



Annual Report
2023-2024

Dear SSPRPA Members,

It was a pleasure to be your President for 2023-24. We started off the year at Lockport Township Park District's Prairie Bluff Golf Course in their brand new driving range bays, finished the year at Rooftop Tap in Palos Heights and had plenty of networking, learning and FUN between. We averaged 63 members at each meeting and had an amazing 297 members!

It is difficult to highlight all of the great things committees accomplished this year. Here are just a few. The Board approved a new committee in 2023 that met the qualifications. We added Parks and Natural Resources, headed by Chris Finn and Ryan Veldman. They ended their successful year in May by offering a Tech Demo Day where four vendors were able to showcase their products. The Facility Committee organized a Facility tour in April that included 11 professionals and 4 facilities (PARC in Planfield, Inwood Athletic Club in Joliet, and the Athletic and Events Center and Aquatics Center both in Romeoville). The Early Childhood Workshop in August, put on by the Early Childhood Committee, saw a triumphant return after a few year break. They had 64 enthusiastic attendees. The Day Camp Workshop, put on by the Day Camp Committee, was another resounding success with over 270 participants in June. The Legislative Breakfast hosted by Tinley Park Park District in February was sponsored by SSPRPA. Through the hard work of the members of SSPRPA, the Breakfast saw an amazing turn out of legislators.

Our now annual program workshop brought in Chris Nunes. He did both a morning and an afternoon session to 37 registrants. The topics were Communication and Finance. This was once again sponsored by IPRF, which allowed us to keep the cost to only \$5 per person. We are grateful for IPRF's support!

The Board decided to give back to members by reimbursing two IPRA memberships. The winners this year were Mike Leonard with Channahon Park District and Ben Ragel with Lockport Township Park District. We also had free or significantly reduced socials whenever possible.

In closing, thank you for all of members for their efforts this year. The organization is member driven and we have accomplished great things together. I am looking forward to celebrating the organization's 50th anniversary next year! Please continue to network, learn and grow - both personally and professionally.

Sincerely,

Rachel Bauer

Rachel Bauer
President 2023 -2024

Mission Statement

Working together to serve members who provide communities with quality park and recreation services.

Statement of Purpose

SSPRPA is an association comprised of park, recreation, conservation and special recreation professionals, students and citizens working together to serve communities of the South Suburban Chicagoland area by providing better parks and facilities, recreation programs and services.

2023-2024 Executive Board

President – Rachel Bauer

President Elect – Sarah Hamilton

Past President – Olga Viano

Secretary – Delaney Mossman

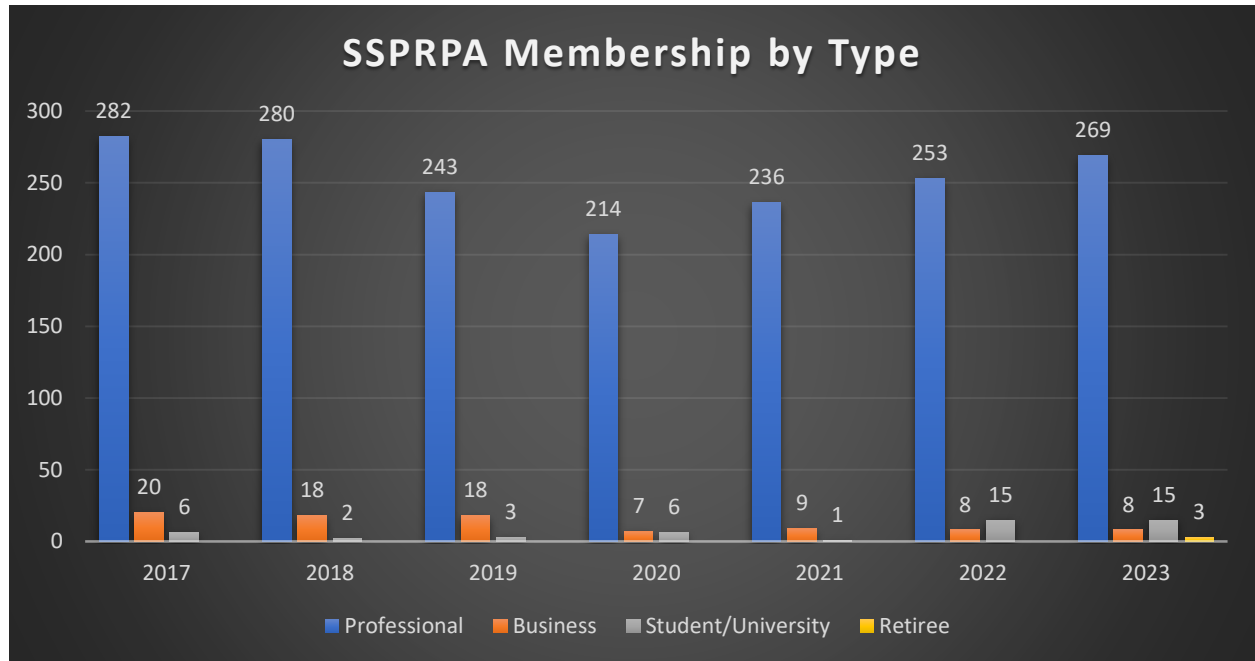
Treasurer – Lauren Koszola



2024-2025 Committees, Chairs & Co-Chairs

Committees	Chair & Co-Chairs
Adult/Senior	Devin Frendreis
Athletics	Skyler Ramberger & Beth Nagel
Awards	Rachel Bauer & Kristine Wahlgren
Diversity	Keith Wallace
Early Childhood	Kelly Matson & Devin Frendreis
Facility	Cate Coyle & Joe Smith
Legislative	Hollice Clark & Greg Lewis
Marketing	Stacy Proper and Kara Case
Parks and Natural Resources	Chris Finn and Ryan Veldman
Professional Development	Olga Viano
School Age	Rebecca Perkaus & Sarah Carr
Social	Lauren Koszola, Brenna Bowers & Sarah Hamilton
Special Events	Laurie Murray & Janel Geary
Student	Melissa Ferruzza & Marie Piotrowski
Teen/Camp Programming & Day Camp Workshop	Meghan Fenlon

Membership Numbers 2017 - 2023



2023-2024 Participating Organizations

Alsip Park District	Lemont Park District	Romeoville Recreation Department
Blue Island Park District	Lockport Township Park District	SEASPAR
Bolingbrook Park District	LWSRA	South Suburban Special Recreation Association
Burbank Park District	Manhattan Park District	South West Special Recreation Association
Calumet Memorial Park District	Midlothian Park District	Tinley Park-Park District
Channahon Park District	Mokena Park District	Village of Matteson
Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau	Moraine Valley Com. College	Village of Orland Park
Chicago State University	New Lenox Community Park District	Village of Palos Park
City of Palos Heights	NWCSRA	Warrenville Park District
Community Park District of La Grange	Oak Forest Park District	Wight & Company
Frankfort Park District	Oak Lawn Park District	Wilmington Island Park District
Frankfort Park District	Park District of La Grange	Worth Park District
Hazel Crest Park District	Peotone Park District	
Hickory Hills Park District	Plainfield Park District	
Homewood-Flossmoor Park District	Pleasant Dale Park District	
Joliet Park District	Record-A-Hitt Entertainment	
Kankakee Valley Park District	Romeoville Recreation Department	



SSPRPA Financials

2023-2024 Annual Budget

Total Revenue = \$34,315

Total Expenses = \$34,311

REVENUE HIGHLIGHTS	Budget	Actual
Membership Dues	\$11,390	\$11,354
Meeting Fees	\$2,700	\$2,145
Socials (General Meeting)	\$1,100	\$1,520
IPRA Social (includes sponsorship)	\$8,675	\$6,300
Workshops – EC and Camp	\$3,400	\$2,790

Account Balances

Fiscal Year – July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Account	FY Beginning Amount	FY Ending Amount
Main Checking	\$8,062.75	\$7,309.57
Wilson Family Scholarship Fund CD	\$10,794.41	\$10,813.90
Wilson Family Scholarship Fund Savings	\$1,081.14	\$1,081.26

SSPRPA Strategic Plan 2023-2025

1. Increase membership and participation in SSPRPA.
 - a. Review membership to determine who has not signed up year to year. (Completed in 2023-24)
 - b. Create a survey for non-returning members to determine why they have not returned.
 - c. Create a survey for Executive Directors to gain insight into why they may not participate and why they may not encourage staff to participate in SSPRPA.
 - d. Create short videos regarding why you should join SSPRPA, what the responsibilities of Committee Chairs are, and what committees do.
 - e. Create a welcome packet for new members.
 - f. Create information to better explain Board positions and what the responsibilities of each position are.
 - g. Review membership classifications and determine if any new membership classifications would be beneficial to the association. (done prior to start of 2023-24)
 - h. Investigate the development of a policy on increasing membership dues. (completed in 2022-23)
2. Encourage better committee communications.
 - a. Create materials on how to join a committee. (completed in 2023-24)
 - b. Develop and distribute a newsletter.
 - c. Create materials to get more districts involved by marketing to them.
3. Review Committee Structure
 - a. Investigate the current committees to help determine if any of them can be combined. (ongoing)
 - b. Investigate if there are certain committee responsibilities that should be moved to the responsibilities of an Executive Board Member. (completed in 2023-24)
 - c. Review the current Executive Board structure to determine if additional positions are needed. (ongoing)
4. Develop ways that SSPRPA can get information on highlights, trends, and questions out to the membership.
 - a. Develop a way to display the results of questions that are asked of the membership. (completed in 2023-24)
 - b. Determine if there is a better way to manage membership questions by utilizing existing survey software. (completed in 2023-24)
 - c. Create a website section for agencies to highlight new hires to their agencies.
 - d. Create information and resources section to help new hires in the field.

SSPRPA

2022-2023 Award Winners

Young Professionals of the Year

Brenna Bowers
Mokena Park District



Kara Case
Palos Heights Parks and Recreation



Undergraduate Scholarship

Julissa Esparza
Moraine Valley Community College



Congratulations to Devin Frendreis, voted in as President-Elect for 2024-25. Lauren Koszola, Treasurer and Delaney Mossman, Secretary will complete the second year of their term. Sarah Hamilton moves into the President position and Rachel Bauer moves to Past President.



Thank you to all our Sponsors in 2023-2024

SPONSORS		
		
Wight & Company NRPA Conference Social Sponsor	Direct Fitness Solutions Conference Social Sponsor	Imagine Theater Day Camp Workshop Sponsor
		
Illinois Parks and Recreation Foundation Scholarship for November Workshop	Moraine Valley Community College Day Camp Workshop Sponsor	