

**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: 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.

Platform statement:

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