

AAPRA 40th Anniversary

1980-2020

- 2008** *Chuck Wilt (2007-08), President NRPA Baltimore*
Academy brochure created
Leadership Positioning Symposium held in Scottsdale
- 2009** *Steven Messerli (2008-09), President NRPA Salt Lake City*
John C. Potts (Pottsie) Leadership Development Scholarship established by AIPE/Academy Foundation
First members through **Urban Director membership category**: Rafael Payan, Tim Mitchell, John Kirk Mukri and Sue Black
The Davey Tree Expert Company joins the National Park Foundation as sponsor of Pugsley Awards
John Potts named by Foundation Board as Lifetime Trustee and retires as Executive Secretary/Treasurer
Rich Grodsky becomes Executive Director (formerly Executive Secretary/Treasurer) in October and Andee Chestnut's title changes to Executive Secretary/Treasurer
- 2010** *Jim Garges (2009-10), President NRPA Minneapolis*
First two "Pottsie" Scholarships awarded by the AIPE/Academy Foundation to Dan Olson, Champaign County Forest Preserve District and Shamar Young, Cleveland Metro parks
Landscape Structures, Inc. becomes banquet sponsor
Academy website and listserv moved from Texas A&M to Sagamore Publishing
- 2011** *Tony Cisneros (2010-11), President NRPA Atlanta*
Landscape Structures, Inc becomes Legends program sponsor
Armed Forces Gold Medal category approved
- 2012** *Lori Daniel (2011-12), President NRPA Anaheim*
Gold Medal logo policy adopted
First year to have an Armed Forces Gold Medal Award category
- 2013** *Tom Lovell (2012-2013), President NRPA Houston*
Survey on Academy relevancy and future role in furthering the parks and recreation profession
AIPE/Academy Foundation achieves \$100,000 in assets
- 2014** *John McGovern (2013-14), President NRPA Charlotte, NC*
"Robert W. Crawford Recreation and Park Hall of Fame" presentation takes place during the Academy Banquet for the first time.
First Extern Reunion Social [NRPA-Charlotte]
- 2015** *Bill Scalzo (2014-15), President NRPA Las Vegas*
Inaugural **Mentoring Program** with AAPRA and NRPA's Young Professional and Administrators networks; 47 Academy members serve as mentors
"Lessons from the Legends" presentation with first topical video at NRPA Congress
- 2016** *Becky Benna (2015-2016), President NRPA St. Louis*
AAPRA and AIPE/Academy Foundation co-sponsor National Symposium: "Recreation, Parks and Public Health" held at Indiana University
AIPE/Academy Foundation provides funding for **Legends topical videos** project
Jane Adams becomes Executive Director (November 1)
- 2017** *Chris Nunes (2016-17), President NRPA New Orleans*
JPRRA accepted into the Clarivate Emerging Source Citation Index
Gold Medal Finalists press photos prior to reception
- 2018** *Mark McHenry (2017-18), President NRPA Indianapolis*
Academy "elevator speech," tagline and e-signature adopted
Letters sent to Gold Medal Award Finalists' governors, state legislators, congressional representatives and senators
Executive Secretary/Treasurer Andee Chestnut retires (October); and Susan Wipf becomes Executive Secretary/Treasurer
- 2019** *Carolyn McKnight (2018-19), President NRPA Baltimore*
Vision and Mission statements created
Membership nomination outreach to unrepresented and underrepresented states
Reserve Fund policy adopted starting with 2020 budget
- 2020** *Dianne Hoover (2019-2020), President NRPA Orlando (cancelled due to coronavirus pandemic)*
Academy General Membership meeting and awards presented virtually
40th Anniversary Celebration begins
Red Barn Communications contracted to provide association management services



Robert (Bob) Crawford



AMERICAN ACADEMY FOR PARK AND RECREATION ADMINISTRATION
HISTORICAL BENCHMARKS 1980 - 2020

AAPRA Members ...

Over the next twelve months, as we celebrate the **40th Anniversary** of the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA), we will reflect on our history as an organization; remembering leaders and events that were key to our founding, development and growth.

AAPRA's 40th Anniversary Task Force wants to share with you, as we "kick-off" our anniversary year, a memento of the organization's successes over the past forty years -- **American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration Historical Benchmarks 1980 – 2020** and a small token of the celebration – **40th Anniversary lapel pin**. Please wear the pin through the year; and especially at the 2021 NRPA Annual Conference and AAPRA events in Nashville, TN.

There is more to come as the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration reflects and celebrates the organization's contributions to the parks and recreation field, and the difference it continues to make to the profession.

Respectfully,

Becky Benna, Co-Chair
AAPRA 40th Anniversary Task Force

Michal Anne Lord, Co-Chair
AAPRA 40th Anniversary Task Force



John Potts with past presidents at banquet when he retired





AMERICAN ACADEMY FOR PARK AND RECREATION ADMINISTRATION
HISTORICAL BENCHMARKS 1980 - 2020

1980

AAPRA is established by resolution during NRPA Congress in Phoenix, AZ – October 22

1981 President Frank Vaydik * NRPA Minneapolis

AAPRA Bylaws approved and objective established. Frank Vaydik elected first president of AAPRA.

Legends in Parks and Recreation program proposed by Bob Toalson and the first interviews taped: Dr. Edith Ball, Conrad Wirth, John Schultz, Robert Crawford and Clifton French

1982 President Frank Vaydik * (1981-82) NRPA Louisville, KY

First meeting of the AAPRA Board of Directors; AAPRA incorporated in Missouri as a 501(c)3

Journal of Park and Recreation Administration approved

1983 David Laidlaw* (1982-83), President NRPA Kansas City

first copies of *Journal* published in January ... Joe Bannon and Ted Deppe appointed co-editors

1984 Robert Toalson* (1983-84), President NRPA Orlando

Academy logo approved (October)

International Symposium on Sports for Everyone held in conjunction with 1984 Olympics in Anaheim, CA (initiated by AAPRA in 1982)



Frank Vaydik

1985 Charles Hartsoe (1984-85), President NRPA Dallas

Agreed to cooperate with the National Park Foundation in the Pugsley and Wirth Awards Board approved proposal to establish a recognition program for outstanding scholarly work by students in the field of parks and recreation administration

1986 Tony Mobley (1985-86), President NRPA Anaheim

Endorsed Robert Crawford's idea of *Public Recreation and Park Hall of Fame* and to pursue the idea with NRPA Co-sponsor of the Roundtable Associates Conference "National Forum on Black Americans in Parks, Recreation and Conservation"

1987 Ken Smithee* (1986-87), President NRPA New Orleans

Initial proposal for the development of accreditation process for Park and Recreation agencies

Conducted the *Symposium on Tourism and Recreation: A Growing Partnership* held in Asheville, North Carolina with cooperating agencies: The International Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus, the National Park Service, the National Recreation and Park Association, the Southeast Tourism Society, and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Created a special award "Academy Distinguished Founder's Award" to recognize those members of the Academy who have contributed to the Academy's work in some extraordinary way. Initial Distinguished Founder's Award went to Frank Vaydik, Robert Crawford, and Conrad Wirth.

1988 Charles Odegaard* (1987-88), President NRPA Indianapolis

First Hall of Fame honorees presented at NRPA Congress in Indianapolis: Howard S. Braucher, Luther H. Gulick, Joseph Lee, Frederick Law Olmsted, George A. Parker, Lebert H. Weir and Theodore Wirth.

First *Best Paper Award* presented: Student Paper-David Osborne, Pennsylvania State University

1989 Ford Hughes* (1988-89), President NRPA San Antonio

A proposal to proceed on agency accreditation from an Ad Hoc Committee of Academy members, NRPA staff, and other resource people was presented to Academy Board who asked for an operational plan to be developed

Approved concept of *President's Awards* and authorized committee to write the requirements and procedures

Approved Academy sponsorship of a high-level management school for young practitioners to be held at Oglebay Park, West Virginia; as well as sponsorship/co-sponsorship of "The Challenge of Interpreting Change: Critical Policy Issues for the 1990s" Symposium, International Federation of Parks and Recreation Administration 1989 Congress, and Symposium "Conservatories for the 21st Century".

1990 Ralph Cryder (1989-90), President NRPA Phoenix

Board approved the Agency Accreditation report with operational plan and approved expenditures to complete phase one of the accreditation project.

Academy approved participation or support of *National Outdoor Recreation Trends Symposium III (Indianapolis)*; *Symposium on Recreation's Responsibility for Service to Select Populations: The Homeless, Migrant Workers, New Immigrants and the Urban Elderly*; and "Save Outdoor America," formerly National Celebration of the Outdoors,

Adoption of Futures Committee Recommendations (Academy's first strategic plan)

1991 Charles Pezoldt* (1990-91), President NRPA Baltimore

Resource directory to support consulting services, completed under the leadership of Bill McKinney.

1992 James Truncer (1991-92), President NRPA Cincinnati

First formal Academy newsletter the *Academy Bulletin* published in February: editor Jane Adams

1993 Ron Dodd* (1992-93), President NRPA San Jose

The Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) was established to implement and administer Agency Accreditation. First Academy appointees to the Commission: Ray Kisiah, Jim Truncer, Vern Hartenburg, Lou Twardzik. First accreditation visitors training conducted for visits to pilot sites

1994 Ray Kisiah (1993-94), President NRPA Minneapolis

Legends promotional brochure developed

First four agencies accredited in Agency Accreditation pilot study received plaques at Academy banquet

AIPE/Academy Foundation created; and first Board of Trustees meeting held in Minneapolis

1995 John Crompton (1994-95), President NRPA San Antonio

Academy a co-sponsor of the *Recreation for At-Risk Youth: Programs that Work Colloquium* in Fort Worth, TX.

First externs: Mike Benard, Pleasant Dale Park District, IL and Tracy Taylor, Indy Parks

Academy website created by Peter Witt through Texas A&M University

1996 Jim Colley* (1995-96), President NRPA Kansas City

John Potts selected to succeed Bob Toalson as AAPRA Executive Secretary/Treasurer when Bob steps down

Administration of The Cornelius Armory Pugsley Medals transferred to the Academy from the National Park Foundation

1997 Doug Sessoms* (1996-97), President NRPA Salt Lake City

Co-sponsored with NRPA the "Recreation-as-Prevention Forum" in Washington, D.C.

Pugsley Awards first presented at Academy banquet: Ira Hutchison (National), and Ernie Nance (Municipal).

1998 Robert J. Hall (1997-98), President NRPA Miami Beach

Jan 1 John Potts becomes Executive Secretary/Treasurer; Mindy Harrington is John's assistant

1999 Jane Adams (1998-99), President NRPA Nashville

First Academy listserv created by Peter Witt, housed at Texas A&M University

Academy Bulletin online

2000 Vern Hartenburg (1999-2000), President NRPA Phoenix

Journal of Park and Recreation Administration converted to electronic format

Andee Chestnut becomes John Potts' assistant for the Academy and Foundation (October)

2001 Sandra Whitmore (2000-2001), President NRPA Denver

AIPE/Academy Foundation contributed to the Trust for Public Lands for sponsorship in support of TPL *Urban Parks Symposium*

2002 & Terry Trueblood* (2001-03), President NRPA Tampa 2003

Journal of Park and Recreation Administration exclusively electronic

Terry Trueblood* continues an additional year as President (David Clark* elected 2002-03, but unable to serve) NRPA St. Louis

2004 Peter Witt (2003-04), President NRPA Reno

Academy formalizes agreement to assume responsibility and governance for conducting the National Gold Medal Award in partnership with NRPA and co-sponsors Porter Athletic Equipment Company and Musco Lighting, LLC

Ad Hoc Diversity Committee appointed; and two externships added (beginning in 2005) designated for diversity candidates

2005 Michelle Park (2004-05), President NRPA San Antonio

First New Member Orientation conducted

First Diversity Externs: Oralethea Davenport, Chicago, IL and Jonathan Jones, Lake Balboa, CA

2006 Dale Larsen (2005-06), President NRPA Seattle

Received National Recreation Foundation funds for publishing two books on the heritage of the park and recreation movement in America

AIPE/Academy Foundation names Robert Reid a Lifetime Trustee

2007 Joseph Wynns (2006-07), President NRPA Indianapolis

The two diversity externships renamed for Ernest T. Atwell

First Gold Medal Finalists reception and Musco Lighting, LLC. becomes sole sponsor of Gold Medal Awards

