

**Annual Report**

**2022-2023**

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Dear SSPRPA Members,

The 2022-2023 SSPRPA year was a great success and one that everyone can be proud of. As an Association and professionals in Parks and Recreation, we have grown in numerous ways over the last year. The board, committee chairs/co-chairs, and the membership worked together to make it a successful year. Here are some highlights and accomplishments from this past year:

In September we have a social to kick off our first official meeting of the year. We gathered in Channahon at Heritage Bluffs Golf Club for 9 holes of golf. Unfortunately, the weather didn’t cooperate but hey, we’re recreation so we still made it a fun day! In November, we hosted two different educational workshops in one day with Michael Brandwein. By offering 2 different sessions people could make it an all-day event or just attend the morning or afternoon session to fit their schedule. The Executive Board was again successful in obtaining a $2,500 scholarship through IPRF to help fund the workshops. We were able to offer a total of 0.6 CEUs for a very minimal cost. In December, the social committee planned a great social event at the Alley Grill & Taphouse in Mokena.

We hosted our social at the IPRA/IAPD state conference at the Hyatt Regency at the end of January. We did a sports theme this year. February marked another successful Legislative Breakfast that SSPRPA sponsored, and we had the student meeting at Moraine Valley Community College. March brought us our Legislative Committee Chairs: Greg Lewis and Hollice Clark, presenting on the legislative process and its importance in our industry.

In April, the Awards Committee put together a wonderful program to honor those professionals who have gone above and beyond this year. We were able to give out 2 undergraduate student scholarships this year since no graduate applied. Three members of the board were able to attend the IAPD Legislative Reception and Conference in Springfield to represent SSPRPA. The Social Committee put together a great end-of-the-year social at The Rooftop in Palso Heights. Over the Summer the Day Camp Workshop Committee and Early Childhood Committee hosted two fantastic workshops for seasonal and part-time staff.

A big thank you to every one of our members for all their hard work this past year! We are looking forward to continued growth and success, as well as working with all our members to continue to achieve our mission.

Sincerely,

Olga Viano

President 2022 -2023

**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.

**2022-2023 Executive Board**

President – Olga Viano

President Elect – Rachel Bauer

Past President – Kevin Miller

Secretary – Stacy Proper

Treasurer – Jason Braglia



**2022-2023 Committees, Chairs & Co-Chairs**

**Committees Chair & Co-Chairs**

Adult/Senior Marie Piotrowski

Athletics Skyler Ramberger & Beth Nagel

Awards Rachel Bauer & Kristine Wahlgren

Day Camp /Teens Meghan Fenlon

Diversity Keith Wallace & Nikki Gotsch

Early Childhood Kelly Matson & Devin Frendreis

Facility Cate Coyle & Joe Smith

Legislative Hollice Clark & Greg Lewis

Professional Development Olga Viano

School Age Rebecca Perkaus & Sarah Carr

Social Lauren Koszola & Brenna Bowers

Special Events Eric Sloyan & Laurie Murray

Sponsorship Amy Maher

Student Delaney Harty & Marie Piotrowski

Membership Numbers 2017 - 2022



**2022-2023 Participating Organizations**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Alsip Park District  Bartlett Park District |  |
| Blue Island Park District  Bolingbrook Park District |
| Burbank Park District |
| Calumet Memorial Park District |
| Chicago Heights Park District |
| Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau |
| Chicago State University |
| City of Palos Heights |
| Community Park District of La Grange |
| Crete Park District |
| Cunningham Recreation  Forest Preserve District of Will County  Frankfort Park District |
| Hickory Hills Park District |
| Homewood-Flossmoor Park District |
| Joliet Park District |
| Kankakee Valley Park District  Lan Oak Park District |
| Lemont Park District |
| Lockport Township Park District |
| LWSRA |
| Manhattan Park District |
| Midlothian Park District |
| New Lenox Community Park District |
| NuToys Leisure Products |
| NWCSRA |
| Oak Forest Park District |
| Oak Lawn Park District |
| Park District of La Grange  Peotone Park District |
| Plainfield Park District |
| Pleasant Dale Park District  Proven IT  Record-A-Hit Entertainment  Romeoville Recreation Department  SEASPAR |
| South Suburban Special Recreation Association |
| South West Special Recreation Association |
| Tinley Park-Park District |
| Upland Design Ltd  Village of Orland Park  Village of Palos Park  Warrenville Park District |
| Westchester Park District |
| Wight & Company |
| Wilmington Island Park District |
| Worth Park District |
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**SSPRPA Financials**

Starting Balance – September 2022 =$17,239.84

Starting Balance – September 2023 = $18,989.08

**2022-2023 Actual Budget**

Total Revenue = $31,084.13

Total Expenses = $32,541.62

**Revenue Totals**

Membership Fees = $8,320

Meeting Fees = $4,155

Sponsorship = $1,500

IPRA Social = $2,025

Day Camp Workshop = $2,310

Early Childhood Workshop = $480

**SSPRPA Strategic Plan**

**Strategy 1**

Evaluate and update the use of digital media to enhance member service.

* Create a newsletter to be sent out to the memberships on at least a quarterly basis. (2018)
* Include links to Facebook, website, and other pertinent information in correspondence. (2018)
* Create an online payment option for meetings, membership, events, and sponsorships. (2019)
* Optimize the website for mobile use. (2018)
* Survey member needs and opinions of website and digital use (annually)

**Strategy 2**

Provide orientation and training for committee chairs to help provide structure to committee operations.

* Create and schedule Board and Committee chair retreat
  + Review and update operations manual
  + Introduce and train chairs and new board members on the budget process
  + Review and train proper financial procedures
  + Schedule committee meetings for the year to combine and or prevent duplication of meetings and content
  + Review with chairs the importance of reports at meetings
* Create committee intent categories on memberships registration forms so that information can be sent to members based on their interest
  + **Start strategy 2 summer of 2018, making improvements each year.**

**Strategy 3**

Offer efficient and effective meetings that provide useful learning opportunities and networking for members.

* Continue to provide professional speakers and programs that provide relevant topics
* Require all board, chairs, and speakers to stand so that all members can hear them during the meeting
* Inform members in advance when CEU programs will extend the overall length of a meeting
* Start all meetings on time
* Provide nametags at meetings so that members can learn each other’s names easier
* Assign members to tables periodically to encourage members to network with others that are not from their agency
* Continue to offer general meetings at different locations and search for new facilities to host
* Continue to offer lunch at meetings
* Educate members on the availability of using the announcement portion of general meetings for the benefit of the membership or their agency.
  + **Strategy 3 will be ongoing, this information can effectively be shared with members via communication goals. (2018-2021)**

**Strategy 4**

Create an organizational annual benchmarking report in order to show the current trends, strengths, and challenges of South Suburban Parks and Recreation Professional Association. (2018-2021)

* Track total annual membership
* Track meeting attendance
* Track active members
* Track special event attendance
* Track Sponsorships
* Track committee involvement

Each year this report should be made public to the membership during the summer months, and should be continually reviewed and expanded upon.

**SSPRPA**

**2022-2023 Award Winners**

**Professional of the Year**

Joe Smith

Palos Heights Park and Recreation Department

**Young Professional of the Year**

Marie Piotrowski

Lemont Park District

**Undergraduate Scholarship**

Reily McTeague and Lindsey McArdle

Moraine Valley Community College

Congratulations to the new board members voted into service for the start of 2023 SSPRPA: Sarah Hamilton: President Elect, Lauren Koszola: Treasurer and Delaney Mossman: Secretary. Rachel Bauer moves into the President position and Olga Viano moves to Past President for 2023-2024.



**Thank you to all our Sponsors in 2022-2023!!**

**Meeting Sponsors:**

January – Midwest Commercial Fitness

March – Chicagoland Southland CVB & Sparkles Entertainment

April – Midwest Commercial Fitness

**Social Sponsors:**

Holiday – T-Mobile (Gold)

End of Year May – Civic Plus (Silver)

**Day Camp Sponsor –** Emagine (Bronze)

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