



Annual Report

2024-2025

Dear SSPRPA Members,

It was a pleasure to be your President for 2024-2025. This was a big milestone year for the Association as we celebrated the 50th anniversary. We started off the year at Lockport Township Park District's Prairie Bluff Golf Course in their driving range bays, finished the year at Gaelic Park and had plenty of networking, learning and FUN between. We averaged 65 members at each meeting and had an amazing 231 select members, 59 full members, 18 retirees, 8 student and 8 business members. We ended the year with a total of 324 members.

It is difficult to highlight all of the great things the Association accomplished this year. Here are just a few. We started the year off introducing a new association logo to bring us into the next 50 years. We learned a little bit of the organization's history from John Wilson and other retired members. The Board approved a new committee in 2025 that met the qualifications. We added Special Recreation, headed by Todd Mallo and Marina Uher. The Social committee, hosted a kayaking trip in August of 2024 and held an outing to the White Sox game in September 2024 (this game could have made history for the Sox having the worst record in baseball). December social was filled with Christmas trivia. The biggest social event of the year was Conference Social where it was all gold in celebrating 50 years of SSPRPA. The Early Childhood Workshop in August, put on by the Early Childhood Committee, saw a tremendous turnout with lots of learning and hands on sessions. The Day Camp Workshop, put on by the Day Camp Committee, was another success with over 250 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 outstanding turn out by our legislators.

Our annual program workshop in November brought in Azizi Marshall. She did both a morning and an afternoon session to 50 registrants. The topics were De-escalation training and Preventing burnout. 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. We also raffled off tickets to numerous White Sox games. We also had significantly reduced socials whenever possible.

In closing, thank you to all the members for their efforts this year, whether you were part of a committee meeting or attended a general meeting. The organization is member driven and each member plays an important role in the organization's history. I was delighted to celebrate the association's 50th anniversary and look towards the future of the association. Thank you once again to all members for a wonderful 50th year! Please continue to network, be involved, learn and grow personally and professionally

Sincerely,

Sarah Hamilton

Sarah Hamilton
President 2024 -2025

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.

2024-2025 Executive Board

President – Sarah Hamilton

President Elect – Devin Frendreis

Past President – Rachel Bauer

Secretary – Delaney Mossman

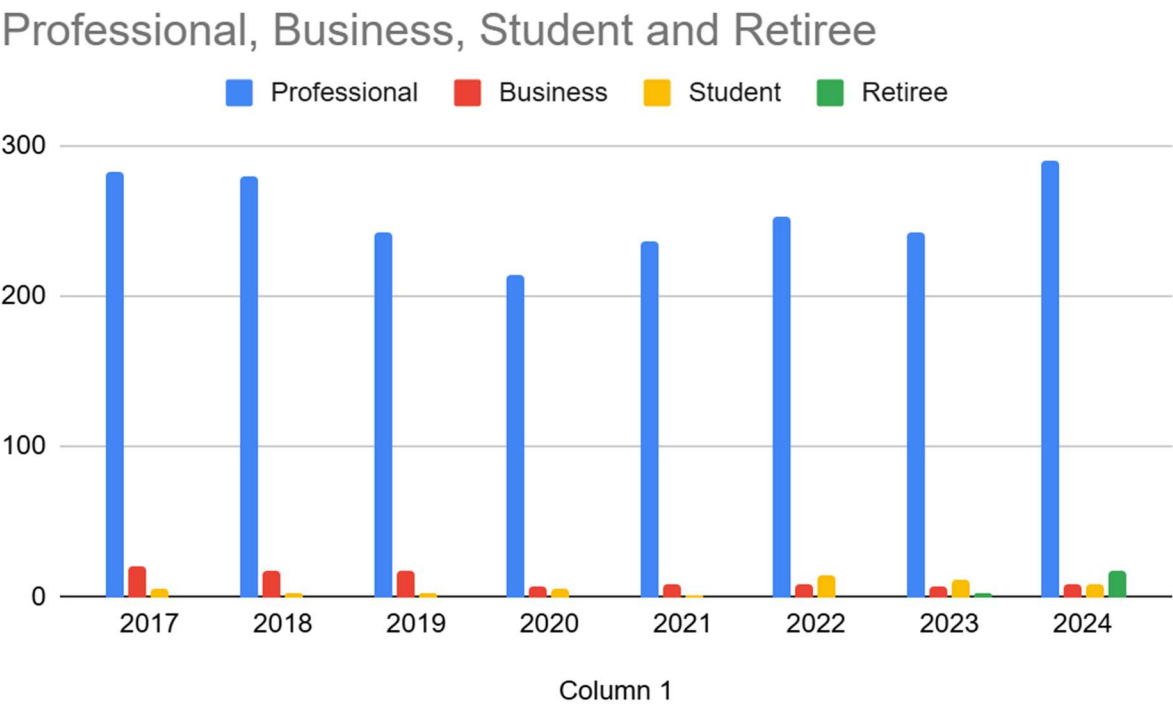
Treasurer – Lauren Koszola



2024-2025 Committees, Chairs & Co-Chairs

<u>Committees</u>	<u>Chair & Co-Chairs</u>
Adult/Senior	Devin Frendreis & Rachael Click
Athletics	Beth Nagel & Ben Sataloff
Awards	Rachel Bauer & Kristine Wahlgren
Diversity	Dyana Metheny
Early Childhood	Kelly Matson & Devin Frendreis
Facility	Anthony Morelli & 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	Sarah Carr & Ewa Koziol
Social	Lauren Koszola, & Sarah Hamilton
Special Events	Laurie Murray & Janel Geary
Special Rec	Todd Mallo & Marina Uher
Student	Melissa Ferruzza & Marie Klaus
Teen/Camp Programming & Day Camp Workshop	Meghan Fenlon

Membership Numbers 2017 - 2025



2024-2025 Participating Organizations

Alsip Park District	Mokena Park District
Blue Island Park District	Moraine Valley Com. College
Bolingbrook Park District	New Lenox Community Park District
Bourbannais Township Park District	North Berwyn Park District
Burbank Park District	NWCSRA
Calumet Memorial Park District	NuToys
Channahon Park District	Oak Forest Park District
Chicago Park District	Oak Lawn Park District
Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau	Park District of La Grange
Chicago State University	Plainfield Park District
City of Palos Heights	Pleasant Dale Park District
Clean Cans	Romeoville Recreation Department
Clowning Around Entertainment	SEASPAR
Crayola Imagine Arts	South Suburban Special Recreation Association
Downers Grove Park District	South West Special Recreation Association
Farnsworth Group Inc.	Tinley Park-Park District
Forest Preserve District of Will County	Trinity Christian
Frankfort Park District	University of Iowa
Hazel Crest Park District	University of St. Francis
Hickory Hills Park District	Village of Monee
Homewood-Flossmoor Park District	Village of Orland Park
Joliet Park District	Village of Palos Park
Kankakee Valley Park District	Village of Park Forest
Lemont Park District	Warrenville Park District
Lockport Township Park District	Wight & Company
LWSRA	William Quinn & Sons
Manhattan Park District	Woodridge Park District
Midlothian Park District	Worth Park District

SSPRPA Financials

2024-2025 Annual Budget

Total Revenue = \$34,035

Total Expenses = \$37, 661

Account Balances

Fiscal Year – July 1 2024 to June 30, 2025

Account	FY Beginning Amount	FY Ending Amount
Main Checking	8868.17	6057.25
Wilson Family Scholarship Fund CD	10813.76	10833.38
Wilson Family Scholarship Fund Savings	1081.26	1081.38

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. (ongoing)
 - 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 2024-2025 Award Winners

Young Professionals of the Year

Kelly Matson

New Lenox Park District

Professional of the Year

Todd Mallo

Oak Lawn Park District

Undergraduate Scholarship

Alexis Gezik

Moraine Valley Community College

Graduate Scholarship

Sean Gaddigan

Olivet Nazarene University

Congratulations to Rebecca Parkus, voted in as President-Elect for 2025-26. Sarah Carr voted in as Treasurer and Ewa Koziol voted in as Secretary. Devin Frendreis moves in as President and Sarah Hamilton will be Past President.



Thank you to all our Sponsors in 2024-2025

