

1959

- ◆ November 20, 1959: Missouri Recreation Association and the Missouri Recreation & Park Society merged forming the Missouri Park and Recreation Association at YMCA Trout Lodge, Potosi, MO
- ◆ President: James Heath (1959-1960)
- ◆ "Explorer" Magazine first published
- ◆ Active Members: 82

1960

- ◆ Annual Meeting: Jefferson City, MO
- ◆ President: James Heath (1959-1960)

1961

- ◆ Annual Meeting: Jefferson City, MO
- ◆ Senate Bill 17 passes with recreation enabling legislation
- ◆ Park & Recreation Board and Commissioners Section Formed
- ◆ President: Joseph Jaeger, Jr. (1961-1962)

1962

- ◆ Annual Meeting: Kansas City, MO
- ◆ First Governor's Conference on Parks & Recreation
- ◆ Certification Committee formed
- ◆ Commercial Recreation Section Formed
- ◆ President: Joseph Jaeger, Jr. (1962-1963)
- ◆ Active Members: 250

1963

- ◆ Annual Meeting: Excelsior Springs, MO
- ◆ Hosted 1963 National Recreation Congress in St. Louis
- ◆ President: Lee Burton (1963-1964)
- ◆ Active Members: 318

1964

- ◆ President: Norbert Wapelhorst (1964-1965)
- ◆ 147 certified recreation professionals

1965

- ◆ Annual Meeting: Jefferson City, MO (80-100 attendees)
- ◆ Land and Water Conservation Act passed
- ◆ Citation and Awards Committee formed
- ◆ MPRA Archives began
- ◆ President: Lyle Dilley (1965-1966)
- ◆ Active Members: 360

1966

- ◆ Annual Conference: Mai-Tai, Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- ◆ MPR Scholarship and Charitable Trust formed
- ◆ Recreation & Parks Scholarship Program for Missouri was initiated in the fall (\$350 for MU; \$220 CMS)
- ◆ President: Wayne Kennedy (1966-1967)
- ◆ Active Members: 360

1967

- ◆ Annual Conference: Mai-Tai, Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- ◆ President: A.L. "Abe" Phillips (1967-1968)
- ◆ Active Members: 360

1968

- ◆ Annual Conference: Columbia, MO
- ◆ Student Section Formed
- ◆ President: G.L. "Jud" Palmer (1968-1969)

1969

- ◆ Annual Conference: St. Joseph, MO
- ◆ President: Gloria Rogers (1969-1970)

1970

- ◆ Annual Conference: Kansas City, MO
- ◆ Began publishing "Explorer" Magazine every odd month; mini "Explorer" published every even month
- ◆ President: Barry Seward (1970-1971)

1971

- ◆ Annual Conference: St. Louis County, MO
- ◆ President: Barry Seward (1971-1972)

1972

- ◆ Annual Conference: Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- ◆ Trust for Public Land formed
- ◆ MPRA established a Code of Ethics which embodies standards of behavior for the individual in their professional relationship with those served
- ◆ President: Robert Hall (1972-1973)

1973

- ◆ Annual Conference: Columbia, MO
- ◆ President: Robert Hall (1973-1974)
- ◆ Active Members: 260; 120 student members

1974

- ◆ Annual Conference: Springfield, MO
- ◆ President: Ford Hughes (1974-1975)
- ◆ Active Members: 260; 121 student members

1975

- ◆ Annual Conference: St. Charles, MO
- ◆ June is proclaimed "Recreation Month" by Missouri Governor
- ◆ "A Plan for Registration and Certification of Qualified Recreation Personnel" is published
- ◆ President: Dan Kinney (1975-1976)

1976

- ◆ Annual Conference: Kansas City, MO
- ◆ President: William Wight (1976-1977)

1977

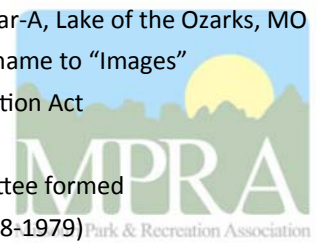
- ◆ Annual Conference: Tan-Tar-A, Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- ◆ MPRA hires Dave Ostlund as first Executive Director
- ◆ MPRA establishes office at University of Missouri-Columbia in Clark Hall
- ◆ Soil & Water Resources Conservation Act
- ◆ President: Ron Braun (1977-1978)

1978

- ◆ Annual Conference: Tan-Tar-A, Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- ◆ MPRA magazine changes name to "Images"
- ◆ National Parks and Recreation Act
- ◆ MPRA logo adopted
- ◆ Affirmative Action Committee formed
- ◆ President: Ron Braun (1978-1979)

1979

- ◆ Annual Conference: Tan-Tar-A, Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- ◆ Six Flags Ticket Consignment program begins
- ◆ President: Jerry Miller (1979-1980)



1980

- ◆ Annual Conference: Tan-Tar-A, Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- ◆ MPRA Trust initiated
- ◆ Bill passed establishing Missouri Trail System
- ◆ MPRA develops monthly job opportunity bulletin
- ◆ 61 individuals “grandfathered” into certification program
- ◆ President: Dr. Tommy Burnett (1980-1981)

1981

- ◆ Annual Conference: Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- ◆ MO Secretary of State issues a Certificate of Incorporation for MPRA Trust Fund
- ◆ President: Jane Hipps (1981)

1982

- ◆ Annual Conference: Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- ◆ LWCF Funding of \$157,000,000
- ◆ President: Jerry Calvin (1981-1982)

1983

- ◆ Annual Conference: Springfield, MO
- ◆ Campaign: Life—Be In It
- ◆ Dave Ostlund testifies before the Senate Constitutional Amendments Committee in support of a 1/10 of 1% state parks and soil conservation sales tax
- ◆ President: Bill Lockwood (1982-1983)

1984

- ◆ Annual Conference: Tan-Tar-A, Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- ◆ 1/10 of 1% state parks and soil conservation sales tax passes
- ◆ President: Jerry Calvin (1983-1984)

1985

- ◆ Annual Conference: St. Louis, MO
- ◆ MPRA office relocates to Jefferson City, MO
- ◆ Establishment of Board Member Workshop in St. Louis County
- ◆ MPRA purchases first computer
- ◆ President: Dave White (1984-1985)

1986

- ◆ Annual Conference: Kansas City, MO
- ◆ Lyle B. Beaver Lecture Fund established
- ◆ President: Don Michael (1985-1986)

1987

- ◆ Annual Conference: Tan-Tar-A, Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- ◆ HB 210 passes, municipalities can charge sales tax for capital improvements
- ◆ President: Genie Zakrewski (1986-1987)

1988

- ◆ Annual Conference: St. Louis, MO
- ◆ President: Ron Coleman (1987-1988)

1989

- ◆ Annual Conference: Kansas City, MO
- ◆ HB 473 passes, permits municipalities with capital improvement sales tax to use revenue for operation and maintenance of a facility in addition to its construction
- ◆ President: Bill Oliver (1988-1989)

1990

- ◆ Annual Conference: Tan-Tar-A, Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- ◆ President: Ann Schroeder (1989-1990)

1991

- ◆ Annual Conference: St. Louis, MO
- ◆ St. Louis Zoo files a complaint with Director of Revenue to be exempt from sales tax, win gives parks and recreation departments exemption status
- ◆ President: David Curtis (1990-1991)

1992

- ◆ Annual Conference: Springfield, MO
- ◆ President: Dick Green (1991-1992)

1993

- ◆ Annual Conference: Jefferson City, MO
- ◆ MPRA meets with Mel Hancock to express concerns over proposed Hancock II Amendment
- ◆ First Aquatic Facility Operators certification course
- ◆ MO Urban Forestry Council/MPRA joint conference
- ◆ President: Roscoe Righter (1992-1993)

1994

- ◆ Annual Conference: Kansas City, MO
- ◆ Hancock II Committee substitutes a new petition allowing local governments to adjust user fees internally
- ◆ President: Stan Ochsner (1993-1994)

1995

- ◆ Annual Conference: Columbia, MO
- ◆ HB 88 passes, 1/2 cent sales tax for parks and/or storm water
- ◆ President: Mike Griggs (1994-1995)

1996

- ◆ Annual Conference: Tan-Tar-A, Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- ◆ President: Mike Hood (1995-1996)

1997

- ◆ Annual Conference: St. Louis, MO
- ◆ MDNR Landmark Local Parks Program 116 grants totaling \$21,000,000
- ◆ Lobbyist services contracted with Bardgett & Associates
- ◆ Missouri Ethnic Minority Section establishes \$30 dues
- ◆ President: Richard Ash (1996-1997)

1998

- ◆ Annual Conference: Kansas City, MO
- ◆ Land Trust Alliance
- ◆ First National Playground Safety Institute (Liberty, MO)
- ◆ MPRA Building Committee is formed
- ◆ Fee and Price Survey completed by Leisure Vision
- ◆ President: Bettie Yahn-Kramer (1997-1998)

1999

- ◆ Annual Conference: Columbia, MO
- ◆ Metropolitan Park District is formed
- ◆ MPRA has its first website
- ◆ President: Pat Thomas (1998-1999)

2000

- ◆ Annual Conference: Tan-Tar-A, Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- ◆ First Facility Design School in St. Louis (July 2000)
- ◆ Building Committee reports that it will require \$300,000 to either renovate the current office or build a new one
- ◆ President: Mark McHenry (1999-2000)
- ◆ Members: 1,500+

2001

- ◆ Annual Conference: St. Louis, MO
- ◆ President: Mary Vaughan (2000-2001)

2002

- ◆ Annual Conference: Branson, MO
- ◆ MPRA hires Paula Diller as Education Coordinator
- ◆ Musco Lighting pledges \$100,000 to building campaign
- ◆ President: Randy Vessell (2001-2002)

2003

- ◆ Annual Conference: Kansas City, MO
- ◆ MPRA purchases 2018 Willam St. in Jefferson City to relocate offices
- ◆ NRPA Conference is held in St. Louis, MO
- ◆ President: Clark Allen (2002-2003)

2004

- ◆ Annual Conference: Columbia, MO
- ◆ MPRA relocates offices to Musco Building in January 2004
- ◆ SB 810, grants immunity from liability to individuals who own land adjoining recreational trails in Missouri cities
- ◆ Missouri Trail Summit (138 participants)
- ◆ President: Bob Belote (2003-2004)

2005

- ◆ Annual Conference: Tan-Tar-A, Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- ◆ Legislation passed allowing the Metropolitan Park and Recreation District sales tax revenues earmarked for grants to St. Louis County to fund any recreation program or park improvement within the county
- ◆ President: Jodie Adams (2004-2005)

2006

- ◆ Annual Conference: St. Louis, MO
- ◆ Leadership Development Institute
- ◆ President: Gary Ristow (2005-2006)

2007

- ◆ Annual Conference: Springfield, MO
- ◆ Jan Neitzert hired as Assistant Executive Director
- ◆ President: Susan Trautman (2006-2007)

2008

- ◆ Annual Conference: Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- ◆ Dave Ostlund retired as Executive Director
- ◆ Jan Neitzert promoted to Executive Director
- ◆ Gary Gates hired as Assistant Executive Director
- ◆ President: Linda Bruer (2007-2008)

2009

- ◆ Annual Conference: Kansas City, MO
- ◆ MPRA 50th Anniversary
- ◆ Hall of Fame Inductees: Lyle Beaver, Jim Ewing, William Landahl, Jerry McBride, Liz Gilbert, Robert Hall, Gloria Rogers, Ed Stenger, Darwin Hindman, Ford Hughes, Frank Vaydik, Norbert Wapelhorst, Joesph Jaeger, Wayne Kennedy
- ◆ President: Teresa Proebsting (2008-2009)

2010

- ◆ Annual Conference: Tan-Tar-A, Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- ◆ Hall of Fame Inductees: Richard Ash, Jerry Calvin, David Curtis, Glen Gillespie, Richard Green, Dan Kinney, Randy Vessell
- ◆ President: Ericka Coffman (2009-2010)

2011

- ◆ Annual Conference: St. Louis, MO
- ◆ Hall of Fame Inductees: Ted & Pat Jones
- ◆ President: J. Thomas Lovell (2010-2011)

2012

- ◆ Annual Conference: Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- ◆ Hall of Fame Inductee: Doug Eiken
- ◆ "Did You Know" Campaign began
- ◆ President: Janet Snook (2011-2012)

2013

- ◆ Annual Conference: Tan-Tar-A, Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- ◆ Hall of Fame Inductee: Peter Sortino
- ◆ Sarah Veile hired as Marketing & Membership Specialist
- ◆ President: Patty DeForrest (2012-2013)

2014

- ◆ Annual Conference: Tan-Tar-A, Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- ◆ Hall of Fame Inductee: Abe Phillips
- ◆ President: Terry Robertson (2013-2014)

2015

- ◆ Annual Conference: Springfield, MO
- ◆ Hall of Fame Inductees: Keith Roys, Anita Gorman
- ◆ President: Phil Stiles (2014-2015)

2016

- ◆ Annual Conference: Columbia, MO
- ◆ NRPA Conference is held in St. Louis, MO
- ◆ President: Kirsten Barnes (2015-2016)

2017

- ◆ Annual Conference: Branson, MO
- ◆ Hall of Fame Inductee: Leo Drey
- ◆ President: Eric Gruenenfelder (2016-2017)

2018

- ◆ Annual Conference: Tan-Tar-A, Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- ◆ Missouri Trail Project Grant-Josh Adams hired
- ◆ Jan Neitzert retired as Executive Director
- ◆ Gary Gates promoted to Executive Director
- ◆ Sarah Veile promoted to Assistant Executive Director
- ◆ Hall of Fame Inductee: Roscoe Righter
- ◆ President: J.C. Loveland (2017-2018)

2019

- ◆ Annual Conference: Branson, MO (428 delegates, 118 exhibitors, 105 speakers)
- ◆ MPRA 60th Anniversary—1,929 members
- ◆ Hall of Fame Inductee: John Karel
- ◆ Heather Pirner hired as Membership & Marketing Specialist
- ◆ President: Chad Shoemaker (2018-2019)

2020

- ◆ Annual Conference: Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- ◆ President: Brian Schaffer (2019-2020)

2021

- ◆ Annual Conference: Columbia, MO
- ◆ President: Miki McKee-Koelsch (2020-2021)

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