



### New MRPA Member Benefit!

The Maryland Recreation and Parks Association is pleased to announce a new initiative focused on insuring the protection of those we serve in park and recreation programs. Recently, the MRPA Board of Directors passed a resolution which strongly encourages all park and recreation agencies to require annual background screening for all volunteers and staff to include social security verification, address trace, state or county criminal records check, national criminal history data base search, sex offender registry, with timely results. In addition, all agencies are encouraged to set a policy of standards for accepting and continuing to use volunteers and staff that they find acceptable and that a minimum meets the National Recreation and Park Association guidelines.

In order to assist agencies in undertake background screenings for volunteers and staff, MRPA has entered into a partnership agreement with Southeastern Security Consultants, Inc. (SSCI), a national corporation which has extensive background and experience in conducting criminal background checks. SSCI is also a national partner with the National Recreation and Parks Association and other state associations throughout the country. Further information is available at SSCI's web site: [www.SSCI2000.com](http://www.SSCI2000.com)

As a result of the agreement with SSCI, MRPA agency members will be able to obtain a special rate of \$18.50 per individual screening. The volunteer/employee background screening will include social security verification, address trace, a state or county "Smart Check", and a review on two other national directories: Let's Check for America and the Sex Offender Registry. SSCI will also provide ongoing support and consultation throughout the process.

Further information on this program is available through MRPA's executive director, Tom Ross via email at [tom@mrpanet.org](mailto:tom@mrpanet.org) or by phone at 301-942-7203.

