

SDMRO

SOCIETY OF DIRECTORS OF MUNICIPAL RECREATION OF ONTARIO



Miss M. Phillips, RDMR,
Executive Director,
995 Memorial Avenue,
THUNDER BAY, Ontario



This is a President's Newsletter with
information on the following subjects:

Relationships of the Society of Directors of
Municipal Recreation of Ontario and the Ontario
Recreation Society

Work of the Executive with the Department
of Recreation, Ministry of the Attorney General
and Social Services

Work of the Executive with the Association of
the Ontario Municipal Recreation Association

This is a Presidential Newsletter with information on the following subjects:

- I Relationships of the Society of Directors of Municipal Recreation of Ontario and the Ontario Recreation Society.
- II Meeting of the executive with the Honourable Rene Brunelle, Minister of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.
- III Meeting of the executive with the executive of the Ontario Municipal Recreation Association.

SPECIAL NEWSLETTER

I have been asked by the executive to bring to the attention of the membership certain developments of importance, concerning the relationship between the Ontario Recreation Society and the Society of Directors of Municipal Recreation of Ontario.

Since the Annual Meeting of the S.D.M.R.O. last November, your executive has been involved, quite actively, in an attempt to bring about a closer relationship between your Society and the Ontario Recreation Society. It is the intent of the executive, through this newsletter, to give the membership all the facts in a chronological order.

1. On November 18th, 1972 at the Annual Meeting of the S.D.M.R.O. at Geneva Park, the following resolutions were passed:

Resolution # 18

Whereas: In view of previous discussions regarding this subject.

Therefore Be It Resolved That: The S.D.M.R.O. advises O.R.S., through appropriate channels, that the membership of S.D.M.R.O. endorses the concept of organization affiliation as a membership classification with O.R.S.

Resolution # 19

Whereas: There is a need for closer liaison between the S.D.M.R.O. and the O.R.S.

And Whereas: There has been some confusion as to the support of O.R.S. by the S.D.M.R.O.

Therefore Be It Resolved That: The executive of the S.D.M.R.O. make every effort to improve communications and public relations with the O.R.S.

2. On November 22nd, 1972, Mr. J. Maxwell, President, S.D.M.R.O., phoned Mr. B. Weaver, President of O.R.S., about a joint meeting.
3. On November 23rd, 1972 the following letter was sent from J. Maxwell to B. Weaver.

C O P Y

269 Queen Street East,
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario,
November 23, 1972.

Mr. Bruce Weaver,
President,
Ontario Recreation Society,
Parks and Recreation Services,
550 Burnhamthorpe Road,
ETOBICOKE, Ontario.

Dear Bruce:

Further to our telephone conversation of Wednesday, November 22, 1972, this is to advise you that the S.D.M.R.O. Executive will be meeting on December 8th and 9th at the Kress Motor Hotel in Preston. You have stated that the O.R.S. Executive are meeting the same weekend and I think that it is imperative that we meet together. As mentioned to you, this could be on the Friday evening - the place to be determined.

The purpose of the meeting is to allow the S.D.M.R.O. Executive to explain what happened at our Annual Meeting and explain the position that the membership has taken.

Bruce, I will try to explain our position in a couple of sentences as I think you should know prior to our meeting. The membership of the S.D.M.R.O. have indicated that there is a need for a strong municipal oriented organization and thus the S.D.M.R.O. will continue, however, they did endorse the concept of Organization Affiliation as a membership classification with O.R.S.

I trust the above to be satisfactory and that I will hear from you shortly.

Yours very truly,

(signed)

James G. Maxwell,
President,
S.D.M.R.O.

JGM/pm

4. On November 30th, 1972 the following letter was sent from B. Weaver to J. Maxwell.

C O P Y

550 Burnhamthorpe Road,
ETOBICOKE, Ontario.
November 30, 1972.

Mr. J. Maxwell,
President,
The Society of Directors of Municipal
Recreation of Ontario,
Parks and Recreation Department,
269 Queen Street East,
SAULT STE. MARIE, Ontario.

Dear Jim:

I have your letter of November 23, 1972, and would advise that I have arranged for our Executive to meet at the Holiday Inn, Hespeler, December 7 and 8th.

We will meet Thursday evening and all day Friday and will expect your Executive to meet with us on Friday evening. As most of the O.R.S. Executive will be returning home on Friday night, I would ask you to be at the Holiday Inn by no later than 7:30 p.m. Our meeting should finish by 10:00 p.m. at the latest.

As I indicated to you on the telephone, I recommend this meeting to my Executive on the basis there would be a complete frank exchange between the two groups.

Not being present at your Annual Meeting, I cannot personally assess the overall feelings of your membership and their specific concerns, however, I think the following points should be considered.

The S.D.M.R.O. influence was very much to the fore in initiating discussions which led to the first Couchiching Conference to explore the concept of a new professional organization.

I realize, of course, that there would not necessarily be unanimity of the membership to this concept just as there was not total agreement of the whole membership of the other organizations.

However, a Steering Committee was directed to study the structure of a new organization which would embrace all full-time, qualified, recreation personnel. As you know the result was the formation of the O.R.S.

As you are also aware Councils have been established in an effort to provide "Interest Groupings". The Executive recognize that people with similar primary interests will desire opportunities to meet together just as it is expected that in the Medical profession surgeons will tend to meet with other surgeons because of a common interest, but are part of the total organization. Membership must, of course, be on an individual basis, but the Council concept makes it possible to retain a sense of identity.

I am fully aware of the long history of the S.D.M.R.O. and the natural reluctance of an organization to wind up its affairs.

However, the O.R.S. was formed to serve recreation in all of its disciplines and I am fully committed to achieving this goal.

Certainly the O.R.S. would be even stronger to-day if the S.D.M.R.O. had seen fit to encourage its members to join O.R.S. and establish a date to end its existence. However, this has not happened to date.

As you indicate in your letter, your membership indicate there is a need for a strong municipal oriented organization. The inference here would appear to be that the O.R.S. is not capable of serving the municipal needs. I assume you are aware that 168 municipal oriented people already belong to O.R.S.

Your letter also states the membership endorsed the concept of Organization Affiliation as a membership classification with O.R.S. To me this suggests "Federation". This is not possible under the By-laws. Nor would it be recommended by the Executive, as this would be against the concept and totally unfair to the other organizations who have disbanded and joined O.R.S. as individuals.

In conclusion I can assure you that it is my hope, and of the Executive, that we can reach accord on one organization serving the total interests of the profession in Ontario.

Very truly yours,

(signed)

F. Bruce Weaver,
President.

FBW:aor

5. On December 8th, 1972 a meeting of the executives of O.R.S. and S.D.M.R.O. was held at the Holiday Inn in Hespler. Below is the Minutes of that meeting.

C O P Y

Joint Executive meeting with the Ontario Recreation Society.

Present - O.R.S. - B. Weaver

V. Gillis

G. Hutchinson

Mrs. Williamson

D. McCubbin

S. Hayter

K. Burgess

S.D.M.R.O. - J.G. Maxwell

P.L. Cavill

J.E. Cooper

A.B. Wrigglesworth

G.W. Stoner

W.L. Ogden

J.D. Paton

R.J. Ventricek

B. Weaver, President, O.R.S. requested J.G. Maxwell to make an opening statement.

J.G. Maxwell outlined that the joint meeting was the result of the actions taken by the S.D.M.R.O. membership at the Annual Meeting.

He pointed out that the annual meeting had given the Executive a mandate to continue the S.D.M.R.O. as a functioning body and secondly to co-operate and work with the O.R.S. on mutual items of concern. Some areas expressed were changes in community centre grants, changes in program grants, Youth and Recreation Branch concerns, joint brief to the Task Force on Community and Social Services.

B. Weaver spoke briefly on the creation and history of the O.R.S. and the role that the S.D.M.R.O. had played in its founding.

It was further pointed out that the present by-laws of the O.R.S. do not permit group affiliation but membership on an individual basis only.

At this time it was pointed out by President Maxwell that the annual meeting of the S.D.M.R.O. was not anti O.R.S. but a pro S.D.M.R.O. feeling.

Discussion followed in length relating to the history and present functional operation of the two bodies and in particular the formation of ad hoc councils within the O.R.S. Also discussed was the organization heritage (S.D.M.R.O.), certification by one body for all disciplines, joint memberships 72/73.

K. Burgess outlined their 1973 annual conference at the Skyline Hotel in Toronto and indicated a possible 700 - 800 people with a possible attendance of 900 - 1,000 in 1974.

Study of full membership category will be taken in the next year and the possibilities of de-centralization of their conference.

Discussion was also held on the matter of the O.R.S. Executive bringing the matter of by-law changes to affect membership federation. It was stated by individuals to propose same at this time.

The S.D.M.R.O. outlined once again that our purpose in meeting was to inform the O.R.S. before their annual meeting of the resolutions passed at the S.D.M.R.O. Annual Meeting (continuance and co-operation) and the establishing of co-operative liaison with the O.R.S. Further discussion was held re the Association of the Government and the O.R.S.

The people present all recognized that the two organizations would exist during 1972-1973 and the S.D.M.R.O. would forward to the O.R.S. proposals for co-operative action areas to establish a meaningful liaison.

The O.R.S. hosted with coffee and the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

6. On January 16th, 1973 the following letter was sent to B. Weaver from J. Maxwell.

269 Queen Street East,
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario,
January 16, 1973.

Mr. Bruce Weaver,
President,
Ontario Recreation Society,
550 Burnhamthorpe Road,
ETOBICOKE, Ontario.

Dear Bruce:

RE: Areas of Co-operative Action between
O.R.S. and the S.D.M.R.O.

Further to our joint meeting of December 8th, 1973, the Society of Directors of Municipal Recreation of Ontario would like to propose the following:

- (a) That we exchange minutes
- (b) That we exchange newsletters
- (c) That we hold a joint meeting with a predetermined agenda with input from both organizations
- (d) That training and regional workshops be our first joint endeavour. We would like to recommend that as soon as possible that the Training Committee of both organizations meet and develop a proposal for a regional workshop and that a pilot project take place in one or two regions of the province some time this spring.

I trust the above to be satisfactory and I hope to hear from you at your convenience.

Yours very truly,

JGM/pm

James G. Maxwell,
President,
S.D.M.R.O.

c.c. Executive

7. On February 19th, 1973 the following letter was sent from R. Secord re a joint meeting of the executives of O.R.S. and S.D.M.R.O.

C O P Y

Youth and Recreation Branch,
12 Floor, Mowat Block,

February 19, 1973.

Mr. James Maxwell,
President, S.D.M.R.O.,
269 Queen Street East,
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

Dear Jim:

As confirmed with you I will be pleased to host a luncheon meeting of the Executive members of the Ontario Recreation Society and the Society of Directors of Municipal Recreation of Ontario on Wednesday, March 7, at the Hyatt House Hotel in Toronto. The hotel is located on the east side of Avenue Road, just north of Bloor Street and we will be meeting in the Hanover Room commencing at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided and I expect that we will be finished no later than 3:00 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting, as I indicated to you, is to bring the two executives together to examine the philosophical, practical and historical reasons for the present conflict and to try to develop a climate whereby those differences can be resolved.

In this connection, I am also inviting Tom Riley and Laurie Branch to attend since they represented the S.D.M.R.O. on the Steering Committee which formed O.R.S. Gord Hutchinson and Brian Wrigglesworth, the other representatives will be included as present members of one of the executives.

I look forward to a useful meeting.

Yours sincerely,

RES:rks

R. E. Secord, R.D.M.R.,
Director.

c.c.--Mr. L. Minshall

8. On February 21st, 1973 the following letter was sent to J. Maxwell, President of S.D.M.R.O. from G. Hutchinson, President of O.R.S.

C O P Y

5000 Yonge Street,
Willowdale, Ontario.
M2N 5V7

February 21, 1973.

Mr. James G. Maxwell,
President,
Society of Directors of
Municipal Recreation of Ontario,
269 Queen Street East,
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

Dear Jim:

The newly elected Executive Board of the Ontario Recreation Society held its first full meeting of the year on February 8 and 9, 1973. Early in our agenda we again undertook to endeavour to resolve the situation between the S.D.M.R.O. and the O.R.S. This matter came up as a result of your letter of January 16, 1973 addressed to Bruce Weaver, who was President of O.R.S. at that time.

I am confident, Jim, that since you have been involved as a member of the Executive of S.D.M.R.O. for several years, and since you are now President, that you can sympathize with me personally, that during the first couple of meetings in the term of office of an Executive, many items must be considered on a priority basis as much of the entire year's work is determined at that time. Although we had many important matters on a very long agenda, the subject of our future relationships with S.D.M.R.O. was placed as a high priority for our first meeting and nearly three more hours were devoted to seeking a resolve.

Since three members of the present Executive Board of O.R.S. are serving for the first time, we reviewed, in extensive detail, the entire period of the Steering Committee since 1967 when the concept of "one professional body for recreation in Ontario" was first introduced by the S.D.M.R.O. You will recall that this came about as a result of the S.D.M.R.O. Membership Study Committee, chaired by Pam Graham and was reported to the S.D.M.R.O. Annual Meeting in 1968. This Study Report had, of course, been preceded by S.D.M.R.O. President, Tom Riley, on behalf of the S.D.M.R.O., reporting on September 12, 1967 to the Advisory Committee on Diploma Training. From that very beginning, the S.D.M.R.O. gave its full support and backing to the creation of one Professional Recreation Society and immediately appointed a Study Committee.

The S.D.M.R.O. Executive held meetings with Executives of other organizations including I.P.E.O. and the Educational Committee of O.A.A. On April 28, 1968 these executive representatives agreed that their respective organizations would ensure "that some type of provincial recreation organization should be formed". It therefore followed that, on September 19 and 20, 1968 the first of two Couchiching Conferences were held with position papers presented and a Steering Committee formed. If one reads the minutes of this meeting, it is interesting to note that "not one discordant note was heard throughout this historic meeting".

Jimmy, as one traces the minutes of meetings and becomes aware of the S.D.M.R.O. involvement and leadership, and the progress reports mailed to the S.D.M.R.O. membership during the past years and the report-back sessions to Executive groups, it seems almost impossible that we could have two "professional" societies today with one claiming to serve the municipal field and the other claiming to serve the total field, including municipal. The needs of today for "one professional body" are greater and more valid than in 1967 and 1968 and yet it took the wisdom and determination of

S.D.M.R.O. leaders five and six years ago to provide the leadership which we need even more today!

The Executive Board of O.R.S. also reviewed the various efforts which have been extended since September, 1970 when O.R.S. was formed through a unanimous vote of all recreationists gathered in Niagara Falls, many of which were S.D.M.R.O. members. We honestly feel that O.R.S. Executive Boards, in the past 2½ years have done everything possible to leave the door open for S.D.M.R.O. to complete that which it began. "To create one professional body for recreation in Ontario".

We have corresponded and met on several occasions to review our structure and by-laws. We created the "Ad Hoc Council on Municipal Recreation" and thereby continue your full role of service to the Municipal field within the O.R.S.

We have, by plan and design, much to the annoyance of many of our members, refrained from direct competition in serving municipal recreationists, i.e. - we have not directed any extensive membership campaign toward municipal recreationists; we did not establish our own Ad Hoc Council on Municipal Recreation since we were leaving this open for you to do; we have held off on liaison with organizations in Ontario which you presently provide, for your liaison could become our liaison; we have not established various committees which you have, but which should be functions of O.R.S. to serve our total membership; we have not conducted training programs aimed at the municipal field despite the large number of municipal recreationists within O.R.S.; we have moved slowly on geographic promotion as many of the present area groups are strongly municipal and we'd like them to become part of the O.R.S. at the same time as S.D.M.R.O. does the same. There have been other professional courtesies extended while we have waited for 2½ years for positive action from you.

In a nutshell, Jimmy, the waiting period has almost come to an end. It was certainly understandable when, in November 1970, two months after O.R.S. had been created, that S.D.M.R.O. could not complete its on-going tasks. It was however, very disappointing in November 1971, your 25th Anniversary, that a great historic step was not taken by becoming part of "one body" and throwing your shoulder behind the wheel of true professional recreation leadership throughout Ontario through O.R.S. I guess the greatest disappointment came in 1972 when, not only was there little or no effort to accomplish this move, but in reality, your membership was counselled through the wording of the two motions presented to remain independent and to work "with" O.R.S. and not be part "of" O.R.S.

It was, therefore, resolved unanimously by the Executive Board of O.R.S., for all of the reasons previously outlined, and for many other reasons pertaining to the future of professional recreationists that we can no longer consider that simple acts of "exchanging minutes", "exchanging newsletters" and "holding joint meetings" is a meaningful way of serving the profession now that "one professional body" exists. By accepting these suggestions, O.R.S. would be inferring that there is a need for two organizations when, in fact, such is not the case. The suggestion of "joint leadership training programs" is like mother-

hood. Certainly training is very desirable but O.R.S. is at present very capable of providing this service, although our efforts could be more effective if the professional resources were totally committed and involved in O.R.S.

We are, therefore, declining any further dialogue, except if we can discuss ways and means whereby Municipal Personnel in S.D.M.R.O. is honestly and seriously intent upon becoming part of O.R.S. in keeping with your organization's stated objectives in 1967 and 1968. I can give our absolute assurance that we will meet with our Executive and do all things possible to enable this to come about.

We do ask that your Executive take a new and fresh approach. The present duplication and waste of money and human resources is deplorable. The example which is being set by having two competing bodies is hurting the entire profession and causing extensive weakness at a time in the development of recreation when unity and a common purpose is essential.

We are faced with the urgent finalization of some method of common certification; recreation education needs clear direction; Provincial Government assistance must be given direction; in-service training must be vastly improved; the future of recreation through maximum understanding, co-operation and collaboration must be secured to achieve the highest possible use of all resources; positions must be determined in regard to National Health and Fitness; lay-professional co-operation must be increased; and many other urgent matters must be tackled. What are we doing? Fiddling while Rome burns and talking about exchanging minutes and newsletters, rather than giving meaningful, dynamic and enthusiastic leadership through one common organization which we must all support to meet the challenges of the future.

Jim, when I assumed the Presidency of O.R.S. for 1973, one of my prime objectives was to bring about the closing of the rift within the profession. I had been part of S.D.M.R.O. for many years. I was one of your last two appointees to the Steering Committee to form an O.R.S. I was responsible for all arrangements at the Sheraton-Brock Hotel, Niagara Falls, for the Founding Meeting of O.R.S. I had hoped to be able to provide the necessary leadership in 1973 to achieve what we all envisaged during the past six years - "one professional body for recreation in Ontario". You may assure your Executive and members that I personally and the Executive Board of O.R.S. want very much to bring about amalgamation. We ask you and your Executive to give courageous and daring leadership in 1973 to see this happen.

We look forward to the meeting of both Executives on March 7, 1973 in the hope that the visions of our predecessors can again be brought into focus.

Yours very truly,

(signed)

Gordon C. Hutchinson,
President.

GCH:v

9. On March 7th, 1973 a meeting of the executives of O.R.S. and S.D.M.R.O. was held at the Hyatt House Hotel in Toronto. Below is the Minutes of that meeting.

C O P Y

MEETING WITH
ONTARIO RECREATION SOCIETY

MARCH 7, 1973.

(10:15 AM)

Hyatt Regency - Toronto

Present:

Chairman Robert Secord, R.D.M.R. - Director, Youth & Recreation Branch

O.R.S. Executive: Gord Hutchinson, President and Messrs. McLelland, Weaver, De Shane, Gillis, and Bishop.

S.D.M.R.O. Executive: Wrigglesworth, Stoner, Ventrcek, Paton, Cavill and Ms. Judy Cooper.

Interested Parties Invited to Attend: Laurie Branch, Tom Riley and Lloyd Minshall.

Regrets: Due to weather conditions in Sault Ste. Marie, Jim Maxwell, President, S.D.M.R.O. was unable to attend.

Mr. Bob Secord, R.D.M.R. opened the meeting by indicating that the meeting was called to discuss the apparent conflict between the O.R.S. and the S.D.M.R.O. He felt that this conflict should be resolved if possible, in order that the profession in the Province does not suffer. He indicated that the Government is feeling the conflict, particularly as it relates to the Provincial Certification Committee and the Provincial Certification Study Committee. He stated that he no longer wanted these two committees to become the battleground for the O.R.S./S.D.M.R.O. conflict. He felt that Recreation as a movement, should not be impeded by two groups. Historically he stated that the Steering Committee's aim was to have one professional recreation body in Ontario. He felt that there were misconceptions on both sides and wanted to explore the possibilities of getting them resolved.

Mr. Secord Put Forward The Following Alternatives For Discussion As To A Method Of Resolving The Apparent Conflict:

1. Declare war and do battle.

2. Compromise and have peaceful co-existence and realize that the two organizations are needed and work together in close liaison.
3. That S.D.M.R.O. fold and encourage their members to join O.R.S. as individual members.

Brian Wrigglesworth felt that there was one more alternative that should be explored and that was:

4. That S.D.M.R.O. join O.R.S. as a total group (Federation).

The floor was then left open for general discussion of the problem.

S.D.M.R.O. Representatives feel that:

- The serious conflict that was mentioned by the Chairman in his opening remarks were somewhat inflated and felt that there should be no reason that the two organizations couldn't work together co-operatively.
- It was indicated that the S.D.M.R.O. had received a mandate from their membership to become a strongly municipally orientated organization and to work closely with the Ontario Recreation Society.

Gord Hutchinson, President of the O.R.S., indicated that he did not feel that there was any great conflict at the present time and that the understanding was that the S.D.M.R.O. was going to clear up unfinished business at their 1972 Annual Meeting and join the O.R.S. He stated that the Ontario Recreation Society had approximately 178 Municipal Recreation Practitioners as members and that they were not serving these people adequately as they were waiting until the S.D.M.R.O. decided to fold. However, they felt they could wait no longer and that they had to begin to serve those Municipal Recreation Practitioners within their membership. He felt that if the S.D.M.R.O. did not disband that the conflict would certainly become more evident. He felt that the S.D.M.R.O. and the O.R.S. should be sitting down to discuss how the S.D.M.R.O. could become a part of the O.R.S.

The S.D.M.R.O. again reiterated their position that they had been given a mandate by their membership to continue and that the decision made at the last annual meeting was based on the fact that O.R.S. had a role to play but that S.D.M.R.O. should continue to function with their concern basically for Municipal Recreation Practitioners.

Bob Secord elaborated on his concern regarding the conflict at the Certification Committee and Certification Study Committee level. He felt that they had become relatively ineffective in the last six months because of the conflict.

Mr. Tom Riley, a Past-President of the S.D.M.R.O. brought up

the background regarding Pam Graham's Study done for the S.D.M.R.O. in 1965. It indicated that the S.D.M.R.O. should expand its membership. However, this was turned down by the general membership of the S.D.M.R.O. Mr. Riley read the resolution made at the 1969 Annual Meeting which was interpreted as meaning that once the O.R.S. was formed, the S.D.M.R.O. would be disbanded. However, the S.D.M.R.O. representatives were quick to point out that there was no time limit set and that this particular action was taken by previous executives and does not necessarily commit the present membership or the present executive to take that course of action.

Mr. Secord indicated that the decision to be made at the meeting was to decide whether there is to be one or two Professional bodies and if two, then how can guidelines be set so that liaison work can begin.

The O.R.S. members felt that they could serve the Municipal recreation people just as well through O.R.S., if the S.D.M.R.O. was to fold. They felt that the training program presently operated by the S.D.M.R.O. could also be done by the O.R.S. and that the S.D.M.R.O. could become an Ad hoc Council. However, it would not have the name S.D.M.R.O., it would be an Ad hoc Council in the sense that it was made up of Municipal Recreation Workers.

Gord Hutchinson reiterated that the present By-Laws and Constitution of the O.R.S. would not allow the S.D.M.R.O. to federate as an organization with the O.R.S. It was O.R.S.'s opinion that the By-Laws and the Constitution should not be changed to allow this to happen since other groups such as: C.A.M.E.O. and I.P.E.O. had disbanded in favour of O.R.S.

It was very clear from the comments of the representatives of the O.R.S. that they were declining any further dialogue with the S.D.M.R.O. except if they could discuss ways and means where-by municipal recreation personnel and S.D.M.R.O. was seriously and honestly intent upon becoming part of the O.R.S. In analyzing the alternatives presented at the beginning of the meeting, it appeared as though the O.R.S. would not accept the S.D.M.R.O. joining O.R.S. as a group membership (Federation). The S.D.M.R.O. because of its mandate from its membership was also not prepared to recommend to the 1973 Annual Meeting that the S.D.M.R.O. fold. It became obvious that through the statements of O.R.S. that they were prepared to declare war and do battle. However, representatives of the S.D.M.R.O. reiterated that they were wanting to co-operate with the O.R.S. in joint projects as stated in our letter to the O.R.S. from President, Jim Maxwell. But it was quite obvious that the O.R.S. no longer wished to discuss areas of mutual concern.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 PM

10. On March 22nd, 1973 the following letter was sent to G. Hutchinson from J. Maxwell.

C O P Y

Parks and Recreation Dept.,
269 Queen Street East,
SAULT STE. MARIE, Ontario.

March 22nd, 1973.

Mr. Gordon C. Hutchinson,
President,
Ontario Recreation Society,
5000 Yonge Street,
WILLOWDALE, Ontario.
M2N5V7

Dear Gord:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of
February 21st, 1973.

I read with interest your comments.

Yours very truly,

(signed)

James G. Maxwell, R.D.M.R.,
President,
S.D.M.R.O.

JGM/rp

c.c. executive

The executive has carried out its mandate in regards to its relationship to O.R.S. It is the intent of the executive to get on with the work at hand. We have many irons in the fire and it is our hope to complete most of the projects started this year. We have no intent of becoming embroiled in a confrontation with O.R.S. and it is our hope to co-exist.

On Friday, March 2nd, 1973 your executive met with the Honourable Rene Brunelle, Minister of the Ministry of Community and Social Services. We discussed with Mr. Brunelle our various concerns, especially in regards to Legislation affecting Community Centres and Programmes of Recreation, Certification and the Services being received in the Province, through the Youth and Recreation Branch.

We received the following information:

1. That a new Act will be submitted to the Legislature during this sitting dealing with Community Centres. The sitting of the Legislature opened on March 20th, 1973 and we were assured that the new Act will be introduced in the fall after the summer recess. The executive have taken the initiative and

made a submission in regards to the new legislation. The submission will be circulated to the membership shortly.

2. The Cabinet will be making a decision in regards to new program grants before summer. Again, your executive has made a submission to the government. In regards to all our submissions to the government, we have asked to make representation to enlarge our position. The minister looked on our request favourably. Our submission will be circulated with our next set of executive minutes.
3. It was brought out that the government might consider opting out of certification. We, the executive, have gone on record as stating that certification should stay with government, however, if they do opt out then the S.D.M.R.O. is prepared to take on this responsibility.
4. The executive has expressed concern that nothing has been resolved in regards to the service being offered by the Youth and Recreation Branch. With the reorganization of government last year, and the splitting of the function between the Community School Consultants and the Youth and Recreation Branch, many voids were left in the Province. We stated that the Community School function should be brought back to the Youth and Recreation Branch. We were assured that a decision would be made by summer. Government informed us that they have budgeted for a modest increase in staff.

On Friday, March 2nd, 1973 the executive met with the executive of the Ontario Municipal Recreation Association. We explained to them the decision that was made at the 1972 Annual Meeting, to continue as an organization with emphasis on the Municipal function. It was stated that it was our intent to align ourselves with organizations, such as the Ontario Municipal Recreation Association, and the Associations of Municipalities of Ontario.

We presented to the O.M.R.A. executive a written statement on the S.D.M.R.O. This statement is appended. We have agreed to, and have now taken the necessary steps in developing for O.M.R.A., job descriptions and salary schedules.

We found that through discussion with the O.M.R.A. executive, that a strong liaison is necessary and that a number of joint ventures could be undertaken. We urge all members to support the efforts of the Ontario Municipal Recreation Association.

Respectfully submitted,

JGM/rp
Appended

J. G. Maxwell, R.D.M.R.,
President,
S.D.M.R.O.

C O P Y

STATEMENT TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OF THE
ONTARIO MUNICIPAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Role:

The Society of Directors of Municipal Recreation of Ontario (S.D.M.R.O.) is a professional association established in 1958 under legislation of the Province of Ontario. A full member of the Society of Directors of Municipal Recreation of Ontario is a registered practitioner subscribing to a code of ethics, has demonstrated academic and professional competence by his fellow professionals and employers. The Society of Directors of Municipal Recreation of Ontario is an organization that is concerned about leisure services as administered by local, regional or provincial governments.

Functions:

The Society of Directors of Municipal Recreation of Ontario, under Bill 30 - 1958, keeps a register of full and student members of the association. It can assist in hiring, develop job descriptions and salary studies, set up a disciplinary board, set and administer a fellowship procedure and adopt a code of ethics.

Standards:

The academic and experiential prerequisites to becoming a registered, municipal recreation practitioner are constantly under revision and review. The present requirements for fellowship in the Society of Directors of Municipal Recreation of Ontario include a major research or professional project culminating in a paper that must be approved by three or more highly competent advisors. This is followed by a technical and professional examination carried out by a board of senior, professional practitioners. This procedure normally takes two years to complete.

Future:

The Society of Directors of Municipal Recreation of Ontario would be pleased to advise and assist the Ontario Municipal Recreation Association in hiring practitioners of municipal recreation employees, and likewise the Society of Directors of Municipal Recreation of Ontario should look to the non practitioners for needed input in all its matters. We intend to pursue the placement of non members on key boards of review and examination.

Upgrading:

Each municipal recreation practitioner should constantly keep abreast of the latest techniques and developments in leisure services to the public. To this end, the Society of Directors of Municipal Recreation of Ontario keeps constant liaison with universities and colleges while operating regular, professional courses and seminars. As the Ontario Municipal Recreation Association represents the employers of our members, every effort should be made to ensure there is encouragement to belong to the Society of Directors of Municipal Recreation of Ontario and participate in its activities.