



CALIFORNIA LEAGUE OF PARK ASSOCIATIONS

Partners in park sustainability, education and advocacy!

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

The California League of Park Associations (CALPA) is a volunteer group serving as an "umbrella" support organization for its members. Its membership consists of Cooperating Associations and nonprofits affiliated with specific state parks and park supporters throughout California.

The Board consists of six Executive Officers (President, Secretary, Treasurer, VP Development, VP Membership and VP Regional Affairs) and board members representing the state's regions. Board members serve two-year terms.

The CALPA Regions include: San Diego, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara/Monterey, San Francisco Bay, Inland (Sacramento) and Northern (Red Bluff north) areas. Each region holds periodic meetings to maintain channels of communication, discuss items of mutual interest, take action at a regional level and develop recommendations on matters of statewide concern for consideration by the CALPA Board.

CALPA's Mission Statement

CALPA facilitates networking and support among California State Park Cooperating Associations by:

- Arranging workshops and conferences
- Providing a free resource library for members
- Advocating for California State Parks
- Recognizing excellence within the family of Cooperating Associations
- Facilitating communication among California State Parks, Cooperating Associations and other related Park Organizations
- Furthering the common interests of California State Park Cooperating Associations and members
- Promoting a high level of professionalism among California State Park Nonprofits.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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CALPA's History

The idea of forming an umbrella organization to provide networking and other benefits was first discussed almost as soon as the first State Park Cooperating Associations were established in the early 1970s. The first official step was taken in February 1983, when members from about a dozen Associations met at the end of a California Department of Parks and Recreation Cooperating Association training session at Asilomar. They established the League of California State Park Non-Profit Associations (now CALPA), patterned after the Conference of National Park Cooperating Associations (now APPL), and invited all nonprofit Associations serving California State Parks to join.

CALPA's goals were to improve communication among Associations, provide a strong and unified voice in dealing with the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and other agencies, offer support to newly forming associations, and offer training sessions to augment those of DPR.

In 1992-93, as the number of associations grew, CALPA decentralized into its six regions, which were to hold periodic meetings of their own. Individual regions have sponsored a number of regional workshops, some independently and some in conjunction with DPR, and CALPA's new long-range plan calls for more participation at the regional level in the future. However, there remains room to grow for regional activities and influence.

One of CALPA's first major activities was to sponsor an annual conference, the first of which was held jointly with the CA State Park Rangers Association, held in Ventura in 1984. By 1987, CALPA was holding annual conferences on its own, with many park rangers and interpreters continuing to attend, as they still do. These conferences have become the mainstay of the CALPA program.

Over the years, CALPA has promoted a high level of integrity, cooperation, communication, capacity building and professionalism among park nonprofits in their relations with DPR and other partners. In addition, CALPA has worked closely with DPR to improve understanding of contracts and forms.

CALPA has also been helpful in finding better and less costly sources of insurance for associations, such as the current arrangement through the Conference of California Historical Societies, which a number of associations use.

While much has been done in the past 17 years, CALPA is still growing into its full potential. The new action plan being developed under the Board's strategic planning program is expected to provide the necessary guidance, and CALPA looks with enthusiasm to the years ahead.

For more information on serving as a CALPA Board Member, please contact the Nomination Committee Chair: Conrad Kramer, conrad@theabf.org, (760) 767-0446

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