

IPRA Today's MEET A MEMBER - NOVEMBER

- Name **Brian Meyer**
- Employer **Arlington Heights Park District**
- Position **Director of Recreation & Facilities**
- Educational Background **Graduate of Western Illinois University with a Bachelor's in Recreation Park and Tourism Administration with a Minor in Business Management**
- How long a member of IPRA? **Joined while at Western Illinois 23 years ago.**
- Why is IPRA membership important to you? **IPRA is a great resource for meeting other professionals and has been a great resource in my career development. It has made a difference for me because I chose to get involved and those involvements are a big part of where I am in my career today.**
- Best thing about working in the field of parks & recreation? **Knowing that you are playing a key role in offering parks, facilities and programs that create the backdrop for positive memories in the lives of individuals and families.**
- In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing parks & recreation? **I believe we can work closer with our local health practitioners to better position parks & recreation as a prescription to play in order to improve individual health. Come see what Arlington Heights Park District is doing at State Conference at the Healthy Communities: Strategies and Tools to Reposition Parks and Recreation Pre-Conference Workshop.**
- What advice would you give a recent college graduate? **Network! This field is a people business and you need to put yourself in situations to be successful. IPRA can assist you in offering those opportunities. Get out from behind the computer and meet people.**
- Tell us a little known fact about you! **I published a children's book on the joy of being a dad. It is called "What you Mean to Me".**
- What was your path to a career in Parks & Recreation? **I was hired as a day camp counselor at Rolling Meadows Park District in high school and made parks & recreation my career.**
- What is your favorite Parks & Recreation program you've been a part of? **My favorite program memory is being asked to play Santa for the preschoolers at Rolling Meadows Park District. One preschooler said "You are not Santa! You are wearing black Nike high tops". I replied back with some families leave cookies but Michael Jordan's house left me Nike high tops". The look on his face was priceless and for the moment he believed. It was all in good fun but really showed me the power we have in this field to influence people's lives.**
- **Who do you admire, and why?** **I admire all the parks & recreation professionals out there that are passionate about what they do and bring that passion into the communities that they serve on a daily basis.**