



**2017-2018 MRPA Board & Council  
First Quarter Report: Summer 2017**

**President**

**Tim Chesnutt**

The MRPA Strategic Planning Team met for two, 1½ day sessions with Jane Adams as our facilitator. This was an intense, thought-provoking process that Jane is currently compiling into a draft Strategic Plan.

The framework for the development of the Strategic Plan included identifying the Association’s strengths, opportunities, aspirations (desired results), and specific actions...SOAR. From this plan we will identify specific goals for each of the next several years. When achieved, each of these goals will help position us to better meet the needs of our current and future membership, and ultimately helping to make all Maryland residents the beneficiaries of our efforts.”

**Past President**

**Beahta Davis**

The Past Presidents/Directors Meeting has been scheduled for November 2, 2017 at US Lacrosse Headquarters in Hunt Valley, MD. US Lacrosse will provide information on ways that they can partner with agencies to increase lacrosse programs across the State of Maryland.

I am now beginning to receive and search for candidates for the 2018 MRPA elections. Please send your nominations in as early as possible.

**President Elect**

**Carolyn Ryan**

- Worked with Joan Brooks and Queen Anne’s County to set up the Summer General Membership Meeting
- Adriane Clutter is keynote speaker – Power Positioning through Positive Youth Development is the title of the presentation
- Working with Wanda Ramos to set up the Fall General Membership Meeting, which will be held on November 15, 2017 at the College Park Aviation Operations Building. Keynote speaker to be determined.

**Vice President**

**Wanda Ramos**

Quarterly report has been distributed and will be posted on the MRPA website. Winter General Membership meeting will be held Wednesday, January 24, 2018, location TBD and speaker to be determined.

**Secretary**  
**Corey Smith**

In order to save trees, minutes from past Executive Board and Council meetings are available upon request. Please contact Corey Smith at [coreyh.smith@pgparks.com](mailto:coreyh.smith@pgparks.com) if you would like copies of the minutes.

**Treasurer/Treasurer Elect**  
**Myra Butler/Jake Chesnutt**

- As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, MRPA has \$159,560 in its operating accounts.
  - We meet with MRPA staff monthly to review revenues and expenditures and we are currently on budget as projected.
  - We are also assessing how the monthly statements are laid out to determine if it is the best and most useful information being presented.
- Our investment portfolio looks great and has a total value of just over \$840,000 as of June 30.
  - In April of this year, upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Board approved moving our portfolio to a new investment company (Steward Partners) in order to keep our accounts with the same investment advisor. In the past, we have found it wise to move our investments to stay with the advisor who is familiar with our accounts, keeping them in the hands of someone we know and trust. This has served MRPA well in the past so it was a sound decision to make the move when our advisor changed firms.
  - The Finance Committee also conducts an annual review of our investment policies and philosophy to assess our distributions based on the account balances and market changes. We will be meeting in the near future for this year's review.

**PARC Branch**  
**Steve McCoy, Chair**

The Parks and Resource Conservation (PARC) Branch has been busy this spring/summer working to re-define our role and how we engage with our members.

We made the decision to move away from a Training role, given the renewed effort to develop a quality training program at the organizational level, and concentrate more on methods to connect and engage with members for networking and idea sharing at a more fundamental level. We plan to offer periodic thematic workshops to showcase parks and conservation programs across the state.

Our next workshop is scheduled for this fall:

"A Look at Sustainability Efforts and Environmental Safety Practices on the University of Maryland, College Park Campus"

Monday, October 23rd

9:30 a.m.

University of Maryland, College Park Campus

Topics will include:

- Climate Change Planning
- Energy Conservation
- Capturing Solar Energy
- Campus Maintenance
- Waste Management (specifically, within Campus dining areas)
- Pest Control
- Storm Water Management

- Compost Management

Our program will begin with a brief meeting for members at 9:30 a.m. followed by your presentation at 10:00 a.m., to include a walk within our beautiful Campus, exemplifying what UMD is doing towards sustainability and environmental safety practices. A flier is forthcoming, once we determine CEUs and other credits provided through the presentation and walk, for interested members.

Future Workshops (in the making) include:

- A visit to the brand new Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park
- Managing historical resources at Fort Frederick State Park
- Touring the National Arboretum in Washington, DC.

Next PARC Branch Board Meeting (open to any PARC Branch members): August 3, Location TBA

## **RALS Branch**

**Alexandria Wilson, Chair**

### **RALS Branch Report**

The Recreation and Leisure Services (RALS) Branch last met on June 9<sup>th</sup> at Harmony Hall Regional Center. RALS is working to continue its mission to provide recreation and leisure services to the membership, provide opportunities for networking and socialization, and preparing to provide fulfilling workshops and training opportunities to aid the membership.

### **Next Outings:**

#### **Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at Red Eye Dock Bar**

RALS Summer Social  
Right after today's Crab Feast

#### **Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at Camden Yards**

RALS Orioles Outing vs. Houston Astros  
7:05 pm – 1<sup>st</sup> Pitch and Fireworks after the Game  
\$20 – See Stephen today for more details!

### **Next Workshop:**

#### **Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at Druid Hall Park in Baltimore City**

Youth Program Quality Assessment Work Methods Series:

Part 1: Active Learning  
Part 2: Ask, Listen, Encourage

10 – 3 PM

\$70/ per – Career Staff Member

\$45/ per – Student & Intermittent Staff Member

\*Includes the text books (2x) & Lunch

### **Next Tournament:**

#### **Saturday & Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> in Ocean City, MD**

MRPA/RALS- DMVFFL Flag Football Tournament

Details to be posted to the website & Facebook in the next few weeks

### **New Items on the Horizon:**

- RALS is also looking to rebrand the branch with a new logo. RALS will be kicking off a new logo design contest which will run until January 1<sup>st</sup>. More details to be rolled out soon.
- In an effort to continuously foster opportunities for networking, RALS will be planning a few family friendly Recursions for the members. The goal is to give members opportunities to actively engage

in recreational activities while networking with members of other departments and hopefully rejuvenate an interest in engaging more actively with RALS and MRPA as a whole.

## **TR Branch**

**Melissa Wyman, Chair**

- Branch met in April (at conference) and end of May this Quarter. Locations included MRPA Conference in Ocean City and Potomac Community Resources, Inc. in Potomac, Maryland.
- Our first workshop for the year will be held on October 25, 2017 at Quiet Water Parks, Blue Heron Center. The topic for the workshop is dealing with Grief of Patrons Services. The intention of the retreat is for participants to be uplifted, feel positive and gain answers, tips and tools in coping with grief and healing.
- To encourage attendance and participation, a doodle survey was sent to all TR branch members to evaluate the meeting time where the most members were available. Our next scheduled meeting will be held at the end of August at Howard County Recreation & Parks Department. During this meeting, we will finalize the rest of the TR workshop topics for the year and divide up duties/research among members to start preparation for trainings.
- MRPA Decals were purchased and will be sold by the TR branch at the Summer General Membership Meeting. All money made from the MRPA Decals will be deposited to the Tommy Ross Scholarship Fund.

## **Awards Committee**

**Elisabeth Deal**

Deadline for entries in the Showcase Marketing and Association Awards is December 8. Entry forms can be found on the MRPA website after the summer membership meeting.

The Showcase Marketing Awards Luncheon will be held on March 1, 2018 at noon at the Cylburn Arboretum in Baltimore. Look for more details soon.

## **Conference Committee**

**Terri Hilton**

- Conference Dates-April 10-12th, 2018
- Location-Princess Royale Hotel
- Evaluation meeting was held on from June 9th, 2017 10-noon
- Neelay Bhaat will be the conference keynote speaker. (Topic TBA)  
Neelay works for Pros Consulting and is a Tedx speaker, see link below.  
<http://www.letsayhello.com/bolo-at-tedx.php>
- Evaluation Notes-
  - 2017 Registration was up for Full conference registration, down for students and down for exhibitors.
  - Major themes to address are the need for healthier food choices, better sound in the atrium, a better option for the Wednesday night social, poor sound and lighting in the natatorium, high drink prices. Delegates loved the bonfire, variety of education sessions and maintenance track.
  - MRPA will go through a bid process for 2019 and 2020. Carousel, Princess Royal and the Clarion are the only hotels that have the capability of handling the size of our conference.

- Conference app – It may be time to investigate providing an app for the conference. This would provide the schedule electronically, onsite tool to communicate with delegates and allow people to share their experience through social media
- Conference theme will be announced at the Summer General Membership meeting.
- Next committee meeting September 15th, 2017.
- Question, or to get involved, Email Terri Hilton thilton@rockvillemd.gov or Duncan Mullis at dmullis@rockvillemd.gov
- Committee Chairs, Terri Hilton, Duncan Mullis, Arrangements, Kate Gaddis, Banquet, Barbara Lages, Mike Coppersmith, Matt Purkins, Conference HQ, Skip Gormley, Wendy Donley, Education, Jennene Blakely, Dave Goodwin, Jake Chesnutt, Genevieve Jennai, Steve McCoy, Exhibit Hall, Romekia Dick, Sheryl Roff, Golf Tournament, Phil Bryan, Professional Certification, Sharon Norcio, Bob Hicks, Socials Leigh Ann Eckenrode, Alexandria Wilson, Student Mentor Gloria Murphy, Technical Support, Stephen Parks, Welcome Wagon, Di Quynn-Reno

### **Ritch Stevenson Leadership Institute (formerly MRPA Leadership Institute)**

**MaryBeth Dugan, Chair**

Team members:

Marybeth Dugan	Maureen Dougherty	Holly Harden, marketing
Debby Huffman	Di Quynn-Reno	Christi Bishop, CEU Coordinator
Kathy Garrity	Chuck Montrie	

- The Leadership Institute (LI) team is on a roll. We receive applications and email inquiries each week. We have over 20 applicants so far and they're rolling in. The deadline is July 21, 2017.
- The team has chosen a connection theme that will be weaved through the whole program: Connecting the D.O.T.S which stands for Dynamic, Out of office, Training, Self-improvement.
- Holly Harden has done an excellent job with the marketing of the program! Since May, you may have seen personal articles about graduates, new information and highlights of LI in the Thursday MRPA e-letters and Daune in the MRPA office has been great in spreading the word!
- Debby Huffman and Kathy Garrity developed a comprehensive survey that was distributed to all 55 graduates of LI. We received positive and informative feedback which is helpful with the program development.
- The kick-off retreat will be held on Sept 6, 7 at Rockwood Manor in Potomac. Maureen Dougherty will be leading participants in terrific sessions that will sure to please-strength building, leadership qualities, and other appropriate sessions with fun and team building exercises.
- The Leadership Institute will meet the second Thursdays of the month (after the kick off retreat) beginning October 12 and ending in March 2018 with group presentations. The time for the meetings is 9am-4pm. Development of the monthly meetings, topics and speakers is underway!
- A graduation ceremony will be held at the annual MRPA Conference in Ocean City, Maryland on Thursday, April 12, 2018.

### **Marketing Communications Committee**

**Holly Harden, Chair**

GOAL: INCREASE COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT WITH ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Facebook Postings increased 200% (61 posts since 4/21; 21 posts in 2016)

- Instituted Throwback Thursdays and Motivation Mondays
- Facebook Followers increased by 9%

Streamlined layout and updated banner for and Weekly Update

Developed Leadership Institute promotions

Developed timeline and calendar for marketing MRPA & Branch training

Future steps for this year include

Developing year long time line for MRPA promotion and communication

“Show What You Know” promotional campaign to recruit presenters for conference and workshops

Why MRPA? Video promotional spots highlighting MRPA belief statements.

## **Professional Certification Board (PCB)**

**Bob Hicks, Chair**

The Professional Certification Board (PCB) has/will be working on the following items:

1. Reviewed and approved CEUs for the following educational sessions:
  - a. .1 Facility Management: 12 Tips for Good Practices
  - b. .3 Park Management 101
  - c. .3 Reading the Tells
  - d. .1 Power Positioning Through Positive Youth Development
2. Pending CEU application: 5 Languages of Appreciation
3. PCB will be working with MRPA Leadership Institute on CEUs for their respective educational sessions.

PCB Goals for 2017-2018

1. Continue to review and comment on CEU applications for workshops and other educational sessions sponsored by MRPA.
2. Promote Professional Certification with MRPA membership.

Professional Certification Board: Bob Hicks, CPRP – Chair

Sharon Norcio, CTRS / Skip Gormley, CPRP /Di Quynn-Reno, CPRP

Any questions regarding Professional Certification or CEU’s for MRPA sponsored Workshops, please call Bob Hicks at 301-600-6816.

## **Scholarship Committee**

**Jennifer Jennings, Chair**

Working on awarding scholarship to current applicants and also trying to find ways to implement a fundraising program for scholarships.

## **Training and Education**

**Laura Wetherald, Chair**

1. Meeting held with Holly Harden and MRPA Training Marketing Plan was created. Measurable Objectives were created to expand, enhance and promote the training component of the entire MRPA.
2. Looking for someone to team with Howard County to expand the Agency Driven Training Model. Shared benefits, expectations and financial commitment.
3. Looking for a potential Co-Chair to assist in future Training Oversight
4. Branch Dates for Trainings- All in except PARC branch

5. MRPA Training Calendar is updated regularly on the website with many entries during the meeting from input of committee members. Already used to share date conflicts between two trainings. It is working and MRPA is being proactive.
6. Maureen D, Training Consultant CALL FOR PROPOSALS have not reaped any takers per the meeting. Will need more marketing to promote. The MRPA Training and Development Plan Document final approval and implementation strategies needs to be approved by the Board for implementation.
7. Conference Program Update given with dates and projected speakers and themes.
8. Webinars are in the process to get 1-2 implemented this program year.
9. MRPA Training Calendar Update
  - a. Park Maintenance Series from John Nissel was presented with excellent training options!
  - b. CPSI and Aquatic Trainings from Chuck will be arranged
  - c. Branch Trainings are being lined up in the calendar
  - d. Leadership Institute Highlights shared through report.
10. Final Planning and Draft for the Maryland County and Municipal Directors Summit to be held the first week in February at the Inn at Herrington Beach in southern Maryland. In 2018 the event will be held in November after evaluation will determine if this should be an Association annual event
11. CEU Forms and Progress were mentioned ago to do far in advance. There also was discussion how a few venue type programs such as tours and roundtables may be difficult to get CEU's but still a good training and networking opportunity.
12. Update from Strategic Plan on the importance of Training

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

The next MPRA Training Committee Meetings will be at the Howard County Recreation and Parks Department:  
Wednesday, Sept 13th at 10am  
Monday, December 11th at 11am-12:30 will include mid-year review and lunch  
Monday, March 12 at 10am- Evaluation and Next Year Planning

**No Report for this quarter:**

#### **Legislative Committee**

**John Byrd, Chair**

#### **Sponsorships Committee**

**Matt Purkins, Chair**

#### **Membership Committee**

**Emily Lawrence, Chair**

#### **Professional Standards**

**Joan Brooks, Chair**

#### **Resource Development Committee**

**Amy Vagnoni, Chair**