

## **The Energizer Bunny Calls It a Day: Happy Retirement, Lisa-Anne Kenny!**

**By Patty-Pat Kozlowski**

It's 10 p.m. on October 17, 2013, and the Waterfall Room at Swan Caterers in South Philadelphia is winding down. Country crooner Toby Keith is singing his raise-your-drink anthem "Red Solo Cup," and about a dozen Parks & Recreation staffers do just that and raise a well deserved toast to Lisa-Anne Kenny on her retirement after 37 years of service to the Department.

They surround her in a circle, the women who not only worked by her side these past four decades but also served on her retirement party committee: Maryellen Brogan, Diane Daly, Anne Marie Dunne, Terri Kerwawich, Patty McCole, Donna McKinney, Kathleen Muller, Beth Perkowski, Christine Reilly, Eileen Sheridan and Lisa Whittle serenade her as her coworkers and family snap pictures and laugh at the impromptu karaoke performance; a great ending to a night full of accolades and appreciation for Lisa-Anne Kenny.

Nicknamed "The Energizer Bunny" and "Tinkerbell," Kenny was lauded as a staffer who gave 150% and was on the ball 24/7.

Lisa-Anne Kenny began her career with the Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation first blowing the whistle in 1976 as a Lifeguard I at Hillside Recreation Center. One summer later, she was promoted to Lifeguard II and then became an Assistant Recreation Leader while at Hillside Rec.

In 1984, she laced up her ice skates and became an Indoor Rink Attendant at Tarken Ice Rink where she figured-eighted until 1987 when she became a Recreation Leader 1 and was assigned to McDevitt Recreation Center.

1993 brought her to Markward Playground as a Recreation Leader II and four years later, she was promoted to Recreation Leader III at Simons Rec Center, which was under renovation and she was deployed to Hillside, Pleasant Playground and Water Tower Rec Center.

In 2000, she became the Youth Access Center Supervisor at Simons, and two years later in 2002 she was deployed to the Mann Older Adult Center and became the Older Adult Center Director.

She was promoted to District Manager in 2003 and managed District 10 in South Philadelphia and then District 8 in West Philadelphia in 2004. Kenny found herself back where it all began, Hillside Rec Center, in 2005 as Tot Rec Coordinator when budget cuts crippled the Philadelphia Rec Department.

In 2006, she was back as District Manager in South Philly's District 7 and then was transferred to Northwest Philadelphia to manage District 4 in 2007. That same year, she was assigned to Parks and Rec headquarters at 1515 Arch Street as Temporary Program Director and then returned to Northwest's District 4.

Her final assignment deployed her in District 1, overseeing Northeast Philadelphia where she retires after 37 years of dedicated service with the City of Philadelphia Department of Parks & Recreation.

With almost four decades of service in Parks & Rec, Kenny pioneered several initiatives and programs throughout her career. In 1993, she created the Kids Fun Program, of which she became Director. She was a Trainer for CPR and First Aid Instruction, training approximately 100 staffers last year. Her work with the Health Department created the Parks & Rec Department infectious disease handbook, and her experience in CPR and First Aid deployed her as a health advisor on the Health & Safety Committee.

She is an Executive Committee Member of the Broad Street Run and Senior Games, as well as Director of Tumbling and Gymnastics in the Department. She is an active member of the statewide Pennsylvania Recreation & Parks Society.

Congratulations to Lisa-Anne Kenny, and we wish her all the best in her well deserved retirement!