



**2020-21 MRPA Board & Council Third Quarter Report:
January – March 2021**

Executive Director and MRPA Office Reports- *Executive Director is the Managing Director of MRPA who reports to the Executive Board. Responsible for designing, developing and implementing strategic plans in collaboration with the Executive Board. Supervises operations of the MRPA Office and staff*

Chuck Montrie, Executive Director
Adrienne Varieur, Office Manager
Armeana Street, Members Services Associate

- No Report

Executive Board Reports- Elected Officers of MRPA. Responsible for the overall business of the Association, as well as oversight of the MRPA Office (Executive Director and Staff).

President- John Nissel

- No Report

President Elect- Terri Hilton

- No Report

Past President- Holly Harden

- Submitted full slate of officers for the 2021-22 elections. Worked with candidates and branch chairs to complete candidate bios for ballots.
- Soliciting candidates for the new Equity Officer position. Working with interested individuals to present to the Board for selection.
- Facilitated three Camp Professional Learning Communities
- Completing final presentation for 2021 conference.

Vice President- Jennifer Mogus

- Researched and solicited feedback for proposed Aquatics legislation (HB 109/SB 254)
- Presented “Intro to Aquatics” for the Rec University program on January 26
- Coordinated Winter GMM and secured Speaker (February 10) with 200 registrants
- Scheduled and co-presented the Aquatics PLC on February 23 (hosted by Howard County)
- Volunteered for the Conference Committee’s Networking subcommittee
- Represented Officers at Award presentations for Jeff Ruark and Dave Goodwin

Treasurer- Karen Warnick; Treasurer Elect- Cortney Weinstock

- Reference Finance Committee Report (below)

Secretary- Jennene Blakely

- Recorded meeting minutes and presented to BOD for approval
- Distributed “Board and Council Bulletin” to the membership that includes the top 5 takeaways from the B&C Meetings

PARC Branch (Park and Resource Conservation)- Lisa Shore, Chair

- No Report

RALS Branch (Recreation and Leisure Services)- LeighAnn Eckenrode, Chair

- No Report

TR Branch (Therapeutic Recreation)- Rebekah Sutfin, Chair

- No Report

Committee Reports- Committee Chairs are members of the Executive Council. Each Committee report lists the Chair(s), a brief description, and the quarterly highlights.

Awards- Matt Purkins and Corey Smith, Co-Chairs

Recognizes members for a variety of MRPA and Branch awards; quarterly and at the MRPA Annual Conference. Evaluate and recommend changes to the awards as warranted.

- Awards Committee was very busy in March and April as our Prize Patrol travelled around the state presenting the MRPA legacy awards that would have been presented at the 2020 and 2021 conferences.
- On March 10 Chuck Montrie joined us at Patterson Park in Baltimore to present Bob Wall with his Retired Life Award. Bob and his wife Vicky were walking through Patterson Park where they were surprised by the Prize Patrol and several former co-workers of Bob's from Baltimore City.
- On March 10 we were joined by our Vice President Jen Mogus, Conference Co-Chair Emily Lawrence and Retired Lifer Steve Schwarzman at Cromwell Valley Park in Baltimore County. Jeffrey Ruark and his wife Kim were enjoying a morning hike when they happened upon the Prize Patrol and Jeffrey was presented his Retired Life Award.
- After some rainouts the Prize Patrol travelled to Western Regional Park in Howard County to surprise John Byrd on March 25. Immediate Past President Holly Harden and members of the Howard County staff were on hand to surprise John and his wife Melinda on their daily dog walk. John was the last of the three 2020 Retired Life winners who we presented to.
- We were really busy the week prior to conference. On April 6 the Prize Patrol descended upon Baltimore County Recreation and Parks headquarters in Cockeysville. Chuck Montrie again joined us as we awarded Pat McDougall the Distinguished Fellow Award. This presentation occurred during a virtual staff meeting and we were surprised by members of the Baltimore County management team who joined us in person.
- April 7 we travelled to the home of Doug and Katrina Meadows to present Katrina her Retired Life Award. Mary Beth Dugan, Retired Lifer Kathy Garrity, and Awards Committee member Debby Huffman paraded through the streets of St. Leonard with horns honking to rouse Katrina from her home to see what was going on.
- Finally, we concluded Prize Patrol duties for 2021 by travelling to the Fallston Maintenance Center in Harford County to surprise Dave Goodwin with the Distinguished Fellow Award. Chuck Montrie and Jen Mogus were again in attendance to represent MRPA. Dave's wife Jean and members of Harford County Parks and Recreation took part in the presentation. Dave also received a proclamation from Harford County Executive Barry Glassman.
- Unfortunately we couldn't get our schedules to work out but Kris Mervine presented Don Kuklinski with the MRPA Citation Award. Don retired last year after a 30 year career with Baltimore County.
- Special thanks to Stephen Parks and Jim Jones (Baltimore County) for taking photos at our presentations.
- Awards Committee was very busy! We worked with the three branches on two years' worth of awards as well as with John Nissel and Holly Harden on their presidential awards. This is on top of Member of the Quarter Awards and the Member of the Year. All awards were ordered on behalf of the branch or President. And we ordered gavels for incoming the incoming president and branch chairs, as well as plaques for the last two years of outgoing presidents and chairs. Now we begin planning for the 2021 Agency Showcase.
- Respectfully submitted: Corey Smith and Matt Purkins

Finance- Michele Potter, Chair

Monitors MRPA's long-range financial plan, advises the Board on financial matters, prepares periodic reports on the association's investment funds, and works with the executive director and accountants on audits, reviews and overall management.

- The Maryland Recreation and Park Association Investment Portfolio was \$926,200.91 in January and grew to a balance of \$955,575.78 in March, a positive differential of \$29,374.87 or an increase of 3.17%.
- Respectfully Submitted: Michele Potter, Finance Chair

Legislative- Kathy Burley, Chair

Develops a network and procedures to track and monitor state-wide legislation prior to and during the Maryland General Assembly session. Develops a list of issues and concerns, communicates issues to the appropriate parties, and leads discussions to develop a course of action, including testimony strategy. Following legislation is being followed or anticipated:

- HB 92 Invasive Species – this bill was recently revived and appears will pass with amendments. Language related to “non-native” species was removed and the bill is focused on prohibiting use of State funds to plant “invasive species”.
- HB321 Adult Changing Facilities – this bill has been passed both the House and Senate. Requires, except under certain circumstances, that changing facilities suitable for the diaper of a child and providing personal care for an adult be installed in certain public restrooms in certain public buildings by 10/2/2022. Reporting and communicating location of these sites also included.

- HB109 – Swimming Pool/Spa Standards – this bill has crossed over to the Senate and will be monitored.
- HB333 Marine Contractor – a hearing in the Senate took place on 3/24. No vote has been taken.
- HB458 Visitor Behavior Policy – bill has been amended and excludes the mention of tying park behavior policy to Program Open Space. The bill has not crossed over so passage is doubtful. If passed, Counties would be expected to publicize and/or develop park behavior policy outlined in the bill.
- HB472 Glyphosate – this bill is dead.
- HB857 Synthetic Turf Custody –Unfavorable report by Environment & Transportation committee on 3/20/21. It will not pass during this year’s session but will likely be revisited in some form in the future.
- HB1307 Child Care Centers – Crossed over to Senate. 3/30/21 hearing was canceled.

Marketing and Communications- Desiré DeGrange, Chair

Promotes general membership meetings and workshops, MRPA news and information, training and education programs, networking and social events, and the annual conference.

- No Report

Member Engagement and Outreach- Jennifer Jennings, Chair

Focuses on membership retention and new member recruitment. Fosters development of a professional network and opportunities for "Young Professionals" ages 21-35. Identifies, communicates and evaluates membership benefits and fees.

- No Report

Professional Certification Board- Chuck Kines, Chair

Approves CEUs for workshops and MRPA Annual Conference educational sessions.

- Reviewed and approved 28 sessions for CEUs for the MRPA Conference
- Reviewed and approved a dozen other sessions for CEUs
- Karen Haseley rolls off the PCB in April 2021
- Robbin Oden becomes PCB Chair in April 2021
- Chuck Kines remains on PCB for one more year
- We are still looking for a replacement for Karen, preferably someone in TR Branch (with CPRP or CTRS)

Professional Standards- Bill Offutt, Chair

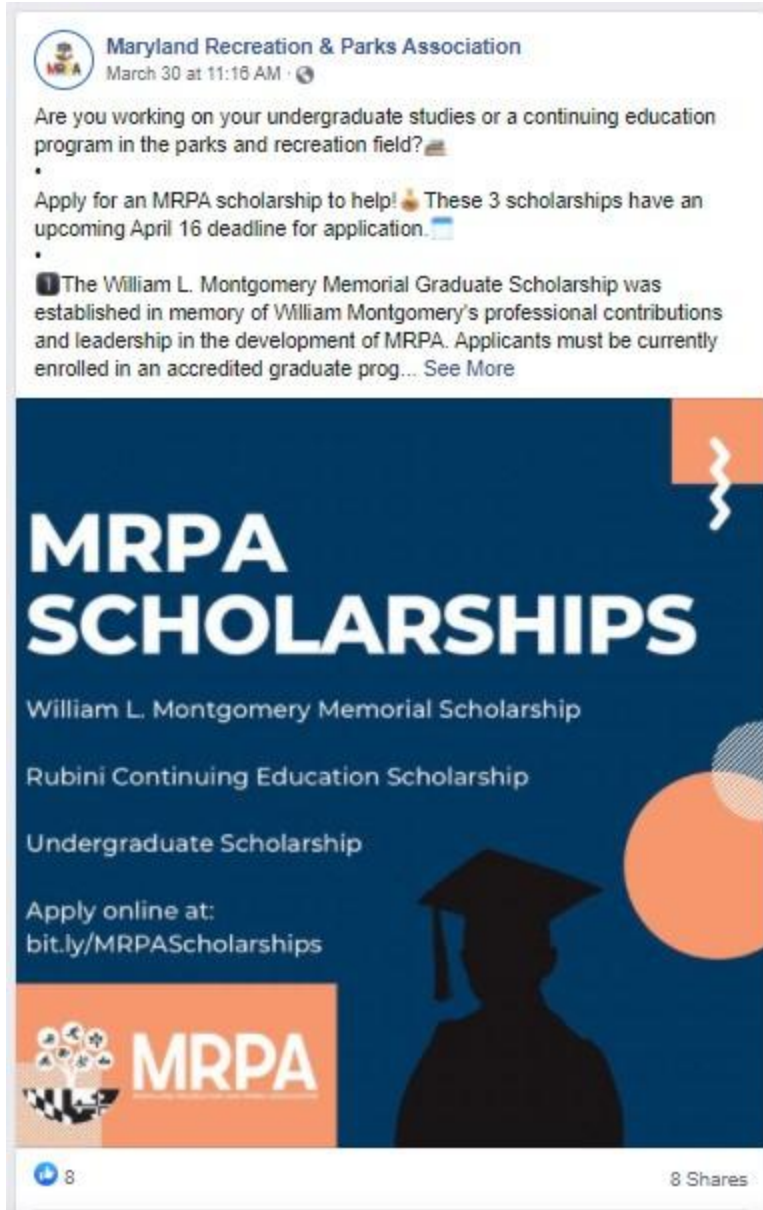
Promotes and encourages professional certification among the membership through educating agencies and individuals on the value and availability of continuing education opportunities.

- No Report

Scholarship Committee- Amanda DeFilippo and Jenny Morgan, Co-Chairs

Reviews applications and recommends scholarship opportunities and criteria. Scholarships may be available for trainings, MRPA and NRPA annual conferences, the Leadership Institute, and other trainings, certifications and internships that benefit the individual and MRPA.

- Updated webpages to include current deadline dates, a new landing page, and proper contact information.
- In February, the scholarship committee had two submission for the William Montgomery Graduate Scholarship. One awardee was selected and received a scholarship of \$500.
- Awaiting submissions to review for our next rolling deadline of April 16, 2021 for the Williams Montgomery Memorial Graduate Scholarship, Undergraduate Scholarship, and Rubini Continuing Education Scholarship.
- Worked with Shelby to create a social media push in an effort to increase submission for scholarships.



Social Justice, Racial Equity, and Inclusion (SJREI) Committee- Dr. Maureen Dougherty and Bill Tyler, Co-Chairs

The social justice, inclusion, and racial equity initiative reinforces our commitment to be a welcoming community where all our members are treated with respect and dignity and provided with opportunities to succeed. This initiative will establish a Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee that will include MRPA members.

- No Report

Social Media – Shelby Bowers, Chair

Coordinate the efforts of all social media outlets disseminating information pertaining to trainings, event highlights, member experiences and upcoming events.

- No Report

Sponsorship and Resource Development- John Kennedy and Nancy Pfeffer, Co-Chairs

Raises funds for MRPA, including funding scholarships and paid personnel, which may be appointed by the Board of Directors. Works with volunteers to coordinate golf tournaments, silent auctions and other activities for the benefit of the association.

- No Report

Training and Education- Tara Eggleston-Stewart and Shawn Beaumont, Co-Chairs

Coordinates training opportunities for members. Promotes professional certification through nationally recognized certifications (CPRP, etc.). Creates educational tracks/modules for our members, including Programming, Parks Maintenance, Supervision and Leadership, and Budget & Finance.

- Recent Efforts:
 - Ovan Shortt – Has accepted the role of Co-Chair for the committee to fill the position vacated by Tara Stewart for the upcoming training year.
 - We've facilitated seven additional webinars since our last Board & Council Meeting for a total of 24 virtual learning opportunities in 2020/2021. End-of-training-year statistics below:
- Total Training and Education Committee Sessions: 24 sessions, 1822 total attendees
 - Total PLC Sessions: 25 sessions, 1004 total attendees
 - Total General Membership Meetings: 3 meetings, 468 total attendees
 - Total Social Events: 3 events, 117 total attendees
 - Total Non-MRPA Trainings: 3 trainings, 106 total attendees
 - Total Virtual Registrations: 3,400
- As always, registration details for our trainings can be found on the MRPA website – and we are constantly searching for talented presenters and training ideas to add to our list of offerings – so please spread the word and let us know if you have any ideas!
- Additional Projects on our Radar
 - Creating a Virtual Learning Presentation Application to assist in vetting potential webinar and town-hall speakers
 - Creating In-person Training Guidelines to have in place prior to restarting our in-person sessions
 - Update SOP to include guidelines for virtual learning sessions
 - New roles in the committee that need filled:
 - Online Training Committee – to plan and facilitate future online content- MOST IMPORTANT VACANCY, We need facilitators!
 - Park Operations and Management Committee – to plan and facilitate future Park Operations and Management related trainings
- Next T&E committee meeting will be held virtually in June 2021. Exact date TBD.

Conference- Emily Lawrence and Jake Chesnutt, Co-Chairs

Plans the MRPA Annual Conference for professionals, volunteers, board members and vendors from across the state and region. Offers a variety of educational sessions and networking opportunities, and acknowledges outstanding accomplishments of both departments and individuals.

- The Conference Committee worked hard over the past year to put on the MRPA's first Virtual Annual Conference! The 2021 Conference included 30 Educational Sessions over 2.5 days, with the opportunity for the record number of attendees to earn at least 2.5 CEUs. The conference was kicked off by the Keynote, Adam Zuckerman, who spoke on "COVID-19 as a Catalyst for Organizational Change & Innovation".
- Beyond educational sessions, the virtual conference included: lunchtime networking, fitness breaks, branch meetings, photo contests, coffee talks, pre-recorded videos of awardees, a virtual Silent Auction, a virtual Exhibit Hall, multiple socials including an Esports Social, and a closing social featuring a DJ, dancing and friendly competition! The conference ended with a celebratory closing keynote, by Maureen Dougherty (Dr. Mo), who spoke on "We Made it Through – Hats Off to You"!
- Hats Off to the 35 members of the Conference Committee, Conference Sponsors, Exhibitors, and all the MRPA members who helped make this year's new conference format, a great success!

Director's Summit –

- No Report

Ritch Stevenson Leadership Institute I- Todd Johnson and Henry Coppola, Co-Chairs

Develops future leaders who will take on leadership positions within their organization and in the Maryland Recreation and Park Association. Reviews applications and selects cohorts for a 8-month program focusing on several areas of leadership development.

- LI Class of 2021 is nearing the end of their session
- 1st two sessions in October and November were in person we've been virtual since December
- Group photo and head shots at Brookside Gardens Thursday, March 25th
- Virtual presentation practices will be held on Tuesday, March 30th
- MRPA Ritch Stevenson Leadership Institute Graduation Thursday, May 13th at Belmont Manor in Howard County
- Please promote Leadership Institute 1 for Class of 2022 to your agency, co-workers, and staff

- January Session: January 14, 2021
 - Virtual location Green Farm, Gaithersburg, MD
 - Guest Speaker-John Marshall-Bureau Chief, Howard County-"How to Interview for You Next Job"
 - Guest Speaker-Alison Kelly of Alison Talks & Tours-"Innovative Thinking"
- February Session: February 11, 2021
 - Virtual location College Park Airport & Museum, College Park Maryland
 - Guest Speaker-Susan Simmons, Director, Caroline County-"Principles & Elements of Ethical Leadership"
- March Session: March 11, 2021
 - Virtual location (SAARC) Southern Area Aquatics & Recreation Complex
 - Guest Speaker-Steve Chandlee, Director of Parks & Recreation, Queen Anne's County "My Pathway to Leadership"
 - Guest Speaker-Darryl Wyles, Master Trainer, Association of Talent Development "Virtual Presentation Skills"
 - Guest Speaker-Carolyn Muller, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Culture, City of Gaithersburg
- April Session Final Group Presentations: April 8, 2021
 - Virtual ZOOM
 - 9:15 Group 1 Presentation "Fearsome Foursome"
 - Volunteerism in Parks & Recreation
 - Jeff Claffy, Britney Murray, Lauren Pathoumthong, and Adam Zuckerman
 - 9:50 Group 2 Presentation "Team Art"
 - Increasing Park Engagement
 - Dan Cook, Julia Demaray, and Jordan Gray
 - 10:30 Group 3 Presentation "Eastern Shore's Finest"
 - Exploring the Importance of Outdoor Leisure & Recreation on Youth's Mental & Physical Health
 - LaDarian Blake, Cineva Smith, and Allen Swiger
 - 11:05 Group 4 Presentation "Virtual Visionaries"
 - Prioritizing Inclusion and Equity among Marginalized Groups in Parks & Recreation
 - Iyana Moore, Chanda Coleman, and Toni Adams
 - Judges Panel-Dianne Osei, Joe Oneill, and Di Quynn Reno

Leadership Institute II- Marybeth Dugan, Chair

- Educate.Engage.Empower
- Leadership II (LI2), is a new management program that would invite the MRPA Ritch Stevenson Leadership Institute (LI1) graduates, to enhance leadership skills. The experience would be purposeful and intentional focusing on:
 - 1-developing a useful project, policy, initiative for a partnering Parks and Recreation agency
 - 2-engaging in appropriate educational sessions throughout the experience
 - 3-engaging in mentoring experiences
- What does it look like?
 - Leadership II (LI2), is being developed and planned by a team of seasoned professionals that have been involved with Leadership 1 (LI1). The program will be purposeful, and project driven, with a classroom learning experience for up to 25 chosen participants. Five (5) state agency/departments will commit to be the partners in this program. The participants will be divided into 5 leadership teams. A team will be assigned to an agency to work collaboratively to develop a project that is needed in that agency and can be replicated for other state Parks and Recreation agencies (examples: On-Boarding program; Succession Planning; Standard Operating Procedures for Facility Management, ADA Self-Evaluation Plans, Social Equity Best Practices, Emergency Safety Plans, etc.)
 - Senior leadership will be involved with the project idea and development. At the conclusion of the program, the LI2 team will present the completed project to the appropriate agency staff and their respective governing bodies. and
 - As part of agency visits, teams can also shadow senior managers, attend city, municipal, county, or planning board meetings and other appropriate governing bodies.
 - In addition to developing the agency projects, LI2 participants will also attend educational opportunities planned by members of the planning committee. Expert presenters from across the nation will be hired to conduct appropriate trainings and those topics will include:
 - Fundamentals of Successful Project Management
 - Excel at Managing People and Teams

- Successful Navigation of the Political World
 - It is also the intention that LI2 participants attend part of the Directors' Summit and participate in an educational session and meet and greet state directors.
 - The completed projects may also become part of a resource library that all agencies will have access to that will be housed at MRPA.
- Application process
 - Interested applicants can apply and current/recent LI1 participants are not eligible.
 - The application will include essay and thought-provoking leadership questions developed by diverse senior management professionals.
 - Applications will be submitted and reviewed by a panel of senior managers professionals. Applicants will be chosen to interview based upon their merits, diverse backgrounds, experiences and their reasons for participation in Leadership II.
 - Interviews will be conducted by senior management professionals. Up to twenty-five candidates will be chosen to participate.
- Commencement
 - It was the intention to launch this program December 9, 2020, however, was postponed due to the COVID pandemic. The program will commence in the fall of 2021.

Professional Learning Communities- Carrie Sprinkle and Derrick Thompson, Co-Chairs

Facilitates Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and works with members to identify new topic areas. PLCs are opportunities for members to join together to discuss hot topics, share best practices, and develop a network of fellow professionals in related positions and areas.

- We ran our first PLC of 2021 with 28 professionals from across the state discussing virtual programming in Therapeutic Recreation. We have several upcoming PLCs including the winter aquatics PLC, 4 camp PLCs, and a TR PLC focusing on camps. We are also currently working on adding an admin PLC focusing on technology, a Sustainability PLC with the PARC branch, and a Natural, Historical, and Cultural Interpretation PLC which will focus on programming during COVID and creative solutions. We are also in the early stages of a Senior programming PLC.

Recreation University- Julija Sajauskas, Chair

- Recreation University has a schedule drafted for the 2021 Cohort. It begins this fall and will meet in-person for its sessions.
- A "Save the Date" flyer is drafted and is in edits, with the intention to share at Conference and through social media.
- Nick Johnson will officially be coming on the Rec U committee for the 2021 cohort.