



Annual Report

2021-2022



Dear SSPRPA Members,

The 2021-2022 SSPRPA year was a great success and one that everyone can be proud of. When we reflect back on this year, one word resonates more than others, and that is growth. 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, as a whole, worked together to achieve so much during a time of continued uncertainty from the COVID-19 mitigations and staffing shortages at our agencies. Here are some highlights and accomplishments from this past year:

After 18 months of Zoom meetings, we were finally able to come together in-person for our September Social at the Odyssey Sweet Spot in Tinley Park. In November, we hosted the first of two Leadership Series Workshops with Bobbie Nance at the Palos Heights Parks and Recreation Center. The Executive Board was successful in obtaining a \$1,500 education grant through IPRF to fund the Leadership Series. In December, the social committee planned a great social at the Alley Grill & Taphouse in Mokena where the Diversity Committee collected Blessing Bags for the Crisis Center of South Suburbia. Through your generosity, we collected \$1,465 in gift cards and two carloads of toys and clothing that we were able to donate. Additionally, we hosted the IPRA Road Show in December.

January marked the return of our social at the IPRA State Conference. In February, the Student Committee, put on another successful virtual Student Meeting and the Legislative Committee hosted a wonderfully attended Legislative Breakfast. March brought us our 2nd Leadership Series workshop and the ability for districts to return to Springfield for the IAPD Legislative Reception and Conference.

In April, the Awards Committee put together an amazing ceremony and presentation to honor those professionals that have gone above and beyond this year, to showcase the successes of our member agencies and wish the best of luck to those professionals leaving the field. The Social Committee put together another great event at Khaos Brewcade for our closing social and in the summer months, the Day Camp Workshop Committee and Early Childhood Committee hosted two fantastic workshops for seasonal and part-time staff.

In addition to all of these highlights, the executive board worked with John Wilson to bring the Wilson Family Public Servant Fund to SSPRPA, which will award the Young Professional of the Year a \$500 education voucher. A special thank you goes to the Wilson Family for their generous contribution and continued support of South Suburban and its members. With the addition of the \$500 voucher to the Young Professional of the Year, the board agreed to fund a matching \$500 voucher to the Professional of the Year recipient. Spearheaded by our Treasurer, Jason Braglia, the Board worked to officially become a recognized 501(C)3 and the Strategic Plan Committee continued their work on updating the Associations Strategic Plan.

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

Sincerely,

Kevin Miller
President

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.

2021-2022 Executive Board

President – Kevin Miller

President Elect – Olga Viano

Past President – Beth Nagel

Secretary – Stacy Proper

Treasure – Jason Braglia



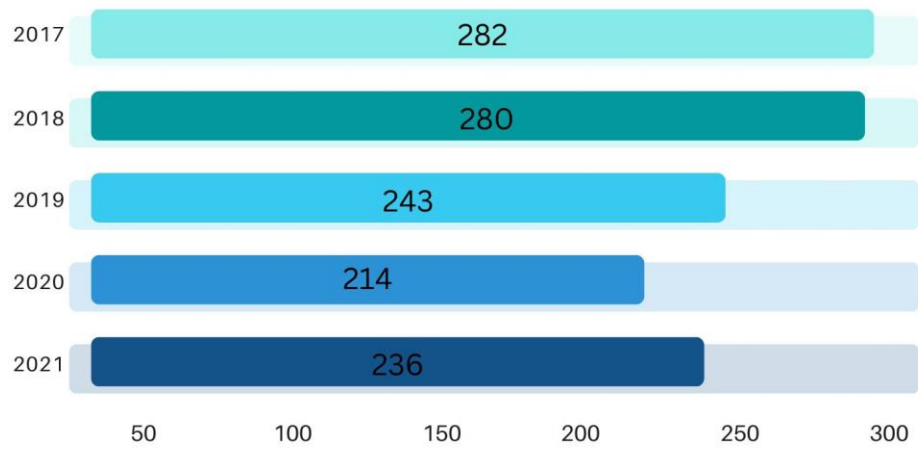
2021-2022 Committees, Chairs & Co-Chairs

Committees	Chair & Co-Chairs
Athletics	Keith Blomberg
Awards	Rachel Bauer & Kristine Wahlgren
Day Camp /Teens	Meghan Fenlon
Diversity	Keith Wallace & Nikki Gotsch
Early Childhood/Youth	Karen Cooper, Scott Gray & Kelly Matson
Facility	Chris Finn & Rachel Bauer
Legislative	Hollice Clark & Greg Lewis
Marketing/Sponsorship	Amy Maher
Membership/Publicity	Jason Braglia & Beth Nagel
Professional Development	Olga Viano & Beth Nagel
School Age	Rebecca Perkaus
Social	Erin Cortilet & Nikki Gotsch
Special Events	Eric Sloyan
Student	Delaney Harty



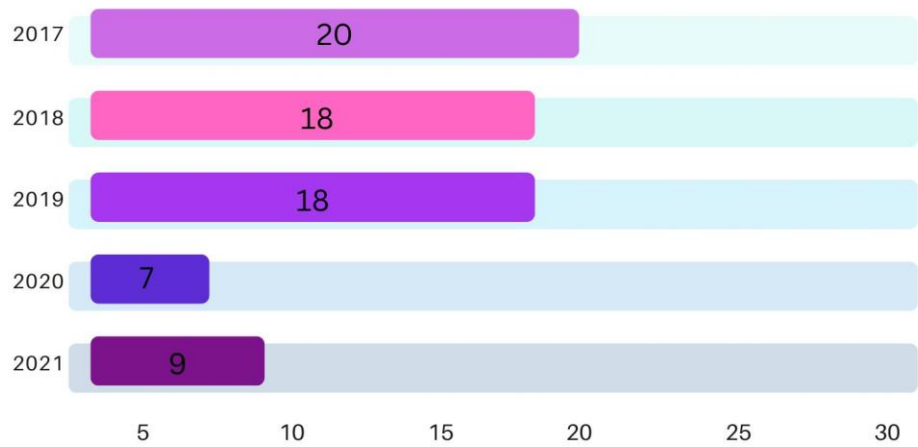
SSPRPA

Agency Members



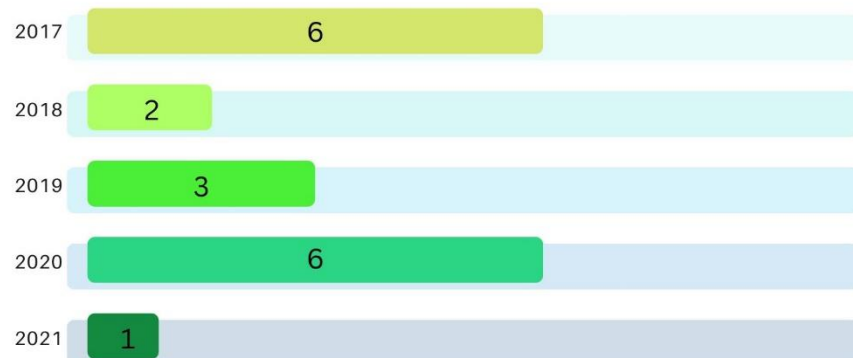
SSPRPA

Associate/Business Members



SSPRPA

Student Members



2021-2022 Participating Organizations

Member Organizations

Alsip Park District
Bartlett Park District
Bourbonnais Township Park District
Burbank Park District
Calumet Memorial Park District
Chicago Heights Park District
City of Palos Heights
Crete Park District
Frankfort Park District
Hazel Crest Park District
Hickory Hills Park District
Homewood-Flossmoor Park District
Illinois Park & Recreation Association
Joliet Park District
Kankakee Valley Park District
Lemont Park District
Lockport Township Park District
LWSRA
Manhattan Park District
Midlothian Park District
Mokena Community Park District
New Lenox Community Park District
NWCSRA
Oak Forest Park District
Oak Lawn Park District
Olympia Fields Park District
Park District of La Grange
Plainfield Park District
Pleasant Dale Park District
Posen Park District
Record-A-Hit Entertainment
Romeoville Recreation Department
SEASPAR
South Suburban Special Recreation Association
South West Special Recreation Association
Tinley Park-Park District

Member Organizations Continued

Westchester Park District
Wilmington Island Park District
Worth Park District

Business Members

Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau
Cody/Braun & Associates, LLC
EduMarking USA/SuperSealing USA
NuToys Leisure Products
Proven IT
Snapology
T-Mobile
Upland Design Ltd
Wight & Company

Retired/Individual/University/Student Members

John Wilson – Retired
Ryan Graczyk – Individual
Michael McNicholas – University Member:
Chicago State University
Reily McTeague – Student Member:
Moraine Valley Community College



SSPRPA Financials

Starting Balance – September 2021 =\$15,332.94

Starting Balance – September 2022 = \$17,239.84

2021-2022 Actual Budget

Total Revenue = \$22,871.11

Total Expenses = \$20,964.21

Revenue Totals

Membership Fees = \$9,964.36

Meeting Fees = \$5,692.82

Sponsorship = \$3,384.64

IPRA Social = \$1,135.29

Day Camp Workshop = \$2,120

Early Childhood Workshop = \$574

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

2021-2022 Award Recipients

Professional of the Year

Keith Wallace

Lincolnway Special Recreation Association



Young Professional of the Year

Delaney Harty

Oak Lawn Park District



Graduate Scholarship Recipient

Kara Case

Palos Heights Parks & Recreation



SSPRPA 2021-2022 Sponsors

Thank you to all of our meeting sponsors!

EduMarking USA

Proven IT

T-Mobile

Direct Fitness Solutions

Henry Bros, Inc.

Wight & Co

Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau

