



## 2021 - 22 MRPA Board & Council Second Quarter Report: July – Sep 2021

**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**

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**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-** Terri Hilton

**President Elect-** Nancy Pfeffer

**Past President-** John Nissel

- No Report

**Vice President-** Jessica E. Cook-Thomas

- No Report

**Treasurer - Cortney Weinstock; Treasurer Elect- Julija Sajauskas**

- As of close of October, the account is at a \$74,780 deficit. This deficit was anticipated and is projected to reach \$120,000 by end of year. The good news is that the investment accounts are in great shape (details provided in the Finance committee's report). Combined accounts demonstrate a yearly increase of \$126,443 (as of October) from the same period in 2022. With all of the great revenue generating initiatives the board, council and committees are working on, MRPA's finances are in great shape.

**Secretary-** Charlyn Simpson

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**PARC Branch (Park and Resource Conservation)- Angie Hummer, Chair**

- We have a hike planned for Friday November 5
- Gold Mine Tract-C&O canal National Historic Park 10:30 hike begins at 11. See website to register .

**RALS Branch (Recreation and Leisure Services)- Matt Purkins, Chair**

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**TR Branch (Therapeutic Recreation)- Joy Weir, Chair**

- The TR Branch has continued to work together to plan training opportunities for Therapeutic Recreation Professionals. We are waiting to hear back from Caleb Berkemeier from Mid Atlantic ADA with an agenda and resume to submit so we can offer a training on Transition Plans. We are hoping to have this workshop approved for CEU's by NCTRC for all Recreation professionals to attend.
- We are also still planning a Lunch and Learn or Professional Learning Community on Adaptive Sports.

**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.*

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### **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.*

- The Finance Committee supported an update to the Financial Guidelines, Procedures and Policies, to support decisions in concert with MRPA's Investment Policy Statement, which includes language on reinvestments and disbursements.
- The October statement balance is over one million dollars, at \$1,017,251.72, a positive change over last month's balance of \$989,546.58. This is a 2.8% increase.
- In 2020, the portfolio balance was \$846,021; a 20.24% increase in the year. Congratulations to all!!

### **Corporate Development- Eugenia Mercer and Jenny Morgan, 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.*

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### **Legislative- Kathy Burley and Jen Jennings, Co-Chairs**

*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:*

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### **Social Justice, Racial Equity, and Inclusion (SJREI) Committee- Sheema Hai and Shawnté Berry, Co-Chairs**

*The social justice, inclusion, and racial equity initiative reinforces our commitment to be a welcoming community where all our members are treated with respect and dignity and provided with opportunities to succeed. This initiative will establish a Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee that will include MRPA members.*

The co-chairs along with the Equity Officer, Kori Jones, met to determine committee goals and objectives. The full committee meets monthly. Subcommittee meetings occur as needed per planning needs.

#### **Full Committee Objectives:**

1. **Objective 1:** To ensure the SJREI's mission reflect an ongoing commitment to an organizational culture of inclusion and belonging
2. **Objective 2:** To support and provide a safe space for affinity groups – offer group conversations, book clubs, etc.
3. **Objective 3:** To utilize the self-assessment DEI tool for personal accountability/responsibility
4. **Objective 4:** To establish SJREI subcommittees to divide the workload. The subcommittees will focus on the following topic areas: 1. Training and Education 2. Special Events/Fundraising 3. DEI Awareness and Inclusivity

#### **Subcommittee Objectives:**

1. **Training and Education**
  - a. **Objective:** To have opportunities for members to participate in trainings, conferences, discussions, such as brown bags on best practices to promote a wider understanding of DEI.
2. **Special Events**
  - a. **Objective:** To create opportunities to invest into or support a culture of inclusion and belonging through special events while generating monetary contributions to go towards MRPA training and/or scholarship funds.
3. **DEI Awareness and Inclusivity**
  - a. **Objective:** To ensure other MRPA committees are including DEI in their planning process by having SJREI representative across sections.

## **Quarterly Accomplishments:**

1. **Monthly Meetings:** The SJREI full committee has successfully held monthly meetings on the following dates:
  - a. Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - c. Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>
2. **DEI Discussions:** During SJREI full committee meetings, the group has participated in DEI related discussions. The topics discussed during this quarter have been:
  - a. August – Cultural Awareness
  - b. September – Microaggressions
  - c. October – Race vs. Ethnicity

3. **SJREI Book Club:** The SJREI committee launched a new initiative titled, Mind Expanding Mondays on Race which is a virtual book discussion group that creates a scheduled space to reflect and share on contemporary non-fiction work surrounding social justice, race, equity and inclusion.

Discussions are set every two weeks from 12:10 – 1:00pm starting Monday, October 18, 2021. The initiative is facilitated by Sue Simmons, MRPA SJREI Committee member and Director of Caroline County Recreation and Parks; co-facilitated by Sheema Hai, Co-Chair of the MRPA SJREI Committee.

Registration donations of \$15 are recommended. Proceeds support MRPA DEI Speaker series and MRPA scholarship programs. Registration is limited to 20 participants.

The first MEM Selection is: The Sum of Us by Heather McGhee

4. **SJREI Bike Ride:** The annual SJREI Bike Ride was scheduled for Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup> along the Anacostia Tributary Trail. Due to low enrollment, the event has been postponed until the spring of 2022.

## **Marketing and Communications- Desiré DeGrange and Shelby Bowers, Co-Chairs**

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

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## **Social Media – Shelby Bowers, Chair**

*Coordinate the efforts of all social media outlets disseminating information pertaining to trainings, event highlights, member experiences and upcoming events.*

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## **Member Engagement and Outreach- Kelly Day-Terry and Jordan Perry, 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.*

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**Professional Certification Board- Robbin Oden, Chair**

Approves CEUs for workshops and MRPA Annual Conference educational sessions.

**CEU Applications Under Review:**

N/A

**Reviewed and approved CEU applications:**

Season	Year	Session Title	Speaker	Program	#of CEU's
Fall	2021	Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging-Microaggressions for Maryland Recreation and Parks Association - Session 2	Kimberlee Williams	Education and Trainings	0.1
Fall	2021	Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging-Inventory for Maryland Recreation and Parks Association - Session 3	Kimberlee Williams	Education and Trainings	0.1
Fall	2021	Positive Behavioral Strategies for All	Susan Potts	Education and Trainings	0.1
Fall	2021	History of Parks, Recreation, and Leisure	Maureen Dougherty	Recreation University	0.5
Fall	2021	ADA and Inclusion...Cultural Change Through the Years	MB Dugan & S. Potts	Recreation University	0.3
Fall	2021	Leading with Your Strengths	Maureen Dougherty	Leadership Institute	0.175
Fall	2021	The Comfort Zone	Maureen Dougherty	Leadership Institute	0.1
Fall	2021	Program Planning & Trends	Annie Frisoli	Recreation University	0.4

**Board Goals:**

- Look at ways to streamline application process and responses.  
*In progress*
- Review SOP and make edits as needed  
*In progress*
- Work closely with Conference Education Committee to improve CEU process for conference session, committee and presenters.  
*Conducted a presentation for the Training and Education Committee to assist with the submissions of CEU Applications - September 17, 2021.*

Board Members: Chuck Kines and Rachel Kollasch

**Submitted by:**

Robbin Oden,  
Chair  
11/2/21

**Professional Standards- Bill Offutt, Chair**

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

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**Scholarship Committee- Amanda DeFilippo and Jen Mogus, 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.

- One applicant and recipient of the William L. Montgomery Memorial Graduate Scholarship (Edwin J. Rivera) – Pending final approval as of 11/2/2021
- Submitted research on CPRP prep course options to President and Executive Director
- Continued Scholarship marketing efforts via the MRPA newsletter, PLCs, and social media

**Training and Education- Shawn Beaumont and Ovan Shortt, Co-Chairs**

*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.*

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**Conference- Mike Coppersmith and Sheryl Roff, 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.*

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**Director's Summit –**

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**Ritch Stevenson Leadership Institute I- Holly Harden, Chair**

*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 8-month program focusing on several areas of leadership development.*

- The 8th class of the Ritch Stevenson Leadership Institute kicked off in September in Baltimore City at the Cahill Fitness and Wellness Center. Participants represent 17 agencies across the state from Washington County to the Town of Ocean City. The class heard dynamic speeches by Reginald Moore, Jr., Director of Baltimore City Recreation & Parks, and Mayor Brandon Scott. After a field trip to historic Howard Rawlings Conservatory in Druid Hill Park, the class heard leadership lessons from current and former Baltimore City staff, Bob Wall, Devon Brown, and Jessica E. Cook Thomas.
- The overnight retreat was held October 14-15 at Camp Letts. Due to staff reductions caused by COVID the YMCA was unable to provide activities or meals. This presented a significant logistical challenge. Terri Hilton provided invaluable assistance with meal planning and shopping, Jen Jennings helped with permits and food prep, Sheryl Roff stepped in to stay overnight with the group to help with meal prep and clean up. Dr. Maureen Dougherty provided three impactful trainings as well as assisting with team building. The onsite LI team did an incredible job leading, organizing, cleaning, and engaging the class.
- Thank you to the Leadership Team onsite of LaDarian Blake, Jessica E. Cook Thomas, Todd Johnson, Sara Morgan, Carrie Sprinkle, and Josh VanDyken.

**Leadership Institute II- Marybeth Dugan, Chair**

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**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.*

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**Recreation University- Julija Sajauskas, Chair**

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