

**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

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

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.