

Forum Update

VOLUME 22

ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2009



**2008/09 MRPA
Board of Directors**

President
Don Lewis

President-Elect
Ramie Ford

Secretary/Treasurer
Ann Jones

SRC Representative
Will McNeer

MTRA Representative
Zelia West

Immediate Past President
Michael Taggart

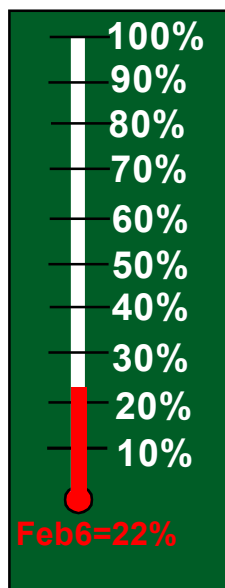
District Representatives:

District One
Alex Farned

District Two
Ray Holloway

District Three
Joseph Parker

District Four
Darcie Crew



Hershey Track and Field 2009 Program

Larry Davis, Hershey Track & Field State Director

Belated Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a very safe and happy holiday season. By now, some of you are already in the planning process for your local meets. I have not received the 2009 rulebooks, but I will get them to you as soon as possible. The State Final will be **Saturday, June 6, 2009** in Gulfport at Gulfport High Track on Victory Road.

The deadline for turning in results from your local/district meet will be **Wednesday, May 27, 2009**, which should include only the winners of each event. If you have any problems with this request, please contact me.

I just wanted to let you know that the 2009 season has officially been switched within the event manager program. If you still have 2008 forms to be completed, you must change the season in the upper right hand corner of your homepage to 2008 to access those forms. The program will default to the current year now that the season has been switched. You may start to register events. Please complete by February 20th as we will use mailing/shipping addresses listed in event manager for any 2009 lists.

Please review your duties and responsibilities form, sign and fax (228-831-0153) or email ldavis@gulfport-ms.gov it to me by Friday, February 14, 2009, with your Local Meet date.

Be sure to remember that there will be no travel expenses provided to anyone for the state meet. Also, there has been a reduction in the number of T-shirts that will be provided to each state, which means that there will only be enough for the athletes who compete.

The National Meet will be held in Hershey, Pennsylvania, on Thursday, July 30 - Sunday, August 2, 2009. All expenses will be paid for the participants who are selected. If you have any questions concerning any of the above mentioned, please feel free to contact me at ldavis@gulfport-ms.gov / 228-861-1212. I'm looking forward to working with you this year.

District 1 Field Maintenance Workshop

Will McNeer, SRC Representative

This year's District 1 Field Maintenance Workshop will be held on March 4th at the Oxford Park Commission Activity Center. The Activity Center is located on the corner of Price St. and Molly Barr Road. For street directions call 662-232-2380.

Registration will begin at 8:00 am with sessions beginning at 8:45 am. The registration fee is \$30.00 which will include the workshop, CEU's and lunch. For more information on the workshop contact Will McNeer at (662) 893-5219 or by email at wmcneer@obms.us.

Annual TR Spring Workshop

Art Bressler, Professional Member

Mississippi State Hospital will be having its annual Therapeutic Recreation Spring Workshop. It is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2009, at Mississippi State Hospital from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. It is titled "Developing A Better Understanding of Mental Health Issues Through Therapeutic Recreation". If you are interested in attending, please contact Art Bressler at 601-351-8000 ext. 4241 or by e-mail at bressar@msh.state.ms.us.

2009 Professional Awards

Leigh Ann Mallory, Awards Committee Chair

As I sit and watch the nominees for the 2009 Oscars I am reminded of our MRPA Awards for Excellence in Parks and Recreation. I understand the two are very different in some areas, yet similar in others. There will not be formal attire, red carpets or media frenzy, nor little golden men at Percy Quin State Park when we get there in September. However, we are the same in that there will be a chance for you to receive recognition for your department's hard work and creativity to provide programs and events for the members of your community. The Awards for Excellence are our "Oscar's" and our time to shine within our own "Recreation Guild."

The MRPA awards committee will soon be accepting nominations. We would like for you to keep in mind those programs or events that you would like to submit for awards this year. In down times which are few and far between after an event go ahead and make preparations to get your nomination packet together. It may make the process a little easier for you as we approach deadlines.

The committee will soon get together for a few new ideas for our 2009 awards program. We are looking at reviewing some of the awards and possibly adding a new programming award. I believe we are on the right track when we make the Awards for Excellence Banquet a highlight of our annual conference.

Everyone did an outstanding job of increasing the number of nominations for the 2008 banquet. The committee had the privilege of sorting through 22 nominations! We still have room to improve as some categories are still lacking, so get your nominations ready and when you hear "and the winner is..." the name of your department just may follow. We probably won't make you give an acceptance speech, we will leave that for those who walk the red carpet.

News from Pascagoula

Darcie Crew, District IV Representative

Pascagoula Parks & Recreation opened their new 4,500 sq. foot concrete skatepark on December 19, 2008, as an early Christmas present to the public. Over 30 skaters rode their boards through a giant Christmas present after Mayor Matthew Avara and other officials cut the ribbon just after school let out for the Christmas holidays. Since then the park, which is open daily from 7AM to sundown, has been filled with participants every day. There is no fee to skate and riders are recommended to wear safety gear. This \$160,000 facility is bringing new people to Pascagoula and was paid for by a 3% hotel/motel tax (\$100,000), a Tony Hawk Foundation grant (\$10,000), the Mississippi Power Foundation (\$23,000) and the City's general fund (\$27,000).

The Department is proud to announce that it has broken ground on a new Senior Citizen Center. Century Construction of Tupelo will build the 12,000 sq. foot facility. They will start in February with an estimated completion date of September 2009. The facility is being funded with grants from the Mississippi Development Authority, South Mississippi Planning and Development District and a Social Services Block Grant. The total project cost is approximately \$4 million. Facility construction is \$2,695,000 plus land acquisition and site development. The new center will have a multi-purpose room with a stage, an exercise room, a game room, classroom spaces, a medical screening area, a computer alcove, a pottery/ceramics room and an arts-n-crafts room. The facility will also have office space, a gift shop, a commercial kitchen and restroom facilities. We are very excited to have the dream of a new Senior Center come true in Pascagoula.

And in McComb, Its Spring

Cori Nelson, Professional Member

Wake up everyone! Spring has sprung! Well it has for those of us in recreation programming. You know what I mean... during the winter months it is quiet around our office in McComb. Everyone is taking vacation days, and it is too cold to be outside doing much. Somewhere around mid-January it is like a gun sounds, and we are off!

We just finished Adult Flag Football registration and games will begin the first Saturday in March. This program was a new one last year, and we received a great response. The grown ups like to play, too! We picked March-May for games on Saturday mornings to avoid interference with little league baseball and softball. The Saturday morning games had a nice atmosphere last year, and we are looking forward to that again. Each team had a nice fan section with plenty of family and friends cheering for them and kids playing on the sidelines at the multi-purpose field. I witnessed a few heated moments, but we issued a zero tolerance policy on profanity, attitude, trash talk, etc. This kept those moments to a minimum. It is a great program, and I would recommend it to anyone that has an open spot in their schedule.

As for the next six months, they will be a blur of all manner of registration and programs: 3 on 3 tournament, adult softball, British soccer camp, Mini Park, tennis camp, and tournaments almost every Saturday. So, everyone get your shoes laced up tight and get moving!

Have a great spring and summer season!

Shop Local

Of every \$100 spent in a chain store, \$14 goes back into the local economy. For a locally owned business, **\$45** goes back. Support your downtown by shopping locally!

Source: Mississippi Main Street Association

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS.

Ask Sherwin Williams



For a store near you,
call 1-800- 4-SHERWIN

www.sherwin-williams.com

WE'VE LEARNED A LOT FROM **30 YEARS** OF SPORTS LIGHTING INNOVATION
INCLUDING HOW TO DO IT **FOR HALF** THE OPERATING COST.

Musco's Newest Innovation...

Light-Structure
GREEN.

*Unequaled performance . . .
for your budget, for the environment.*

For details call: **Jason McNatt**
800/825-6030 (toll-free)
662/402-1080 (mobile)
jason.mcnatt@musco.com



We Make It Happen.
www.musco.com
e-mail: lighting@musco.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Seventh Annual Four-State Conference on Recreation Inclusion

Sponsored by the Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities

June 25 and 26, 2009

Lake Terrace Convention Center

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Cost: \$75 for professionals and general public

\$35 for students, parents, and family members

(Partial sponsorships available for parents and family members)

For more information contact Rick Green at 601.266.5576 or rick.green@usm.edu

Members and Friends of...

The Mississippi Recreation and Parks Association

Are Especially Invited

CALL FOR PAPERS

We know you are doing some really good things in the area of recreation inclusion. We invite you to share your ideas by submitting a paper for consideration for presentation at the Seventh Annual Four-State Conference on Recreation Inclusion. Review of proposals will begin on February 16, 2009. For more information and a copy of the *Session Proposal Form*, please contact Rick Green at rick.green@usm.edu

F. Lamar Evans, Editor
Forum Update
P.O. Box 16451
Hattiesburg, MS 39404-6451
Voice (601) 582-3361
Fax (601) 582-3354
Email info@aboutmrpa.org

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Hattiesburg, MS
Permit #70

*Affiliated with:
Mississippi Amateur
Softball Association*



LWCF Funding Update

With communities increasingly concerned about obesity prevention, outdoor recreation represents a major structural opportunity to create healthier environments. But the un-met need is great. Michael Wilson of the National Park Service notes that communities are so hungry for outdoor recreation, there are \$27 billion dollars' worth of outdoor recreation projects awaiting funding. Fortunately, a new revenue stream has opened up for the program. The Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, approved in December 2006, for the first time created a dedicated funding source for LWCF. The Act identified specific areas in the Gulf of Mexico where 12.5% of oil lease revenues will go into the LWCF state assistance program, beginning in Fiscal Year 2009. While the amounts are currently small, the funds may eventually increase, and the dedicated revenue stream speaks to the program's national importance.

Web Site Update

Some of you noticed a few "issues" with the www.aboutmrpa.org website recently. Sorry for those problems. Our provider switched our site to a new server, thus changing some of the software applications and links. We think they're all corrected now, but don't hesitate to let us know if you see something that isn't working as it should.

My Top Five Reasons to go Paperless

1 - **Half** the world's forests have already been cleared or burned, and **eighty percent** of what's left has been seriously degraded.

2 - **Forty-two percent** of the industrial wood harvest is used to make paper.

3 - The paper industry is the **4th largest** contributor to greenhouse gas emissions among United States

4 - *Paper accounts for twenty-five percent of landfill waste. (Don't ball it up. Lie paper flat to throw it away.)*

5 - Compared to using virgin wood, paper made with 100% recycled content uses **44%** less energy, produces **38%** less greenhouse gas emissions, **41%** less particulate emissions, **50%** less wastewater, **49%** less solid waste and — of course — **100%** less wood.

Source: www.thedailygreen.com

Look for the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification logo on packages of paper products your department buys and aim for at least 30% post-consumer waste (PCW). One vendor is GreenlinePaper.com, through which MRPA's administrative facility is Green Office Certified.