# IAPD

## Illinois Association of Park Districts

211 E. Monroe St.
Springfield, IL 62701
(217) 523-4554 ■ ILparks.org

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# About the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD)

The Illinois Association of Park Districts, headquartered in Springfield adjacent to the State Capitol, has been serving park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies since 1928. It is the oldest and most successful statewide association of its kind in the nation. As a grassroots organization, IAPD's voice for parks, recreation and conservation is strong and respected throughout Illinois and the United States. IAPD represents more than 2,100 locally elected and appointed citizen board members and is composed of more than 450 park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies and corporate members.

## Mission Statement

IAPD is a nonprofit service, research and educational organization that serves park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies. The association advances these agencies, their citizen board members and professional staff in their ability to provide outstanding park and recreation opportunities, preserve natural resources and improve the quality of life for all people in Illinois.

## Vision Statement

*As a national leader, IAPD will provide superb association services to its members.*

IAPD will achieve our vision by:

- Educating elected and appointed officials to work in cooperation with fellow board members and professionals to promote a stronger community through public parks, recreation and conservation.
- Strengthening alliances with environmental, economic and human service agencies throughout Illinois and the nation.
- Maintaining a strong relationship with state and national government leaders.
- Establishing grants and other new revenue streams for our members.
- Addressing the problem of decreasing open spaces and natural areas in Illinois.
- Assisting our members in the promotion of healthy lifestyles for all ages and abilities.
- Assisting our members in meeting statewide and community challenges, such as youth-at-risk, obesity and the demands of a growing senior and diverse population.
- Helping our member agencies thrive in spite of limited tax-based revenues.

IAPD's organizational strengths include the creation and delivery of:

- Orientation, governance and training programs for citizen board members and professional staff.
- Citizen advocacy initiatives that direct and draw on the power of individuals to educate policymakers on issues of vital importance to the mission of park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies.
- Educational materials such as *Illinois Parks & Recreation* magazine, books and newsletters, IAPD's website, in-depth and challenging educational seminars, webinars and a nationally respected annual state conference.
- Technical assistance that helps member agencies increase

their efficiency, meet their goals or acquire additional funding.
- Opportunities for member agencies to save costs on such budget items as goods and services and utilities, telecommunications, insurance and other operational expenses.

The IAPD will continue to achieve these results in a fiscally responsible manner that assures the viability of the association and its membership.

As a statewide GRASSROOTS EDUCATIONAL, RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION, IAPD engages thousands of board members and professionals across the state in grassroots advocacy to ensure that the laws passed by the Illinois General Assembly benefit its member agencies. For example, IAPD's advocacy efforts resulted in a permanent grant program, the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Program (OSLAD), to provide matching funds to local agencies to assist in the acquisition of open space and the development of recreational opportunities. Other grant programs that are the result of IAPD advocacy include the Bicycle Path Grant Program, which financially assists eligible units of government to acquire, construct and rehabilitate public bicycle paths and non-motorized trails; the Museum Grant Program, which is designed to help public museums in Illinois expand and upgrade facilities and create new exhibitions; and the Boat Access Program, which provides financial assistance to local government agencies for the acquisition, construction and expansion/rehabilitation of public boat and canoe access areas on Illinois' lakes and rivers.

Each year, because of IAPD's efforts and yours, more than 92 percent of the association's legislative initiatives have passed since 1980.

IAPD offers many NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES that connect board members, professionals, legislators and corporate members so that they can discuss and solve problems, share ideas and learn from the experiences of others.

IAPD actively seeks PARTNERSHIPS that will benefit the

membership, including alliances with leaders in state government, other nonprofit organizations and the business community.

IAPD's team of HIGHLY KNOWLEDGEABLE AND EXPERIENCED STAFF is dedicated to helping boards and agency directors overcome challenges by providing quality educational programs and services. Our staff has a combined total of more than 130 years of dedicated service with the Illinois Association of Park Districts. Remember, we are always just a phone call or an e-mail away. Contact us at (217) 523-4554 or iapd@ILparks.org.

## Get Involved in IAPD Committees & Councils

You can make a difference by joining an IAPD committee. It's rewarding, results in friendships throughout the state and contributes to the future success of parks, recreation and conservation.

Members of IAPD committees serve one-year terms and are eligible for reappointment. Joint committee members serve three-year terms.

**General Committee Guidelines**

- Investigate and provide the facts that demonstrate the need for committee action.
- Analyze the issues and data to determine appropriate courses of action.
- Implement plans and ensure a positive end result within a specified time frame.
- Make final recommendations to the Board of Trustees and CEO.

**IAPD Committees:**

Honors and Resolutions Committee
This committee plans, organizes and arranges for the presentation of annual honors and awards for the association to recognize board member anniversaries, agency anniversaries, park district youth license plate promotions and other outstanding achievements of volunteers, professionals and organizations. This includes awards presented at the annual *IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference* and the annual IAPD Best of the Best Awards Gala.
Membership Committee

The Membership Committee encourages membership in the IAPD by all park, forest preserve and conservation agencies; city, township and village park and recreation boards; special recreation associations; departments of the State of Illinois; colleges and universities; commercial establishments, as well as individuals and organizations who are concerned with park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation. Since 1980, IAPD has maintained a 98 percent membership retention rate.

Program Committee

This committee assists in planning the curriculum for educational workshops, seminars, webinars and educational sessions that are offered throughout the year and at the annual IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference. Committee members assist the IAPD staff in planning, organizing, executing, staffing and promoting these educational offerings.

Research Advisory Council

The IAPD Research Advisory Council promotes the benefits of park, recreation and conservation agencies in Illinois by determining and conducting the research needed to ensure the long-term success of the legislative advocacy and public relations programs of the association, as well as to address the individual needs of member districts. Members are appointed from our agencies (commissioners and directors), academia and the business sector.

Municipal Committee

The Municipal Committee promotes special programs and creates educational materials to assist municipal park and recreation departments. Networking opportunities are provided to assist in addressing the unique challenges these agencies face.

Ambassadors Committee

The IAPD Ambassadors Committee consists of past and present board members from Illinois park districts, forest preserves, conservation and recreation agencies. IAPD Ambassadors are a core group of volunteers who embrace IAPD's mission and vision. Members of the Ambassadors Committee are the voice of the Illinois Association of Park Districts. They volunteer at IAPD events and educational programs and make presentations on behalf of the association.

## IAPD/IPRA Joint Committees

The Illinois Association of Park Districts and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association jointly appoint commissioners and professionals representing park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies throughout the state to serve on the following committees.

Joint Conference Committee
This committee plans the annual IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference, which serves as an educational forum for board members and professionals of park districts, forest preserves, conservation and recreation agencies. IAPD representatives assist with conference planning, exhibits, educational sessions, operations, special/social events, general sessions, the awards luncheon and other sponsored conference activities.

Joint Distinguished Park and Recreation Accreditation Committee
This committee's goal is to improve the delivery of recreation services to the residents of Illinois through a voluntary comprehensive evaluation process. Providing recognition of agencies that achieve superior levels of service assists in benchmarking the operations of park districts and improves the quality of life for Illinois residents.

Joint Editorial Committee
This is an advisory committee to the editor and managing editor of the bi-monthly *Illinois Parks & Recreation* magazine and annual *Buyers' Guide*. Committee members assist in formulating the editorial calendar and sourcing articles. They suggest authors for articles and also ask contacts at member agencies to write articles for the magazine. The committee is also responsible for distribution of the annual Give Us Your Best Shot photo contest.

Joint Legislative Committee
This committee studies existing and proposed state and federal legislation, recommends initiatives for the legislative platform and communicates legislative activity and calls for action to IAPD and IPRA members. The committee also conducts grassroots educational programs, initiates legislative awareness events, and

coordinates activities that increase legislators' understanding and appreciation of our members' missions and the issues that they confront on a local and state level.

You can make a difference by joining an IAPD committee, task force or council! It's rewarding and it puts you in touch with fellow commissioners across the state. Your contributions will affect the future of Illinois parks, recreation and conservation.

**You Can Make a Difference by Joining an IAPD Committee, Task Force or Council!** It's rewarding and it puts you in touch with fellow commissioners across the state. Your contributions will affect the future of Illinois parks, recreation and conservation! **Complete the following and mail to IAPD, 211 East Monroe Street, Springfield, IL, 62701; fax to (217) 523-4273; or scan and e-mail to iapd@ILparks.org.**

Name:_____

Agency:_____

Address:_____

City:_____, IL Zip:_____

Phone: (_____) _____

E-mail:_____

Background or Expertise: _____

_____

**Committee Choices** *(number in order of preference)*

_____ Honors and Resolutions Committee

_____ Membership Committee

_____ Program Committee

_____ Research Advisory Council

_____ Municipal Committee

_____ Ambassadors Committee

_____ Joint Conference Committee

_____ Joint Distinguished Park and Recreation Accreditation Committee

_____ Joint Editorial Committee

_____ Joint Legislative Committee

**Please remove the previous page, make copies and distribute one to each of your board members.**

**This form may be completed and sent back to IAPD in one of the following ways:**

**Mail:**
Illinois Association of Park Districts
211 East Monroe Street
Springfield, IL 62701

**Fax:**
(217) 523-4273

**E-mail:**
iapd@ILparks.org

IAPD
Illinois Association of Park Districts

# IAPD Staff

**Peter Murphy, Esq., CAE, IOM**
*President and CEO*
e-mail: pmurphy@ILparks.org

- Works with the IAPD Board of Trustees to advance the Association's mission and vision
- Acts as Association's spokesperson
- Directs boardmanship training and education
- Manages the Association's operations and personnel
- Directs the Association's legal, legislative and educational programs
- Provides legal consultation to members
- Leads the Association's Executive Search service
- Conducts Board Self-Evaluations for agency members and leadership teams
- Manages the Association's affinity partner relations
- Directs grassroots legislative advocacy and training – state and federal
- Provides testimony to the General Assembly on behalf of the Association
- Responsible for the Association's finances - investment and fundraising
- Directs the Association's comprehensive programs and services
- Provides technical assistance to member districts
- Directs research projects to serve members' needs.
- Serves as an IPARKS board member
- Establishes on-going partnerships with state and national organizations that further open space protection and the development of recreational opportunities.
- Authors books and magazine articles on boardmanship, leadership, legal topics and governance
- Serves as President of the Friends of Illinois Parks Foundation
- Develops corporate and nonprofit partnerships

*Committee Liaison: All Committees*

**Jason Anselment**
*General Counsel*
e-mail: janselment@ILparks.org

- Manages Association legal & legislative programs
- Acts as legal counsel to membership
- Maintains legislative database
- Responsible for Association's lobbying – state and federal
- Monitors all new bill introductions
- Maintains relationships with legislators
- Provides grassroots advocacy training
- Provides testimony on behalf of the Association to House and Senate committees
- Authors *Legal News*, *Legislative Updates/Alerts* and *Statehouse Insider* columns
- Provides legal and technical assistance
- Provides legal consultation to members
- Serves as IPARKS ex-officio member
- Serves as Secretary of the Friends of Illinois Parks Foundation
  *Committee Liaison: Joint Legislative*

**Kari Catton**
*Executive Secretary*
e-mail: iapd@ILparks.org

- Assistant to President/CEO
- IAPD board correspondence
- Maintains IAPD board and committee directory
- Board Self-Evaluation
- General public and member inquiries
- General office assistance

**Bobbie Jo Hill**
*Director of Public Relations Director & Membership Engagement*
e-mail: bjhill@ILparks.org

- Media Relations
- Board Member Development Program
- IAPD *e-News*
- Park District Youth License Plate Program
- Park District Conservation Day at the Illinois State Fair
- Parks Day at the Capitol
- Flying 4 Kids Statewide Kite Fly
- Best of the Best Awards Gala
- IAPD Summer Golf Tour
- Soaring to New Heights Conference Awards
- Outgoing Board Member Awards
  *Committee Liaison: Honors & Resolutions, Joint Distinguished Park and Recreation Accredited Agency*

**Alan Howard**
*Director of Finance & Human Services*
e-mail: ahoward@ILparks.org

- Association's accounting, financial statements, payroll and record keeping
- Annual budgets and audit
- Membership dues
- Membership database
- Advertising management
- Soaring to New Heights Conference registration and finance
  *Committee Liaison: Joint Conference*

**Shannon Sartain**
*Legal Secretary*
e-mail: ssartain@ILparks.org

- Assistant to legal/legislative counsel
- Joint Legislative Committee correspondence
- Legislator correspondence
- Publications assistance
- General public and member inquiries
- *Legislative Updates* and *Alerts*
- General office assistance

**Sue Triphahn, CMP**
*Director of Education & Conferences*
e-mail: striphahn@ILparks.org

- *Soaring to New Heights Conference* director
- Educational program planning
- Seminars, workshops, webinars, symposiums and roundtables
- Board & committee meetings
- Educational program registration
- Special events
- IAPD Summer Golf Tour
- Best of the Best Awards Gala
- Sponsorships

  *Committee Liaison: Program and Joint Conference*

**Wayne Utterback**
*Director of Communications & Digital Content*
e-mail: wutterback@ILparks.org

- *Illinois Parks & Recreation* magazine
- *Buyers' Guide*
- Graphic Design
- Video Production
- Audio Production
- Park Cast Podcast
- Legends Video Series
- Photography
- Digital Publications
- Social Media Management
- Website Maintenance

  *Committee Liaison: Joint Editorial*

# IAPD Board of Trustees

Adriane Johnson, *Chairman*
Buffalo Grove Park District

Mike Vogl, *Chairman-Elect*
Bloomingdale Park District

Kevin Dolan, *Immediate Past-Chairman*
Mundelein Park & Recreation District

Ron Evans, *Vice-Chairman*
Hoffman Estates Park District

Gary Gillis, *Vice-Chairman*
Pekin Park District

Jeff Rigoni, *Vie-Chairman*
Lockport Township Park District

Grant Hammer, *Treasurer*
Springfield Park District

William Casey, *Trustee*
Glenview Park District

Eric Entler, *Trustee*
Park District of Forest Park

John Hemingway, *Trustee*
Macomb Park District

Greg Lapin, *Trustee*
Deerfield Park District

Lester Long, *Trustee*
Dolton Park District

Mary Kay Ludemann, *Trustee*
Plainfield Park District

Jesse Ortega, *Trustee*
Mundelein Park & Recreation District

Lori Palmer, *Trustee*
Bartlett Park District

Mike Reid, *Trustee*
Skokie Park District

Ted Schulz, *Trustee*
New Lenox Community

Tyler Smith, *Trustee*
Rockford Park District

# Advocacy

It is our goal to develop and support citizen advocacy initiatives that draw on the power of individuals to educate policymakers on issues of vital importance to the mission of park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies.

Since 1980, legislation endorsed by the IAPD has passed 92 percent of the time. Because of IAPD's legislative efforts, countless regulations and new requirements have been avoided, saving member agencies millions of dollars. Thanks in large part to the work of the IAPD, Illinois citizens enjoy more than 642,500 acres for parks, recreation and conservation.

Legislative advocacy involves countless hours of research, preparation, relationship building, education and image building. It is an ongoing commitment to further the association's reputation as a proactive and trustworthy source of legislative information to our membership, the media, the Illinois General Assembly, the Governor and members of Congress.

IAPD staff aggressively work at the State Capitol, building relationships with legislators and government officials. To help local board members build relationships with their legislators, IAPD offers the annual **Legislative Reception and Conference, Parks Day at the Capitol, Legislative Breakfasts, webinars** and other forums for networking. Additional resources such as ***The Grassroots Commitment*** legislative advocacy DVD are also available.

Members of the Glenview Park District with Senator Laura Fine at IAPD's Legislative Reception.

IAPD reviews each one of the thousands of bills every year for their impact on park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies. Hundreds of these bills are monitored closely and each of the thousands of amendments that are filed as part of the legislative process are also reviewed.

IAPD keeps our members current with legislative information sent weekly via electronic *Legislative Updates* when the Illinois General Assembly is in session. Legal news briefs and legislative advocacy videos keep members informed of recent court decisions, new federal rules, important election information, deadlines and training opportunities. Electronic *Legislative Alerts* are sent to members when actions need to be taken on specific legislative issues.

The IAPD website is a rich source for members to learn more about the legislative process, track bills and access tools to assist in communicating with legislators. The following list includes resources that are accessible in the Advocacy section at ILparks.

**Results from Recent Park, Recreation and Conservation Referenda**

**New Civics 101 -** Why you need to know your legislator and why your legislator needs to know you.

**Give Your Legislative Efforts a K.I.C.K** - Legislators make more knowledgeable decisions when they understand what we do.

**How to Succeed in Lobbying. . . 20 Easy Steps**

**How to Write to Your State Legislator**

**Meeting With Your Elected Official**

**Building Relationships with Legislators**

**How a Bill Becomes a Law**

- Required Votes
- Legislative Definitions
- How to Read A Bill

**Legislation Information - Source**

**Power of Citizen Advocacy - PowerPoint Presentation**

One of the benefits of effectively establishing relationships with legislators is the creation of grant programs such as **OSLAD - Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development**. An IAPD-initiated program, OSLAD is funded with dedicated dollars from the real estate transfer tax, a system put in place in 1989 by the Illinois General Assembly to ensure annual funds for this critical program. The revenue generated is used to provide grants to park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies throughout the state to acquire open space and to develop and improve park facilities. IAPD member agencies in nearly every county in Illinois have received OSLAD grants.

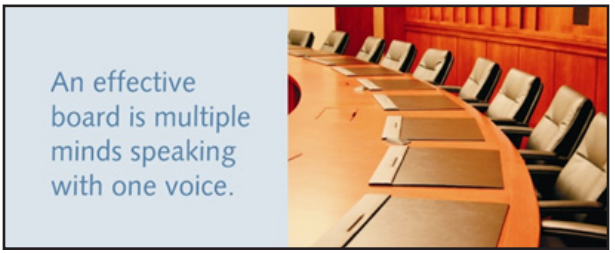
## Board Development and Self-Evaluation

Even the best boards should conduct an annual self-evaluation to solidify relationships with one another, businesses, other government agencies and the community. The board should evaluate whether meetings, relationships with the executive, the code of ethics, board policies and other governance situations can be improved.

Board development can help with team decision-making, generating community support for agency initiatives, achieving consensus, working within the Open Meetings Act and resolving board issues. This specialized training is a great benefit to both new and seasoned board members, as it defines roles and responsibilities, describes duties for oversight and governance, and assists in defining leadership within the agency.

Occasionally, an agency will experience disharmony among its board members, making it difficult to conduct business. When this situation disrupts the decision-making process, IAPD can help. Board development helps to create an atmosphere of trust between board members. This focuses everyone's efforts on moving the agency forward and being more accountable to the public.

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, board development may be held in closed session with an IAPD representative. This self-evaluation process allows for maximum growth potential in a private setting while complying with state law.



# Legal Services

These services include assistance for commissioners and attorneys on questions involving the powers and authority granted under Illinois state law; consultations with lawmakers on national, state and local levels; and working with the Joint Legislative Committee composed of elected citizens, as well as park, recreation and conservation professionals.

IAPD also provides regular e-mail updates with our *Legal News*, which contains timely legal information such as court decisions and new regulations that are important to members, and *Legislative Updates*, which keep our membership apprised of the legal impact of current and pending legislation that we are monitoring for our agencies.

**Consultation**
Free consultation with the IAPD legal counsel is available to all member agency board members, chief executives and board attorneys on all issues impacting the legal activity of park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies.

**Website**
The legal area of the IAPD website provides information on legal responsibilities and the laws governing the operation of park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies, as well as recent court cases of interest to members. Answers to frequently asked questions are also available.

The Member Resources Section contains valuable resources IAPD has developed exclusively for member use, including a model code of ordinances, sample policies and procedures such as a model Remote Attendance Policy, Identity Protection Policy and Soccer Goal Safety and Education Policy, and other useful tools. The Practice Tools Section contains educational resources and other materials to help members comply with their legal requirements under laws such as the Open Meetings Act, the

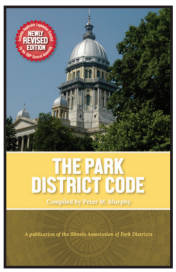
Local Records Act and the Prevailing Wage Act, to name just a few.

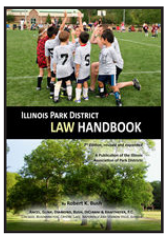
The annual legal calendar lists deadlines by which agencies must perform legal obligations including referendum filings, budget and appropriation filings, Truth in Taxation hearings, tax levy filings and other compliance issues.

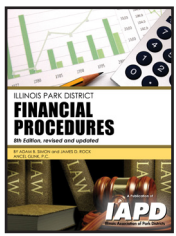
The election calendar contains key dates associated with the consolidated and general elections. This publication includes information and dates deemed most important to members.

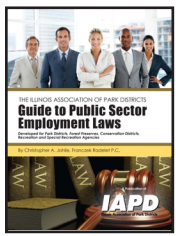
**Publications**

IAPD is continually creating and updating publications covering legal issues, such as *The Park District Code*, the *Guide to Illinois Open Meetings Act and FOIA*, *The Illinois Park District Law Handbook*, *Illinois Park District Financial Procedures* and *Guide to Public Sector Employment Laws.*





# Education

IAPD strives to offer members cutting edge and innovative programs at the grassroots and statewide level.

We are dedicated to improving educational programming while finding new ways to educate our members.

The association has an annual state conference, a legislative conference, legal symposium and commissioner seminars. It also offers a variety of seminars, workshops and webinars pertaining to issues affecting park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies.

**IAPD Legislative Conference**

The IAPD Legislative Conference is designed to provide commissioners, directors and professionals with firsthand, up-to-date information on the association's Legislative Advocacy Program and all pending legislation affecting IAPD's membership. State legislators, state administrative officials and other recognized authorities present the latest techniques and materials to assist commissioners and directors with the tools they need to successfully meet and talk with legislators and be more effective in the legislative arena.

The evening prior to the Legislative Conference, IAPD offers a valuable legislative networking opportunity at its Legislative Reception. This provides board members and professionals a chance to speak one-on-one with legislators in a casual atmosphere.

**IAPD Legal Symposium - November 5, 2020**

The IAPD Legal Symposium, held annually in the fall, offers information and key strategies to effectively deal with legal and legislative issues that agencies face in their local operation. Legal professionals associated with the field present topics and solutions.

Illinois Association of Park Districts
Legal Symposium

## Leadership Institute

This unique educational series is designed to enhance the personal growth and professional development of those holding leadership and governance roles within park and recreation agencies. Collectively, this series will transform leadership skills and take participants to the next level. It is imperative that board members attend this training as their role is critical to an agency's success. It has been proven that board members and professionals with advanced leadership skills add a tremendous benefit to their agencies and those they serve.

**Thursday, May 14, 2020**
**Webinar #1**
Messaging and the Media in Crisis

**Thursday, July 23, 2020**
**Webinar #2**
High Focus Communication for
Face to Face and Email

**Thursday, July 23, 2020**
**Improve Your Leadership Capabilities**
**→ Improve Your Impact**
Park Ridge Park District's Prospect Park
O'Connor Community Building

**Thursday, August 13, 2020**
**Webinar #3**
Your Board and Your Strategic Plan

**Thursday, September 17, 2020**
**Driving the Future of your Agency:**
**Vision, Leadership and Engagement**
Park Ridge Park District's Prospect Park
O'Connor Community Building

**IAPD/IPRA *Soaring to New Heights Conference* - January 28-30, 2020**

The annual conference is an excellent opportunity to network, visit the expansive exhibit hall and participate in a number of educational sessions. The Illinois Association of Park Districts and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association host the state conference every January, attracting more than 4,000 board members, professionals, students and vendors. The IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference is designed to help staff and board members meet the challenges they face every day back in their communities.

**Workshops and Webinars**

Educational workshops and webinars are often organized by the IAPD throughout the year to address current issues and trends.

**IAPD Knowledge Center**

The Knowledge Center, located on IAPD's website, contains information from current and past IAPD publications, position papers, meetings, seminars and conferences. This members-only area of our website will enhance the decision-making skills of elected board members and professionals throughout the state.

# Resources

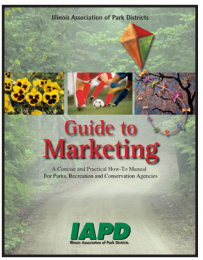
## *Illinois Parks & Recreation* magazine

Published bi-monthly, this magazine is the leading state magazine for parks and recreation, edited specifically for board members and professionals in the field. Articles address trends, issues, legislation and boardmanship and offer practical information and reports on model programs, all designed to help board members and professionals succeed in their roles as leaders and visionaries for their agencies.

## IAPD *e-News*

This online newsletter is a weekly update on IAPD news, services, educational programs and events of interest to our membership.

## *Guide to Marketing*



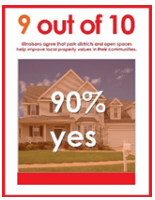

This FREE guide is a concise and practical "how to" manual addressing such topics as current trends in marketing, informal research methods, research analysis, marketing goals and strategies, establishing a marketing budget and evaluating marketing efforts. Whether your agency has a fully staffed marketing department or is just beginning to focus on a comprehensive marketing strategy, you'll find valuable information in this guide.

## IAPD Research

With guidance from the IAPD Research Advisory Council, IAPD conducts research that can be used by member agencies in their public relations and legislative advocacy efforts. Completed research project reports are available in the Research Section of IAPD's website at ILparks.org.

***W-2 Agency Employment* Brochure**

Read about the findings of our research study, conducted by aQity Research & Insights, Inc. The overall findings demonstrate the valuable role that local park districts, forest preserves, conservation districts and special recreation agencies play in our local economies. This insightful brochure outlines revenue sources for these agencies and presents data on payroll and employee spending. This is a great tool to share with others that shows just how valuable these agencies are to their communities.




**Download printable posters with key findings from an IAPD research study at ILparks.org.**

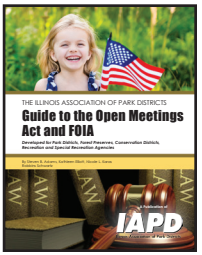
***Parks & Forest Preserves Bring Value to Our Communities***

Read all about the highlights of our research study conducted by Market Probe. The overall message is clear: the citizens of Illinois know that park districts and forest preserves have a significant impact on the well-being of a community and on the state of Illinois.

**IAPD Books and DVDs**

Order practical books, webinars and DVDs that will enhance your boardmanship skills and keep you current on park district legal matters and finances. IAPD publications are available for purchase at ILparks.org under Member Services in the IAPD Store.

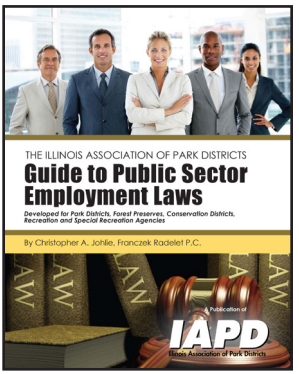
***Guide to the Open Meetings Act and FOIA***




Understanding the Open Meetings Act (OMA) and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) as they apply to park districts and other local governments can be challenging, especially because these two statutes are frequently

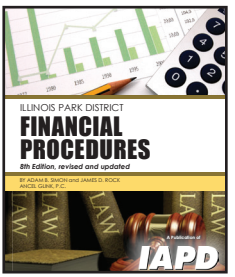
the subject of legislative changes and judicial decisions. This handbook is designed to help Illinois park commissioners, executive directors, FOIA and OMA officers, and other staff members navigate the increasingly complex laws related to public meetings and record disclosures. It does so by summarizing procedures and providing practical guidance and tips to reduce the risk of error. This guide covers a range of topics including Public Notices and Meeting Agenda Requirements, Conduct of Meetings, Open Meetings Exceptions, Exempt and Non-Exempt Records, Inspection and Copying Requirements and Commissioner Remote Attendance.

***Guide to Public Sector Employment Laws – Second edition, expanded and revised***




Understanding employment laws as they apply to park districts and other agencies is not always an easy task, especially when there are new legislative trends. This guide is designed for park districts, forest preserves, conservation districts, recreation and special recreation agencies to provide guidance on the employment laws and their daily application. The guide contains updates to numerous employer laws and regulations relating to Equal Employment Opportunity, Affordable Care Act, Employee Privacy, Worker Classification Issues, Wage and Hour Requirements, Leaves of Absence, Employee Background Investigations and much more. This latest version includes several practical suggestions, checklists and sample policies to help diminish risk and achieve employer goals.

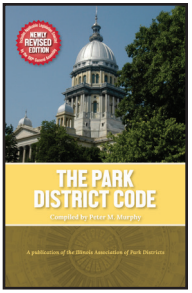
***Illinois Park District Financial Procedures* - *8th Edition***




This comprehensive manual is intended to provide readers with a thorough understanding of park district finance and serve as a reference tool for information on budget preparation and presentation, tax levies, audits, bonds and much more.

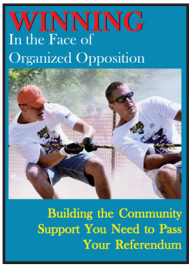
***The Park District Code***

It's all here in one volume – the latest, most complete compilation of laws governing park and recreation agencies in Illinois. It includes the entire Park District Code and reference to more than 51 additional relevant statutes. *The Park District Code* is now available digitally, including searchable content.



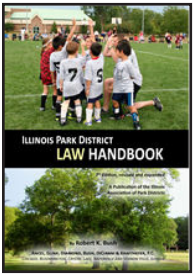

***Winning In the Face of Organized Opposition***

The Illinois Association of Park Districts wants you to win your next referendum. *Winning in the Face of Organized Opposition* is a guide to building the community support you need. This publication can help agencies develop action plans for successful campaigns and offers valuable strategies to counter the messages and tactics that anti-tax groups may use against your efforts.



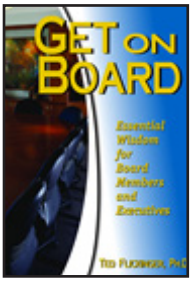

***Illinois Park District Law Handbook, 7th edition***

This book consolidates the body of park district law into a single user-friendly volume. This publication comes with access to 25 sample legal forms to download and customize for your agency.

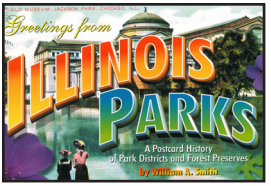



***Get On Board – Essential Wisdom for Board Members and Executives***

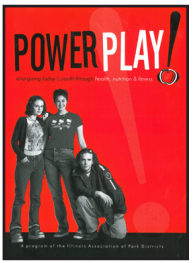
Whether you're a board member or an agency administrator, *Get on Board* is your leadership guide to becoming an effective steward of the public's trust. While you learn the principles of board service, you'll also be reminded why parks, recreation and conservation are vital to our well-being.



***Greetings from Illinois Parks***
***A Postcard History of Illinois Park Districts*** features 98 postcard views of 55 Illinois park districts and forest preserves.




***PowerPlay! Grant Guide***
The *PowerPlay! Grant Guide* is designed to provide agencies with ideas and resources to help create a successful beyond-school program that emphasizes health, fitness and nutrition. Guides may be downloaded at ILparks.org under Member Services.




**DVDs**

*Are you on Board? The Dynamics of Boardmanship*
This 110-minute board training tool teaches boards how to function in a highly productive way. Each of the 12 segments covers a specific aspect of boardmanship and is designed to facilitate discussion at the end of a board meeting, a board retreat or long-range planning session.

*The Park District Advantage*
*A Benefits DVD on Illinois Parks and Recreation*
This 10-minute DVD is an effective public relations tool. Prominent Illinois citizens, state representatives, physicians and a realtor discuss the personal, social, economic and environmental benefits that park districts provide.

*Will Order Please Come to the Meeting?*
*Boardmanship Training DVD*
This 70-minute training DVD covers the Open Meetings Act, competitive bidding, board member interests in park district contracts and many other board issues.

**Park Cast**
The Illinois Association of Park Districts' podcast, called "Park Cast," puts a spotlight on both the work IAPD is doing and the work our membership is doing with park districts, forest preserves, recreation, special recreation and conservation.

**ILparks.org**

The IAPD website is uniquely designed for you – our most important audience. ILparks.org is the one-stop shop to learn all you need to know about Illinois parks, recreation and conservation. Our website provides access to association resources, news, events, educational opportunities, links to grant information and legislative updates.

Our website includes exciting, interactive features for board members and staff.

- Learn about the legislative process, track bills and access tools to assist in communicating with legislators.
- Watch the Illinois Park & Conservation Legends Series through the IAPD website, which memorializes the experience and dedication of citizen volunteers and park board members throughout Illinois.
- Access Member Resources in the Legal Section of the IAPD website that contains valuable resources that IAPD has developed exclusively for member use, including a model code of ordinances, sample policies and procedures and other useful tools. The Practice Tools page in the Legal Section contains educational resources and other materials to help members comply with their legal requirements.
- Learn about networking opportunities for board members and staff at park, recreation and conservation agencies throughout the state.
- Utilize a searchable IAPD membership database.
- Enjoy a convenient registration process for IAPD educational programs and events.
- Share ideas, post questions and receive advice from board members and professionals throughout the state.
- Access the Knowledge Center for information from current and past IAPD publications, position papers, meetings, seminars and conferences.
- Obtain health and wellness information in the Healthy Lifestyles Section. Healthy Lifestyles contains a wealth of articles, links and tips about health, fitness and nutrition.

IAPD encourages member agencies to pull information from Healthy Lifestyles to supplement health and wellness classes, use as content in program brochures or post throughout facilities.

**IAPD App / Facebook / Twitter / YouTube / Photo Sharing / QR Codes**
IAPD connects our membership to the latest news, grant information and educational opportunities through several popular social media outlets. The IAPD App and QR codes enable our membership to access the IAPD website or register for events at the touch of a button.

**Additional Information**
Members searching for information related to Illinois park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies can contact IAPD for assistance at 217-523-4554. This service is FREE to our members.

**Order your resources online today at ILparks.org**

**Click on IAPD Store under Member Services**

# Technical Assistance

IAPD's staff answers hundreds of questions and provides information or assistance to address a wide variety of issues or concerns from our members, citizens, legislators and the media. IAPD's staff has a combined total of more than 130 years of experience working with park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies. This expertise has been an invaluable asset to IAPD members.

IAPD also offers various types of premium level technical assistance to member agencies, upon demand and under contract, based on the specific needs of an agency in the following areas:

- **Legal/Legislative Counsel** - The association assists board members and directors on legal issues. In addition, the legal counsel provides free consultation services to attorneys throughout the state who serve park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies.

- **Strategic Planning** - IAPD works with an agency's board and staff to identify organizational strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, and guides them in the development of goals and strategies for a 3- to 5-year action plan. These planning workshops have ranged from 3 hours' duration to several sessions spanning more than 6 months, depending on the requested level of IAPD involvement.

- **Resource Management** - IAPD can provide suggestions and recommendations on the wise use of resources including staff, open-space, facilities and partnerships. The association can also assist with unique conservation or natural resource issues, including those that may require permits from a state and/or federal agency.

- **Grant Writing** - In cooperation with the member agency staff, IAPD can guide an agency through the grant seeking process for funds available from IDNR, specifically through the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development grant program, Bicycle Path Grant, Boat Access Area Development, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Local Government Snowmobile grant program, Recreational Trails program, and Urban and Community Forestry grants.

- **Foundation Development** - More than 65 nonprofit, 501(c)3 foundations are affiliated with, or in support of, park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies in Illinois. IAPD maintains a registry of those foundations and supplies information or guidance on governance issues, board development, legal requirements, fundraising ideas, bylaws, policies and procedures. IAPD also offers workshops on this topic.

- **Tax and Bond Referendum** - IAPD has considerable experience working with districts on referendum issues. Many resources are available from the IAPD Knowledge Center.

- **Park District Formation** - IAPD has created an excellent educational source on how to form a park district. This step-by-step guide is available on the IAPD website.

- **News Release Development and Distribution** - IAPD will write and distribute news releases for members regarding awards, attendance at educational sessions, appointment to IAPD committees and other pertinent endeavors.

# Public Awareness

IAPD provides member agencies with public relations tools to enhance their communication of services, missions and goals. Building public awareness of park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies is an important function of IAPD.

**Flying 4 KIDS Statewide Kite Fly**
April & May, 2020 & 2021

This event attracts thousands of families, kite enthusiasts and media to park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies throughout the state. The goal of the kite fly is to promote a fun, family-oriented recreational event and raise awareness of the Park District Youth License Plate, which features a four-color kite. IAPD can assist agencies in planning a kite fly with a FREE Event Planner's Guide.

**Parks Day at the State Capitol**

Parks Day is an opportunity to educate legislators, legislative staff, government employees and State Capitol visitors about the wonderful parks and recreational programs available in Illinois.

Agencies display exhibits in the Rotunda of the State Capitol to showcase the programs, services and facilities they offer to the citizens of Illinois. Members are encouraged to meet with their legislators and personally show them their exhibits and thank them for their ongoing support of funding initiatives for park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies.

**Park District Conservation Day at the Illinois State Fair**
Saturday, August 22, 2020

Park District Conservation Day began in 1994 as a special recognition day for Illinois park districts, forest preserves, conservation,

recreation and special recreation agencies. Agencies send dance groups, bands, chorales, zoos and more to perform or exhibit at various locations throughout the fairgrounds. Agency board members and staff can volunteer to distribute giveaways, work the Park District Conservation Day booth and coordinate activities throughout the day.

Park District Conservation Day brings an awareness of the variety of wonderful activities our agencies bring to the citizens of Illinois. The Illinois Association of Park Districts and Illinois Park and Recreation Association co-sponsor this event in partnership with the Illinois State Fair for more than 100,000 fairgoers.

**Park District Youth License Plate Marketing Kit**

The Illinois Association of Park Districts offers this free kit to promote our member agencies and the Park District Youth License Plate Program.

Print ads, flyers, posters, web ads, audio public service announcements and visual PSAs can be customized with park district, forest preserve, conservation, recreation and special recreation agency logos. Share them with your local media for use as filler space in their publications or use them in your agency's program guides. This kit is also now available on our website, ILparks.org.

# Programs / Events

## Director Search Service

One of the most important challenges board members will face is hiring an executive director. IAPD's Director Search Service is confidential, professional and affordable and has a track record for finding the best candidates. For more information, go to ILparks.org and hover over Member Services, or contact IAPD at 217-523-4554 or iapd@ILparks.org for a consultation with the President/CEO.

**Friends of Illinois Parks Foundation**

The IAPD Friends of Illinois Parks foundation raises funds for IAPD research and the PowerPlay! Beyond-School Grant Program. The Friends of Illinois Parks' mission is to involve more citizens statewide in support of the important programs conducted by park, recreation and conservation agencies.

**Eagle Eye Neighborhood Park Watch Program**

The IAPD Eagle Eye Neighborhood Park Watch Program is a cooperative effort among park districts, forest preserves, recreation agencies, schools, police and community residents. The program encourages residents to assume more responsibility for the activities taking place in their own neighborhoods. Residents keep watch over neighborhood parks to help make them a safe haven for youth. Implementation of this program effectively reduces crime, vandalism and gang activity in parks. One agency saved more than $80,000 in maintenance costs and equipment repairs throughout a two-year period.

## PowerPlay! Beyond School Grant Program

IAPD has developed a grant program designed to initiate and support beyond-school programs that focus on health, nutrition and fitness in park

districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies in Illinois. The program is funded by proceeds from the Park District Youth License Plate program and Friends of Illinois Parks. Agencies can apply for seed money to conduct a model beyond-school program or to enhance an existing program.

**The Park District Youth License Plate**
The Park District Youth License Plate acts as a "moving billboard," carrying the message that Illinois park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies benefit youth. Twenty-five dollars from the sale and subsequent renewal of each plate is placed into IAPD's PowerPlay! Grant Program.

## Summer Golf Tour

Monday, July 27, *Foxford Hills Golf Club - Golfvisions Management, Inc.*

Monday, August 24, *Orchard Valley Golf Course - Billy Casper Golf*

Monday, September 21, *Heritage Bluffs Public Golf Course*

These outings provide great opportunities to learn about other agencies' golf operations, network, and enjoy a day with old friends and new acquaintances.

## IAPD Leadership Classic

Thursday, July 16, 2020 at the Hoffman Estates Park District Bridges of Poplar Creek Country Club

This special golf outing is for all park, recreation and conservation agency commissioners, directors and professional staff. Golfers are encouraged to invite local community leaders, representatives from area businesses and/or legislators for a day of networking. The IAPD Leadership Classic is an excellent opportunity to meet with those who contribute to the success of your agency in a recreational setting. The outing includes 18-holes of golf, lunch, dinner and opportunities to win prizes throughout the day.

**Illinois Association of Park Districts' Awards and Recognition Program**

IAPD offers many opportunities for commissioners, agencies and professionals to be recognized for contributions they make to Illinois park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies. We also offer opportunities to recognize those outside the field of parks, recreation and conservation for their assistance.

**The IAPD Best of the Best Awards Gala**

Friday, October 16, 2020

This prestigious event takes place annually in the fall. It is an excellent opportunity for member agencies to recognize businesses, media, citizen volunteers and other units of government for the support they give to furthering park, recreation and conservation initiatives. Awards include: Illinois Parks' Top Journalist; Best Friend of Illinois Parks – Small, Mid-Sized and Large Business Categories; Intergovernmental Cooperation; Partnership; Arts in the Park; Best Green Practices; Good Sportsmanship and Outstanding Citizen Volunteer of the Year.

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Members can recognize outstanding board members who have given generously of their time and talents to their community and their state association with the following awards:

**Board Member Service Anniversary Awards**

Agencies may honor board members who have served 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and more years with this award from IAPD. Awards are presented at the IAPD Best of the Best Awards Gala in the fall; however, other arrangements can be made for board members unable to attend the gala.

**Note: Board Member Service Anniversary Awards can be created for any number of years of service.**

**Outgoing Board Member Awards**

Agencies may recognize board members who will be stepping down from their local board after any number of years of service with the IAPD Outgoing Board Member Award. Each award is

personalized with the board member and agency name, along with the board member's number of years of service, and is shipped to the agency for presentation on the local level.

**Rising Star Award**

2019 Rising Star, Ted Schulz, commissioner of the New Lenox Community Park District, accepts his award from IAPD President/CEO Peter Murphy and 2019 IAPD Chairman Kevin Dolan.

This annual award is presented to a commissioner who has completed a minimum of one year, but not more than six years of service as a board member. The recipient of the Rising Star Award has demonstrated exemplary performance in duties and responsibilities as a board member, while making a positive impact in the field of parks, recreation and conservation including involvement in IAPD activities. This award is presented during the awards luncheon at the annual *IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference* in January.

**Mike Cassidy Commissioner Community Service Award**

Jim Long (center), Westmont Park District board president, receives the 2019 Mike Cassidy Commissioner Community Service Award from IAPD President/CEO Peter Murphy and 2019 IAPD Chairman Kevin Dolan.

This annual award is presented to a commissioner whose volunteer service to his or her community emulates the vision and dedicated efforts shown by long-time commissioner Mike Cassidy to improve the quality of life for those in his or her community. Recipients of this award have demonstrated the highest example of community service, personal integrity and ingenuity. This award is presented during the awards luncheon at the annual *IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference* in January.

## Commissioner of the Year Award

Wally Frazier, Mundelein Park & Recreation District commissioner, receives the 2019 Commissioner of the Year Award from IAPD President/CEO Peter Murphy and 2019 IAPD Chairman Kevin Dolan.

The recipient of this award has displayed an outstanding passion for supporting and promoting parks, recreation and conservation in his or her community, as well as throughout the state. Recipients must have served a minimum of six years as a member of a local board, demonstrated skills in dealing with people, and have helped to carry out the IAPD mission. This award is presented during the awards luncheon at the annual *IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference* in January.

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Recognize the longevity of your park district, forest preserve, conservation, recreation or special recreation agency with the following:

## Agency Anniversary Awards

The Peoria Park District accepts a 125-Year Agency Anniversary Award at the 2019 Best of the Best Awards Gala.

This award recognizes a park district, forest preserve, conservation, recreation or special recreation agency celebrating its 25th, 50th, 75th, 100th, or more years of providing park, recreation and conservation services to their communities. Other anniversary years are available upon request. Awards are presented at the IAPD Best of the Best Awards Gala in the fall; however, other arrangements can be made for agencies unable to attend the gala.

Recognize an outstanding promotional effort for the Park District Youth License Plate with this award:

**Youth License Plate Award – Best Promotional Practices**

Any park district, forest preserve, conservation, recreation or special recreation agency that has shown innovative, creative ways to promote the Park District Youth License Plate through events, programs, etc., may apply for this award. (Example: Flying 4 KIDS kite fly.) This award is presented at the IAPD Business Meeting during the annual *IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference* in January.

Amy Kopecky and Gayle Mountcastle with the Park Ridge Park District, accept the 2019 Youth License Plate Award for Best Promotional Practices from 2019 IAPD Chairman Kevin Dolan.

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Recognize the support your agency has received from volunteers, elected officials, community groups, local churches, businesses or school districts with the following award from the Illinois Association of Park Districts and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association:

**Community Service Award**

Community Service Awards are given by your agency to an individual, business, etc., for recognition of ongoing support, outstanding contributions of time, money, services and volunteer work for the advancement of parks, recreation and conservation. The Community Service Award may also be presented as a memorial to those who have served their community in an exemplary manner.

This award is presented by your agency on the local level to the individual or business of your choice. Agencies may pick up these awards during the annual *IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference* in January.

Recognize a professional in the field of parks and recreation with the following award:

## IAPD Honored Professional Award

Jan Arnold (bottom row, second from right), Park District of Oak Park executive director, receives the 2020 Honored Professional Award at the Soaring to New Heights Conference Awards Luncheon.

The IAPD Honored Professional Award is presented to a park, recreation, forest preserve or conservation professional who has worked closely with citizens and the Illinois Association of Park Districts to improve the quality of life for all people in Illinois. Recipients of the Honored Professional Award have demonstrated remarkable talents in encouraging local board members to excel as citizen advocates in advancing the field of parks and recreation. Recipients also believe in the IAPD mission and have a history of supporting its endeavors. This award is presented during the awards luncheon at the annual *IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference* in January.

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Bring recognition to your agency while improving the delivery of recreation services to your residents through the voluntary, comprehensive evaluation process of the Illinois Distinguished Accredited Agency Award program.

## IAPD/IPRA Distinguished Accredited Agency Award

Any Illinois park district, forest preserve, conservation, recreation or special recreation agency that is a member of the IAPD may apply for the IAPD/IPRA Distinguished Accredited Agency Award. The purpose of this award is to establish a voluntary program of standards for recognizing park and recreation agencies that provide superior services to their constituents.

Agencies that apply will undergo a rigorous evaluation process, which serves as an excellent self-evaluation. There are a number of benefits in applying for and receiving this prestigious award, including increasing operational efficiency and effectiveness,

solidifying internal and external agency standards, and being recognized as a leader in the state of Illinois in the field of parks and recreation. This award is presented at the awards luncheon during the annual *IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference* in January.

Representatives of the Lombard Park District accept the 2019 Distinguished Accredited Agency Award.

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Track your commitment and gain recognition as a park district, forest preserve, conservation, recreation or special recreation agency board member by participating in the IAPD Board Member Development Program.

**Board Member Development Program**

The IAPD Board Member Development Program gives recognition to local board members who consistently go above and beyond the call of duty through committee involvement, attendance at continuing educational opportunities, and achievements at the local, state and national levels.

Participation in the Board Member Development Program can garner numerous benefits including recognition from fellow colleagues, legislators, media and the public. The program tracks accomplishments obtained during terms on your local board, useful during re-election. Participants receive Board Development Units (BDUs) for activities they do to better themselves as board members.

***Levels of Achievement in the IAPD Board Member Development Program***

One hundred units gains participants recognition as Notable Board Members, 400 units as Distinctive Board Members, and 750 units gains participants recognition as Master Board Members, the highest level in the program.

Jeff Rigoni, commissioner of the Lockport Township Park District, accepts a Master Board Member award from 2019 IAPD Chairman Kevin Dolan.

# Affinity Programs

IAPD has joined with several entities to provide more resources for our members. IAPD's goal is to offer programs and services that will not only improve the bottom line, but will also increase profitability and operating efficiency. For detailed information on these affinity programs, contact IAPD at (217) 523-4554 or iapd@ILparks.org.

## Illinois Parks Association Risk Services (IPARKS)

Take advantage of the risk management expertise and stable, predictable pricing and coverage offered by the **IPARKS** self-insurance pool. With more than 170 participating IAPD members, **IPARKS** is tailored to meet the specific property and liability coverage needs of Illinois park districts and recreation agencies. **IPARKS** earned a **Demotech**, Inc. Financial Stability Rating® of AAA (Excellent), the highest rating, for 15 consecutive years. **Contact Ryan Pnakovich at (773) 414-4238 / rpnakovich@bfgroup.com.**

## Illinois Park District Liquid Asset Fund Plus

**IPDLAF+** offers its participants a professionally managed portfolio with a competitive money market rate and unlimited check writing privileges. The fund stresses "safety of principal" as the number one objective and has earned an AAAm* rating by Standard and Poor's. Additional fixed income investment products are available through an investment adviser to assist IPDLAF+ participants in seeking to maximize results. **Contact Michelle Binns at (312) 523-2428 or binnsm@pfm.com for more information.**

*The AAAm rating is given when safety is excellent. There is superior capacity to maintain principal value and limit exposure to loss.

**PFM Payment Solutions** offers the **Purchasing Card**, which is a specialized credit card that empowers agency employees to purchase goods and services directly. This not only eliminates the typical requisition, purchasing, receiving and accounts payable process, but it also enables agencies to streamline the buying process, control maverick purchases, reduce acquisition expenses, maintain an audit trail and obtain cash rebates.

Cards look and operate similar to credit cards, but they do not carry a revolving line of credit. Individual card limits can be established per transaction, per month and by vendor. **Contact Michelle Binns at (312) 523-2428 or binnsm@pfm.com for more information.**

**Call One**

IAPD's member benefit program with **Call One**, a single-source telecommunications provider and the nation's largest reseller of AT&T products and services, simplifies telecommunication and provides high-quality customer service with an emphasis on personal relationships and service. The level of attention you receive from **Call One** is rare to the industry and exclusive to members of the IAPD. Some of our members are being overcharged for their telecom needs. IAPD's lower pricing is accompanied by **Call One's**:

- Outstanding personalized customer care
- Simplified, consolidated billing
- Management assistance and network support
- Utilization of the most efficient and reliable technology
- Equipment upgrades and replacement systems

IAPD encourages its members to take advantage of **Call One's** experience and knowledge by affording a Call One representative the opportunity to view your current telecommunication status. **To obtain a FREE analysis of rates, services and billing from Call One, please contact Larry Widmer at (312) 252-4955 or lwidmer@callone.com**.

**Credit Card Processing**

Membership in the Illinois Association of Park Districts has its privileges, including a specially negotiated program of card processing services. **Bank of America Merchant Services** has teamed up with the IAPD to provide our members with specially negotiated rates, online access to critical reporting information, a comprehensive suite of innovative payment solutions and more. **For more information, call Bank of America Merchant Services at (888) 317-5402 or tellmemore@bankofamericamerchant.com**.

**IAPD Energy Program**

IAPD's agreement with **Seven Utility Management Consultants, Ltd. (Seven)** offers a professional consulting service for the purchase of electricity and natural gas for our membership. The goal of this agreement is to save money for all our member agencies on utility expenses. We anticipate savings up to 20% by having the utilities professionally negotiated and managed on a full-time basis by **Seven**.

**Seven** will negotiate with the top electricity and natural gas providers in the state by having them all bid on your utility business. **Seven** will share all of its pricing analysis (including all bids) and prepare an individualized summary bid offer sheet for each park district. **Contact Dale Snyder, National Account Manager, at (501) 835-3142 to get your FREE price quote.**

**Colonial Life**

As a leader in the voluntary benefits industry for more than 70 years, **Colonial Life** has an award-winning reputation for hassle-free service, innovation and products. **Colonial Life** can help your agency put together a suite of cost-management solutions to help manage the rising cost of employee benefits – and still provide employees the quality benefits and services they deserve. **Colonial Life** benefit services and strategies can assist with today's budgetary and benefit

challenges. Their offerings include benefit plan designs, flexible spending account, communications, voluntary benefits insurance options, dependent verification services, wellness program implementation and promotion, enrollment planning and benefits communication. **Contact David Weinstein at (630)-935-7282 or at dave.weinstein@coloniallife.com to learn more about how Colonial Life can serve your agency.**

**NCSI**

NCSI's national background check program has become the gold standard for many park districts seeking a comprehensive and affordable background screening program for their volunteers and employees. **NCSI** has helped agencies nationwide define the specific components used for a comprehensive national criminal background check system. **NCSI** is an NAPBS-accredited company that validates clients' trust as a market leader and reinforces its promise to minimize liability. Less than two percent of background screening companies have earned this recognition. IAPD encourages its members to take advantage of NCSI/SSCI's experience and knowledge by affording them the opportunity to discuss your background check needs and responsibilities. Contact Chris Goodman at **cgoodman@SSCI2000.com** or 866-996-7412 for more information.

**TIPS – The Interlocal Purchasing System**

Purchasing is a necessary activity for any business or organization. **TIPS** can provide a proven process to eliminate purchasing related stress for governmental entities. Contact Randy Ramey at **randy.ramey@tips-usa.com** and let TIPS simplify your life. TIPS can also be found on the web at tips-usa.com.