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## 2023-2024 MRPA Executive Council/Committees

### PARC Branch

- **Chair:** Shelby Smith  
Seneca Creek State Park  
443-470-2133  
[suncloud3334@gmail.com](mailto:suncloud3334@gmail.com)

### RALS Branch

- **Chair:** DeVon Brown  
Harford County Parks & Recreation  
410-612-1606  
[dhbrown@harfordcountymd.gov](mailto:dhbrown@harfordcountymd.gov)

### TR Branch Chair:

**Awards Committee:** Work with a representative of each Branch or focus area, the membership, the President, Board and Council to recognize members quarterly and annually at the State Association Conference. Evaluate and recommend changes to the awards as warranted.

- **Co-Chair:** Annie Sanchez  
Baltimore County Recreation & Parks  
(410) 887-1818  
[asanchez@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:asanchez@baltimorecountymd.gov)
- **Co-Chair:** Kathleen Benson  
City of Gaithersburg  
[kathleen.benson@gaitthersburgmd.gov](mailto:kathleen.benson@gaitthersburgmd.gov)



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**Conference Committee:** Planning of the MRPA Annual Conference for professionals, volunteers, board members and vendors from across the state and region. Offer a variety of educational sessions on areas of interest to the parks and recreation profession, networking and acknowledge outstanding accomplishments of both departments and individuals through annual awards.

- **Co-Chair:** Carolyn Muller  
City of Gaithersburg Recreation, Parks & Culture  
240.805.1633  
[carolyn.muller@gaitersburgmd.gov](mailto:carolyn.muller@gaitersburgmd.gov)
- **Co-Chair:** Deborah Huffman  
City of Takoma Park Recreation Department  
301-891-7290  
[deborahh@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:deborahh@takomaparkmd.gov)

**Corporate Development Committee:** Raise funds for the operation of the Association, including scholarships and employment of paid personnel which may be appointed by the Board of Directors. Works to obtain grants and sponsorships for the benefit of the association.

- **Co-Chair:** Tracy Wright  
M-NCPPC- Prince George's Co  
[tracy.wright@pgparks.com](mailto:tracy.wright@pgparks.com)

**Finance Committee:** Monitor the long-range financial plan. Prepare periodic (minimum of annual) status reports on the association's investment funds. Work with the executive director to develop specifications for conducting the annual audit/review/compilation and where applicable, interview potential auditors. Meet with accountants to discuss the management letter of the association's fiscal practices. Act as an advisor to the executive director and executive board in financial practices, policies, and procedures.

- **Chair:** Michele Potter  
Asbury Methodist Community  
240.805.1527  
[mpotter@asbury.org](mailto:mpotter@asbury.org)



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**Legislative Committee:** Develop 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 for the upcoming legislative session. Determines strategy for communicating issues to the appropriate parties; maintains a log of pending legislation including a brief description of each bill, its sponsor/s, committee assignment, hearing date and status. Leads discussions during the session to review and develop a course of action and develop and implement testimony strategy for each bill based upon committee consensus.

- **Co-Chair:** Steve Miller  
Wicomico County Recreation, Parks & Tourism  
410.548.4900 ext. 106  
[smiller@wicomicocounty.org](mailto:smiller@wicomicocounty.org)

**MRPA Leadership Institute I:** This recent MRPA initiative is intended to develop future leaders in Recreation and Parks who will take on leadership positions within their organization and in the Maryland Recreation and Park Association. This 8-month program meets for a full day once a month, focusing on various areas of leadership.

- **Co-Chair:** Tammy Castillo, CAPM, CPRP  
City of Gaithersburg Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture  
(240) 805-1632  
[Tammy.Castillo@gaitersburgmd.gov](mailto:Tammy.Castillo@gaitersburgmd.gov)
- **Co-chair:** Andrew Badaczewski  
M-NCPPC – Montgomery Parks  
[andrews.badaczewski@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:andrews.badaczewski@montgomeryparks.org)

**Marketing Communications Committee:** Assist in the promotion of activities of the association including general membership meetings and workshops, training and education programs, the annual conference and distribution of association news through print and electronic media.

- **Co-Chair:** Melissa Kinna  
Frederick County Division of Parks and Recreation  
[mkinna@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:mkinna@frederickcountymd.gov)
- **Co-Chair (Graphics):** Desire DeGrange  
Frederick County Parks & Recreation  
301.600.2391  
[ddegrange@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:ddegrange@frederickcountymd.gov)



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**Member Engagement and Outreach Committee:** Develop an annual marketing plan, to include a timeline for membership retention and new member recruitment including specific recruitment campaigns and promotions. Foster development of a network and opportunities for "Young Professionals" ages 21-35 to develop as future members of the MRPA leadership. Evaluates membership fees and benefits and recommends changes as warranted. In coordination with the MRPA office review and revise membership information to reflect approved changes.

- **Co-Chair: VACANT**
- **Co-Chair: VACANT**

**Professional Certification Board:** Establishes approval process and approves all CEUs for MRPA educational sessions, including Annual State Conference sessions.

- **Past Chair:** Rachel Kollasch, CTRS  
Director of Day Services  
Richcroft, Inc.  
410.316.8574  
[rachelk@richcroft.org](mailto:rachelk@richcroft.org)
- **Chair:** Robin Oden  
[Robin.oden@pgparks.com](mailto:Robin.oden@pgparks.com)

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

- **Co-Chair: VACANT**
- **Co-Chair** Calli Guercio  
Frederick County Parks & Recreation  
301.600.2197  
[cguercio@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:cguercio@frederickcountymd.gov)

**Professional Standards Committee:** Promotes and encourages professional certification among the membership through active continuing education by recreation and park professionals, volunteers, and citizen advocates.

- **Chair:** John Henderson  
M-NCPPC - Prince George's Co.  
301.891.7290  
[john.henderson@pgparks.com](mailto:john.henderson@pgparks.com)



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**Scholarship Committee:** Reviews and recommends revisions to establish criteria for scholarships, receives applications through the MRPA office, investigates the merits of each application and make recommendations for the provision of scholarships for individuals who meet the established criteria. Scholarships may be available for training including the MRPA and NRPA annual conferences, the MRPA Leadership Academy, and/or other trainings, certifications, and internships whereby it benefits both the individual and MRPA.

- **Co-Chair:** Amanda DeFilippo  
Montgomery County Recreation  
240-485-8871  
[amanda.defilippo@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:amanda.defilippo@montgomerycountymd.gov)
- **Co-Chair:** Veronica Burke  
M-NCPPC – Prince George’s Co.  
301.446.3414  
[Veronica.Burke@pgparks.com](mailto:Veronica.Burke@pgparks.com)
- **Co- Chair:** Travis Davey  
Recreation Manager  
Town of Ocean City  
200 125<sup>th</sup> Street  
Ocean City, Maryland 21842  
410-520-5168 (office)  
[tdavey@oceancitymd.gov](mailto:tdavey@oceancitymd.gov)

**Training and Education Committee:** Coordinates training opportunities for MRPA members, offering quality training and education options. The committee is comprised of representatives from various disciplines such as Aquatics, Facilities, Parks, Sports, Therapeutic, etc. Promotes professional certification through nationally recognized certifications such as CPRP, CPRE, and aggressively continuing education by recreation and park professionals, volunteers, and citizen advocates. Create educational tracks/modules for various levels of the membership (such as Budget & Finance, Supervision, a Program Summit, Parks Maintenance, etc.)

- **Co-Chair:** Mark Bonitatibus  
Montgomery County Recreation  
240.777.6861  
[Mark.bonitatibus@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Mark.bonitatibus@montgomerycountymd.gov)
- **Co-Chair:** Dionna Jones  
M-NCPPC – Prince George’s Co.  
301.782.1450  
[Dionna.jones@pgparks.com](mailto:Dionna.jones@pgparks.com)
- **Co-Chair:** Chuck Montrie [chuck.montrie@gmail.com](mailto:chuck.montrie@gmail.com)



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**Social Justice/Racial Equity/Inclusion Committee:** 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.

- **Co-Chair:** Genevieve Jennai  
M-NCPPC – Prince George’s Co.  
301-446-3441  
[genevieve.jennai@pgparks.com](mailto:genevieve.jennai@pgparks.com)

**MRPA Operations University:** The Maryland Parks and Recreation Operation University’s goal is to develop future operations leaders to gain practical and applicable knowledge to improve operations and advance into leadership positions within their organization to provide successful parks and community services for sustainable, healthy lifestyles. Operations University will meet monthly (8) to discuss diverse topics in various locations throughout the State allowing participants to expand their operational knowledge, leadership, and professionalism. Dynamic industry experts will be featured each month with facilitated discussion related to topics relevant to operational success, sustainable practices, leadership, budget, and professional development. Projects and reading materials will be assigned between Operation Universities monthly meetings and collaborative discussions will enrich the participants knowledge to bring innovative practices which can be implemented into departments across the State.

- **Co-Chair:** Carrie Sprinkle  
Frederick County Division of Parks and Recreation  
301-600-1666  
[csprinkle@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:csprinkle@frederickcountymd.gov)
- **Co-Chair:** Rachel Carr  
M-NCPPC – Montgomery Parks  
240-815-1018  
[rachel.carr@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:rachel.carr@montgomeryparks.org)

**Statewide Sports Committee:** The statewide sports committee will be a working committee to create championship level play across the state. They will develop a plan to fold in ALL sports within the state to include boys and girls equitably.

- **Chair:** Reggie Moore  
Baltimore City Recreation and Parks  
[reginald.moore@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:reginald.moore@baltimorecity.gov)



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**Retiree Engagement Committee:** The retiree engagement committee is a committee to ensure continued engagement of our retirees who have so much to offer and have been an untapped resource. This committee will also plan events to bring retirees together for fun activities and events.

- **Members**

- Emily Rose
- Jadz Ploskon
- Gena Wade
- Adrienne Vaurieir

**Summit Committee:** The summit committee will continue planning appropriate summits. They will develop a plan to fold in appropriate learning topic summits.

- **Co-Chair:** Nancy Pfeffer
- **Co-Chair:** Terri Hilton