

# NWSRA DIRECTOR'S CORNER | FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER - VOL.1



## WHAT'S HAPPENING

Happy Valentine's Day!

A lot has happened in the world of finances here at NWSRA, since the last Director's Corner. The team of Jessica Vasalos, Administrative Manager, and Variksha Naidoo, Robert Half Consultant, were able to prepare the December month-end close as well as the preliminary FY 2023 year-end close for John Short, Director of Business Services and Human Resources at the Buffalo Grove Park District and Jason Myers, Director of Finance and Personnel at the Arlington Heights Park District to review on Friday, February 9, 2024. I am pleased to report that the day went very

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**CALL TO ACTION!**



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very smoothly. John Short stated, "Jess and Variksha have done a lot of work to get these reports ready for Tracey and the Board of Directors to review. I am comfortable with the trial balance, balance sheet, and P&L they presented to us. The explanations on the quarterly report were very helpful." John also said that the Monthly Snapshot was also very helpful. I want to personally thank Erica Strojinc and Carrie Fullerton for sharing their financial experts with us!

We have received two very promising applications for the Superintendent of Finance position and Darleen is working with each candidate to secure an interview date and time. Again, we have asked John Short and Jason Myers to be a part of our interviewing team. Unfortunately, Joe Dalmaso, the Accounting Clerk, is no longer with us. His last day was Monday, February 12, 2024. Needless to say, we are actively looking for his replacement.

Jess and Variksha are focused on moving the year-end numbers and the FY2024 Budget numbers into AccuFund for NWSRA and SLSF while also preparing the audit punch list items.

I am extremely grateful to my in-house finance team of Jessica Vasalos and Variksha Naidoo for stepping up and handling all of the financial needs for both NWSRA and SLSF. They are putting in some very long days and nights.

As always, I value your support and would appreciate any leads you have regarding a Superintendent of Finance and an Accounting Clerk.



## **FEBRUARY/MARCH DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- **GOLD MEDAL FASHION SHOW: 2/25/24**
- **SLSF/ROLLING MEADOWS PARK DISTRICT'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER: 3/9/24**
- **NWSRA BOARD MTG. : 3/27/24**

## **STAFF OPENINGS CONTINUE.....**

NWSRA continues to experience Recreation Specialists and Inclusion Coordinator openings and as we near the summer programming season, this will impact our ability to support the needs of the participants and families that we serve. We are starting to target the market of professionals in Special Education, Adapted PE, and ABA Therapy professions. These fields of study have proven to produce professionals who can transfer their skills into community-based recreational therapy and the inclusion world.

Our Inclusion support will look a little different this summer. This is not a bad thing. Some of our bigger districts that have numerous inclusion support needs during the summer, will be provided with their own Rover/Behavior Specialist, in addition to the Inclusion Coordinator and Manager support. We have increased the number of Inclusion Rovers from three or four to a team of eight during the summer! The remaining two Inclusion Coordinators will oversee these professionals who will assist with observations, behavior management, inclusion support, and support the Inclusion Aides and park district staff. The Manager of Inclusion will be out on maternity leave from March until the end of May, but back in time for all the summer fun. So far, we have hired five of the eight Rovers. They all have strong backgrounds in working with individuals with disabilities, addressing behaviors, and adapting programs and services to meet their individual needs. Any leads that you may have in hiring these remaining Rovers, please send them our way.

Regarding the Recreation Specialists openings, we are securing several interns and recruiting to hire additional Program Leaders to fill the gap in staff. The Program Leaders have similar backgrounds to the Rovers. They are capable of leading programs independently with the knowledge and background of professionals who have experience working with individuals of all abilities.

## **IPRA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SUZI WIRTZ STOPPED BY FOR A VISIT**



NWSRA was proud to have Illinois Park and Recreation Association's new Executive Director Suzi Wirtz, come visit with NWSRA Staff and tour our Rolling Meadows and Hoffman Estates Programming Spaces. We had a phenomenal time getting to know Suzie while highlighting all of NWSRA's outstanding programs and services.

A number staff from NWSRA's Member Park Districts also joined us, including those from the Arlington Heights Park District, Hoffman Estates Park District, Palatine Park District, Prospect Heights Park District, and Rolling Meadows Park District.

Thank you Suzi for the taking the time to come visit with NWSRA and our Member Park Districts!