



# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2022

## MISSION

Provide and promote exceptional standards of education, networking, and resources for all professionals in the Illinois park, recreation, and conservation communities.

## VISION

IPRA leads the nation in providing premier education, networking, and resources for professionals in parks, recreation, and conservation.

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

- Inclusiveness of diverse stakeholder groups
- Intentionally improve all lives
- Fiscal responsibility, accountability, and transparency in all of our activities
- Creating a forum for uniting the diverse IPRA community around common ideas and future trends

## TO OUR MEMBERS

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Dear IPRA Members and Stakeholders,

On behalf of the IPRA Board of Directors and the IPRA staff team, I want to share our excitement about the fantastic year we had in 2022! Membership is growing as more park, recreation and conservation practitioners see the value of connecting with their colleagues and continuing their professional development. Registration for both IPRA-wide and section specific events has been robust, and we've hosted more people in our programs than ever before!

This past year was a particularly successful year financially for your association. As our members recovered from the effects of the pandemic, IPRA was there to provide opportunities to reconnect with old friends and make some new ones as well. In addition, our Career Center continues to provide value as the definitive place for our members to find new opportunities and fill open positions. These programs and sound expense controls contributed to our financial success, which has allowed us to reinvest in the association to further support you in your career.

I'm also thrilled to see our staff team grow and bond as we integrated new team members this year. The four veterans have been amazing at coaching and supporting the four of us who are new to IPRA, and we have transformed into a well-oiled machine. Everyone feels a strong sense of purpose in supporting our members and we are dedicated to providing you with the tools you need to grow and prosper.

One area that we focused on in 2022 was growing partnerships with our Affiliate and Commercial members. These partnerships provide valuable opportunities for our professional members and enhance engagement throughout our community. Moving into 2023, we hope to have even more education and networking sessions in cooperation with our partners so we can reach more members across the state.

One final note of thanks goes out to you, our members, for your participation this past year. IPRA succeeds because you join, volunteer, donate and contribute to your association. Your dedication makes all the difference, and we truly appreciate each and every one of you!

Looking forward to seeing you all at events in 2023!

Sincerely,

Barbara Arango, CAE  
Executive Director

## HEADQUARTERS STAFF

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Barbara Arango, CAE  
Executive Director

Cindy Galvan, CMP  
Conference & Meetings Manager

Vince Davis, CPRP  
Membership Manager

Kim Laper, CPRP  
Education & Events Manager

Nicole Dotson  
Administrative Support Specialist

Duane Smith, CPRP  
Education Director

Barry Franks  
Finance Director

Heather Weishaar  
Communications & Marketing Director



# Board of Directors

## Chair

Trisha Breitlow, CPRP, CTRS  
Executive Director  
Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation

## Chair-Elect

Lisa Sheppard, CPRP  
Executive Director  
Glencoe Park District

## Past Chair

Doug G. Damery, CPRP  
Director of Parks & Recreation  
Normal Parks & Recreation Department

## Secretary/Northwest Region Representative

Andrew Thurman, CPRP  
Executive Director  
Geneseo Park District

## Southern Region Representative

Andrew Dallner, CPRP  
Director of Parks and Recreation  
O'Fallon Parks and Recreation

## Central Region Representative

Derek Harms, CPRP  
Executive Director  
Springfield Park District

## Chicago Metro Region Representative

Matthew Fairbanks, CPRP  
Director of Parks & Recreation  
Palos Heights Parks & Recreation

## Membership Council Representative

Erika Strojinc, CPRP  
Director of Recreation & Facilities  
Buffalo Grove Park District

## At Large Representative

Keith Wallace, CPRP  
Executive Director  
Lincolnway SRA



# Message from the Board Chair



On behalf of the IPRA Board of Directors, thank you to each of you for your continued support and membership with IPRA! 2022 was a year of change and growth for the Association, as we welcomed our new Executive Director and additional staff members, but the members' needs remained a top priority. This will continue in 2023 as we move forward developing a new strategic plan. Thank you to the IPRA staff for continuing to serve the membership with a multitude of opportunities for networking and education.

I encourage you all to take full advantage of what IPRA has to offer this year. Become more involved in your section, volunteer for a committee, grab a group to participate in Park Pursuit, or join in on a Lunch and Learn. Make the most of what IPRA can offer you!

[Trisha Breitlow, CPRP, CTRS](#)

Executive Director

Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation



The IPRA Board of Directors convenes regularly throughout the year, at in-person and virtual meetings. Visit the [IPRA Event Calendar](#) for upcoming meeting information.



The Illinois Park and Recreation Association Board of Directors is responsible for setting the strategic direction, establishing policy, and ensuring the fiscal integrity of the Association.

# Membership Council

The IPRA Membership Council is comprised of one representative from each IPRA special interest section. The Membership Council serves to improve efficiencies and to reduce redundancies of the various sections as well as to ensure the existence of quality educational offerings at section meetings throughout the year.

## Chair

Erika Strojinc, CPRP

## Administration and Finance Section Representative

Bret Fahnstrom, CPRE

## Communication & Marketing Section Representative

Deanna Angelini Johann, MSIMC, CPRP

## Diversity Section Representative

Jonelle Bailey, CPRP

## Facility Management Section Representative

Katy McKinnon, CPRP

## Forest Preserve & Conservation Section Representative

Monica Meyers, CPRE

## Parks & Natural Resource Management Section Representative

Theresa Kyriazes, CPRP, CPSI

## Recreation Section Representative

Mike Gianatasio, CPRP, CPO

## Therapeutic Recreation Section Representative

Beth Corso

# Sections

IPRA's special interest sections are crucial to your membership experience because we can place you with others that share a common work setting, interests and problems.

- **Administration & Finance:** Professionals who work in administration, finance, human resources, risk management, and information technology.
- **Communications & Marketing:** Professionals with specialized skills in marketing, public relations, creation of agency publications, websites, media awareness, special events, branding, and other activities that promote the value of parks and recreation.
- **Diversity:** Professionals who share a commitment as a leading source for all aspects of diversity in the park and recreation profession in Illinois and serve as a resource to IPRA members.
- **Facility Management:** Professionals working in, and managing, a variety of facilities, including: aquatics, community centers, ice, golf, museum, and multipurpose.
- **Forest Preserve and Conservation:** Professionals working for forest preserves and conservation districts.
- **Parks & Natural Resource Management:** Professionals managing parks and natural resources in federal, municipal, county and state parks, and conservation areas.
- **Recreation:** Recreation programmers, facilitators and administrators in arts, special events, athletics, early childhood, school-age, and day camp, teens and seniors.
- **Therapeutic Recreation:** Professionals who serve individuals with disabilities in a variety of settings such as community-based Special Recreation Associations, hospitals, physical rehabilitation centers.

## Section Directors

### Administration & Finance Section

Laure Kosey, CPRE

### Forest Preserve and Conservation Section

Elizabeth Kessler, CPRE

### Communications & Marketing Section

Marlon Rodas

### Parks & Natural Resource Management Section

Shane Hamilton, CPRP

### Diversity Section

Manuel Aguilar, CTRS, CPRP

### Recreation Section

Mary Liz Jayne, CPRP

### Facility Management Section

Joe Zimmermann, CPRE

### Therapeutic Recreation Section

Lauren Jevaney, CTRS, CPRP

# Committees

Participation and leadership in an IPRA committee provides opportunities for individuals to share and develop personal skills, while developing resources and professional development opportunities for the membership.

## 2022 Committee Chairs

Agency Showcase: Jessica Cannaday

Awards Committee: Joe Pollina

Diversity Leadership Task Force: Oralethea Davenport

Education Advisory Committee: Colleen Cline

Education Road Show Board of Regents: Shawn Roby

Finance Committee: Maureen Nugent

Governance Committee: Doug Damery

Health and Wellness Committee: Shannon Tovey

Illinois Park and Recreation Foundation: Mike Kies

Illinois Urban Forestry Appointee: Kristi Solberg

IPRF/Joint Section Golf Committee: Tim Reinbold

Membership Council: Erika Strojinc

ProConnect Board of Regents: Shannon Elsey

Professional Development School Board of Regents: Steve Muenz

Program Committee: Lacy Marinenko

## 2022 Joint Committee Co-Chairs

Joint Conference Committee: Tim Reinbold

Joint Coordinating Council Committee: Doug Damery

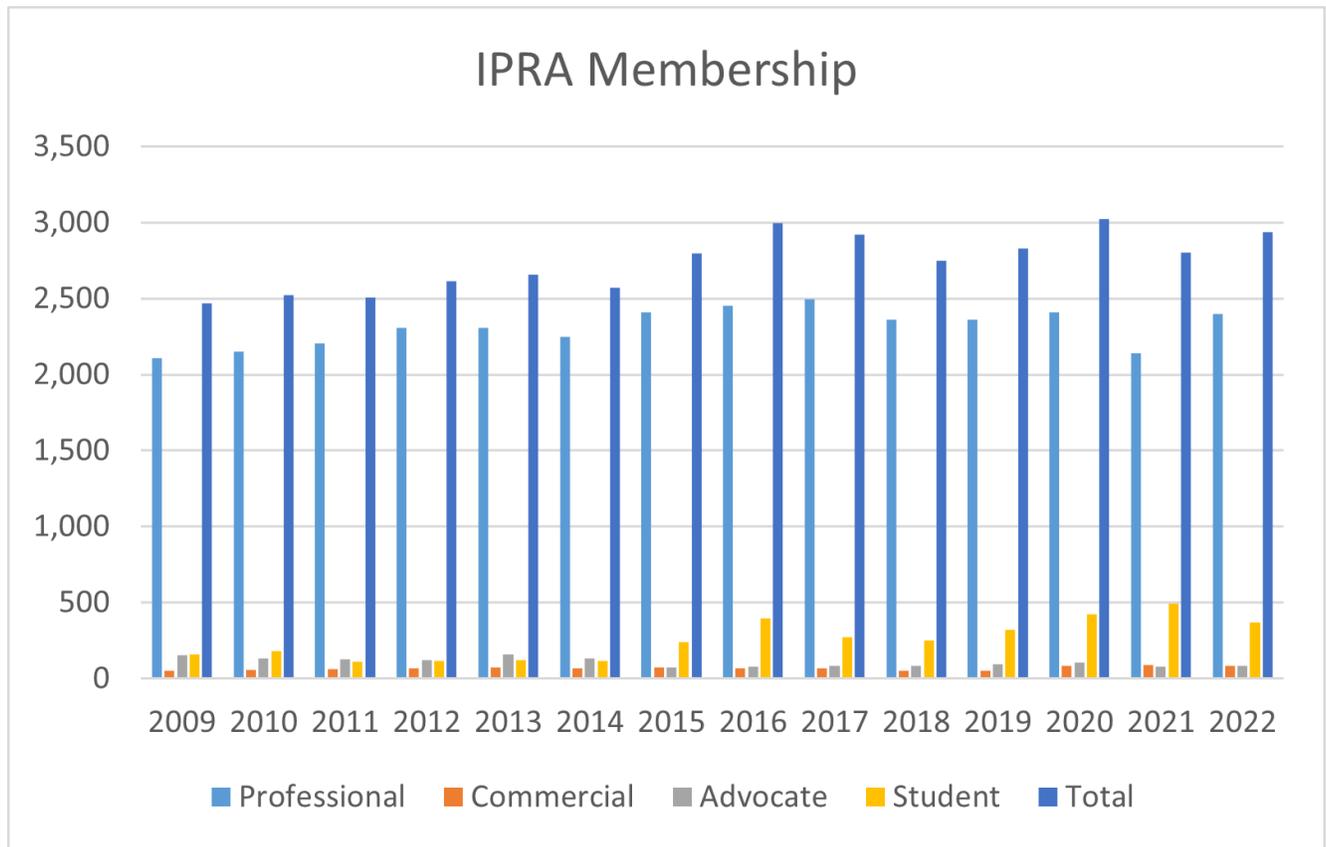
Joint Distinguished Park And Recreation Accreditation Committee: Ryan Risinger

Joint Editorial Committee: Kari Felkamp

Joint Exhibit Committee: Tom Hartwig

Joint Legislative Committee: Mike Benard

# IPRA Membership



IPRA welcomed  
670 new  
members in  
2022!



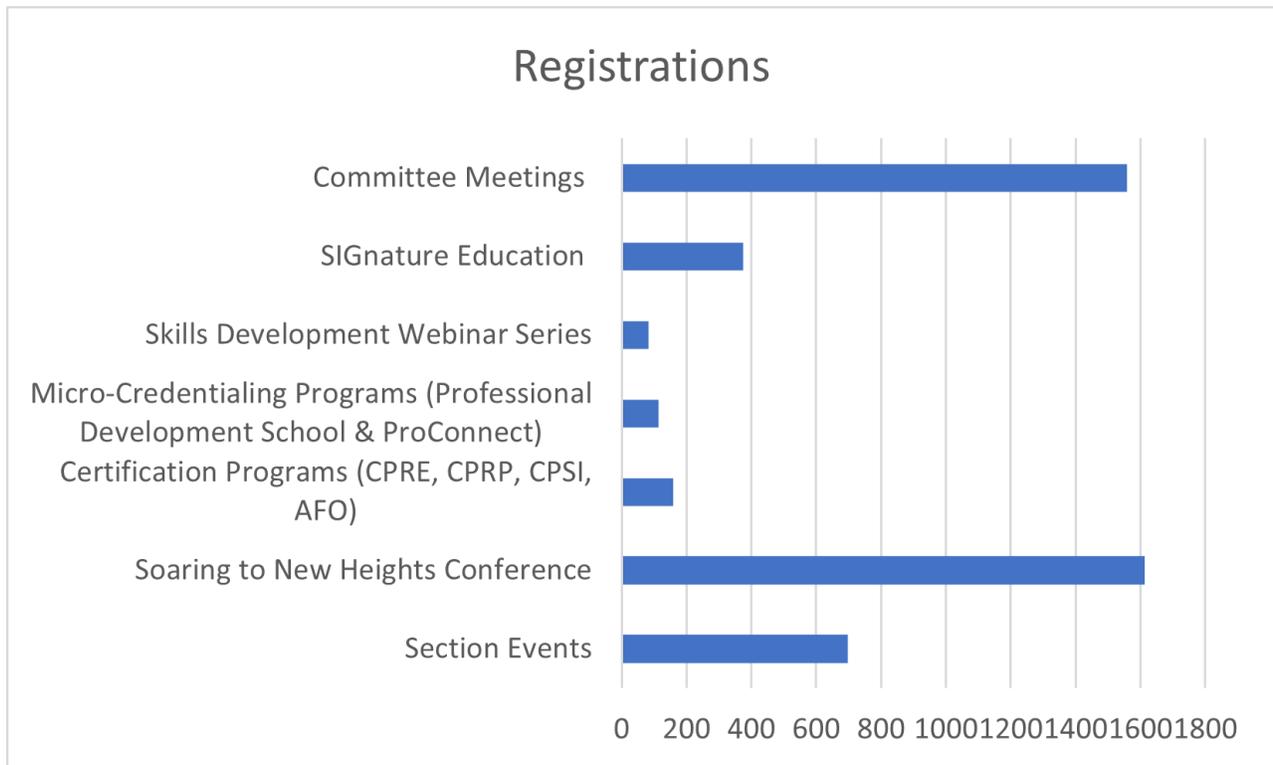
# Balance Sheet

Unaudited as of 12/31/22

	2021	2022
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Checking/Savings	\$224,867	\$497,832
Other Current Assets	\$2,125,308	1,936,277
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$2,350,175</b>	<b>\$2,434,109</b>
Fixed Assets	\$25,989	\$11,638
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,376,164</b>	<b>\$2,445,747</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Other Current Liabilities	\$603,047	\$653,604
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$603,047</b>	<b>\$653,604</b>
Equity	\$1,773,117	\$1,792,143
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$2,376,164</b>	<b>\$2,445,747</b>

# Professional Development

The Illinois Park and Recreation Association's continuing education offers something for all levels of experience within a broad range of roles in the field of parks, recreation and conservation. The platforms provided for continuing education range from webinars to multi-day schools throughout the state. IPRA is committed to providing you with access to high quality and affordable professional development opportunities.



In 2022, IPRA members attended over 230 events!

# Awards & Recognition

Designed to recognize the best-of-the-best in Illinois parks, recreation, and conservation, the Awards & Recognition Program gives professionals an opportunity to recognize colleagues and community members for their extraordinary work and contribution to the industry.

## Individual Award Winners



Robert Artz Lifetime Achievement Award  
Michael Clark



Professional of the Year  
William McAdam



Community Impact Award  
Julie Rhodes



Young Professional of the Year  
Erika Rubo



Champions for Change Award  
Oak Brook Park District

# Board Chair Awards

Manny Aguilar

Jonelle Bailey

Trisha Breitlow

Cameron Bettin

Bret Fahnstrom

Erin Folk

Jeff Fougerousse

Mike Gianatasio

Elizabeth Kessler

Michael Kies

## Distinguished Park & Recreation Accredited Agencies

The Illinois Distinguished Accreditation program's goal is to improve the delivery of park and recreation services to Illinois residents. A park district or recreation agency interested in applying for Distinguished Accredited Agency recognition undergoes a detailed, lengthy process of application and evaluation. A Joint Distinguished Park and Recreation Accreditation Committee (JDPRAC) comprised of members from IAPD and IPRA coordinates the process. Congratulations to the agencies below for their new & renewed recognition status!

Arlington Heights Park District

Byron Park District

Downers Grove Park District

Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Geneva Park District

Morton Grove Park District

Oak Lawn Park District

Schaumburg Park District

Skokie Park District

St. Charles Park District

Woodridge Park District

## Outstanding Program or Special Event

### Outstanding Program & Special Event Award, Division I

Special Event Winner – Byron Forest Preserve District, PrairieFire Invitational

### Outstanding Program & Special Event Award, Division II

Program Winner – Plainfield Park District, Scout's Summer Fun Hunt

Special Event Winner – Geneva Park District, Santa's Special Delivery

### Overall Winner – Agency with highest score among all program & special event nominees)

Fox Valley Park District, eCare

# Outstanding Facility & Parks Award

## Outstanding Park & Facility Award, Division I

Park Award Winner – Northfield Park District, Clarkson Park

Facility Award Winner – Byron Forest Preserve District, PrairieFire Golf and Grill

## Outstanding Park & Facility Award, Division II

Park Award Winner – Naperville Park District, Wolf's Crossing Community Park

Facility Award Winner – Northbrook Park District, Techny Prairie Activity Center

## Overall Winner – Agency with highest score among all park & facility award nominees)

Community Park District of LaGrange Park, Memorial Park Multi-Sports Complex

# Exceptional Workplace Award

The IPRA Health & Wellness Committee was developed to help agencies identify and achieve a high level of health and wellness for their employees and recognize their achievements, through the awarding of the Exceptional Workplace Award.

- Bloomingdale Park District
- Naperville Park District
- Plainfield Park District
- Woodridge Park District



# Agency Showcase

Agency Showcase is a spirited competition spotlighting bright ideas exhibited by park, recreation, and conservation agencies. This professionally judged competition recognizes Illinois agencies for their marketing and communication efforts ranging from print to multimedia.

## Overall Agency Showcase Winners

- 1st Place: Glenview Park District
- 2nd Place: Plainfield Park District
- 3rd Place: Mundelein Park and Recreation District

## People's Choice Agency Showcase Winner

Warrenville Park District

## Category Honors

- Brochure Print: Batavia Park District
- Brochure Virtual: SEASPAR
- Integrated Photography: Plainfield Park District
- Large Format Marketing: Batavia Park District
- Logo Design: Fox Valley Park District
- Marketing Campaign: Village of Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation
- Paid Advertisement: Champaign Park District
- Print Communication – Informational: SEASPAR
- Print Communication – Promotional: Glenview Park District
- Social Media Campaign: Downers Grove Park District
- Videography - Long Form: Glenview Park District
- Videography - Short Form: Skokie Park District
- Website: Mundelein Park and Recreation District
- Hindsight 20/20: Mundelein Park and Recreation District



# Affiliates

In cooperation with the IPRA, joining an affiliate group will further the opportunities for localized and specialized education, networking and resources available to you throughout the state of Illinois.

- American Camp Association (ACA-IL)
- Central Illinois Recreation Council for Leisure Experience (CIRCLE)
- Illinois After School Network (IAN)
- Illinois Recreational Therapy Association (ILRTA)
- Midwest Institute of Park Executives (MIPE)
- Northwest Illinois Association of Parks & Recreation (NWIAPR)
- Southern Illinois Parks & Recreation Professional Association (SIPRA)
- South Suburban Park & Recreation Professional Association (SSPRPA)
- Suburban Park & Recreation Association (SPRA)

## Illinois Park & Recreation Foundation (IPRF)

The mission of the Illinois Park & Recreation Foundation is to be a sustainable philanthropic organization benefitting members of Illinois Park & Recreation Association (IPRA). Thank you to the IPRF Board for their volunteerism!

### Chair

Michael Kies, CPRE  
St. Charles Park District

Tracey Crawford, CPRP, CTRS  
NWSRA

John Curran

### Vice-Chair

Jarrod Scheunemann  
Champaign Park District / Campfire  
Concepts

Dave Dillon  
The Larson Equipment &  
Furniture Company

### Treasurer

John Wilson

Ray Ochromowicz, CPRP, CPSI  
Executive Decisions Consulting

Cam Bettin  
Pekin Park District

Bill McAdam, CPRE  
Downers Grove Park District

Carlo Capalbo, CPRE  
Plainfield Park District

Joan Scovic, CPRP  
Northbrook Park District

Michael Clark, CPRP  
Palatine Park District

# IPRA Commercial Members

5/3 Fifth Third Bank  
a5 Branding & Digital  
Ameren Illinois  
Americana Outdoors  
Ancel Glink Diamond Bush DiCianni & Krafthefer P.C.  
Apple Canyon Lake Property Owners Association  
Aqua Pure Enterprises, Inc.  
Aquatic Council, LLC  
Bacon Farmer And Workman Engineering & Testing Inc  
Bass/Schuler Entertainment  
Bedrock Earthscapes, LLC  
BerryDunn  
BID Evolution  
BMO Harris Bank  
Brian Wismer Entertainment  
Burbach Aquatics, Inc. - Architects & Engineers  
Byrne & Jones Construction  
Cedar Creek Ranch LLC  
Central Life Sciences  
Chicago District Tennis Association  
CivicRec  
ComEd  
Confluence  
Cunningham Recreation  
Dewberry Architects Inc.  
Discount Playground Supply, Inc  
DLA Architects, Ltd.  
Excel Aerial Images, LLC  
Federal Supply USA  
Fehr Graham  
FGM Architects  
FieldTurf USA Inc,  
Frederick Quinn Corp  
Gewalt Hamilton Associate  
GLI, Inc.  
Green-Up  
Greg Petry Consulting  
Hitchcock Design Group  
HR Source  
Illinois Public Risk Fund  
INSPEC, Inc.  
Integral Construction Inc.  
Issuu  
IZone Imaging  
Jeff Ellis And Associates, Inc.  
JSD Professional Services, Inc.  
Just In Time Pool & Spa  
L6 Technology Inc  
Lamp Incorporated  
Lauterbach & Amen, LLP  
Lincoln Aquatics  
MSA Professional Services, Inc.  
Musco Sports Lighting  
Nania Energy  
National Fitness Campaign  
Onsite Utility Services Capital, LLC  
PCI  
PDRMA  
Planning Resources Inc.  
Play & Park Structures  
Play Illinois  
Premier Polysteel  
Pyrotecnico  
RAM Communications Inc  
SmithGroup, LLC  
Sourcewell  
Spear Corporation  
Speer Financial  
Stifel  
Terrabilt, Inc  
The Davey Tree Expert Company  
The Forge Adventure Parks  
The Larson Equipment And Furniture Company  
The Mulch Center  
Trajectory Energy Partners  
Tyler Technologies, Inc.  
Veregy  
Vermont Systems  
Vortex Aquatic Structures International  
VoyagerNetz  
Wight & Company  
Williams Architects  
Wintrust Financial Corporation  
WT Group

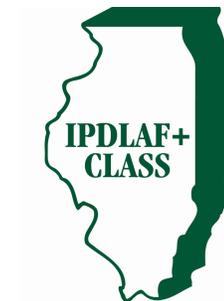
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