

IPRA Today

March 2008
Volume VIII, Issue 8



A MESSAGE FROM I.P.R.A. PRESIDENT JOHN HAGENER

I'm John Hagener, and I approve this message.

With our recent IPRA election complete, I want to thank everyone that was willing to put their name on the ballot and serve our association in the future. IPRA is what it is today because of the dedicated staff and members (present and past) willing to share their time, talent and wisdom. Author David McNally wrote; "people perform at their best when contributing their talents to something they believe in". Congratulations to **all of you** for your willingness to contribute your talents!! Election results are revealed on Page 3.

As we recognize past leadership and install new leaders in April at the IPRA Spring Conference in Council Bluffs, we will continue to make decisions with our mission, vision and three year action plan in mind. Since July of 2005, the start of our three year action plan, seven of our nineteen objectives are complete, seven are in progress, and five are not yet accomplished. Janet Evans Olympic gold medal swimmer said, "While we are here we should set goals and achieve them, make the best of things, make other feel good about themselves and be happy with what we are and what we are doing".

We are fortunate to be a part of such an active Association. These are just some highlights of education, resource tools and advocacy taking place recently or in the near future:

▶▶ New Web design	recently updated (www.iapra.org)
▶▶ Article Exchange Program	monthly
▶▶ IPRA Membership Directory	January
▶▶ College site visit	February
▶▶ CPO & Aquatic CEU Workshop	February 11-13 & March 10-12
▶▶ Aquatics coordinators meeting	February 22
▶▶ REAP Day at the State Capitol	February 27
▶▶ Young Professional Forum	February 28
▶▶ Leadership Summit	March 6
▶▶ Spring Parks Forum	March 13
▶▶ NRPA Legislative Forum	March 12-16
▶▶ IPRA Volleyball Tournament	March 29
▶▶ IPRA Spring Conference	March 30-April 2

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Our Mission ...
"To support the advancement of park, recreation and environmental conservation opportunities through education, resource tools and advocacy."

www.iapra.org

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Getting to know...

Marissa Boldon

The Muscatine Parks & Recreation Department is pleased to introduce Marissa Boldon as the new Program Supervisor who began her role in late December. Marissa is originally from Osceola, Iowa. She graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in Sports Management. While attending Iowa State, she worked with Recreation Services for three years. Marissa also did an internship at the University of Minnesota under the direction of Duane Proell with the Recreational Sports risk management and aquatic programming. Marissa moved to Muscatine from Kansas City, Missouri where she was an Aquatics Director at a YMCA. Marissa can be reached at mboldon@ci.muscatine.ia.us.



**Marissa Boldon,
Program Supervisor,
Muscatine Parks &
Recreation.**

Kevin Davern

Kevin is the new Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Guttenberg. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Communications from Ohio University and a degree in education from Cleveland State University with an emphasis in history and social studies. Kevin worked for the Cleveland YMCA for 11 years as a Youth and Physical Director. His further experience includes managing the Westwood Indoor Track and Field Facility in Sterling, Illinois for two years. In addition, Kevin was a high school athletic director for four years, coached high school and college basketball for 11 years and high school and college track and cross country for 15 years. Kevin spent the past 15 years as a classroom teacher (history, government, economics, geography, language arts and reading). During the past six years, Kevin has called the mountains of Colorado home while teaching and coaching. Kevin can be reached at gbergrec@alpinecom.net



**Kevin Davern,
recently hired
Director of the
Guttenberg
Parks and
Recreation
Department.**

Brett Barber

Brett started February 1, as the Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Grimes and currently lives in Waukee. He had previously worked at SportsPlex West starting in June, 2005, to oversee the general operations, parties, memberships, field trips and rentals.

Brett attended West Bend-Mallard High School and graduated from Simpson College with a degree in Physical Education (K-12) and Coaching Authorization in 1998. He played baseball for four years under Simpson Coach John Sirianni. Brett then worked at Oakmoor Health and Racquet Club in Urbandale. In 1999, he joined the staff at the Algona Family YMCA in Algona as the Program Director. Brett was in charge of organizing all youth and adult programs. He became the Interim Executive Director in 2004 and supervised all full and part-time staff as well as daily operations at the Y then moving to Waukee and starting at SPW in 2005. During his time at the YMCA, Brett was able to double the number of participants in the programs and create over 40 new programs.

Brett confesses that he comes from a sports-minded family growing up with two parents that coached for 20 plus years and a sister that was a coach and a PE teacher. "I worked for numerous recreation departments since high school and have always wanted to teach and coach so this position is a good fit," commented Brett.



**Brett Barber, Director Grimes
Parks & Recreation, and son,
Weston.**

The Barber family enjoys outdoor recreational activities, and they attend many sporting events such as the Iowa Energy, Iowa Cubs and Kansas City Royals' games. Going to visit the grandparents on the farm and other grandparents on the lake has always been a thrill for the kids.

Since Brett has only been in the position for a few weeks, he is concentrating on meeting people and seeing where the needs and wants are in the community. A priority is working on the Grimes city web site, as well as providing on-line registration for this summer's camps. Work on expanding the current bike trails and adding to the many parks in Grimes are among Brett's projects. The City of Grimes is building a new elementary school as the city is growing each year.

In 2000, Grimes had a population of 5,098. The 2005 population was estimated at 6,175—an increase of over 21 percent in five years. Since 1990, the population of Grimes has grown by 133 percent.

Brett can be contacted at the Grimes Community Center—515.986.2143, cell—515.205.8881 or bbarber@ci.grimes.ia.us.

MESSAGE FROM I.P.R.A. PRESIDENT JOHN HAGENER

Continued from Page 1

Please make every effort to take advantage of these resources and the many more that our Association has to offer.

On March 6, our current and recently elected board members and committee chairs will convene in Ankeny for our second Leadership Summit as we develop our new three year action plan and discuss how IPRA can best serve our members and ultimately communities in Iowa. Let us plan with audacity and execute with vigor.

I hope to see you all in Council Bluffs!



On behalf of Ben Page, IPRA Vice President and Nominations Committee Chair, the IPRA staff would like to share with you the official results of this year's board election. Incoming board members will include:

Treasurer – Angie Cole (Hiawatha)
 Director at Large – Doug Bylund (Indianola)
 Director at Large – Matt Salvatore (Ida Grove)
 Director at Large – Derrick Tripp (Sheldon)
 NRPA Great Lakes Regional Council Representative – John Pletchette (Winterset)

The aforementioned persons will replace outgoing board members:

Treasurer – Terry Gray (Marshalltown)
 Director at Large – Angie Cole (Hiawatha)
 Director at Large – Jan Herke (Urbandale)
 Director at Large – Todd Redenius (Ankeny)
 NRPA Great Lakes Regional Council Representative – Tab Ray (Waverly)

New incoming officers and directors will be sworn in during the Awards Banquet to be held on Tuesday, April 1, in Council Bluffs.

We extend thanks to our outgoing officers and board members for their years of service. The leadership they have demonstrated will be a positive legacy in IPRA's future growth.

Our appreciation also is extended to the non-winning candidates. Your interest in running represents the passion and enthusiasm of our young professionals



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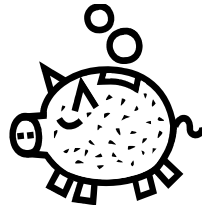
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Make the Exhibit Hall Your Conference Mall



Get your shopping list ready for your one-stop shopping center for the year at the IPRA Spring Conference Exhibit Hall. There will once again be in attendance most of the great vendors that all of us work with on a regular basis.

With this being an Olympic year, let's have some fun of our own and "Let the Games Begin!" at our exhibit hall. The exhibit hall will not only be full of booths of information on products that we need, but also a site for a little fun throughout the day. Build your five-person team for the mini Olympic games during our lunch break and bring a little extra cash for the raffles that benefit the IPRA Scholarship Program. The main objectives are to spend some good quality time with our vendors and have some fun while doing it.

The exhibit hall will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, including breaks and lunch with the exhibitors and concluding with an Exhibit Hall Social. As always there will be some great prize drawings based on your involvement with the vendors. Make it a priority to include stopping in the exhibit hall a part of your experience in Council Bluffs!

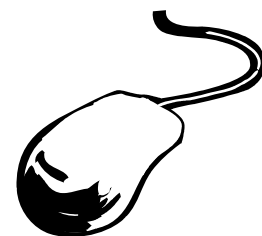
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IPRA Spring Conference delegate brochures have been recently mailed to all members.



You won't want to miss any part of the networking, social and educational experiences offered in this annual event. From the Sunday golf outing to the Texas Hold 'Em tournament to the Bass Pro Shop race to the exhibit hall "shopping" to the Awards Banquet and scholarship auction—the committee has carefully planned it all to include a measurable amount of learning and fun.

Register on line at www.iapra.org.



IOWA YOUTH SPORTS ADMINISTRATORS EARN COVETED CYSA CREDENTIAL

Two Iowa youth sports administrators recently earned Continuing Education Units (CEU) at the Academy for Youth Sports Administrators (AYSA) in Orlando, Florida.

Two Iowa youth sports administrators recently joined more than 60 others from across the country at the Academy for Youth Sports Administrators (AYSA) in Orlando, Fla. from November 26-28. Mark Gallagher, Sports Manager for Waterloo Leisure Services, and Justin Stuart, Sports and Fitness Coordinator for Indianola Parks & Recreation, both attended.

By attending the Academy, administrators earn the coveted title of Certified Youth Sports Administrator (CYSA) and two Continuing Education Units (CEU).

The Academy is a 20-hour professional certification program that offers cutting-edge information on critical issues in youth sports today. To date, more than 1,600 CYSAs have graduated from the Academy. Some of the topics covered at the Academy are youth sports philosophy, professional development, volunteer management, child abuse prevention, parent management, conflict resolution, insurance and risk management, and program evaluation and marketing.

The Academy is a certified distributor of CEUs – units of measure used in continuing education programs, particularly those required in a licensed profession in order for the professional to maintain the license.

The Academy is the leading advocate for higher education for youth sports administrators. The Academy's number one goal is to provide attendees with the tools they need to build the body of knowledge necessary to positively impact the youth sports experience for all children.

The Academy is one of many programs provided by the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS), which is America's leading advocate for positive and safe sports and activities for children. The non-profit 501(c)(3) organization is based in West Palm Beach, Florida. Today, NAYS offers programs and services for everyone involved in youth sports experiences, including professional administrators, volunteer administrators, volunteer coaches, officials, parents and young athletes. For more information, please visit www.nays.org.

Contact Nick Lenox at
nlenox@ci.ankeny.ia.us to let him know of
your scholarship auction donations!

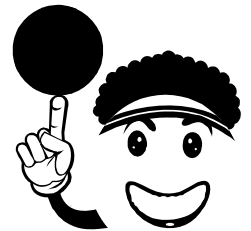


Adult Coed Volleyball Tournament Saturday, March 29

Grinnell Athletic & Recreation Center is the site for this two-level, one-day tournament featuring pool play with either a single or double elimination tournament to follow. \$80 per team entry fee. Registration deadline is noon, Wednesday, March 19. Register online at www.iapra.org or contact the state office at 641.236.3917 to obtain further details and/or registration information.

State Spot Shot Competition

Saturday, April 5, Grinnell Athletic & Recreation Center. There is still time to host a local competition. Please call the IPRA state office at 641.236.3917 for further details and/or to obtain ribbons. Many thanks to those communities that have hosted a local competition and submitted their results, unused ribbons and fees to us.



New Members

- Jeff Longman, Recreation Coordinator, City of Ames; 515.239.5367; jlongman@city.ames.ia.us
- Josh Fluhr, Sales Representative, Addoco, Inc.; 563.557.1555; jfluhr@addoco.com; www.addoco.com
- Adrienne Johnson, Director, Camp, Respite & Life Club, Easter Seals Iowa; 515.669.5072; adrienne-johnson@hotmail.com; www.eastersealsia.org
- Joseph Noel, Territory Sales Manager, Matrix Fitness Systems; 515.964.0988; jnoel@matrixfitness.com; www.matrixfitness.com

America's Plan for 10 and Under Tennis

By: John Terpkosh, USTA Missouri Valley

Today, more than ever before, the volume and variety of activities available to kids is staggering. If you want to get them involved—and keep them involved—in something, it's got to be something special. It's got to grab them from the start and get them hooked quickly. It's got to be engaging, exciting, and—most important—fun.

Because of this, the United States Tennis Association, with the support of the Tennis Industry Association, the PTR and the USPTA, has made the game accessible, fun and easy to play.

QuickStart Tennis is a new play format for children under the age of 10. The goal is simple: to make the game fun and easy to play quickly. To do so, the QuickStart Tennis format brings the game down to the size of the children playing...literally.

Traditionally, children are brought into the game using racquets that are built for an adult, balls that move quickly and bounce too high, and courts that are the same size as those the pros play on. Everything is too big and too fast.

QuickStart Tennis, which will officially launch in March of 2008, utilizes court size, equipment (racquets and balls) and scoring that will be tailored to the age and size of the children playing.

"The QuickStart Tennis play format is tennis scaled to the size of the child, utilizing age appropriate equipment, including smaller racquets, lower bouncing balls, and smaller courts," said Kurt Kamperman, Chief Executive, Community Tennis, USTA. "By enabling kids to start playing right away, we are allowing them to learn as they play."

That is the core of QuickStart Tennis – getting kids playing and playing quickly.

By being introduced to this style of play from the start, children gain confidence by seeing their immediate progress, and will therefore have a desire to keep playing.

To further emphasize the importance of properly sized equipment and courts, the QuickStart Tennis format is broken down into two age groups: 8 and under and 10 and under.

For children 8 and under, the size of the court will be 36' x 18'. The set-up utilizes doubles sidelines as the baselines and from the baseline to the service line as the new sidelines. Racquets will be up to 23" in size, making them easier to control than larger-sized racquets. The balls, either a foam ball or a very low compression ball, will also match the abilities of the child, bouncing lower and traveling less distance. This will teach the child to have proper swing technique, with the ball bouncing into their "comfort zones." The net height will

be 2' 9", making it easier for the child to continue the rally. Finally, scoring is brought down to a much simpler level – best of three games, with the first player to win seven points winning the game – and a shorter time.

For children 10 and under, the size of the court will be 60' x 21' (60' x 27' for doubles). The racquet will be up to 25" in size, still manageable, but increasing with their body-size and age. The ball, a low-compression ball, travels a little faster and farther than the ball utilized by the 8 and under group. It will still have a lower bounce than the standard tennis ball. The net height will also increase by a slight margin, the three feet. Scoring becomes best of three sets, with four games winning a set, and the third set being first to seven points (if necessary).

"The beauty of the QuickStart Tennis format is that it brings the kids into the game immediately and gets them rallying by the end of their first time out on the court," said Kirk Anderson, Director, Recreational Coaches & Programs, USTA. "The format is easily incorporated into any existing programming, from lesson plans to competition, which allows for this to integrate into all facets of tennis."



QuickStart Tennis will roll-out in 2008 in over 1000 facilities, which are expected to incorporate the format into their existing 10 and under programming. In the upcoming year the USTA will organize and imple-

ment training sessions, both to coaches and volunteers including parents, to help proliferate the format. In addition, the USTA has begun incorporating the format into its co-ed recreational tennis league, USTA Jr. Team Tennis, and its tournament offerings. In succeeding years, it will continue to be implemented into programming with the goal of reaching all aspects of 10 and under youth tennis, including tournament, lesson based, recreational and team play.

For more information on the QuickStart Tennis format and to find out how to implement it within your programming, contact John Terpkosh, USTA Missouri Valley, Iowa Tennis Service Representative, 913-322-4835 or go to www.partners.quickstarttennis.com.

The USTA will have a demonstration all day on April 1 in the exhibit hall in addition to an educational session at the IPRA Conference on April 2.

Diagrams and photo can be found on Page 8.



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The KaBOOM! National Campaign for Play

By Kristen Mehr, Director, National Advocacy at KaBOOM!

Playful City USA is a national recognition program that honors cities and towns across America that demonstrate a commitment to the healthy development of children through play. Communities self-select annually to become part of this national network. The Playful City USA program provides a framework for this agenda through the five commitments laid out within it:

- Create a Local Play Commission Task Force
- Design an annual action plan for play
- Conduct a Playspace Audit of all publicly accessible play areas
- Identify current spending on capital projects and maintenance of playspaces
- Proclaim and celebrate an annual "Play Day"

Upon fulfilling these commitments annually, communities receive national recognition and local and national media attention and are awarded Playful City USA highway signs, plaques and other special incentives. Most importantly, they reap the benefits that result from happier, healthier and more socially adept children and stronger, more united communities.

Playful City USA was launched in early 2007 as a national platform for embedding an agenda on play into local government infrastructure while providing all citizens achievable advocacy objectives. Recently KaBOOM! recognized the nation's 31 first and founding Playful City USA communities at the National League of Cities Congress and Expo.

These founding communities inspired citizen action, formed public/private partnerships and created play agendas with deep and lasting impact on public policy issues, including childhood obesity, public safety and quality of life issues. And as this network grows, the national influence they will assert with a unified voice will enable public dollars to be directed toward ensuring that every child in America has an abundance of time and space for play.

The City of Ankeny was named a Playful City USA—one of 31—in December 2007, and it was announced as a top eight place winner in January 2008.

Early deadline is April 1, and the final deadline is May 15. If you submit by the early deadline, KaBOOM! will evaluate your application and provide feedback in time for the final deadline. To learn more about this program, please visit www.playfulcityusa.org.

(Kristen Mehr is the Director of National Advocacy at KaBOOM! Ms. Mehr has served as the Director of Operations in the mayor's office in the District of Columbia and was interim Chief of Staff at the District of Columbia Department of Parks and Recreation.)





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IPRA Calendar of Events

March

- 6 Leadership Summit II—Ankeny
- 10 CEU/Aquatic Workshop—Ames
- 11-12 Certified Pool Operator's Course—Ames
- 13 Spring Parks Forum—Nevada
- 12-16 NRPA Legislative Forum—Washington, DC
- 29 IPRA Coed Volleyball Tournament—Grinnell
- 30-April 2 IPRA Spring Conference—Council Bluffs

April

- 5 State Spot Shot Competition—Grinnell
- 7 CEU/Aquatic Update—Iowa City
- 8-9 Certified Pool Operator's Course—Iowa City
- 21 CEU/Aquatic Update—Clear Lake
- 22-23 Certified Pool Operator's Course—Clear Lake

quickstart tennis

