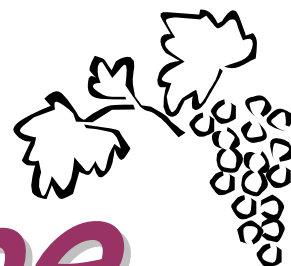




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P.O. Box 152 • Valhalla, New York 10595

November
2013



the Grapevine

A Day in the Life of a Retired Recreation Professional
By: Roslyn Robinson

I am occasionally asked what I do all day as a retiree. I don't feel the word retirement truly reflects the generation of us baby boomers retired. We are after all the generation of trail blazers that rebelled against the status quo of the sixties, celebrated "the Times they are a changing" and continued a new path into adulthood that opened up a new world. This generation continues to evolve and transform what was the stereotypical retirement. As recreation professionals, we are well prepared to graduate to retirement and embrace it.

For me, retirement felt like a graduation that is as enriching and purposeful as the "work" years but one that gives the opportunity and boundless freedom to experience new paths and journeys as well as more time for lifelong pursuits. Finding a balance I can best describe as holistic (mind, body and soul) says it all for me.

The mantra I long used during my work years and still do is "If you always do what you have always done, you will always get what you have always gotten". We can get into ruts in life whatever the age, planning and doing the "same stuff" without expanding horizons for ourselves as well as the people we serve in our profession. That mantra says it all retired and those in the workplace.

I have had many wonderful mentors who continue to influence me long after their years amongst us. They include Commissioner Joseph Curtis; Fran Wallach, longtime Recreation professional, college professor, and active member of the New York State Recreation and Parks society; Ruth Mann, founder of New Castle fitness program and

Theodora Jackson, former deputy of the NYS Office for Aging. I reflect on them frequently. I am so fortunate to have both parents living in their mid nineties. My dad, Dr Chester H Robinson was Dean of General Studies at Hunter College and one of the firsts at Hunter College in the Bronx, now Herbert Lehman College. He still does his navy pushups; half hour swims a day, and will celebrate his 95th on a 45 day Trans Atlantic cruise. He has led a full retirement life for over thirty years. My mom resides in assisted living here in Westchester and continues to enjoy many day outings with me.

As the saying goes, life is not a dress rehearsal. I also know firsthand that the new sixty is not the new forty! (Sorry guys) I am certain my contemporaries would concur and accept that the new sixty is the new sixty! I reluctantly gave up tent camping recently. There are always new paths to explore and wonderful memories. We have come a long way nonetheless.

Each of us defines our golden moments. Those I know make the most of every day. I thrive on the out of doors, kayaking, (I accompanied a group of wounded warriors paddling on the Hudson) biking, hiking, enjoying friends and enjoying my lakeside retreat in the Berkshires. I volunteer at the Bascom Lodge on top of Mt. Greylock, (tallest mountain in Massachusetts) tending to a native plant garden and meeting hundreds of Appalachian trail hikers as they make their way to Georgia or Maine. I have spent the last three winters on a remote island off the coast of Florida (the other Florida, the nature coast) which attracts the baby-boomers seeking active lifestyles, birding, paddling and making new social connections. A trip last fall to several National Parks out west was truly a history lesson.

Continued on Page 2.....

A Day in the Life of a Retired Recreation Professional Cont....

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.

Guess Who!!



Do you recognize this former all star soccer player and fellow WRAPS professional? Not sure.....find out on Page 5!

President's Message

~Kevin Cook

Every October we "celebrate" (and I use that term loosely) National Boss' Day. Last month's WRAPS luncheon topic was titled, "Who's the Boss?" So what does it take to be a good leader of your department, facilities and/or staff? In order for a department to progress, it needs to have a leader that will give the department a sense of direction. An organization without a leader will definitely not succeed. Can you imagine having a department that has everyone running around acting like they are the boss, with everyone making decisions based on their own wants and desires?

Leaders in our field of recreation are created by experience and seasoned by time. This person must be knowledgeable regarding established techniques and principles while being flexible to change with times due to trends, politics and funding.

Being a leader is not an easy job. You must have a vision, confidence, a strong sense of commitment and good communication skills. Your decisions and outlook will affect the performance and morale of your staff, colleagues and your overall department. We have all made decisions in the past that we regret, but remember the saying "experience is the most effective teacher," and learn from these experiences while continuing to grow and enhance your leadership skills. This applies to all levels within our field, from recreation leaders to commissioners.

As we approach the start of a New Year, consider adding, "Become a more efficient/stronger leader," to your list of New Year's resolutions.

Wishing you and yours a happy holiday season!



**2014 NYSRPS Annual
Conference**
By: Dave Goldberg

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**NYSRPS 74TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MARCH 23 - 25, 2014**

"Let's get together" for the 74th annual New York State Recreation & Park Society conference held March 23rd - 25th 2014 in Saratoga Springs. We will be holding a special raffle so stay tuned for more information and if you have any ideas that you would like to bring to the table, let me know. I can be reached at dgoldberg@townofpoundridge.com or phone 914-764-3987.



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WRAPS 2nd Poker Run

Come out and join your fellow WRAPS members in White Plains on Saturday November 2nd for the second WRAPS Poker Run! The establishments participating in the event this time around are Butterfield 8, Wicked Wolf Tavern, Black Bear Saloon, Porter House and Beechmont Tavern.

The event will start at Butterfield 8 on East Post Road at 12:00pm where each team will be given a map and the list of participating bars (all within walking distance). You must visit all 5 participating locations and return to Butterfield 8 by 4:30pm to submit your winning hand! There is an \$80 entry fee per team (4 people per team), and the three teams with the best poker hand at the end of the day will receive a prize.

Each location has been generous in offering teams with various drink and/or food specials during the event. The Beechmont will have free appetizers on hand; Wicked Wolf & Black Bear are giving 1 free drink per team. Butterfield 8 and Porter House will have drink and meal specials. Wicked Wolf and Black Bear Saloon will also have a \$5 meal special that day to help keep you going!

For a copy of the registration form please click the link on the WRAPS homepage www.wrapsny.com. All other entries will be taken on a first come first served basis on the day of the event starting at 11:30am. If you don't have enough for a team, but are still interested, please contact Executive Board member Matt Arone at 914-693-0024 before Saturday as he may be able to place you on a team.



Poker Run 2

DATE: Saturday, November 2, 2013
TIME: Noon - 5 p.m.
FEE: \$80 per team - 4 person teams
PLACE: Butterfield 8 on
147 Mamaroneck Avenue
White Plains

Don't miss the hottest game in town!
Download your entry form here.

more info

Bits 'n' Pieces

Congratulations to **Mike Newman** on his new job as **Recreation Assistant for the Village of Pleasantville.**

Congratulations to **Matt Nordt**, the new **Assistant Superintendent of Recreation for the City of Stamford.**

Pictured Below: WRAPS members and friends who took advantage of the 1st Poker Run held in June!



Guess Who Answer!

None other than **Sally Rogol, Superintendent of Recreation for the City of Rye!** Sally was recently inducted into the Wooster School Hall of Fame. Below is the inscription on her plaque:

Sally was a trailblazer at Wooster, playing on the first Title IX Girls teams in school history. She played Tennis, Soccer, and Basketball every season for four years. To this day, she has fond memories winning the first Wooster Girls Soccer game in the mud with Coach Guido Tino. Sally won two Varsity MVP awards in Soccer and Basketball, and one in Tennis. She was the first winner of the "Triple Crown" in 1976. Sally went on to play Basketball at Ithaca College while pursuing a degree in Physical Education.

DATES TO REMEMBER!

November 20

Annual Downstate Conference
Westchester County Center ~ White Plains

December 4

Past President's Luncheon
Traveler's Rest ~ Ossining

December 18

WRAPS Holiday Luncheon
Crabtree Kittle House ~ Chappaqua

Tennis Courts Renovated!

By: Charles Pieragostini

The Town/Village of Mt. Kisco Recreation Commission has completed the capital renovations project to its four existing tennis court located in Leonard Park. This major renovation was completed in October at a cost of \$55,300.00.



The renovations included removal of the existing artificial Omini Turf (work was done by the recreation staff). The contracted work included; 2,600 sq ft of new asphalt, expansion joint control, leveling, two coats of leveling binder filler, two coats of color, line striping, four new tennis nets, garbage receptacles and ball racks with towel holders.

The Town/Village of Mt. Kisco Recreation Commission anticipates that these improvements will provide a boost to the tennis programs.



WRAPS HOLIDAY PARTY

Wednesday, December 18, 2013

At Crabtree's Kittle House

11 Kittle Road, Chappaqua

12 noon to 3:00 PM

\$30 per member / \$35 Non Member

Plus cash bar

Grab bag! Door Prizes! Party Favor!

RSVP to Roseanne at the

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777-7784

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Erin Reidel	245-4650
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CALL FOR GRAPEVINE ARTICLES!

The next issue of the Grapevine is scheduled to be printed in March 2014.

Anyone interested in submitting materials must do so by Wednesday, February 19, 2014.

Mail, Fax or E-mail Information to:

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1 Bronx River Parkway, Valhalla, NY 10595

Fax: 813-4358

lak2@westchestergov.com