

MOVING FORWARD - 1960'S



1960

1960

IAPD representatives meet with the Illinois Recreation Association to plan a joint annual conference of the two associations. The conference was regarded as highly successful, with more than 500 in attendance.

A memorial tribute to IAPD's first president and co-founder, Dean Joseph Cullen Blair, appears in the September-October issue of *Illinois*

1961



1961

Illinois Governor Otto Kerner serves as the keynote speaker at the annual conference, presenting *A Better Tomorrow Through Parks and Recreation*.

The 72nd General Assembly approved Senate Bill 229, which created the Torts Law Commission, the purpose of which was to codify and make uniform the various statutes relating to immunity of liability of the various municipalities and quasi-municipalities. Governor Otto Kerner appointed the association's legal/legislative consultant, Robert A. Stuart, to serve as a member of this commission, which functioned until the passage of the Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act.

IAPD's phone number changes from *Lakeside 3-1511* to *523-1511*.

IAPD completes a report on recommended standards for professional park and recreation personnel.

Marjorie Dickinson is named IAPD's executive director.

BOARD PRESIDENTS



1959-60

Henry O. Gleiss, Skokie Park District
(commissioner 1949-1967)

Henry Gleiss was a trained leader and thinker. He reinstated joint annual conferences with the Illinois Recreation Association because he thought commissioners could and would hold their role as the employer group. In

1960, Henry appointed members to a

committee to study and prepare recommended standards for professional park and recreation personnel. He also served on IAPD's Screening of Candidates for Honorary Life Membership Committee.



1960-61

L. Mike Kraus, East St. Louis Park District
(commissioner)

During Mike Kraus' term as president, the Chicago Park District was host for a three-day regional meeting in March, 1961. The report on "Standards for Park Executives" was also completed, adopted and distributed to park boards and to presidents of Illinois colleges and

universities for distribution to park and recreation majors and minors.



1961-62

Professor Fred F. Weinard, Urbana Park District
(commissioner 1949-1968)

Professor Fred Weinard enlisted professor Karl B. Lohmann of Urbana to prepare a historical booklet in 1962. He worked on membership growth. During his term as president, IAPD conducted

two successful regional meetings and a joint annual conference with IRA. He also served on IAPD's Screening of Candidates for Honorary Life Membership Committee.

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1962

IAPD President Fred F. Weinard appoints Professor Karl B. Lohmann of Urbana to revise and bring up to date the history of the Illinois Association of Park Districts. Copies of the history are expected to be distributed during the association's 35th Annual Conference.

Executive Director, Marjorie M. Dickinson is elected to "Who's Who of American Women." She is one of 10 Springfield women selected based on "prominence due to business or professional positions, vocational achievements or contributions to community welfare."

Governor Otto Kerner appoints IAPD Legal and Legislative Consultant, Robert A. Stuart, to the Illinois Torts Law Commission.



The Morton Grove Park District Mellowvoices, a chorus of 40 members, sing at IAPD's regional meeting in Bellwood.

1963

The annual conference begins with an opening session featuring a panel of legislators and park attorneys discussing recent legislative activity including problems and solutions for those in the park district field.

The Broadview Park District's Adult Concert Band, consisting of 65 members, presents an inspiring concert at the annual conference in Aurora.



1962

1963

BOARD PRESIDENTS



1962-63
John "Jack" E. Cassidy, Jr., Pleasure Driveway and Park District of Peoria (commissioner 1957-1964)
Jack Cassidy was the son of the former Illinois attorney general. A lawyer and state legislator, Jack was also a poet and an artist. During his tenure as a commissioner of the Peoria Park District, the Detweiller

Marina opened under district operation as well as the Detweiller Golf Course and Logan Ice Rink. W.H. Sommer Park was added to the district and the district merged the city recreation department into its operation. Jack served on the park board until his election to the Illinois House of Representatives where he served two terms.



1963-64
W. Milton Worthen, Granite City Park District (commissioner 1921-1971)
In 1972, Milton Worthen received a 50 years of service award at the annual conference. He believed the most important aspect of the association was the legislative education and efforts. He encouraged members to be active in legislative

matters and spoke of the impact this had at the 1964 conference.



1964-65
Thomas J. Oliva, Memorial Park District (commissioner 1953-1971)
Thomas Oliva was a cooperative president and was concerned about IAPD employees' retirement without a pension. His main goal was to continue the association's growth in all areas. He believed the task of increasing membership fell on the shoulders of every member of the association. He encouraged

park districts to plan meetings and host events featuring outstanding speakers to draw in non-members and entice them to become IAPD members. Thomas also saw the value of a strong legislative program for the IAPD, and he told members to contact their legislators and to be involved. He said, "Legislation is the lifeline of park districts."

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1964

IAPD's first Legislative Seminar is held at the Chicago Park District. Attendees leave with the conviction that much had been accomplished in the way of education and understanding for both legislators and park commissioners. It is determined that the program should be continued and expanded.



1965

IAPD's headquarters are moved to Rooms 906-9 of the First National Bank Building at the corner of Fifth and Adams Streets in Springfield. The association's previous office was located in The Ferguson Building, which was sold and will be completely remodeled. All tenants were requested to move as soon as possible.

1966

IAPD promotes and attends the first Congress of the National Recreation and Park Association, held in Washington, D.C.

IAPD's executive director attends a meeting of the Governor's Sesquicentennial Commission to plan for the 150th anniversary of the State of Illinois, which will take place in 1968.

IAPD's headquarters moves to Rooms 504-7 in the First National Bank Building at Fifth and Adams Streets in Springfield.

1964

1965

1966

BOARD PRESIDENTS



1965-66
Robert E. Pilcher, Joliet Park District (commissioner 1958-1968)

Robert Pilcher was the grandson of the donor of Pilcher Park to the Joliet Park District. It was his task to find a successor to Marjorie M. Dickinson and set up a program to finance the

employment of a new executive. He was on IAPD's Legislative Committee and the Revision of Constitution and By-Laws Committee, as well as the Parks and Recreation Foundations Committee.



1966-67
W.L. (Les) McCullough, Fox Valley Park District (commissioner 1947-1989)

Les McCullough was chairman of the Future of the Association Committee. The committee doubled the dues and set up a pension plan for Marjorie M. Dickinson. In 1947, Les was appointed the president on the first Fox Valley Park District Board of

Trustees. He served as a commissioner for 42 years and devoted his life to serving the district. He was a true founder of the Fox Valley Park District. He once stated, "A park program looks 50 years ahead, and plans 25 years in advance."



1967-68
Louis A. Gietl, Pleasure Driveway and Park District of Springfield (commissioner 1951-1975)

Louis Gietl was the son of a Springfield park trustee and treasurer of the IAPD (Louis M. Gietl). Louis A. Gietl followed his father as park trustee and as the association's treasurer and was the father of a son, Louie, who also served as a park trustee. Louis served as vice-

president of the park district board for sixteen years and as treasurer of the IAPD from 1958-1967. He was proud to carry on the family tradition of advocating for parks and recreation, as he was devoted to serving his community. He made generous contributions to the city of Springfield through his dedication to the board. He also served as treasurer for the Joint Conference Planning Committee.

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IAPD Executive Director Marjorie Dickinson steps down as executive director on December 31 and becomes executive director emeritus, serving IAPD in an advisory capacity.



1967

Arthur L. Schultz becomes IAPD's executive vice president on January 1. He comments that he was professionally motivated to accept the position because the leisure movement is growing and there is a true challenge in Illinois. Mr. Schultz was employed by the Chicago Park District in 1932 as a park and recreation supervisor. He was an assistant to the district's general superintendent when he accepted the position with IAPD. From 1936-1938, he was on leave of absence from the park service to serve as director of recreation for the Work Pro-Administration in District 6, representing 23 downstate Illinois counties. He graduated from the University of Illinois Department of Architectural Engineering and had taken special recreational training courses at Purdue and Northwestern University.



1967

BOARD PRESIDENTS



1968-69

Robert O. Pohl, Glenview Park District (commissioner 1957-1973) Robert Pohl and Art Schultz, IAPD's new executive director following the retirement of Marjorie M. Dickinson, planned a publicity program aimed at building a better understanding of the importance of parks. He was a native of Milwaukee and a graduate of the

University of Wisconsin. Robert was the vice-president of a Chicago bank and president of the Graphic Arts Council in Chicago. He was enthusiastic about new members joining IAPD. Upon his election, he was pleased to announce that one new district had just joined and there were others "in the works."



1967

IAPD holds the first Park Commissioners Seminar, a training opportunity for newly-elected park officials, on February 17 and 18 at the Illini Union Building in Urbana. The seminar attracts 130 park commissioners from 50 park districts.

IAPD develops a new format for its magazine cover, stationery, letterhead and other published materials with the assistance of IAPD president W.L. McCullough.

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1967

IAPD's *Basic Accounting Manual for Illinois Park Districts* is completed and distributed at the association's regional meeting in Beardstown. This manual is an update of the previous one created in 1950. It is prepared by the Governmental Accounting Committee of the Illinois Society of Certified Public Accountants.

1968

A readership survey of IAPD's magazine, *Illinois Parks*, indicates that 93% of readers identify themselves as regular readers with older districts most interested in park-school relations, personnel problems, finance and public relations. New districts are most interested in recreation activities, legislation, physical planning and maintenance.

The Joint Coordinating Council is created to establish a closer working relationship between IAPD and the Illinois Park and Recreation Society.



Miss Illinois 1968, Sharon Mitchell, attends IAPD's annual conference as a special guest at Pheasant Run in St. Charles.

1968



1969

Alan R. Caskey, a University of Illinois graduate student working on his doctorate in Recreation and Park Administration, becomes editor of IAPD's *Illinois Parks*.

1969

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IAPD secures the complimentary services of Chicago's Draper Daniels, Inc. to produce a statewide public relations tool kit including six print advertisements, two tape recordings for radio spots and three photo slides for TV purposes. Kits are sent to each member agency to place in their own publicity outlets on a public service or complimentary basis as a strategy related to the Constitutional Convention (Con-Con).

IAPD encourages creation of The Illinois Parks and Recreation Foundation, a nonprofit, charitable trust comprised of IAPD's Memorial and Field Service Funds as well as the Illinois Park and Recreation Society's scholarship funds. The foundation would provide scholarships for park and recreation students, extend grants to colleges and universities for research dealing with parks and recreation, establish a program of management education to improve management procedures of park districts and develop public relations materials for the public parks and recreation field.



IAPD jointly sponsors the first National Institute for Citizens with the National Recreation and Park Association and its national commissioners-board members branch. The institute is for citizens throughout the country who serve on park and recreation advisory and policy-making boards, commissioners and other representative bodies. The theme is *Citizen Involvement and Leadership – Our Most Vital Force*.

1969