

10/05

First, I'd like to recognize and thank several colleagues for their service to the Academy.

**2004-05**

Past-President--Gary Ellis  
President--Roger Mannell  
Secretary-Treasurer--Mark Searle  
Historian--Ben Hunnicutt  
Nomination and Elections Committee--Linda Caldwell and Alison Pedlar  
Future Scholars Committee--Deb Bialeschki and Ron McCarville  
Web Master--Ed Jackson

**2005-06**

Past-President--Roger Mannell [plaque]  
President-Elect--Bill Hammitt  
Secretary-Treasurer--Gary Ellis  
Historian--Mark Havitz  
Nomination and Elections Committee--Alison Pedlar and Roger Mannell  
Future Scholars Committee--Ron McCarville and TBA)

Next, I'd like to offer congratulations to Linda Caldwell—elected to American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration

This year's election for President between Bill Hammitt and me was closer than the last presidential election, but not as contentious in that, instead of blue and red states, Bill and I both represent states of grey.

Some years ago, I was asked by the Academy to eulogize John Neulinger. When I did so, I noted that everyone in the Academy had—personally and/or professionally—touched my life in some way. Thinking back to that comment, it occurs to me that I should feel both honored and humbled to be making these remarks today. I thank you both for the opportunity to serve as president this year and for the contributions all of you have made to the field of leisure sciences and to my development as an academic and an individual.

As to an agenda for the coming year, I have only two comments.

First, I would like to develop an agenda for the Academy to propose to you over the course of the coming year. Toward this end, I plan to ask Roger and Bill to work with me to constitute a small *ad hoc* committee to draft a list of activities the Academy might undertake. In addition to the initiatives we currently sponsor, such as the Future Scholars Program, I'd like this group to brainstorm new sorts of things we might, collectively, try to accomplish.

Second, and in a related vein, I would like to charge this group to think big. While the Academy has traditionally been primarily an honorary society, this does not mean that, if given both challenges and resources, some of our colleagues might not be interested in making some substantive contributions to our field through new Academy-sponsored initiatives.

If this ad hoc group identifies initiatives that some of us might want to address, the issue of supportive resources comes into play. My intent is to ask the ad hoc group to complete its work by early spring and distribute their recommendations to the Academy as a whole.

Next, I plan to ask Academy Fellows which, if any, of these proposed initiatives they might be interested in undertaking.

Finally, if any of the initiatives require support in terms of fiscal resources, I will approach any appropriate sources of funding, such as NRPA and the National Recreation Foundation, to attempt to secure the resources needed to undertake these projects.