



March 2, 2016

NYSRPS District Status History

In 1996, the New York State Recreation and Park Society embarked upon a new program that would come to be known as "District Status". The focus of the District Status program was to join NYSRPS with regional recreation affiliates to combine strengths, reduce the duplication of services and further the cohesiveness of New York's leisure service industry. District Status allowed each region to enjoy their own autonomy, while expanding the services offered to their members and alleviating the administrative duties. The program allowed for all members of the local organizations membership in NYSRPS, while NYSRPS members received membership at their local levels. This program laid out options for structuring association districts but did not provide a definitive way for affiliates to formally be recognized as partners with 'District Status'.

After 20 years...

The New York State Recreation & Park Society has realized the District Status program has indeed been a success for both the State Society and the affiliate associations who joined and currently remain. Both Central NY and Genesee Valley Recreation and Park Society have thriving organizations who meet regularly for meetings and professional development opportunities. They provide their local members, both professional and commercial a face-to-face opportunity to meet with fellow associates to network and recognize outstanding service during an Annual Awards luncheon. Keeping the original intent of the District Status program at heart, the process of regional affiliate recognition has been further developed and now formalized with a pathway for partnership that is clear with roles and responsibilities of each party (NYSRPS & affiliate association) defined.

Redefining & Providing

While one may say it is semantics, NYSRPS has decided to rename what has been traditionally termed 'District' to 'Regional Partner'. This recommendation came from the New York State Council of Non-Profits in their observation that the term 'district' typically had an implication of taxation associated with it. Given that, it seemed appropriate at this time of defining the pathway to regional partnership that the name should be redefined as well.

Therefore, what began 20 years ago as a suggested outline is now formally defined, with history and experience as proof a formal partnership now termed 'Regional Partnership' between NYSRPS and its affiliated associations is beneficial to all.

Regional Partnership Benefits

Membership Administration & Reimbursement Policy

- Membership Administration

Perhaps the greatest benefit... is all administrative duties for dual memberships from billing, tracking, collecting and maintaining rosters are the responsibility of the State Society. Quarterly membership reports are given to the Regional Partner's Secretaries and Presidents so changes in membership may be updated. Any membership change known to either Regional Partner or State Society must be given to the other within two weeks of any change being made.

- Reimbursements (see below)

A reimbursement schedule has been defined and guarantees that for each member who resides in the Regional Partner's defined territory, a reimbursement is paid out on a bi-annual basis according to bi-annual membership renewal cycles. Reimbursements are calculated and paid out accordingly on March 1st and September 1st.

Reimbursement Schedule for Regional Partners

Reimbursements will be sent March 1st for January-December membership period and September 1st for August-July membership period.

\$13.00 per Professional, Associate, Commercial, and Agency Member

\$6.00 per Part-time, New Friend, Faculty and Retiree

\$3.00 per Student

Benefits of Regional Partnerships:

All members of NYSRPS enjoy an impressive list of benefits as part of their membership. The following describes the added value of being a member of a Regional Partner.

- One price membership to two organizations. Being a member of a Regional Partner provides membership at the local and state level for one price. This is a drastic cost savings to the individual or agency (if an agency pays for membership).
- Reduced costs of operations for the local organization. The state level will be maintaining membership lists, billing for renewals and reporting membership status to the local organizations.
- Less time on operations- more time developing programs. Since the membership tasks are accomplished at the state level, the local organizations can focus more on program and service development.
- Autonomy with benefits to serve membership with local needs as focus.
- Membership Development- State Society assists recruiting new and retaining members.

NYSRPS Benefits for All Members

Individuals in areas not served by a Regional Partner may join NYSRPS and still reap the benefits of membership. The State Society provides a sense of belonging and unification by joining all members together.

MEMBERS ONLY! Benefits

- Grants and Foundation Funding Opportunities via NYSRPS as a fiscal partner. Since NYSRPS is a 501 C3 not-for-profit organization it has the ability to seek and apply for funding perhaps not available to others without a 501 C status.
- Tax-Exemption Status – Regional Partners and Affiliates may ask NYSRPS to co-sponsor events, giving benefit of tax-exemption for conferences and programs.
- Communications- members stay engaged with current trends and best practices through the variety of communications NYSRPS provides including monthly E-News, bi-annual magazine 'The Voice' and List Serve that enables members to question hundreds of professionals at once about a specific need.
- Networking! Members have access to hundreds of professionals in their field with a click of a button to Membership List or face-to-face at regional and State educational program opportunities.
- Opportunity for active participation and leadership development in the state society. Members are invited to serve on various committees that assist in the operation of the society, as well as being elected to the Executive Board, aiding in the management of the society. This gives the member a chance to earn leadership experience and obtain a broader reach to professionals outside their immediate region.
- Enjoy Partnership Perks! NYSRPS members have access to benefits of belonging to NYSRPS with discounts offered by our Preferred Partners like constant Contact, offering members a 25% annual discount through their Affiliate Program. The Consignment Program also enables members a way to earn a few dollars as well as save their communities with great discounts on park tickets.

- MEMBERS ONLY WEBSITE ACCESS for Employment opportunities and job postings enables members to share staffing needs with qualified applicants across New York State and individuals looking for employment access to all current employment opportunities.
- MEMBERS ONLY WEBSITE ACCESS for educational resources

Win-Win

State Society Benefits from Regional Partnerships

NYSRPS recognizes that a regional organization that is strong, with active members, regular professional development opportunities and an immediate reach to commercial/agency members is a highly-valued resource for the State Society for its many needs including educational programming & conference planning, membership development and retention, involvement on committees and the board and fundraising initiatives to name a few.

NYSRPS seeks to establish a Regional Partner in each area across New York State so that a solid foundation is provided for the State Society to stand strong. It is with the sincere belief that "The Whole is Greater Than the Sum of Its Parts" that NYSRPS will grow, flourish and succeed by the collective efforts of all.

Here is what they are saying-

"Genesee Valley Recreation and Park Society has been a District (now Regional Partner) since the inception of the program. The value of being a partner is both easy to quantify (through the savings in membership fees to the individual or agency), and hard to quantify (time not spent by members perform administrative tasks such as membership recruitment, renewal and retentions)." Jeff Myers, GVRPS Treasurer and Past President.

The New York State Recreation & Park Society Strategic Plan for Regional Partnerships Across NY

With the goal to develop Regional Partners in each area across New York State, NYSRPS will provide direction and guidance with a step-by-step checklist so areas not currently served by a Regional Partner may develop and areas currently served by affiliate organizations considering Regional Partnership Status may take the steps necessary to be approved.

NYSRPS Regions and Counties Within

Adirondack/Lake Champlain (3): Clinton, Essex, Hamilton.

*Capital Region (13): Albany, Columbia, Fulton, Greene, Herkimer, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, Washington.

*Central New York (11): Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, Tioga, Tompkins.

*Genesee Valley (11): Chemung, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming, Yates.

Niagara Frontier (6): Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara, Orleans.

Hudson Valley (6): Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster.

Westchester (1): Westchester

Long Island (2): Naussau, Suffolk.

Metro (5): Bronx, Kings, Queens, New York, Richmond.

**North Country (4): Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence

*Denotes area is served by a Regional Partner

**Denotes area is under development as a Regional Partner

Regional Partners vs. Affiliates

But What Is The Real Difference?

One might ask “What is the real difference between an affiliate organization that has no ties with NYSRPS and a Regional Partner?” While both operate autonomously (typically as non-profit corporations with their own governance), they are significantly different in terms of the benefits received. This mutually beneficial partnership collectively strengthens the foundation upon each were formed- to provide the best support possible for park, recreation and therapeutic recreation professionals.

The Regional Partner Program provides groups and associations the autonomy to operate under their own governance (like affiliates) but in partnership with support and services offered by the State Society. Interested individuals and businesses wanting to join their local park, recreation or therapeutic recreation affiliate essentially join the New York State Recreation and Park Society and are granted automatic membership into their local organization. This dual membership provides newly joined members the immediacy of local resources and opportunities with broader support, resources and opportunities on a State level.

Aren't Affiliates Still Involved With NYSRPS?

Yes. NYSRPS wishes to work collaboratively with affiliates as all share a common purpose- to provide park, recreation and therapeutic recreation professionals with the best support services possible. NYSRPS works with affiliates primarily through educational programs and communications. An example of which is the annual Downstate Conference begun in 1994 to combine strengths of all for a day of professional development and the E-News, which is a vehicle for affiliates to communicate with their members who also belong to NYSRPS.

Petition for Regional Partnership Status

To petition for Regional Partner Status an interested party must provide the following to be considered for Regional Partner status. The purpose of submitting a mission statement, by-laws and constitution is to ensure that the organization's purpose aligns with the purpose of NYSRPS.

1. Proof of Incorporation as a Domestic Not For Profit Corporation with The New York Department of State
2. Mission Statement
3. By- Laws
4. Constitution
5. Signed Regional Partner Acknowledgement



NYSRPS Regional Partner Acknowledgement

This acknowledgement entered into the _____ day of _____, 20____ by and between the New York State Recreation and Park Society, Inc. (NYSRPS) and _____
_____.

The Executive Board of the _____ has read the listing of benefits and procedures of the NYSRPS Regional Partner program and has voted at the _____ (date) meeting to enter the stated association into this partnership. We understand that our association is independent of NYSRPS and that we operate completely separate as our own corporation, fulfilling all legal and financial obligations as mandated by New York state and the federal government. We further understand that the executive board of the above stated association may choose to terminate this partnership at any time with 90 days notice by a subsequent vote of the future executive board, with the understanding that proper notice and explanation has been provided to current members of the Regional Partner. It is further understood that a current copy of the association's By-Laws, reflecting Regional Partnership, be provided with this acknowledgement.

The association stated above agrees to indemnify and hold harmless NYSRPS and its owners, officers, agents, employees, affiliates, partners, general partners, predecessors, successors, and assigns from and against any and all loss, claims, demands, causes of action, injury, death, illness, liabilities, expenses (including attorney's fees) arising from any claim or resulting from negligence or willful misconduct of the association stated above, its' officers, affiliates and partners in the performance of its duties and responsibilities of the agreement. NYSRPS shall have the right to employ its own counsel and to assume its own defense in connection with indemnification.

Official Name of Organization: _____

NYSRPS Region requested to serve _____

*NYSRPS Additional Region(s) requested _____

*In the event an adjacent Region is not formally organized as a Regional Partner, then the petitioning organization may request to serve these areas. It is with the full understanding a future request for Regional Partnership Status by a more local organization to that region may be submitted and accepted. NYSRPS reserves the right to relinquish additional Region(s) originally granted.

Regional Partner Board Members at date of submission (use additional space if needed)

Name

Title

This Regional Partnership Application has been accepted by the following:

Regional Partner Board President
(Print Name)

Regional Partner Board President
(Signature)

Date

NYSRPS Executive Director
(Print Name)

NYSRPS Executive Director
(Signature)

Date