



FLASH!

Alaska Recreation & Park Association
 Newsletter Issue No. 89
 November 2002

Angoon, Auke Bay, Barrow, Bethel, Big Lake, Bristol Bay Borough, City & Borough of Juneau, City & Borough of Sitka, Cordova, Craig, Delta Junction, Denali Park, Dillingham, Douglas, Eilson AFB, Elmendorf AFB, Ester, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Fort Richardson, Glennallen, Gustavaf, Homer, Kenai Peninsula Borough, King Salmon, Kodiak, Matanuska - Susitna Borough, Municipality of Anchorage, Naknek, Nikiski, Nome, North Pole, Palmer, Petersburg, Seward, Skagway, Soldotna, Tok, Unalaska, Valdez, Wasilla, Wrangell,

President's Message

As your incoming ARPA President I would like to congratulate Daryl Farrens, his staff and volunteers from Homer who were responsible for hosting our Annual ARPA Conference. They did an exceptional job. The Exhibitors were great (I loved driving the tractor), the guest speakers and educational sessions were informative and first class and the night life loads of fun. I would also like to congratulate the recipients of our annual awards. Your time and contributions to our profession, your communities and ARPA is much appreciated and your awards well deserved.

As your new President I am a little humbled when I look back at the past presidents and their leadership of our organization. Many have moved on but as I look at our current Board of Directors, most of them have already served as President of ARPA. Therefore, I am very fortunate, as there is lots of knowledge for me to draw upon during my tenure as president. I plan on using each one of you as a mentor and ask for lots of help.

I had a chance to visit with many of the past board members and others attending the conference in Homer. We discussed ARPA and where it has been, where is it going and what is the primary purpose of ARPA. The primary purpose of ARPA is to provide the very best professional education and training opportunities to all our members through the different sections ARPA represents. By in-large ARPA has accomplished that. We now have a membership of 200 professionals and we are still growing. However even with the largest membership in ARPA's history, there is a sense that as an organization, we have not met the challenge of getting the new members actively involved in ARPA. They join ARPA to attend the workshops and our annual conference but not to help sustain and grow our organization professionally. I believe this can be seen in our committees, section chairs, and on our Board of Directors. If one looks at who these individuals are, you will find most are the same faces you have seen over the past five to ten years just rotating positions. There are probably some good reasons for this and it is not necessarily bad to have consistency, history and experienced people as chair leaders and Board members. But we must do a better job to infuse the young and new professionals coming into our association with the "old guard" (that includes me).

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Next Flash Info Due January 15, 2003

The FLASH torch is being passed on to Myiia Wistler at Juneau Parks & Recreation.

Please forward information to:

Myiia Whistler
Juneau Parks and Rec. Dept.,
155 S. Seward St.,
Juneau, AK 99801.
Fax: 586-5677
Email:
Myiia_Whistler@ci.juneau.ak.us

Please keep the information about what you are doing in your communities flowing! The FLASH is a wonderful tool to expose others to the great things being accomplished by recreation professionals.

Presidents Message continued:

We should manage and plan for this change. As board members and section chairs we also need to recommit ourselves to grow professionally by mentoring the younger professionals and educate other members to the benefits of joining and working for the betterment of ARPA and our profession.

One of the goals I have set for myself and for the association is to challenge the section chairs, committee chairs and Board to let this change happen. We need to encourage, manage and mentor that change as it was done for us ten years ago. Many of us have been in our jobs as directors or in management positions within local, state and federal agencies for numerous years. We have been involved with ARPA and have done an outstanding job in offering and providing education and training to our members. But over the past few years we have seen a decline in the aquatics, therapeutic and youth services sections while the wildlands and the new maintenance sections have continued to grow. The wildlands section leaders who recently retired did a great job in planning and facilitating its change in leadership. They worked to make sure their structure of providing training was in place and worked with and gave opportunities to their new members who were going to replace them. By offering meaningful training (not just at ARPA's annual conference) they were able to show their section members the value of joining ARPA and what it can offer them. The newly created maintenance section has followed their example, offering training workshops and found its niche to attract new members.

During the Homer Conference a concerted effort was made to inspire the Therapeutic and Aging, Aquatic, and Youth Services Sections to evaluate their sections and see how they could revitalize their sections. New leaders came forth and volunteered to get involved, but asked for help in trying to energize their sections. Name changes were proposed to better reflect whom they represent. Commitments were made to seek training workshops other than at the Annual Conference. There was new enthusiasm shown by all three sections, as new chairpersons were elected and the new chairs were made aware of their budgets and that funds could be spent on planning and training.

Now this enthusiasm needs to be followed up with action. Not only action by the new chairs of those sections, but by individual Board members and other section leaders to help them get to the next step. Past presidents and officers need to step up and work with the section leaders and see that they offer that meaningful training so professionals in their fields can have a reason to attend the training and see the benefits of their sections within ARPA. ARPA's leadership should help facilitate and encourage this enthusiasm. We need to call the new chairs and let them know we are there for suggestions and help. Encourage them and let them know how you organized your workshops, budget concerns, and how you got people to attend. The new section chairs should not hesitate to contact board members or others for help and ideas. If the new chairs feel they can't get a meaningful training workshop planned before our annual conference in October, then they should be working real hard at planning their sessions for the conference in Anchorage.

Board and member outreach is critical for these sections and in helping get others involved within our association. So I challenge us all to make those simple phone calls letting others know you are available to help, asking what's going on and where they are with planning their section workshops. It's amazing what a simple phone call or reminder can do to build a fire under us and inspire actions and accomplishments. Lets all strive to make this year's training and education efforts at our Annual Conference and throughout the year the very best ever.

Alaska Recreation and Park Association Committees & Chairperson

Awards:	Bob Frates
Benefits:	Wendie Marriott
Board & Commissions:	Bob Robertson
Certification & Prof Development:	Wendie Marriott
Conference Host:	John McCleary & Bob Robertson
Constitution & Bylaws:	Jeff Hawley
Education & Training:	Bob Robertson & Dave Patterson
Historical:	Bob Robertson
Intern:	Nancy Peterson
Membership:	Janie West
Nominations:	Jeff Hawley
Publications:	Jerry Walton
Publicity/Public Relations:	Helen Clough
Legislation:	
State & Local:	Jim Stratton
National:	Nancy Peterson
Logo:	Kim Kiefer
Park Maintenance:	Karl Kassel
Scholarship:	Karin Sturdy
Therapeutic Rec & Aging:	Jennifer Urtell
Web Page:	Zieak McFarland- Young

City of Cordova

Position Opening

Position Title: Pool Manager/Recreation Specialist

Salary: Full time position with benefits - starting at \$13.97-16.17 DOE

Position Summary: This is a full-time position under the direction of the Parks and Recreation Director. This position develops and implements a community wide aquatics program, oversees the total operation and maintenance of pool facility and equipment and works with recreation staff on special events and programs.

Education and Skills Required: High School Diploma/GED

Experience:

1. Three years experience working in an aquatic facility including supervising aquatic staff and lifeguard training.
2. AFO and CPO certificates preferred or able to obtain.
3. Advanced Lifesaving, First Aid and CPR Certification
4. WSI and Lifeguard Instructor Certificate preferred or able to obtain

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- working knowledge of pool operations
- working knowledge of personnel mgmt.
- skilled in public relations and community education
- ability to communicate aquatic services to the public clearly both verbally/written
- ability to solve problems creatively, build consensus with public
- ability to work with computer word processing and spreadsheets
- ability to work under stress and meet deadlines
- ability to establish rapport with customers & friendly customer service at all times.
- ability to accept change, be flexible and desire to improve an grow professionally
- hold a valid Alaska Motor Vehicle Operators License.

City of Valdez

Position Opening

RECREATION AND PARKS MANAGER.

Oversees the development of a comprehensive, year-round recreation program for all ages. Manages Teen Center, Swimming Pool and a wide variety of parks and recreation facilities. General duties include administration of programs, supervision of 4 full-time and up to 75 part-time staff, program development and implementation, and facility maintenance. Requirements: BA in Recreation/Parks Administration preferred, minimum of 4 years of supervisory experience, experience in municipal parks and recreation service delivery, experience in Swimming Pool management preferred. Beginning Salary: \$46,011- 51,247 DOE.

Application Deadline: November 30, 2002.
City of Valdez, Box 307, Valdez, AK 99686.
(907) 835-2531



Lifeguard

Positions Open

Red Cross Lifeguard training available for non-certified swimmers. Advanced training and waterpark certification available to certified ARPA lifeguards. For additional information call (907) 522-4420, 9 am -5 pm



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Notes of ARPA BOARD MEETING, October 3, 2002 6:30 pm

Lands End Resort Room 402

Attending: Paige Appelo-Dilley, Helen Clough, Danielle Dittmer, Tamara Hagerty, Jeff Hawley, Karl Kassel, Kim Kiefer, John Marti Marshall, McCleary, Zieak McFarland, Bill Overbaugh, Nancy Peterson, Bob Robertson, Dixon Sherman, Karin Sturdy, Earl Wiese, Janie West

I Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Earl Wiese.

II Approval of Minutes

A. January 12, 2002

B. Review Informal Board Mtg minutes, May 4, 2002 No changes to these notes. There was not a quorum, thus the meeting was informal.

III Adoption/Approval of Agenda

Kim moved to approve agenda, Jeff seconded, motion passed.

IV Unfinished Business

A. Annual Conferences

1. Conference 2003, October 15-18, Anchorage

John McCleary and Bob Robertson reported. The TRAAK board has agreed that the Alaska Trails Symposium will join with us. We will work with Kim Cruse at Alaska State Parks. The Anchorage Association of Volunteer Administrators will hold a 1-day symposium on volunteer management in conjunction with the conference. They are a multi-faceted group with strong sponsors. The Council of Community Schools will have an affiliated meeting. The River Management Society will also participate. ARPA will be the primary host. John and Bob will put together an organizing committee after all the partners are identified. There are no issues with local volunteer assistance.

The theme will address north land recreation. We will invite neighbors from other northern countries. Any board members with contacts in other northern countries should provide them with information about the conference. We will explore contacts with Anchorage's sister city and others. Bob is targeting at least 50 exhibitors and will hand out information to exhibitors at National. We will also use Warren Templin's south-central Alaska vendor connections.

2. Conference 2004, TBD, Juneau -Update, Kim Kiefer

Juneau had submitted a proposal to hold the conference in Juneau in October of 2004. Kim will be getting partner organizations to participate. Nancy moved we approve Juneau as the host site for the 2004 conference. Jeff seconded. Motion passed.

3. Conference 2005, TBD, (Fairbanks?) - Karl Kassel

We discussed holding the 2005 conference in Fairbanks. A proposal will be presented to the board at its January meeting. Nancy mentioned that Valdez would be interested in hosting in 2006.

B. AML Contract Services-Cost/Benefits -Nancy Peterson

Nancy presented the estimate from AML to provide three services: production, printing, and distribution of the ARPA newsletter; production, printing and distribution of the ARPA membership roster; and housing ARPA's long-term archive. There would be no charge for housing the files. The costs for the documents were only slightly higher than current expenses. AML would also provide articles of interest to ARPA members. Myiia Whistler of Juneau will be the new FLASH editor. Jerry will continue to gather advertising. We want to continue to have advertising to off-set costs. AML would also do some outreach for us.

Karl moved that we enter into a trial one-year contract with AML to produce, duplicate and distribute our newsletter and membership directory and for AML to store our permanent archive. Jeff seconded. Motion passed.

Discussion included understanding that even without advertising there was little additional cost to using AML over our current production costs. We will ask AML to provide us with electronic copies of the documents for our use. AML cannot use our mailing list for anything other than mailing our documents.

C. 2002 NRPA National Congress-Financial Assistance

Under current policy, we reimburse the president and president-elect up to \$800 for each trip to attend national and mid-year. Under the same policy we reimburse the lay representative up to \$800 to attend one or the other. Kim moved that we look into funding the lay person for both at the full cost of air fare and registration and one-half to the full cost of a hotel room, depending on whether the lay representative can find someone to share a room with. Karin seconded.

The new lay representative is Steve Beardsley. The motion was amended to state that for 2002, we would reimburse the lay representative up to \$1,000 for air fare, registration, and lodging to attend national; and that the bylaws committee will determine fair reimbursement for the lay person to attend both mid-year and national in the future. Motion passed. In our discussion, we agreed that we wanted the person to get the lowest reasonable air fare – not necessarily have to fly the “red eye” but not pay regular coach full fare either.

V New Business

A. Certification of Election 2002-2003 ARPA Board

Jeff reported that we had good ballot return – 70 voted. Having stamped, self-addressed envelopes helped and we want to continue that practice. Only three voted electronically. We agreed that we needed to tell the winners they won before announcing to the membership. Winners were announced to the board: Karl Kassel, President-elect; Janie West, Secretary; and John McCleary, Board Member at Large.

B. Policy Review-Release of Membership and Attendee Lists -Nancy Peterson

Nancy Peterson provided the following mailing list distribution policy in the form of a motion:

The Alaska Recreation and Park Association membership list will be made available only for the following purposes: (1) ARPA newsletters, section newsletters, promotion of ARPA conferences and educational/training workshops and (2) training/education opportunities in which ARPA is a direct co-sponsor. The President shall approve all co-sponsorship agreements. The ARPA mailing list shall not be provided for direct mail uses. This includes product sales, membership solicitation or other non educational advertising or promotion. ARPA provides alternatives for this type of information, distribution through advertising in the FLASH and exhibitor booths at conferences/workshops.

Karl moved to accept with policy as presented by Nancy with the addition of, “Conference attendee lists can be made available to conference participants as long as the registration form has a check off box to decline to release information.” Paige seconded. The motion passed. We need to take this to the membership for a vote then add it to the policies and procedures according to Earl.

C. 2003 NRPA Mid-Year, Feb 25-March1-Financial Assistance - *see discussion above*

VI President’s Report

A. Update Committee/Section Chairs/Membership List

B. Manual of Procedures-Continue Updates

C. Thanks

Bob gave a quick update on changes at the national level. In a letter to the trustees from the National Office, it was announced that the new executive director resigned effective September 26. A head hunter is searching for a new executive director. There will be discussions of this at national. The bylaws of all branches of NRPA are being revised. Bob Hall is the temporary executive director. He is a past president of NRPA.

Earl mentioned two concerns that had arisen during his tenure: the difficulty in setting dates for board meetings that all could attend and the lack of currency on the contact information about members. Janie reminded everyone to update the info if their address, e-mail, phone or fax numbers change.

Earl thanked everyone, especially Bob Robertson and Karin Sturdy.

VII Treasurer's Report-Nancy Peterson

Nancy presented three separate reports. The first reconciled 2001. The May and September reports were also present. Bob moved and Kim seconded to approve the reports. Motion passed.

A brief update on the Homer meeting from Daryl was presented. We had 46 full registrations for \$9200 and received \$1800 from exhibitors and \$300 from section lunches. Non-members will get a membership.

VIII Section Reports

A. Wildlands-Bill Overbaugh Bill reported Wildlands will hold a workshop in the spring similar to what they did last year. It will be in conjunction with the Sportsman's shows. They have yet to select a topic.

B. Youth Services-Ryan McFarland Zieak reported that they will meet tomorrow. The section is considering changing their name to recruit more members.

C. Aquatics-Paige Dille Paige reported that aquatics is "rapidly crumbling." While they held no workshops and had no speakers this year, they hope to hold workshops next year. She will be talking with John McCleary and others.

D. Park Maintenance-Karl Kassel Karl reported they held the ball field maintenance training in the spring. Would like to do another training next spring. The workshop went well.

E. Therapeutic Rec & Aging-Jennifer Urtell Danielle Dittmer from Challenge Alaska is interested in getting the section operating again. The word therapeutic may cause some a problem. A group will meet Friday.

F. Boards and Commissions-Bob Robertson There are 27 members. Bob is not sure if they will become a section or not. Steve as the new lay person can get something going. Friday there will be boards and commission session. A lot of cities are not getting memberships for their board members. Several cities are members of NRPA.

IX Committee Reports

A. Education and Training-Bob Robertson

Kim Kiefer and Karin Sturdy will be the new co-chairs. Bob provided a report of the last committee meeting at the May informal board meeting. A good program was developed for the Homer conference. Most board members are on this committee. They will have a big job next year with the size of the Anchorage conference.

B. Conference Committee-Daryl Farrens

Tamara Hagerty presented for Daryl. They had difficulty getting people to turn in information about sessions. There are six exhibitors. The web site worked out well. Need to mail out information early.

C. Membership-Janie West

Current membership is 200.

Aquatics - 18 Wildlands - 45 Therapeutic- 6 Maintenance - 42 Youth Services - 21

Boards & commissions - 27 (8 agency members)

All were reminded to give Janie address changes. Janie has about 350 names of current and former members in her data base. We discussed how to deal with charging membership at spring workshops. Wildlands will have 100 new members starting this fall from their spring workshop as they held names so all could have full year. Park maintenance did the opposite. We agreed to refer this issue to the bylaws committee. Janie will provide board members a printout of the membership in January.

D. Publications-Jerry Walton - no report

E. Awards-Bob Frates

Bob reported that we have no young professional award this year. We will get the award forms on the web page. Nancy moved and Paige seconded that the Bob Robertson Service Award include full conference registration up to \$150. The motion passed.

F. Nominations-Jeff Hawley Jeff asked us to be thinking of new people for offices. Next year we'll have president-elect, treasurer and two board members at large open.

G. Legislation-

1. State & Local-Jim Stratton - no report

2. National-Nancy Peterson Nancy reported that she is sending out most information by e-mail. She would like to have more e-mail addresses to get information to everyone in a timely fashion. NRPA is doing a good job of getting information out.

H. Constitution and Bylaws-Jeff Hawley Bob has made a couple of updates to the policy and procedures book to be current, pulling out the logo committee and the benefits information. Jeff and Karl were to review and see if anything else needs to be changed. Karin reminded us that we need to include the current policy on reimbursements for attending NRPA meetings including who and the amounts.

I. Historical-Bob Robertson - no report

J. Benefits-Jeff Hawley Wendy is the new chair. We discussed that the benefits program has changed. Those going to NRPA should attend session on new program and report back to the Board in January so we can determine if this program will benefit us.

K. Intern-Nancy Peterson Nancy reported she had two outstanding interns this summer. One is still finishing up collecting the salary information and Nancy reminded everyone to please send in their information. She will have a presentation for the January board meeting.

L. Boards and Commissions-Bob Robertson - see earlier report under section

M. Scholarships-Karin The immediate past-president will be the chair. Karin will help. Bob has the form. We need to post on the web page and get an article in the FLASH. Karin highly recommended the National Institute on Recreation Inclusion – we should get someone to apply for a scholarship to attend. The form is in the policy and procedures book.

N. Certification & Prof Dev.-Wendie Marriott A handout from Wendie was shared with the board.

O. Web Page-Ryan McFarland Zieak reported that we should send him anything we want on the web site. He told us that our e-mail addresses are protected from those who would “spam” us. Board members are very pleased with the web site. We should all take advantage of the forum.

X Correspondence

Earl mentioned that he had signed two letters: one signing on to the NRPA support of the LWCF and the second to the City of Cordova addressing our in-coming president.

Karin asked about the board training on Saturday. In the future it would be great if the sections could hold elections before the luncheons so we would know who would want to attend and could plan accordingly. There may only be one person this year.

The new board will meet briefly after the banquet on Friday. Thirty minutes max.

XI Board Calendar

A. Board Orientation-Oct 5, 10:00am Room C

B. NRPA National-Oct 16-20, Tampa, Fl

C. ARPA Winter Board Mtg.-Jan 03, TBD

D. NRPA Mid-year-Feb 25-Mar 01, 2003, Washington DC

E. ARPA Spring Board Mtg.-May 03, TBD

F. ARPA Annual Conference-Oct 13-18, 2003, Anchorage

Bob mentioned that there will also be the regional summit in May and that Pam will have the date.

XIIAdjourn Nancy moved to adjourn. Kim seconded. Motion passed

The Flash Pan!

The **deadline** for submission of articles and section reports will be **January 15, 2003 to: Myiia Whistler, Juneau Parks and Rec. Dept., 155 S. Seward St., Juneau, AK 99801. Fax: 586-5677 Email: Myiia_Whistler@ci.juneau.ak.us**

FLASHFANS will still be able to reach the **FLASHMAN** at: 907-428-6896 voice, 907-248-1323 fax or by e-mail at waltonjr@gci.net
Until we meet again - Goodbye to all from the **FLASHMAN!**

"We know that communication is a problem, but the company is not going to discuss it with the employees." (Switching supervisor, AT&T Long Lines Division)

Quote from the Boss: "Teamwork is a lot of people doing what I say." (Marketing executive, Citrix Corporation)

One day my Boss asked me to submit a status report to him concerning a project I was working on. I asked him if tomorrow would be soon enough. He said, "If I wanted it tomorrow, I would have waited until tomorrow to ask for it!" (New business manager, Hallmark Greeting Cards.)

"A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kick boxing." -Emo Philips

"Ever wonder if illiterate people get the full effect of alphabet soup?" John Mendosa.

"I was married by a Judge. I should have asked for a jury." Groucho Marx

Whenever I feel blue, I start breathing again.

Alaska Recreation and Parks Association
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