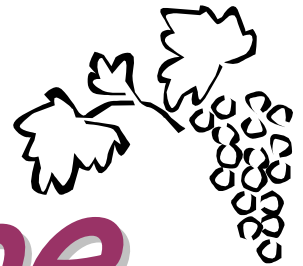




WESTCHESTER RECREATION
AND PARK SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. Box 152 • Valhalla, New York 10595

November
the **2015**



Grapevine

President's Message

By: Daryl Ann Sudlow

It is hard to believe that we will soon be saying good-bye to 2015 and welcoming a new calendar year! It seems like just yesterday we were welcoming in the new millennium!

I would like to take this time to welcome in new WRAPS Executive Board Members, Kim O'Brien and Kyle Thornton! I am looking forward to working with them and the entire WRAPS Board this year on some new initiatives. I would also like to thank our out-going board members, Dana Mayclim and Chris Soi. They will be greatly missed on the board but both are still involved with WRAPS on committees and for that I am extremely grateful!

This past year the WRAPS Executive Board began two initiatives with the goal of educating people outside our profession to understand who WRAPS is and what our profession is all about. The Recreation and Parks profession has changed dramatically over the last 30+ years. Back in the early '80's it was "the up & coming profession" but now, due to many factors, whether it be the economy or competition with private organizations, we have taken a huge step back. We are no longer considered a vital service and sadly there are less students considering Recreation & Parks as a profession. It is our responsibility to change this *"and we better start swimming or we'll sink like a stone, for the times they are a changin'" (Bob Dylan)*

To that end we re-ignited two committees. Our fundraising committee put together an informational pamphlet that better defines who we are, why we fundraise; what we fundraise for and how our

efforts benefit our profession and beyond. So when WRAPS does small social fundraisers that benefit WRAPS (ie; Poker Run, Rec & Roll, March Madness) or larger scale fundraisers that benefit others (Newtown, CT; Camps Care About Hunger, Blythedale Corporate Fun Run) we have information to give those we solicit donations from and it helps spread the word about WRAPS and our profession.

Currently, we are in the early stages of working with the Careers & Education Committee. Similar to Fundraising, this committee will work on an informational pamphlet, flyer, maybe a short video etc. that will describe the different types of Recreation majors (public, commercial, therapeutic, etc.). This information can then be distributed to your part-time seasonal staff and it can be brought in and shared with high schools for career day, so that students can learn more about our profession and perhaps consider a career in Recreation & Parks.

It is time to re-focus and re-define who we are and get the importance of our profession out beyond the WRAPS membership. Our world is constantly changing and our profession must change with it. Finding our "new way" will be our challenge moving forward but putting ourselves out there thru social media (have you "liked" WRAPS on Facebook yet and have you encouraged your friends to like us?), through fundraising events and thru our schools is a start.

The WRAPS Executive Board & I welcome you to join in and help move us forward! We welcome any ideas you have on our two initiatives and we would love to have you even more involved by working with either committee! Of course any ideas/suggestions beyond these two initiatives are always welcome too!

CAMPS CARE ABOUT HUNGER CAMPAIGN

In an effort to fight hunger in Westchester County, the Westchester County Recreation and Parks Society (WRAPS), launched its 1st Annual “Camps Care About Hunger” campaign.



The campaign was huge success with close to half of all of the municipalities in Westchester County participating in the inaugural year. Especially since the concept came so close to the beginning of day camp.



Pictured Above: Village of Mamaroneck takes part in the WRAPS Camps Care About Hunger campaign.

The following recreation day camps took part in the program this year: Village of Dobbs Ferry, Village of Irvington, Town of Greenburgh, Town of Greenburgh Department of Community Resources at Theodore D Young Community Center, Village of Mamaroneck, Village of Rye Brook, Westchester

County PRC Slam Dunk Camp, Town of Lewisboro, Town of Pound Ridge, City of New Rochelle, Town of Bedford, Town of New Castle, Town of Yorktown, Town of Eastchester and the Village of Ossining.



Pictured Above: Westchester County's Slam Dunk Basketball Camp takes part in the WRAPS Camps Care About Hunger Campaign.

WRAPS would like to thank all of the communities that took part in this year's Camps Care About Hunger campaign, and we are looking forward to a bigger and better turnout in 2016. A special thank you to Bob Kaczmarek, Recreation Supervisor for the Town of Greenburgh (and WRAPS Board member) for spear heading the initiative.

If you would like to participate in 2016 please be on the lookout for information coming to you in the next couple of months, or you can reach out to Bob Kaczmarek at rkaczmarek@greenburghny.com.





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RETIREMENT BRINGS SURPRISE REWARD

By: Kathleen Burlison

Having completed my brief working career of 38 years in the spring of 2010, I set about trying to define my new life and values without having a demanding job to structure my life. I first spent quite a bit of time taking some computer classes, refining my photography skills, going to the Theatre, and traveling. Then, as happens with many of us, my parents needed assistance in their 80's to remain as active as they had been. I spent many hours helping with paperwork, visiting, and going to medical appointments. My children were both almost completely grown by now and my husband (and children) were not used to my being around. I tried cooking a little more but that did not bring me much satisfaction.

I realized that while my days were being filled, I needed a greater mission in my life and turned to Volunteer work. I continued volunteering with the Westchester/Putnam County Association of Highway Superintendent's by creating their Website, updating their Constitution & By-Laws, and continuing with their Scholarship Program.

While my Girl Scout Leader days were over, I still remained a Volunteer in my Girl Scout Community as Treasurer, Adult Recognition Chair and other committee posts. Still - I needed something more in my life.

Evaluating different Volunteer avenues I decided that I would go back to my early professional training and experience and looked for a Recreation Therapist opportunity. I contacted several agencies and finally made a call to Somers Manor Nursing Home. From my first phone call I was welcomed with open arms. I began Volunteering at the facility immediately and have now been there for three years, contributing over 550 hours of service. From the moment I step in the door each visit I am thanked and appreciated by the Residents and staff alike. I have worked on exercise programs, sensory stimulation, poker, crafts, word games, bowling, dominoes, ipad games, visiting, music and, my very favorite - the Alzheimer patients.

As a photographer I have been able to integrate my photography into the programs. I take many photos of Residents and special events which are used as Television visuals to highlight residents and their achievements. I find that my photography is a way to capture the spirit of a person and let them bask in feelings of self-worth and importance. Residents look forward to my photo sessions and to see themselves on the screen having fun.

This past June, much to my surprise, I was awarded the New York State Health Facilities Association (NYSHFA) 2015 District III (Westchester) Volunteer of the Year - Senior Adult Award. It is thrilling to be recognized for my service to others by Richard Schaeffer, Activities Director and his Administration. That is truly why all of us have chosen this wonderful profession! I know I speak for all in saying that our field is one in which we receive as much or more than we give!



I also have a long established geriatric care management business Elder Resources Network here in Westchester.

Being retired just gets sweeter as I choose what I want to do and leave the rest. This summer I was going to curl up by lakeside with a book but found myself with a new kindle fire. Last year it was the smart phone! Yes, I am hooked. I can even text my daughter, a chief warrant officer 2 currently serving her second tour in Afghanistan. My son, executive director of the Westport Land Conservation Trust in Westport Massachusetts often calls and asks "Mom where are you now and what are you doing?" I am paving my journey like many baby boomers and I hope the next generation takes notes and looks forward to this time in life as is truly joyful and exciting.

BITS & PIECES

Congratulations to **Katherine Sclafani** on her new job as **Youth Center Director for the Cortlandt Youth and Recreation Center.**

Congratulations to **Joanne Aquilino** on her new position as **Superintendent of Recreation for the Village of Mount Kisco.**

Congratulations to **Michael Newman** on his promotion to **Recreation Supervisor for the Village of Pleasantville.**

Congratulations to **Greg Bean** on being hired as the new **Recreation Attendant for the City of Rye.**

Congratulations to **Erin (Reidel) Mantz, Assistant Superintendent for the Village of Yorktown** on her marriage to Chris Mantz.



Pictured Above: Erin and Chris where married on April 11th.

BITS & PIECES cont.

Congratulations to **Kyle Peterson, Recreation Supervisor for the Village of Briarcliff Manor** on his marriage to Jessica Sharkey.



Pictured Above: Kyle and Jessica where married on August 29th.



Pictured Above: Roslyn Robinson (in the dinghy) takes part in the flotilla celebration of Lanesborough's 250th anniversary in the Berkshires of Massachusetts.

"I decorated it and got into my Recreation mode by decorating the boat and oars with flowers. I dressed up like a lady of the Berkshires a hundred years ago complete with flowers, long dress, and billowing blouse, decorated my hat and held a parasol. . What would a row be like without a fully packed picnic basket complete with muffins I made to pass out along the way?!" ~ Roslyn Robinson

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WRAPS Poker Run

The WRAPS Poker Run once again was a huge success. Special thanks to Brother Jimmy's BBQ, Brazen Fox, Ron Blacks, Black Bear and Copper Face Jacks of White Plains for hosting. We had 75 participants either as team members, visitors or volunteers. Some great raffle prizes such as NY Ranger tickets, Kenny Rogers concert tickets and sports memorabilia helped generate extra enthusiasm. WRAPS was able to raise some money and have a bit of fun at the same time.



Congratulations to Mike Dominici's team (pictured above) for winning the best poker hand prize. Also, congratulations goes out to Daryl Ann Sudlow and her team of Beer Ballerina's (pictured below) for best Poker Run costume!



It was great to see so many of our current WRAPS members along with some of our old recreation friends from the past such as Christine Grey, Anthony Giaccio, Matt Nordt and Melissa Gray.



For more pictures from this event along with pictures from other 2015 WRAPS events please visit www.wrapsny.com.



DATES TO REMEMBER!

November 17

Annual Downstate Conference
Westchester County Center ~ White Plains

December 10

Past President's Luncheon
Le Fontane ~ Katonah

December 16

WRAPS Holiday Luncheon
Crabtree Kittle House ~ Chappaqua

January 20

WRAPS Meeting

January 28

Summer Auditions
Midland School ~ Rye

February 17

Vendor Luncheon
Westchester County Center ~ White Plains

NYSRPS

By: Lisa Morahan- ED NYSRPS

Thank you very much for having our NYSRPS Board President, Paul Blake, recently at your October 21st board meeting and luncheon. He was glad to have the chance to share with you all the latest happenings at NYSRPS. I am pleased to further update you yet again, we have an addition to our staff, Meaghan Wilkins. You may recall Meaghan had worked at NYSRPS back in 2012 and we are most grateful for her return. She brings an existing understanding of our mission, familiarity of membership and an absolute wonderful talent in design and multitasking. In less than 2 weeks we along with our fellow park, recreation and therapeutic recreation association partners will host the 21st Annual Downstate Conference. The overriding theme is the 21st Century, a time of challenges yet full of choices. The theme was a terrific springboard for the committee to co-create a top notch program. I am most grateful to the fellow committee members who have all pulled together to

work hard in putting this conference together. We at the same time have been working very closely with the 76th Annual NYSRPS Conference and Expo committee to also co-create a terrific program. We are glad to have so many groups represented at the committee's table making the 2016 theme of "Come Together, Right Now!" truly appropriate.

I am very thankful this season for my position and hope to work very hard to continue serving the needs of not only our NYSRPS members, but better opening up the ways our fellow associations and we work together. I hope you all have a very happy and safe (well deserved) Thanksgiving and may you all hold the better half of this year's wishbone!



WRAPS HOLIDAY PARTY

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

At Crabtree's Kittle House

11 Kittle Road, Chappaqua

12 noon to 3:00 PM

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