

ARPA 2018-2019 Slate of Officers



President Elect– Lee Farmer

Lee Farmer is the Recreation Services Manager for Bentonville Parks and Recreation, where he manages a comprehensive recreation program for the City of Bentonville that includes 20 parks, over 60 miles of hard and soft surface trails, 2 public lakes, 4 recreation facilities and more than 650,000 recreation participants annually. His goal with being elected to the ARPA Board of Directors would be to share his knowledge and experiences, as well as learn from other professionals in our field, to better serve Arkansas while helping to achieve ARPA's mission.



Member at Large– Jeremy Lemons

Jeremy Lemons has a double major in Recreation and Sociology from Ouachita Baptist University. He has served on the ARPA board of directors as a member at large and treasurer. He was awarded the ARPA's Young Professional of the Year award in 2004 and has past certifications as a Parks and Recreation Professional, Pool Operator, and Playground Safety Inspector. Jeremy was the Parks Director for the City of Bryant for 12 years and is currently the field representative for Musco Lighting of Arkansas. Jeremy has been heavily involved in planning the Spring Social Golf Tournament and the Hustler Cup.



Member at Large– Stephanie Jones

Stephanie graduated from Henderson State University earning a B.S. degree in Recreation and a M.S. degree in Sports Administration. She has worked for the City of Benton over the last four years, and in 2017 was promoted to Director of Parks and Recreation. Stephanie has implemented numerous programs for the first time in the Department's history, has authored and won multiple grants and has been awarded several honors while working for the City of Benton, including ARPA's Young Professional of the Year in 2016. Stephanie has a passion for what she does and the community she serves. She would like to serve on the ARPA Board of Directors to learn from other leaders in the field while contributing her experience and passion.



Member at Large-Gil Standridge

Gil Standridge is the Recreation Program Manager for Little Rock Parks and Recreation. Gil graduated with a B.S. in Parks and Recreation Administration from Arkansas Tech University. He continued his education at the University of Arkansas earning a M.Ed in Recreation Administration. Gil is a current ARPA and NRPA Member and has enjoyed over 27 years in the Parks and Recreation field. Gil is a former Chairperson for State of Utah NIRSA. Gil's board expectations are to use his experiences and resources available to improve the overall quality of services provided to the State of Arkansas Parks and Recreation Association and its members.

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Member at Large-Craig Edmonston

Craig began his 41st year at the University of Arkansas. He began his career as the Director of Intramural/Recreational Sports in 1978, a position he held for more than 32 years. He served 7 years as the Assistant Dean of Administration in the College of Education and Health Professions before returning to the Faculty of Recreation and Sports Management Program two years ago. Craig has served on more than 200 local, university, state, regional, and national committees and has presented over 100 presentations. He has managed more than \$20 million dollars in grants and service projects. He has been a member or held leadership positions in the Arkansas Parks and Recreation Association, the National Recreation and Parks Association, the Arkansas Intramural Sports Association, the Region IV Intramural-Recreational Sports Association, the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association, the Arkansas Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance, the Southern Region Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance, the National Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance, Fayetteville Humane Society, American Heart Association, Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association, National Youth Sports Program, the Fayetteville Autumnfest, Moonshine Madness Marathon, Hogeys Marathon, Razorback Run, Fayetteville Youth Baseball, Fayetteville Public School Booster Club, and several other organizations. Craig has dedicated his professional life to the fields of recreation and leisure. Not only has he taught classes for 40 years, he has served as a consultant to numerous academic and city recreation and sport projects.



SE Region Director-Diann Smith

I feel that I can be a resource that would assist the parks and recreation departments in the Southeast region by bring forward their wants, needs by bringing their input to the executive board of directors of ARPA.

I feel that I exemplify all the qualities and leadership abilities that this profession is known for that promotes the mission of the ARPA. I would like to continue to use my educational background in parks & recreation and therapeutic recreation to plan and implement improvement with enhancements to all city parks which promotes the inclusion for everybody of all abilities. My leadership skills has demonstrated my willingness to go above and beyond for the profession by accepting responsibility as they were presented to me over the years; to promote the profession of Parks and Recreation and Therapeutic Recreation.

I have served as president of the Arkansas Therapeutic Recreation Society (ATRS) for 2011-2012 and treasurer of ATRS 2000-2005. I was awarded the Professional of the Year from Arkansas Recreation and Parks Association in 2012. Southeast Regional Director for Arkansas Recreation and Park Association (2017-present) .

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Member at Large/SW Region Director Sarah Coulter

Sarah earned her B.S. in Recreation from Henderson State University in 2012 and is in her 5th year as the Aquatic Coordinator for the City of Sherwood. Sarah was the ARPA Student Representative during her last year at HSU and has since served as a Member at Large for two years, enjoying the opportunity to put her passion for parks, recreation, and leisure at work on a state level.



NE Region Director– Danny Kapales

I would be honored to serve on the ARPA Board to not only grow my knowledge of Parks and Recreation but to hopefully help others with my experience and years of service. I believe that for me to lead Jonesboro Parks and Recreation properly I need to learn from the professionals from around the State of Arkansas. This board is where those professionals come together. I graduated from Arkansas State University earning a B.S. degree in Accounting. I have worked in the field of Parks and Recreation for 16 years. I am currently the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Jonesboro. I have overseen many sports programs, festivals and building projects. I am currently a Certified Playground Safety Inspector and a Certified Youth Sport Administrator with the National Alliance of Youth Sports. I have served on many local boards and committees in Jonesboro and also served on the Arkansas State Soccer Association Board.



Central Region Director– Steve Ibbotson

Steve has over 20 years experience in the Parks and Recreation field and Currently is Director of Conway Parks and Recreation. He has been an ARPA member since 1988. During his membership he has served on various committees, the executive board and is also a Past President.



NW Region Director-John Crow

Mack has served on the Arkansas Recreation and Parks Association Board of Directors from 1984 - 2008, Served as President in 1988 and again in 1996. National Recreation and Parks Association Southwest Regional Representative , Arkansas Hershey Track And Field State Chairman - 1992 to 2008, Arkansas State Baseball Commissioner A.A.B.A.- 1984 – 1988, American Coaches Effectiveness Program and The National Youth Sport Coaches Association instructor. Mack has enjoyed over 20 years with the Russellville Parks and Recreation Department.

Mail in your ballot by November 1.
Email ballot anytime before November 7.
Vote in person at the November 7.

President Elect

Lee Farmer _____

Write In _____

Member At Large pick four

Sarah Coulter _____

Craig Edmonston _____

Stephanie Jones _____

Jeremy Lemons _____

Gil Standridge _____

Write In _____

Write In _____

Write In _____

Write In _____

Region Directors

Danny Kapales _____

Steve Ibbotson _____

Mack Hollis _____

Diann Smith _____

Sarah Coulter _____

Write In _____

Mail to:
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Little Rock, AR 72203