



Western DuPage Special Recreation Association (WDSRA)
www.wdsra.com

Equal Fun For Everyone

For Immediate Release

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TROOP DRAMA DIRECTOR RETIRES AFTER 26 YEARS

Setting the Scene

Twenty six years ago WDSRA was approached with an idea to bring the magic of the full theater experience to the special needs population. The very first production, Rumpelstiltskin, was long on narration, short on scenes, and had several prompters feeding lines. The show was a hit and TROOP was on its way to a 26 year run.

Over the years, things have changed. The narrations have gotten shorter, the scenes have gotten longer, there is only one prompter, and many dedicated volunteers make this production possible.



The Director

After directing 52 performances, Norm Engstrom, one of the founders and the director, is retiring. By day, Engstrom is an instructor for the Illinois Valley Community College.

“It has been an amazing 26 years and I have learned an incredible amount both personally and professionally,” says Engstrom. “We have watched participants grow in confidence and social skills, each on their own personal level. And we have had a lot of fun presenting theatrical productions for appreciative audiences”.

TROOP is the Theater Recreation Outreach Opportunity Program offered through WDSRA for individuals with special needs since 1990. The program centers on the participants and not the performance or the audience. Engstrom finds a way to involve everyone who signs up. He makes sure that they are able to contribute in any way they are comfortable.



Supporting Cast

Volunteers Sue Novicki, Shar Mulcahey, Laura Plemich, and Robin Cadena are steadfast partners who have working diligently for years alongside Engstrom on everything from

costumes, scenery, and props to working with the actors every season to make this one of WDSRA's most popular performance-based events.

AND of course the dozens of adults with special needs that have worked with Norm over the past 26 years!

Final Call

Though the curtain has closed on Norm's final performance with WDSRA, there will be a luncheon in his honor Saturday, April 16th at Arrowhead Gold Club, Wheaton. *Note: The luncheon is a closed event, but if you would like to join us as part of your story coverage, please contact me.*

*We would like to send Norm off with a chance to tell his story.
We can arrange interviews with him, his longtime volunteers,
our participants and give you access to the luncheon.*

Photos—more available upon request

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WDSRA

Western DuPage Special Recreation Association (WDSRA) provides engaging, community-based recreational programs and inclusion services for children, teens, and adults with special needs. WDSRA offers Special Olympics, adapted sports, dance and art programs, camps, trips, special events, and more. WDSRA's mission, the development of individuals through recreation, makes it possible for the more than 4,500 individuals served to grow personally, connect with their community and discover their potential.

WDSRA is an award winning organization and a cooperative extension of nine park districts serving the communities of Bloomingdale, Carol Stream, Glen Ellyn, Naperville, Roselle, Warrenville, West Chicago, Wheaton, and Winfield.

Thank you for your consideration!

Get to know WDSRA all over again through our video at www.wdsra.com. Hear why parents are calling WDSRA 'exceptional and rare'!