



2021 - 22 MRPA Board & Council Third Quarter Report: October - December 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

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

- In an effort to keep everyone safe, all Fall and Winter in person programs, were switched to a virtual format
- The Board voted to require all participants attending the annual conference to be vaccinated. Attendees will be required to show their vaccination cards when checking in for conference.
- We are working on a new fundraiser for the Spring, A Spring fishing tournament will be held in Montgomery County. Anyone interested in working on the committee should contact Terri Hilton.
- The Improv night Wine and Cheese fundraiser was cancelled in December and will be rescheduled in the Spring.

President Elect- Nancy Pfeffer

- Created a search committee for New Executive director, chaired by Michelle Potter.
- Looking to fill committee assignments for 2022 - 2023

Past President- John Nissel

Vice President- Jessica E. Cook-Thomas

- Winter General Membership Meeting moved to virtual and will be

Treasurer - Cortney Weinstock; Treasurer Elect- Julija Sajauskas

Secretary- Charlyn Simpson

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

- The PARC Branch met Dec 16 to discuss nominations for 2022- we still need a chair elect . We need to twist some arms :)
- We have decided to make the Parch Branch events fun monthly events.
 - Hike of the month Quiet Waters Park Thursday, January 27, 2022 (on MRPA website)
 - Hike at Middle Patuxent Environmental Friday, February 25, 2022
 - Hike at Patuxent Park Friday, March 25, 2022
 - Playground tour April or May? Lynn Gulley to organize
- Each event will start off with a short meeting and then off to have some fun. During the hikes people can network while learning about nature and other parks. Anyone can attend not just PARC Branch members. We welcome the other branches to join us.

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

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TR Branch (Therapeutic Recreation)- Joy Weir, Chair

- The TR Branch met on November 29, 2021 with a small group of seven in attendance. A lengthy discussion was held about the number and type of awards the TR Branch is offering this year. Those in attendance decided to narrow the number of awards offered down from six to four to include: Member of the Year, Volunteer, Innovative Program and Student Awards.
- The process of organizing training opportunities has been a slow process. Mid Atlantic ADA has restructured with a new individual in charge of trainings, Carlene Crespo. Joy met with Carlene and one of her trainers, Ann Dechamps, via Zoom and both are very interested and eager to provide a training on Transition Plans. They even expressed interested in presenting at our MRPA Conference.
- Branch members in attendance at our meeting also discussed the offering of an Adapted Sports training from a Professional Learning Community to a Training Series. This has caused us to rethink how we will be offering this opportunity and more work will need to be done to contact speakers for this series.
- With the previous coordinator of the TR Mini Golf Tournament stepping down, a request was made to those in attendance for someone to step up to take that task over. No one volunteered to take on that new role, so Joy Weir will head up the Mini Golf Tournament for this year's MRPA Annual Conference.
- A TR Branch Holiday gathering was discussed; however, the Branch was unable to gather over the holidays.

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 December, 2021 statement balance was \$1,031,787.28 a positive change over November 2021's balance of \$1,002,720.09 by \$29,067.20. This is a 2.9% increase. In 2020, the prior year-end balance was \$926,200.91 for the portfolio; a 11.4% increase in the year.
- The Finance Committee supported the Investment Policy Statement, drafted by The Raymond James Financial Center.
- The Distribution Policy was updated to include: "Judging the need for distribution. The Board / Executive Director will determine the amount to be spent based on the needs of the recipient organizations." The Objective is that the total return is 5% to 7% annualized over 3-5 years. The Distribution will be as needed, not to exceed 4% per year.

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:

- . Back to a single member committee. Have contacted MML for a representative to the committee.

- Legislation currently being followed –
 - **HB 15/ SB 7** -Requires that each entity that receives State funding to prioritize the use of plants native to the State for every planting project; and exempting the sale of plants native to the State from the sales and use tax. House hearing on 1/26 at 1:00pm. Senate hearing on 1/25 at 1:30pm.
 - **SB 56** -Requires general assembly approval through legislation of local land preservation and recreation plans under Program Open Space. Hearing 1/25 at 1:30pm.
 - **SB 178** – Program Open Space bill that makes it easier to apply for federal funds for a POS local space project. Hearing 1/18 at 2:30pm.
 - **HB 131** – Requires the producer of synthetic turf and turf infill sold or distributed in the State to establish a system to track the chain of custody of the synthetic turf and turf infill and report the chain of custody to the Department of the Environment. Makes a violation of this Act a civil offense. Hearing on 1/19 at 1pm.
 - **HB 195** – Exempts and individual employed by a County or Municipality in the State who performs marine contractor services from paying a fee for the issuance or renewal of a marine contractor license or test. Hearing on 1/26 at 1pm.

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. There were no meetings held in Nov or Dec.
 - b. Meetings will resume in Jan. 2022
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. None to report

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.
 - a. Group discussions were held in Nov. and Dec.
4. **SJREI Bike Ride:** The annual SJREI Bike Ride was scheduled for Saturday, November 13th 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
Winter	2022	Parks & Recreation Professionals: Trauma Informed Care First Responders	Phillip Blackwell	General Membership	0.1

New News:

The Professional Certification Board is looking for a certified member of MRPA to replace Chuck Kines for the upcoming year 2022-2023. More info coming soon!

Board Goals:

- 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.
In progress

Board Members: Chuck Kines and Rachel Kollasch

Submitted by:
Robbin Oden, Chair
1/18/22

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.

- Requested that “Consider applying for a scholarship to help offset cost of this opportunity, click here to find out more.” (Have the click here link to <https://www.mrpanet.org/page/MRPAScholarships>) be listed with any trainings or certifications in the weekly update.
- Presented options to Chuck and Terri for CPRP Prep Course leveraging Laura Wetherald Scholarship.
- Issued 3 scholarships:
 - Edwin J. Rivera – Awarded the William L. Montgomery Memorial Graduate Scholarship – November 2021
 - Raphael Green – Awarded the Minority Scholarship – December 2021
 - Jacob Chesnutt – Awarded the Rubini Continuing Education Scholarship – December 2021
- The next deadline for scholarship applications is February 11, 2022.

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.

- Registration is opening

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.

- Queen Anne's County Recreation and Parks hosted the Ritch Stevenson Leadership Institute November 9th. Students started their day at the historic Matapeake Beach Club where Queen Anne's County Director, Steve Chandlee, detailed his leadership journey; former M-NCCPC Division Chief, Joe O'Neill, shared insights and advice from his career; and Cliff Driver, Athletic Field Manager for Montgomery Parks, presented on field maintenance and developing a training program. The group travelled to Batt's Neck Park where Cliff and staff members, Tomas Barahona & Billy Everett, discussed best practices in field use and maintenance and hosted equipment demonstration.
- Woodlawn Manor Cultural Park in Montgomery County was the site for the December 9th meeting. Greg Brannan, Training Consultant, discussed effective communication and presentation strategies. Ranger Angela Crenshaw, Area Manager, Department of Natural Resources gave insights on interpreting difficulty history. Lieutenant Sara Mikalauskas, M-NCPPC Special Operations; Heather Dunkin M-NCPPC Park Police Barn Manager and Cameron Walpole, Education Programs Manager, Montgomery Parks gave an overview of site operations and a tour of the property. The unique location includes not only the historic manor house and underground railroad experience but houses the park police offices including horse and k-9 operations. Marybeth Dugan, Program Access Coordinator for Montgomery Parks shared stories and strategies for inclusive communication. Special thank you to Jennifer Legates, Manager of Woodlawn Manor Cultural Park for her assistance in coordinating such an impactful day.
- The January and February classes of the Leadership Institute will move to virtual instruction.
- Many thanks to the Leadership Team of Josh VanDyken, Sara Morgan, Todd Johnson, Carrie Sprinkle, Jessica E. Cook Thomas and LaDarian Blake for their continued commitment and hard work.

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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