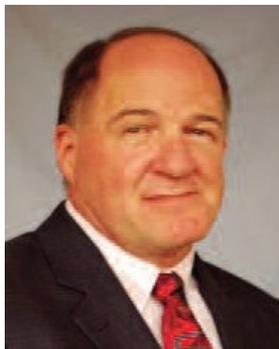




# The Bulletin

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

## Message from the President



What an unusual last couple of months! My youngest son got married. Two of my close friends passed away. My wife and I moved. My oldest son and his wife moved. And next week I do my civic duty and go for jury duty (surely they won't take me...will they?! And oh yes, we were busy at work helping counties, cities and districts comply with access and inclusion requirements.

But through all of that, the Academy kept humming along. Here is what you and other members did...

By the way, this edition of the newsletter is co-edited by Rich Grodsky, Andee Chestnut and your President.

### Bylaws Change Adopted

We reissued the ballots and this time, quickly, received enough ballots to pass the amendments to the Bylaws. Thanks for your votes!

### New Members

The Membership Committee did an excellent job in the evaluation of nominees. Another article here names the new members, so I won't steal their thunder; but we owe a special thanks to Membership Committee Chair Michael Meadors, and to the Committee, including Tom Shuster, Linda Caldwell, Mark McHenry, Ernest Burkeen and Susan Trautman.

We also saw two new Urban Directors come in under the initiative we started several years ago. This important effort recognizes that the traditional education and career path for administrators, in very large systems, does not always work. Thanks, Joe Wynns, for your leadership here.

All of the nominees were qualified, and those not inducted this year will, I hope, be nominated again next year.

### Youngification

Special thanks to Marc Heirshberg for approaching and securing a sponsorship for the Extern Reunion as a part of the Youngification efforts. The sponsor, Xccent, one of the newer playground equipment manufacturers, quickly agreed to Marc's request. Thank Xccent when you see them in Charlotte! And, thank you too, Marc!

### Election

As I write this, ballots have been counted and new officers are being reached. We had a great slate of candidates, and Past President Tom Lovell deserves a tip of the hat for his leadership as chair of the Nominating Committee.

### Hall of Fame

To bring more recognition to Hall of Fame honorees, starting this year, NRPA has agreed that the venue for the Hall of Fame induction will be...the Academy Banquet! Joe Bannon and other members of the Hall of Fame Joint Committee engineered this move. Joe, as always, thanks for thinking about a better way to do things.

### PRORAGIS Push Task Force

Academy members have done a great job of hosting magnet sessions. These are important in the effort by NRPA to gather measurable information from communities. This will help greatly with benchmarking. Or, I suppose we could continue to fly by the seat of our pants. I can see it now: "Yes, Mayor and Council, our department staff knows exactly how many pools and playgrounds are found in communities of our size from California to Connecticut."

We don't really, do we? Many of us are or were very good at estimating the incidence of pools, golf, community centers, heck, even professional employees. It is safe to say that the last decade has changed the foundation upon which we made those estimates.

Are you participating in PRORAGIS? Go to [www.nrpa.org](http://www.nrpa.org) to learn more.

### Academy Dues

Take a quiz please. Academy dues last increased:

- 1) 5 years ago in 2009
- 2) 10 years ago in 2004
- 3) 15 years ago in 1999
- 4) 20 years ago in 1994

What was your answer? If you picked #4 you are right. Academy dues are important, and our "operations" are to be covered by dues. As we have grown, dues have not, and instead we have sought sponsorships. That's great, but it is time. In Charlotte we'll recommend a dues increase in two tiers, with a \$10 annual increase for Academy members that are emeritus members and the higher rate of \$25 for active members.

Ahhh, my legacy... "He increased our dues!"

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## Pugsley Award, Davey Recognize Value of Preserving Parks

What's green space worth? Many would say it's priceless. How could you measure, in dollars and cents, the real and intangible benefits alike provided by a strip of soft, lush grass, the shade of a mature tree or the majesty of a mountain vista like one might find in Yellowstone?

Past recipients of the Cornelius A. Pugsley Award for promotion and development of public parks across the U.S. understand how invaluable open spaces are for communities. These places are where we explore our connection to the natural world - whether through the immense beauty of our National Parks or the sense of community found at the neighborhood playground.

The Davey Tree Expert Company proudly supports the endeavors of the Pugsley Award recipients, who truly protect the outdoors. Davey Tree gratefully supports the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration's commitment to natural resource preservation through this prestigious award program.

Davey's supporting sponsorship of the award started in 2009, and this year marks the sixth year of supporting efforts to perpetuate green spaces across America for future generations to continue to enjoy.

The Davey Tree Expert Company, with U.S. and Canadian operations in more than 47 states and five provinces, provides a variety of tree care, grounds maintenance and consulting services for the residential, utility, commercial and government markets. Founded in 1880, Davey has been employee owned for 35 years and has more than 7,800 employees who provide Proven Solutions for a Growing World. For more information, visit [www.davey.com](http://www.davey.com).

Davey Tree Corporate Communications

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### The Rebound is Here?

I am not an economist, but I am an observer. I see, coast to coast, more new construction, more new housing, and budget increases, albeit modest ones, at parks and recreation agencies. One of our large county clients added, for the first time in its history, four new positions for therapeutic recreation staffs to oversee access and inclusion tasks. This is a great step for a parks or land management agency. Certainly some segments of the economy are moving more slowly than others, and even some regions are lagging behind others. But it appears as I have traveled from state to state this year that movement ahead is the trend.

Is the rebound helping your agency?

### Thank You to Our Sponsors!

The Academy is successful with a number of projects because we have the help of some exceptional partners. In addition to **Xccent**, which I mentioned earlier, I'd like to acknowledge **Musco Lighting**, which funds the entire Gold Medal program each year, and of course, **NRPA** for their help in administering the program. **Davey Tree** and the **National Parks Foundation** support the Pugsley Awards, and **Landscape Structures, Inc.** supports the Legends program and helps fund the Banquet. **Sagamore Publishing** has been a long-time partner in the publication of the Journal of Park and Recreation Administration. I can't say enough about the value of this support. Please remember to acknowledge all of our partners when you get the chance.

### Charlotte!

The NRPA Congress is set for Charlotte in mid-October. Academy Member Jim Garges says all is set, and I hear attendance is at an all-time high. So come to Charlotte to celebrate our members and their accomplishments, to learn, to share your knowledge with others, and to honor those who have made remarkable achievements. It will be a great conference, and I look forward to seeing all of you.

John N. McGovern, President  
American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration

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## Election Results

In another close election, these members were selected to serve as officers and directors for 2015:

**Becky Benná** - President Elect

**Tom O'Rourke** - Secretary

**Judy Weiss** - Treasurer

**Mark McHenry & Chris Nunes** - Board Members through 2017

They will be sworn in during the General Membership Meeting on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> in Charlotte and will join the following:

**Bill Scalzo** - President

**John McGovern** - Past President

**Ray Ochromowicz & Karla Henderson** - Board Members through 2015

**Elizabeth Kessler & Debra Jordan** - Board Members through 2016

Thank you to all those willing to serve. Once again we had a tremendous slate of candidates.

Special thanks to outgoing officers and directors:

**Tom Lovell** - Past President

**Sara Hensley** - Secretary

**Jamie Sabbach** - Treasurer

**Sue Black & Steve Neu** - Board Members

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## Welcome to our New Members!\*

\*More detailed biographies are available on the website.

**Janet Bartnik** is the Director of Parks and Recreation in Liberty, MO. For a decade prior to joining Liberty's team this summer, Bartnik was the Director in Raymore, MO, a fast-growing community of 15,000 south of Kansas City. She has served as President of the Missouri Parks & Recreation Association, on the Rocky Mountain Revenue & Management School Board of Regents and is a member of the Council on Accreditation for Parks, Recreation & Tourism. Bartnik holds a B.S. in Exercise Science and an M.S. in Sport Management from Virginia Tech University.



**Bill Foelsch** is Director of Parks and Recreation for the Township of Morris (NJ). Previously, he was Executive Director of the New Jersey Recreation & Park Association for 26 years. He also has served as part-time Park Consultant to Chester Township since 1981; and he is a visiting Instructor for the Rutgers University Certified Public Works Manager program. Bill serves as Chair of NJ Trails Council and Co-Chair of NJRPA Public Policy Committee. Bill served on the NRPA Board, was twice Chair of the National Playground Safety Institute, and served on the NRPA Congress Program Committee for 15 years.



**Cindy Curtis** serves as Deputy City Manager for the City of Virginia Beach, VA. Prior to being named to this position, she was the Director of Parks and Recreation for eight years. Before her work in Virginia Beach, Cindy was Deputy Director for the City of Richmond Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities; Enterprise Director for the Prince William County Park Authority; and Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Bedford. Cindy served on the Virginia Recreation and Park Society (VRPS) Board for eight years, and served as its president in 1999. In addition, she was a board member of the VRPS Leadership Training Institute for 14 years.



**Amy Hurd** is the Graduate School Director at Illinois State University where she is Professor in Recreation and Park Administration. She has taught classes at the undergraduate and graduate level in management with emphasis in marketing, human resources and finance. Her research focuses on competency development and succession planning. Previously, Amy was a Visiting Lecturer at Indiana University where she earned her Ph.D. She was also the Marketing Director for the Champaign (IL) Park District. Amy was a Visiting Scholar in Sustainable Tourism at Srinakharinwirot University in Bangkok, Thailand. She serves as section editor for the Academy's JPRA Programs That Work.



**Joe DeLuce** has been with the Champaign (IL) Park District for 17 years, first as Director of Recreation and currently as Executive Director. Joe has more than 34 years of experience and has served as an Executive Director in Ohio, West Virginia, Florida and Georgia. Joe has served two terms on the Illinois Park and Recreation Association Board. Joe also serves as an adjunct instructor at the University of Illinois. He has presented at numerous conferences and has been published on both the state and national level. Joe holds a B.S. in Parks and Recreation from Kent State University and a Master's Degree in Recreation Administration from the University of Illinois.



**Greg Petry** is currently Executive Director of the Waukegan (IL) Park District, where he has worked since 1987. He also worked at IL park districts in Highland Park (Ernie Nance, Director), Mundelein & Park Ridge. Greg started his life in Parks & Recreation at age 15 in East Brunswick Township, NJ Division of Parks and Recreation (Tom Shuster, Director). He has a BS, Teacher Preparation, Physical Education from Manhattan College and MS, Parks & Recreation Administration from Penn State University (Dr. Geoff Godbey, Advisor). Greg has served as a Regent at the NRPA Maintenance Management School; President of Midwest Institute of Park Executives; Director of IPRA Parks Section and President of National Sports Turf Managers Association. He serves on the IAPD Joint Legislative Committee and NRPA Member Relations Task Force.



## New Members\* (continued)

**Joe Turner**, Director, Houston Parks & Recreation Department, is a native Houstonian. He has a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Houston and holds an



Executive Master of Business Administration from Texas Woman's University. Mr. Turner was appointed by Mayor Bill White and approved by City Council in 2004. When Mayor Annise Parker took office in 2010, Joe was asked to continue serving. Prior to joining the City, he served as Parks Administrator for Harris County Precinct 4. In the private sector, he worked in the franchise business arena for more than 35 years. He serves on the NRPA Board; he is a member of Greater Gulf Coast Parks & Recreation Directors Association, the Heritage Society, Hermann Park Conservancy, Memorial Park Conservancy, Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Trees for Houston, and Houston Parks Board.

**Willis Winters** - Named Director of the Dallas Park & Recreation Department in 2013, Willis has been with the department since 1993. He was the co-project director for the department's nationally recognized long-range development plan in 2002. Under Winters' direction, the department has developed a new downtown park system; implemented the city-wide trail network master plan; renovated and expanded numerous recreation centers; developed new exhibits at the Dallas Zoo; planned and implemented recreational amenities within Trinity River Corridor; formulated the Park Pavilion program and guided restoration of National Historic Landmark architecture at Fair Park. In 2013, he was nominated for Texan of the Year by *The Dallas Morning News*. Willis is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and author of six books.



**Lawrence Zehnder's** parks and recreation experience has spanned a period of 42 years, with top administrative positions in Athens, TN; Charleston, SC; Norfolk, VA and most recently, retiring after 15 years with the City of Chattanooga, TN. He has served as NRPA SE Regional Director and has been state association president in VA & TN. He began his career with Cleveland (OH) Metro Parks in 1969 and received his formalized training in Recreation & Park Administration from Clemson University. He is presently a Senior Parks & Recreation Planner with the engineering and park planning firm of Barge, Waggoner, Sumner & Cannon. He has made several presentations at national and state conferences and was selected to address an international workshop on parks in East Germany in '03 and a forum of 16 countries in China in '07.



\*More detailed biographies are available on the website.

## 2014 Externships

Congratulations to our 2014 Externs!

### Jason Marra

Superintendent of Parks,  
Recreation & Conservation  
Village of Scarsdale, NY

### Bobbi Nance

Project Manager  
Park District of Oak Park (IL)

### Sarah Sandquist

Recreation Coordinator  
City of Redmond, WA

The three will be paired with Academy members who will serve as mentors during the NRPA Congress, and after Congress, Externs will write a brief summary and evaluation report. As part of their awards, Externs receive free Congress registration, a ticket for the Academy's Annual Banquet, and up to \$750 to cover conference expenses and travel.

## New this year!

## Extern Reunion

## You're Invited!

Meet and Greet and Extern Reunion with our 2014 Externs, past Externs & Academy Members. Begin the 2014 NRPA Congress with the best and the brightest!

## Where?

Whisky River-EpiCentre in Uptown Charlotte  
210 E. Trade Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Suite 208-A

## When?

Monday, October 13, 2014

4:30-5:30 PM Meet & Greet  
(2014 Externs & Mentors)

5:30-7:30 PM Reunion  
(Everyone - Members & Past Externs)

Sponsored by:



# Charlotte Meeting Schedule

(also located on the Academy website calendar of events)

## Monday, October 13

- 4:30- 5:30 PM Meet & Greet for Externs & Mentors, Whisky River-EpiCentre
- 5:30- 7:30 PM Reunion for all Externs & Academy Members, Whisky River (see above)
- 8:00- 9:30 PM Gold Medal Reception, The Westin Charlotte Grand Ballroom (by invitation)

## Tuesday, October 14

- 9:00-10:30 AM Gold Medal Grand Plaque winners announced at Congress Opening General Session

## Wednesday, October 15

- 7:30- 8:30 AM JPRA Associate Editors Meeting, Hilton Graves Room
- 7:30- 8:30 AM Academy Foundation Board Meeting, Hilton Coastal Kitchen Restaurant
- 8:45-10:00 AM Gold Medal Committee Meeting, Convention Center Room 215

## Thursday, October 16

- 7:00- 9:00 AM Academy Board Meeting, Hilton North Carolina Room
  - 9:15-10:00 AM Academy New Member Orientation, Hilton North Carolina Room
  - 10:30-11:30 AM Academy General Membership Meeting, Hilton South Carolina Room
  - 2:30- 3:45 PM Gold Medal Panel Session, Convention Center Room 203B
  - 6:00- 9:00 PM Academy Annual Banquet, Mint Museum Uptown
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## An Invitation from our Partner, Landscape Structures, Inc.

In appreciation for what you do to make your community a great place, please join us for a night out at Strike City in Charlotte during NRPA Congress on Wednesday, Oct. 15, beginning at 7 PM. There will be bowling, billiards, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres .... plus, lots of fun! Strike City is located at 210 Trade Street, walking distance from the Convention Center. Please RSVP by Oct. 8 to [AChestnut@aol.com](mailto:AChestnut@aol.com) or (217) 840-2009.



## Legends Committee News

The Legends Committee has been very active this year by conducting a survey regarding the Legends and the respective information once the Legends are selected and videotaped. As a result of the number of responses received, specifically regarding the use and length of the taped interviews, the committee then proposed reducing the taped interviews to about 15 minutes, as opposed to the previous 50 minutes. The future Legends tapes will focus on the career highlights and more specifically, what the selected Legend was most known for during his/her storied career.

Final candidates were chosen for the 2014 Legends to be honored at the upcoming NRPA Congress in Charlotte. Congratulations to: John Weber, Larry Allen and Marvin Billups.

This is a pilot year for the new interview process, and Jim Garges from Mecklenburg County has agreed to work with us in arranging for the taped interviews during the conference. While the details still need to be finalized, we are grateful for his offer to assist in completing this task. This year's taped interviews will be analyzed for completeness and usefulness, and perhaps supplemented with written reports. We are still evolving with the main purpose of being relevant in today's market.

Two of the three chosen Legends will be taped this year using the new format.

In addition, we were fortunate that Dan Dustin from the University of Utah, along with Matt Brownlee and Kelly Bricker (U of Utah) and Keri Schwab from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, have agreed to review all the existing Legends tapes. They plan to categorize into various subject headings so professors, professionals and others can have easier access to them by topics or subject matter. This is a huge endeavor, and Dan is on a mission to watch all 100-plus tapes so in turn, others can enjoy the enormous amount of expertise hidden in these tapes.

A big "hats off" to this year's Legends Committee and the many tasks they have taken on to improve and enhance the Academy's Legends. The legacies these Legends have left with us can be used more effectively in the future, as we learn from the past. I look forward to presenting this year's Legends to you at the conference, and in bringing relevance to this great asset of the Academy.

Dianne Hoover, CPRP  
Chair, 2014 Legends Committee

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## A Night to Remember!

The East Bay Regional Park District Remembers Past, Looks Forward with Gala Anniversary Event

The East Bay Regional Park District held a sold-out 1930s elegance themed Gala event, Saturday, September 13, in celebration of its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. During the event the Park District recognized the outstanding contributions of some of its partners and stakeholders with a presentation of awards:

- The Youth Partner Award to the YMCA of the East Bay and the Taylor Family Foundation
- The Citizen Advocate Award to Friends of Crown Beach in Alameda and the Sierra Club
- Conservation Partner recognition to Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy and Save Mount Diablo
- The Volunteer Service Award to Jerry Kent and the Park District volunteer archives team.

The Park District's Regional Parks Foundation also presented three awards:

- Corporate Donor and Health Partner Appreciation Award to Kaiser Permanente
- The Safety Advocate Donor Appreciation Award to the Committee for Industrial Safety (CIS) formed by Contra Costa County's four refineries—Chevron, Phillips 66, Shell and Tesoro
- Commitment to the Community Award to the Patterson family.

The Park District also bestowed special recognition on Board Members Ted Radke and Carol Severin (Pugsley winner in 2000), who are retiring from the EBRPD Board of Directors this year. Congressman George Miller (D-CA 11th District) made a surprise appearance to present Ted Radke with a Congressional Proclamation honoring his accomplishments.

The event, hosted by award-winning television broadcaster Wendy Tokuda, featured music by the Oakland Youth Chorus and the Campbell's Jazz Soup band. Silent and live auctions were held to benefit the Regional Parks Foundation. And 350 guests were guided through the Park District's past by General Manager Robert Doyle, and then glimpsed the future through the unveiling of the "Wonderments of the East Bay" book published by Heyday Press.

Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday, East Bay Regional Park District!

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## Academy Foundation Awards Two Enhanced Pottsie Scholarships in 2014

Last year in Houston, the Academy Foundation Board increased the amounts awarded for the annual John C. Potts Leadership Development Scholarship to the NRPA Directors School. This scholarship was started in 2010 to honor the Academy's former Executive Director, John C. Potts. Affectionately called the "Pottsie" by Foundation Trustees, it is intended to support young professionals who have demonstrated leadership and management potential within their organizations.

The Pottsie was expanded to cover tuition and lodging as well as up to \$500 in travel expenses for first-year students at the NRPA Directors School conducted at Oglebay Resort and Conference Center in Wheeling, WV. Congratulations to the two outstanding winners for 2014 – **Nathan Musteen**, Director of Parks & Recreation, City of Peculiar, MO; and **Heidi Lapin**, Director of Parks & Recreation, City of Palm Bay, FL.

***Donations to the Foundation support worthy endeavors such as the Pottsie. If you haven't already done so, now is the time to make your annual donation. You may either send a check to PO Box 888, Mahomet, IL 61853, or pay with a credit card online. Go to [www.aapra.org](http://www.aapra.org) and click on Foundation.***

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PARK AND RECREATION  
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