreation; 2) influential mentors; 3) professional accomplishments; 4) advice for young park and recreation professionals entering the field; and 5) commentary about the future of parks and recreation as an area of human service.

A research team of four (Daniel Dustin, Kelly Bricker and Matt Brownlee, from the University of Utah, and Keri Schwab from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo) will meet in Salt Lake City in June to finalize the thinking/writing about their investigation of 60+ Legends videos. They will then polish their presentation for the educational session they will be conducting at NRPA in Las Vegas on Thursday September 17th as well as polish their writing for publication (most likely in the Journal of Park and Recreation Administration.)

They hope to provide general advice to AAPRA about 1) the educational value of the videos; 2) the limitations of the videos; and 3) food for thought about going forward with the Legends videos series. Time permitting before NRPA, they may also attempt to cut and splice some of the video footage into a visual mosaic of sorts that might be of interest to the membership. (or it may be ASAP after NRPA.) It is also possible that in addition to writing up the main study, they will write two or three additional feature articles for Parks & Recreation focusing on subsets of the videos. For example, there are about a half dozen NPS directors that could be zoomed in on, the same number of state park directors, three or four African American Legends that have something to say about the history of Civil Rights, and about a half dozen women in various leadership positions over the years that might make for a nice feature article about female leadership in our field. Suffice it to say they will be trying to milk the Legends series for all it is worth.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of this team and look forward to their findings. Make plans now to attend the Thursday morning session at NRPA!

Want more information? *Contact Chris Dropinski at Direct/Cell: 303-870-8674*

---

## Burns Named JPRA Editor

Dr. Robert Burns, Associate Professor in the Recreation, Parks and Tourism Resources Program at West Virginia University, was named Editor for the Journal of Park and Recreation Administration, replacing Jim Busser who is retiring after nine years. “Robert is perfectly situated in his career to assume this role and exemplifies both academic and practitioner values,” said Busser. Robert has served as an Associate Editor of the Journal during my entire appointment. He has been an excellent member of the Editorial Board and I have always had great confidence in his contributions. Importantly, I know he cares about the Journal and will be an outstanding Editor.”

The Board also acknowledged the tremendous contributions from Dr. James Busser, Academy Member and Professor & Associate Dean of Academic Affairs in the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Dr. Busser will complete this year finalizing existing papers and offering assistance to Dr. Burns.

---

## Externships at NRPA

The Externship Committee recently chose three highly deserving candidates to attend this year’s NRPA Congress in September in Las Vegas. I know that you join me in congratulating Julie LaFave, Matthew Martinez and Ronald Strickler, who were chosen from a group of 20 applicants for this prestigious honor.

The Externship Committee has also chosen to change the Mentor program for these young professionals at this year’s conference. Rather than recruiting multiple mentors for each of our externship awardees, it was decided that we would recruit one mentor for each, to allow both the mentor and mentee more time and opportunity to build a relationship that will hopefully begin at Congress but last for years to come. In addition, we are then asking the mentors to arrange an opportunity (perhaps at a meal or social event) for a “roundtable” with other members of AAPRA, to allow them to meet and network at some point during the Congress.

So what does this all mean? Academy Fellow Richard Rose, Parks Commissioner in Orange County was charged with recruiting three AAPRA members who will take on this Mentor role this year, and has developed tips for mentors that are valuable for all Academy members to be familiar with. [Click here](#) to read Tips for Mentors of Externs

Want more information? Contact Richard Rose at [RRose@orangecountygov.com](mailto:RRose@orangecountygov.com)

---

## Updates from the AAPRA Office and Board Meeting

The AAPRA Board held a meeting on July 22, 2015 where business items were discussed and actions taken. The following table outlines the actions. For further information, please contact Andee or Rich at the AAPRA offices.

Membership	Approved recommendations from the Membership Committee clarifying nomination, evaluation (scoring, statement requirements, etc.) of applicants for AAPRA Fellow.
Legends	Approved support for the concept of producing new short videos from the original Legends videos. More information from Legends Committee functions in this newsletter.
JPRA	Approved Dr. Robert Burns as Editor of JPRA. See additional news item on this topic
Gold Medal	Approved recommendations from the Gold Medal Committee that (1) require the chair and vice chair to serve a four-year term, which would involve one as chair-elect, two as chair, and one as past chair and mentor to incoming chair; and (2) a judge would commit to serve for what could be potentially a five- or six-year span, beginning with being invited to serve as a guest judge, then being appointed for four years as a permanent judge, with the potential of becoming the head judge.
National Symposium	Approved a motion to support the National Symposium: Recreation, Parks and Public Health at Indiana University, February 10-12, 2016 and authorized Rich Grodsky to negotiate with IU regarding sponsorship opportunities and report back to the Academy executive committee. The Board further agreed by consensus to direct the Academy Symposium Committee to continue research as to whether the Academy should host a symposium.

More information? Contact Andee at [AChestnut@aol.com](mailto:AChestnut@aol.com)

---

## Next Newsletter

The Academy's next newsletter is pre-NRPA Congress. The deadline for publication submittals is coming up fast on August 14, 2015 with a publication in early September. Please send any newsletter items directly to Steve Wolter, [sawolter@indiana.edu](mailto:sawolter@indiana.edu) for inclusion.

## Calendar-Tentative Meeting Schedule for NRPA

The AAPRA still does not have the official information for our meetings at NRPA in Las Vegas, but for planning purposes, this is the tentative schedule:

### Monday, September 14

8:00 PM Gold Medal Reception (Invitation Only)

### Wednesday, September 16

TBD JPRA Associate Editors Meeting

TBD Academy Foundation Board Meeting

### Thursday, September 17

7:00 AM AAPRA Board Meeting

9:15 AM AAPRA New Member Orientation

10:30 AM AAPRA General Membership Meeting

**6:00 PM AAPRA Banquet at Bootlegger Bistro**



### AMERICAN ACADEMY FOR PARK AND RECREATION ADMINISTRATION

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

##### **President**

Bill Scalzo

##### **President Elect**

Becky Benná

##### **Past President**

John McGovern

##### **Secretary/Treasurer**

Judy Weiss

##### **Directors**

Ray Ochromowicz (15)

Karla Henderson (15)

Elizabeth Kessler (16)

Debra Jordan (16)

Mark McHenry (17)

Chris Nunes (17)