

Virginia  
Recreation  
and Park Society  
www.VRPS.com

# Virginia Recreation and Park Society NSA Northern Service Area Winter 2013/2014 Newsletter

Winter 2013/2014

## Northern Service Area

### 2013 Officers

#### Chair:

Karen Lussier  
City of Fairfax Parks & Recreation  
703- 591-3689  
karen.lussier@fairfaxva.gov

#### Chair-Elect:

Lesley Stuler, MS, CTRS  
Arlington County Parks and  
Recreation  
703-228-4735  
lstule@arlingtonva.us

#### Secretary:

Kim Baldini  
Arlington County Parks and  
Recreation  
703-288-7140  
kbaldini@arlingtonva.us

#### Treasurer:

Sam Roberts  
McLean Community Center  
703-790-0123  
sam.roberts@fairfaxcounty.gov

#### Member-At-Large:

Ryan Brooks  
McLean Community Center  
703-448-8336  
ryan.brookes@fairfaxcounty.gov

#### Past Chair: (Nominations and Elections)

Blythe Russian  
Northern Virginia Regional Park  
Authority  
(703) 359-4624  
brussian@nvrpa.org

## Notes from the desk of our Chair

We have had a busy fall here in the Northern Service Area! On Sept. 27, NSA held the Emergency Action Plan Workshop. With over 40 people in attendance, there was great feedback on this topic and what it means in our profession. This workshop was held in conjunction with the Aquatics Resource Group. The Events Management Workshop (Events 101) was held on Tuesday, Oct. 22 in combination with Celebrate Fairfax, also with about 40 people registered. The day was filled with several great speakers and incorporated topics that are very relevant to higher level professionals, who were looking to gain more on strategic planning and management of Events. Both workshops were a great success and I want to thank all that were involved with making them possible especially Laura Kowalski and Jimmy Lyon from ARG and Barry Feil from Celebrate Fairfax.

The NSA Holiday Social will be held on Wed. Dec. 17 from noon until 2pm at Brion's Grille in Fairfax. This is the same location we held our social at last year and we have a great time eating the great buffet, socializing and raffling

off fun prizes. Visit [www.vrps.com](http://www.vrps.com) for more information and to register today!

It has been my pleasure to serve on the NSA board for the past three years and as the 2013 Chair. This opportunity has allowed me to get to know so many great professionals in the field and I feel honored to be able to work with them. I especially want to thank the rest of the board, Kim Baldini who also ends her term this year, and continuing on, Lesley Stuler, Ryan Brooks and Sam Roberts. I wish the best of luck to you and the new board members in 2014.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

*Karen Lussier, CPRP*



## A Note from Our Incoming Chair....

Greetings Northern Service Area Members

I am excited to step into the role as Chair of the 2014 NSA Board. I look forward to this opportunity to serve professionals in the field of parks and recreation. It takes many professionals and volunteers to make an impact and I anticipate connecting, collaborating and working with all of you.

Your Board for 2014 includes Chair Elect Ryan Brooks, Treasurer: Sam Roberts, Recorder Brianne Baglini, and Member at Large David Miller. Please join me in welcoming newcomers Brianne and David, newly elected board members! Karen Lussier and Kimberly Baldini have completed their terms of service on the board. Please join me in thanking both of them for their service!

I welcome your thoughts, ideas or suggestions for the Northern Service Area. Feel free to reach out to me at [lstule@arlingtonva.us](mailto:lstule@arlingtonva.us) or chat with me and other board members at the upcoming Holiday Social December 17th. Happy Fall!

*Lesley Stuler*

# Meeting Dates

DATE	LOCATION/EVENT	TIME
December 17	Brion's Grille Holiday Social	11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

## *Michael McCarty inducted into the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration!*

**Michael McCarty, Director of Parks and Recreation** for the City of Fairfax, was inducted into the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration as a Fellow in October of 2013. Membership into the Academy is made of up practitioners and educators who have served for at least fifteen years or more, in a high level of administration in parks, recreation, and conservation or as a recognized educator in the field. Members must have demonstrated leadership contributing to the advancement of these fields and be willing to participate in Academy projects. Membership is limited to 125 practicing professionals at only one time. The purpose of the Academy is to advance knowledge, encourage scholarly efforts, promote broader understanding, conduct research and provide services.



Mike has over 21 years of experience and is currently the Parks and Recreation Director for a National Gold Medal for Excellence in Parks and Recreation recipient. Mike has served twice as Chairman of the Revenue Management and Development School Board of Regents, has been named the Chairman of the Virginia Recreation and Park Society Northern Service Area Board and serves on the VRPS Board of Directors. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Recreation Management from Springfield College.

**Congratulations** to Michael McCarty for being elected into the highly prestigious American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration.

## *City of Falls Church Welcomes Ashley Green*

**The City of Falls Church** is excited to welcome Ashley Green as our new Recreation Program Supervisor. Ashley will take on the task of programming our Teen and Camp programs. Ashley comes to us with experience working for both the City of Suffolk Parks and Recreation and City of Chesapeake Parks and Recreation. She is a Certified Park and Recreation Professional and we look forward to getting her involved with NSA meetings and programs.

The 2014 VRPS Annual Conference Committee is seeking assistance on the Audio Visual and Marketing Committees. If you or anyone you know may be interested please contact Cindy Roeder ([cindy.roeder@herndon-va.gov](mailto:cindy.roeder@herndon-va.gov)) or Laura McCarty ([lmccarty@nvrpa.org](mailto:lmccarty@nvrpa.org)).

We need your help to make this the most dynamic and engaging conference yet, located at the magnificent Omni Homestead located in Hot Springs, Virginia!

***Save the Date for 2 amazing holiday light shows hosted by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority!***



**Dominion**  
PROUD SPONSOR OF

***Bull Run Festival of Lights – Explore Our Winter Wonderland from the Comfort of Your Car***

November 20 to January 5, 2014

Light up your holiday season at Bull Run Festival of Lights, a unique drive-thru light show experience featuring 2.5 miles of holiday excitement!

Visit [www.bullrunfestivaloflights.com](http://www.bullrunfestivaloflights.com) for more information

***Meadowlark's Winter Walk of Lights – A Beautiful Winter's Stroll Through an Illuminated Garden***

November 15 to January 5, 2014

Visit Meadowlark's Winter Walk of Lights to experience over 500,000 LED lights and displays that bring Meadowlark Botanical Gardens to life!

Visit [www.winterwalkoflights.com](http://www.winterwalkoflights.com) for more information



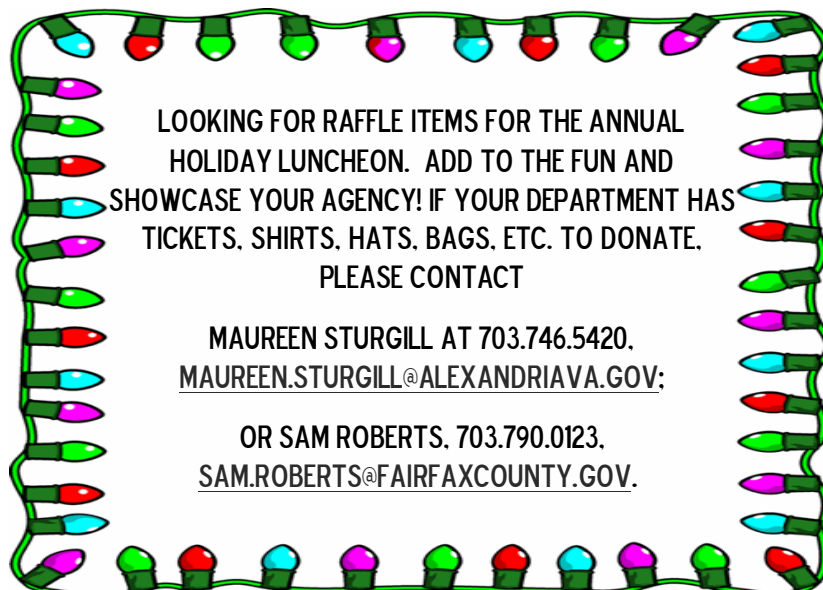
**Meadowlark's**  
Winter Walk of Lights

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**Dominion**

Our holiday light shows are a great way to gather family and friends



# NSA Holiday Social



*Tuesday, December 17, 2013  
12:00pm to 2:00pm*

*Brion's Grille 10621 Braddock Rd, Fairfax, VA 22032*

*\$20 per person - Register online at [www.vrps.com](http://www.vrps.com)  
Includes full Holiday buffet with Turkey, Ham, & Steamship round  
Raffles  
Giveaways*

*Come celebrate a great year with your fellow VRPS members!*

## NRPA Invites Session Proposals

NRPA is inviting all interested speakers to submit an education session proposal for the annual conference, seminars, online webinars, and/or online chats. They are seeking dynamic speakers and leaders who can share knowledge, experience, and best practice techniques related to the work of parks and recreation. They are accepting proposals for concurrent sessions, which take place in 1.25 hours, 2.25 hours and 3.25 hours time blocks. You must submit session proposals through the online submission form. Visit [www.nrpa.org](http://www.nrpa.org)