

**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.

1<sup>st</sup> Place, Class 1 Category in 38<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.