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Tribute to the Founders of the Resort and Commercial Recreation Association

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TRIBUTE TO THE FOUNDERS OF THE
RESORT AND COMMERCIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION

ABSTRACT (EDITOR'S COMMENTS)

The RCRA grew out of a common need among program directors to share information. The six individuals who were the founders of this organization need to be commended for their foresight and their ability to bring a dream into reality. These individuals are indeed innovators and example professionals. This is illustrated by the fact that one of the primary thrusts of the organization is devoted to professional development as well as initiation of future professionals. These individuals have established very important links with colleges and universities across the country to help educators better design their curricula and help students find employment in the profession.

A TRIBUTE TO THE FOUNDERS OF THE
RESORT AND COMMERCIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION

The Resort and Commercial Recreation Association was founded through the efforts of the following individuals: Debbie Resnone, South Seas Plantation; Butch Trelue, Fripp Island Racquet Club; Leslie Cashdollar, Fripp Island Club; Frank Oliveto, Seabrook Island; John P. DePass, Educator; and Loren Vanoordt, Kiawah Island. These individuals met in October of 1981 and founded a non-profit organization entitled Resort and Commercial Recreation Association. The primary purpose of the organization is to further the resort and recreation industry by providing practical services to professionals, educators, students and support industry. The organization has grown to several hundred members.

The founders saw a need for the formation of an organization that will further the interests of the resort and commercial interests in the leisure industry. Even though the common need was communication among program directors, the RCRA has developed a complete line of services that extend far beyond this initial program need. These individuals have put together an organization to:

(1) To establish an effective vehicle to communicate, educate, disseminate and promote professionalism among the individuals in the resort and commercial recreation sector.

(2) To serve as an effective force to weld the various interests in the commercial and resort sector together and,

(3) To provide opportunities for professional growth.

The charter members of the organization are individuals who are on the cutting edge of the profession and who are able to bring an idea to reality. There are many individuals in the profession who have recognized the need for an effective organizational link for the resort

and commercial sector but had not taken the necessary leadership ability for the formation of such a professional organization. These individuals are dreamers who have given birth to an idea that will grow into an effective advocacy group upon the national level to improve standards in the profession. The association will provide an effective leadership tool to show the importance of this component of the leisure profession to others.

The key words are cooperation and sharing. Both characterize the basic nature of the RCRA. This in itself characterizes the six individuals who unselfishly gave of themselves to lead in the formation of such an organization. Many times individuals, especially in the business phase of a profession, are trying to gain a competitive edge and do not share. The result of this type of activity is segregation and fragmentation that lead to inhibiting of the profession. The individuals who founded this organization are developing a cooperative spirit that will lead to an uplifting of themselves as well as the profession because where there is sharing there is a multiplication of talents, services, and programs because one action stimulates another.

COMMENTS

The difference between employment and unemployment is purposefulness and people cooperating toward a common goal.

Consumers are wanting to be more involved with decision-making, especially with elements that affect their lives.