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## Young/New Professionals Forum

New to the field of parks and recreation? New to IPRA? Looking for ways to network with colleagues? Looking to elevate your "game". We have a simple solution...join us at the Young/New Professional Forum on Wednesday, December 7, 2011 in Hiawatha.

So who can really come? Any individual who is new to their position, just getting started in the field, under the age of 99, wants to gain greater knowledge or build upon their skills.

The best part is you can participate at **no charge**. But how can this be? Because of the generous support from the Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation.

Outline of the day:

8:45 am - Meet and greet mixer  
9:00 am - Bids, Sealed Bids, and Competitive Quotes  
10:30 am - Sales and Marketing  
Noon—Lunch  
12:45 pm - Speed group discussion  
1:45 pm - Round table discussion



Mr. Doug Herman, City Administrator with Muscatine, will cover all the legal aspects dealing with regular bids, sealed bids and obtaining competitive quotes. Ken Asta, MBA, with Davenport Parks and Recreation, will be explaining a variety of ways to market programs and events in addition to how marketing can help increase sales and participants. More than likely, you've heard about "speed dating". We'll be giving it a twist with "speed grouping". Participants will be divided into small groups, then partake in a 15 to 20 minute small group discussion. Remember to bring along your questions or concerns for a frank, confidential chat.



Participants at a previous Young/New Professionals Forum

Topics include 1) working with boards and councils, 2) online registration, 3) supervising staff of different ages and career development. Guest facilitators include Ms. Sherri Proud (Coralville), Mr. Duane Randall (Vinton), Ms. Angie Cole (Hiawatha), Ms. Jessica Lang (Iowa City), Mr. Matthew Eckhardt (Iowa City) and Mr. Michael Miner (Garner).

Round table discussion will bring a wrap-up of the day's events. This will be an opportunity to share any lingering questions or concerns.

Plan to attend this positive growth experience by letting the IPRA state office know by December 1, 2011.



**November 2011**  
**Volume XII, Issue 5**

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# Employment Opportunities



Recreation Coordinator  
City of Perry

The Perry Parks and Recreation Department is seeking a full-time programmer. Position involves planning, supervising and assisting in the implementation of community recreation programs and activities as well as recreation center supervision. Knowledge of recreation programming and ability to plan and supervise programs and special events are essential.

A Bachelor's Degree in leisure studies, recreation administration or a closely related field is required. Salary is negotiable. Good benefits package. Send cover letter and resume by email to [mcbdirector@iowatelecom.net](mailto:mcbdirector@iowatelecom.net) or FAX to 515.465.5850; or mail to Director, 1800 Pattee, Perry, IA, 50020. Application deadline is Monday, November 14, 2011.

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## Intern City of Iowa City



**Work hours and pay:** Up to 40 hours; includes nights and weekends. This is a non-paid internship.

**Minimum Requirements:** An internship requirement through an accredited university with completed course-work in leisure studies or related area and experience with computer programs such as Word, Excel and Publisher.

**Duties:** Will work directly under the Iowa City Recreation Superintendent, as well as five Program Supervisors. Duties will include planning and coordinating recreation programs, administering programs, developing and implementing special projects from beginning to end, assist with public relations and promotions (media releases, fliers, volunteer fairs, etc), administrative duties, daily operations, assisting special events and opportunities to work with park maintenance.

Interested persons should send cover letter and resume to: Iowa City Recreation Division, Attn: Jessica Lang, 220 S. Gilbert Street, Iowa City, IA, 52240 or email information to [jessica-lang@iowa-city.org](mailto:jessica-lang@iowa-city.org).



*Steve Jordison and  
Cathy Shutts wish each  
of you a very  
enjoyable and blessed  
Thanksgiving holiday.*

# Introducing...

## Simeon Lang

Simeon Lang, Wellness Director and Pool Manager for the City of Jefferson, is a 2004 graduate of Jefferson-Scranton High School and a 2008 graduate of Central College with a degree in Health Promotion. As a four-sport high school athlete and basketball letter winner in college, athletics has always been a big part of his life. Simeon admits that the physical training and preparation motivated him in his academic pursuits, and following graduation from college he became a Certified Personal Trainer through the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

Upon returning to Jefferson, Simeon taught a few exercise classes as well as trained clients one-on-one. "Working for Jefferson Parks and Recreation full-time wasn't my primary goal. However, doors opened and I am now Wellness Director for JPRD," Simeon stated. His time is shared between teaching classes, providing new member orientations, health assessments, buying/maintenance of equipment and scheduling fitness classes and instructors. During the summer months, he also manages the outdoor pool.

Simeon said, "I work with a great staff here in Jefferson and enjoy interacting with many different people throughout the day." In his free time, he can often be found at the gym lifting weights, playing basketball and racquetball or spending time with family. Simeon's e-mail address is [simeonlang@gmail.com](mailto:simeonlang@gmail.com).



## Jacob Andersen

Kalona's new Superintendent of Parks and Recreation is Jacob Andersen. He was born and raised in Harlan, Iowa and grew up on a farm outside of town with his older brother and younger sister. After graduating from Harlan Community High School in 2006, he attended the University of Iowa. While he was a student at the U of I, he worked for the Iowa City Recreational Services in several capacities ranging from intramural sports to facility supervision. Jacob graduated from the University of Iowa in May, 2010 with a degree in Recreational Management. He then applied for jobs all over the country, but really wanted to stay in Iowa. In August of this year, the Parks and Recreation Superintendent position came open and Jacob was hired. He admits that he is really enjoying being in small town Iowa again.

"I really was not sure what I wanted to do after college until I started to get involved with Recreational Services and the Iowa City Parks and Recreation Department. After working with the people at Recreational Services and Jeff Sears at Iowa City, I knew

that I wanted to become a park and recreation professional," Jacob said. In the near future he hopes to be certified as a parks and recreation professional by the NRPA. It is a further hope that he can continue to grow the programs as the town grows in the future as well as create new fitness and youth programs for the residents of Kalona.

Jacob's e-mail address is [jandersen@cityofkalona.org](mailto:jandersen@cityofkalona.org).

## Nathan Unsworth

Nathan Unsworth is the new Administrative Park Superintendent for the city of Newton replacing a retired Dennis Slings. He is 26 years old and a native of Alexis, Illinois. He attended Iowa State University and graduated in 2007 with a degree in Animal Ecology (wildlife). He then took a position with the Jasper County Conservation Board as a naturalist. "Although I will miss the canoe trips, fishing clinics and all the other fun educational programs, I am very excited about my new endeavors with the city.," Nathan commented.

Being a wildlife guy, he never imagined working for a park and recreation department. Since moving to the Newton, he has served on the Project AWAKE board that oversees the Newton Arboretum. He also co-chaired a group that fundraised for the creation of a dog park.

From these experiences, he has become better aware of the park and recreation department and its impressive and historic offerings. Nathan said, "With my love of working with people and being involved in my community, I hope to continue to build upon past successes of the department, develop new ways for citizens to enjoy or support the city parks, incorporating more urban conservation practices and creating new recreational opportunities."

In his free time, Nathan enjoys being involved with several community organizations, running, spending time with family and friends, watching Cyclone Football (most days) and being entertained by his stubborn basset hound, Huxley. He looks forward to becoming involved with the Iowa Park and Recreation Association!

Contact e-mail for Nathan is [nathanu@newtongov.org](mailto:nathanu@newtongov.org).



# I P R A T O D A Y

## President's Message



### *Start Somewhere Walk*

Friday, October 7 was the *Start Somewhere Walk*, Governor Branstad's kickoff initiative to make Iowa our nation's healthiest state. We had many member agencies participating in hosting *Start Somewhere Walks*. What a great way to promote fitness and healthy lifestyles in our communities, but also raise the profile of our respective departments. Here are a few recaps of IPRA member agencies who were involved in *Start Somewhere*. Thanks for sharing!

#### *Bettendorf*

TV and newspaper coverage was prevalent at Bettendorf's *Start Somewhere Walk* coordinated by Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Coordinator, Tracey Lopez. More than 60 participants enjoyed walking the 1K route on a beautiful sunny day with leaves changing to fall colors. The walk originated from a park across from the Bettendorf Fitness Center. Parks and recreation involved the community, as well as city employees, to participate in the walk, and Bettendorf plans to offer additional follow-up events in its quest to help Iowa become the healthiest state in the nation!

#### *Fort Dodge*

Fort Dodge Recreation Administrator, Ryan Maehl, and staff created a 1K route around and through Fort Dodge City Hall, using halls, stairs, outdoor and indoor areas to get city employees to "Step It Up" with the *Start Somewhere Walk*. Fort Dodge City Hall was turned into a fitness course, complete with rehydration zones, directional arrows, and a "walk/run/move" mix song that was pumped throughout the hallways. Even the city manager participated! According to Fort Dodge Parks and Recreation Director Lori Branderhorst, there was also a *Start Somewhere Walk* on the runway of the Fort Dodge Airport (what I affectionately refer to as "Fort Dodge International"). Great job with both of these unique events!

#### *Council Bluffs*

Perhaps the record for Iowa - Geoff Hubbard, Recreation Superintendent for Council Bluffs Parks and Recreation, had around 10,000 registered walkers participate in their *Start Somewhere Walk* and parks and recreation directed a series of meetings in and around Council Bluffs to promote this event throughout western Iowa. Council Bluffs Parks and Recreation even involved the community of Harlan and got them to participate, as well! Other partners recruited by Geoff and staff included Hy-Vee, the local school district, dairy council, Keep Council Bluffs Beautiful and the county health department. What a tremendous event organized on the western side of our state!

#### *Manchester*

Three separate *Start Somewhere Walks* were organized in Manchester by Parks and Recreation Director, Doug Foley. Two of the walks were geared for elementary and middle school students and a third for the general public. Manchester Parks and Recreation used this opportunity to promote health and wellness to students, teachers and local business owners and further used the walk venues to promote the great programs and services offered by Manchester Parks and Recreation. Of course, healthy refreshments were available to participants who enjoyed the leisurely walk on a beautiful fall day. The parks and recreation partnered with its local ISU Extension, Department of Public Health, Fareway, the school district and the Regional Medical Center. A tremendous collaborative effort and a successful event for sure!

#### *Ankeny*

Ankeny Parks and Recreation Department Recreation Supervisor, Ryan Penning, led the Ankeny effort through a partnership with Hy-Vee and the local school district to involve more than 300 walkers.

(Continued on Page 7)

# Outdoor Seating

Picnic Tables and Benches ...for any location



From sophisticated landscapes, to public parks and trails, to malls and patios,



to playgrounds and rec centers and athletic fields, to golf courses, to the school campus,



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# Li7—IPRA Leadership Institute

Do not miss this opportunity! The Leadership Institute is a guide into your new profession. January 31–February 1, 2012 is the date for the next IPRA Leadership Institute, Li7. If you are unfamiliar with the program it is a **FREE** 24 hour leadership program spread over two half days. This useful training opportunity is held at the IPRA state offices in Grinnell. The small group setting creates the atmosphere for interaction, discussion and team building. Attendees connect with seasoned professionals and gain the benefit of their experiences.



Li7 offers mentoring, career development and the how to's of becoming more involved in IPRA. If you are a professional looking for the opportunity to broaden your leadership skills and want to become more involved in IPRA, then this may be the workshop for you.

**Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Mark Boland, Boland Recreation, this Institute is free of charge.**


The schedule for the afternoon involves lunch, a welcome from a past Leadership Institute participant, four education sessions, dinner out on the town and an evening of conversation with your fellow participants. The morning session involves breakfast, two education sessions, roundtable discussion, lunch and an evaluation survey.



The goal of the Leadership Institute is to develop leaders. The past six years have proven to be successful with many past participants serving in key leadership roles on committees and the board of IPRA.

Past participants include: Mitch Aalbers, Chelsea Bengford, Rick Courcier, Erica Eichhorn, Libby Gemberling, Josh Larson, Katie McKinnon, Mindi O'Hern, Mandi Parker, Sheri Penney and Adam Spangler. Give them a call and find out what their experience was like.

If you are interested in participating in Li7, contact Terry Hoffman, 712-577-4981 or email: [terry@outdoorrec.net](mailto:terry@outdoorrec.net).



Many thanks to the following agencies that have renewed membership for 2012: Adel, Altoona, Ames, Bettendorf, Boone, Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Clinton, Clive, Coon Rapids, Davenport, Decorah, Dubuque, Indianola, Iowa City, Jefferson, Marshalltown, North Liberty, Osceola, Pella, Pleasant Hill, Solon, Spencer, Vinton, Waterloo, Waukee and West Des Moines.

Individual members and agency directors are reminded to submit membership renewal information to the IPRA state office by December 1 to be included in the 2012 IPRA Membership Directory and Buyer's Guide.

## President's Message

(Continued from Page 5)

Hy-Vee grilled turkey burgers and chicken sandwiches for participants, and the parks and recreation marked out a 1K route which left Hy-Vee and ventured through Hawkeye Park. In reality, the Ankeny route was probably a little closer to 2K, but no one seemed to mind as they enjoyed the fantastic fall weather and refreshments! Guest speakers included Ankeny Mayor, Steve Van Oort, and also Jim Halihan, Executive Director of the Iowa Games and Iowa Sports Foundation.

Thanks to all member agencies who were involved in either leading or in some way participating in the Governor's Healthiest State Initiative! The *Start Somewhere Walk* was just that...A START! Be thinking of ways your agency can capture the momentum of this and create more events and programs which fit into the Healthiest State agenda while raising the profile of your department and IPRA. Great job to you all!

### Board of Directors Update

IPRA Board of Directors met October 27 at the state office in Grinnell. They moved forward in developing and approving a new IPRA Action Plan, with nine primary items to accomplish over the next 12 to 14 months. In addition, the board developed and approved a Performance Plan for the Executive Director, outlining major initiatives for him to accomplish this fiscal year which will help move the association forward.

The board continues to work with the Aquatics Committee on the issue of fee increase by the Red Cross and will be researching other potential certification alternatives for similar programs such as "Ellis and Associates", the program endorsed by NRPA.

The next meeting of the IPRA board will be Thursday, December 8, at 10:30 a.m. in the state office. As always, association members are more than welcome to attend. Board minutes and future agendas can be found on the IPRA web site.

*Submitted by Todd Redenius, Director, Ankeny Parks and Recreation, and IPRA Board of Directors President.*

**Mark your calendars! IPRA State Spot Shot Competition: Saturday, March 17, 2012. Competition information will be available on the IPRA web site no later than November 23.**

## Iowa League of Cities Annual Conference and Exhibit

*Editor's Note: The Iowa Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) and the Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation (IFPR) joined in partnership as exhibitors at the Iowa League of Cities Annual Conference and Exhibit in Des Moines on September 21-23, 2011. The October issue of IPRA Today summarized some of the events. Unfortunately, a portion of the text was inadvertently omitted from the original article. That information is set forth below.*

For the third year in a row, IPRA was granted the opportunity to present an educational session at the Iowa League of Cities Annual Conference. McKenzie Kiger, Recreation Supervisor with the Clive Parks and Recreation Department, shared her vision of improving part-time and seasonal staff training, how to work with today's younger generation, as well as tools/activities delegates could take home for future use. A favorite staff training activity McKenzie shared was using pennies for the "Wright Family" story. There were 37 delegates in attendance representing mostly small to medium sized communities. Prior to McKenzie speaking, IPRA Executive Director, Steven Jordison, gave a quick overview of what IPRA is and how it might help serve communities.

To learn more about the Iowa League of Cities, please visit [www.iowaleague.org](http://www.iowaleague.org). Want to know about the "Wright Family" penny activity? Contact McKenzie Kiger at [mkiger@cityofclive.com](mailto:mkiger@cityofclive.com).



*Representing the IFPR were Jennifer Pospichal and Chris Page. Rick Ertz represented Outdoor Recreation Products.*



# Iowa Park & Recreation

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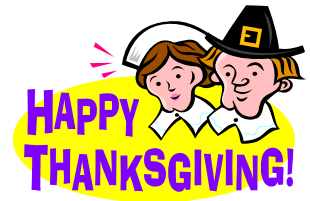
## Commercial Memberships

The IPRA wishes to thank the following commercial members that have renewed membership for 2012:

ACCO Unlimited Corporation	Boland Recreation
Burbach Aquatics, Inc.	Cogran Systems
Confluence	EZ Dock of the Midwest
Fry & Associates, Inc.	Iowa Amateur Softball Assoc.
Iowa Direct Equipment & Appraisal	MUSCO Sports Lighting
Monitor Production	No Sweat Fitness
Outdoor Recreation Products	RDG Planning & Design
RJ Thomas Mfg. Co. Inc.	River City Sign Co.
Sand Creek Post and Beam	Shade Creations by Waterloo
Snyder & Associates, Inc.	Sport Construction Midwest
Sundown Mountain Resort	Tennis Services of Iowa, LLC
Water's Edge Aquatic Design	

Any commercial member that has not had an opportunity to renew membership for 2012 is encouraged to do so by December 1, 2011 for inclusion in the 2012 edition of the IPRA Membership Directory and Buyer's Guide. If you need assistance with the renewal, please contact the IPRA state office by calling 641.236.3917.

## IPRA Calendar of Events



### November

- 11 State Office closed—Veterans Day Observance
- 14 CEU/Aquatic Update—Burlington
- 15-16 Certified Pool Operator's Course—Burlington
- 16 Conference/Fall Workshop host proposals due
- 19 Adult Co-ed Volleyball Tournament—Grinnell
- 24-25 State Office closed—Thanksgiving Observance
- 29 Awards Committee meeting.—Grinnell

### December

- 7 Young/New Professionals Forum—Hiawatha
- 8 IPRA board meeting—Grinnell
- 23-26 State Office closed—Christmas Observance