



# MRPA

# 2024

**STATE CONFERENCE  
& EXHIBIT HALL**  
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NORWOOD, MA  
MARCH 18-20



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# A message from our conference chair



Welcome to the 39th Annual Massachusetts and Recreation and Parks Association State Conference and Exhibit Hall. The 2024 Conference Committee has put together an energetic collection of educational sessions, roundtables, keynote speeches, a robust exhibit hall and entertaining socials. Whether you are joining us for the first time, or the fifteenth, we have created a conference that will educate and aid you in your career.

Our conference schedule appears on Page 11 of this brochure. Descriptions and bios are towards the end. Many of our speakers will appear more than once during your time here. If you miss the first appearance due to scheduling conflicts, then be sure to catch them the second time around.

You can find a map of our event space on Page 6. Our Exhibit Hall will showcase over 60 vendors! Stop by and chat with them in the Terrace and Foyer areas near the Tiffany Ballroom on Tuesday beginning at 4:00pm.

If you need help at any time, our Conference Committee members can be identified with a red ribbon that says "Committee Member" on their name tags.

*Thank you for attending the 39th annual MRPA Conference! ~Stacey*

## 2024 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

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Ted Carroll - CPRP  
Damien Clements - CPRP  
Hannah Corrigan - CPO  
Tim Davis - CPRP  
Christine Dean - CPRP  
Kate DeAngelis - CTRS & CPRP  
Travis Farley - CPRP & CPO  
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Mark Ghiloni - CPRP  
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## MRPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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# • MONDAY SOCIAL •

MONDAY, MARCH 18TH

ZACHARIAH'S

8:00 - 10:00 PM

MRPA PRESENTS

## Trivia Night

Get ready for a night of brain - busting fun! Whether you're a trivia aficionado or just looking for a good time, gather your friends, grab a drink at the open bar or a pretzel at the pretzel bar and get ready to test your knowledge!

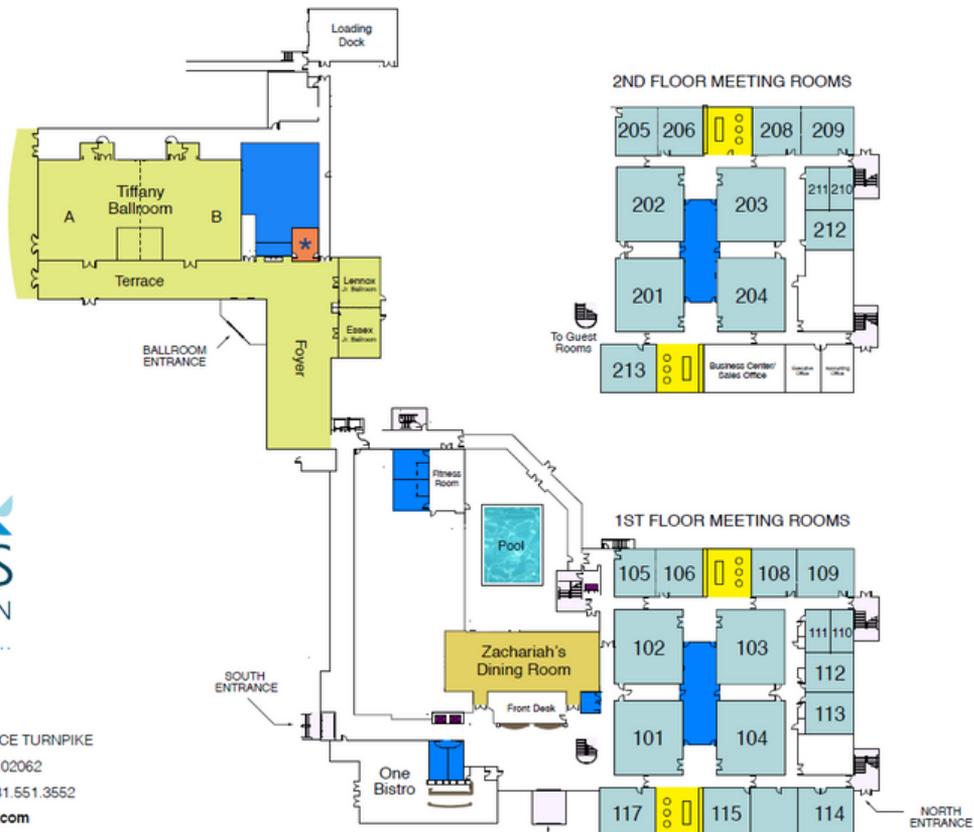
*Open bar will be available for a limited time and then will be a cash only bar.*

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# • TUESDAY SOCIAL •

MARCH 19TH

2024



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TRAVERSE



7

Monday, March 18

Time

Registration

3:00pm-6:00pm

Professional Headshots

4:00pm-6:00pm

Dinner on your Own

6:00pm-8:00pm

Social

8:00pm-10:30pm



**MASSACHUSETTS**  
Recreation and Park Association

Tuesday, March 19

Time

Registration

8:00am-10:00am

Sessions

9:00am-11:15am

Keynote/Lunch

11:30am-1:15pm

Sessions

1:30pm-3:45pm

Professional Headshot  
\*Registration Required

2:30pm-4:00pm

Exhibit Hall

4:00pm-6:30pm

Awards Dinner

6:45pm-8:30pm

Social

8:45pm



Wednesday, March 20

Time

Registration

8:00am-9:00am

Sessions

9:00am-12:30pm

Professional Headshots  
\*Registration Required

11:15am-12:30pm

MRPA Annual Meeting / Lunch

12:30pm-2:00pm

Sessions

2:15pm-4:30pm



# 2024 MRPA CONFERENCE CEU SCHEDULE MARCH 19-20, 2024

\*All sessions are subject to change\*

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## SESSION 1 9:00AM- 10:00AM

- ✓ The CHORDS Model: 6 Key Features of Exceptional Teams -- Mike Brenner (Room 108/109)
- ✓ Dive Into Success: A Year-Long Journey in Aquatic Facility Planning -- Tim Michalski - (Room 104)
- ✓ Conference 101 ~ Making the Best of your Conference Experience -- Nick Campion / Kate DeAngelis / Sam White - (Room 101)
- ✓ Positive Behavior Management with Youth in Groups -- Emily Golinsky - (Room 103)

## SESSION 2 10:15AM- 11:15AM

- ✓ Creating Sensory-Friendly Environments in Youth Programs -- Emily Golinsky - (Room 103)
- ✓ Principles of Positive Youth Development in Recreation -- Andrea Egmont - (Room 101)
- ✓ Certification - The Professional Thing To Do! -- Matthew Casparius - (Room 108/109)
- ✓ New Red Cross Lifeguarding Program & Aquatics -- Johnny Blanton - (Room 104)

Lunch  
11:30am-1:15pm

Keynote - Allison Feaster

## SESSION 3 1:30PM- 2:20PM

- ✓ Accessibility innovation - going beyond ADA -- Joe Prochilo - (Room 103)
- ✓ Make Every Minute Count -- Roz and Jed - (Room 101)
- ✓ Achieving Harmony: Mastering the Art of Conflict Resolution -- Mike Brenner - (Room 108/109)
- ✓ Would You Swim in That? Navigating Common and Uncommon Water Quality Challenges in Swimming Pools-- Devin Cashman / Hannah Corrigan - (Room 104)

## ROUND TABLES 2:45PM- 3:45PM

- ✓ New Professionals -- Hannah Corrigan - (Room 103)
- ✓ New Ideas/Trends in Programming of Special Events - Katie Walper (Room 101)
- ✓ Director's Future of Recreation - Brendan Egan (Room 108/109)
- ✓ Aquatics -- Kevin Bailey - (Room 104)



## SESSION 1 9:00AM- 10:00AM

- ✓ Managing the Expectations of Inclusion Support -- Kristyna Flaherty / Laurel Rossiter - (Room 103)
- ✓ Create a Strong and Meaningful Day Camp Culture -- Roz and Jed - (Room 101)
- ✓ What Can Leaders Learn from Musicians? -- Mike Brenner - (Room 108/109)

## SESSION 2 10:15AM - 11:15AM

- ✓ Excel Basics -- Katy Mayo - (Room 103)
- ✓ Creating a Cohesive and Connected Team... No Glue Required! -- Roz and Jed - (Room 101)
- ✓ A Growth Mindset to Better Communication -- Zac Broomfield - (Room 108/109)
- ✓ Drone Usage for Parks and Recreation -- Michael Moonan / Kevin Wentworth - (Room 104)

## SESSION 3 11:30AM - 12:30PM

- ✓ Creating Effective Marketing Campaigns: Online and Off-- Cara Myers / Christina High - (Room 103)
- ✓ Integrating Environmental Education and Your Urban Spaces -- Autumn Tallant Kilgannon - (Room 101)
- ✓ A Growth Mindset to Better Communication Part II -- Zac Broomfield - (Room 108/109)
- ✓ The How's and Whys of Turfgrass Selection -- Jason Lanier - (Room 104)

Lunch  
12:30pm-2:00pm

-Annual Meeting -

## SESSION 4 2:15PM - 3:15PM

- ✓ Experience fathom - Too Much Viewing. Not enough Doing --Jeff Wozer - (Room 103)
- ✓ AI in Parks and Recreation --Tim Davis - (Room 101)
- ✓ Advocacy Training 101 --Sharon Locke / Katie Walper - (Room 108/109)
- ✓ Designing for outdoor play and fitness. Attracting all ages and abilities to promote health equity and sustainability -- Suzanne Quinn - (Room 104)

## SESSION 5 3:30PM - 4:30PM

- ✓ Digital Distraction - Productivity is Kryptonite -- Jeff Wozer - (Room 103)
- ✓ Recreation Accounting Options Under Massachusetts General Law - Matt Abrahams - (Room 101)
- ✓ Crafting Compelling Narratives: Positioning and Messaging Strategies for Stakeholder Engagement and Advocacy Success Engagement --Mike Schiano / Liz Vizza / Jovanny Rosada - (Room 108/109)

MASSACHUSETTS  
Recreation and Park Association



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# KEYNOTE Speaker

## Allison Feaster



- Allison Feaster is Vice President of Team Operations & Organizational Growth for the Boston Celtics. She is a former professional basketball player, a global citizen, and a trailblazer in the sports industry who is highly regarded for her leadership and teambuilding skills.
- During her decorated college basketball career, Feaster was the first player in any sport to be honored as Ivy Player of the Year three times, leading the first-ever NCAA Division-I Tournament upset of No. 16 seed Harvard against No. 1 seed Stanford. She was a first-round WNBA draft pick and went on to a 17-year professional playing career in the US, Spain, France, Italy, and Portugal.
- Following her retirement from playing 2016, Feaster joined the NBA's Basketball Operations Management Development Program. After serving as the lead of Player and Personnel & Coach Relations for the NBA G-League, she joined the Boston Celtics Front Office and is one of a few women serving in an executive role within NBA Team Basketball Operations.
- Beyond the Court, Feaster served as a co-lead for Boston Celtics United, the Celtics' social justice initiative to impact social and racial inequities in Black and Brown communities in Greater Boston. She maintains her role as an active public speaker and serves as a global advocate for sport, including serving as a Sports Envoy for the US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. A champion of the advancement of women and girls, she was honored by the YW Boston at the Academy of Women Achievers celebration in 2022.
- Feaster is a graduate of Harvard College (BA, Economics) and the Universidad Europea de Madrid (MBA).

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# Session Descriptions

- **Conference 101 ~ Making the Best out of your Conference Experience -- Nick Campion, Kate DeAngelis, Sam White**  
This session will cover how to approach the conference from a professional and social perspective that will leave delegates walking away with a better hands on approach to making MRPA 2024 their best conference experience. Designed for new professionals or first time conference attendees, you'll hear hands on experiences that will challenge you to lean into your professional development, step out of your comfort zone networking, and head back to the office recharged and ready to make a difference in your community.
- **Positive Behavior Management with Youth Groups -- Emily Golinsky**  
This session is ideal for anyone seeking to up their behavior management game! Participants will learn how to set appropriate group expectations and norms with all ages, the basics of good structure and transitions (and their importance if you are expecting good behavior!), and several specific behavior strategies for proactive use and intervention. Good behavior doesn't just happen, and this session will set you and your team up to support individual youth experiencing challenging behaviors while also ensuring group functionality.
- **The CHORDS Model: 6 Key Features of Exceptional Teams -- Mike Brenner**  
When musicians strike the right chord, they perform in a way that touches the heart and moves the soul. When work teams strike the right chord, they deliver superior products and services, enjoy greater employee engagement, and create happier customers. But striking the right chord day in and day out doesn't happen by chance. Cultivating a "right chord" culture demands constant attention and a shared commitment to excellence. In this playful and eye-opening presentation, Dr. Michael Brenner—an international speaker, educator, and professional musician—will explore the six essential "notes" all great teams play for peak performance. These notes comprise Dr. Brenner's CHORDS Model™: Communication, Harmony, Ownership, Respect, Direction, and Support. When these six notes are played individually and collectively, trust skyrockets, morale flourishes and productivity surges. Although this is a highly interactive presentation, no musical knowledge is necessary--just the desire to learn, laugh and have fun!
- **Dive into Success: a Year-Long Journey in Aquatic Facility Planning -- Tim Michalski**  
Join us for an in-depth exploration of the essential elements that contribute to operational success in seasonal aquatic facilities. We will unravel the intricacies of a year-long planning process, covering, staff hiring and training, EAPS and safety, effective capital and budgeting strategies, and the implementation of engaging programming and membership initiatives. This session is designed to uncover best practices and assist in the development of a timeline that can elevate your facility's performance. Please be prepared to share your best practices and success stories that will empower your colleagues to make a splash in their aquatic facility.
- **Certification - The professional thing to do! -- Matthew Casparius**  
Come and learn about the National Recreation & Park Association's Professional & Occupational Certification Programs. In this session, we will explore the Certified Parks & Recreation Professional (CPRP) and Certified Parks & Recreation Executive (CPRE) certification programs as well as discuss the Aquatic Facility Operator (AFO) and Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) programs. We will look at what these certification programs entail; what benefits that they can provide to you and answer any questions that you may have about the programs.
- **Creating Sensory-Friendly Environments in Youth Programs -- Emily Golinsky**  
Sensory processing refers to how an individual recognizes and uses their senses to experience the world around them. If youth have sensory processing challenges (and you may be surprised how common it is!), this can impact their ability to successfully engage in organized activities and programs. In this session, we'll examine the 7 fundamental sensory elements to understand how each impacts an individual's interactions with the world around them. Then, we'll delve into the many ways to incorporate sensory-friendly environments into our program spaces, including providing you with several immediately-implementable strategies to increase inclusive success for your participants!
- **Accessibility Innovation- Going beyond ADA -- Joe Prochilo**  
The Americans with Disabilities Act is predominately focused on physical access. How can parks and recreation facilities develop a service offer that also facilitates access for deaf persons, blind or low vision or neurodiverse individuals? This session will look at innovation and best practices from recreation and parks facilities across New England and draw on some international ideas and approaches to including people with disabilities.

# Session Descriptions

## ➤ **Achieving Harmony: Mastering the Art of Conflict Resolution -- Mike Brenner**

Although many believe conflict can only lead to negative outcomes, this is inaccurate. When managed effectively, conflict can be the source of new ideas, better solutions and stronger relationships. But for conflict to have a positive outcome, we need to approach it with the right attitude. Drawing from his background as a jazz musician and professor of interpersonal communications, Dr. Brenner will explain the factors that often trip us up during a conflict and provide a roadmap for handling conflict more effectively. While there is no magic success formula for settling all conflict, the tips and principles presented will greatly increase your odds of a successful resolution.

## ➤ **Make Every Minute Count -- Roz and Jed**

How do you make every minute of the camp day a unique and special part of the experience? How do you mitigate the program consequences of unexpected rain or an absent activity specialist? How do you empower your staff to turn down-time into fun-time all the time at camp? Join us to learn/play a creative collection of easy games and activities that you can share with your staff. You will leave this exciting and interactive session with new engaging ideas to add to each counselor's toolbox as you prepare them to make every minute count for their campers this summer!

## ➤ **"Would you Swim in That?" Navigating Common and Uncommon Water Quality Challenges in Swimming Pools -- Devin Cashman, Hannah Corrigan**

As pool operators who are responsible for water quality, it is imperative to possess the expertise and strategies necessary to address an array of challenges. This presentation aims to offer valuable insights into sustaining optimal pool water conditions. From routine maintenance strategies to navigating weather-related hurdles and unforeseen contaminant incidents, this session is designed to equip pool managers with the knowledge needed for effective water quality management. Understand the importance of managing bather loads, heat waves, flooding and poolside accidents that impact your water.

## ➤ **Managing the Expectations of Inclusion Support-- Kristyna Flaherty, Laurel Rossiter**

Sometimes parents of kids with different abilities expect that their child will or should be supported at camp or programs in exactly the same way they are at school. This presentation will explore the differences between school and community recreation environments, explain how to develop relationships with parents and keep open lines of communication regarding camper needs, and what tools can be shared between school and your department so that you can effectively support participants without reinventing the wheel.

## ➤ **Create a Strong and Meaningful Day Camp Culture -- Roz and Jed**

Whether it is carefully and intentionally created or just grows randomly with little thought or direction, every day camp has a culture. The culture of your day camp lays the foundation for your camp's unique personality and helps differentiate your program by defining who you are, what you do, and how you do it. This hands-on, interactive session will explore the importance of camp culture at day camps and provide a plan for growing your culture (if you like it) or changing and developing it (if you don't like it).

## ➤ **Creating Effective Marketing Campaigns: Online and Off -- Cara Myers, Christina High**

Cara Myers and Christina High from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) will discuss the ins and outs of effective marketing strategies and best practices for storytelling in your community. NRPA is excited to share content and storytelling strategies with MRPA so that agencies throughout the state can best uplift their resources, spaces and programs. Join Cara and Christina to learn how to build an effective marketing strategy for online and offline growth.

## ➤ **What can Leader Learn from Musicians? -- Mike Brenner**

In this engaging, interactive session, Dr. Mike Brenner -- an international leadership consultant, coach, educator and professional musician -- will explore what today's organizational leaders can learn from musicians. From inspiring people and listening with intent to practicing self-awareness and learning from mistakes, Dr. Brenner will take you on a musical journey that will entertain, enlighten, and energize the leader in you.

# Session Descriptions

## **A Growth Mindset to Better Communication Part 1 and 2 -- Zac Broomfield**

Get ready to stop saying, "I don't know how to talk to them!" ever again! This two-part experiential session empowers individuals with the tools and mindset to improve communication with peers, staff, parents, and youth. The first session helps participants identify which of the four communication styles is their default and how to identify and flex into the communication style of others to create a meaningful connection. The second session focuses on letting go of preconceived expectations and entering into 'co-authored' agreements, complete with contingency plans and mutually agreeable consequences. These high-energy sessions will provide practical tips and experiential, real-life scenarios to help participants practice and internalize these concepts. The sessions complement each other; however, each provides standalone value, allowing attendees to immediately apply the skills learned in their interactions, even if they choose to participate in only one of the sessions.

## **The Hows and Whys of Turfgrass Selection -- Jason Lanier**

Often overlooked or de-emphasized, turfgrass selection decisions are in fact among the most important that a turf manager makes. This session will focus on the benefits of careful and informed turfgrass selection; an investment that touches and shapes all aspects of future management and performance.

## **Digital Distraction - Productivity Kryptonite -- Jeff Wozer**

The inability to work while at work is a major complaint with employees. The need to respond to emails and instant messages is constant. Even when away from work. This in turn leads to frustration, and ultimately burnout. This presentation addresses digital distraction in general and initiatives offices can take in improving workplace digital practices.

## **AI in Parks and Recreation -- Tim Davis**

In today's rapidly evolving world, technology is playing a transformative role in enhancing various aspects of our lives. Parks and recreation are no exception to this transformation. Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers a wealth of benefits and opportunities for improving the management, engagement, and overall experience of parks and recreational services. This session will delve into the exciting and innovative ways AI is being applied to parks and recreation. Attendees will learn about the potential advantages of integrating AI into these environments, from improving operational efficiency to enhancing customer experiences.

## **Advocacy Training 101 -- Sharon Locke/Katie Walper**

Advocacy is an important part of what we do as parks and recreation professionals. We work every day to represent public parks and recreation by fighting for funding and legislation that improves access to open space and recreational opportunities for all people. But how many of us know how to advocate effectively within our communities? Not sure? Sharon and Katie are here to help! This session will be two-fold. In the first half of the session Sharon will talk about the basics of how to become an effective advocate through combining data and storytelling and building coalitions and partnerships throughout your community. In the second half of the session Katie will lead a discussion about how to effectively work with your elected officials and get them involved in all things parks and recreation!

## **Drone Usage for Parks and Recreation -- Michael Moonan**

In this captivating presentation, we will delve into the world of "Drone Usage for Parks and Recreation." The advent of drone technology has opened up unprecedented possibilities in how we approach the management and utilization of our parks and recreational spaces. This session aims to highlight the game-changing potential of drones and how they can enhance various aspects of the parks and recreation industry. Key Points to be Covered: Introduction to Drones Best Practices and Challenges Drones for Parks & Recreation Drones for Building Information Modeling Future Trends & Innovation Q&A Optional Live Demonstration.

## **Principles of Positive Youth Development in Recreation Work -- Andrea Egmont**

This workshop is designed to help connect the work you do with the basic principles of positive youth development. This framework is helpful in connecting recreation to prevention (high risk behaviors) as well as increased wellness, academic success and more. Using the PYD framework empowers all staff to understand the power of our work with young people to create lasting impacts.

# Session Descriptions

- **Experience Fathom - Too Much Viewing. Not Enough Doing -- Jeff Wozer**  
Experiences are what bond us and what color our lives with authenticity. This bears especially true with outdoor experiences. But experiences, in today's screen-obsessed world, are being replaced by digital diversions that promote sedentary lifestyles. Jeff, through his own screen-distraction story, delivers an impactful and highly entertaining presentation that helps us understand what we're up against in getting individuals to unplug, step outside, and pursue experiences.
- **Integrating Environmental Education and Your Urban Spaces -- Autumn Tallant-Kilgannon**  
Shifting from our human-centric focus to one where we pursue reconnection with nature is monumentally important for our health and the health of our planet. In this session, we will identify the importance of environmental education and explore how we can facilitate appreciation for and stewardship of nature by implementing nature-based, experiential education in our urban spaces.
- **Crafting Compelling Narratives: Positioning and Messaging Strategies for Stakeholder Engagement and Advocacy Success-- Mike Schiano, Liz Vizza**  
Are you struggling to communicate your organization's mission and policy goals effectively? Finding it challenging to cut through the clutter and inspire stakeholders to act? In today's fast-paced world and ever-changing communications landscape, creative positioning and taking a multifaceted approach to stakeholder engagement strategies are key for advancing your organization's initiatives and generating value for your members. This session will explore strategic positioning and messaging strategies that can transform your organization's engagement and advocacy outcomes through case studies and techniques that will resonate with your stakeholders, from members and donors to policymakers and the public. This session will provide you with the tools and knowledge you need to advance positive change and meaningfully engage key audiences.
- **Designing for outdoor play and fitness: Attracting all ages and abilities to promote health equity and sustainability --Susanne Quinn**  
Play and fitness are essential for people of all ages & abilities. This session will cover research on the benefits of outdoor play & fitness and how to design outdoor spaces to increase health for all ages & abilities. We will help you to apply these principles so that you can create well-designed outdoor play and fitness spaces that help strengthen communities, promote health equity, and sustainability for our shared ecosystems.
- **Excel Basics -- Katy Mayo**  
In this Excel workshop, you will learn some Excel tips and tricks to improve your efficiency with your spreadsheets. Learn some basic formulas to summarize data. Use sort and filter to read large quantities of data more easily.
- **Recreation Accounting Options Under Massachusetts General Law -- Matthew Abrahams**  
This session discusses several accounting options for recreation activities under current MGLs. To operate recreation programs under a municipal revolving fund under the provisions of MGL 44:53E½, a recreation revolving fund under MGL 44:53D, an enterprise fund under MGL 44:53F½, or a general fund.
- **New Red Cross Lifeguarding Program and Aquatics --Johnny Blanton**  
The Red Cross session will be about the Newly Released and Updated Lifeguarding Program. We will cover changes and updates throughout the program and what this means for Directors, Instructors, and the lifeguards themselves. We will talk about maintain and updating the certifications needed for Instructors and Instructor trainers and how to navigate that from multiple management levels. We will also be discussing the new VR program that provides new angle for In-service training. We will also if time permits give updates on career advancement options for Instructors and how to pursue teaching in other disciplines.
- **Creating a Cohesive and Connected Team...No Glue Required! -- Roz and Jed**  
If your staff, across every level, is cohesive and connected, will that make a positive difference in your programming for every member of your community? When you think about the important messages that you want to convey to your staff as part of their training, is Teamwork one of them? Attendees will play and participate in a variety of teambuilding exercises and activities. We will discuss the value of connection and the benefits of working as a team. You will take away an assortment of fun, interactive and thought-provoking activities to incorporate into your staff training as you create and strengthen your cohesive and connected team!

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# Presenter Bios

## Emily Golinsky -



Emily is a keynote speaker and presenter whose sessions get called many things (her favorites are: "tremendously helpful," "definitely not the same-old-same-old," "fun and informative" and "not to be missed – a reason to come to the conference!" Emily is the founder of Bright Moose LLC, which provides training, coaching, consultation and professional development to camps, schools, towns, and youth organizations, guided by the motto "Help Others Shine Bright!" She has over two decades of leadership experience. Emily is an Education Advocate for youth with special needs and a certified Mental Health First Aid Instructor. She is Vice President for the NH Camps Association and active as an accreditation visitor, faculty member, and facilitator for ACA New England. She is an avid collector of terribly awesome puns.

## Michael Brenner-



As founder and CEO of Right Chord Leadership, Dr. Michael Brenner collaborates with leaders and teams at all levels to strengthen the essential skills needed for peak performance. He achieves this by drawing on more than two decades of experience as an international leadership consultant, executive coach, keynote speaker, and educator, and more than 40 years as a professional musician. He has taught undergraduate and graduate courses at Temple and Penn State Universities in Pennsylvania and American University in Washington, DC., just to name a few. Additionally, Michael has been a featured speaker at many industry events and conferences around the world, including Southeast Asia, Canada and Australia.

## Tim Michalski -



Tim is the Assistant Director for Littleton, MA Parks Recreation and Community Education. Originally from Pennsylvania he currently resides in Chelmsford MA. Tim began his aquatics career as a lifeguard in South Jersey and spent most of his career in the hospitality industry, including Walt Disney World.

## Andrea Egmont -



Andrea Egmont is the Director of Youth and Recreation for the City of Newburyport. In addition, she has been doing training and consulting in the Recreation field for over 15 years. With a background in Youth Development, her focus is on youth empowerment, community and resiliency.

## Matthew Casparius -



This session is being led by Matt Casparius, CPRE who is a member of NRPA's National Certification Board and Chair of the CPRP/CPRE Certification Committee. Matt is the Director of Parks & Recreation for the Town of Merrimack, NH and President of the NH Recreation & Park Association and lives in Londonderry, NH with his wife Amy and children Ben and Abby..

## Johnny Blanton-



Johnny Blanton, regional contact for the American Red Cross in the First Responder Training Division.



### Joe Prochilo -

Joe coordinates Direct Access Consultancy's Americans with Disabilities transition plan and audit programs for municipalities and educational provision across New England and New York State. An Advocate for the City of Worcester, Mr. Prochilo developed a first-in-the-nation access survey criteria for Mobility-impaired, Deaf, Blind, and Low-Vision populations. He instituted an access Gold-Silver-Bronze program to recognize access compliance for businesses and developed initiatives in the housing construction market to increase the number of accessible housing units from 5% to 20% of all newly constructed housing to ease a 35-year backlog for affordable accessible apartment units in the city.

### Roz and Jed -

Roz and Jed Buck have done what many married couples consider to be "the impossible"...They have worked together, side by side, for almost 20 years. From 2004 – 2016, they owned and directed Meadowbrook Day Camp, a large private day camp in New Jersey, where they trained a staff of over 400 each summer. Since launching Roz and Jed Training & Consulting in 2016, their innovative training techniques and energetic presentations have consistently generated outstanding reviews at a wide variety of conferences including the National RPA Conference and dozens of state RPA conferences and workshops. They successfully provide Two Voices, Customized Content, and Real Experience. Session organizers receive comments like "Easily the BEST session of the day", "TONS of great ideas to share with our staff!", "Fun, active, going to use this immediately!", and simply "AWESOME".



### Devin Cashman -

Devin currently services as the aquatic specialist for the Town of Needham. In this role Devin manages technical operations for the Rosemary Recreation Complex. The facility consists of a 4,300 square-foot competition pool, 9,000 square-foot family pool, water slide, and splash pad. The pools operate automatically with three regenerative media filters, ultraviolet systems, automatic fills, CO2, tablet acid and chlorine feeders. Devin is also an Assistant Professor in the Exercise Science program at Regis College in Weston, MA where he previously served as the Assistant Athletic Director responsible for the swimming and diving programs.



### Hannah Corrigan -

Hannah has a background in Park and Recreation, with experience in aquatics and program coordination. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Sport Management and a Master's Degree in Recreation and Leisure Studies. Hannah is passionate about inclusive programming, aquatics, trails, and special events. Outside of work, she enjoys running, playing pickleball, and traveling. Currently, she serves as the Assistant Director of the Park and Recreation Department in Needham.



### Kristyna Flaherty -

Kristyna is currently a 5th grade special education teacher in Waltham Public Schools for students primarily with an Autism Diagnosis and is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). She supports students both in the sub-separate setting as well as students in the general education classroom. Kristyna has experience as a therapeutic recreation staff member and adaptive athletics coach for both children and adults with disabilities at the Burlington Parks & Recreation Department.



### Laurel Rossiter -

Laurel is currently the Recreation Director for the Town of Shrewsbury. Her previous roles include Assistant Director at Billerica Recreation, Assistant Director of Summer Camp and Auxiliary Programs at Lawrence Academy, and Therapeutic Recreation Specialist at Burlington Parks & Recreation. Laurel has been a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) since 2009.





### Tim Davis-

Tim Davis is a ten-year recreation professional and the current Recreation Director for the Town of Southborough, MA.



### Katy Mayo -

Katy Mayo, the founder and owner of South Shore Software Training, has provided classes to clients nationwide, including some of the most current, cutting-edge software used in the workplace. As a trainer, Katy combines technical and subject matter expertise to provide on-site training from front-line employees to individuals in the C-suite. Katy relies on a hands-on approach that ensures her client's develop or improve the software skills that they need to perform their jobs.



### Zac Broomfield -

Zac Broomfield is a communication expert with over two decades of experience spanning youth development, leadership coaching, and team dynamics. As a leadership consultant, transformational performance coach, and author, he excels in helping individuals understand and adapt their communication styles to create more meaningful connections from the home to the boardroom.



### Michael Moonan -

Michael Moonan is a registered landscape architect with 26 years of experience in landscape architecture and project management with a concentration on parks and sports planning and design. Mike is an expert parks, sports, and recreation design professional and has managed all aspects of projects, from master planning and conceptual design to construction document preparation, specification preparation, and construction administration through to completion. He has worked on projects at 30 public and private K-12 schools, over 25 community-wide parks and recreation master plan projects, and over 30 single-site parks master plans.



### Cara Myers -

As a previous park and recreation professional, Cara is knowledgeable about marketing strategies on both the national and local levels. Cara and Christina are also cohosts of NRPA's official podcast, Open Space Radio, which helps share stories from park and recreation professionals across the country.



### Christina High -

Christina brings a creative edge to NRPA's social media accounts, staying abreast of the latest trends and tracking regular metrics to best inform decision making. Cara and Christina are also cohosts of NRPA's official podcast, Open Space Radio, which helps share stories from park and recreation professionals across the country.



### Jeff Wozer -

Having toured nationally for 20-plus years on the comedy club and corporate circuit, performing with the likes of Martin Short, Jim Gaffigan and Brian Regan, Jeff Wozer now pulls back the curtain on digital distraction, helping people, at both work and home, make better decisions with their screen-use time. Through keynotes and breakout sessions his engaging blend of insight and humor educates individuals on digital-balance practices so that they, not their devices, are controlling their attentions and, ultimately, their days. Jeff's insights, borne from his own screen-struggle story, has inspired audiences at conferences and business meetings across the continent.

### Autumn Tallant-Kilgannon -

Autumn is from Asheville, North Carolina and has a passion for the outdoors and for reading books while hanging out with her cat. During undergrad, she spent a summer in the Delaware Water Gap as an environmental education intern for Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC). While living amongst the trees, critters, and waterfalls, she unlocked her interest in anthrozoology and environmental education. After a few years as a land surveyor in New Hampshire, she became the Brookline Recreation Department's Environmental Education Leader. She currently organizes and directs BREC's Nature Camp over the summer, unraveling the mysteries of our natural world through nature-based, experiential education with youth ages 5 to 14. During the school year, Autumn facilitates nature-based programming such as all-ages night hikes and art nights, family camping and fishing events, after-school nature explorations with youth, and older adult guided nature walks.



### Jason Lanier-

Jason Lanier received B.S. and M.S. degrees in Plant and Soil Sciences from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and has worked with UMass Extension since 2000. During this tenure he has participated in all facets of Extension education and programming including project development and management, facilitation of educational programs and resources, and frequent interaction with the industry, political decision makers and the greater public. He has served as an editor and contributing author for several publications, and has provided academic instruction in varied forums ranging from workshops, to certificate programs, to University courses. Over time he has worked hard to develop a strong understanding of, and commitment to, the missions and integrity of both Extension and the larger University



### Sharon Locke -

Sharon is the Assistant Recreation Director for the Town of Weston. She is a graduate of Gordon College with a BS in Recreation Studies. Sharon is also a 2015 graduate of the NRPA Directors School and has completed the NRPA Parks Champion program. As the current Legislative Representative for the MRPA, Sharon follows legislation and helps to advocate for the for parks and recreation on the municipal and state level.



### Suzanne Quinn -

Suzanne Quinn has a PhD in child and family studies from Syracuse University. She is the manager of the KOMPAN Play Institute, Americas. In this role she is part of the international research team for the company, and the lead for North America. The institute investigates trends and issues in the fields of play, health, and the built environment and consults with children on what is best in play. The Play Institute works closely with the Fitness Institute, investigating issues related to health and fitness across the lifespan. She has extensive teaching experience as a university lecturer.



### Jovanny Rosado -

Jovanny is a Denterlein native who leads, manages, and amplifies several of the agency's largest clients, focusing on media relations, digital content development, and strategic planning and consultancy. As a quick-witted communicator and organized account manager with over five years of PR agency work, he leads the execution and collaborates in the inception of strategic communications campaigns. With a knack for traditional media relations, thriving off the rush of a media win, Jovanny has built strong relationships with regional and national media that he leverages in guiding media outreach, storytelling, and brand positioning. Jovanny is a U.S. Navy veteran whose transition into the PR and strategic communications realm comes with high adaptability and an understanding of the interdependent relationship between public relations and affairs across all industries – guiding his work, professionalism, and commitment to Denterlein clients' mission and goals and delivering results. Jovanny grew up in Puerto Rico and takes pride in uplifting the critical value of multilingual communications.





### Katie Walper -

Katie is currently the Director of Medfield Parks and Recreation. She is a graduate of Curry College for her BS, and Northeastern University for her Master's. Katie just attended her first year of NRPA Directors School in Denver, Colorado. Katie is a former chair of the Metrowest Region for MRPA. Katie's favorite part of recreation is getting residents to come together for programs and events.



### Mike Schiano -

Mike Schiano leverages his extensive knowledge of public affairs, stakeholder engagement, branding, and communications tactics to provide clients with messaging and strategies that effectively engage their target audiences. He acts as a core member of Denterlein's development, public policy, and non-profit teams, providing clients with press and stakeholder outreach, message development, and strategy. Mike began his career with The New England Council, a membership organization that advocates for New England businesses with regional and federal policymakers, serving on its communications, membership, and program teams. Prior to joining the Denterlein team, he was Director of Client Services for a boutique strategic communications and public affairs firm engaged by both public and private sector clients throughout the New England region.



### Kevin Wentworth -

Kevin Wentworth is a seasoned professional driving the implementation of design technology strategies within CHA's infrastructure sector. With a wealth of expertise in digital construction methodologies, Kevin ensures seamless collaboration, data integrity, and enhanced project efficiency. His ability to optimize BIM & CAD work flows and foster cross-functional partnerships sets the foundation for successful project delivery and client satisfaction. He is SUAS Certified and manages CHA's Drone Program.



### Liz Vizza -

Liz Vizza is a mission-driven and forward-looking leader with over 40 years of experience in the field of landscape design and planning. In her role as President of Friends of the Public Garden, Liz leads the organization and its members on the mission to renew, care, and advocate for the three parks in the heart of downtown – the Boston Common, Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall. Liz works closely with other civic and business leaders in promoting park excellence, advocating for more inclusive and equitable public spaces, and creating innovative programming to better connect Bostonians to the parks and one another.



### Matt Abrahams -

Matthew Abrahams, Principal at The Abrahams Group, works with his father Mark Abrahams. Together, they have decades of experience providing financial assistance to municipalities in Massachusetts. They have helped numerous communities with setting up different types of funds to operate their water, sewer, and stormwater utilities, and their recreation programs.

MRPA IS DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION, ADVANCEMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ALL RECREATION AND PARK SERVICES WITHIN MASSACHUSETTS AS WELL AS ON A NATIONAL LEVEL. WE ARE COMPRISED OF PROFESSIONALS REPRESENTING COMMUNITY, THERAPEUTIC, STUDENT, PRIVATE, NON-PROFIT, COMMERCIAL, ARMED SERVICES, COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS AND LAY PERSONS IN THE FIELD OF PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES.



Massachusetts Recreation & Parks Association

# MRPA 2024

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