

The Bulletin

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

President's Message

Dear Fellow Colleagues,

I hope you have had a fantastic summer! As we approach the fall and prepare for the upcoming NRPA Conference meetings and activities, I wanted to thank all of our members who have contributed their time and energy to the various committee and task force activities. They have been busy this year working on their goals, and additional details will be provided at the upcoming Academy meeting at the St. Louis NRPA Conference in October.



In addition, **Rich Grodsky** announced he would retire from his position as the Academy's Executive Director at the end of 2016. Rich has served as the Academy's Executive Director since 2009 and has done a terrific job for our organization. **Jane Adams** has accepted the offer to assume the duties as the Academy's new Executive Director. As most of you know, Jane is an Academy member, and served as the Executive Director for the California Park and Recreation Society for 26+ years. She also served as President and Treasurer of the Academy, and chaired other committees. Jane has been working with Rich over the past few months to become oriented to her future duties. She will officially take over the reins as the next Executive Director beginning December 1, 2016.

Some other highlights from the past months: The National Symposium for Parks and Recreation in Public Health was held at Indiana University February 10-12, 2016. On the final day, the Academy co-sponsored a breakfast and brainstorming discussion that identified common themes or opportunities regarding the parks and recreation profession's role in public health during the previous two days of sessions. To learn more about the results, see the [Executive Summary](#) compiled by Jo Burns. Thanks to Academy members **Mary Beth Thaman** and **Steve Wolter** for leading the effort to involve the Academy with the Symposium.

President-Elect **Chris Nunes** has worked with an Academy Task Force to review our current membership process and criteria for membership consideration. The Task

Force's recommendations were reviewed by the Membership Committee, and Chris will be presenting the final recommendations for updating the process and criteria at the Academy Board Meeting in October. In addition, **Carolyn McKnight** and the Gold Medal Committee have been working throughout the year to update and enhance the Gold Medal Award Program; and **Arnie Biondo** and the Mentorship Committee updated the Academy's Mentorship Manual and process.

As the NRPA Conference approaches, we look forward to your continued involvement and support in advancing the Academy's mission. Incoming President Chris Nunes will be looking for enthusiastic volunteers to lead and participate on our committees.

Just a reminder, the American Academy Banquet, sponsored by Landscape Structures, will be held on October 6 at the Hyatt Regency St Louis at the Arch, 315 Chestnut Street. The deadline for registration is September 29. Many thanks to **Susan Trautman** and **Mark McHenry** for the local coordination of this year's dinner venue!

I hope to see you in October!

Becky Benná

Welcome to Our New Members

This group of outstanding individuals will be inducted into the Academy at the General Membership Meeting on Thursday, October 6, 2016 at 1:00 PM in the Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel:

[Denise M. Anderson](#), Professor & Associate Dean, Clemson University College of Behavioral, Social and Health Sciences

[Tracey M. Crawford](#), Executive Director, Northwest Special Recreation Association, Rolling Meadows, IL

[Sally Gavlik](#), Retired Director, Parks and Recreation, McAllen, TX

[Linda Lanterman](#), Director of State Parks, KS Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism

[Michael P. Kelly](#), General Superintendent & CEO, Chicago Park District

[Jayne Miller](#), Superintendent, Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board

[Barbara E. Schlatter](#), Professor & Assistant School Director, Illinois State University School of Kinesiology & Recreation

[Laura Wetherald](#), Bureau Chief of Recreation, Howard County (MD) Recreation & Parks

Congratulations to Our 2017 Officers and Directors

Mark McHenry – President Elect

Amy Hurd – Secretary

Dianne Hoover – Treasurer

Ernie Burkeen, Gary Ellis & Mike McCarty – Board Members

They will be sworn in at the General Membership Meeting on October 6th, and will join Chris Nunes, who will be President; Becky Benná, who will be Past President; and Brett Wright, Carolyn McKnight and Karla Henderson, Board Members.

Banquet Reservation Deadline Sept 29th

Make sure you have your reservations for a very special night at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch on October 6th. In addition to our Annual Banquet, we have the chance to ride the tram up the Arch! Tram rides are at 5 PM, the reception is at 6 PM, and dinner is at 7 PM followed by Hall of Fame and Pugsley presentations. [Learn more...](#)

NRPA Conference Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, October 4	
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Extern Reunion, St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame Bar & Grille, Holiday Inn, St. Louis Downtown-Convention Center
8:00 PM -9:00 PM	Gold Medal Reception (by invitation)
Wednesday, October 5	
7:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Academy Board Meeting, Portland/Benton Room, Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel
9:15 AM - 10:00 AM	New Member Orientation, Portland/Benton Room, Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	JPra Editors Meeting, Portland/Benton Room, Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Academy Foundation Board Meeting, TBA, Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel
Thursday, October 6	
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Academy General Membership Mtg, Gateway Room, Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel
5:00 PM - 9:30 PM	Academy Banquet, Hyatt Regency St. Louis by the Arch

In Memoriam

We lost three Academy members over the past year – [Barry Weiss](#), [Betty Lloyd](#) and [John Schultz](#).

Awards and Honors

Pottsie Scholarships

The 2016 John C. Potts Leadership Development Scholarships were awarded to **Alicia Day**, Director, Littleton, MA Parks, Recreation and Community Education Department, and **Tye Lydon**, Director, Salem, MO Parks and Recreation Department. As you may remember, the scholarships to the NRPA Directors School provide tuition and room and board along with a \$500 travel reimbursement to first-year students; we received a record number of applicants this year.

Affectionately called the “Pottsies,” these scholarships were established by the AIPE/ Academy Foundation to honor former AAPRA Executive Director John Potts and are funded through the generous donations of Academy members. Congratulations to Alicia and Tye, and thank you to all of you who made these scholarships possible!

Best Paper Award

Each year, the Academy presents a Best Paper Award, alternating between Best Student Paper and Best Dissertation. This year’s award winner for Best Dissertation is **Mariela Fernandez**, from the University of Illinois, for her work entitled, “Utilizing the Nonprofit Sector to Advance Social and Environmental Justice.” She will provide a brief overview of her work at the General Membership Meeting, and she will be presented with her \$1,000 prize at the Academy Banquet.

There were two Certificate of Merit winners – **Gareth J. Jones** of North Carolina State University, and **Matt Ostermeyer** of Indiana University. Congratulations to all three for their outstanding work!

Externs

The Externship Program enables outstanding young professionals 35 years of age and younger in the parks and recreation field to interact with and learn from Academy members and others who attend the NRPA Congress and its associated meetings. Congratulations to the four Externs selected this year:

Jared Mull, Recreation Manager, Transylvania County (NC) Parks & Recreation
Jason Pittman, Recreation Supervisor – Special Programs, City of Suffolk (VA) Parks & Recreation

Mariana Espinoza, Senior Recreation Supervisor, Grand Prairie (TX) Parks, Arts and Recreation Dept.

Tiffany P. White, Douglass Park Manager, Champaign (IL) Park District

They will be paired with Academy members who will serve as mentors. All Academy members and former Externs are invited to this year’s Extern Reception, 5:00-7:00 PM on Tuesday, October 4th at the St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame Bar & Grille in the Holiday Inn, St. Louis Downtown-Convention Center. Please make plans to attend.

Legends

The Legends Program consists of videotaped interviews of distinguished administrators and educators who have made outstanding contributions to the field of Parks and Recreation. This year, six individuals were selected to be included in the program. All have had very distinguished careers in the field. They are **Craig Whipple**, Vermont; **Joseph H. “Joe” Holmwood**, Arizona; **David A. Lorenz**, Colorado; **William C. Beckner**, Virginia; **Judge John Sutter**, California; and **Ronald Pies**, Arizona

Hall of Fame

At this year’s Banquet, a new member – **Stewart Case** – will be inducted into The Robert W. Crawford Recreation and Park Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame Committee and selection process is a joint project of NRPA and the Academy. We’re pleased to announce that members of Mr. Case’s family will be attending to accept the award.

Pugsley Awards

The Honorable Cornelius Amory Pugsley Medals are the most prestigious awards that recognize outstanding contributions to the promotion and development of public parks, recreation and conservation in the United States. This year, at the Academy Banquet on Thursday, October 6th, two Pugsley Medals will be presented – to **Richard L. Ash, Jr.** and **John Sutter**. We’re very grateful to the National Park Foundation and the Davey Tree Corporation for their support of the Pugsley Award.

Grand Achievements in Parks: Cornelius Amory Pugsley Awards

By Davey Tree Corporate Communications

The Cornelius Amory Pugsley Medal is the most prestigious award that recognizes outstanding contributions to the promotion and development of public parks.

As such, recipients of this honor, bestowed by the Academy, can be held up in high regard as shining examples of the prototypical park steward. They are exemplary models of what a parks supervisor can hope to become. Fittingly, the inaugural recipient of the

award on a national level was Stephen T. Mather, the first director of the National Park Service.

We know the personal and professional levels to which they aspire – Mather and Pugsley himself are fitting examples. But where do we look to see the highest achievement, in terms of conservation and preservation, they strive for in creating recreational space?

Mather again offers direction here, calling out like a road map from the past, directing us to the National Parks. And if we are looking for compatibility on a scale of grand accomplishment – the best among them – we will find the parks and memorials of Washington, D.C., offering a beautiful marriage of natural and created spaces providing both conservation and recreation outdoors in the nation's capital.

It is here, as we are in supporting the Pugsley Award, Davey is proud to care for the plants and spaces that make up some of America's grandest parks. The National Mall, the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, the National WWII Memorial and others are all spaces Davey proudly maintains, always with an eye on service and quality of the highest standards.

These are the kinds of places stewards like the 2016 Pugsley Award winners can appreciate like few others. Like our national parks, we celebrate those stewards who care for and celebrate our park and recreation areas throughout the United States.

Davey thanks this year's award recipients and is proud to be a supporter of the Pugsley Award. Congratulations!

Thank you and best wishes to **Brenda Beales** upon her retirement from NRPA. Brenda was a tremendous liaison to us for many years with the Gold Medal Awards and the Hall of Fame programs, and we are most grateful.

Notes From the Academy Office

Please make sure your records are updated with the new Academy Office mailing address: PO Box 802, Huntley, IL 60142

Agency financial offices should have copies of our updated W-9 form. They are available upon request.

AAPRA Member Communication Preference Survey

The Academy is conducting a quick 5 minute survey on the communication preferences of its members.

Please click on the following link and take the survey? It will be very appreciated.
https://iu.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_esWtWEvkG2WPOTj

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)
Brett Wright (17)
Karla Henderson (18)
Carolyn McKnight (18)

American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration
P.O. Box 802
Huntley, IL 60142
(224) 858-7212
aapra.org