



American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

SEPTEMBER 30, 2024





WELCOME! CLASS OF 2024

Urban Directors

A. P. (Anthony Paul) Diaz, Esq. – Superintendent, Seattle Parks & Recreation, Washington
Corey K. Wilson – Superintendent, Recreation and Park Commission, Parish of East Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Educators

June N. Price-Shingles, Ed.D. - Director of Recreation Program, Chicago State University, Illinois
Sydney Sklar, Ph.D. - Professor & Chair, Recreation & Sport Management, University of St. Francis, Illinois
Melissa Weddell, Ph.D. – Director, Institute for Tourism & Recreation Research, University of Montana, Montana

Practitioners/Professionals

David Bennett – Executive Director (retired), Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission, South Carolina
Robert Carmona – Director, Town of Gilbert Parks & Recreation, Arizona
Tara Eggleston Stewart – Chief, Aquatics & Athletics, Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission, Maryland
Matthew Enoch, CPRE – Chief, Community Recreation Division, US Army Fort Riley, Kansas
Tara Gee – Park Planning & Development Manager, Roseville Parks, Recreation & Libraries, California
Seth Hendler-Voss – Director, Parks, Recreation & Tourism, Prince William County, Virginia
Nancy Kaiser – Consultant, Rogers, Arkansas
Dr. Tony Lopez – Deputy Town Manager/Chief Operating Officer, Town of Miami Lakes, Florida
Jeff Muck – Director, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services, Novi, Michigan
Kim Reser – Assistant Director, Springfield-Greene County Park Board, Missouri
Lisa Sheppard – Executive Director, Glencoe Park District, Illinois
Jeff Stewart, CPRP – Executive Director, Johnson County Park & Recreation District, Kansas
Bill Tschirhart – Chief of Administration, Five Rivers MetroParks, Ohio



- Tracey Crawford, 2023-24 President, Northwest Special Recreation District, Rolling Meadows, IL
- Cindie Sullivan, 2023-24 President-Elect, Miamisburg, OH
- Jane H. Adams, Executive Director, Sacramento, CA
- Elizabeth S. Kessler, In-coming President-Elect, McHenry County Conservation District, Woodstock, IL

Also here:

- Brit Kramer, Executive Secretary/Treasurer, Lacey, WA

SPEAKERS



ORIENTATION AGENDA

- AAPRA's Founding & Name
- Mission, Vision & Values
- Committees & Task Forces
- When & Where We Gather
- How We Communicate
- How to Get Involved

This is an informal orientation – please ask questions at any time!



Our Name:
The
American Academy
for
Park and Recreation
Administration

A Brief Historical Review:

- Late 1970's conversations were held about lack of opportunities for seasoned park & recreation administrators (professionals & educators) to provide professional services & fellowship
- Frank Vaydik, President, AIPE (American Institute of Park Executives; one of the organizations who merged to create NRPA in 1966), Director, Kansas City, MO, organized a meeting in 1980 of seasoned administrators & educators to discuss forming an academy
 - 29 attendees pledged \$100 each to form the American Academy for Park & Recreation Administration
 - Many founders were past NRPA Presidents
- 1981 bylaws were presented & unanimously approved
- Numerous projects have been launched by AAPRA
- Celebrated our 40th Anniversary (2020-2021) – Academy's history is posted on the website under "About AAPRA"



AAPRA'S FIRST PREAMBLE

GUIDES US TODAY

“We, the concerned parks and recreation professionals in America, in order to promote understanding of parks and recreation goals and methods, to increase knowledge through encouraging its gathering, organization and dissemination, and to unify and strengthen our our purposes, all toward improving the quality of life in America, do hereby decree the establishment of an Academy of illustrious parks and recreation fellows to undertake this charge.”

AAPRA'S MISSION & VISION

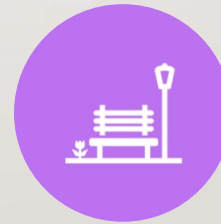
Our Mission: An Academy of Distinguished Park & Recreation Administrators and Scholars Committed to Research, Professional Development, and the use of Best Practices

Our Vision: To inspire, influence and advance the parks and recreation profession

OUR VALUES



Leadership - We are viewed as thoughtful leaders and as a resource for the profession



Impactful - We use our collective wisdom and experience to improve the parks and recreation profession



Innovative & Progressive - We are a learning community that embodies continuous improvement within the changing needs of the profession



Belonging - We commit to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion by actively seeking to create safe, secure and supportive environments

OUR PLEDGE

AAPRA commits to promote, nourish, and embody an inclusive and equitable environment, strengthen our commitment to promote justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, combat systemic and structural racism, and promote a culture of equality for all, through our knowledge advancement, research, education and scholarly efforts.

We commit to:

- ❖ reveal relevant opportunities
- ❖ elevate equity
- ❖ activate diversity
- ❖ lead inclusively



AAPRA is an organization comprised of high-level experienced professionals and educators dedicated to advance public parks & recreation.

We mentor professionals, acknowledge high performing park & recreation agencies, & further scholarly research to advance the profession.

“THE ELEVATOR SPEECH”
LEADERSHIP OF AND FOR PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

- Three categories of Fellows:
 - Practitioners (limit 100) and Educators (limit 25)
 - Urban Directors (limit 10% of total membership or 12)
 - Emeritus (no limit); as members retire, they transition to this category
- Membership year January – December
- Dues: invoiced in January 2025; due within 30 days; pay online or with check
 - \$325 Practitioners / Educators / Urban Directors
 - \$110 Emeritus



AAPRA DEDICATES ITSELF TO:

ADVANCING	ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE RELATED TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF PARKS & RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
PROMOTING	PROMOTING BROADER UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND CONSERVATION TO THE PUBLIC GOOD
ENCOURAGING	ENCOURAGING SCHOLARLY EFFORTS BY PRACTITIONERS AND EDUCATORS THAT ENHANCE THE PRACTICE OF PARKS & RECREATION ADMINISTRATION
CONDUCTING	CONDUCTING RESEARCH, PUBLISHING SCHOLARLY PAPERS, AND SPONSORING SEMINARS RELATED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION



ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE

- Commission for the Accreditation of Park & Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) / partner NRPA
 - 203 park and recreation agencies & military installations are CAPRA accredited
 - CAPRA meets annually to review agency applications / re-applications
 - Commission comprised of AAPRA, NRPA, & other appointees
 - AAPRA appoints 5 Representatives to the Commission
- Extern Program, focus is on mentoring young professionals at NRPA Conference, we provide financial assistance to support their attendance
- Mentoring Program, focus is on mentoring professionals for 6 months (or more) virtually, in person, or by email; work with NRPA's YPN
- American Parks & Recreation Foundation (APRF), a separate organization which provides scholarships to professional development schools; members are asked to make a separate donation to APRF



PROMOTING BROADER UNDERSTANDING OF PARKS AND RECREATION

- National Gold Medal Award Program / governing organization & administrator / sponsor Musco Lighting
 - Recognizes excellence in management of parks & recreation agencies, state park systems, & military installations around the world
- Legends in Parks & Recreation / partner Landscape Structures, LLC
 - Video Recordings of Leaders in P&R
 - Academy membership is NOT required to nominate or to be nominated
 - Recorded & posted on website
 - Themed videos are also available
- Recreation & Park Hall of Fame / partner NRPA
- The Honorable Cornelius Amory Pugsley Award / partners Davey Tree Expert Company & National Park Foundation
 - Honors individuals for lifetime achievements in parks and conservation
 - Academy membership is not required to nominate or to be a nominee



ENCOURAGING SCHOLARLY EFFORTS

- Academy produces JPRA: Journal of Park & Recreation Administration / publisher Sagamore-Venture Publishing
 - Subscription included in your membership
- Best Paper Award: Master or Dissertation
 - Annually (alternating years) / cash prize to author
- Research Committee: Committee conducted surveys which identified research needs of practitioners; developing pilot program to link administrator's needs with researchers who have expertise in those areas

CONDUCTING

Historically the Academy has conducted seminars (stand alone and in concert with others)

Current efforts are to hold virtual “Conversations that Matter” on topics relevant to members.

Conduct member surveys to identify trends in the management of parks and recreation



2022 – 2025 IMPACT PLAN



Establish plan to ensure AAPRA's fiscal and personnel sustainability



Implement Fiscal Analysis Policy for expanding / new programs



Establish Board as a working board



Committee/task force leadership is knowledgeable and supported



Develop and implement internal/external JEDI initiatives



Increase use of social media to promote mission, vision, and values

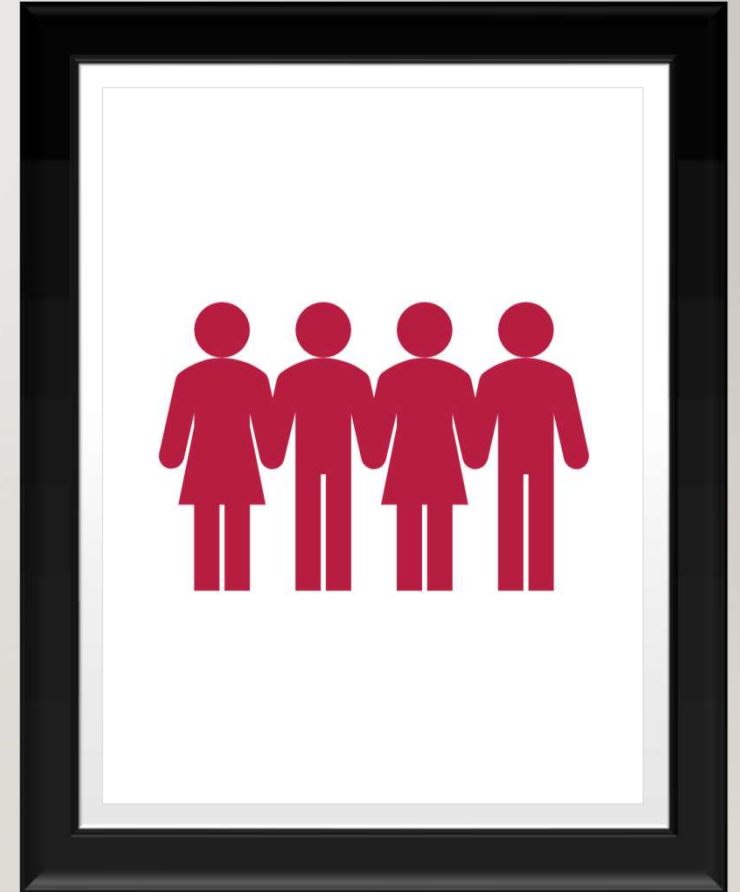


Finalize Urban Director member criteria for clarity and relevance



AAPRA SPONSORS

- EPPLEY CENTER FOR PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS
- MUSCO LIGHTING
- NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION
- DAVEY EXPERT TREE COMPANY
- NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION
- WILLIAMS ARCHITECTS/AQUATICS
- LANDSCAPE STRUCTURES, INC
- SAGAMORE-VENTURE PUBLISHING





2024 COMMITTEES / TASK FORCES

Committees

- Best Paper (honoring advanced research)
- Bylaws
- Externs (mentoring young professionals)
- National Gold Medal Award (agency management excellence)
- Hall of Fame (joint with NRPA)
- Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (JEDI)
- Legends (video taping professionals/citizens)
- Membership (recommends new members)
- Mentoring (mentoring young professionals)
- Nominations (for Board positions)
- Pugsley Award (only past recipients serve)
- Research to Advance the Profession
- Urban Directors (solicit nominations)

Task Forces

- Branding & Social Media
- Career Development

American Parks & Recreation Foundation: a separate 501(c)(3) with its own Board of Directors; provides scholarships

MEMBER RESOURCES

- Basecamp – platform to access committee / task force documents
- Leadership Team – Committee / Task Force Chairs & Vice Chairs / AAPRA Board / Staff
- Branding & Social Media Efforts
 - LinkedIn: add AAPRA member to your profile; follow AAPRA
 - when posting use @AmericanAcademyforParkandRecreationAdministration;
#aapra
 - Share our posts; like our posts
- Signature file – add AAPRA to your email
- AAPRA Website – www.aapra.org
 - About AAPRA; drop down menu to Member Information



WHEN WE GATHER / HOW WE WORK



In person, at 2024 NRPA Annual Conference:

Extern Reception: Monday evening
@ Hudson Grill; 5 – 7 pm
Annual Reception & Award Dinner:
Wednesday 5:30 – 9:30 pm (Pre-
registration required)



Board of Directors meetings: via Zoom

Board terms are annual membership
meeting to membership meeting
(typically Sept/Oct)



Committees / Task Forces: via Zoom



Plan & host Conversations that Matter



TO COMMUNICATE



Job Posting & E-Newsletters & LinkedIn

Job postings are free to members
E-Newsletter distributed 6 times annually
AAPRA LinkedIn – follow us & post!



AAPRA Staff - info@aapra.org

Executive Director - Jane H. Adams
Executive Secretary - Brit Kramer
Member Services - Shelley Dahle



Member Directory

Directory link sent annually to members – it is not to be distributed to others
Wild Apricot Membership App
List of members by state on the website
Send in brief bio & photo for website



GET INVOLVED: HERE'S HOW



Complete

Complete the Interest Survey (sent in late October)

- Select up to 3 committees / task forces
- President / President-Elect / Executive Director place members



Support

Participate in zoom meetings & surveys
Promote Academy programs (Best Paper, Extern, Mentoring, Gold Medal, Legends, Pugsley)
Engage in our social media efforts



Donate

Donate to the American Parks & Recreation Foundation

- Donations can be made at same time as dues is paid



Nominate

Nominate outstanding professional(s), educators, or Urban Directors for membership or as a Legend



MEMBERS RECEIVE ONLINE ACCESS TO JPRA

- Go to www.js.sagamorepub.com
- Click the log in button (top right corner of screen)
 - If on mobile phone, click on 3 bars in top left corner of your screen
- Use this login:
 - Username: jpra2023 (case sensitive)
 - Password: AAPRA2023 (case sensitive)
- Scroll down to Journal of Park and Recreation Administration & click “view journal”
- **IMPORTANT:** do NOT share, or change the username or password



WE ARE ONLINE: MEMBER DIRECTORY; MEMBER PROFILE; & VIEW EVENTS



- Establish your login at <https://aapra.wildapricot.org/Sys/Reset/PasswordRequest>
- Search for “Wild Apricot for members” from the App Store
- Download the app and log in with your login information



FOR ALL “THINGS” AAPRA VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Past E-Newsletters; Mission, Vision, Values; Members by State; Officers/Directors; Bylaws; History; National Gold Medal Award Program; Externs; Mentoring Program; Best Paper; Legends tapes; Pugsley Medal; Research for the Profession; JPRA; American Parks & Recreation Foundation

VISIT: <https://aapra.org/>



**YIKES!
WE COVERED A LOT!!**



IF YOU HAVE A
QUESTION
LATER...

- Cindie Sullivan, 2024-25 President,
cindiesullivan@Hotmail.com
- Tracey Crawford, 2024-25 Past President,
tcrawford@nwsra.org
- Elizabeth S. Kessler, 2024-25 President-Elect
- Jane H. Adams, Executive Director,
janeacycle@gmail.com
- Brit Kramer, Executive Secretary/Treasurer,
info@aapra.org



WELCOME
TO THE
ACADEMY!

Thanks for Joining the
New Member Orientation