

VRPS NORTHERN SERVICE AREA
March 11th, 2:00pm – 3:00pm
Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Emma Charles, Darby Charles, Craig Makufka, Brittany Vasquez, Derrick Cowles, Patrick Aragon, Ali Talbot, Jametta Pettitway, Julie Kagler, Amy Youngs, Sarah Oberther, Paige Edwards, Allen Dunn, Michael Suggs, Bianne Baglini, Daniel Saunier, and Brian Gannon

Introductions 2025 Board: Chair – Julie Kagler, Chair-Elect – Derrick Cowles, Communications Chair – Emma Charles, Treasurer - Jametta Pettitway, Recorder – Shauna Manovich, VRPS Board Liaison – Steve Torpy

VRPS Board Liaison Updates – Steve Torpy

- For those Who want to talk with their directors there is a directors conference coming up in April. There're still some slots that are available down in in Richmond for deputy directors, assistant directors or directors.
- If you have not gone ahead and put your information in for play all day, please do so.
- Save the date for October 26th through the 29th for the VRPS conference that is down in Roanoke at the Hotel Roanoke.
- Administrative Note: Lori is asking that members make sure that they go into your VRPS profile and update your profile to indicate that the Northern Service Area is your service area

Connection Before Content – Emma Charles

- Lead: My Park – Self Identity Activity

Chairperson's Report NSA Update – Julie Kagler

- NSA Board Participated in Leadership Summit in February
- Northern Service Area webpage to view full work plan and calendar for 2025
- Achieving Gold, Silver, and Bronze Leve – Service Area – Recognition at Annual Conference
- Awards - early submission deadline 5/9 - \$50. Final submission due 6/9 - \$60

Communications Update – Emma Charles

- Update to the VRPS website for the Northern Service Area, reviewed by Emma via screenshare.
- Includes what NSA plans to do, what our goals are and how we're going to get there and our specific NSA mission and vision
- Go to Member Profile > My Features > Elists > Turn on notifications from Norther Service Area or other special interest groups that you are interested in.

Treasures Report - Derrick Cowles

- The funding report has been updated for 2025. Less tracking for the treasurer moving forward. Yearly update in advance instead of in real time. Only truly affect the board.

Resource Group Updates – Julie Kagler

Aquatics: Micheal Suggs - Contact Michael Suggs at msuggs@pwcgov.org

- Bimonthly meeting roundtable, 4 meetings then roundtables every other month, 2 in person workshops, Spring and Fall
- 6/11 at 12:00pm both on Microsoft teams.
- Seasonal Newsletter for the Aquatics Listserv.
- Board Mtg 3/12 at 12:00pm and Resource Group update/roundtable

Outdoor Resource: Patrick Aragon reported out

Contact: Hannah Lagana-bellh@colonialheightsva.gov

- Community Gear Library to rent out camping gear presentation
- Nature Centers May 8th

Camp Coalition: Derrick Cowles reported out

Contact: Katie MacCammon Kmaccammon@fairfax.gov

- Met on 3/11
- Registration is in full swing
- Pricing
- Numbers are high and that is exciting.

YoPro – Young Professional Network

Contact: Katie MacCammon Kmaccammon@fairfaxva.gov.

- Next meeting April 21st at 1:00pm. zoom – Topic: Ask an Expert.

All Around the Room Agency Updates: Julie Kagler

- **Emma Charles** – Loudoun PRCS – CAPRA Reaccreditation, National Reading Month,
- **Craig Makufka** – Camps and full Preschool reg. is under way and CAPRA Reaccreditation in 2026
- **Brittany Vasquez** - Marketing and communications team at Fairfax County Park Authority is currently hiring a new public Information officer.
- **Derrick Cowles** – Parks Master Plan, Restaurant week in Vienna and summer camp registration is rolling along with spring classes.
- **Patrick Aragon** – Fields opening and summer camp planning/registration
- **Ali Talbot** – Family Summit, summer camp registration almost full.
- **Jametta Pettitway** – Summer Camps are almost full, Community events currently going on Kiddy Cabaret, Parents Night out, Underwater egg hunt Saturday April 12th, Nerf the Turf (Nerf gun fight) Turn every other Friday night, Alexandria Spring

Invitation Cheerleading Competition April 26th, Recfest 5/3 10a-2p at Patrick Henry recreation Center.

- **Brian Gannon**- CAPRA Reaccreditation 2025, summer camp registration, underwater egg hunt and regular event. Mobile programming Van, Celebrate Reston, Step to address unhoused population in Reston and collaboration within the Dept.
- **Micheal Suggs** - Summer aquatics hiring and LG classes
- **Bianne Baglini** – 3 weeks in current position, looking forward to learning the ropes better.
- **Daniel Saunier** – fields opening up in ten days
- **Allen Dunn**
- **Paige Edwards** – Nature Center in Alexandria working on events for April
- **Sarah Oberther** – Spring Events, Camp Registration (system did not break), Renovation project at Mount Vernon Rec Center – Large hiring campaign. Lots of Egg Hunts and Spring Break ECL is open for free activities during spring break. Farmers Markets open next month. Needs assessment underway March 19th public information session
- **Amy Youngs** – Buildings are closed but programming continues. Fitness challenge similar to restaurant week
- **Darby Charles** – Egg hunts, small and tall ball, pool opening with added online rental for outdoor pools.
- **Julie Kagler** – Kids fishing derby, egg hunt (land and water), Summer camp registration.

Roundtable: Play All Day VA – Have you signed up? What is your Agency Planning? April 4th deadline to sign up.

- **Herndon** – Middle of summer camp so it is challenging to facilitate. Pop up events at parks.
- **Loudoun** – Moon bounce, disc golf and popsicles on the playground. Teen center band playing ending with a movie at Dulles South. Pool bash at Lovettsville.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, April 22 at 10:00am

Herndon Community Center

814 Ferndale Ave, Herndon, VA 20170

Business Meeting – 2 workshops and Lunch more details to come.

Reminders:

Registration for LTI opens in April 2025

Looking for location and 2 presenters for workshops in fall.