

# The Bulletin

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

## President's Message

Dear Fellow Colleagues,

In 2013, a survey was conducted of Academy members to solicit their thoughts regarding our organization's purpose, focus and future. I want to thank Jamie Sabbach and Ray Ochromowicz for leading this effort to gain insight from our members. Per the feedback received from the survey, four areas that members identified as priorities for our organization include the following:

1. Networking
  - Support of each other and social access
2. Recognition of Achievement
  - Pugsley Awards
  - Best Papers
  - Gold Medal
  - Accreditation
3. Professional Development
  - Externs
  - Mentoring
  - Journal
  - Symposiums
4. Leadership of the field in innovation and advancement for parks and recreation.
  - Research
  - Consulting
  - Identification of current and future trends
  - Advocacy for the profession

As leaders of our industry, we should continue to focus on cutting edge vision, think outside the box, and walk the talk for our profession.

We already have various committees and initiatives and I recognize we are all very busy. My focus during the next year is to work with the Board to identify what we do well, utilize our members' talents and time to address the four areas of focus, and

streamline processes and committee work. We will then work with the committee leaders to identify specific action strategies for the next two years.

We are looking for volunteers to lead our committees, as well as members who truly can and will actively participate on one of them. Some of you have already contacted me regarding leadership opportunities and we will be reaching out to all members to help the academy continue to recognize and advance our profession. The committees will be confirmed by no later than January.

Rebecca A. Benná  
President

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Please note: All reports mentioned were provided at the Annual Meeting held in Las Vegas, September 2015. To request a copy please email, Andee Chestnut at [achestnut@aol.com](mailto:achestnut@aol.com).

## Academy Best Papers Awarded

The Best Paper Awards Committee has been active since January seeking to identify the best paper/thesis(s) for 2015. Every other year (odd years), the Best Paper Award goes to the top paper/thesis in the parks, recreation and leisure field. Nominations were solicited from recent undergraduate and master's graduates and all graduate programs (via ALSNET) from February through April 17, 2015. A total of five applicants met the application criteria (research paper and MS/BS degree had to be completed between January, 2013 and December, 2014). Those five paper abstracts (1000 words or less) were evaluated (blind review) by the committee in May/June. Three finalists were identified (all three will be recognized by the Academy) on June 3, and full copies of the papers/theses were requested for further evaluation.

The three finalists were:

1. Dave Drewery, University of Waterloo, 2014. His paper/thesis was titled "Emotional States, Communication Motivations, and Service Recovery Preferences in a Leisure Service Failure." Advisor: Dr. Ron McCarville, Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies, University of Waterloo.
2. Alex Schlueter, University of Minnesota, 2014. His paper was titled "Killing Bugs and Pleasing People: Acceptance of and Confidence in Emerald Ash Borer Management Approaches. Advisor: Dr. Ingrid Schneider, Department of Forest Resources, University of Minnesota.
3. Lisa Groshong, University of Missouri, 2014. Her paper was titled "Develop-

ing theory-based communications to encourage physically active behavior in parks.” Advisor: Dr. Sonja A. Wilhelm Stanis, Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism, University of Missouri.

Mr. Dave Drewey was selected by the Committee as the Best Paper Award for this year. Committee members were Randy Virden (Chair), Mark Young, Vice Chair; Janet Bartnik, Amy Hurd, Jean Keller, Chris Nunes, and Brett Wright.

## **Best Practices Identified for NRPA and Academy Use**

The Gold Medal Committee formed Best Practices sub-committee this year led by Harvey Feldman, and included Brenda Beales, Rod Tarullo, Don Cochran, Jane Adams, Bob Bierscheid, and Dirk Richwine. The sub-committee hoped to identify the 24 best practices of the agencies selected by the Gold Medal judges, and document them. The committee’s efforts resulted in the publication of 15 of the best practices as follows:

- Environmental Compliance Fee- Mesa, AZ
- Employee Awards Donated for Scholarships- Mesa, AZ
- Make A Splash In School- M-NCPPC, MD
- Senior Walking Program, Club 300-M-NCPPC, MD
- Innovative Programming Initiative- M-NCPPC, MD
- Community Connect For Partners- M-NCPPC, MD
- Veteran Wellness “Activet”- Peoria, AZ
- Play It Forward-Roswell, GA
- Free Golf for Kids on Weekdays- Bismarck, ND
- Teen Commission Giving Tree Drive-Cupertino, CA
- Teen Political Engagement-Cupertino, CA
- Golf Innovations-Decatur, IL
- Golf Redesign/SNAG- Loveland, CO
- Fluid Running Instructor Program- Oak Brook, IL
- Fresh Stop Bus/Fresh Produce at Park- Winter Park, FL

NRPA has committed to using the best practices in publications, and the Newsletter Committee will publish these over the next year as a separate document.

## Foundation donations still being accepted for 2015

Thanks to all of you who have contributed to the AIPE/Academy Foundation so far in 2015. If you have not yet donated it's not too late to do so. As was mentioned at the Academy meeting in Las Vegas, the foundation is able to accept memorial donations and will send an acknowledgement to the family.

Your foundation contributions are essential to continuing to offer the John C. Potts Leadership Development Scholarships for the Directors School as well as providing books about individuals and organizations that were vital to the parks, recreation and conservation movement to the NRPA Board, Academy externs, Pottsie recipients and Pugsley winners. In order to fund these ongoing projects, as well as consider funding other projects, the foundation needs all members' support. Any amount helps and is appreciated.

You may donate online at <http://www.aapra.org/academy-foundation> or send a check to the AIPE/Academy Foundation at: PO Box 888 Mahomet, IL 61853. Please advise Andee of a memorial donation.

## Legends Committee Report

The Legends investigated the Legends videos with an intent 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. The results were to categorize the video content, and find opportunities to maximize the value of the Legends tapes. In addition, the Committee selected 2016 Legends, and explored appropriate recognition for Legends in the year they are selected, determined the value of continuing the written abstracts now that tape length has been reduced to 15-20 minutes, worked with AAPRA leadership to consider appropriate use of the website to access Legends tapes, and continue to work with the research team to maximize the use of the existing tapes.

The Legends Committee, led by Committee Chair Chris Dropinski also included Janet Bartnik, Chair Elect; Gail Elder White, Vice Chair; Linda Caldwell, Susan Eaves, Mark Eynatten, Jan Geden, Dianne Hoover, Amy Hurd, Jonathan Korfhage, Ken Kutska, Jim Niskanen, Phil Rea.

## Membership Committee

The Academy Membership Committee received sixteen nominations for new members and the committee recommended seven of those to the Board, which approved the recommended seven (in alphabetical order):

- Scott Bangle, Parks Director/General Manager, Riverside County (CA) Regional

## Park & Open Space District

- Brad Chambers, Partner, ReCreate Park Planning Group, St. Clairsville, OH
- Mike Clark, Executive Director, Palatine (IL) Park District
- Carrie Fullerton, Executive Director, Bloomingdale (IL) Park District
- Kirk Kincannon, Executive Director, Fairfax County (VA) Park Authority
- Carol Potter, Assistant Director of Morale, Welfare & Rec Policy, Dept of Defense/Military Community & Family Policy
- Cindi Wight, Superintendent, Rutland (VT) Recreation & Parks Department

The Academy website has information on each of the Academy's new members. The Committee, led by Chair Bill Mitchell.

## Urban Directors Committee

This year the Urban Directors committee placed into nomination three outstanding professionals for inclusion in the Academy, which were approved by the Board:

- Brian Albright, Director of Parks & Recreation, County of San Diego (CA)
- Fred Gray, Jr., Director of Parks & Recreation, City of Tucson (AZ)
- Arnold Randall, General Superintendent, Forest Preserves of Cook County (IL)

## Mentoring Committee

Upon approval of the AAPRA Board of Directors, a mentoring plan and manual was developed which partners the Academy with NRPA's Young Professionals and Admin Networks. After working for several months to finalize the manual, a recruiting process commenced which resulted in a total of total of 80 mentor/mentee pairs. A special thank you goes out to the 47 Academy members who are serving as a mentor in this program! Pairs have been contacted on a monthly basis as a follow up to ensure the program is a success and a web-based survey was developed to obtain initial input from the first month of the program. Special thank you goes out to the Mentor Committee and the representatives of the YPN and Admin Networks who made this program a success.

## Externship Committee

The 2015 Externship Committee included 21 active members who worked to recruit externs and assign Academy members to mentor them at the Congress and into the future. The goal is to build a lasting partnership to help the externs succeed in the industry, and hope that in the future they will become the mentor.

Our Academy received 19 applications. While there were many worthy candidates, ulti-

mately the subcommittee decided upon the following three:

- Ronald Strickler, Recreation Supervisor, Town of Ocean City, MD Parks & Recreation who will be mentored by Elizabeth Kessler
- Julie LaFave, Director, Town of Sullivan, NY Parks & Recreation who will be mentored by Mark Young
- Matthew Martinez, Center Supervisor, Oklahoma City, OK Parks & Recreation (Ernest T. Atwell Diversity Extern) who will be mentored by Michal Anne Lord

Unlike last year, one mentor (not multiple mentors) is assigned to each extern to allow mentors and externs to build a stronger relationship. This year the AAPRA Board of Directors increased the stipend to \$1,000 per extern, which should allow for more young professionals to seek and afford this growth opportunity. Additionally, we incorporated the “Mentorship Program Manual” and “Tips for Mentors” as guides to a successful experience for both parties (found on [www.aapra.org](http://www.aapra.org)).

Working closely with a past extern, the committee coordinated the 2nd Annual Academy Extern Reunion on Monday, September 14 at the Border Grill in Mandalay Bay. This was a great opportunity to kick off the NRPA Congress and reconnect with former externs and past mentors as well as provide insight and tips for success to the 2015 Externs.

## **Pugsley Award Committee**

The Pugsley Committee selected three outstanding 2015 Pugsley award recipients. They are Lamar Alexander, John C. Potts, and M. Kathleen Perales. We continued to work with the National Park Foundation who provides the award medals and boxes, and Davey Tree Experts continued to sponsor this program in 2015. The Pugsley Awards will be presented at the Annual Banquet on September 17th. Senator Alexander will not be able to attend, but has sent a video message. Profiles of the Pugsley Awardees are found on the AAPRA website. Special thanks to the Pugsley Committee of Ron Dodd (Chair), Fran Mainella, Bob Toalson, Tony Mobley, Joe Bannon, Max Ramsey (ex-officio) and Henry Diamond (ex-officio)

## **Hall of Fame**

There will be two members inducted into the Hall of Fame this year during the Academy Banquet. Family members of Allen Sapora and Richard “Wink” Tapply will be present Thursday evening to accept the honors.

## **American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration**

President Becky Benná  
President Elect Chris Nunes  
Past President Bill Scalzo  
Secretary Judy Weiss  
Treasurer Amy Hurd

### **Directors**

Elizabeth Kessler (16)  
Debra Jordan (16)  
Mark McHenry (17)  
Karla Henderson (18)  
Carolyn McKnight (18)

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