

Ramapo athletic coordinator Alan Malden retiring after 44 years

After 44 years of service in the East Ramapo Central School District, Valley Cottage's Alan Malden is throwing in the towel as the Athletic Coordinator at Ramapo High School.

"I think it's well deserved," said Cathy Malden, his wife. "He was very dedicated to everything that he did, but he felt it was time."

Malden, who spent 13 years in athletics and was formerly the school's Dean before the position was eliminated, decided he was ready when he found himself teaching a full course-load again. Despite his passion for teaching history, he knew it was time for a change.

"I look back and I feel that everybody should be as lucky as I was," said Malden, who received his Masters from New Paltz in the 1970's. "I enjoyed going to work, being with my colleagues, and the athletes. I tell people now to enjoy the ride because time flies by very quickly when you're doing what you love."

Upon graduating from Gorton High School in 1968, Malden received two job offers that have led him to where he is now.

While one of them was at Deerkill Day Camp – where he is currently a Director – the other was at Kakiat Junior High, where he would later coach football, wrestling, and softball.

"I always enjoyed watching and playing sports, and this way it got me involved," Malden said. "As a teacher you always want to do more than teach. I loved the competition and the thrill."

After Kakiat became the Ramapo Freshman Center in 1999, Malden took on the responsibility as Athletic Coordinator of the high school and as a member of the Championship/Merger Committee for Section 1.

During this time, he would work extensively with Spring Valley Athletic Coordinator Bill Pilla to help align both programs as part of the East Ramapo District.

"I was a younger guy trying to change the world, and there's Alan who's been around the block," said Pilla, who became closer with Malden after getting the chance to coach two of his three sons at Spring Valley. "He has such a way about him, like a wisdom, and I found his approach always got whatever we needed or wanted. I learned so much from him and was able to appreciate how he carried himself all the time."

While Malden is sad to leave the staff and his student-athletes, he is excited to spend more time with his wife and family, who also work as educators at Deerkill.

"To retire completely and do nothing would not be in my best interest or make me happy," Malden said. "All of these years when school ended, camp started, and when camp ended, school started. From September to December this year I plan on relaxing, going to games, and finally kicking back for a while."