



**MRPA**  
MARYLAND RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION

**2019-2020 MRPA Board & Council  
Third Quarter Report: Winter 2019-2020**

**Executive Director and MRPA Office Reports-** *Executive Director is the Managing Director of MRPA who reports to the Executive Board. Responsible for designing, developing and implementing strategic plans in collaboration with the Executive Board. Supervises operations of the MRPA Office and staff.*

**Chuck Montrie, Executive Director**

**Adrienne Varieur, Office Manager**

**Armeana Street, Members Services Associate**

2020 Conference -

- Attended conference committee meetings
- Built/updated conference website pages
- Prepared Exhibitor Brochure; mailed/mailed to prior exhibitors; began accepting booth reservations
- Transferred all proposals information to google drive
- Attended committee meetings

All member category dues billings completed

Sponsorship agreements prepared and mailed

Fall GMM preparation & attendance

Attended BOD & EC meetings

Weekly Update - continued to produce

Staff changes – Daune Cook’s departure; additional hours for Armeana Street

NRPA Conference wrap up

Camp Showcase – processed registrations; attended event; arrangements finalized

Maintenance Equipment Showcase (over 400 attendees) preparation & attendance

2019 Ticket Close out and began preparations for 2020 ticket season

Recreation U preparations

CPSI 2020 preparations

- Credited website page
- Ordered/mailed training materials

Awards 2020

- Updated website for 2020
- Transferred all awards information to google drive

Budget preparation

- Met with committees/branches regarding 2020 budget
- Finalized 2018 expenses

MRPA Events held during 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2019 –

Sports PLC, Aquatic PLC, Camps PLC, Maintenance Equipment Showcase; Engaging Communities in Forest Stewardship; Youth Mental Health First Aid; ADA PLC; Managing Multiple Priorities; Pickleball PLC; Administrative PLC; How to Deliver Exceptional Customer Service; Fall GMM; Summer Camp Resource Fair

MRPA Events early 2020 preparations –

Special Events Summit  
Awards Lunch  
Recreation University  
Conference 2020

**Executive Board Reports-** *Elected Officers of MRPA. Responsible for the overall business of the Association, as well as oversight of the MRPA Office (Executive Director and Staff).*

**President- Holly Harden**

Extremely proud that the association has ended the fiscal year in the black for the first time in three years. Many individuals and committees worked diligently allow the association to reach this goal. Special thanks to Jennene Blakely, Nancy Pfeffer, Susan Potts, Julija Sajauskas, Dan Vigus, Laura Wetherald and committee members who have worked incredibly hard to move new efforts including Speakers Bureau, Camp Vendor Fair, Recreation University and Special Events Summit.

I am excited to announce a new addition to our Scholarship Program, **MRPA Training Event Scholarship**. The effort was begun to lessen financial barriers for those who could not afford to attend MRPA sponsored training. Unlike other MRPA scholarships, there is no initial outlay of money on the part of the recipient. If selected, you are simply enrolled in the training. The requirement for the scholarship is involvement with MRPA. Apply online at least 30 days prior to your desired training, visit: <https://www.mrpanet.org/page/MRPAEventScholarships>

Looking to share all the positive work of the membership this year with our Annual report and a slide show at the opening session of conference. Please send any photos of trainings, branch/committee meetings, professional learning communities and awards to [harden@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:harden@howardcountymd.gov) by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**President Elect- John Nissel**

**Past President- Carolyn Ryan**

- Still waiting to receive additional SOPs and willing to work with any committee to help them develop theirs. I have received information from the following committees:
  - Marketing and Communications
  - Professional Certification Board
  - Professional Standards
- Thank you to MRPA staff for running the series of posts and testimonials I sent for the Weekly Update regarding nominations.
- As of the report submission deadline, I have received nominations for President Elect, Vice President and Secretary. Nominations will remain open until the adjournment of the Winter General Membership Meeting on 2/5/20.
- Thank you to all who have nominated candidates and/or decided to run for office.

**Vice President- Jake Chesnutt**

**Winter General Membership Meeting, February 5, 2020**

Woodend Sanctuary (<https://woodendsanctuary.org/>) in Chevy Chase

Eliza Cava, Director of Conservation, Audubon Naturalist Society

The Audubon Naturalist Society's IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility) Initiatives

**.1 CEUs Approved!**

**Treasurer/Treasurer Elect- Carla Benavides/Karen Warnick**

**Secretary- Terri Hilton**

**PARC Branch (Park and Resource Conservation)- Kelly Ketzenberger, Chair**

**RALS Branch (Recreation and Leisure Services)- Ashley Gibbs, Chair**

**TR Branch (Therapeutic Recreation)- Nick Johnson, Chair**

- The Branch met January 23rd at Potomac Community Resources.
- The meeting included a tour of PCR, and a discussion about the goals of the Branch for the 2020/21 year.
- The Branch also discussed completing our goals for the 2019/20 year, which included the following:
  - Updating the TR Branch Chair's information binder
  - Updating our Branch Officer Positions
  - Developing SOPs for the core Branch responsibilities
- We have nominations for most positions, but are still seeking nominations for Secretary.
- Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 10th at the Northeast Community Center from 10am - 12pm.

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**Committee Reports-** *Committee Chairs are members of the Executive Council. Each Committee report lists the Chair(s), a brief description, and the quarterly highlights.*

**Awards- Matt Purkins and Corey Smith, Co-Chairs**

*Recognizes members for a variety of MRPA and Branch awards; quarterly and at the MRPA Annual Conference. Evaluate and recommend changes to the awards as warranted.*

- Agency Showcase and some of the Annual Award winners will be announced at the Celebrating Awards Luncheon.
- Awards Luncheon is on Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at the Cylburn Arboretum in Baltimore; registration is open on the MRPA website.
- Nominations for Conference Awards (to include Branch Awards) are open until March 1<sup>st</sup> on the MRPA website.

**Conference- Mike Coppersmith and Emily Lawrence, Co-Chairs**

*Plans the MRPA Annual Conference for professionals, volunteers, board members and vendors from across the state and region. Offers a variety of educational sessions and networking opportunities, and acknowledges outstanding accomplishments of both departments and individuals.*

- Work is well underway on the 2020 Annual Conference; committee met this quarter on November 2 & January 10. Next Meeting is February 21.
- Conference Registration is OPEN! Will be held April 21-23, 2020 and the theme is: "20/20 Vision".
- Princess Royale Room Block ends March 20 – make your reservations early!
- Pre-con for Youth Mental Health First Aid on Tuesday, April 21st; registration is OPEN!
- Annual Golf & Mini-Golf Tournaments registrations are OPEN!
- Exhibitor Registration for the Exhibit Hall is OPEN; seeking to fill a few more booths. Contact the Committee Chairs if you know of an vendor that may want to become a Conference Exhibitor.
- 50 educational spots for sessions have been filled and presenters were notified. Preliminary Conference Schedule can be found online.

**Finance- Michele Potter, Chair**

*Monitors MRPA's long-range financial plan, advises the Board on financial matters, prepares periodic reports on the association's investment funds, and works with the executive director and accountants on audits, reviews and overall management.*

### **Legislative- Kathy Burley, Chair**

*Develops a network and procedures to track and monitor state-wide legislation prior to and during the Maryland General Assembly session. Develops a list of issues and concerns, communicates issues to the appropriate parties, and leads discussions to develop a course of action, including testimony strategy.*

Following legislation is being followed or anticipated:

- Senate Bill 337 – Legislation that would do away with the requirement to have a lifeguard present at splash pads.
- House of Delegates Bill (not yet dropped so there is no number available) – Delegate Soloman is planning to put forth the same bill as last year regarding turf usage that restricts MD State Program Open Space funding to be used on a project that would include synthetic surfaces (would include playground surfaces and artificial turf).
- Senate Bill 44 – Would require all new or majorly renovated facilities to include adult changing tables (6'). It sounds like this bill includes options to opt out based on multiple reasons – for example on a renovation, not having enough space to accommodate this requirement.

### **Leadership Institute- Jennifer Jennings and Todd Johnson, Co-Chairs**

*Develops future leaders who will take on leadership positions within their organization and in the Maryland Recreation and Park Association. Reviews applications and selects cohorts for a 6-month program focusing on several areas of leadership development.*

The Leadership Institute has had an amazing year—this was the year to think outside of the box. We held our meetings each month in off of the beaten path facilities to show that to be a recreation and parks professional it is not just recreation centers. We also chose locations where we could get a tour to better understand leadership positions in other facilities, such as Camp Lett's, Swan Harbor, Showplace Arena, Green Farm Maintenance Facility, Annapolis State House/Senate and Maryland Municipal League, and College Park Aviation Museum.



The Leadership Institute attended the Maryland General Assembly's opening session on January 9, pictured here with outgoing Senate President Mike Miller.

On January 9, we attended the opening day at the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis (see picture, above). This was the historic first day for Speaker of the House Adrienne Jones, first woman and African American to serve as an officer in the General Assembly. We also witnessed 32-year Senate President Thomas "Mike" Miller, the longest serving state Senate president in US history, hand over leadership to Senate President Bill Ferguson. After an eloquent speech and the end of Senate session, Senator Mike Miller kindly posed for a picture with the class and spoke to us about leadership.

We have had exceptional speakers, old and new. Some of our own MRPA favorites, Maureen Daugherty, Tom Donlin, Rick Anthony, Joe O'Neill, Dianne Osei, Bob Hicks, Michele Potter, Sue Simmons and a new exceptional speaker, Alison Kelly. Topics included leadership, communication, ethics, public speaking, legislation, CIP, park

development and planning management. On March 12th in Takoma Park, the class will be delivering their group presentations on the topics of:

- Problem Child? Don't Kick Them Out the Sandbox: Teach Kids to Play N.I.C.E.
- Addressing Impending Needs for an Aging Economy in Recreation and Parks
- A Helping Hand or A Wagging Finger: Exploring the Relationship Between State Agencies and Local Governments
- Connecting Recreation: A look at access to recreation
- De-escalation tactics in Recreation and Parks scenarios

Please feel free to come and join us at Takoma Park Theater to listen to the presentations, the class has been working on them since the retreat in September. If you are unable to make the March 12th date, please look for the session at the conference in April. It will be worth your while to support these exceptional Recreation and Parks professionals!

### **Marketing and Communications- Anna Hunter and Cara Marshall, Co-Chairs**

*Promotes general membership meetings and workshops, MRPA news and information, training and education programs, networking and social events, and the annual conference.*

- Flier – How to Interview for Your Next Job
- Flier – MRPA Rec U
- Web Banner - MRPA Rec U
- LOGO work – Passion for the Parks: asked Prince George's County to assist with this
- Flier – Volunteer Award Nomination
- Created - MRPA polo shirt & new MRPA Apparel
- Made MRPA apparel website live (again)
- Flier - Supervisory Training Flier
- Assisted - MRPA Special Event Summit

### **Member Engagement and Outreach- Alexandria Wilson and Wendy Donley, Co-Chairs**

*Focuses on membership retention and new member recruitment. Fosters development of a professional network and opportunities for "Young Professionals" ages 21-35. Identifies, communicates and evaluates membership benefits and fees.*

Spoke about MRPA Membership to a group of new hires in the Aquatics and Athletic Facilities Division and the Youth and Countywide Sports Division, M-NCPPC, Prince George's County.

Still working on the video, Tell Us Your MRPA story.

### **Professional Certification Board- Karen Haseley, Chair**

*Approves CEUs for workshops and MRPA Annual Conference educational sessions.*

### **CEU Applications Under Review:**

Relational Leadership--Know Thyself: Conflict Transformation & the Enneagram (Directors' Summit 2/19/20)

Relational Leadership—Relational Mindset as Pathway to Effective Negotiation and Conflict Transformation (Directors' Summit 2/20/20)

Relational Leadership- Relational Skillset as Pathway to Effective Negotiation and Conflict Transformation (Directors' Summit 2/20/20)

A Night at the Museum: Planning Successful Events in Protected Places (Special Events Summit 3/2/20)

Building Your Event Safety Plan (Special Events Summit 3/2/20)

Conference sessions are just beginning to be reviewed

### **Reviewed and approved CEU applications:**

Creating Your Day Camp Culture (3/4/20), .3 approved

Making Down Time Fun Time (3/4/20), .3 approved

Effective Communications to Enhance Team Building (11/14/19), .3 approved

Speak Up & Stand Out: How to Deliver a Presentation that Wows (11/14/19), .15 approved

Train the Trainer: Create, Facilitate, and Deliver an Educational and Engaging Training Program (12/11/19), .5 approved (**cancelled**)

Special Event Planning for the MRPA Recreation University (3/31/20), .35 approved

Grassroots Lobbying...How to Make it Work (1/9/20), .5 approved

CIP, Park Development and Planning Management (12/12/19), .3 approved

Parks & Recreation Programming Basics, Part 1 (1/28/20), .4 approved

Parks & Recreation Programming Basics, Part 2 (2/18/20), .4 approved

How to interview for your next job (2/12/20), .25 approved

History of Parks & Recreation & Leisure (1/7/20), .5 approved

Effective Communications to Enhance Team Building (11/14/19), .3 approved

The Audubon Naturalist Society's Conservation Efforts and IDEA Initiatives (2/5/20), .1 approved

Evaluation and Analysis (3/10/20), .4 approved

### **Board Goals:**

- **Improve online CEU form to minimize number of CEU applications needing edits**  
**Completed** - included helpful tips for individuals filling out CEU application, particularly regarding measurable verbs, needs assessments and outlines. Also made the measurable verb list alphabetized. Also made a checklist for the MRPA sponsoring organization.
- **Complete SOP for CEU and Board procedures**  
Complete, but updates will be coming soon.
- **Work closely with Conference Education Committee to get CEU process more streamlined**  
Make online application for conference more streamlined, using the new updated CEU application and have all CEUs approved prior to conference brochure being printed.  
*Participated in Conference Education Committee meetings and Board and Council meetings. Conference education has just shared the drive with us for the conference sessions.*

Board Members: Chuck Kines, Di Quynn-Reno

### **Professional Learning Communities- Carrie Sprinkle and Derrick Thompson, Co-Chairs**

*Facilitates Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and works with members to identify new topic areas.*

*PLCs are opportunities for members to join together to discuss hot topics, share best practices, and develop a network of fellow professionals in related positions and areas.*

There are 4 Professional Learning Communities scheduled for March and April:

- **Aquatics Professional Learning Community**  
When: Thursday, March 5, 2020 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Where: Germantown Indoor Swim Center, 18000 Central Park Circle, Boyd, MD 20841
- **Community Recreation Facilities Professional Learning Community**  
When: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 from 10:00am-1:00pm  
Where: Wheaton Community Recreation Center (11701 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20902)
- **Camps Professional Learning Community**  
When: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 from 10:00am-1:00pm  
Where: Gary J. Arthur Community Center (2400 MD-97, Cooksville, MD 21723)

- **Sports Professional Learning Community**

When: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 from 10:00am-2:00pm

Where: North Laurel Community Center (9411 Whiskey Bottom Rd., Laurel, MD 20723)

Register now to reserve your spot!

If you have any ideas for or would like to lead any future Professional Learning Communities, please contact Derrick Thompson at [DThompson@Rockvillemd.gov](mailto:DThompson@Rockvillemd.gov) or Carrie Sprinkle at [CSprinkle@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:CSprinkle@FrederickCountyMD.gov).

**Professional Standards- Steve McCoy and Wanda Ramos, Co-Chairs**

*Promotes and encourages professional certification among the membership through educating agencies and individuals on the value and availability of continuing education opportunities.*

**Scholarship Committee- Lisa Carroll and Amanda DeFilippo, Co-Chairs**

*Reviews applications and recommends scholarship opportunities and criteria. Scholarships may be available for trainings, MRPA and NRPA annual conferences, the Leadership Institute, and other trainings, certifications and internships that benefit the individual and MRPA.*

MRPA maintains a commitment to the excellence of the recreation and parks industry by providing alternative sources of income for educational opportunities. Take advantage of these scholarship opportunities and you may receive up to \$500 in scholarship money! It is well worth the time to complete the very simple application.

The application deadline for the following scholarship is **July 15, 2020**

- **Kay Valeson Memorial Scholarship:** Recognizing Kay Valeson's love of the profession and encouragement of continuing education, this scholarship funds attendance at the National Recreation and Park Association National Conference (or closely related national conference). Preference is given to first-time attendees. Recipients are encouraged to share information gained from the conference with MRPA members.

The application deadlines for the following scholarships are **February 14, 2020** and **April 15, 2020:**

- **William L. Montgomery Memorial Graduate Scholarship:** This scholarship was established in memory of William Montgomery's professional contributions and leadership in the development of MRPA. Applicants must be currently enrolled in an accredited graduate program in leisure services or a closely related field and have satisfactorily completed at least six (6) credits.
- **Undergraduate Scholarship:** This scholarship for undergraduate work provides financial assistance to students pursuing a major in recreation and parks, leisure studies or another closely related field. Students must be currently enrolled at an accredited college or university and have completed at least one year of study.
- **Rubini Continuing Education Scholarship:** Named in memory of the professional contributions of Frank Rubini, this scholarship can be applied toward any type of training or continuing education program that supports the professional development of the applicant. Examples include, but are not limited to: local or regional conference attendance, management schools, or one-day professional development workshops.

**Criteria**

- All applicants must be MRPA members and must live, work or be active volunteers in Maryland.
- Priority is given to applicants who have not received a previous scholarship and/or grant.
- Applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria: MRPA involvement, contributions to the profession, transcripts, financial resources, individual merit, and/or personal interview.

- Proof of attendance for the course or workshop is required. For academic scholarships, the participant must provide a copy of the final course grades, which must be a "B" or higher, before the scholarship can be reimbursed.
- For all other scholarships, the recipient must register and pay all appropriate fees, complete the course or workshop and present proof of a passing score. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- Only completed applications will be accepted.

### **Sponsorship and Resource Development- Nancy Pfeffer and Susan Potts, Co-Chairs**

*Raises funds for MRPA, including funding scholarships and paid personnel, which may be appointed by the Board of Directors. Works with volunteers to coordinate golf tournaments, silent auctions and other activities for the benefit of the association.*

We have been busy getting sponsors for MRPA Events:

- **PLCs**
  - Administrative- Rudolph's Office Supplies
  - Summer Camp- Tree Treckers
  - ADA- Commercial Recreation
- **Summer Camp Resource Fair**
  - 34 Vendors
  - 100 participants
- **Showcase awards silent auction**
  - Gift card to Subway for reviewing session
  - Over 50 silent auction items donated
  - Award sponsor- working on it
- **Special Events Summit**
  - Allied Party Rentals- Tent with Heaters
  - Event power Specialists- outside heated sitting area
  - Freestyle Booking Events- TBD
  - Cornerstone Productions- TBD
- **Conference**
  - Fun Express- glow decorations for party
  - Fantasy World- free escape room
  - Social Sponsor- working on it

### **Technology- Edwin Rivera, Chair**

*Explores new technology to facilitate the objectives of MRPA, the Board and Council, and the membership. Identifies areas where MRPA can utilize technology to have greater impact on our members, and assists with training on new technology and facilitating any transitions.*

Confirmed conference app renewal information and submitted to MRPA Office. Working with Conference Committee to compile and start inputting information for the 2020 conference.

### **Training and Education- Jennene Blakely, Chair**

*Coordinates training opportunities for members. Promotes professional certification through nationally recognized certifications (CPRP, etc.). Creates educational tracks/modules for our members, including Programming, Parks Maintenance, Supervision and Leadership, and Budget & Finance.*

Continuing to work to finalize the SOP for Training and Education Committee work

### **Goal 1: Implement a Programming/Recreation/Parks Certification Program for Entry Level employees**

- Status: The INAGURAL Recreation U Supported by the Mary Jean & Oliver Travers Foundation kicked off with 20 participants from across the state - 9 agencies are represented
- 5 of 6 sessions approved for Continuing Education Units
- Finalized all specialized introductory sessions including Sports Management, Access and the ADA, Aquatics, Facility Management and Nature Interpretation
- Those NOT enrolled in the full class can sign up for individual sessions online – cost is \$75 and includes morning refreshments and lunch.

**Goal 2: Plan 1-2 Summits (Special Event & Marketing / Programming / Leadership / Etc.) REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!**

- Status: Special Event Summit on the community calendar and scheduled for Monday, March 2nd at Gaithersburg Arts Barn
- Sessions and schedule can be found on the website
- Promoting through a variety of channels – Only 100 spaces available!

**Speakers Bureau**

- Status: Brochure has been printed and is live on the website  
<https://www.mrpanet.org/page/SpeakersBureau>
- Added two new speakers to the Speakers Bureau
  - Bill Tyler, Director, M-NCPPC Prince George's County Parks and Recreation
  - Jeff Ruark, Retired Park Ranger Manager; MD Park Service, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

**Additional Updates**

- Next meeting is Friday, February 21st, 2020, 12:30-2PM at North Laurel Community Center
- Calendar most up-to-date on the MRPA website – paper handouts of training calendar available for distribution – email Jennene Blakely, [Jennene.Blakely@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:Jennene.Blakely@montgomeryparks.org)

**New Training Opportunities**

- How to Interview for Your Next Job (. 25 CEUs pending) 2-12-20
- Playground Maintenance Course 2-19-20
- Creating Your Camp Culture and Making Down-Time Fun-Time (CEUs pending) 3-4-20 INCLUDES A MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSION – DO NOT NEED TO ATTEND BOTH