

Iowa Park and Recreation Association Renames Highest Professional Award

A Board Action Forum was received by the board of directors to rename the *Richard J. Slattery Professional Award* to the *Slattery / Trueblood Professional Award* to recognize the service Terry Trueblood (Director, Iowa City) has given to IPRA, National Recreation and Park Association, as well as the park and recreation profession in general.

No one individual has accomplished more for IPRA than Terry, be it either working on behalf of IPRA or encouraging his staff to be involved. He has held every office and chaired most of the committees the association has today. His leadership as president in 1978 and 1979 created the executive director's position and launched IPRA on the path to becoming truly a professional association. Terry's encouragement of his staff to become involved has resulted in five presidents and four Slattery Professional Award recipients over the years.

His involvement in NRPA has been far more than any other Iowa person, ever. Terry served on the NRPA Board of Trustees from 1997-2004 serving on 10 committees in addition to chairing the National Forum. Further national exposure is represented by his serving in the Academy of Park and Recreation and his selection to serve as its President. Iowa City is the only community in Iowa to receive the much acclaimed NRPA National Gold Medal Award. Terry was chosen as chair and chief judge for the National Gold Medal Awards from 2006 to 2007. The respect he has on the national level has created an Iowa influence which makes it much easier for other Iowan's to be elected and involved.

Terry is always open to visiting with young professionals or other professionals that seek his advice and guidance. He has touched the lives of many, many people in our state and helped them to become better professionals.

It seems to many around the state that the most distinguished professional that has ever served in Iowa should have their name associated with the most distinguished honor IPRA recognizes.

Gil Spence (Dubuque) discussed this enhancement with Susan Slattery-Branstatter and the family is very supportive of Terry's name being added to the award. Dick Slattery hired Terry to come to Iowa and the two were very close. Susan thinks her father would be very pleased to share with Terry the honor of this award being named after them.

President John Hagener appointed an Ad-Hoc committee of Todd Redenius (Ankeny), Steve Grimes (Bettendorf), Gil Spence (Dubuque), Terry Gray (Marshalltown), Terry Hoffman (Sioux City), and Vice President Ben Page (Des Moines) to review the issue and make a recommendation. The committee met on April 7, 2009 and unanimously recommended the award be renamed the *Slattery / Trueblood Professional Award*.

The next step taken by Ad Hoc committee chair, Todd Redenius, was the drafting of a Board Action Forum. Once crafted, the BAF was distributed to the new board of directors on April 13. A tele-conference was convened on April 17 to discuss the action form. Board members unanimously approved the name change to ***Slattery / Trueblood Professional Award***. The first recipient of the re-named award will be in 2010.

It is hoped a reception can be held in Iowa City where a formal announcement can be made with the assistance of Mr. Trueblood and Mrs. Slattery-Branstatter. Once a location, time and date are secured, the membership will be notified via e-mail and Web site.