

Forum Update

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President's Message

Michael Taggart, Brandon Parks and Recreation

Hello, to all Recreational colleagues! Well, 2007 has arrived and another year has begun and another closed. It is amazing how the years seem to become more and more jam packed with recreational activities. This is the time of year where we all gear up for every growing spring activities. I hope that everyone had a joyful Christmas and a good new year.

Members of the Board, Committee chairs and long time members will participate in our review of the strategic plan during the month of January. Our goal is to review the current plan, make revisions and solidify MRPA for the near future. We will continue to pursue membership participation, educational opportunities, establish new goals along with revisiting existing. I truly appreciate everyone's attention to this task.

2006 appears to have closed with spectacular praise from Washington. The House and Senate approved legislation providing permanent resource funds for the LWCF on the state side. This will provide local support for the purchase of parkland along with recreational facilities for the American public. This new, permanent funding for LWCF was approved by Congress as a "conservation royalty" to include 12.5 percent of revenue generated from an expansion of oil and gas drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. There's more about this action in this newsletter.

During the month of February NRPA will host its annual mid-year meeting with the National Legislation Forum on Parks and Recreation in Washington, D. C. I, along with fellow Board members and other members will be in attendance of this meeting. This forum provides insight on advancing the national agenda for public parks and recreation. We will become more informed on the changing conditions, new legislation, and the political landscape as well as extend our current relationships with legislative leaders and members of congress.

In closing, the board has voted on the 2007 annual state conference to be hosted by the city of Tupelo. President-Elect Don Lewis is the educational chair and is excited about the opportunity to host this conference in his fine city. We welcome any input on educational and recreational opportunities you may desire during the 2007 conference. Please feel free to contact myself or Don Lewis for any input you may allow.

LWCF Victory

In the final hours of the 109th Congress, the House and Senate approved legislation that will provide a permanent source of funds for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The LWCF state assistance program supports local and state purchases of parkland and development of recreation facilities for the American public. Although he's not been a strong proponent for LWCF funding, President Bush is expected to sign the bill into law.

For over forty years, American communities have benefited from royalties generated from offshore drilling for oil and gas as Congress intended in 1965. Unfortunately, disbursement of the revenues requires appropriation by Congress each year. In recent years, annual funding for LWCF has decreased dramatically and, in the past two years, President Bush had proposed to eliminate funding for LWCF in his federal budget proposals.

The new, permanent funding for LWCF was approved by Congress as a "conservation royalty" of 12.5% of lease revenues that will accrue from an expansion of oil and gas drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. Without the efforts of NRPA members and staff, this landmark



provision likely would not have been included in legislation that was already on track for passage. Read more about <<http://www.nrpa.org/content/default.aspx?documentId=5068>> the changes to LWCF here.

Our work, however, is not done. The change in funding will not directly impact LWCF until 2009, after which it will provide varying amounts of funding between \$10 and \$30 million until a budget cap is lifted in 2016. NRPA has advocated for \$100 million per year for the LWCF state assistance program in recent years. That means NRPA members and staff must continue to encourage senators and representatives in Congress to fight to ensure that sufficient funding is appropriated annually to help meet the needs of every community.

That's why I want to encourage you to attend the NRPA Legislative Forum on Parks and Recreation <<http://www.nrpa.org/forum>> in Washington, February 14-16, 2007, so that you can be a part of the effort to advocate for LWCF and other federal grant programs that support parks, recreation, and conservation in your community and across the nation.

Ole Miss Program is Re-accredited

The University of Mississippi Park and Recreation Management undergraduate degree program is now officially re-accredited by the National Recreation and Parks Association. The official letter to the Chancellor arrived near the end of December. The division will be again reviewed by the National Recreation and Park Association in 2010.

Women's Sports Foundation: GoGirlGo! Ambassador Team Awards

The GoGirlGo! Ambassador Team Awards program, administered by the Women's Sports Foundation, recognizes teams throughout the U.S. that demonstrate leadership in their communities by inspiring girls to get involved in sports and physical activity. A total of \$50,000 in grants will be awarded in recognition of the outstanding efforts of 20 teams around the country. School, amateur, community, and/or nonprofit affiliated teams whose members are female, enrolled in 9th-12th grade, and residents of the United States, its territories, or protectorates are eligible to apply. The application deadline is February 16, 2007. Visit www.womenssportsfoundation.org for application guidelines and forms.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Support for Urban Youth Programs

The mission of the Tiger Woods Foundation is to empower young people to reach their highest potential by initiating and supporting community-based programs that promote the health, education, and welfare of America's children. The Foundation focuses on providing educational opportunities, including mentoring and tutoring programs, to underserved youth, ages 5-17. The Foundation primarily funds organizations and programs that are based in urban American cities. Applications are reviewed quarterly. The next application deadline is February 1, 2007. Visit www.tigerwoodsfoundation.org for application guidelines.

American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons offers tips to prevent baseball injuries

Each year, almost 500,000 baseball-related injuries are treated in hospitals, doctors' offices, clinics, ambulatory surgery centers and hospital emergency rooms.

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons offers the following tips to prevent baseball injuries:

- * Always take time to warm up and stretch. Research studies have shown that cold muscles are more prone to injury. Warm up with jumping jacks, stationary cycling or running or walking in place for 3 to 5 minutes. Then slowly and gently stretch, holding each stretch for 30 seconds.
- * Equipment should fit properly and be worn correctly.
- * Wear a batting helmet at the plate, when waiting a turn at bat and when running bases.
- * Facial protection devices that are attached to batting helmets are available in some leagues. These devices can help reduce the risk of a serious facial injury if a player gets hit by a ball.
- * Follow the guidelines about the number of innings pitched as specified by the baseball league (usually four to 10 innings a week), not by the number of teams played on.
- * While there is no concrete guideline for the number of pitches allowed, a reasonable approach is to count the number of pitches thrown and use 80 to 100 pitches as a maximum in a game, and 30 to 40 pitches in a practice.
- * Wear the appropriate mitt for each position. Catchers should always use a catcher's mitt.

- * Catchers should always wear a helmet, face mask, throat guard, long-model chest protector, protective supporter and shin guards.
- * Wear molded, cleated baseball shoes that fit properly.
- * Inspect the playing field for holes, glass and other debris.
- * Be knowledgeable about first aid and be able to administer it for minor injuries, such as facial cuts, bruises, or minor tendinitis, strains or sprains.
- * Be prepared for emergency situations and have a plan to reach medical personnel to treat injuries such as concussions, dislocations, elbow contusions, wrist or finger sprains, and fractures.

NIRI Call for Proposals

The National Institute on Recreation Inclusion (NIRI) is a key event for those seeking knowledge about the inclusion process. The conference provides hands-on learning through education sessions and training, as well as a forum for discussion on inclusion issues, cutting-edge ideas and new learning opportunities.

NIRI 2007 will be held in Reston, Virginia at the Hyatt Regency Reston. Conference organizers are seeking qualified speakers to help make 2007 another great conference. Please submit session proposals by the DEADLINE: JANUARY 19 - and/or forward to other potential speakers.

Here is a link to the PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?A=163947962E29233>

MRPA Annual Conference

Hold these dates open on your 2007 calendar: September 10 - 13, 2007. Those are the dates for the MRPA Annual Conference to be held in Tupelo, Mississippi. We will have the opportunity to use the newly opened conference center and our conference hotel will be the Hilton Garden Inn, adjacent to the conference center. Just across the street is the Antique Car Museum and just down the road a few blocks is the home where Elvis Presley was born. A golf tournament and a frisbee golf tournament are being planned and there's even a slight possibility that one of the social events will include a night golf tournament.

Don't miss this opportunity to network with your MRPA family of friends and professionals. If you have an education topic you wish to have presented, now is the time to let that be known. Contact President-Elect Don Lewis and let him know. His plans are to have the educational session package finalized by early spring. Contact Don at dlewis@ci.tupelo.ms.us.

Rocky Mountain Revenue Management School

February 3-7, 2007

The Stanley Hotel
 Estes Park, Colorado

www.nrpa.org/rmrms

Time is running out to make your HOTEL RESERVATION and to register at the DISCOUNT RATE!

Improve Organization Effectiveness. That National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Rocky Mountain Revenue Management School (RMRMS) is the premiere education opportunity for park and recreation professionals looking to improve their organization's effectiveness and overall success. Whether you are interested in management, revenue, partnerships, or marketing, you *WILL* receive the most comprehensive training available to professionals in the park and recreation field.

What's in store...

- * Customize your experience - choose from one of three special interest tracks: Senior Management, Revenue, or Management
- * Solve "real life" issues in our Case Study Project. Work with fellow attendees to examine pertinent issues in parks and recreation
- * Test your skills in a wide variety of tasks in the 2007 RMRMS Recreation Challenge. Teams are formed to compete in areas of trivia, intelligence, communication, athletic ability, and many more fun and interesting categories
- * Explore the Rocky Mountains and the ghostly hallways of the Stanley Hotel, known best as the setting of Stephen King's *The Shining*

Register by January 9 and SAVE! Visit www.nrpa.org/rmrms for more information or to register. Or, contact education@nrpa.org, or call 800.626.NRPA (6772).

Hotel reservations must be received by January 15 - act today to ensure your room at one of the nation's most intriguing hotels.

"Resolve to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve."

*Benjamin Franklin
 Born January 17, 1706*