

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Dear Fellow Members:

Please excuse the fact that our first Newsletter for the 1971-72 year is a week or so late. The response for our request for newsletter material was so great that I'm afraid I got carried away with the interesting reading of newsworthy items that came across my desk from Society members throughout the Province. Please accept my apologies then sit back and read this newsletter today.

Grant E. Southwell,
Editor,
S.D.M.R.O. Newsletter.

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT - Mr. Brian Wrigglesworth:

I believe that all members received a letter from our President, dated February 25th, 1972 in which he states the concerns of the Society toward the shuffle of the Youth & Recreation Branch from the Ontario Department of Education to the Ontario Department of Social Services.

In this letter our President suggests that the recent report of the Study Committee on Recreation Services in which the S.D.M.R.O. had representation, strongly recommended that a new department be established to consolidate all recreation services. Failing establishment of a new department, it is recommended that recreation remain with the Department of Education.

The quote from the paper which our President has referred to goes as follows:

Provincial Recommendations

Recommendation 1 to 4 - Consolidation of services

"We hardly endorse recommendation #1, the consolidation of all community recreation services under the jurisdiction of a single department. We would strongly recommend that this be a new and separate department with its own minister (Department of Recreation Services or Leisure Services). We feel that all of the services related to community recreation are important enough in the lives of people to merit the total attention of the minister and a department whose main and only concern would be recreation. In the present fragmented structure, recreation gets very little attention from any of the departments having tiny bits of jurisdiction. The parochial interests of each department must be set aside in the interest of the people of Ontario."

Recommendations 2, 3, and 4 would fall nicely into place if recommendation #1 is implemented.

In a further letter from our President dated March 7th, 1972 which Society members should have received, it was stated that 1972 could well be called the year of decision for the Society of Directors of Municipal Recreation in Ontario. The issue at hand is the future viability of the S.D.M.R.O. in our ever changing professional environment and certainly at our 1972 Annual Meeting the membership will be asked to make a decision as to whether or not the S.D.M.R.O. will continue

to function as a professional body and if it is to continue what changes in structure, if any, will take place.

In both of the aforementioned letters from our president, he urges you, the membership, to express yourselves. It would be greatly appreciated if all members could write to Brian and express their feelings in regard to the issues at hand so that he may make decisions knowing how the membership feel on these questions.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Mr. Don Wadlow:

In the 1971-72 S.D.M.R.O. budget Mr. Wadlow emphasizes that once again the Society is faced with a "hold the line" budget, basically because the anticipated revenue was not quite enough to cover the proposed expenditures. This situation makes it necessary for the Executive to utilize the "members equity" and in fact put us in a position of going into the red. The Executive and all Committee Chairmen are being asked to stay within their budget allotment and to economize where possible. Don suggests that anyone who has further questions relating to the current budget of the Society please write to him at 8 Main St. S., Brampton, Ontario.

Because you have all received a copy of this year's budget, I will just reiterate the summary portion of it at this time.....receipts - \$19,521.00 ; expenditures - \$20,604.00.....leaving us with a deficit of \$1,083.00 and with a "members equity" of \$1,027.87....leaving the S.D.M.R.O. budget in a deficit position of \$55.13. Anybody got any bright ideas for making money for the Society? Please contact our Treasurer at once!!

O.M.R.A. - LAST CALL:

The Annual Meeting and Conference of the Ontario Municipal Recreation Association will be held May 10 - 13th, 1972 at the Victorian Inn, Stratford, Ontario.

Program Outline - Theme - Focus For Community Re-creation

What are we doing; why; what should we be doing;
how; how do we get there?

Wednesday, May 10th - Registration and Reception

Thursday, May 11th - Annual Meeting - Luncheon - Discussion groups by population - Choice of various interest topics - Banquet and Dance.

Friday, May 12th - Address - Allan Klein - Discussion groups
Choice of various interest topics - a "Do-It" session

Saturday, May 13th - Discussion groups - Choice of various interest topics - Banquet - Summary by Allan Klein

All members who have not already done so are urged to register as soon as possible. This looks like a good convention - it would be a shame to miss it!

REPORT FROM THE ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY ON THE NATIONAL LIFEGUARD SERVICE:

National Lifeguard Service courses are gaining momentum in Ontario as more Recreation Directors recognize the value of such experience for their guards. Eighteen (18) courses have already been completed since January first of this year.

The N.L.S. course is designed to give the candidate an insight into the job he will be expected to perform as a guard in addition to encouraging a sense