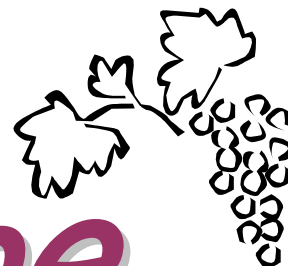




WESTCHESTER RECREATION
AND PARK SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. Box 152 • Valhalla, New York 10595

MARCH
2018



the Grapevine

President's Message

By: Matt Arone

I've noticed lately that there is one task that all good recreation professionals are pretty skilled at. And it doesn't matter if we are part-time seasonal newbies or 30-year veterans of parks and rec. It's not managing difficult staff members. It's not being able to put together our department's budget. No, it's much more basic, but much more of a necessity. What I'm talking about is setting up tables and chairs. I can't remember a time in my recreation professional life that I have been called upon to set up some folding tables or chairs for an event. Whether it was at one of my first jobs in recreation at the Anthony F. Veteran pool in Greenburgh where I had to set up all the lounge chairs for the pool patrons, or moving ahead to now where as WRAPS President, having to help set up the tables for our executive board meetings and luncheons. It never ends. We can be wearing a swim suit or a three piece suit, and there is a chance we might all have to chip in and help set up the tables and chairs. It's a simple and basic task, but success hinges on the fundamentals for group collaboration.

That leads me to my lesson in this message today. Don't be too big or important for your team. The goal of the team should always come first. Being a sports fan, it always disappoints me when I see one of the superstar athletes of his/her team complain they "didn't get the ball enough" or showboat when they score a touchdown. My biggest pet peeve is when a batter in baseball does a bat-flip or doesn't run quickly when hitting a home run. Those individuals are putting themselves before the team, and that can become divisive.

Getting a team to work together may be more art than science. And having a team of especially talented people may be a supervisor's gift. But unless he or she can harness the individuals to work collectively, it's a wasted gift. So I'm dedicating this President's message to all the boards and committees that are

associated with WRAPS. The executive board, the awards and scholarship committee, the Downstate committee, the camp section committee, the social & fundraising committee, the summer auditions committee, the nomination and election committee, the parks section committee, the rec professionals committee, the health & safety committee and the senior citizen section (please forgive me if I forgot anyone). All the above mentioned boards and committees are made up of volunteers that exemplify the true meaning of teamwork. They showcase unselfish dedication to WRAPS. Each member takes time from their own jobs to help make our society better. These committees could have a young Rec Leader as chairperson help leading and directing Commissioners and Superintendents. And the egos have to be checked at the doors, because it's all for the good of the team.

So thanks to all of you that have dedicated your time in helping make WRAPS as strong as a society as we are. There is no doubt we are the most distinguished recreation affiliation in the state, and we owe it to all of you that aren't too busy or important to help set up the table and chairs.

"A player who makes a team great, is more valuable than a great player. Losing yourself in the group, for the good of the group....that's teamwork." ---John Wooden.

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2018 Rat Race

In March, Westchester County Parks & Recreation held the 88th Annual Boys' Recreation Basketball Tournament and the 34th Annual Girls' Recreation Basketball Tournament at the County Center. Teams from all over Westchester competed in this Do or Die tournament run by Westchester County Recreations Kevin Cook.

This Year's Girls Winners:

Cub Rec Division: Peekskill
Cub Open Division: New Rochelle
Midget Rec Division: Rye Brook
Midget Open Division: New Castle

This Year's Boys Winners:

Cub Rec Division: Pelham Gold
Cub Open Division: New Rochelle
Midget Rec Division: Harrison
Midget Open Division: Yorktown

Congratulations to all this year's winners! This is a fantastic tournament for all local teams to compete!

DATES TO REMEMBER!

April 18th

2018 Camp Workshop
Westchester County Center

May 26th

Most Pools Open!

May 28th

Memorial Day

June 8th

Awards & Scholarships Lunch



Past-Presidents Lunch



Pictured Above: 2017 Past-President's Luncheon which was held in December at Casa Rina in Thornwood, NY.



2016



2017

Pictured Above: Dave Goldberg, Superintendent of Recreation in Pound Ridge, spotted catching up with his old dear friend Frosty!

Fun was had by all!

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What is the WRAPS Executive Board?

Ever wonder what the WRAPS Executive Board is? Thinking about running for an open position one day in the future? Here are your cliff notes to: What is the WRAPS Executive Board?

Executive Board

It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to carry out the policies and instructions of the Society and to take official action between meetings. All official actions of the Executive committee shall be made known to the membership at the Society's monthly meetings.

President – 2 Year Term

The President: shall preside at all meetings of the Society and Executive Committee; serve as an official member of all appointed committees; represent the Society at local, county, state and national meetings. Dues for participation in NRPS & NYSRPS shall be paid for by WRAPS during the President's Term of Office.

Vice President – 2 Year Term

The Vice President: shall assist the President in his/her duties and act in the absence of the President; shall serve as Chairperson of the Program Committee.

Treasurer – 2 Year Term

The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds of the Society in accordance with the direction of the President and approval of the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall submit a complete, written financial statement at each of the monthly meetings and utilize sound financial practices; keep accurate records; maintain healthy fund balance.

Secretary – 2 Year Term

The Secretary: is responsible for keeping an accurate record of all the business of the organization; shall send proper notices of all meetings to the membership.

Member At Large – 3 Year Term

There are 6 members at large with 2 terms expiring every year. A member at large attends all monthly meetings, sits on at least one committee, acts as a liaison to the board and membership and represents the best interests of the profession.

Past President – 2 Year Term

The Past President acts as a liaison to the board and membership and represents the best interests of the profession. The Past President will serve on the Downstate Committee and will coordinate the Past President's Luncheon.

We hope that you find this information useful and think about running for an open seat during next year's elections! Did you know there are also many smaller Committees within WRAPS? Please reach out to the WRAPS Executive Board Members to inquire about open seats on those!

WRAPS Holiday Lunch Photos



Photo: Daryl Sudlow, Assistant Superintendent Bedford is presented with the Lancer Bottle (and a nice bottle of Manischewitz Wine) from 2016 Recipient David Goldberg, Superintendent Pound Ridge.



Photo: Past winners of the Lancer Bottle!

[-More Photos at www.wraps.com-](http://www.wraps.com)

Past WRAPS Luncheons and Meetings



Photo: 2017 WRAPS September Kick-Off BBQ held at Everit Macy Park in Ardsley.



Photo: Paul Redd, Jr. from New York State Department of Labor speaks on prevailing wage at the January luncheon in Sleepy Hollow.



Photo: February 2018 WRAPS luncheon with Westchester County Health Department as guest speakers held at Rye Recreation.

Can you Guess the Rec Professional?



Can you guess this Recreation Professional pictured above? Look at the last page to see if you're correct!

NEW WRAPS Website

Because you're reading the newest Grapevine on the WRAPS website, you probably noticed something different...A NEW WEBSITE! Yes you aren't going crazy! The WRAPS Website has received a face lift thanks to Sandy Korkatzis, Superintendent of Recreation for the Village of Mamaroneck. Sandy spent countless hours transferring information from the old website to our new site. We want to thank Sandy for giving so much back to WRAPS with the new site!

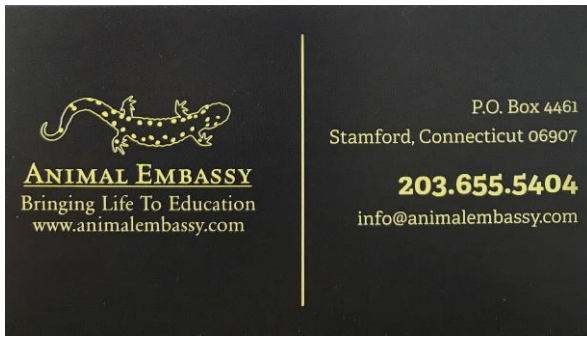


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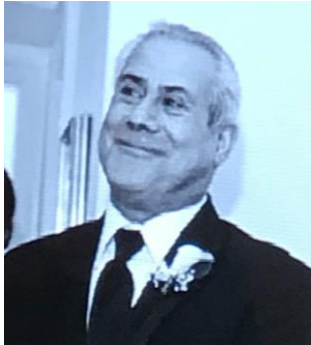


Vintage WRAPS!



Can you name these four??? I can get only one- Bill Zimmerman (Second from the left)! Do you enjoy looking at Vintage WRAPS photos? Check out the 'Gallery' section of the WRAPS website for more photos! Do you have vintage photos? Send them in and they will be posted online!

Condolences



It is with great sadness we share with you the passing of Tom Vernile (January 27, 1958- February 14, 2018), Recreation Supervisor for the Town of Mt. Pleasant. Tom Vernile passed away on February 14, 2018 after struggling with Scleroderma for over four years. Tom was involved in youth sports and recreation for most of his life. He was proud of playing on a Minor League team for the New York Yankees in the 70's. Unfortunately, he suffered an injury and his career ended quickly. Tom went on to coach the Sacred Heart Basketball Team 1992-95, leading them to a State Championship.

Tom also worked for the Rye YMCA and enjoyed writing for the New Jersey Nutley Newspaper. Tom joined the team of Mt. Pleasant Recreation and Parks Department in 2003 as a Recreation Supervisor. He enjoyed working with youth sports programs and adult leagues. Tom had a unique way of working with the public. He was funny, witty and demanded respect. The Mt. Pleasant Recreation staff will truly miss him.

Rest in peace!

Vendor Lunch Photos



For More Photos and Larger Photos, please see our FB Pages!



Recreation Babies



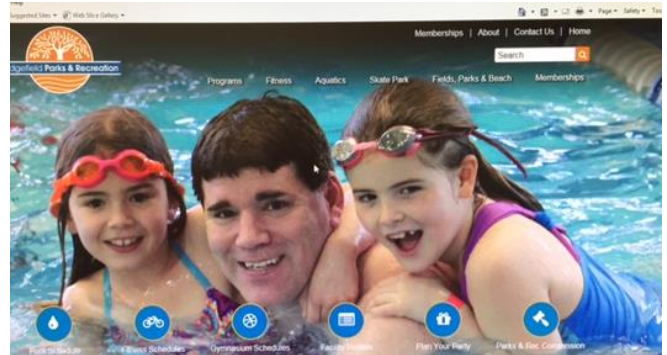
Three Rec Babies Due within a few months of each other! (L to R) Nicole Stone, Sr Rec Leader Mt Kisco, Erin Mantz, Assistant Superintendent Rye and Angela Thornton, Recreation Supervisor Irvington.

Bits ~N~ Pieces

Congratulations to **Bob Kaczmarek** on his new position as Assistant Superintendent of Recreation at Scarsdale Recreation Department.

Congratulations to **Kelly Happaney** on his new position as Recreation Assistant at Rye Recreation Department.

Famous WRAPS Members!



Kevin Cook, Recreation Supervisor, Westchester PRC, was the face of Ridgefield Parks & Recreation! Yes he is a model on the side!

Happy Retirement!

By Bill Heidepriem

Janet Riley, Executive Director of North East Westchester Special Recreation

At the end of December, Janet Riley concluded her extraordinary 23 year career with North East Westchester Special Recreation with her well-deserved retirement from the agency. As a 40 year professional in the field of Recreation, Janet was dedicated to improving the quality of life for those with disabilities.

Janet is a proud graduate from Cortland State University with a degree in physical education and received her master's degree in special education from Fordham University.

Janet started her career in 1977 as a physical education teacher at the Margaret Chapman School in Hawthorne. The Margaret Chapman School was a private residential facility for children and adults with developmental disabilities and acting out behaviors. During her eight years at the school Janet was promoted to the position of Community Liaison Coordinator and later Director of Development. Janet's time at Margaret Chapman was very important to her and made a large impact on her

career development. To this day she is in touch with many of the past residents and staff from the school.

Advancing her career, Janet was hired as the Field Director East for the New York Special Olympics. As Field Director, Janet was responsible for the supervision of Special Olympic programs which included Long Island, the five boroughs and the Hudson Valley. After five years, Janet was promoted to Vice President for Operations, NYC. Her task was to open a NYC office complete with training programs, competitions, fundraising and outreach. Through her leadership during her time as a Field Director, Janet's program became the model for many to emulate.

Janet arrived at North East in 1995 and was immediately embraced by the staff, clients, parents and Board of Directors. Janet's positive energy and approach in dealing with day to day issues individuals, special events and projects made her a very effective and successful leader for the organization.

Janet's impact through her experience, leadership skills and never ending networking abilities allowed North East to grow into the exceptional agency it is today. Janet's unique ability to bring people together for a common goal was never more evident than through her creation of the **North East Gala** event that was her brainchild. Her vision with this spectacular fundraiser has raised over \$800,000. for the North East agency. Starting in 2005 there have been nine wonderfully themed galas with incredible silent auction prizes and the popular "penny social". Janet's ability to mobilize dozens of dedicated volunteers along with the North East staff to share the vision and deliver socially and financially successful galas is to be admired.

This year North East will be hosting the 25th Annual Chris Cutri Memorial Golf Outing. Janet has worked with Tony Cutri on 24 of the outings. The "Team" of Tony & Janet have worked tirelessly year after year growing the outing each and every year. Their efforts along with many others have raised over \$500,000. for the North East agency.

Janet's expertise, leadership and personality has been a huge asset to the North East agency and the families it serves. As Executive Director, Janet has enhanced programs, developed new program initiatives, dramatically increased fundraising, improved and increased of fleet of transportation vans/buses, introduced new special events and greatly improved public relations. Thanks to strong fiscal management under Janet's tenure, the North East Westchester Special Recreation agency enjoys a solid financial plan with very healthy reserves.

Janet played a key role in the North East office expansion at the Bradhurst Community Center which has been the home to North East for over 35 years. The North East staff now enjoys suitable office space and ample storage space for program equipment and supplies.

The North East agency is the second largest of its kind in New York State. There are approximately five hundred participants and one hundred staff members involved with the agency providing fun, enriching activities for the participants.

North East Westchester Special Recreation Agency is grateful for the dedication and positive influence Janet provided to the agency. We toast Janet on a great career in such a special profession! Cheers to you Janet on your accomplished career and your retirement.

To Reach the Executive Board

Matt Arone, President	366-5109
Brian Gray, Vice President	722-1191
Sandy Korkatzis, Secretary	777-7784
Erin Mantz, Treasurer	967-2535
Daryl Sudlow, Past President	864-3715

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Dave Goldberg	764-3987
Bob Kaczmarek	722-1191
Kim O'Brien	864-3716
Kyle Thornton	245-4650
Matt Trainor	273-3325
Sally Veltidi	771-3313



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*Can you Guess the Rec
Professional?*

If you guessed Mt. Pleasant Superintendent Kellie Rizzi, then you are correct!!! Kellie is pictured here with her son at the 1996 Yorktown Fishing Derby! Kellie's son is showing off his Large Mouth Bass caught in Sparkle Lake!

CALL FOR GRAPEVINE ARTICLES!

The next issue of the Grapevine is scheduled to be printed in June 2018!

Anyone interested in submitting materials must do so by **Wednesday, May 30, 2018**

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