

**PENNSYLVANIA RECREATION & PARK SOCIETY, INC.
NOMINEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION
2015 GENERAL ELECTION**

Please use this format to report your qualifications for the PRPS office for which you have been nominated. Be thorough but brief in your response. *You must include a half-page "platform" statement on your views and positions related to the office you are seeking. Please provide a photograph of yourself to be included with your information.*

Office being sought: President-Elect; President

Name: Kenneth Lehr

Title: Park and Recreation Director

Agency: West Goshen Township

Address: 1025 Paoli Pike, West Chester, PA 19380

Phone: 610-696-5266

Email: klehr@westgoshen.org

Education and Training: Bachelor's Degree, St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia; Master's Degree in Public Administration, Syracuse University.

Experience: (include relevant volunteer work)

Managed Awbury Arboretum Association in Philadelphia, 1993-1997.

Park and Recreation Director for West Goshen Township, 1998-present.

Volunteer member/vice-chairman of Willistown Township Park and Recreation Board, 2003-present.

Honors, Certification:

Completed Web Authoring certification program at Pennsylvania State University, Great Valley.

1st Place, Class 1 Category in 38th Annual Township Citizen Communication Contest by Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors for writing and editing West Goshen Township Newsletter.

Main Line Today Best Park for Families: West Goshen Community Park, 2007.

West Goshen Township named in Money Magazine "Top 20 Places to Live" 2007, 2009, 2011, and 10th best place to live in 2013. Parks and Recreation were cited by Money Magazine as major factor in determining ranking.

Professional accomplishments, organizations: (Membership, committees, offices held, affiliations, presentations, etc.)

Member, Chester County Recreation Consortium: 2001-present.

Member, Chesco: Every Step Counts/Activate Chester County, 2003-present.

Member, Fern Hill Elementary School Wellness Committee, 2007-2009.

Board Member, Historic Germantown Preserved, 1994-1997.

Guest lecturer, St. Joseph's University, "Practical Politics: Local Government in Pennsylvania," October 2013.

PRPS: (Member, committees, institutes, conferences, workshops, etc.)

Community Recreation Branch Executive Committee: 2000-2010; 2012-present.

Community Recreation Branch Prize Pool, ticket monger: 2000-present.

District III Executive Committee: 2000-2010. President: 2006-2008.

Coordinated District III Summer Camp Institute, 2007-2009.

Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society Annual Conference: Chair, Mentoring Program: 2014-2015.

Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society Annual Conference: Chair, Exhibit Hall Committee: 2004.

Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society Annual Conference: Member, Educational Program Committee: 2007, 2009.

Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society Annual Conference, Presenter: "Entertain Your Community: Amphitheaters—Planning and Programming," 2014.

Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society Annual Conference, Presenter: "Learn to Improvise; Improvise to Learn," 2010.

Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society Annual Conference, Presenter: "Could a Peer or RecTAP Grant Help You?" 2007.

Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society Annual Conference, Presenter: "Memorable, Magical Movie Nights," 2006.

Author, Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Magazine, 2012-present, "Take Ten."

Author, Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Magazine, Third Quarter, 2012, "Top 10 Dos and Don'ts for Special Events."

Author, Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Magazine, First Quarter, 2012, "A Reflection on the Role Parks and Recreation Plays in the Best Places to Live."

Author, Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Magazine, Second Quarter, 2007, "At Your Service."

Hobbies and other interests: Photography; writing; skiing; tennis; bicycling; travel; history.

Platform Statement:

Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society: Collaborating to Build a Stronger Pennsylvania

"The Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society unites recreation and park professionals and interested citizens to enhance their leadership in meeting the recreation needs of all Pennsylvanians."--*Mission Statement of the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society*

The Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society provides outstanding professional development and networking opportunities to its members. We turn to PRPS to teach us the latest trends in the Park and Recreation field, to find potential solutions to challenges we face, and to seek support from our peers so we may each offer the highest levels of service to the communities we serve. While the resources, information, and contacts we bring back to our agencies help us better serve our local constituencies, it becomes too easy to lose focus on our larger commitment to meeting the recreation needs of all Pennsylvanians.

If elected, my goal as President of the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society would be to foster collaboration to build a stronger Pennsylvania.

PRPS is in the forefront of building this stronger Pennsylvania. As President, I would continue to spread this message to members, state, county, and local officials, potential funders, and the public at large, and to provide whatever support needed to develop collaborative efforts to help our members fulfill the mission of meeting the recreational needs of all Pennsylvanians, so they can enjoy a stronger lifestyle, stronger communities, a stronger stewardship with nature, and a stronger economy for years to come.

In providing vital Park and Recreation services, we can counterproductively compete, passively cooperate, or actively collaborate with other service providers. PRPS provides members with the opportunity for municipal, county, state, and private organizations to build partnerships, combine strengths, and share information and resources to collaborate for optimal service to the state's residents.

Ultimately, we need to position Parks and Recreation in the public consciousness as a key component for a stronger Pennsylvania. Specifically, we need to demonstrate how the work we have committed ourselves to make the Commonwealth stronger in the following respects:

Stronger individuals: Parks and recreation programs provide Pennsylvania's residents with low-cost facilities and activities which encourage exercise and physical fitness.

Stronger communities: Parks and recreation programs bring people together, forming a stronger sense of community and connectedness with local, county, and state governments.

Stronger sense of stewardship with nature: Pennsylvania's bountiful natural resources need to be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations. By bringing the state's residents out to parks and other natural areas, we foster a deeper appreciation of nature and commitment to its preservation.

Stronger economy: Proximity of Parks and Recreation facilities improves property values for both residential and commercial sites. Research I presented in the First Quarter 2012 issue of Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Magazine article "A Reflection on the Role Parks and Recreation Plays in the Best Places to Live" shows that Parks and Recreation was the top factor used by Money Magazine in determining top places to live. In addition, a workforce that has easy access to the fitness benefits of parks is also more productive.

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Office being sought: President-Elect

Name: J. Ryan McCleaster

Title: Assistant Director of Recreation & Leisure Services

Agency: Township of Upper St. Clair

Address: 1820 McLaughlin Run Road ~ Upper St. Clair, PA 15241

Phone: 412-221-1099 x606

Email: mccleaster@twpusc.org

Education and Training:

Bachelor Degree in Education from **Bowling Green State University** and a Master Degree in Instructional Leadership with a Sport Management Concentration from **Robert Morris University**.

Experience: (include relevant volunteer work)

Ryan has enjoyed an extensive professional career in the recreation, fitness, and athletics industry over the past 20 years. He has worked in the Department of Athletics for Robert Morris University & University of Pittsburgh along with serving as the Director of Operations & Corporate Relations for the Wilfred R. Cameron Wellness Center of the Washington Hospital and the Athletic Director for the Pittsburgh Athletic Association. Currently, he is in his seventh year with the Township of Upper St. Clair as Assistant Director of Recreation & Leisure Services and fifth year as an Associate Faculty for Sport & Recreation Management with Ashford University.

Honors, Certification:

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

- Certified Park and Recreation Professional

Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society (PRPS)

- Presidential Citation (2013)
- LEAD Program (2010)

Professional accomplishments, organizations: (Membership, committees, offices held, affiliations, presentations, etc.)

Memberships

- Member of National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)
- Member of Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Association (PRPS)
- Member of Association for Talent Development (ATD)

Committees

Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Western PA

- Member of Event Committee (2014 – Present)

Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society (PRPS)

- Numerous committees for Annual State Conference
- Youth Sports Council

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

- Member of the Administrators Network (2010 – Present)

Offices Held

Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society (PRPS)

- Board Member (2014-2016)
- President for District 1 (2014-2016)
- President-Elect for District 1 (2012-2014)

Presentations

- Robert Morris University Sport Management Conference (2010-2014)
- Athletic Business Conference (2013 & 2014)
- Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society Annual State Conference (2013)

PRPS: (Member, committees, institutes, conferences, workshops, etc.)

- Board Member (2014-2016)
- President for District 1 (2014-2016)
- President-Elect for District 1 (2012-2014)
- Exhibit Hall Co-Chair (2015)
- Publicity Committee Member(2014)
- Conference Co-Chair – Hershey, PA (2013)
- Program Committee Member (2012)
- Member of the Youth Sports Council (2012 – Present)

Hobbies and other interests:

- Spending time with family/friends
- Anything sports related especially, golf & basketball
- Coaching for Montour School District basketball and soccer youth teams
- Staying fit through active recreation
- Charity Work
- Entrepreneurship

Platform:

The Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society motto states, "Partners Advancing Recreation & Parks". My goal would be to continue to assist all recreation and park professionals and interested citizens within the state to achieve the advancement of our industry and to become a model for other state agencies at the national level.

Signature J. Ryan McClellan Date 2/1/15

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Office being sought: President- Elect

Name: Kirk Rakos

Title: Supervisor Therapeutic Recreation Services

Agency: Masonic Villages (Elizabethtown Community)

Address: 60 Freemason Drive

Phone: (717) 367-1121 x33191

Email: krakos@masonicvillages.org

Education and Training:

Master of Education	Temple University	Therapeutic Recreation Administration
Bachelor of Science	York College of Pennsylvania	Recreation and Leisure Studies

Experience: (include relevant volunteer work)

Supervisor Therapeutic Recreation Services	Masonic Village (1991-present)
Adjunct Faculty (TR and Aging)	York College of Pennsylvania (2002-present)
Recreation Therapist	Community Hospital of Lancaster (1985 – 1991)
Recreation Therapist	Philadelphia Psychiatric Center (1984- 1985)
Therapeutic Recreation Specialist	Woodhaven Center (1982-1984)

Honors, Certification:

Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist	(National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification)
Distinguished Member 2006	Pennsylvania Therapeutic Recreation Society
Professional Service Award 2001	Pennsylvania Therapeutic Recreation Society
Presidential Citations (2x)	Pennsylvania Recreation Park Society
Sid Lutzin Award Outstanding Recreation Alumni (1996)	York College of Pennsylvania

Professional accomplishments, organizations: (Membership, committees, offices held, affiliations, presentations, etc.)

Warwick Little League Vice President Board of Directors, Public Relations and Marketing, Coach (7 years), All-Star Manager
Multiple presentations in the field of Therapeutic Recreation for Lancaster Activity Directors Association, Maryland Activity Directors Association, Mid-Eastern TR Symposium, etc.

PRPS: (Member, committees, institutes, conferences, workshops, etc.)

PRPS member since 1991
President of Pennsylvania Therapeutic Recreation Society (2013-2015 and 2003-2005)
Treasurer Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (2007-2011)
Co-Chair of the Therapeutic Recreation Institute (2003, 2008, 2012, 2013)
PRPS Annual Conference Committee (2014, 2011)
Numerous PRPS and PTRS conferences sessions and workshops

Hobbies and other interests:

landscaping, gardening, golf, tennis, family vacations to beach and Disney

Platform statement attached (must include: why you want to serve, your goals and objectives, you may elaborate further.)
 Photo attached

Please return before February 10, 2015 to:
Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society, Inc.
2131 Sandy Drive
State College, PA 16801-2776
FAX: 814-234-5276
E-mail: prpsinfo@prps.org

Signature Kirk Rakos, M.Ed/CTRS Date 2/9/15

Kirk Rakos' Platform for PRPS President-Elect

As a professional in the field of recreation and leisure for thirty three years I continue to seek new challenges so I can continue to grow professionally, stay connected and pave a productive direction for the future. The opportunity to serve as the President-Elect and eventually President of the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society will provide its members with a quality individual who has a passion for our profession and is a proven leader within the society.

I firmly believe all leaders need to have vision that has been created by listening to the members of the society of which they are the leader. These members are our primary customers. One needs to understand and role model the mission and core values of the organization. As a leader my role is to model our mission and facilitate the growth of the society using the skills and talents of our membership.

My vision is to lead in a positive light with the center of our attention being our members and customers of our services. We will begin with assuring 100% transparency of the operations of the society, look for methods to improve upon our customer service, and enhance communication at all levels starting with our members, the organization (districts, branches, executive committee and the board of directors).

Focus points during my term to advance our profession and society will include but are not limited to

- A. Inclusiveness of all individuals into park and recreation programming through educational sessions, position statements, and sharing of resources.
- B. Advocacy for recreation and leisure services and resources in Pennsylvania by maintaining a presence in municipal and state government.
- C. Passage of the Recreation Therapy Licensure Act
- D. Maintaining and advancing PRPS as the premier state organization in the United States
- E. Rebranding PRPS for the future generation (FYI... I, along with the PTRS board of directors, rebranded PTRS with a new logo, colors and a renewed educational effort)
- F. Connect all aspects of the society by growing relationships (specifically branches and districts) to advance the growth of our Parks and Recreation profession.

It was exciting to be nominated for the position of President-Elect of PRPS. If I am chosen by the members to be their leader of PRPS, it will truly be an honor and one that I will fulfill to the best of my ability.

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Office being sought: **President-Elect**

Name: **John N. Spencer**
Title: *N/A (between positions)*
Agency: *N/A (between positions)*
Address: 134 Village Drive, Boyertown, PA (home)

Phone: 484-529-4626 (home)

Education and Training:

- Master of Education in Leisure Studies (1998) from the Pennsylvania State University
- Bachelor of Science in Recreation & Park Management (1996) from the Pennsylvania State University
- National Recreation & Park Association's (NRPA) Park Maintenance & Management School (2009)

Experience: (include relevant volunteer work)

National Recreation & Park Association Certified Parks and Recreation Professional with over eighteen-years' experience in park management. Former supervisory park ranger in a County-based regional park system managing 20+ miles of regional bike trails and six park sites with close to 1,000 acres of open space and park land.

Expert in educational program management; special event planning and facilitation; park security and emergency services; incident management; park ranger training; prescribed fire planning and implementation; and board, committee, and association experience. Prescribed Fire & Wildland firefighter since 2002 and served as Prescribed Burn Boss 2 – RXB2 for the Chester County Prescribed Burn Crew. Session speaker at the Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society and the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association annual conferences. Additional experience from positions outside of Chester County Parks include: park management, recreational programming, outdoor education, serving on several board of directors, and association management.

Honors, Certification:

- CPRP since 1998 and candidate for CPRE exam (2015)
- Superintendent's Choice Award for Achievements of High Value, Chester County Parks & Recreation Department, (June 2008)
- Presidential Citation for Outstanding Service, PRPS (March 2007)
- Excellence in Programming Award – 2002 Jr. Ranger program, PRPS (March 2002)
- Excellence in Programming Award – 2001 Chester County Earth Day Celebration, PRPS (March 2001)
- Student Honor Award, PRPS (March 1998)
- Board of Directors Recognition, PRPS (March 1998)
- Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America, (1989)

Professional accomplishments, organizations: (Membership, committees, offices held, affiliations, presentations, etc.)

- Life Member of the Penn State Alumni Association
- Member of both the Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society and the National Recreation & Park Association
- Session speaker at the Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society and the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association annual conferences
- Board Member, Park Resource Branch Executive Committee, PRPS, (March 2009 – present)
- Steering Committee member, Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council (January – present)

- President, Board of Directors, Indian Springs Community Association (September 2011 – 2012)
- Secretary, Board of Directors, Indian Springs Community Association (September 2010 – 2011)
- Deacon & Board Secretary, Morning Star Fellowship (February 2006 – March 2010)
- President, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center Alumni Interest Group, Penn State Alumni Association, (2005 – 2009)
- Past-President, Park Resource Branch Executive Committee, PRPS, (March 2007 – March 2009)
- President, Park Resource Branch Executive Committee, PRPS, (March 2005 – March 2007)
- President-Elect Park Resource Branch Executive Committee, PRPS, (March 2003 – March 2005)
- Student Director, Board of Directors, PRPS (March 1997 – 1998)
- More information available @ <http://tinyurl.com/JohnSpencerLinkedin>

PRPS: (Member, committees, institutes, conferences, workshops, etc.)

- Board Member, Park Resource Branch Executive Committee, PRPS, (March 2009 – present)
- Past-President, Park Resource Branch Executive Committee, PRPS, (March 2007 – March 2009)
- President, Park Resource Branch Executive Committee, PRPS, (March 2005 – March 2007)
- President-Elect Park Resource Branch Executive Committee, PRPS, (March 2003 – March 2005)
- Student Director, Board of Directors, PRPS (March 1997 – 1998)
- More information available @ <http://tinyurl.com/JohnSpencerLinkedin>

Hobbies and other interests:

- Family: wife Susan, 4-year old twins Patrick & Cora, and a 3-year old daughter Molly
- Operation Christmas Child church coordinator
- Volunteer at my church: audio technician/media team, overseas and stateside mission trips


Signature

February 4, 2015
Date

Platform statement attached (must include: why you want to serve, your goals and objectives, you may elaborate further.)

I am running for the President-Elect position because I want to tangibly give back to PRPS through using my experience, skills, and administrative abilities to help lead the society in supporting the parks and recreation profession. The goals I have during my tenure include: (1) acting on and improving the objectives of the society's Strategic Plan, (2) enhancing and promoting parks and recreation leadership and professionalism, (3) increasing overall PRPS membership, and (4) increasing PRPS revenue (through new membership, branch & districts, and new revenue opportunities or partnerships).

Photo attached

Please return to:

Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society, Inc.
2131 Sandy Drive
State College, PA 16803
FAX: 814-234-5276
E-mail: trobart@prps.org

Tamara Lynne Echevarria
754 Loch Alsh Avenue
Ambler, PA 19002
(215) 646-2677 (215) 643-1600 ext. 3241
e-mail: techevarria@upperdublin.net

Education:

Penn State University 01/00 – 05/00 – Sociology in Leisure

West Chester University 9/81 – 5/82 - Business Administration

Upper Dublin High School 9/78 – 6/81 - Diploma

Professional Employment:

1996 – present Recreation Superintendent
Department of Parks & Recreation
Upper Dublin Township, Fort Washington, PA

- Responsible for assisting with program planning, development, implementation/evaluation and coordination of office procedures
- Responsible for program planning, development, implementation/evaluation and coordination of all Recreation Programs and events
- Supervise and coordinate four part-time and one seasonal staff office CSR's (Customer Service Representatives; front desk staff), Administrative Assistant, Recreation Specialist, volunteers, summer staff, college interns, UDHS Community Study Staff, contracted staff and program leaders
- Oversee administrative operations: respond to and provide customer service; maintain office supply inventory and manage office equipment; coordinate bank deposits and finance reporting
- Maintain automated records within parks and recreation: oversee the maintenance of the parks and recreation record system for personnel, payroll, purchase orders, permits, reports, check register and client database
- Assist in program operations, including: program registration; response to citizen requests; Mondauk Common and Robbins Park group scheduling; cable television messages; programs, trip, tour and special event development; and act as group/program leader.
- Provide management assistance in oversight of volunteers, seasonal staff, research and related township activities
- Assist in the preparation of the recreation department budget.

Guest Speaker – Temple University

- Customer Service
- Event Planning

1993 – 1996 Office Assistant
Department of Parks & Recreation
Upper Dublin Township, Fort Washington, PA

- Responsible for front desk operations
- Provided customer service
- Processed program registrations, compile class lists and support recreation staff in developing, organizing and administering recreational programs and special events
- Acted as program leader for in-house programs and department trips and tours
- Maintained filing system, purchase orders, office supplies, check register and deposit

1989 – 1996 Crossing Guard
Upper Dublin Township, Fort Washington, PA

1989 – 1993 Office Manager/Physician's Assistant
Dr. Barton I. Kessler, DPM
Fort Washington, PA

- Managed daily operations of a busy podiatry office
- Trained and worked as a Podiatric Physician's Assistant

1986 – 1989 Senior Customer Service Representative Supervisor
USHealthcare
Blue Bell, PA

- Supervised a staff of 8 senior customer service representatives

1983 – 1986 Senior Customer Service Representative
Prudential Insurance Company
Fort Washington, PA

- Supervised a staff of 24 customer service representatives

Professional and Civic Affiliations:

- **Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society, Inc. (1999 – present)**
- **PRPS District III – Secretary (2004 – 2010)**
- **PRPS District III – President Elect (2010 – 2011)**
- **PRPS- Secretary – (2011 – present)**
- **PRPS Annual Conference Exhibit Hall Committee (2006 - 2007)**
- **PRPS Annual Conference Local Arrangements Committee (2008 - 2009)**

- **PRPS 2011 Annual Conference Co-Chair**
- **Presidential Citations – 2004, 2007, 2011**
- **Upper Dublin Football Boosters – Vice President – 2012**
- **Upper Dublin Football Boosters – President - 2013**
- **Upper Dublin Monte Carlo Night Planning Committee – 2013, 2014, 2015**
- **Robert D. Griffith Distinguished Member Award - 2013**
- **Upper Dublin Township Community Day Committee (1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2012, 2014)**
- **Fort Washington Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary (1983 – present)**
Special Events Committee chair, Executive Board, By-Laws Committee, Membership Committee

Certifications and Training

- **American Red Cross Babysitter's Training Instructor (1994 – present)**
- **American Red Cross CPR/First Aid/AED Instructor/Trainer (2006 – present)**
- **CPR/First Aid/AED certified (1999 – present)**
- **PRPS Annual Conference (1996 – present)**
- **NRPA Congress (1999, 2000, 2001, 2009)**
- **Various DIII workshops**
- **PRPS Mini Conferences**
- **PRPS Leadership Summit (2010)**
- **Penn State Management Development Program (2009, 2010)**

References

Available upon request

Platform Statement

I will continue to support the staff and the membership, so that they are given the tools that are needed to move our society to the next level of service. I would like the opportunity to continue to serve as your Secretary.

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Office being sought: Treasurer

Name: Tim Herd, CPRE

Title: Possibility Grower

Agency: timherd.com

Address: 2572 Mountain Road, Bath, PA 18014

Phone: 610-837-6225

Email: herd.tim@gmail.com

Education and Training:

- Certified Park and Recreation Executive
- NRPA Director's School graduate 2013
- B.S. Meteorology, Penn State University

Experience: (include relevant volunteer work)

- Executive Director, Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission
- President and CEO, The Roving Nature Center; America's first fully mobile environmental education center
- Naturalist, Nature Newswatch Wildlife Almanac Productions
- Recycling Coordinator, City of Bethlehem
- Executive Director, Nature Center of Charlestown
- Environmental Educator, Lehigh Valley Conservancy
- Consultant: Judy A. Putek Memorial Municipal Nature Park, Middle Smithfield Township, Monroe County
 - Outdoor Educational and Recreational Program Development Plan, KidsPeace, Schnecksville, PA
 - Green Lane Environmental Education Center Comprehensive Development Plan, Montgomery County
 - Carbon County Environmental Education Center Comprehensive Development Plan
- Funding Campaign Communications Chair, Bethany Wesleyan Church
- Trustee President, Northampton Area Public Library
- Pennsylvania State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Health & Outdoors Subcommittee
- East Stroudsburg University Department of Recreation Services Management Advisory Board,
- Middle Level Education Curriculum Task Force, Northampton Area School District
- Founding Committee, Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania
- Nonprofit Board leadership on various youth development organizations, watershed associations, churches, open space advocates and Friends groups, since 1987.

Honors, Certification:

- Certified Park and Recreation Executive, NRPA
- *Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award*, 2010
- National Finalist, *Take Pride in America Awards Campaign*, "for demonstrated commitment and exceptional contribution to the proper stewardship of America's natural and cultural resources."
- *National Recycling Award*, U.S. Conference of Mayors and the H.J. Heinz Company
- *Best Radio/TV Program*, Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association
- *Outstanding Young Man of America*, U.S. Jaycees
- Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America

Professional accomplishments, organizations: (Membership, committees, offices held, affiliations, presentations, etc.)

- White Paper Lead Author, *Positioning Recreation and Park Systems as an Essential Community Service*; PA DCNR, 2010 Recreation and Parks Leadership Summit.
- Publisher, MasterPoint e-newsletter and author of *Leadership Living* serial column

- Books: *Maple Sugar* (winner of Best Book Award 2012), *Kaleidoscope Sky*, *Discover Nature in the Weather*
- Winner, Best Radio/TV Award, *Nature Newswatch*
- Glen Brook Golf Club Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program Advisory Committee
- Pennsylvania Alliance for Environmental Education
- Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association
- National Recreation and Parks Association
- Brodhead Watershed Association Board of Directors

PRPS: (Member, committees, institutes, conferences, workshops, etc.)

- Treasurer and Executive Committee, PRPS, 2011-current
- Conference Program Committee Co-Chair, 2014
- Annual Conferences 2007-2015, presenter (4)
- Greenways & Trails Summits, Conference Committee 2011
- Executive Director Search Committee
- featured author in *PRPS Weekly News*, *Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks* magazine

Hobbies and other interests:

- home and family life

Platform statement attached (must include: why you want to serve, your goals and objectives)

Photo attached

Please return before February 10, 2015 to:

Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society, Inc.

2131 Sandy Drive

State College, PA 16801-2776

FAX: 814-234-5276

E-mail: prpsinfo@prps.org

Signature _____

Timothy Herd

Date: 2/24/2015

Platform Statement

I am a career executive with extensive service in both private and public sector enterprises, and bring leadership, accountability and transparency to the PRPS Board of Director's Executive Committee and the position of Treasurer.

As Treasurer over the past four years, I've supervised ongoing improvements in the readability and transparency of the PRPS Annual Budget and its monthly financial statements to the Membership. With the auditors and staff, we've also made improvements in accounting procedures and streamlined its internal management. As a result, the Staff and Board now have a more valuable tool to control and more directly evaluate expenses, projects, cash flow and time management.

In the current year, we have created two separate budgets to better control, manage and track our overall Society in a Jan-Dec calendar year, and our Annual Conference in a July-June fiscal year. This strategy will make future Conferences significantly more transparent and easier to plan and conduct. Instead of planning for conference revenues and expenses up to 12 months prior to the event, we are able to budget based on much more recent experience. It also focuses the accounting in one place instead of causing confusion for everyone who must deal with conference money. Conference gains and losses from year to year will not be hidden in the rest of the Society's performance.

While the 2015 Budget is balanced, it is significantly supported by Friends Membership revenues, generated through our arrangement with the Pennsylvania State Employees Credit Union (PSECU). For our future fiscal sustainability, we (the Board, the Staff, and the Membership) must all contribute efforts to lessen our dependency on this one source and work to generate new sources of revenues while limiting our expenses—for the good of us all.

I am chairing a reinvigorated Finance Committee to develop a Capital Revenues and Expenses Plan and a Property Reserve Account, and to analyze long-term investments and mortgage retirement plans, recommend new sources of revenue, and research and recommend other ways to strengthen our financial affairs. The Executive Committee has directed the Finance Committee to develop a preliminary report to be presented at the annual Board Retreat in May 2015, and I am honored to be working with my colleagues in these endeavors for a better and more financially secure PRPS.

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Office being sought: Treasurer

Name: Rob Lewis
Title: Regional Park Superintendent
Agency: Chester County Department of Facilities and Parks
Address: 313 W Market St, West Chester PA19380
Phone: 610-383-3812
Email: rlewis@chesco.org

Education and Training:

- NC State University, Park and Recreation Maintenance Management School, Oglebay WV
- Central Jersey Turf and Ornamental Institute
- Professional Park Maintenance: Managing and Enhancing Park Use, Rutgers University
- Rutgers University, BA in Psychology

Experience: (include relevant volunteer work)

Regional Park Superintendent

Hibernia County Park and Springton Manor Farm 2010-present

- Management responsibilities of the Departments largest county park, Hibernia 1200 acres and management responsibilities of Springton Manor Farm, a historic demonstration farm.
- Safety and Security Activity Manager for County Strategic Business Plan.
- Management of all Special Activities Agreements.
- Large event planning and execution for The Old Fiddlers Picnic, Sheep and Wool Day.
- Responsible for preservation and maintenance of the Historic Hibernia Mansion.
- Coordination with the Friends of Hibernia Park and Friends of Springton Manor Farm, nonprofit volunteer groups, including special events, fund raising, and historical preservation.
- 2011 Cost analysis of Fish Nursery operation that saved the Department \$16,000 annually.
- Created self-registration camping system to offset staffing reductions but maintain level of customer service.
- Oversee deer management at both park sites.

Regional Park Superintendent

Nottingham County Park and Wolf's Hollow County Park 2007-2010

- Overall management responsibilities for two regional park sites, Nottingham County Park 651 acres and Wolf's Hollow County Park 569 acres.
- Annual planning and execution for Departments largest special event, Freedom Fest fireworks and concert, with average attendance around 12,000.
- Infrastructure and Grounds Activity Manager for Departments Strategic Business Plan.
- Finalized plan to see Nottingham County Park Serpentine Barrens designated as a National Natural Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior.
- Coordinated volunteer groups to restore the serpentine barrens savannah.
- Coordinated phase one construction and opening of newest regional park, Wolf's Hollow County Park.
- Oversaw deer management and prescribed burn operations at Nottingham County Park.

Volunteer for the Chester County Food Bank and the Life Rolls on Foundation. I have volunteered at my children's school including class trips and leading the set up team for the annual elementary school carnival.

Honors, Certification:

- NRPA Certified Park and Recreational Professional CPRP 2008-present
- PRPS Presidential Citation 2014

PRPS: (Member, committees, institutes, conferences, workshops, etc.)

- PRPS Finance Committee 2015
- Annual Conference Co-Chair, 2014
- Speaker, PA Therapeutic Recreation Institute, 2012
- Park Resource Branch President, 2012-present
- Board of Directors, 2012-present
- Annual Conference Programming Committee, 2011
- Published article in Society Magazine, 2009
- Park Resource Branch Executive Committee Member, 2006-present
- Have attended every conference since 2005

Hobbies and other interests:

My hobbies are all related to outdoor active recreation. My number one favorite activity is surfing, I have been doing this since I was 10. I also love to camp, kayak, paddleboard, backpack, ski, snowshoe, paddleboard and anything else that gets me outdoors.

(below) Platform statement attached (must include: why you want to serve, your goals and objectives, you may elaborate further.)

Photo attached

Please return before February 10, 2015 to:

Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society, Inc.
2131 Sandy Drive
State College, PA 16801-2776
FAX: 814-234-5276
E-mail: prpsinfo@prps.org

Signature _____ Date _____

Platform statement attached (must include: why you want to serve, your goals and objectives)

I am running for the position of Treasurer, because I want to continue to work hard for the good of the Society, which has provided me with such great opportunities. Since becoming a member of PRPS in 2004, I have become more and more involved with the various branches, districts, Board of Directors and office staff. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with all the professionals who make up this great Society.

When I became President of the Park Resource Branch in 2012 and consequently became a part of the Board of Directors, I was exposed to the importance of the Board and the decisions it is responsible for. I have relished the opportunity to work with such dedicated individuals who take their roles seriously. I have learned a great deal and want to continue to contribute to the Society.

As the 2014 annual conference co-chair, I realized the importance and amount of fiscal responsibility it takes to provide an outstanding conference without running a deficit. With the help of an outstanding conference team, we were able to provide a well-received conference without losing any money. PRPS, as a nonprofit Society, has to rely on various sources of revenue, many of which are driven by the membership, district and branch workshops, grants and other forms of support. The Society also incurs many expenses throughout the year.

My goal, if elected Treasurer, is to continue the outstanding work of the past Treasurers and the Board, along with the PRPS office staff and the Finance Committee to be fiscally responsible. I would work to ensure revenue sources continue to remain strong, and at the same time, review expenditures to find ways to possible savings. I will work with the finance committee to present the Society a 5 year capital plan and also a best case scenario to save money on the mortgage for the office building. I will also work with Branches and Districts to ensure that they get the support needed to contribute to the Society.

Thank you,
Rob