



June 8, 2010

**WRPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AUGUST 31ST – SEPTEMBER 4TH
“CULTIVATING COMMUNITIES”**

Dear WRPA Members and Exhibitors,

The Laramie Parks and Recreation Department would like to invite you to the Annual WRPA Conference scheduled for August 31st to September 4th, 2010. We look forward to a fantastic conference this year and are excited to have you join us. Below you will find a description of the conference highlights. Included in this packet is a conference flyer, tentative schedule of events, registration form, exhibitor registration form, sponsorship opportunities, annual awards guidelines, scholarship and board guidelines, and the awards nomination form.

With a theme of “Cultivating Communities,” staff of the Laramie Parks and Recreation Department invite you to attend the annual WRPA conference, to be held in Laramie, Wyoming, August 31 - September 3, 2010. Our goal is for you to gain an appreciation for what the City of Laramie, University of Wyoming, and the surrounding Medicine Bow National Forest have to offer, take advantage of networking opportunities, and gather useful ideas and information to take back and cultivate in your communities.

Opening Keynoter, Roger Crawford, lives and shares an unforgettable message of authentic courage. *Sports Illustrated* calls Roger one of the most accomplished physically challenged athletes in history. Roger becoming an NCAA Division 1 tennis champion is a powerful testament to showing that choices matter more than circumstances. Roger’s inspiring story was included in the original *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series. He has been a featured guest on *Larry King Live*, *Good Morning America*, *Inside Edition*, and *CNBC*, and has been profiled in well-known publications such as *USA Today*, *Men's Fitness* and *Fast Company*. NBC was awarded an Emmy for a television movie that featured Roger's extraordinary accomplishments. In addition to his speaking success he is an internationally acclaimed author, with his most recent book, being *THINK AGAIN! Discover Possibilities Hidden in Plain Sight*. A recognized champion on and off the tennis court, Roger is a living example that all of us have the ability to achieve our possibilities despite the obstacles.

Closing keynoter, and best-selling author at the age of 18, Jason Ryan Dorsey, known as “The Gen Y Guy, has been featured on *60 Minutes*, *20/20*, *The Today show*, *The View*, and in *Fortune* magazine. For the first time in history, four distinctly different generations are working side by side. Each of these generations (Matures, Baby Boomers, Generation X, and Gen Y) is guided by a different set of values, beliefs, and expectations. Jason will reveal each generation’s preferences and priorities to highlight what they bring to the workforce – and how to build on their strengths and common ground.

Breakout sessions are sure to peak interest and provide valuable information to professionals in specific areas, such as parks, recreation, aquatics, and ice.

The opening night social includes a "Taste of Laramie," horseshoe tournament, and hayride Ghost Tour of historic downtown Laramie. A BBQ at Hynds Lodge in Curt Gowdy State Park will include information about current and on-going park activities as well as the geography of the Veedauwoo area. We are "going western" for our banquet, which will be held at the Vee Bar Ranch outside of Centennial. Other options include the golf tournament, an indoor triathlon at the Recreation Center, a guided tour of the Wyoming Territorial Park, an afternoon at the University of Wyoming, a hike in the Snowy Range, the Laramie Farmer's Market, and the first UW football game of the season (UW vs Southern Utah).

Host accommodations will be the new Hilton Garden Inn and University of Wyoming Conference Center. Facilities are 100% smoke-free, and include luxurious rooms and meeting space, a heated indoor pool, whirlpool spa, and state-of-the-art full service fitness center. The Great American Grill, lobby lounge, and evening room service are also available. Guest rooms include high speed internet, large work desk, adjustable lighting and ergonomic chair, Garden Sleep System beds, coffee maker and coffee, iron and ironing board, mini-frig, microwave, and 32" HD TV's.

Please feel free to contact Angie Johnson or Doug Meade at the Laramie Parks and Recreation Department if you have any further questions. (ajohnson@ci.laramie.wy.us or dmeade@ci.laramie.wy.us) We look forward to hosting this great conference for you!

Sincerely,

Laramie Parks and Recreation Staff