



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Although I do not wish for heart stopping anxious moments like what I experienced today, my team once again proved that they are truly incredible in some of the most intense situations... On Wednesday, March 13, staff was alerted of an armed intruder at the Hanover Park District location. The PURSUIT Adult Day Program had 21 participants and 6 staff in attendance. Immediately following the notification, the staff followed their Intruder Alert Protocol and went into lock down. This protocol is based on state standards that must be practiced monthly at every PURSUIT location to ensure that participants and staff are ready in events such as this. The NWSRA main office was notified immediately, by the Hanover staff of the situation. Staff at the Admin building notified PDRMA and the Hanover Police Department. Both agencies gave guidance on steps to follow during the crisis. PDRMA crafted our statement for the families and staff, while the police worked with the Hanover staff to secure the building and give the all clear. The whole situation lasted about an hour and a half, but the impact of the situation may linger with any of our participants and staff. We will be contacting EAP and using PDRMA in the event that the staff, participants and families receive whatever they need to emotionally heal from this experience.



SRA Legislative Forum Meeting

On Tuesday March 5, 2024, NWSRA Board Chair, Craig Talsma, Board Member, Jan Buchs and I met with Steven Adams and the NSSRA, SRACLC, MNASR, NISRA, WDSRA, LWSRA and WSSRA Executive Directors to discuss next steps regarding the potential of hosting a SRA Legislative Forum. The meeting focused on the purpose of the forum and if a white paper could be written to address the standards, laws, acts and codes that the SRAs may need further guidance in following. Several SRA Director's expressed concern regarding the backlash of too much attention being given from legislators regarding SRA funding. Other directors voiced concerns that the actions of one SRA could drastically impact all the SRAs. It was also discussed that the legislators have already begun to focus on the SRAs as we fight for exemption from the Paid Leave for All Workers Act. I voiced that many legislators never thought that the SRAs would be excluded from the exemption, which was given to the Park Districts, because they view us as an extension of the park districts. Senator Laura Murphy spoke at the Schaumburg Legislative Breakfast, and stated that she plans to champion the exemption to include the SRAs. Ultimately, the group decided to create a white paper to address the issues facing SRAs and to host a Legislative Round Table to discuss the White Paper. I will keep you posted on our progress.



MARCH

DATES TO REMEMBER:

**NWSRA BOARD MEETING:
MARCH 27, 2024**

Updates on NWSRA IRS Issue Great News!

On Wednesday, March 6, 2024, Jessica Vasalos received a voice message from our assigned IRS Revenue Officer M. Bell with the long awaited news that our IRS case has been officially closed! Staff is still attempting to get the close of the case in writing, but we are not going to hold our breath! Our new Ring Central phone system transcribed the voicemail to an email that was sent to us. As of now, that will serve as our written documentation that our case has been closed. If you recall, we paid \$22,759.61 for outstanding interest penalties during our visit with M. Bell in January.

On Friday, February 23, we received The Certificate of Release of Federal Tax Lien letter from the IRS. This correspondence officially released NWRA from the federal tax lean placed on the Association. Not only did we received the release of the federal tax lien notice, but we also received several letters indicating overpayment after the penalties and interest was waived. This created four refund checks totaling \$8,793.73 from the IRS. In the end, our total liability for the IRS issue is \$13,965.88 for FY2023.



Finance Department Update:

It has been a pretty exciting two weeks in regards to the Superintendent of Finance search. To date the interview panel has conducted three interviews. One candidate has the potential to move forward to the next round of interviews. Staff are calling past employers for references. We will keep you posted on this candidate. The other two candidates did not come with the skills needed for this position. The interview panel is currently reviewing the two additional applications that we have received and if needed we will schedule interviews next week!