



## Alex Nomejko

*A love and deep appreciation for family, and those who are "like family," defines Alex Nomejko, the director of banquets and membership at the Trenton Country Club (trentoncc.com).*

**W**hen Alex was a boy growing up in Trenton, he lived with his brother, sister and parents in one room above Rosati's Bar. His father worked at Trenton Potteries, his grandfather was a city fireman and his grandmother and uncle ran the bar.

On Sunday mornings, after returning from church, Alex and about 25 members of his extended family would gather for breakfast before cleaning the bar. During the week, Alex would return home from Cathedral Grammar School, buy a bundle of newspapers at the Times and head over to one of the state buildings to sell them. It wasn't what you'd call an easy life, but it helped shape the man Alex would become.

He graduated from St. Anthony's High School (now Trenton Catholic Academy) and Mercer County Community College before enlisting in the service. As a communications specialist with the U.S. Air Force, Alex's first assignment was a full year—365 days, to the hour—in Vietnam.

When he returned to the States, he spent the rest of his commitment in Arizona and then he came back home to Trenton where he worked as a communications specialist with the N.J. State Police for a short time before beginning a sales career with the Seven Up Company. Eventual-

ly, Alex moved over to Pepsi-Cola for twelve years where he started in sales and ended as a space-to-sales analyst and operations manager. During this time, Alex met and married his wife, Maria, and they moved from Trenton to Ewing, where they have lived for the last fifteen years.

In 1999, Alex's life changed dramatically when he took a new part-time job as a banquet captain at the Trenton Country Club (TCC) to earn a little extra money. In 2004, he became membership director, and using his vast sales experience, he made some very savvy suggestions that helped TCC move in a new direction and become the area's "family club of choice." In 2006, TCC asked Alex to join them full-time and he decided that even though he would miss his work with Pepsi, it was the right move. Last year, he took on the additional role of director of banquets.

An incredibly energetic man with a zest for life, Alex is in his glory planning everything from six-person business meetings, to children's parties, to weddings for 300, to golf outings and charity events. When Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny arrive on the scene, it's really Alex all decked out in costume and ready to delight the over 500 children he considers part of his family.

In addition to belonging to the Club Managers Association of America and the Professional Club Marketing Association, Alex serves on the board of the New Jersey Tennis League of Trenton (njtloftrenton.com). "My dad always told me that if I have an opportunity to give back to the city of Trenton, I should take advantage of it," he says. "I did my homework and discovered that NJTL—whose mission is "to strengthen character and enhance lives by providing opportunities through tennis, education and nutrition"—supports over 1,700 kids from the greater Trenton area. I asked TCC's board of directors to open up the club and host an annual tennis tournament and they embraced the opportunity." NJTL was thrilled with TCC's offer, though it's unlikely that either group could foresee the tournament's potential for success. In 2003, the tourney raised \$1,500 for NJTL; this year, they raised \$35,000.

Recently, Alex received the Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce Recognition Award. "It was a complete and happy surprise," he admits. "The Chamber is a great organization with great people. TCC supports them as often and as much as we can and I consider it both a business and a family relationship. They know they can call me for whatever reason and if I can get it done for them, I will."

That can-do spirit sums up who Alex is—someone who takes care of others and treats them like family. Brushing aside any words of praise, Alex says, "When you enjoy something you do as much as I enjoy taking care of the 1100+ TCC members, staff, outside functions, etc., there's no time element involved. I am blessed to have a wonderful relationship with my manager, John Case, and work in a healthy, happy environment where, as our chef would say, 'It's all good. I mean it when I say that I can't wait to get to work each day.'"

And when Alex arrives home, he looks forward to a warm greeting from Maria and their two shih tzus, Bianca and Gianni—the three loves of his life. ■