



Awards of Distinction

Category:

Outstanding
Board
Member

CARPD Awards of Distinction Outstanding Board Member - Nominee



Outstanding Board Member - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any individual servicing as Board Member for at least one term of office (4 years) whose significant contributions have benefited their District.

Nominee: George Galt

District: Boulder Creek Recreation & Park District

District Submission:

George Galt exemplifies the very best of public service, leadership, and community stewardship. For over **24 years of dedicated service on the Boulder Creek Recreation & Park District (BCRPD) Board**, George has consistently demonstrated integrity, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to the community he serves. His presence has shaped not only the direction of the District, but also the culture of respect, collaboration, and gratitude that defines it today.

George is, quite simply, one of the most well-spoken, even-tempered, and thoughtful leaders one could hope to work alongside. As Board Chair, he has an exceptional ability to **keep discussions productive and focused**, while maintaining a light-hearted and welcoming tone. He leads with calm confidence, always finding something kind and constructive to say—even in the most challenging moments. His leadership style invites participation, encourages diverse perspectives, and makes community members feel genuinely heard and respected.

Over his tenure, George has played a critical role in some of the most significant milestones in BCRPD's history. He was instrumental in the **creation of KBCZ Community Radio**, helping guide the vision of a station that now serves as a powerful voice for local connection and creativity. He supported the **purchase of the Bear Creek Community Center district facility**, a decision that helped leverage **over one million dollars in grant funding**, strengthening the District's long-term sustainability and impact. George was also deeply involved in the **development of the District's Master Plan** and the creation of the **BCRPD Foundation 501(c)(3)**—both of which continue to provide structure, vision, and financial support for the community.

Equally important is George's role as a **steady and trusted presence during times of conflict or concern**. When community issues have arisen, he has consistently been the voice of reason and empathy—helping keep the peace, de-escalate tensions, and guide conversations toward solutions rooted in respect and understanding.

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Beyond board meetings and policy work, George is someone who **shows up**. He can be found at District events, volunteering alongside staff and neighbors with a smile, a positive attitude, and a willingness to do whatever work is needed. His leadership is not performative—it is hands-on, humble, and deeply genuine.

Perhaps most remarkable is George’s steadfast grace through personal hardship. Even through the passing of his wife and many transitions in his own life, he has remained dependable, present, and generous with his time and spirit. Gratitude is not just a value he speaks of—it is something he lives. George leads with quiet wisdom, patience, and compassion, embodying the kind of service that inspires others to be better.

George Galt is the kind of leader who leaves a lasting imprint not through recognition sought, but through trust earned. His contributions to BCRPD and the Boulder Creek community are immeasurable, and his character sets a standard to which others aspire. It is a privilege to know him, to work with him, and to learn from him.

For his 24 years of exemplary service, his transformative impact, and his extraordinary humanity, George Galt is profoundly deserving of recognition as an **Outstanding Board Member**.

District Contact Name: Hallie Greene
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Outstanding Board Member - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any individual servicing as Board Member for at least one term of office (4 years) whose significant contributions have benefited their District.

Nominee: Chuck Huffer

District: Conejo Recreation & Park District

District Submission:



Summary of Nomination

By way of background, Chuck Huffer is a retired Financial Planner, who has been an active, engaged volunteer in the Conejo Valley for decades. Chuck has been an AYSO coach, Board member, and now referee for more than 30 years. He has been a Kiwanian for over 10 years, serving as President in 2018, and has been a volunteer with the Conejo Senior Volunteer Tax Program for almost ten years. For more thorough background.

Sometimes it takes years, or even decades, to see the impact of a decision. Chuck was first elected to the CRPD Board in 2014 and was chosen to be on the Finance and Audit Committee. CRPD had just created its first Financial Reserves Policy and Chuck advocated to deliberately and methodically address PERS unfunded liabilities. Thanks to Chuck's background in finance and his work on CRPD's Finance and Audit Committee and on the Board itself, CRPD created a policy to save any "budget to actual" savings of employee salary and benefits each year and allocate it to a Pension and OPEB reserve fund, eventually transferring funds into IRC 115 Trusts. After ten years of savings, CRPD has 106% of the funds set aside to address its actuarial unfunded liabilities for its CalPERS pension and OPEB liabilities.

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Chuck served as Chair during the final three public hearings associated with the transition of "at-large" to "by-division" elections. Of the various new division maps, the most vocal community support was for a map which placed Chuck and another CRPD Director in the same division. And, even though Chuck would likely have to face a friend, colleague, and fellow CRPD Board member should he run in a future CRPD election, Chuck helped guide the Board into unanimously supporting a "by-division" election map.

Director Huffer is a past Board member of AYSO Region 9 and was on the citizens committee to help design and create the Master Plan for the Conejo Creek Park Complex (at Janss/23 Fwy), which includes a variety of park amenities, most notably the large soccer complex known as Conejo Creek South. AYSO Region 9 remains the single largest private sector donor to CRPD park improvements - - - having raised and donated over \$2 million toward improvements at Conejo Creek South. While on the AYSO Board, Chuck was a strong advocate for working cooperatively and collaboratively with CRPD to meet the needs of the community. Chuck volunteers throughout the year as a referee for AYSO - - - including its adult league.

As a Kiwanian, Chuck encouraged Kiwanians to support the TO Police Department and CRPD's efforts to reach out and serve kids living in an at-risk and underserved community. Kiwanians have been big supporters financially and with volunteers of CRPD's "Homework Club" at 850 Warwick and the growing "Safe Passages" program serving low-income and underserved kids and communities throughout the Conejo Valley in a variety of ways.

Chuck was crowned the 2026 Community Conscience Mardi Gras Ball King. Community Conscience wrote the following: *"Chuck is being honored as the King of the Mardi Gras Ball for his extensive volunteer work in the Conejo Valley. Since 1990, he has been involved with the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), the Kiwanis Club of Thousand Oaks, the Conejo Recreation & Park District Board, the Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency Board and the Conejo Senior Volunteer Program's Free Income Tax Program."*

For decades, CRPD has had a volunteer program for seniors. Originally, it was a federally supported as the "Retired Senior Volunteer Program." However, about 12 years ago the program dropped the federal support and is now funded by local tax dollars and donations and was rebranded as the "Conejo Senior Volunteer Program.

Chuck shines as a volunteer in the Conejo Senior Volunteer Program. Get this: Chuck volunteers to do taxes. Other people's taxes! CRPD's CSVP Tax Preparation Program is an IRS-supported program. Last year, CSVP volunteers prepared over 2,500 income tax returns for free to those over 60 or anyone earning under \$67,000. Chuck has been doing this for nine years now. His volunteer season starts with 80 hours of IRS volunteer training in January. Then, from February - April, Chuck volunteers multiple days/weeks in virtually all of the volunteer roles ... as a tax preparer, an onsite coordinator, and a tax reviewer. The rest of the year, Chuck is on-call to address any IRS questions regarding particular returns or to offer tax counseling.

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Most of this tax volunteer work is done inside the community room at the Conejo Creek South Soccer Fields. Staff has a theory that Chuck is so dedicated to the Conejo Creek South Soccer Fields that he doesn't even realize that AYSO and the IRS are actually two different things; he just thinks he is still just volunteering for soccer.

District Contact Name: Jim Friedl
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Outstanding Board Member - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any individual servicing as Board Member for at least one term of office (4 years) whose significant contributions have benefited their District.

Nominee: Brian Danzl

District: Cordova Recreation & Park District

District Submission:



Summary of Nomination

Brian Danzl has demonstrated exceptional leadership, dedication and service as a member of the Cordova Recreation & Park District Board since 2010. Over more than 15 years of continuous service, including three terms as Board Chair (2014, 2020 and 2024), Director Danzl has played a critical role in shaping the District's growth, strategic direction and long-term success.

Director Danzl is a highly engaged and supportive leader who is consistently present at District meetings, programs and community events. His visible involvement reflects a deep commitment to understanding and connecting with the community the District serves. He fosters strong, collaborative relationships with fellow Board members, the General Manager and District staff, creating a positive and effective leadership environment.

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One of Director Danzl's greatest strengths is his ability to think creatively and strategically. He brings fresh ideas and forward-thinking perspectives to Board discussions, continually seeking innovative approaches to enhance programs, services and community experiences. At the same time, his deep institutional knowledge provides valuable context for decision-making. His long tenure allows him to draw on historical insight, ensuring that current and future strategies are grounded in a clear understanding of the District's evolution.

Director Danzl's leadership has directly contributed to significant milestones and achievements. During his time on the Board, the District has opened 14 new parks, expanding access to recreation and open space for the community. He played an important role in advancing key initiatives, including the successful passage of Measure J in 2016, the opening of the Cordova Community Pool in 2021, the adoption of the Municipal Service Review Update in 2023 and the District's Optimized Plan in 2024. These efforts provide a strong foundation for sustainable growth, operational excellence and long-term planning.

In addition to his service at the District level, Director Danzl has contributed to regional leadership through his role on the California Association of Recreation and Park Districts (CARPD) Board since 2019, serving as Board President for FY23-24, and as the District's representative on the Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission's Special District Advisory Committee for over 5 years. These roles reflect his commitment to advancing parks and recreation beyond the local level.

Director Danzl is also recognized for his strong communication skills and community-minded leadership approach. He connects authentically with residents, listens to community needs and effectively shares the District's vision and accomplishments. His ability to inspire others and articulate a clear path forward has strengthened community trust and engagement.

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Through his adaptability, strategic mindset and unwavering commitment to public service, Brian Danzl has made a lasting and meaningful impact on the Cordova Recreation & Park District. His leadership continues to guide the District toward a strong, innovative and sustainable future, making him exceptionally deserving of the Outstanding Board Member Award.

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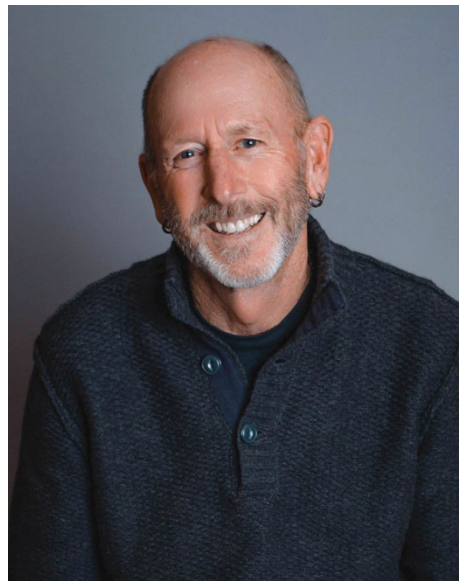
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Criteria: Honors any individual servicing as Board Member for at least one term of office (4 years) whose significant contributions have benefited their District.

Nominee: John O'Farrell

District: Fair Oaks Recreation & Park District

District Submission:



Summary of Nomination

The Fair Oaks Recreation & Park District proudly nominates John O'Farrell for the California Association of Recreation and Park Districts' 2026 Individual Award for Outstanding Board Member in recognition of his more than 54 years of public service, exceptional leadership, and lasting contributions to the Fair Oaks community.

John has served on the Fair Oaks Recreation & Park District Board of Directors since 2006, including multiple terms as Chairman and Vice Chair. Throughout nearly two decades on the Board, he has provided steady, principled leadership and has played a central role in guiding the District through complex policy decisions, organizational growth, and major capital investments.

Prior to his service with the District, John dedicated 34 years to Sacramento County, retiring in 2004 after serving in senior administrative roles, including County Administrator. He

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holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration, and his career in public service provided him with deep expertise in government operations, public policy, and intergovernmental relations. This experience has been invaluable to a small park district operating within complex county and state regulatory environments.

Following his retirement, John founded John O'Farrell & Associates, a consulting firm specializing in project management, governmental relations, policy development, land use, and entitlement processes. His professional knowledge continues to benefit the District and the broader community, and his insight has been relied upon heavily by District leadership, including the District Administrator, to navigate challenging projects and policy matters.

John has also demonstrated leadership beyond the Board by serving on the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District Foundation, including in roles as Chair and Vice Chair, helping advance the Foundation's mission to support District programs and long-term sustainability.

One of John's most impactful contributions was his service on the Measure J Committee, which helped secure 68.9% voter approval for a General Obligation Bond that transformed parks and recreation facilities throughout Fair Oaks.

John O'Farrell's lifelong commitment to public service, thoughtful leadership, and dedication to community stewardship exemplify the highest standards of board governance. He is highly deserving of CARPD's Outstanding Board Member Award.

District Contact Name: Mike Aho
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Outstanding Board Member - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any individual servicing as Board Member for at least one term of office (4 years) whose significant contributions have benefited their District.

Nominee: Crystal Harding-Jenkins

District: North Highlands RPD

District Submission:

Now serving her second board term (2020–2024, 2024–2028), Crystal Harding-Jenkins is a committed ambassador and advocate for the district. She and her family are deeply engaged in district programs, events, and activities, and she actively utilizes social media to strengthen community connections, promoting the district’s pages, website, and scholarship programs.

Crystal has played a key role in building relationships with elected officials, participating in legislative visits with **CPRS in 2024**. During her first term, she served as **board chair, vice chair, and secretary**, showcasing her leadership. She also led the food and vendor subcommittee for **Celebrate North Highlands**, securing participation from over 80 organizations.

A dedicated lifelong learner, Crystal completed the **Special District Leadership Academy** in 2022 and has accumulated over 60 hours of training, sharing valuable insights and resources with the team. She regularly attends the CARPD Annual Conference to broaden her base of knowledge in all things Parks and Recreation Special Districts. She also represented **NHRPD** on **LAFCO’s Special District Advisory Committee** and was featured on the **Institute for Local Government’s (ILG) YouTube platform**, promoting leadership and training programs.

District Contact Name: Scott Graham
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Outstanding Board Member - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any individual servicing as Board Member for at least one term of office (4 years) whose significant contributions have benefited their District.

Nominee: Joanna McVay

District: North Highlands Recreation and Park District

District Submission:

For over a decade, Joanna McVay has been a dedicated board member, demonstrating unwavering commitment to her community. As a successful business owner for nearly 40 years, she has developed impactful programs for children, youth, adults, and seniors—ensuring accessibility and inclusivity for all. This year, she proudly celebrates an incredible milestone: 40 years in business!

Beyond her leadership in the district, Joanna’s influence extends across generations. Over the years, she has taught thousands of children in dance and gymnastics, shaping their confidence, discipline, and skills. Her legacy continues as she now teaches the children of her former students, creating a profound sense of continuity and mentorship within the community. She remains a guiding force, supporting and mentoring those she once taught, fostering a lasting impact that spans decades.

Her contributions to the Highlands, Rio Linda, and the greater Sacramento region have made a lasting impact. Joanna’s leadership as a board member, including multiple terms as chair and vice chair, reflects her deep dedication. She also played a pivotal role in Celebrate North Highlands, chairing the entertainment subcommittee and bringing her creativity and vision to the event’s success.

Joanna’s passion for service, mentorship, and leadership continues to shape the community, ensuring a lasting legacy for generations to come.

District Contact Name: Scott Graham
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Outstanding Board Member - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any individual servicing as Board Member for at least one term of office (4 years) whose significant contributions have benefited their District.

Nominee: Patrick Williams

District: North Highlands Recreation and Park District

District Submission:

For the past nine years, Patrick Williams has been a steadfast member of the NHRPD Board, including four years as Board Chairperson, where he has provided strong leadership and unwavering support to the district. His dedication extends far beyond governance—Patrick has consistently contributed resources, attended programs and events, and fostered a spirit of community engagement.

Patrick and his wife, Pam, have brought joy to countless families by volunteering as Mr. and Mrs. Claus at district holiday events, embodying the giving spirit that defines their service. His commitment to the district is matched by his deep roots in the community—a true Highlander, Patrick grew up in the area, graduated locally, raised his family here, and continues to give back in meaningful ways.

A retired Peace Officer, Patrick's service as a Chaplain has had a profound and lasting impact on the region. His compassionate guidance and support bring immense value to those in need, reinforcing his role as a trusted and respected community leader.

Beyond his work with NHRPD, Patrick is also dedicated to youth development, serving on the board for the Antelope Highlands/North Highlands Youth Soccer Club. Through his leadership, mentorship, and community involvement, Patrick continues to shape a stronger, more connected, and thriving district.

District Contact Name: Scott Graham
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Outstanding Board Member - Nominee

Criteria: Honors any individual servicing as Board Member for at least one term of office (4 years) whose significant contributions have benefited their District.

Nominee: Al McGreehan

District: Paradise Recreation and Park District

District Submission:



Summary of Nomination

I wanted to nominate on behalf of the Paradise Recreation and Park District, our Board Chair, Al McGreehan, for CARPD's Outstanding Board Member.

Mr. McGreehan began his service as a Board Member in 1993 and has served continuously with outstanding leadership ever since. He has served in numerous board roles multiple times and is our current Chair. Al brings a keen professional understanding of local government and planning, as he served over 35 years in planning and community development in Northern California in Plumas County and the Town of Paradise. Other agencies have benefited from Al's long service including CARPD and Butte County LAFCO.

Al has provided steady leadership and support after the Camp Fire to the district and community in a planning and recovery role. On a personal note, I appreciate his clear-eyed judgement, historical context, scrutiny of details, and commitment to providing a voice for community members.

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Al is a true supporter of recreation and enjoys several activities such as softball, running, golf and others. He is also an advocate for youth involvement and donates funds that benefit youth sports and swim scholarships.

On behalf of the District, I wanted to honor and acknowledge Al's outstanding service and contribution to our community (both recreation and locally) for over 33 years!

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