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## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Buffalo Grove Park District Commissioner Dr. Larry Reiner  
Receives Illinois Association of Park Districts' Honored Professional Award

(Buffalo Grove Park District, Buffalo Grove, IL) - The Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) has named Buffalo Grove Park District Board Commissioner Dr. Larry Reiner the winner of the 2017 Honored Professional Award.

This annual award is presented to a park, recreation, forest preserve or conservation professional who has worked closely with citizens and the IAPD to improve the quality of life for all people in Illinois. The recipient must: 1) Have demonstrated remarkable talents in encouraging local board members to excel as citizen advocates in advance the field of parks and recreation. 2) Have worked above and beyond the call of duty to promote park districts, forest preserves, conservation and/or recreation agencies in their communities and throughout Illinois. 3) Believe in the IAPD mission, and have a history of supporting its endeavors.

In addition to serving as a Park Board Commissioner in Buffalo Grove, Dr. Reiner has been the executive director of the Butterfield Park District since 2010, and prior to that was the executive director of the Northeast DuPage Special Recreation Association

The award was presented on January 19, 2018 during the All-Conference Luncheon at the annual IAPD/IPRA (Illinois Park and Recreation Association) Soaring to New Heights Conference.

"When you look back at Larry's career and everything he has accomplished and done for the field of parks and recreation, it's no surprise that he has been recognized at the state level with this award, said Buffalo Grove Park District executive director, Ryan Risinger. "In addition to his leadership, Larry's knowledge and experience regarding the legislative process and obtaining grant funding, combined with his passion for making sure that veterans and people with disabilities are always considered when creating programs and facilities, makes him such a unique and innovative person in this profession."

Dr. Reiner first joined the Buffalo Grove Park District Board of Commissioners when he was elected in April of 1987, and has been reelected seven times. Since becoming a Park District Commissioner, Dr. Reiner has served as Park Board President seven times, authored many publications, and completed his certification as a Master Board Member. In addition to his work on the Park Board of Commissioners, Dr. Reiner has been the executive director of the Butterfield Park District since 2011; and, he served as the executive director for the Northeast DuPage Special Recreation Association (NEDSRA) for thirty-three years. He was awarded the IAPD Mike Cassidy Commissioner Community Service Award in 2015, the National Recreation and Park Association's State Citizen/Board Member Service Award in 1996; and, in 2001 he was named the Rotary Club of Elmhurst's Man of the Year.

During his tenure as executive director at NEDSRA, Larry's aggressive goals and objectives brought about innovative, needs-based services; and, NEDSRA won two National Gold Medal Awards, and nine IPRA Outstanding/Innovative Program Awards. Larry administered the creation and implementation of the Healthy Minds Healthy Bodies Veterans Initiative that offers services to disabled veterans. This program originally served park districts throughout the collar counties, until it expanded statewide and nationally when Larry formed the AllenForce Veterans Initiative with co-Founder Donna Allen Sebok.

Buffalo Grove Park District Board President, Jack Schmerer said, "Larry is the consummate Park Board Commissioner. He works tirelessly to help improve our park district, and has been a leader and mentor to all of us on the Board. He is always the voice of reason, making sure we look at all sides of an issue before we vote on it; and, he has been a champion for the veterans and people with disabilities in our community. I think it's fair to say that Larry has made a tremendous impact on our Board, the District, and the community."

Dr. Reiner said, "I greatly appreciate the many opportunities that I have had over the years. My tenure with the Buffalo Grove Park District has been very fulfilling. I have had the privilege of serving with outstanding fellow Board members and an incredible staff. My professional work with Butterfield Park District and NEDSRA has helped me be a better person. My oldest brother was an inspiration to me from the time we were little, to give back to the community and help those who may be less fortunate. My entire family has been incredibly supportive. It's an honor that I won't soon forget, and I thank everyone who has guided me and supported me throughout my journey. I hope I have given back at least as much as I have benefited from my 30 years with the Buffalo Grove Park District."

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Attached Photo: Peter Murphy, IAPD President and CEO

Dr. Larry Reiner, Buffalo Grove Park District Commissioner and Executive Director of the Butterfield Park District

Tom Barz, 2017 IAPD Chairman of the Board

