



# BOARD TALK

Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association

This page is an exciting new venture through the Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association, and will be a regular feature of the monthly newsletter. It is being created **WITH and FOR** members of appointed and elected boards, to provide an opportunity for them to share and learn from each other. Please make copies of this page and hand it out to board members each month.

## VALUE OF ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Many board members don't realize that having a membership in the Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association (MRPA) or the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has many benefits for them in their roles. These associations are not just for professionals!! As the New Year begins, here are some reasons to help encourage your participation in our state or national associations.

### Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association

If you are a member of the MRPA, you receive a monthly newsletter full of relevant information. The December issue featured a re-cap of the Annual Conference held in Westport, plus an article from the Fall River Herald News outlining the important information presented by the keynote speaker John Crompton. Award winning projects were also presented, giving ideas for your community to adapt for your own! Of course, if you are reading this article, *Board Talk* is written just for you, with hopefully timely topics that are helpful. Many staff members copy this article out each month to give to board members. *Board Talk* and lots of other helpful information is located on MRPA's website at [www.massrpa.org](http://www.massrpa.org). Click onto the "Boards" section, and find links to other important information. MRPA is in the process of developing a sample set of rules and regulations that can be adapted for local boards, too! MRPA has an e-mail listing for sending out new and current information.

The MRPA works with other organizations so that the benefits for members can be much greater! Efforts are made to stay updated with the Mass Municipal Association

and our state legislators and partnerships are active with the United States Tennis Association (USTA), and MA Partnership for Healthy Weights. Other organizations look to MRPA for input on issues, particularly Youth Sports initiatives.

Attending workshops and conferences can be valuable to board members, so even though it takes time away from your busy schedule, you may realize you received just the right information to help your board move forward on an issue!

Maybe most importantly is the Membership handbook sent to all that join MRPA. If you have questions, just pick up the phone and call any member—you'll be pleased with how much information is willing shared with you! MRPA also provides an e-mail option for sending out questions.

### National Recreation and Park Association

The benefits are similar for board members at NRPA as they are at MRPA but on a larger scale. In addition to their monthly magazine, probably one of the most important tasks they undertake is legislative advocacy. There is an e-mail newsletter that updates members on the progress of efforts with Congress or federal agencies. Two recent advocacy topics include (a) funding Land and Water Conservation Fund; and (b) Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. Other e-mail lists include grants, youth sports, parks, and healthy living.

Go to [www.NRPA.org](http://www.NRPA.org) to learn more about the benefits, and in particular to link to information specifically for citizen board members.

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