



## BIOS AND STATEMENTS

### 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES

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The following individuals have been approved as candidates for the 2023 Academy Board of Directors:

**President-elect**

Tracy Crawford, Illinois

Steve Wolter, Indiana

**Secretary: 1 year-term**

John Prue, Wisconsin

Cory Styron, New Mexico

**Directors: 3 year-term**

**(4 candidates/2 highest voter receivers are elected)**

Robert Barcelona, South Carolina

Seve Ghose, Colorado

Michael Kalvort, Florida

Cindie Sullivan, Ohio

PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATES (2 candidates; vote for 1)

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**Tracey M. Crawford, Illinois**  
**Northwest Special Recreation Association (NWSRA)**  
**Member since 2014**



Tracey Crawford was appointed as the Executive Director at Northwest Special Recreation Association (NWSRA) and the President of Special Leisure Services Foundation (SLSF) in late 2011.

Crawford earned Bachelor of Science in Therapeutic Recreation from the University of Iowa. A Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS), Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP), actively involved in leadership with Illinois Therapeutic Recreation Section (ITRS) of Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA), Past Chairman of IPRA Board of Directors, National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), NTRS Past Chair, American Academy of Park and Recreation Administration past Board Member and current JEDI Committee Co-Chair. Serves on IPR Foundation Board, IPRA Diversity Leadership Task Force, President of American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA), and the Board Liaison to Illinois Recreation Therapeutic Association (ILRTA) Board.

Awarded Meritorious Service Award from NTRS for work in the field and inclusion. Recipient of National Institute on Recreation Inclusion (NIRI) Excellence in Inclusion Award. Awarded IPRA Chairman's Award three times for her dedication to the field, continuous involvement on boards, committees, and task forces, bringing visibility of diversity, equity and inclusion issues to IPRA. Awarded Daily Herald's Business Ledger's Influential Woman in Business Award. Honored as Community Leader of Year by the Rolling Meadows, Illinois Chamber of Commerce and Professional of the Year for ILRTA. She co-created the Safe Zone Conversation Model, used in over 70 park and recreation agencies in Illinois and in collaboration with NRPA. She has authored/co-authored inclusion articles published in Illinois Park and Recreation magazine and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion articles in NRPA Magazine, Recreation Management Magazine, Illinois Park and Recreation Magazine, and the first chapter for inclusion through Human Kinetics and completed an Administrative chapter for inclusion management through Human Kinetics. Tracey is also a subject matter expert for Berry Dunn and BCG Learning Solutions.

**Candidate Statement:**

*I am honored and humbled to be selected as a candidate for President of this distinguished organization comprised of professionals and educators, who I feel are the most passionate, driven, and thought-provoking leaders in our field. I have always admired the leadership the Academy has taken on key issues relating to our profession. If I am selected as President, I will lead us as we focus on the Academy's ability to encourage professionals to examine the work they do daily, at their agencies, using a diversity, equity, and inclusion lens to evaluate their DEI efforts. I will challenge each of us as Academy Members, Committee Members, and Board Members to answer the following questions: Did we use a diverse perspective? Are we being equitable? Were we inclusive? - all while upholding the ideals and principles of the Academy. I believe the next biggest challenge facing our field, is the employment crisis. How do we, in this new "gig economy", attract and retain top diverse professionals to this field, to our agencies, and to this career? With some of the brightest minds at our fingertips, we can lead the discussion and search for collaborators/partners to find possible solutions. Let's strive for excellence in these areas and find meaningful ways to engage current and future members, eager to contribute their time and expertise. I am excited for this opportunity and looking forward to what we can accomplish together!*

PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATES (2 candidates; vote for 1)

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**Steve Wolter, CPRP, CPP-I**  
**Executive Director, Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands,**  
**Indiana University**  
**Member since 2008**



Steve Wolter serves as Executive Director of the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands, and also the National Center on Accessibility at Indiana University. He is also an Assistant Professor at Indiana University. With almost 40 years of experience in park and recreation leadership, planning, management, education, and delivery of recreation services and facilities, Mr. Wolter is actively involved in the profession through publications, consulting, research, service, and education.

Steve has served on the Board for the past 3 years, and AAPRA as the newsletter editor, a member of the Leadership for the Profession Task Force, and the chair of the Academy Outreach and Advancement Task Force.

Steve brings a blend of training in urban/regional planning and recreation/park management to the profession. He is a leader, collaborator and he is uniquely practiced in the field. He consults, teaches, and researches for a variety of park, public land, and recreation agencies in the nation including the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, as well as local and state park agencies, and local government agencies. With one foot in academics and one in the practical world, Steve is a ‘pracademic’ who has had tremendous impact in leadership of the national parks, development of policies for national public land agencies, and in communities including Aurora, Boulder, Anchorage, Washington DC, Indianapolis, and countless others. Steve has a Master’s degree from Indiana University in Recreation and Park Administration, and a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Minnesota in Urban Studies.

Working with various Eppley Institute partners across the country, Steve utilizes his executive and management experience as director of park and recreation agencies, (California, and Indiana) to learn from his colleagues, and translate actions in one agency to the broader field of park, recreation, public land and protected area management. “I am fortunate to benefit from this experience, translate it into practices for the field, and use it to teach leadership, planning, public policy, and strategic partnership classes to university students and professional learners seeking to improve their contributions and capacity.” Steve has the privilege of speaking and training for enthusiastic audiences in presentations throughout the nation, as well as internationally in Australia, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Hong Kong, Portugal, and the People’s Republic of China.

**Candidate Statement:**

“For some time now, I have thought of the Academy as the most prestigious keeper of our profession and its critical role in society. I believe that even more so than when I was selected for the Academy in 2008. These last 3 years of working on the board have shown me that the Academy must be up to the task of advancing our profession and all that means for the many people and communities we

serve. I feel that the scale of this challenge has increased in the last 3 years with the many societal events that have occurred. This candid observation, I think, is a point for all of us in the Academy to consider. The role of professional associations and universities are changing in regard to recreation and parks; and they are critical to advancing the services our profession is based upon. This has in some ways, diluted their effectiveness in areas that I think are clearly the Academy's mission. For me, the AAPRA's unique role of uniting learning with advancement of the profession is the key to our profession and its contributions to our society.

Many of us will agree that our societal problems are in the park and recreation wheelhouse, and our members do so much to contribute to community health, sustainability, equity, resilience, civility, and for citizen's quality of life. I happen to think our profession will become even more important as we focus on inequities, climate change, value divergence, and the pervasive nature of technology that is our future. I also feel there is a general erosion of the role of the profession's stature and effectiveness, and consequently our contributions to local, state, and federal agencies. It suggests that we are not regarded as a critical profession as we once were.

The result is clear to me; the Academy has a critical role in addressing this trend in our profession and the possible negative effects it will have in society. I believe a more active, more educationally and research focused, and more vigorous Academy relying on our member's leadership, research, service, and writing, is critical to the advancement of the profession and continuation of our positive impact on quality of life in our country is critical. And, I have learned so much from all of you and my board of director colleagues in the past 3 years but especially the impact of our commitment and collaboration together in bringing positive change for the profession and those we serve.

My hope, if elected as AAPRA President, is to listen, learn, collaborate, and help all of us to advance our profession to meet the many challenges of the people and places we serve.

SECRETARY CANDIDATES (2 candidates; vote for 1)

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**John Prue**  
**MWR-Navy Region Mid-Atlantic**  
**Member since 2018**

35 years and counting working in Navy MWR (armed forces recreation) and currently supporting MWR operations at 14 installations and another 9 annex sites, in a 9-state area.

**Candidate Statement:**

*I'm always willing to support the Academy in leadership roles, if needed.*



SECRETARY CANDIDATES (2 candidates; vote for 1)

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**Cory Styron**  
**Los Alamos County, New Mexico**  
**Member since 2019**



Cory Styron is the Community Services Director of Los Alamos County, NM. Nestled in the northern mountains of New Mexico, Los Alamos County is most famous for its role in the Manhattan Project but it is really much more than that. It's an intelligent community boasting a disproportionate number of scientists and engineers that is warm, welcoming, and often focused on getting away from computer screens to find recreation opportunities outdoors.

As the Community Services Director, Styron leads a diverse team focused on improving the quality of life in Los Alamos through a wide range of divisions: Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Aquatics, Golf, Ice, Libraries, Culture and Social Services. With extensive outdoor recreation experience, Styron came to Los Alamos after leading several communities through quality-of-life improvements.

Over his career, Styron has developed a culture of continuous improvement for each organization that he has served. He led two agencies through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) process and spent the last 15 years sharing that knowledge with others and improving the process at the national level.

For Styron, working with communities to discover the best they can be and leading them to incorporate that into their everyday practices is very rewarding. A community's social, mental, physical, and economic health are elements that provide the "quality of life" intangible that sets it apart from other communities.

Styron is a life-long outdoor enthusiast. Many of his most treasured memories with family and friends occurred outdoors in natural settings. He enjoys camping, hiking, kayaking, fishing, and wildlife viewing, particularly when he shares these experiences with others. If you are in New Mexico, you might spot him with his wife Madeline and their two furry kids, Radar and Zoey, taking advantage of the outstanding natural areas in the region.

**Candidate Statement:**

*I would like to serve as the Secretary for Academy to further our mission and give back to our profession that has been so supportive of me over the years. I have served as the President of the New Mexico Recreation Parks Association (2016-2018) and current Chair for the Commission of Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and been active in a variety of other boards. I believe these leadership roles have prepared me to make a difference in the Academy.*

DIRECTOR CANDIDATES (4 candidates; vote for 2)

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**Bob Barcelona, Ph.D., CPRP**  
**Clemson University Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management**  
**Member since 2019**



Bob Barcelona, Ph.D., CPRP serves as Department Chair/Head and Professor in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management at Clemson University. Dr. Barcelona’s research and professional interests focus broadly on increasing access to sport and recreation programs and facilities, and on improving the quality of recreation experiences through partnerships, planning, creative financing, staff training, and professional development. He is specifically interested in research that relates to access and constraints to public recreation opportunities and investigating the benefits of active recreation participation. Dr. Barcelona has published extensively in both academic and professional outlets, including peer-reviewed journals, edited book chapters, technical reports, and management briefs. He is the author of two textbooks – Leisure Services Management (co-authored with Dr. Amy Hurd) and Recreational Sport: Program Design and Delivery. Dr. Barcelona conducts community engaged research, program evaluation, and strategic and master planning with parks and recreation agencies throughout the country. Prior to working at Clemson University, Dr. Barcelona held faculty appointments at the University of New Hampshire and Indiana University and worked in collegiate athletics and recreational sports at the University of Mississippi and the University of California-Berkeley. He currently serves as the Chair of the Council on Accreditation for Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions (COAPRT), and is the Editor-in-Chief of the Recreational Sports Journal. Dr. Barcelona was inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA) in 2019 where he serves as Chair of the Research for the Profession Committee.

**Candidate Statement:**

*I truly believe that higher education must remain relevant and connected to professional practice. Faculty and practitioners need to work together, as partners, to develop and shape the ideas that will transform the field. I have always viewed AAPRA as the perfect vehicle to foster, develop, and sustain these critical research and practice-based partnerships. The reasons for the formation of AAPRA speak directly to the work that I strive to do every day in my role as a faculty member, in partnership with local park and recreation professionals - to advance knowledge, to encourage scholarly efforts, to promote broad public understanding of the importance of parks and recreation, and to publish papers and sponsor seminars related to the advancement of the profession. My involvement with AAPRA’s Research for the Profession and Best Paper Award Committees has helped to bring attention to the importance and utility of practice-focused scholarship within the Academy. I am standing for office on the AAPRA Board of Directors because I believe in the importance of building bridges between higher education and professional practice. If elected, I want to continue to work in partnership with other Academy Fellows - educators and practitioners alike - to develop and disseminate the ideas that will shape and transform the park and recreation profession.*

DIRECTOR CANDIDATES (4 candidates; vote for 2)

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**Seve Ghose**  
**City of Fort Collins**  
**Member since 2020**



Seve has had a 35-year career in five States in municipalities, counties, special districts, and the private sector. He has served the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) in various capacities-- CAPRA Accreditation Board as a Visitor, Reviewer, Board Member and Chair and on the CPRE Exam Committee. Seve has presented at NRPA conferences since 2011 and at regional, State, and other conferences on various topics-- national accreditation, urban tree canopy, naturalization, valuing our profession by telling the story, resiliency, bold leadership, and historical preservation, among others. He enjoys sharing the great story of parks and recreation and looks forward to creating a succession process by mentoring and coaching young professionals. In the Fall of 2020, he was selected to the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration. For his work over the years Seve was recognized with the National Distinguished Professional Award in 2013 at the NRPA Congress in Houston, Texas-- for his advocacy of parks and recreation, leadership, innovation in public policy development and implementation, program development, research, and community engagement. He has also served as an instructor at the Parks and Recreation Maintenance Management School (PRMMS) in Oglebay. In August 2021 he will begin his tenure on the faculty for the NRPA's Director School. On the personal side, Seve has travelled to thirty-six States with his family visiting, thus far, 120 National Parks and Monuments. He enjoys photography, golf, gardening as a cathartic endeavor, and staying in touch with friends in over a hundred countries.

Seve is currently the Community Services Director with the City of Fort Collins, overseeing a Budget of \$55m and 750 employees taking care of the Parks, Recreation, Cultural Services, Natural Areas, Park Planning & Development, and Finance.

**Candidate Statement:**

*My thirty-plus year career in parks and recreation has allowed me to grow as an individual and as a professional. I continue to learn and have found my calling in giving back to a profession that has been good to me, good for me, and I have tried to translate that to doing good for the community I live and work in. In addition, I have always seen the value in mentoring and coaching young professionals, bringing them along so they are better prepared to handle the hurdles I faced early on in my career.*

*As a BIPOC individual, the hurdles are many, but they are not insurmountable, and that is the message I have shared with young professionals. Hard work, perseverance, and the willingness to adapt and being nimble will get you far.*

*It will be an honor and a privilege to serve on the Board of the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, if elected. My focus and causes will remain the same. Our profession is at a crossroads in many ways, especially post pandemic, and we cannot be doing business as usual. We need to rethink what we are about and pivot by being deliberate and intentional with making the changes and streamlining the agencies, that our majority have been clamoring for.*

*Being on the Board will allow me another avenue to travel and be the voice of the marginalized, and the unspoken.*

DIRECTOR CANDIDATES (4 candidates; vote for 2)

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**Michael Kalvort**  
**Self Employed**  
**Member since 2018**



I'm Michael Kalvort and I'm asking for your support and vote to be on the Academy's Board of Directors. Throughout my career, I have believed in giving back to our profession, pushing innovative and challenging conversations, and assisting young professionals who will lead our field in the future. This was instilled in me early from several current and past Academy Members and running for the Board is another way to make a positive impact. Since induction, my goal as a working Member has been to promote the Academy so professionals understand our vision, mission, and our why.

Since admitted in 2018, I have held Committee Chair positions and have assisted in various ways. Leading the Extern Committee, Career Development Task Force, and also serving on the JEDI Task Force and Mentoring and Branding Committees, has given me the opportunity to better learn about how the Board can assist our members and improve our profession. Some of the initiatives I've been involved with and led include hosting Virtual Round Tables with developing professionals, collaborating with NRPA on spreading our message to both the Young Professional and Leadership Development Network, and working with the Career Development Task Force to publish an article in the NRPA Magazine and at the NRPA Conference with fellow Academy Members.

For the past 25 years, I have worked in various capacities and responsibilities for several award winning and Gold Medal Award agencies including Virginia Beach, Boca Raton, Chesapeake, Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, and Cape Coral. I've also worked for a non for profit; the Jewish Community Center. These positions were only a fraction of what I've focused on. Like so many of us in the Academy, I've dedicated significant time to volunteering, teaching, and publishing.

**Candidate Statement:**

*I'm currently serving as a four-year active Board Member of the American Parks and Recreation Foundation and as an Academy representative for the CAPRA Commission. Previously, I volunteered as Chair of the NRPA's Leadership Development Network, taught for nine years at the NRPA's Revenue Development and Management School, and served on State Boards for Virginia, Florida, and Kansas. Supporting education and validating our profession has also been important to me; I was one of the first 53 professionals to get certified as a CPRE.*

*If elected, I promise to work tirelessly with our esteemed Board and valued members. I have ideas on how to better involve our members and how to create more cross collaboration between committees so we can continue to make progress on inspiring, influencing and advancing our profession. We need to continue to spread our message, so the field knows who the Academy is and why we are here. Also, we need to keep fostering a relationship with NRPA so both of us can work together for parks and recreation's benefit. The three-year Director position is so vital as it's a conduit and a measure of consistency between our leadership, new and tenured members, and a fast-changing profession and environment. I understand that you have a difficult and challenging decision to make; however, I believe that my energy and passion for the Academy has been demonstrated and make me a viable candidate for one of the vacant Director positions. Thank you for your support! Michael*

DIRECTOR CANDIDATES (4 candidates; vote for 2)

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**Cindie Sullivan**  
**Somerset County Park Commission, NJ (retired)**  
**Member since 2017**



I provided leadership within the Somerset County Park Commission, NJ for 30 years, serving as the Assistant Director when I retired last year. Upon my retirement, I was appointed to serve as a Board of Trustees Member of the Somerset County Park Foundation. During my professional tenure, I served as the chief operating staff member responsible for the administration, planning, development, and operation of park facilities and programs. Provided administrative leadership to Human Resources and Information Technology.

Possess senior level experience in county government, organizational leadership, strategic planning, facility and park operations, and program and event management. Strives for operational excellence, operating and capital budget development and implementation, marketing, long range visioning, and labor management (Teamsters). Strongly supports personnel development. Skilled at developing relationships with elected officials to balance the needs of complex challenges.

Direct the development and implementation of goals, objectives, policies, and procedures for the agency, in conjunction with the Director (political appointment). In conjunction with the Director, prepared the \$20 million operating budget, and responsible to monitor revenue and approve all expenditures. Responsible for preparation of the \$30 million six-year agency-wide Capital Improvement Plan. Monitor capital fund balances, working in conjunction with Park Engineering. Develop RFP/bid specifications. Served as liaison to consultant for the ADA Audit/Transition Plan. Served as liaison to consultant for 20-year Capital Facilities Plan, including a community-wide needs assessment. Coordinate the production of marketing activities, communications, and public relations. Chair HR Policy committee.

Served on several boards within NRPA: Conference Program Committee, National Forum committee, APRS, Mid-Atlantic Regional Council, and Annual Legislative Forum. Chaired boards within NJRPA: Annual Conference (35 years), Education/Professional Development, Professional Certification Board, Therapeutic Recreation Council, and Association VP. Served on community boards: Somerset County Smart Growth Coalition, Somerset County Tourism Council, Somerset County United Way, Community Quest/Hospital Healthy Community Initiative.

**Candidate Statement:**

*The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration has recently had many wonderful achievements, and I am very proud to be a part of this organization. Interacting with other members provides an opportunity to advance both the Academy and our commitment to the park, recreation, and conservation profession. I am grateful to have served on the JEDI committee the past two years. This work is invaluable with the creation of initiatives to be leaders in equity, diversity, and inclusion within the membership and the profession. And I am honored to have served on the Mentorship*

*Committee for five years; this year as Chair, working with a great committee, to pair almost 250 people to forge new professional relationships. They are our future. This is a clear focus of the Academy along with the Extern Committee and the Career Development Task Force. I have also served on the Finance, Bylaws, and Extern Committees. Our strategic initiatives are also critical for our success, and if elected, I look forward to assisting where needed with opportunities that help our members engage with one another on current issues and best practices; creating partnerships; and developing methods to increase and strengthen awareness of the Academy. I am humbled to be on the AAPRA ballot for the Board of Directors with other professionals who embody the spirit of the Academy's vision and mission. Whomever is elected will no doubt help to continue to move the organization forward and contribute to the success of our profession.*