



The Jerry S. Walls Planning Professional Development Award

Promoting Achievement in Community Planning
and Supporting Professional Planners
in the Pursuit of their Professional Development



American Planning Association
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

The Jerry S. Walls Planning Professional Development Award

About the Award and Award Criteria

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association encourages the pursuit of professional development through the administration of the **Jerry S. Walls, FAICP Planning Professional Development Award**. One scholarship in the amount of \$2,000.00 is awarded annually to a Pennsylvania applicant who demonstrates commitment in the field of community planning, involvement in public sector planning, and a desire to enhance their expertise and/or develop new skills.

Jerry S. Walls, FAICP, started his planning career in Maryland working for the State, then for the City of Ypsilanti, Michigan after U.S. Army service in Viet Nam, and then as Executive Director/CEO of the Lycoming County Planning Commission, Williamsport, PA for 38 years, for a total career employment of 44 years. Although officially retired, he continues today as a part-time Expert Witness on zoning issues, Policy and Training Consultant to the County Planning Directors Association of PA, and Mediator of Land Use and Environmental Issues.

Jerry also serves as a volunteer citizen and Board Chairman of the 8 county SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority, which owns and operates 5 shortline freight railroads. He also was a founding organizer and is currently Chairman of the Board of the 22 county Susquehanna Greenway Partnership. As one of the founding organizers Jerry was elected the first President of the County Planning Directors Association of PA. Jerry served 11 years on the State Solid Waste Advisory Committee. He has conducted workshops and training for the PA Local Government Training Partnership (DCED, PSATS, PSAB, CCAP), PMPEI, and for Penn State University. He has been an active member the American Planning Association PA Chapter and its predecessor American Institute of Planners, serving on the Legislative Committee. Other volunteer citizen service includes the PA Wilds Planning Team Partner At Large, Pine Creek Watershed Council Partner At Large, and Public Art Academy Board Chairman for two terms.

Jerry's planning career has been devoted to understanding and pursuit of the public interest through enlightened planning and implementation of plans for community betterment. Education is the key to understanding the public interest, and to inspire the pursuit of excellence.

It is the intention of this award to:

1. Encourage professional planners to pursue professional development for their personal pursuit of excellence, and thereby
2. Enable a strong commitment to community betterment
3. Encourage deliberate Professional Development Plans

As a result, the PA Chapter of APA intends to provide the recipients of the Jerry S. Walls, FAICP Planning Professional Development Award with an educational stipend that can be spent to further their continuing education. Personal professional development plans will be requested with all applications for this award and will be reviewed by a panel of judges.

The award may or may not cover all expenses associated within the professional development plan, but may be used to cover any portion of the recipient's costs. Professional development may or may not include a degree-seeking program. If not already a member of AICP, applicants are encouraged to consider educational pursuits that will assist them in obtaining AICP certification. Professional development that would qualify include graduate or undergraduate planning-related classes (with a preference to those offered by Planning Accreditation Board programs, such as those provided at the University of Penn, Temple University, and Indiana University of Pennsylvania), in-depth training on planning-related topics such as but not limited to charrettes and mediation, planning-related workshops such as those offered through APA's Planners Training Service, or other training relevant to the professional development of professional planner.

Judging will include review of the individual's professional development plan, as well as consideration of career-related experience. Applicants with a sound plan for professional development who can demonstrate that the plan will be pursued will be considered favorably. Individuals currently enrolled in professional development classes or programs will be considered favorably.

Recipients are eligible to receive a second award after accepting the first award, if need can be demonstrated.

Specific application requirements are noted below. Review these materials thoroughly before applying for the award. Questions regarding the award program and guidelines should be addressed in writing to PA Chapter of APA, 587 James Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17112-2273 or via email sshermer@shermer-assoc.com. **The recipient of the award will be announced on the PA Chapter website and in the Vantage Point newsletter, and at the Annual Conference in the autumn. The Award will be distributed in late 2014.**

Application Requirements

All applications must include:

1. Applicants *must* submit a signed Award Application.
2. Applicants *must* submit a Resume, not to exceed four pages.
3. Applicants *must* submit a Narrative explaining how the applicant meets each of the eligibility criteria for the award, not to exceed three pages.
4. Applicants *may* submit letters of recommendation that confirm the level of commitment by the applicant toward pursuit of the objectives of this award, not to exceed three pages.
5. Applicants *may* submit additional documentation to illustrate any material referenced in the above criteria, not to exceed 15 pages.

Requirements of all applications:

One collated set of the application and all supporting material must be submitted in hard copy and electronically in PDF format. The PA Chapter of APA is not responsible for copying, assembling, or collating submission material.

Eligibility:

The following criteria will be applied to the review of applications and must be directly addressed in the Narrative:

Employment Status:

The Jerry S. Walls, FAICP Planning Professional Development Award is open to all professional planners associated and/or employed with community planning agencies within Pennsylvania or holding a planning position with other agencies and organizations, the activities of which are relevant to planning for the community. Planners not currently employed, but who can demonstrate prior employment meeting these criteria, are eligible for consideration.

Support of Planning: To what extent has the Applicant's work demonstrated an interest in planning principles and the planning process?

Effectiveness/Results: To what extent has the Applicant been effective in the formulation and implementation of plans and ideas, and thus furthered the understanding of community planning and its application?

Professional Development Plan: What are the Applicant's plans to further his/her education in the practice of planning? What is the course of study planned for the Applicant that would merit this award? Please include institution/organization name, contact person, course title(s), anticipated start date, and anticipated completion. Applicants must be prepared to utilize the award within a two year time period.

Application Submission and Review

Submission Deadline: Completed application materials must be postmarked or emailed by August 29, 2014. Electronic submission is preferred. This is a firm deadline and will not be extended. Materials received after that date will not be accepted. Submissions become the property of PA Chapter of APA and will not be returned.

Review: A jury of PA Chapter members will determine the recipient of the award. Individuals may not attempt to influence or affect the outcome of the jury process. Any communication with jurors on behalf of an applicant is prohibited. Any such communication is reason for disqualification.

**Jerry S. Walls Planning
Professional Development Award
2014 Application**

**Deadline: Completed application materials must be postmarked or emailed by August 29, 2014. Electronic submission is preferred at sshermer@shermer-assoc.com
Send materials to: PA Chapter of APA, 587 James Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17112-2273**

Applicant name _____
(First, Middle Initial, Last)
of _____
(Name of Organization)

for the Jerry S. Walls, FAICP, Planning Professional Development Award.

Contact Information for the Applicant:

First and Last Name _____
Title _____
Organization _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
County _____
Phone (please include area codes and extensions) _____
Mobile Phone _____
Email address _____

I certify that my application meets all eligibility guidelines to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any entry that fails to meet requirements may be disqualified.

Signature of Applicant

Date