



METROSCOPE

FALL 2008

VOLUME 22

NUMBER 2

CAN FALL BE FAR BEHIND

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the air grows cooler and the days grow shorter we know that summer has finally ended. For some this is a sad thing but I have always loved the start of autumn. It is a time of new beginnings for me. It means "back to school", which always got me excited. It meant new books, new clothes and new classes. It was a time to start over. The start of autumn, rather than January 1st, was always that start of a new year for me.

So my question to you is what is getting you excited and enthusiastic as the fall approaches? METRO is excited because we have a terrific full day conference coming up on October 7th. These full day conferences allow us to provide our members with opportunities to take workshops in innovative and interesting new areas (and to get CEUs). It also provides them with a chance to network with each other and make connections with professionals in complementary disciplines. More details about METRO's full day conference are provided on an insert flyer. Register soon!!

Fall is also the usual scheduled time for Downstate Recreation Conference. This year it will be held on November 19th at the Westchester County Center in White Plains, NY. Additional details are included inside.

And METRO's Annual Membership Meeting will be held November 5, 2008. We hope you can all join us.

So have a wonderful, joyful and colorful fall season!

Debbie Lake
President



UPCOMING EVENTS

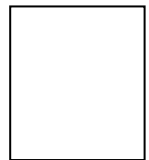
The Metropolitan NY Recreation & Park
Society, Inc.
Annual Membership Meeting & Dinner
November 5, 2008

2008 Annual Downstate
Recreation Conference
Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Leadership and Legacy
New York State Recreation and Park
Society, Inc. 69th Annual Conference and
Business Expo
April 19-22, 2009
At the Hyatt Regency in Hauppauge, LI

The Metropolitan NY Recreation & Park Society, Inc.
Post Office Box 632
Madison Square Station
New York, NY 10159-0632
<http://www.metro-recreation.com>

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**The Metropolitan NY Recreation & Park Society, Inc. Annual Awards Dinner
May 20, 2008 at
The Manhattan Penthouse**

METRO's annual awards dinner was held at the beautiful Manhattan Penthouse on Fifth Avenue at 14th Street.

The venue was lovely with spectacular views of Manhattan. The food was tasty and plentiful and the guests enjoyed themselves.

The honorees were Fran Wallach, posthumously awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award; Isabel Kellerman awarded Professional of the Year; Vermont Systems, Inc. won Corporation of the Year; Jeremy Cash won Special Recognition; Seaside Therapeutic Riding Academy, Inc won Volunteer of the year and Jeffrey Schwartz was given the Student Member Award.

Presidential Citations were given to Ed Raacsh and Charl-Jon Robertson for the service on the Board and Mimi Fierle, Jean Daniels, Bernice Bulat and Theresa Hernandez-Ward for their invaluable assistance in hosting METRO mini-conferences.

There were also two scholarships awarded. Tina Antonucci won the Thomas J. Carroll Memorial Scholarship and Jacqueline Rendon won the Douglas MacArthur Mehserle Scholarship.

The tributes and memories of Fran Wallach moved everyone. And it was touching to hear stories of how she impacted people's lives. She must have been an extraordinary woman. And the student's stories were equally touching. It was an honor to have met them.

It was a fun, friendly & enjoyable event and I hope to see more of you there next year.

SUMMER at PAL

This summer PAL ran 15 Summer Day Camps and 115 "PlayStreets" through the five boroughs of NYC.

PLAYSTREETS

This is a most unique program dating back to the beginning of PAL in the early part of the 20th Century. The original PlayStreets were city blocks that were closed to traffic by the NYPD who provided programs to keep children occupied during the summer. Hopscotch and punch ball courts were painted on the blacktop. For 7 weeks kids played and parents came out to watch. Hydrants were opened and a good time was had by all.

This year PAL had 115 PlayStreets. Each site had two trained recreation leaders plus several teen junior counselors (provided by the NYC SYEP program and trained by PAL). Each site was also visited several times a week by our "specialists" who provided creative arts (crafts) and performing arts (dance). The program culminated with huge borough events that included a parade, sports contests, hands-on arts and crafts and dance performances.

DAY CAMPS

PAL's 15 Summer Day Camps provide a more formal setting with pre-summer registration, daily schedules, tee shirts and camp bags and planned trip days.

Each summer the day camps participate in three citywide planned events:

OLYMPIC DAY

This event is for the 10-13 year olds. It was held in Riverbank State Park on July 31. The events included Track & Field, Softball, Football toss, Volleyball and Double Dutch. The day opened with the parade of the banners with each Day Camp's athletes marching behind a banner made by the participants. The exciting day ended with a ceremony where awards were given for athletic excellence, sportsmanship and for creative arts (the banners).

MINI CARNIVAL

This event was geared for the 6-7 year old campers. It was held at PAL's Harlem Armory (which is an indoor tennis facility).

Each center brought their "Big Book" created by the children and related to the summer theme, "Cruising the Caribbean". The books were put on display and judged by a panel.

There were three rotations for the campers: hands-on arts and crafts (face painting, button making, etc.), Carnival Games and Inflatable Rides. The groups were color coded by rubber bracelets and rotated to each event.

When all the groups had finished all the events, lunch was served. This was followed by a show and awards ceremony for the Big Books.

CULTURAL DAY

This was the event for the 8-9 year old campers. It was based entirely in the summer theme. Each day camp created a booth dedicated to the Caribbean Island they were assigned before the summer and studied in detail throughout the seven weeks of camp.

The day begins with the "Parade of the Islands" with campers in native costumes displaying their hand made banners representing the theme. Then the campers tour the Caribbean by visiting all the booths where they can experience each island history, art, food and culture.

The day ends with a show where each day camp performs a dance from their assigned island. Awards are given for the parade, the booths and the performances.

At the end of each event the tired but happy campers board their busses and head back to their PAL centers. Summer at PAL has something for everyone!!

RECREATIONAL THERAPY LICENSURE IN NEW YORK STATE

Update August 2008

Now Is The Time and The Time is Getting Closer!

As many of you are aware our pursuit for recreational therapy licensure in New York State continues. Our pursuit has been a little over a year now and a lot has happened since the last article.

The Recreational Therapy Licensure Committee has been very hard at work strategizing on getting the licensure bill pass. I am glad to say that our efforts are paying off. We have presented the rationale for RT licensure throughout the state. Presentations at the Therapeutic Recreation Association of Long Island, the New York State Recreation and Parks Society and at the NYSTRA conferences were well received. Future presentations are scheduled in the fall at the Metropolitan New York Recreation and Park Society, Inc. and the Downstate Conferences.

We have also drafted a bill and are waiting for NCTRC 's comments. I am also delighted to say that we have been successful in getting a sponsor for the bill. Assemblyman Rory Lancman from Queens has agreed to sponsor the bill. Despite many of our successes we still have a ways to go, but we are getting closer each time. Once the bill is finally written it will go through a tedious process of getting letters of support from allied health care organizations, securing another sponsor in the Senate, to the Health Committee and then the bill goes to the floor to get voted on. It is our hope that by January 2009 the bill will be ready to be voted on. So timing is so important!

The RT Licensure Committee is asking for your continue support as we continue our journey and reach our final destination. In the meantime I invite you to speak to your colleagues about the importance of licensure and to contact me at 212-539-6366, vincentb@vcny.org or Linda Dianto at 718-876-4747, ldianto@svcmny.org regarding any comments or questions.

Excelsior!

Yours truly,

Vincent Bonadies, MS, CTRS

Linda Dianto, MS, CTRS

NYS RT Licensure Committee Co-Chairs