

CRPA Board of Directors - Candidate Biographies

President-Elect *Term January 1, 2027 - December 31, 2028*

Peter Leclerc - Director of Community Services, Town of Suffield

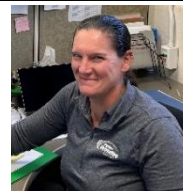
- Peter Leclerc is the Director of Community Services for the Town of Suffield, overseeing Parks & Recreation, the Senior & Community Center, and Mini-Bus Transportation Services.
- Has served on the CRPA Board of Directors since 2021.
- Enjoys working with CRPA staff, Board members, and recreation professionals across Connecticut to share ideas and experiences.
- Has a strong passion for the recreation profession and brings that passion to the development of parks, facilities, programs, and services in Suffield.
- Believes CRPA plays an important role in helping members navigate current challenges and prepare for future issues.
- Supports continued collaboration, advocacy, professional development, and sharing of ideas to strengthen the profession and better serve communities.



Secretary *Term January 1, 2027 - December 31, 2028*

Jessica DiBattista, CPRP, AFO - Recreation Supervisor, East Hartford Parks & Recreation

- Jessica DiBattista CPRP, AFO
- Bachelor of Science; Sports and Leisure Management from Eastern Connecticut State University
- 18 years in the profession:
 - City of Waterbury Bureau of Recreation: Recreation Leader 2008 – 2020
 - City of Waterbury Bureau of Recreation: Recreation Center Director 2020 – 2022
 - East Hartford Parks & Recreation: Recreation Supervisor 2022 - Present
- CRPA Conference Committee 2009 – present
 - Conference Co-Chair 2018 – 2021
 - Silent Auction Chair 2022 – present
 - Aquatics Committee Co-Chair 2023 – present
- CRPA Entertainment Showcase – Volunteer



Treasurer *Term January 1, 2027 - December 31, 2028*

Dale Izzo, EMT, PPRP, WSI - Director, Branford Parks & Recreation

- BS, Northeastern University, Recreation Management/Therapeutic Recreation '92
- PPRP, Provisional Park & Recreation Professional
- Certifications: EMT, CPR, Advanced Life Safety, Lifeguard Certified, WSI, & CRTD
- Director, Branford Parks, Recreation & Senior Services 2025-Present
- Assistant Director, Branford Parks & Recreation, 2003-2025
- Program Coordinator, Branford Parks & Recreation, 1998-2003
- Active Member CRPA, 1999-present
- Past Co-Chair, CRPA Conference
- CRPA Awards Committee, Co-Chair
- CRPA Treasurer, Current
- CRPA Silent Auction Committee
- Branford Festival Corporation President, 2003-2022
- Branford Festival Assistant Treasurer, 2022 - present
- Branford Festival Chair, 2003
- Branford Fireworks Committee Treasurer, 2000-present
- Branford Jazz Co-Founder, Chair, 2008-present
- Branford Holiday Festival, Parade, & Tree Lighting, Founder, Chair, 1999-present
- Branford Juvenile Review Board, Member, 2002-present
- Branford Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking, Committee, 2003-present
- Branford Early Learning Center, Board Member, 2008-2014
- Branford School Readiness Council, Co-Chair, 2013-present
- Branford Sports Hall of Fame, Inductee, 2010
- Branford Rotary Club Paul Harris Fellow Award, 2010
- CPRA Outstanding Professional Award Winner 2024
- Married to Dan Izzo. 2 boys: Eric 21, Tanner 20



Director At Large *Term January 1, 2027 - December 31, 2029*

Samantha Charette, CPRP CPO - Director, Somers Parks & Recreation

- Proponent of lifelong learning and mentoring the next generation of recreation professionals.
- Shares her love for the field with her husband Joshua, who serves as Recreation Supervisor for the Town of Manchester.
- Enjoys dancing, hiking, reading, planning her next Disney trip and keeping up with her rambunctious three-year-old son!
- Dean College, B.A. Dance
- Southern Connecticut State University, M.S. Recreation & Leisure Studies; Recreation Management
- Part Time in Profession since 2004, Full Time in Profession since 2016
- Manchester Recreation (2004-2023); Lifeguard & Swim Instructor
- Walt Disney Parks & Resorts (2013-2014); Recreation Auditor, Lodging Line of Business Professional Internship
- Old Saybrook Parks & Recreation (2014-2016); Program & Facility Assistant
- East Windsor Parks & Recreation (2016-2026); Recreation Lead
- Somers Parks & Recreation (Present); Director of Recreation & Leisure Services
- Certifications: CPRP, CPO, LGI, WSIT, CPR/First Aid Instructor
- CRPA Camp Section Co-Chair from September 2022 to January 2025
- Speaker at Aquatics Academy, Camp College and CRPA Conference
- R. Peter Ledger Young Professional Award, 2022
- NRPA Aquatics Network 2022-Present; Current Chair for 2026-2027
- NRPA Conference Program Committee Member: October 2024 to Present



Geordie Emmanuel, CPRP, AFO - Recreation Supervisor, Glastonbury Parks & Recreation

- Deputy Director of Recreation – Town of East Longmeadow, MA (2019 – 2021)
- Recreation Program Coordinator – Glastonbury Parks and Recreation (2021 – 2025)
- Recreation Supervisor (Aquatics) – Glastonbury Parks and Recreation (2025 – Present)
- Bachelor of Science in Business Management from CCSU
- Master of Science in Recreation Administration from SCSU
- Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP)
- Aquatics Facility Operator (AFO) Certified
- “30 Under 30” Recognition from National Recreation and Parks Association (2021)
- “R. Peter Ledger” Young Professional Award recipient from CRPA (November 2025)
- American Academy of Parks and Recreation Professionals Young Professional Externship (September 2026)
- CAPRA Accreditation Team Member through NRPA (2025 – Present)
- Member of Rocky Hill Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (2024 – Present)
- CRPA Volunteer Experience:
 - Co-Chair and Co-Founder of the CRPA Young Professional Network (2023 – Present)
 - Organizer of CRPA Mentor/Mentee Program (2024 – Present)
 - CRPA Conference Committee Member (2022 – Present)
 - CRPA Conference Committee Co-Chair (2026 – Present)
 - CRPA Conference Subcommittee Chair of Conference Social (2024 – 2025)
 - CRPA Quarterly Committee Member (2022 – Present)



Missy Mendygral Orosz M.S., CPRP, CYSA., CCMO - Director, Monroe Parks & Recreation

- 30 years of professional roles at Hamden Parks and Recreation; Bridgeport Parks and Recreation; Seymour Recreation and in 8th year as the Director of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Monroe.
- Graduate of SCSU-BS in Community Recreation/Physical Education & MS in Recreation Administration.
- Certified Red Cross Lifeguard/WSI Instructor plus was a high school swimming, tennis & basketball coach for over 25 years.
- NRPA member with the distinction of being a CPRP, National Alliance for Youth Sports as a CYSA, CCMO certified with the CT Council of Municipalities.
- Member of CRPA Camp & Aquatics Committees, volunteers at CRPA yearly golf tournament
- Currently CRPA's co-chair of the Directors Network, served a term on CRPA Board of Directors from 2023-2025, led the Directors Roundtable at conference in 2025.

