

WISCONSIN PARK AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION



**2007**  
**EMERITUS**  
*Memorial*  
*Recognition*

*Understanding Our Future by Recognizing Our Past*



# Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association

The following individuals have distinguished themselves and the profession. Although they have passed on, they will always be remembered for their accomplishments and commitment in furthering the parks and leisure services arena and their leadership in the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association or the preceding organizations that led to the development of our State Association in 1965.

## **WILLIAM ANDERSON**

Stadium Manager and Director of the Milwaukee County Park and Recreation Department; President of the Wisconsin Recreation Association (1962) and the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association (1966); Recipient of the WPRA Professional Award of Merit (1974).

## **ROBERT BAKER**

Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Oshkosh from 1975-1976; Chairman for the Oshkosh Park and Recreation Board & Commission; Member of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association.

## **DAVID BALMER**

Director of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Pewaukee from 1980-1994. He served as Football Coach and Athletic Director at Arrowhead High School from 1961-1990. He also served as President of the Wisconsin Athletic Directors' Association.

## **JOHN BARTH**

Former Recreation Director for the City of Cedarburg from 1955-1994. He taught physical education at Sheboygan Central High School from 1943-1951 and Cedarburg High School from 1954-1983, where he was also track and football coach.

## **WARNER BARTRAM**

Supervisor of Aquatics for the Milwaukee County Parks Department; Executive Secretary of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Society (1945-1965).

## **KEN BEERS**

Outdoor Education Pioneer and Lecturer in the Outdoor Education programs for the Milwaukee Public Schools. A member of the Wisconsin Recreation Association Board (1951-1953).

## **HAROLD O. BERG**

The first Director of the Milwaukee Public Schools Recreation Division; Secretary/Treasurer (1955-1957) and Vice-President (1965) of the Wisconsin Recreation Association.

## **EDWARD BERRY**

The first Senior Program Director for the Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation & Culture (1967-1993). The "Edward J. Berry Student Endowment Fund" benefited hundreds of students enrolled in recreation and therapeutic recreation university programs in Wisconsin.

## **KERMIT E. "KERT" BLISS**

Director of the Madison Community Recreation Department for over 40 years, (1946-1986). Kert was also active in the PARR3 regional organization, and served as a judge for the Recreation Section Silver Star Awards.

## **JACK BUB**

Member of the Oconomowoc Park and Recreation Board from 1972-1997; Chair from 1978-1997; Served on the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association Legislative Committee; Served as the delegate to NRPA - Citizen Board Member Branch.

## **HOWARD BUTH**

Chairman of the Washington County Park Commission who served over 25 years and a strong supporter of parks.

**ERWIN BURG**

Recreation Supervisor for the Milwaukee Public Schools Recreation Division; Secretary/Treasurer (1955-1957) and Vice-President (1965) of the Wisconsin Recreation Association (1949-1950).

**WILLIAM CASE**

Director of the Two Rivers Park and Recreation Department; President of the Wisconsin Recreation Association (1949-1950).

**RICHARD COOPER**

Director of the Whitefish Bay Recreation and Community Services Department; Member of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association Board (1967); Recipient of the WPRP Professional Award of Merit (1977).

**CHARLES "CHUCK" COULTHART**

Recreation Director for the City of Whitewater (1969-1976). He later became a coach and Athletic Director for the Whitewater High School. He also served on the City Council for four years, the last two as President.

**LEROY CZERWINSKI**

Program Director for the Milwaukee Public Schools Recreation Division. A charter member of the Wisconsin Recreation Association (1939). Served on several State Conference planning committees held in Milwaukee from 1939 to 1966.

**PAT DAWSON**

Director of the Janesville Recreation Department; President of the Wisconsin Recreation Association (1947-1948); Member of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Society Board (1949-1950) and WPRS President (1951); Recipient of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association Professional Award of Merit (1969).

**ALICE DeBOWER**

Professor at the University of WI-La Crosse for 28 years in the Recreation Department. Founder of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association Student Section; Recipient of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association Professional Award of Merit (1974).

**JAMES DECKO**

Director of the Sheboygan School Recreation Department; Treasurer of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association (1969).

**LARRY DENYES**

President of the Kenosha Youth Foundation; Wisconsin Recreation Association Secretary (1964-1965); Recipient of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association Professional Award of Merit (1979).

**ELIZABETH DICK**

Program Director for the Milwaukee County Park and Recreation Department; Member of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association Board (1974); Recipient of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association Professional Award of Merit (1988).

**GARY DOBBS**

Area Administrator in the Milwaukee Public Schools Recreation Division. Active in the State Hershey Track program and Chairperson of the Urban Affairs Committee.

**AL DOMER**

Director for City of Racine Parks & Recreation Department; President of Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association (1974); Recipient of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association Professional Award of Merit (1980).

**ERNIE DOROW**

Director of West Allis/West Milwaukee Recreation Department; Member of the Wisconsin Recreation Association Board (1956-1958); Founder of the Milwaukee Muni Dartball Leagues.

**SYLVESTER DRETZKA**

Secretary of the Milwaukee County Park Commission. A Pioneer in the development of the Milwaukee County Park System.

**DON DYER**

Director of the Milwaukee Public Schools Recreation Division; the first Secretary/Treasurer of the Wisconsin Recreation Association (1940-1946); Initiated the merger movement of the Wisconsin Recreation Association and the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Society (1961-1965).

**C.H. EMIGH**

Director of the Milwaukee Public Schools Recreation Division; The first President of the Wisconsin Recreation Association (1941-1942); Member of the Wisconsin Recreation Association Board (1953-1955); Recipient of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association Professional Award of Merit (1969).

**DOROTHY ENDERIS**

Director of the Milwaukee Public Schools Recreation Division (1920-1948); Internationally known as "The Lady of the Lighted School House"; Recipient of the first "Honorary Life Membership Award" from the Wisconsin Recreation Association (1948).

**HELEN FOLEY**

Recreation Coordinator for the Racine Park and Recreation Department; Active on several Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association Committees and the Older Adult Section.

**GEORGE GELDREICH**

Area Director for the Milwaukee Public Schools Recreation Division; Member of the Wisconsin Recreation Association Board of Directors (1947-1948).

**ERNEST GORANSON**

Recreation Consultant for the State Department of Public Welfare; Vice-President of the Wisconsin Recreation Association (1963); Recipient of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Professional Award of Merit (1978).

**WILLIAM C. GOULD**

Director of Recreation for the city of Shorewood (1969-1996); Active member and former Chair of the Greater Milwaukee Park and Recreation Association Directors' group. He also served on the first Board of the Recreation Section, which established the Service Recognition pin and certificate.

**TOM GREENWELL**

Founder and first Director of Recreation for the Wauwatosa Recreation Department; Secretary of the Wisconsin Recreation Administrators' Association and the Milwaukee Metro "Big 11"; President of the Wisconsin Recreation Association (1954-1955).

**HOWARD GREGG**

General Manager of the Milwaukee County Parks; Associate Executive Director of the National Recreation and Park Association; A Pioneer Park Administrator and a strong supporter of the merger of Parks and Recreation in the United States.

**C.L. HARRINGTON**

Director of Parks with the Wisconsin Conservation Department; Active on several Wisconsin Park and Recreation Society committees.

**RODGER V. HARRINGTON**

Area Supervisor in the Milwaukee Public Schools Recreation Division. Active on several committees and member of the Board of Directors for the Wisconsin Recreation Association.

**CHARLES HEYER**

Director of the Waukesha Park and Recreation Department; President of the Wisconsin Recreation Association (1961).

**FRED HOFHERR**

Assistant Director of the Muni Athletic Department of the Milwaukee Recreation Division; Secretary of the Wisconsin Recreation Association (1957-1964).

**DR. CLIFF HUTCHINS**

Professor in the Department of Community and Vocational Education and founder of the Recreation Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; Vice-President of the Wisconsin Recreation Association (1960); Recipient of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association Professional Award of Merit (1972) and Honorary Fellowship Award (1976).

**RUTH JAMES**

Area Program Director for the Milwaukee Public Schools Recreation Division; President of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association (1973); Recipient of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association Professional Award of Merit (1975).

**JAY JANSEN**

Director of Parks and Recreation for the city of Port Washington (1996-2007). Jay was very active in the WPRA serving on many committees as well as Chair of the Park Section. Jay also coordinated the Park Design awards program and served on the WPRA Foundation, Inc. Golf Fundraising Committee.

**WILL KIEL**

Director of the Two Rivers Park and Recreation Department; Member of the Wisconsin Recreation Association Board of Directors (1941-1942).

**F.G. KIESLER**

Director of the Fond du Lac Recreation Department; Served on several Wisconsin Recreation Association committees.

**VERN KRIESER**

Director of the Green Bay Park and Recreation Department; President of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Society; Recipient of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association Professional Award of Merit (1978).

**LUDWIG KOTTNAUER**

A member of the original Recreation Professional Team with the Milwaukee Public Schools (1912-1920); Assistant Director of the Recreation Division (1920-1921); Charter member of the Wisconsin Recreation Association.

**PETE LaBORDE**

Director of the Fond du Lac Recreation Department for over 25 years; elected Chairperson of the Administrative Section in 1968; served as President of the Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association in 1970; was an active member of the Emeritus Section; and served on several committees of WPROA prior to his retirement.

**FRANK LANGSDORF**

Commission member for the Milwaukee County Park System; Active on several committees for the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Society.

**PHYLISS LEE**

Recreation Program Coordinator for the Madison School and Community Recreation Department; Recipient of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association Professional Award of Merit (1970).

**JOSEPH LESZYNSKI**

Director of the Marinette and Superior Park and Recreation Departments; President of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Society (1958); Recipient of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association Professional Award of Merit (1978).

**JESS LYON**

Coordinator for the Madison Department of Health, Recreation, Physical Education and Safety in the 1950's through 1970's, retiring in 1976. He supervised numerous programs and established the department's first comprehensive shop and storeroom operations.

**JAMES G. MARSHALL**

Superintendent of the Madison Park Department (1937-1969). Chairman of the Wisconsin Park/Recreation Section of the League of Municipalities (1939/1940). President of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Society (1950) and recipient of the Society's Special Award in 1960.

**R.C. MILLER**

Director of the Oshkosh Recreation Department; President of the Wisconsin Recreation Association (1945-1946) and Board member (1949-1951).

**WILLIAM MILLER**

Director of the Neenah Park and Recreation Department; Member of the Wisconsin Recreation Association Board of Directors (1951-1953).

**HAROLD MORGAN**

Director of Municipal Athletics Milwaukee Public Recreation Division; A member of the Wisconsin Recreation Association Board of Directors (1947-1949).

**GEORGE NASH**

Supervisor in the Milwaukee Public Schools Recreation Division. Served on several Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association committees and as Region IV Representative. Sang the invocation at many Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association Conference banquets.

**EDGAR NELL**

Director of the Algoma Park and Recreation Department; Founded the City Boys' Club and worked with the Department of Natural Resources in restoring "Sports Fishing" in Lake Michigan.

**CHARLES H. "CHUCK" ODEGAARD**

Director of Marinette Park/Recreation Dept. ((1952-1956); Recreation Agent in Waukesha County (1957 & 1958); President of the Wisconsin Recreation Association (1956/57); President of the Wisconsin Park/Recreation Society (1958); Representative for the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) for the western district (1958 – 1963); Director of Washington State Parks/Recreation Commission (1963-1979); Regional Director for NRPA both in the

Midwest and Pacific Northwest 1979 until his retirement in 1997. He was past president of the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, the National Association of State Park Directors, the National Society for Park Resources and the American Youth Hostel.

**GERALD PHALEN**

Director of the Kenosha School Recreation Department; President of the Wisconsin Recreation Association (1942-1943); President of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Society (1947).

**WARREN B. POLAND**

Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Beaver Dam (1969-1996). Warren was active in the PARR3 regional organization and in the WPRA as a Regional Representative. He was also active as a District Coordinator in the Hershey Youth Track Program.

**RICHARD "DICK" PRESNY**

Dane County Park Director and Assistant Horticultural Agent for the UW Extension Office in Dane County. Active on several WPRA committees including Board member of the WPRA Park Section.

**HOWARD RICH**

Director of the Sheboygan School Recreation Department; President of the Wisconsin Recreation Association (1950-1951); President of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Society (1956).

**AL SCHARA**

Director of the Manitowoc Park and Recreation Department; President of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Society (1961).

**MAE SCHELLINGER**

Program Supervisor for the Racine Park and Recreation Department for over 25 years; Charter Member of the Emeritus Committee/Section where she served as Secretary for the past ten years.

**WILLIAM SEIDLITZ**

Director of Playground Maintenance for the Milwaukee Public Schools; President of the Wisconsin Recreation Association (1955-1956); Secretary of the Wisconsin Recreation Association (1948-1953).

**EARL SIMONIS**

Assistant Superintendent of Milwaukee County Park System for 35 years (1950-1985). Served on several committees of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Society.

**BUSH SOLBRAA**

Director of the Racine Recreation Department; President of the Wisconsin Recreation Association (1953-1954).

**HARRY THOMPSON**

Madison's first Recreation Director appointed in 1926 and serving until 1940 when he returned to teach physical education. He was a graduate of La Crosse Normal School and led collaboration with the city parks department.

**JOSEPH "JOE" THOMSON**

Supervisor of Recreation for the West Allis Recreation Department for over 40 years. Recipient of the Lloyd Larson Award in 1998 for his work in promoting youth sports in West Allis. Served on the WPRA Dartball Committee in the 1960's and 1970's.

**ANDY THON**

President of the Metro Industrial Recreation Council for over 40 years; Board Member of the Wisconsin Senior Olympics; Affiliate member of Wisconsin Recreation Association and the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association; donated original Emeritus Memorial plaque.

**EDWARD TRECKER**

Park Supervisor of the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest; Recipient of the State Park and Recreation Program Distinguished Service Award (1985); Received an Exceptional Performance Award (1988) for his role in acquiring key recreational properties in the Southeast District.

**HELEN WEBSTER**

Director of the Milwaukee Public Schools' Municipal Athletic Program for women and girls from 1958-1971; Member of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association.

**GUY WERTZ**

Director of the Waukesha Park and Recreation Department; President of the Wisconsin Recreation Association (1952-1953).

**CHARLES WHITNALL**

Commissioner for the Milwaukee County Park System; Active on several committees for the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Society.

**DR. GEORGE T. WILSON**

Assistant Superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools, Division of Municipal Recreation and Adult Education. President of the Wisconsin Recreation Association (1948) and the Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association (1971). Recipient of the WPRAs Professional Award of Merit (1976), the Honorary Fellowship Award (1988) and the George T. Wilson Service Award (1997), which was named in his honor.

**ROBERT WITT**

A member of the original Recreation Professional Team in the development of the Milwaukee Public Recreation Division (1912-1932).

**IDA WITT**

A Director of Recreation for the Milwaukee Public Schools (1932-1965); Golden Age Program Director (1950- 1965).

**FRED ZIRKEL**

Director of the West Allis/West Milwaukee Recreation Department; Charter Member of the Wisconsin Recreation Association Board of Directors (1940-1941).



If you are aware of other “worthy” professionals that have passed on and have distinguished the profession through their active involvement with the Wisconsin Recreation Association, the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Society, and/or the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association, please forward this information to:

**WPRAs EMERITUS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE**

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***\*\*Special Thanks to Augie Revoy for his research and dedication in compiling the background material for this publication\****

