



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

# New York State Recreation and Parks Society



*"A year of  
adjusting and  
learning how  
to go forward  
during a  
pandemic"*

# Peggy Kenyon

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

2021 was a year of adjusting and learning how to go forward as we continued to deal with a global pandemic that had cancelled many programs and initiatives in 2020 and was still affecting our ability to gather or have in person programming in the first months of 2021. We held many meetings by Zoom and held our first Virtual Conference appropriately titled "Adapt, Survive, Thrive". With Tom Venniro as conference chair the committee did adapt, survive, and thrive! It was a great conference with timely speakers that spoke about diversity and inclusion in our programming. The speakers also helped professionals get ideas and skills to be able to feel confident moving into their busy season with more regulations but figuring out how to safely gather and indeed offer programming despite Covid-19 still being a part of our daily lives. It was great to hear from NYSRPS members after the busy summer months that they were able to hold successful in-person programs again.

I want to thank the entire board for their support and patience this past year!

President, Peggy Kenyon

Immediate Past President, Linanne Conroy

President-Elect, Julie LaFave

VP Professional Development, Jason Marra

VP Programs and Services, Tom Venniro

Secretary, Kyle Derry

Treasurer, John Hirliman

Region 1 Representative, Jessica Dickinson

Region 1 Representative, Bob Kaczmarek

Region 2 Representative, Jack Davison

Region 2 Representative, Heather Maltby

Region 3 Representative, Nick Berlin

Region 3 Representative, Joe Menter

NYSOPRHP, Honorary Rep Yolanda Bostic-Williams

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Peggy Kenyon

With the fall came the resignation of our Executive Director, Lisa Morahan. Thank you to Lisa for her many years of service and getting us through the tough year of 2020.

The Executive Committee rallied and were lucky enough to find an extremely well qualified candidate in Michael Mendrick.

Thank you to our two VP's Jason Mara and Tom Venniro, who also stepped up to be a part of the second interviews for the position. Michael decided to help us on an interim basis and will be with us until the end of May 2022.

I want to thank Past President Linanne Conroy and President Elect Julie LaFave for the extra time and effort they put in as we searched for a new Executive Director in 2021 and again in 2022 to have someone lined up to take Michael's place by June.

More will be in the 2022 Annual Report, but I want to also thank Michael Mendrick for his diligence, hard work and spot on assessments of how our organization needs to progress.

# PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

## Eric Bacon



*In a COVID filled year, the Public Policy Committee managed to still play a limited role. The highlights are as follows:*

- I. During the year, NYSRPS Public Policy Chairperson Eric Bacon, fulfilled his role with the New York State Camp Advisory Council and shared concerns on behalf of NYSRPS members with the New York State Health Department. Through this involvement, the Health Department created their camp guidelines and utilized the input provided to help develop COVID protocols. Eric plans on continuing his commitment to this committee on NYSRPS behalf.
- II. A Public Policy Committee was established and consisted of Eric Bacon, Jeff Myers and Bill Riddell. Later in the year, the committee added Jack Davison.
- III. Succession plan. The Public Policy Committee is experiencing a time of change. New member Jack Davison, along with Jeff Nutting and William J. Bellingham Jr. have all expressed an interest in being a part of the committee. The current committee will be handing the reins to a group of outstanding professionals and will be available to provide any guidance should the need arise. The committee will be in capable and enthusiastic hands. The future is bright.

**Thank you to the Public Policy Committee for their efforts over the last year.**

# Linanne Conroy

## A MESSAGE FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

### New Board Member/Committee Chair Orientations

Orientations were scheduled and completed in the late spring/early summer with assistance of the Executive Director.

### Council of Past Presidents

There was no activity this year, we hope to reform this committee in the future.

### Nominations Committee

Nominations were solicited in January. The Executive Board approved the below slate on February 8, 2022. Since there are no contested races, the Board Secretary can cast one vote to approve the nominees at the Annual Meeting on May 26.

### EXECUTIVE BOARD NOMINATIONS 2022-2023

President-Elect – Jessica Dickinson

Treasurer – John Hirliman

Vice President of Programs and Services – Tom Venniro

Region II Representative – Megan Ball

Region III Representative – Nick Berlin



*COVID-19  
Task Force  
came up with  
"Safe to Play"  
Reopening  
Guidance for  
all!*

# Linanne Conroy

## A MESSAGE FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

During my Presidency the Executive Committee (Past-President, President and President-Elect) were in constant communication therefore providing a smooth transition from one President to another. The Executive Committee continues this consistent communication which has proven an invaluable training and leadership tool for the presidents. The Executive Committee continued to meet monthly with the Executive Director to address day-to-day business as well as an as needed basis. On-going monthly discussions with NYSRPS office staff took place. The six-month review (January-June 2021) of Executive Director Lisa Morahan was completed. In the Fall, Lisa resigned her position to seek a new opportunity. The Executive Committee conducted interviews to replace the Director. Michael Mendrick was hired and began in January as Interim Executive Director through June. The Executive Committee conducted interviews again in April. Courtney Carroll was hired and will begin as new Executive Director in late May.

*It has been an honor to serve on this Executive Board. I wish the current and future members of the Board all the best as they continue to serve our membership!*

# Julie LaFave

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

The New York State Recreation & Park Society teamed up with GGLeagues, an online esports gaming company, to bring esports education and competition to the state of New York. GGLeagues and NYSPRS are working together to connect the community of games across the state of New York and provide a wide range of esports activities for the residents of our members.

The partnership creates an easy and unified way for New York State Recreation & Park Society members to join the partnership and start their own esports programs. This not only allows them to create esports programming for their communities but allows the whole state to bring that together in a cohesive statewide competition.

Through the partnership, members will enjoy 50% savings on a one-time start-up fee!

Two webinars were provided to NYSPRS members to learn more and how to incorporate Esports into their everyday programing. Webinars were held on:

- Wednesday, March 2 & Wednesday, March 23

Some of the benefits from this partnership are:

- Connect with like-minded gamers in their age group and find new teammates in the games they love
- Gain access to a database of educational resources related to esports ranging from practice tips to information on collegiate and professional esport pathways!
- Compete for prizes in state-wide competitions in some of the most popular Esports titles such as Fortnite, Rocket League, Super Smash Bros, and more!



*"NYSPRS is  
helping  
members start  
esport  
programing in  
their  
communities"*



*"We look forward  
to seeing everyone  
in Monticello for  
the 2023  
Conference"*

-Courtney Carroll  
(New NYSRPS  
Executive Director)

# NYSRPS Conferences

## 2022 NYSPS CONFERENCE - SARATOGA SPRINGS

Thank you to our 2022 Conference Committee.

- \* Conference Chair - John Hirliman
- \* Hospitality - Jill Ramos and Heather Maltby
- \* AV Committee - Leore Kushner
- \* Offsite Program - John Hirliman & Jill Ramos & Leore Kushner
- \* Program - John Hirliman
- \* Promotion/Marketing - Jill Ramos
- \* Fundraising: Rebecca Sewell, Heather Maltby and Jill Ramos
- \* Registration - Lisa Morahan, Peggy Kenyon Kristine Zingaro & Jill Ramos



*The 2023 NYSPS Conference will take place in Monticello, NY!*

# VP Professional Development

*Jason Marra*



## Professional Development Committee

Kristine Zingaro, Chairperson

Josh Haeick, Sharon Todd, Phyllis Murphy

### **Key Stats:**

158 Registrants

15 "OnDemand registrants

22 exhibitors

15 sponsors

Revenue: \$16,450

Expense: \$4,330

**Profit: \$12,120**

## 2021 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

*"The virtual conference was the first of its kind for NYSRPS and the dedicated Committee "adapted, survived and thrived!" - Jason Marra*



The 2021 NYSRPS Annual Conference was held virtually for the first time due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The virtual conference committee was comprised of members from all regions throughout New York State which was unique to the virtual conference. In December of 2020, the decision was made to host a virtual conference and the initial planning began in early January of 2021.

The first Committee meeting was held on January 28th, 2021 and the actual event was held from April 20th – April 22nd. The complete planning and execution of the virtual conference was done in just under four (4) months. The virtual conference was the first of its kind and the Committee dedicated countless hours to pulling it all together. The conference provided educational opportunities, social engagement, a robust exhibit hall, and an engaging awards presentation.

# VP Professional Development

*Jason Marra*

## DOWNSTATE CONFERENCE

The Downstate Conference was REUNITED in person on Tuesday, November 9th at the Sleepy Hollow Hotel Conference Center. WRAPS was the primary Conference Chair for Region I responsible for the 2021 Downstate Conference just one year after the virtual program in 2020. As Conference Program Chair, WRAPS worked collectively with NYSRPS, NYSTRA, HVLSA and METRO to offer a day of professional development, networking and camaraderie.

*Downstate Conference Key Stats:*

120 Registrants

27 Exhibitors

Revenue: \$13,485

Expense: \$8,834

**Profit: \$4,651**

# VP of Programs and Services Report

## TOM VENNIRO

### ***Membership Development Report - Rebacca La Fountain, Chair***

#### Committee Highlights:

- **Change in Committee Chair:** After a long tenure of involvement with the NYSRPS, Gregg Goodman moved on from his position as Committee Chair. We thank Gregg for all his years of dedicated service. Rebacca La Fountain was appointed chair in the summer of 2021. The Committee is currently a committee of two and seeking committee members.
- **Membership Review:** Total members reported in February of 2021 was 623. Current total reported as of February 2022 was 623. There was a total of 259 membership types reported at the beginning of 2021 as compared to 251 as of December 31, 2021.
- **ADK and North Country Membership Development:** The Committee has had ongoing discussions regarding meeting with representatives to foster greater membership. At this point are in the early stages of development in the areas north of Albany and up to the Canadian border. We hope that they will join NYSRPS as regional partners in 2022-2023.
- **Partnership Development Update:**
  - The Committee has had ongoing discussions regarding associations, such NYSTRA partnering with NYSRPS like regional partnerships, in attempt to broaden the membership base.
  - The Committee has had ongoing discussions with the Metcalf Committee at SUNY Cortland to advocate for structures at NYSRPS which would allow universities and other institutions to support the cost of NYSRPS membership for individuals or groups of individuals, especially 'Young Professionals' and/or 'Part-time/ Seasonal' workers.



"We thank  
Gregg  
Goodman for  
his years of  
dedicated  
service"

# VI Programs and Services Report

## TOM VENNIRO

### ***Committee Review of Membership Categories and Rates:***

The Committee has discussed possible revisions for membership categories and rates. A draft proposal was made available to the Executive Board approved the creation of a 'Young Professional' category, although the official establishment of the category and other rate/category changes have been tabled during our transition period.

### ***Membership Development Report***

Committee Members: Gregg Goodman (Committee Chair January 2021-June 2021), Rebecca La Fountain (Committee Chair June 2021-Current Time)  
Leiko Benson, Donna Esperito, Andrea Hansen, Gail Lamberta.

- **Member Satisfaction Input:** The Committee hopes to assist the Society by conducting surveys, focus groups, and interviews with our current membership body to provide a more satisfactory member experience. The first in-person group discussion is scheduled for the annual conference 2022.
- **Retiree/Member Mentorship Program:** The Committee has been working on a way to continue our relationship with retired members. In 2021, the Committee conducted interviews with retirees to see if we could continue their membership and consider being retired members/mentors for the next generation of members. This discussion was well-received and has continued into 2022.
- **NYSRPS Internship Program:** Rebecca La Fountain, a doctoral student and the first NYSRPS office intern in 2019-2020, built a digital application portal for an internship program to assist the society office with membership and other needs. This program is in review.

# VP of Programs and Services Report

## TOM VENNIRO

### ***Recognition & Awards Report - Charry Lawson, Chair***

Committee Members: Charry Lawson (Committee Chair), Jack Davison, Ryan Rockefeller, Nicole Fields and Courtney Carroll.

- 2021 Awards: The 2021 Awards Ceremony took place virtually during our Annual Conference on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, where 15 worthy recipients were recognized. The presentation was lively and a wonderful way to show off our award winners virtually. The awards nomination process was administered as scheduled with a call for nominations in November of 2020 and a due date for submissions in February 2021.
- 2021 Awards: The 2022 Awards Ceremony took place on Monday, April 25, 2022, in Saratoga Springs, NY during the NYSRPS Annual Conference where 18 worthy recipients were recognized (listed below). Not only did we celebrate our new winners but also recognized the winners for 2020 & 2021 who were denied an in-person celebration due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, Bill Zimmermann was recognized for his over 20 years working on the Friends Foundation as well as Graham Skea as the 2020 inductee to the Hall of Fame. The awards nomination process was administered as scheduled with a call for nominations in November of 2021 and a due date for submissions in February 2022.
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### ***Communications / Public Awareness Report - Tom McGerty, Chair***

Committee Members: Tom McGerty (Committee Chair), Nicole Fields, Courtney Carroll and Jason Marra.

- Voice and Newsletters: Successfully assisted NYSRPS Office with content gathering, editing & promotion of recent e-Newsletters, as well 2021 & early 2022 editions of The Voice. With technology and the resources that provided to us, The Voice can be viewed as an online version as well now. The committee will discuss whether we should promote our online edition before the hard copy magazine gets to people or not. It is something that NRPA does, and we will discuss what is best for us.
- Social Media: NYSRPS is on the social media platforms of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. Updates are made based on Society happenings. Featured social media drives included:
  - Park and Recreation Month, #OurParksandRecreationStory on social media, July of 2021.
  - Fall 2021 CPSI Courses hosted by NYSRPS.
  - Promotion of Fall 2021 NRPA Annual Conference in Nashville. We had a good turnout at the Conference and did some social media posting while in attendance.
- Annual Conference Promotion: In 2021, the Committee worked closely with the Virtual Conference Committee in promoting and marketing the event. The Committee made similar efforts for the 2022 Conference.
- Cross-Committee Promotion: The Committee worked towards setting up a new system of getting info from our fellow committees and promoting them to our members.
- Website: The committee has, and will continue to, focus on improving our website. The goal is to make it a little more user friendly and drive more traffic to it.
- Content Evaluation: The Committee has been working with Michael Mendrick to evaluate content that might be helpful to our members. Such items discussed or shared have been USA Pickleball, the NRPA mentorship program, job postings, part-time workforce shortages, and other topics.



# 2021 NYSRPS Award Winners

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!!

<b>LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD</b>	John Picone, City of Rochester
<b>DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD</b>	Charry Lawson, Town of Onondaga
<b>OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD</b>	Paul Palmer, City of Binghamton
<b>ROBERT W. MINER MEMORIAL "GOOD GUY" AWARD</b>	Jason Marra, Great Neck Park District
<b>YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AWARD</b>	Jack Davison, Town of Onondaga
<b>DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD</b>	Syracuse Parks Conservancy, City of Syracuse
<b>ABCD AWARD</b>	Mackenzie Barker, City of Binghamton
<b>ELECTED OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR</b>	Jack Conway, Town of East Greenbush
<b>THERAPEUTIC RECREATION</b>	Jeremy Cash, St. Joseph's College
<b>SPECIAL EVENT</b>	The Santa Clause Experience, Village of Mamaroneck
<b>PROGRAM OF MERIT</b>	At Home with Summer Cohesion, Chemung County Youth Bureau
<b>EXCEPTIONAL PARK DESIGN</b>	George's Island, Westchester County
<b>MULTIMEDIA AWARD</b>	Spring 2020 Virtual Experience Guid, Town of Parma
<b>INCLUSION PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE</b>	Irondequoit Recreation
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP</b>	Dan Aitchison, Westchester County

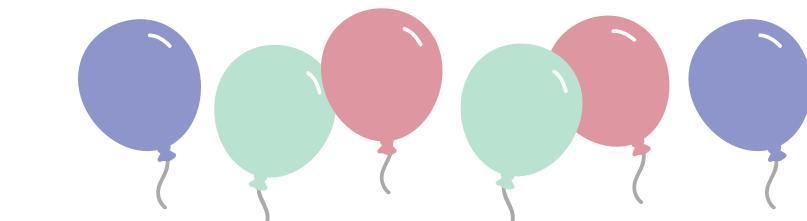
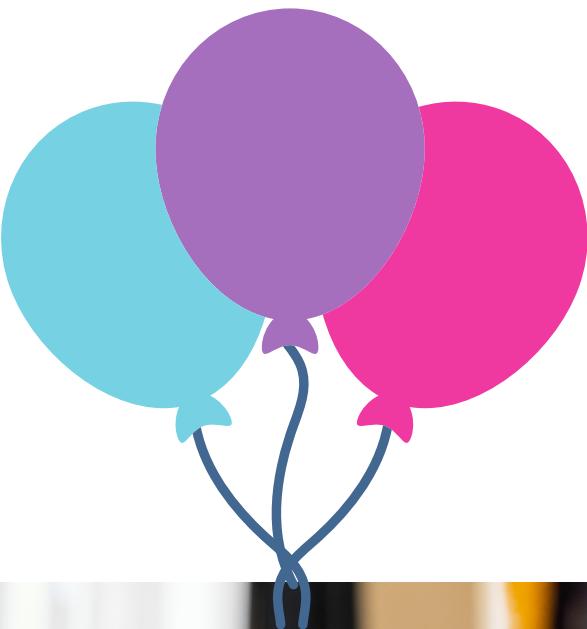


# 2022 NYSRPS Award Winners

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!!

<b>PROGRAM OF MERIT AWARD</b>	Scavenger Hunt Series - Hilton-Parma Parks and Recreation
<b>SPECIAL EVENT AWARD</b>	Bicentennial Celebration - Town of LaGrange
<b>MULTIMEDIA AWARD</b>	WRAPS
<b>DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD</b>	Special Events Committee - City of Fulton
<b>EXCEPTIONAL PARK DESIGN</b>	Adventure Towers Playground, Hilton-Parma Parks and Recreation
<b>EXCELLENCE IN LANDSCAPE DESIGN</b>	Bronx River Trailway, Westchester County
<b>EXCEPTIONAL FACILITY DESIGN</b>	Rye Recreation Park, City of Rye
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARD</b>	Anna Shaheen & Camron Winzinger, City of Binghamton
<b>INCLUSION PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE</b>	Therapeutic Ice Skating Program, Great Neck Park District
<b>FRIENDS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP</b>	Madison Ross, SUNY Brockport
<b>FRIENDS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP</b>	Makenzie Pearce, SUNY Brockport
<b>YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AWARD</b>	Kathleen Laskey - Hilton-Parma Parks and Recreation
<b>ABCD AWARD</b>	John Zoda - Town of Hamburg
<b>OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD</b>	Thomas Venniro - Hilton-Parma Parks and Recreation
<b>ROBERT W. MINER MEMORIAL "GOOD GUY" AWARD</b>	Charlie Bisnett - Onondaga County Parks
<b>DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD</b>	Robert Robare - Town of Plattsburg
<b>LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD</b>	Jeff Myers - Town of Perinton
<b>HALL OF FAME</b>	Graham Skea

# 2022 NYSRPS Award Winners



Congratulations!

# Treasurer Report

*John Hirliman*

## 2021 INCOME EXPENSES BREAKDOWN

\$184,798.55

Total REVENUE

\$167,793.03

Total EXPENSES

[\$17,059.52]

Net INCOME



# Treasurer Report

*John Hirliman*

## CASH BALANCE TOTALS AS OF 12/31/21

Account	Description	Cash Balance 12/31/2021	Cash Balance 12/31/2020	Cash Balance 12/31/2019	Cash Balance 12/31/2018
Saratoga National <i>Checking</i>	Operational Account -Checking	\$78,742.17	\$62,807.92	\$68,310	\$61,831
Fidelity <i>Money Market</i>	Investment Account Marketing – Government Cash Reserves	\$41,683.44	\$41,679.31	\$41,565	\$40,792
Key Bank <i>CD</i>	Investment Account Certification of Deposit – Matures 6/1/2020 *Account closed at \$64,001.19 and moved to the general checking account.	\$0	\$0	\$61,315	\$61,233
Key Bank <i>Checking</i>		\$14,614.00	\$14,614.00	\$132	\$132
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$135,039.61</b>	<b>\$132,963.61</b>	<b>\$171,322</b>	<b>\$163,988</b>
Friends- Key Bank <i>CD</i>		\$20,283.74	\$20,000.00		
Friends- Key Bank <i>Savings</i>		\$3,155.04	\$3,154.72		
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$23,438.78</b>	<b>\$23,154.72</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$158,478.39</b>	<b>\$142,255.95</b>	<b>\$171,322.00</b>	<b>\$163,988.00</b>

# Region 1 Report

## Jessica Dickinson

### HUDSON VALLEY LEISURE SERVICES ASSOCIATION

HVLSA has been on a mission to secure members who want to invest in the totality of their Parks and Recreation Departments by including all facets of the organization. The Hudson Valley Leisure Services Association (HVLSA) has been bridging communities through Parks and Recreation since 1975 with professional development and networking opportunities.

If you work in Parks & Recreation, you know that both of those words go hand-in-hand to serve our communities best. HVLSA has created new tracks at monthly meetings to bring more valuable knowledge from the field into our professional development group. At these meetings, the group has been able to split into those two tracks for more streamlined "parks/maintenance" discussions and a "recreation/programming" niche. There are now new ways to more effectively discuss a variety of topics such as field maintenance, seasonal staffing, concession stand operation, senior centers, and park projects - all with different lenses and perspectives.

HVLSA is striving to create more collaborative and supportive environments between agencies.



### LONG ISLAND LEISURE SERVICES ASSOCIATION

The Long Island Leisure Services Association (LILSA) is a professional membership organization for individuals, agencies, and businesses, which provide leisure and therapeutic services to the community. Its mission is to provide both training, and support as well as to disseminate information to its members.

Over this past year, Long Island Leisure Services Association sponsored a Virtual CTRS Study Group, awarded student scholarships, and partnered with professionals in the industry to host a Field/Turf Maintenance Workshop with the LandTek Group.

As a thank you for continuing to work under trying times, LILSA was able to offer a free membership for those who worked in Community and Therapeutic Recreation. The cost of joining for the 2021 year is now not a barrier to access professional development and networking opportunities with colleagues.

# Region 1 Report

## Bob Kaczmarek

### WESTCHESTER RECREATION AND PARKS SOCIETY

Overall the WRAPS membership has returned to pre-COVID levels with approximately 260 combined memberships. An area still lagging behind is in the Entertainers and Vendors memberships, but efforts are being made to regain memberships by the return of a Vendors Luncheon and Entertainers Showcase programs. Finally social events along with a supportive membership base.

#### Some Highlights Over the Past Year

Held 6 - Zoom & 3 In-person Executive Board Meetings / Held Super Bowl Box Social Fundraiser & In-person Poker Run / Offered a Virtual Entertainers Showcase Actively participated in the Virtual State Conference providing a days' worth of presenters and moderators / WRAPS Camps Care About Hunger food drive held during camp season with an estimate of 15 municipalities participating. / In-person End-Of-Season general membership BBQ with limited awards ceremony / WRAPS chaired 11/9/21 in-person Downstate Conference / In-person WRAPS Holiday Luncheon and Past Presidents Luncheon.

#### Membership workshops included:

3 DOH Zoom Workshop to address questions regarding upcoming camp season and COVID \ 1 DOH Zoom Workshop for Pool operations \ Zoom Workshop to discuss issues experienced with opening camp and pools in 2020 \ March 24th Zoom Teen Ideas for Summer Programming workshop, WRAPS "Healthy Initiative In-person Membership Meeting at Muscot Farm \ General membership meeting w/ presentation for IDEA committee,



**WRAPS**  
WESTCHESTER RECREATION  
AND PARKS SOCIETY

### THE METROPOLITAN NEW YORK RECREATION AND PARK SOCIETY

METRO is an organization that remains "in transition". There remains a small active group of 12 professionals, mostly from the TR sector. The main focus of their efforts is to provide the opportunity for their members to earn CEUs. Conversations have begun to establish a pathway of communication to foster participation (in person and/or remotely) between potential members. METRO is reaching out beyond their base to community organizations and colleges for increased participation. Along with WRAPS and Hudson Valley, they were active in running the Downstate Conference this past November. Efforts will continue to be made to increase membership and participation.

#### Of Special Note:

Understanding the financial impact that the cancelation of the Vision 2020 NYSRPS Conference, which WRAPS hosting, had on the NYSRPS operating budget a fundraising effort was initiated to help bridge the fiscal gap and WRAPS answered the call in a big way. Being fortunate to have an active and generous membership base during the years prior the WRAPS board voted to help the fundraising efforts by making a \$10,000 donation to NYSRPS to close the budget gap.

# Region 2 Report

## Jack Davison



## CENTRAL NY RECREATION AND PARK SOCIETY

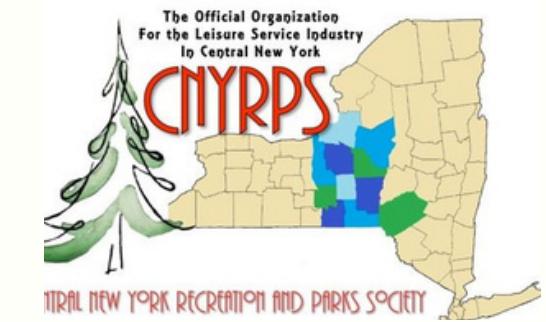
Like most of NY, CNY had another whirlwind of a year. Coming out the back end of COVID regulations was a burden swiftly exchanged for the anxiety of summer staffing issues to come.

But with the moral support that is built into the fabric of our local society, we have been able to persevere and adapt to a changing landscape of recreation. There were notable position changes in the region, which we commonly refer to as "the shuffle" as departments re-structured or in some cases, completely eliminated. In spite of this, CNY has continued working towards bolstering its membership, and made strides to improve regional membership benefits. We would like to especially thank the last 3 presidents; Megan Ball, Erik Sopchak, and Charlie Bisnett, for helping guide us through the most tumultuous time for leisure services in our lifetimes.

CNY elections was set to be voted on May 19th.

## MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- Some of the topics we covered were summer staffing issue, fundraising in a recession, using social media effectively as an advertising platform, partnering with NYSRPS to offer E-Sports, indoor programming during COVID, creating a member resource board to share instructor contacts, & Marijuana use in the parks.
- CNY addressed the passage of new, lax Marijuana use in public parks and how this effects our public spaces. Many departments have adopted "Smoke-Free Zones", similar to Tabaco-free zones.
- In 2020, we lost our dear friend Tom White. Tom's memorial bench was unveiled at the 2020 CNYRPS Awards Ceremony, with his family in attendance. The bench was installed in Eastwood.
- Fran Tokar also passed late in 2020. His impact on the CNY area will have a lasting effect, as friends and family contributed \$4,271 in donations to the CNYRPS "Fran Tokar Scholarship Fund" in lieu of flowers after his passing.
- After many years of stalling, Patrick McGinnis was appointed to Commissioner of Parks and Recreation for the City of Binghamton. We want to congratulate Pat!
- CNY used their free memberships from NYSRPS to onboard 10 new members



# Region 2 Report

## Heather Maltby



### Capital Region

The Capital Region has voted on an Executive Board. The Executive Board is in the process of updating their constitution and by-laws and creating a plan for how the group will move forward. A small group of Capital Region members are on the annual conference planning committee. Rebecca Sewell is a new member to NYSRPS.

### Adirondack/North Country

Membership Coordinator Rebecca Stoner Lafontaine has been actively trying to engage the North Country/ADK folks. She has a planned Zoom meeting with them shortly after the Annual Conference.



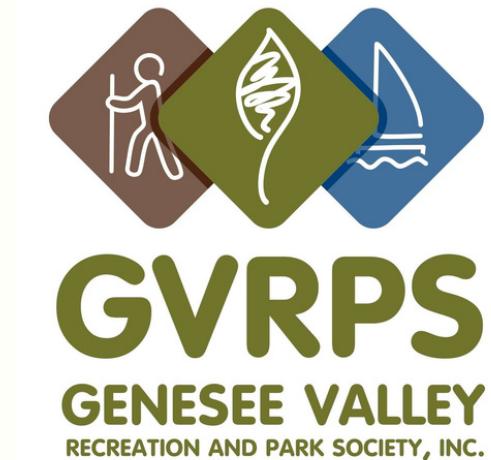
# Region 3 Report

## Nick Berlin

### GENESEE VALLEY RECREATION AND PARK SOCIETY

Once again, the GVRPS Executive Board thrive during a difficult year. They were able to serve the members in many ways while still navigating the pandemic. Below is a recap of the year's events as well as other initiatives GVRPS accomplished in 2021-2022. Events:

- August 4th: Red Wings vs. Syracuse Baseball Game.
- Sept 10: Annual Golf Tournament and Durand Eastman.
- October 21st: Schutt's Apple-solutely Tour: Tour of Schutt's Cider.
- Annual Conference (In person) November 19th @ Chili Recreation.
- December Program: Roc Holiday Village Ice Rink on Thursday, December 9th. / Holiday Ugly Sweater Contest - Gates Recreation Department was the winner of a free departmental lunch.
- March Programs: 3/17; Adapt & Adjust Method w Gary Mervis. / March Madness Brackets, Amazon GC to winner.
- Pick 'em Playoffs - Gift Card Prizes 4 Rounds; Free to play - Kelly Attridge \$25 Amazon Gift Card Winner.
- GVRPS Family Bowling Night - April 14th; Spencerport Bowl; \$25 per person, food, raffles, prizes, trivia.
- Annual Meeting, May 20: Farewell to a respected Colleague - Jeffery Myers.
- GVRPS Summer Camp Staff Training - June 21 Henrietta Rec.



#### ***Other Initiatives:***

- GVRPS had \$2,500 worth of in-kind donations that we put our logo on and used throughout the year as marketing and branding efforts.
- 1 scholarship Student Scholarship given this year - \$750- and 1-year GVRPS & NYSRPS Membership & NYSRPS Annual Conference Registration.
- Katie Kovar from Webster Recreation, was our First ever winner of the GVRPS - NRPA Professional Scholarship, to attend the National Conference.
- Popcorn Fundraising - Ran until March 17th; GVRPS Members selling; top seller received a \$150 Visa Gift Card; Funds raised will support student scholarships, professional scholarships & educational sessions.
- \$500 Donated to NYSRPA Annual Conference

# THANK YOU!

## Lisa Morahan

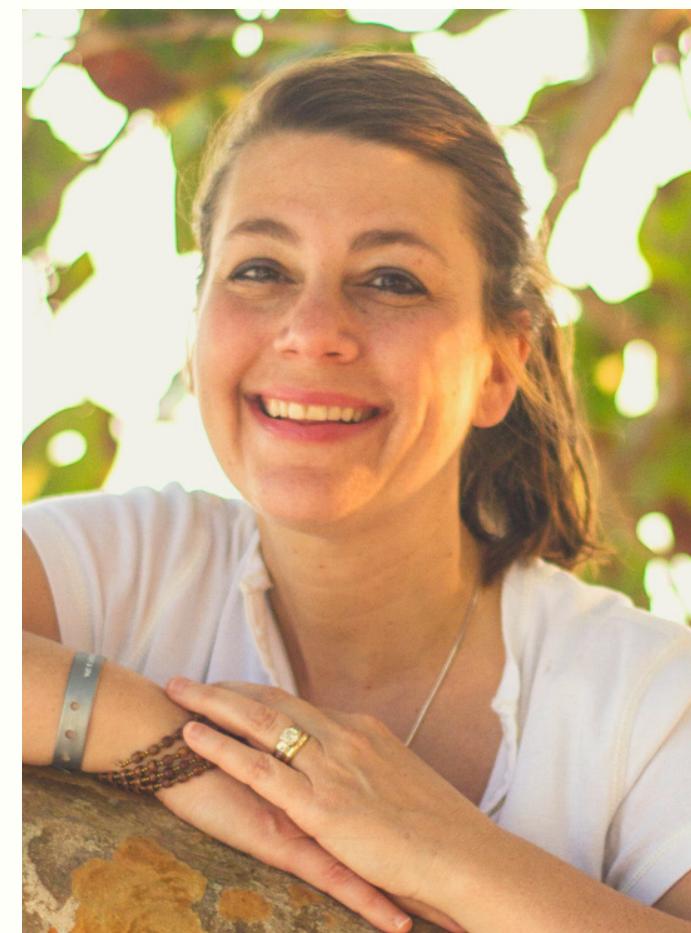
Thank you for allowing me the opportunity of this Executive Director Annual Report to recap 2021 and share my deepest gratitude to NYSRPS. SURVIVE... AND THRIVE!

Surviving a pandemic, recouping losses, retaining members, while providing value and benefit was a very tall order for this shoulder year. Entering 2021 we were breathing a sigh of relief we had yes survived physically and retained pretty much all members through a most difficult season of tremendous loss. Determined to thrive we set some realistic, but attainable goals to use our finances wisely and hope to break even at the end of the year.

Spring of 21 was consumed by delivering a completely virtual conference- a first for NYSRPS. With all the elements of our traditional annual event from exhibit hall to socials, Tom Venniro lead this effort wonderfully. Revenue surpassed expectations and the semblance of normalcy it gave to our rec professionals was incredible. Special thanks to Great Neck Parks (Jason Marra & co) for making the virtual connections possible and thank you to the committee and all who participated to make this event a success. In addition to the Annual Conference, we were able to extend three CPSI courses in the fall and a return to our Annual Downstate Conference in November. These in-person events were milestones on our road back to 'normal'.

The passing of Fran Tokar inspired a new 'In Memoriam' program that raised thousands for CNY and the scholarship fund Fran originally created. Additionally, the Friends Foundation was resurrected and celebrated its 30th anniversary raising thousands towards its mission of funding scholarship and educational development opportunities. Special thanks to Bill Zimmerman for his unending dedication to Friends and NYSRPS over the years!

Kudos to the most active committee, our Communications Committee under the direction of Chair Tom McGerty, and his team. Producing three issues of the Voice was quite an accomplishment and regular postings on social media again helped all on the journey of reconnecting back to 'normal'.



# THANK YOU!

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Membership held steady and all focus was on growing Regional Partners across NY. I enjoyed working with Rebecca La Fountain on developing strategies for growth in the North Country / ADK region, and equally rewarding were conversations with Capital Region as CPPRA reconnected under the leadership of John Hirliman. Relationships with our Downstate affiliates were strengthened as evidenced by their proposal to give NYSRPS 10% off the top of conference proceeds. Special thanks to WRAPS for this generous offer and acknowledgement of NYSRPS's contributions to make Downstate possible.

2021 was a capstone year for me personally as a professional. I travelled to California where I assumed the role as President representing NY on the Council of State Executive Directors. In a short couple months Tiger Teams were assembled to maximize the value of the Council's monthly meetings and power we had as a collective group. I am forever grateful to the anchors within that group; the love and guidance they gave was priceless.

In the fall an opportunity to apply for the Assistant Administrative Director of Recreation for the City of Saratoga Springs came before me. Although greater pay, benefits were attractive I truly wanted to go from looking from the outside in, to working on the front lines with youth, seniors, and all in between. I felt the years of insight I gained from the tremendous professionals I was blessed to learn and grow from, would empower me to be the difference in my community.

I was sorry to leave with such short notice, but thrilled I was able to stay on with the Conference planning committee and assist Michael Mendrick take the reins to finish out 2021. Thank you, Paul Blake, for pushing me behind the podium in 2014, your love and constant encouragement. Gregg Goodman, you were the quiet bricklayer who truly rebuilt the Society's operating foundation. Charry Lawson our Matriarch. Jeff Myers, Linanne Conroy, Deb Keville, Bob Kaczmarek, Eric Bacon, Peggy Kenyon; words cannot express my depth of gratitude. I have far too many names to list.

***Thank you all for giving me the most rewarding years of my life.***



# Thank YOU!

## THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO!



Photo by: [redacted]

