

What's Happening!

Executive Director's Report January 16th 2007 Summary of Activities & Events By: Alison Harle, CTRS



Items for Action

These Items are ones that require a board vote, as it affects policy

Conference Site Selection Recommendation 2007-2010

Show	Year	Location	President	Chair*
47 th	- 2007	- Mohegan Sun	John Silsby	Jerry Lokken
48 th	- 2008	- Cromwell Crown Plaza	John Silsby	Anna Park*
49 th	- 2009	- Cromwell Crown Plaza OR Joint State Conference with MRPA**	Mary Hill	Sean Nadeau*
50 th	- 2010	- Mohegan Sun	Mary Hill	Anna Park*/Sean Nadeau*

*Tentative –Expressed Interest

** Idea

I believe the state association should build up toward our 50th Conference and Trade Show. The 2010 Conference should be a large celebration of the association and our history. Because of that I think that we would want to be in a desirable location for 2010. The Mohegan Sun has the attraction and the glitz and glam that will draw people and will aid us in our ability to make a statement at our 50th. Also the Mohegan Sun will be undergoing renovation that will be complete in 2010 that will include new poker rooms, expanded hotel rooms and facilities. This increased benefit should aid in our attendance numbers for 2010.

If we go to Mohegan in 2010 we will not want to do it for 07 and 08 as we will wear off some of the novelty. So I suggest Mohegan in 2007 due to the demand from vendors and members, then to the Crown Plaza for an intimate setting for 08 and potentially 2009. The Crown Plaza would allow us to have the whole hotel space for our use, close intimate classrooms and a central location. The costs are similar but with a staff that is much more willing to work with us and value our event. Many other major associations do their conferences there such as the CT Association of Health Physical Education Recreation and Dance (CTAHPERD) and the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM). There is enough space for 75 vendors and there will be no need to decrease cost. There is additional space in the egresses and CCM is able to put 106 booths. This will give a different atmosphere at conference for closeness and camaraderie.

“Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association: A Network of support for member through professional development, and resources to enhance the quality of recreation and park services in Connecticut”

In 2009 there could be a very interesting opportunity for CRPA and MRPA to do a joint conference. Both John Whalen and I have discussed preliminary numbers and how events like this have gone over in other states (SC and NC; WA and OR). We have modified similar multi state agreements on running a state conference, and agree that like other states our members would find that the perceived increase and enhancement of a program as well as networking opportunities would be great! We would increase our vendor hall as vendors would only have to take a break once to meet more contacts. Commercial membership may increase as we would require vendors to be members of both associations to gain a discount.



General Information

This is information that is beneficial knowledge, but not critical to the events at the board meeting. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me before the board meeting.

NPSI

We have about 7 signed up so far. 40 is the required number to run the course

Membership

The membership committee will hopefully come together to make calls from our inactive members database. Since a dramatic drop in students at the end of last year, our numbers are more around 600 than 700 and I would like to see these numbers increase this year.

AFO

The Aquatics group has expressed interest in running a course. I was able to talk to Nationals on bringing down the required number for the course and we do not have to run the typical 40 but can run the class at 20. We have a secure 5 people who are interested and will sign up, so we will do this out of the program development line item.

We are currently seeing if Sean DeRosa will come and run the course, as he is local and that keeps the cost down. Once we hear back from him we will set the date.

Entertainment Showcase

We are almost full with our entertainers. We need delegates to make this event a success

Winter Quarterly Education Session

We have 14 signed up. Hopefully more will come last minute!

“Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association: A Network of support for member through professional development, and resources to enhance the quality of recreation and park services in Connecticut”

What's Happening!

Executive Director's Report February 20th 2007 Summary of Activities & Events By: Alison Harle, CTRS



Items for Action

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General Information

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NPSI

We have about 21 signed up so far. 40 is the required number to run the course

Membership

CPA membership vs. CRPA

CPA membership = 167 including commercial

CRPA membership = 600

21 CPA members are not CRPA members (12% of the CPA membership are not CRPA members)

24% of CRPA members are CPA members (146 members of CRPA are members of CPA)

*******New Revenue Streams!!!*******

Group Ticket Sales

We are now offering group ticket prices as well as “any day” tickets to Lake Compounce and Six Flags! This should provide a better member resource for Park and Recreation Departments. The profit margin on group tickets is less than those of the “any day” ticket rates. If towns were using the any day tickets for their group tickets, CRPA may see a decrease in their any day ticket sales. We may make up for this deficit in the fact that more towns that use to go through group sales will now go through us for group sales.

Quassy

“Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association: A Network of support for member through professional development, and resources to enhance the quality of recreation and park services in Connecticut”

We were also looking to add Quassy in consignment sales as a new revenue source. ***They currently do not want to offer us a discounted program as they want to see directly to the towns themselves.***

Big E

We are also looking into Big E consignment Ticket sales, as a new revenue source. We have a request out for Consignment Ticket information.

AFO

I spoke with Sharron Mannion of NRPA last week and we anticipate the dates being May 2-4th in Wethersfield, CT

If we could get one of our members to become a certified AFO instructor we could see then see if they could teach our courses for free, or small stipend and we would not have to meet minimum numbers. To become an AFO instructor they need to take a \$350 test offered by NRPA. I will approach some people who may be willing to do this, in exchange for conference registration etc...

Winter Quarterly Education Session

Good job Wendy and John! - 59 Attendees (WOW)

Revenue: \$1,525 (budgeted \$1,700)

Expense: \$585

Profit: \$940

Budget: each quarterly needs to make \$1012.5

Under Budget by \$72.50

Next Quarterly Schedule

March/April - Southbury – Heritage Village

May - Branford/Norwalk

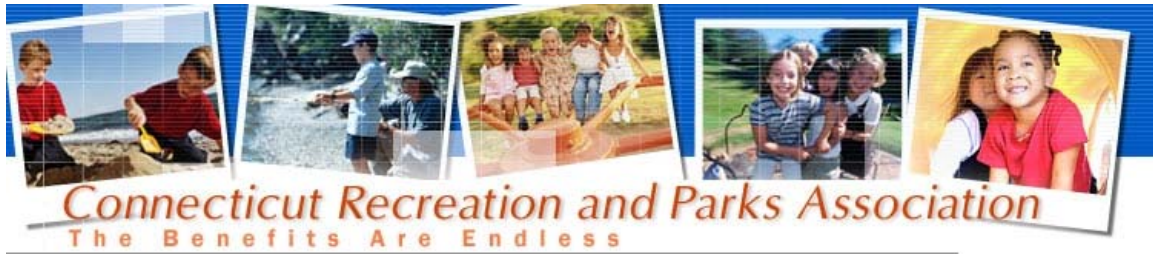
September - Six Flags

www.carpa.com's **NEW LOOK**



Vs.

“Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association: A Network of support for member through professional development, and resources to enhance the quality of recreation and park services in Connecticut”



Many of the photo's used by the company who designed the website for us, were not purchased outright for use. The company who owned the photo's GettyImages sent CRPA a bill for \$7,900.00 for continued use of the stock photo's. I contacted Electrismarts and they contacted the image company and chose stock images who's contract does not need to be renewed. There was no need to pay the \$7,900.00 bill as Electrismarts was the purchasing company. We are all straightened out, and now we have a new look!

Washington, 2007

With the Valentines storm on 2007 hitting right at the same time we were in for a bit of a shuffle. I was fortunate to make it out on Tuesday with the Executive Director in MA. I was able to attend my early morning meetings and all the rest on Tuesday. John and Jerry came in around noon on Wednesday and Bill Engle (the legislative rep) did not make it in at all, as the airport at Bradley was completely shut down. We did loose registration for Bill, and we did have to pick up one night hotel, as he became stranded. This helps as the costs of attending this function increase each year.

The meetings on the hill were good, we were able to meet with all but two offices, and we dropped off legislative packets, and hope to meet with these individuals back in CT. NPRA launched a **Play Every Day** Initiative. This initiative encourages at least 60 min of play, exercise, or activity for children a day. I am trying to figure out just how we may role it out in this state....

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What's Happening!

Executive Director's Report March 20th 2007 Summary of Activities & Events By: Alison Harle, CTRS



Items for Action

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NPSI

We have about 49 signed up so far so the course is a go! We will meet budget!

Big E

It looks like we can get tickets at \$10 and sell them for \$10.75. Regular Big E tickets are \$12. I am not sure what Big Y sells them for, we are looking into this.

AFO

We are currently offering the AFO in Wethersfield in April 24th and 25th. Hopefully we will be able to meet the 20 person minimum to run the course. CRPA's anticipated profit is \$ 20/pp.

Entertainment Showcase

We fell short slightly in our anticipated revenue. But it is still perceived as one of the most valuable programs that CRPA offers. Roger does a great job pulling this event together.

Upcoming Meetings

NETI – I have a NERC meeting, and I will have promotional material for our conference hopefully and speaker forms. I will also have flyers for NPSI and AFO and any educational sessions we have set.

“Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association: A Network of support for member through professional development, and resources to enhance the quality of recreation and park services in Connecticut”

WRITING BASIC GRANT BUDGETS

Thursday, March 22, 10:00 am – noon

This introduction to creating project budgets for grants will: Define a project budget and its components; Identify responsibilities in preparing a budget; Identify different types of financial information needed; Identify steps in preparing a budget; Identify how a budget is used after the grant is awarded. Attendees will work with a case study for a small project budget from a private foundation. The class will not cover budgets for complex private and government grants, however, the basic concepts covered apply to more complex budgets.

Powering Exceptional Boards, NSP Program (John and I)

March 23, 2007

Responsible boards focus on fiduciary oversight, and ensure that their organizations comply with the law, act with financial integrity, and operate efficiently and ethically. Exceptional boards add active engagement and independent decision making to this oversight function. Strong governance is about providing critical capital – intellect, reputation, resources, and access – to power nonprofit success. It requires the board to balance its role as an oversight body with its role as a force supporting the organization. How does a board rise to this level? Are there standards that describe this height of performance? This session will explore the traits and actions of exceptional boards, present 12 steps toward outstanding board leadership, and analyze what great boards do that sets them apart and allows their organizations to excel.

This session is based on Board Source's publication "The Source: Twelve Principles of Governance that Power Exceptional Boards". Each attendee will receive a copy of this publication.

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What's Happening!

Executive Director's Report
April 17th 2007
Summary of Activities & Events
By: Alison Harle, CTRS



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NPSI

We sold out! We had a record number attending the course. We had 67 signed up and 70 taking the test. This is not typical and we have never sold out before. Hamden Parks and Recreation hosted the course in a former middle school. Due to the size and number of participants there was only one space where the course could be held there. Some participants were not impressed with the facilities, stating the following:

- 1) No screen for PowerPoint presentation until noontime of the first day. PowerPoint was shown on the wall.
- 2) No decent "blackout" system, therefore PowerPoint was extremely faint.
- 3) Bathroom facilities for the group were sub par to say the least.
- 4) Lighting and heating were issues within the room.
- 5) Building (former middle school) was run down in a deplorable condition.
- 6) Today, with the rain, the roof was leaking and there were a couple of areas with puddles on the floor.
- 7) Tables were deplorable.
- 8) The Town of Hamden should be ashamed since visiting professionals from New York State and Massachusetts were in attendance.

I have asked Frank Copper to come to the board meeting and or write a response.

“Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association: A Network of support for member through professional development, and resources to enhance the quality of recreation and park services in Connecticut”

AFO

We are currently offering the AFO in Wethersfield in April 24th and 25th. We are just a few shy from meeting our minimum numbers to offer the course. Hopefully we can. We are dedicated to offering this event.

Spring Quarterly

The spring quarterly was changed from a session on Youth Sports to a Child Safety topic, as the Youth Sports Committee felt the competition was too strong for their session in June. We have an extremely low turnout for this session, and we will not meet the anticipated income for this course. Issues due to low turnout are:

- 1) Topic – a specific and less general relevance
- 2) Lack of time to promote, as the quarterly committee could not secure a speaker, and then had to switch it.

We have members who are dependant on the CEU's so we will offer the course regardless of numbers. We will not generate the \$1,000 anticipated in this line item. I anticipate us falling short by \$860.

Upcoming Meetings

NEPA Spring Meeting –

- We will have a NERC (New England Regional Council) meeting there, and CRPA will be endorsing the programs for CEU's.

Associations and Corporations: Approaches to Sponsorships

***CT Society for Association Executives**

The Corporate Approach

Non profit organizations certainly have needs when approaching corporate sponsors. But the corporate sponsors have their own needs as well when agreeing to provide sponsorship. Our speaker heads up the Aetna Foundation and can help us learn to better work with potential and current corporate sponsors.

The Association Approach

Don't just ask for a sponsorship. Develop relationships first. Our speaker will discuss how non- profits need to establish partnerships with corporations and the business community long before asking for a sponsorship. She will also present on the kinds of materials and marketing strategies that are effective in building those relationships.

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What's Happening!

**Executive Director's Report
May 15th 2007
Summary of Activities & Events
By: Alison Harle, CTRS**



Items for Action

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CIRMA Partnership?!

I have found that a lot of the education sessions that CIRMA have been offering are very similar to ones that we offer as quarterlies. The problem is, that they offer them for FREE!

Session topics are:

"Sexual Abuse Prevention, a Discussion on the Tough Issues"

Parks and Recreation Liability: Understanding the Legal Issues

Achieving Excellence in Customer Service

FOIA - What Board, Commission, & Committee Members Must Know

Risk Management & Skateboard Parks

Summer Camp Liability

Managing Playground Liability

Snow Plow Safety

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Registered S*xual

Offender Ordinances

What the U.S. Census Bureau Can Do for You and Your Municipality

Safety Orientation for Seasonal Employees

CIRMA offers over 100 plus workshops each year to members of CIRMA. Each program is typically 2-3 hours in length depending on the topic. Their average attendance is 40 persons per session. They plan their sessions approximately 6-8 months in advance. All of their sessions are open to CIRMA members only; however, some do offer attendance at a nominal fee.

Please read the attached proposal for CIRMA.

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AFO

We were able to run the program with 24 people. We will most likely not run this course again till this group expires in 2010. We will be looking at running a beach safety and training session next year, with Tom Griffin from PA.

Quarterlies

Spring Quarterly

We had 18 attend. We did not have expenses, so we were able to bring in \$540. We will come up \$460 shy, which we hope to make up in the summer quarterly.

Summer Quarterly

We are marketing to NY State (those close to Norwalk) and have gotten a sponsorship from Dicks Sporting Goods to cover the mailing for these additional people. We currently have 7 registered, and we are advising people that we are looking into cooked lobster this year, but if the cost savings is too great, come prepared for sushi (ha ha ha).

Playground Camp College

We have come up against the age old question of programs, what do you do to maintain your profit, for a program that was designed for this purpose, but you are finding the increase in costs to run the program tougher. Camp college was designed as a pure profit making program for CRPA. Over the years it has transitioned from 600 participants to about 200, from having 30-40 towns participate to about 15-20. We are looking at no longer offering lunch, as the cost of lunch exceeds the cost of the program. This may surprise some attendees who have become accustomed to having lunch as part of their registration.

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Lifeguard College

The aquatics committee is going to be offering a lifeguard update, for all lifeguards who need the transition of skills for the new Red Cross updates. This will be a fundraiser, as the instructor (Livia Jacobs, Rocky Hill) will not be charging and \$25 a participant will go to CRPA.

This will aid the Aquatics committee in meeting their budget goal of \$500 profit. Although the committee does not feel that they should have to make a profit on any of their programs, it was explained to them that there are other costs that are not charged to the committee but need to be subsidized in order for the association to run (i.e. lights, phone lines, fax machines, paper and ink, personnel to process registration etc...).

Membership

With the help of the membership committee CRPA is revamping some of the lists of potential CRPA member lists to a more realistic number and contacts that would be more inclined to join the association. Once we can do that we will focus on another membership drive.

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What's Happening!

Executive Director's Report June 19th Summary of Activities & Events By: Alison Harle, CTRS



Items for Action

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General Information

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Quarterlies

Summer Quarterly

We had 55 attend. Although traffic in the Norwalk area slowed many people down, we managed to pull off the program. Lobsters were cooked, and I think we are building that program up again. The Youth Sports Committee felt that this was a good start to their venture, and plan on meeting to continue the momentum. We are still waiting on the bill for food. We look to be making about \$900 (just shy of our \$1000 per quarterly goal) * This will not makeup for the deficit in the spring quarterly.

Playground Camp College

As of this report we have: 107 registrants (representing 12 agencies) We experienced some difficulties with speakers dropping out at last minute, having to pay some, and trouble coordinating lunches and program with New Haven. I will have a full report and financials after the program runs.

Lifeguard College

We had 56 attendees. We were able to make \$528 to go toward their lifeguard competition in July.

“Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association: A Network of support for member through professional development, and resources to enhance the quality of recreation and park services in Connecticut”

Membership

The membership committee is now looking into professional and commercial membership. We have found that some (very few, two or three) commercial members are just joining as individual professionals and not as a commercial firm. This could be viewed as costing the association money, as the professional membership is less than that of the commercial membership. Professional membership still gives these individuals membership lists and benefits like a commercial membership. The membership will make a recommendation to the executive board if they find any changes necessary.

NPSI

- There were 71 candidates registered for the CPSI exam and 27 failed (38%), which is below our typical rate of 25%.
- Temperature: 27% poor and 36% below average
- Lighting: 37% poor and 43% below average
- Acoustics: 55% poor and 34% below average
- Seating and room layout for comfort: 57% poor and 26% below average

NRPA contacted CRPA about offering another NSPI course, as their exam passing rate was below their normal. NRPA is soaking up all their costs for the course, and CRPA will still be able to offer this course to new registrants for profit sharing. This way we hope to smooth over the feelings between the participants and CRPA and NRPA. Those who failed the course get to take the exam and course again for FREE. This one will be held in Groton City Date: TBA

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What's Happening!

Executive Director's Report August 21st 2007 Summary of Activities & Events By: Alison Harle, CTRS



Items for Action

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Certification

NRPA Executive Board Vote: (From John Thorner, Executive Director, NRPA)

NRPA's Executive Committee met Monday (6/25/07) to consider the proposal put forth by the National Certification Board (NCB) regarding the centralization of the Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) program.

As part of its deliberation, the Executive Committee considered feedback from the state affiliates regarding the NCB's proposals, which was considerable. In all, we received 41 responses from 30 states. Of those responses, 15 responses were favorable to the proposal, 11 were favorable with some reservation, and 15 were opposed.

Ultimately, **the Executive Committee took action to authorize staff to develop a central certification program for NRPA.**

Based on this action, staff will begin development of a detailed implementation plan. During this process, we plan to consult often with state certification board members, state affiliates executive directors and the NCB to insure the highest level of service to our certified professionals.

How this will effect CRPA and CRPA's Certification Board:

NRPA will now go a develop the transition model for states to turn over their certification folders. This is estimated to take max 3 yrs. At that point when CRPA turns over the certification files, the certification board will be asked to disband, as all pending cases, and petitions will go to Nationals.

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The Professional Development Board will remain to review petitions for CEU courses that CRPA offers (not for courses outside what CRPA endorses for CEU's).

Currently CRPA operates under NRPA's IACET License to offer CEU's. There is some discussion that this will change, and if CRPA members take a CRPA course (such as conference) they will have to each individually petition their courses for CEU's through Nationals, UNLESS CRPA gets an IACET license.

***IACET license (From Elanor Warmack, CAE – Florida Parks and Recreation)
e-mail sent 7/5/07***

- there seemed to be some confusion as to whether states would have to have the license or not in the transition.

Tara informed me that NCB has not made the determination as to whether this will be a requirement or not. Here is what the plan currently states:

“As evidence of continuing professional development, renewal of certification shall be required and shall be contingent upon the completion of at least 20 hours of participation in an organized continuing education experience under responsible sponsorship, capable direction, and qualified instruction or through qualifying professional experience. This requirement shall be fulfilled by one or more of the following methods:

Two (2) Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and/or...”

Per Tara - As such, individuals who are certified as CPRPs are required to submit CEUs for renewal but the plan does not require them to be from IACET Authorized Providers.

Tara went on to say the following - which I think we all need to be aware of as this is a new requirement relative to NCTRC certification:

However, there are advantages to becoming an IACET Authorized Provider. Some certifying bodies do require that continuing education units used for certification renewal be granted from an organization that is an

IACET Authorized Provider. For example, the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC), the certifying body that grants the Certified Therapeutic Specialist (CTRS), accepts continuing education earned while attending “conferences, symposia, seminars, etc.... if the continuing education is approved by a therapeutic recreation organization at the local, state, or national level, that uses the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET) Standards.”

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If you have a large number of TR folks in your state coming to your events for CEUs, you may wish to consider this new requirement. I do believe that as we discussed in Indianapolis, this is a great way for regions to coordinate this in order to save funds on the IACET license. It would be nice for the states to be able to go to NCB and have worked this issue amongst ourselves, rather than NCB having to determine if one policy can fit all on this issue. I would say hold off on any IACET licensing until NCB makes a determination, because they could look at an alternative that may be more cost efficient.

Cost of IACET –

\$450 Initial Application Fee

\$700 Membership per year

\$450 Total membership renewal over 5 years (\$90/yr)

\$800 Cost of site visitation every 5 years (\$160/yr)

Grand Total a year for IACET License: \$1,400

If we go through another state there is a \$25 initial application fee per class and \$5 per individual accepting it:

Conference has 6 tracks/rooms X 8 or 8 sessions for both days = 42 – 48 session

42 * \$ 25 = \$1,050

4 Quarterlies = \$100

Individuals accepting CEU's @ conference 150 * 7 (max classes) = 1,050

1,050 CEU's X \$5 = \$ 5,250

Grand Total to go through another state: \$6,400 / year

* We would also not be able to approve other courses, we approved 4-6 others this year.

Proposal:

If NRPA Does not allow CRPA to offer CEU's through their IACET License we will need to get an IACET License.

* This will require more time and effort on the office part for even greater record keeping.

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Program Site Requirements

With all the different programs that CRPA does in coordination with departments for space. The CRPA office is looking to create Program and Site Requirements for each program. This way the department that helps to coordinate the program understands what is required in facility, A.V. equipment, staffing, etc... . This should help with incidents like the Hamden facility not being to par, or the lack of staff and facilities for the New Haven Playground Camp College. So far we have a booklet created for: Playground Camp College.

Membership

The membership committee is now looking into professional and commercial membership. We have found that some (very few, two or three) commercial members are just joining as individual professionals and not as a commercial firm. This is could be viewed as costing the association money, as the professional membership is less than that of the commercial membership. Professional membership still gives these individuals membership lists and benefits like a commercial membership. The membership will make a recommendation to the executive board if they find any changes necessary.

Golf Tournament

We had it originally scheduled for the Sept 21st. This does fall on a Jewish Holiday and also very close to Nationals, and NEPA conference. We have changed it to Oct 18th (Thursday). This should also give the committee a little more chance to get the information out, and solicit sponsorships. They have not met up to this point.

Quarterlies

Fall 2007

We are looking at going to Haddam CT for a meeting. The location is difficult as some towns do not have facilities that we can use, so we are looking at outside sources for locations. We are working with the DEP and trying to barter conference registration for space at the Gillette Castle. We will also be bringing in a speaker for a fee that I would like to see used for a potential leadership school. There are some increased costs due to this, but it allows us to bring in speaker, which will hopefully bring in registrants and different will allow

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us to more readily move around the state without having the quarterlies in the same Hartford region.

Vic Walton – Implementing Change in a Changing Environment: (\$700: normally charges \$1,600)

“Oh the times are changing” sings Bob Dylan. That song of the late 50’s and early 60’s is even truer today. Communities are changing and you spend a good deal of your time either trying to get something changed or preventing something from changing. This season we designed to explore the nature and dynamics of change and your role in helping the people in your organization and your community through the process.

SCARP Winter Quarterly 2007

The southern Connecticut Association of Recreation and Parks will be holding their winter event in New Canaan again. I am looking to bring in a TR topic of advocacy and opening the conversation of adaptations and inclusion for individuals with special needs.

2008 Schedule

We are taking the following dates into account for scheduling of programs:

School Vacation 2008

Feb (Mid Winter Vacations)

Overwhelming majority -Feb 18-22

A few in Feb 15-18

Spring Vacation

Overwhelming Majority April 14-18

A few in

1) April 21-25

2) April 7-11

Schools Out

June 13-20th

So far we have tentatively planned:

Winter (Feb 2008) [Killingly?/Southbury] – Programmer Seasonal Activities

Emphasis

or Lisa Bates (LB Living Better) : Interruption Management: Can you remember the last time you had an uninterrupted conversation or thought? With this non-traditional time management course you will never look at interruptions the same way again. Join us for a motivational, reflective, and educational look at our daily lives, something we rarely have time to do. (\$500 speaker fee) *This is the only session submitted for conference that was not selected and had a reasonable fee.*

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Spring (March 2008) [2 locations] – Facility Tour (sponsored by a bus company and two design architect firms (*not confirmed*)) We would start at one location for a tour of a variety of facilities in a number of close towns, there would be a mystery lunch stop and end the loop at the start locations (parks, splash parks, playgrounds, facilities). Hopefully then the designers/landscape architects can speak to the project what was needed, the design. We would be offering two on different days on the east side of the state and one on the west.

Summer (June 2008) [East Lyme] – Potentially another Youth Sports Topic

Fall (October 2008) [Mountain Workshop, Redding CT] – Izzy G (not confirmed, cost dependant)–

[A Ropes Course For The Mind](#)

Enhancing Teambuilding, Leadership or Communication Skills Through Improvisation Theater Techniques. The skills that make Improv Theater players successful are the same ones that make us all successful. Highly effective individuals and improvisers are both able to respond positively to new realities, are driven to achieve desired outcomes and can cooperatively resolve conflict and reach agreement. They generate new ideas, incorporate changes quickly and easily and communicate constructively, consistently and proactively. Of course, creating this powerful and effective person is not a simple task. It requires flexibility, creativity and spontaneity. This highly interactive (using volunteers only!!) and practical program will let you experience how Improv works, why it is so powerful at facilitating self-development and organizational effectiveness and how to you can incorporate these techniques into both your personal and professional life. Plus you will have fun.

OR

[Fostering Creativity](#)

A Practical Workshop Developing Creativity Techniques For Real Life Applications

Everyone is creative yet many feel inadequate when it comes to describing their creative ability. Creativity is more than the ability to be artistic. It is a way of looking at, and relating to, the world. The practical orientation of this "how-to" workshop uses real life situations and structured exercises as springboards for the brainstorming and development of creative solutions and approaches to the stumbling blocks, stumbers and screw-ups we all surely encounter. Participants will experience a multi-modal approach and will experiment with written, oral, visual and physical exercises in creativity. Treating problems, as games, reframing matters to allow them to be seen from different perspectives, and using metaphors are some of the skills to be gained.

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Also a ropes course session will be offered from Mountain workshop! On the other half of the training.

With the help of members I am aiming to have this be planned by Nov 2007.

Technology

E-mail Communication & Surveys

Constant Contact

I am going to have a few members look at the program Constant contact, used by a few associations (Washington , Massachusetts*new, Maryland) as their main form of communication with their members. This e-mail based communication system allows CRPA to have a newsletter online updating members on the current information. There is no limit on the number of e-mails, just pay for how many people are in the contact list. This service gives templates for e-mails, surveys . Surveys will allow information to be constantly updated and tabulated for the office, and a nice report for members to view. The program would cost around \$400 year. Look it up to review www.constantcontact.com

Your Email List Size	Your low monthly fee		
	Email Marketing	Survey*	Bundle*
0-500	\$15	\$15	\$22.50
501-2,500	\$30	\$30	\$45.00

Prepay Options**	Standard Prepay	Nonprofit/Education
6 Month Prepay	10% Discount	20% Discount
12 Month Prepay	15% Discount	30% Discount

I think it is important for us to look into our image, and ease of getting information out. It has been difficult for the office to be offering surveys, as the tabulations times is very time intensive. I am open to other options.

Podcasts

Illinois Parks and Recreation Association has started to Podcast. Podcasting is like having your own radio station on the web.

<http://www.il-ipra.org/websites/zhneth/blog/2006/01/ipra-to-introduce-podcasting.html>

Topics that they have done are:

- Event Planning for the Chicago Open
- Revenue Diversification

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- Legislation
- Interviews with Board Members
- Annual Business Meeting
- Conference Intro
- Tech Tidbits
- IPRA programs and member benefits

They began in January 2006 they currently have 11 shows for their members and anyone else to listen to. If you would like to check it out, go to:
<http://www.il-ipra.org/podcast/podcast.cfm>

I am looking into what CRPA could do. It is a trend for many Gen X'ers and blogging and online materials are becoming more of the wave of communication. Another good thing is it FREE.

Ideas of CRPA Podcasting Sessions:

- Keynote at Conference
- Interviews with Board Members
- Haunted Mansion Projects (Roger Moss)
- Risk Management Issues (CIRMA)
- Budgeting (Jim Capodice)
- Youth Sports (HK)
- Benefits of Recreation
- Highlight Programs (e.g: Groton's Award Winning Program)

Office needs

My computer is running out of memory, and we may need to invest in more memory. I am also looking into a scanner, so I can scan information for historical storage, and sharing. These expenses will have to be added into upgrades for 2007/2008. I would also like to have someone come in to review the network setup of the computers and possibly adding a third for interns etc...

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What's Happening!

Executive Director's Report September 18th 2007 Summary of Activities & Events By: Alison Harle, CTRS



Items for Action

These Items are ones that require a board vote, as it affects policy



General Information

This is information that is beneficial knowledge, but not critical to the events at the board meeting. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me before the board meeting.

Membership

The membership committee still has not met will hopefully be looking into professional and commercial membership. We have found that some (very few, two or three) commercial members are just joining as individual professionals and not as a commercial firm. This is could be viewed as costing the association money, as the professional membership is less than that of the commercial membership. Professional membership still gives these individuals membership lists and benefits like a commercial membership. The membership will make a recommendation to the executive board if they find any changes necessary.

Golf Tournament

We have changed it to Oct 18th (Thursday). They have not met up to this point.

Past Presidents Reception

Invitations have gone out to our Past Presidents for the Conference Reception. Please put on your calendars that the Executive Board is encouraged to attend this private event. It will be at 3:45 in the Brothertown room at the Mohegan Sun Convention Center. Thank you to Ruth Plummer for her coordination of this event.

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Conference Conference Conference

We are working away, we have slowly started to receive registrations and we are 70% full in the vendor hall! The committee has come up with ideas for fundraising for the 2010 conference as well so we are building momentum.

Nominations

The nomination forms have been out and we have received one so far. The nominations committee of Paul Norris, Mary Hill, John Silsby and two to be named encourage you all to solicit new recruits!

NPSI Redo Course

Mary Hill has been working with the office to coordinate the Hamden Redo course. We were able to offer this course to some other participants who are not retaking the course, so we will have a small income source from that. We have waived the fees for lunch for those retaking the course as a way of thanking them for allowing us to serve them right.

I have made a booking for a 2008 NPSI in April, unfortunately MA Parks and Recreation Association booked theirs in March a few weeks ahead of mine and not that far away. I anticipate seeing less numbers next year. It is very difficult to offer NPSI courses in New England around the same time of year and when other states are offering the course. We can not go without the course as it still is a good revenue generator if run with minimum numbers. NRPA has heightened the requirements for the course taking away any free courses the state could give to hosts sites and increased the demand on the sites in terms of audio visual requirements and transportation requirements.

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What's Happening!

Executive Director's Report October 16th 2007 Summary of Activities & Events By: Alison Harle, CTRS



Items for Action

These Items are ones that require a board vote, as it affects policy



General Information

This is information that is beneficial knowledge, but not critical to the events at the board meeting. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me before the board meeting.

NRPA Joint Social

63 New Englanders showed of the 219 participants at Ike and Jonsey's in Indianapolis. This was a great success!

Golf Tournament

Due to little support from the committee, we have seen less support for this program in way of sponsors. We will still maintain the tournament with participants. We may want new blood in this committee to keep it fresh and functioning.

Conference Conference Conference

We are working away, we have slowly started to receive registrations and we only have 12 booths left in the vendor hall! The committee has come up with ideas for fundraising for the 2010 conference as well so we are building momentum.

Nominations

The ballots have been sent out per the by-laws!

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NRPA

At the state council of affiliate directors meeting we discussed changes that the NRPA is trying to institute onto the states.

- 1) Increases in demands on the NPSI and AFO courses in terms of equipment needed, transportations required, and no comps anymore. This means that CRPA will have to work harder to try and accommodate the needs for this course.
- 2) Removal of rite of first refusal for NRPA programs like NPSI and AFO from the state affiliate contract: This was an item in the contract previously, and NRPA has yet to make a comment back on my many requests to discuss its removal. This means that anyone else who wants to run an AFO or NPSI in our state could do so even if we wanted to. Right now we have exclusivity....
- 3) Certification: There are major legal ramifications with the transfer of the documents of certification to the NRPA office. We are required by the state to hold these files in our office for 10 years in case of an audit (IRS) and we would not have them on premises if we did this. We are also required to keep files of those who are denied certification or lapse certification and drop in perpetuity in order to have record in case anyone files a defamation of character suit because of their denial or lapse of certification. FL and IL are considering turning in a chart with the name and level of each individual certified and their CEU chart.
 - CRPA and the certification board are looking into offering to maintain CEU's for each professional for an additional \$5 a year while it is under Nationals (we would maintain the files and send it to NRPA when they have to renew)
 - The Certification Board will meet this week to discuss what they will suggest as a plan of action to the executive board.

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What's Happening!

**Executive Director's Report
November 13th, 2007
Summary of Activities & Events
By: Alison Harle, CTRS**



Items for Action

These Items are ones that require a board vote, as it affects policy

The CRPA computer System is need of HELP. We are having major issues with the e-mail (which may be a program –OUTLOOK- problem). I have no more room on my C Drive. We can only back up to Zip drives for our Quickbooks, our Bookkeeper and CPA no longer support our version of Quickbooks etc... I would like the board to appropriate \$5,000 from reserves to upgrading the programs and systems of the CRPA office. We should also look into purchasing support equipment like an LCD for CRPA use.



General Information

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Conference Conference Conference

We sold out the vendor hall, we raised extra money in the sponsorship. There were a few extra expenses due to limited room capacity for conference. Despite this, we will still meet budget at the end of conference.

Nominations

75 Ballots were returned. Elle Noel (Randazo) and Ruth Plummer were elected to the board.

“Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association: A Network of support for member through professional development, and resources to enhance the quality of recreation and park services in Connecticut”