

# THE VANTAGE POINT



American Planning Association  
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association

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PHOTO CREDIT: BARB SELLERS

## Ensuring a Place for Forests in Pennsylvania Communities

By Paul J. Solomon and Jeanne M. Riley

Pennsylvania's forests occupy seventeen (17) million acres, or fifty-eight percent (58%) of the state, and play an important role in both the fabric of community life and the essential infrastructure that supports it. A feature of virtually every county, these forests exist in a variety of configurations, from extensive woodland tracts to farm woodlots to forested buffers along streams. Approximately

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2018 PA Chapter of APA

## Award Winners

*The Best and Brightest recognized at the Annual Awards Luncheon in Erie!*

On October 15, 2018 the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association (PA Chapter of APA) held its Annual Awards Luncheon in Erie, PA where 350 attendees celebrated the esteemed award winners of this year's highly competitive program. The following individuals and organizations were honored for their excellent contributions to planning in Pennsylvania. Congratulations!

The following awards were presented:

### *Award for a Plan*

#### **Alleghenies Ahead – Shared Strategies for a Stronger Region**

Southern Alleghenies Regional Planning & Development Commission and the Counties of Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon & Somerset

Alleghenies Ahead is an unprecedented multi-county comprehensive plan. It involves six counties ranging in population from 15,000 to 135,000. The counties realized they have common issues – broadband, housing and blight, and economic development – and by working together they could achieve more progress than if working alone. The plan emphasizes implementation. It outlines regional priorities and detailed county-level action plans. Priorities reflect input of 400 neighbors and colleagues participating in “kitchen table conversations” in each county. The plan defines principles to help align even the smallest of local decisions with regional goals and outcomes. Alleghenies Ahead changed the conversation and strengthened the region's resolve for the future.

PHOTO CREDIT: CHRIS STEWART



PHOTO CREDIT: PATTIE GUTTENPLAN

### *Award for a Plan*

#### **Uptown/West Oakland Ecolnnovation District** City of Pittsburgh, Department of City Planning

The EcoInnovation District is a groundbreaking solution to disinvestment in the long-overlooked area between downtown Pittsburgh and the “eds and meds” Oakland neighborhood. The plan



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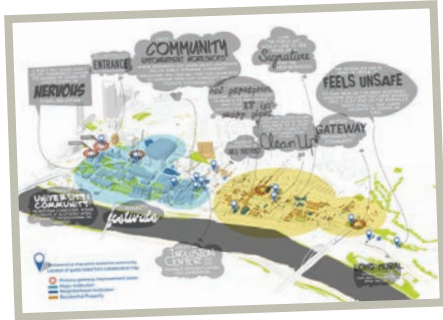
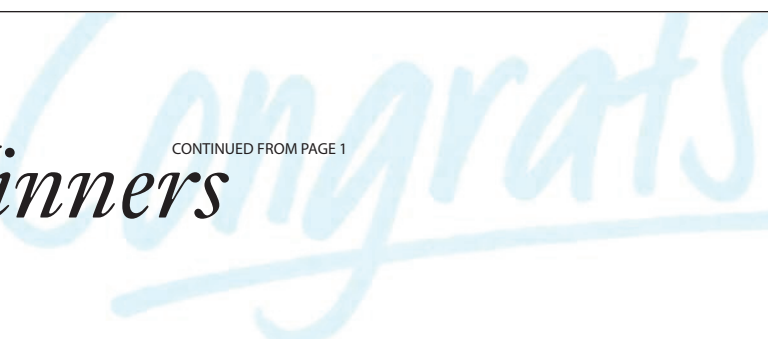
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2018 PA Chapter of APA

# Award Winners

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focuses on social equity, establishing a “Main Street”, reusing underutilized spaces, creating an open space network, and planning for the infrastructure of tomorrow. Public participation included a block party, surveys, focus groups, and engaging the big institutions. It also included meeting long-timers in their backyards and engaging organizations serving hard-to-reach populations. Results are already visible including private investment, a public art program, a slow-streets program, green infrastructure, and a new performance-based zoning code.

### *Award for a Project, Program or Practice*

#### **Greenways for Pittsburgh 2.0**

evolveEA

City of Pittsburgh, Department of City Planning

Greenways 2.0 is an initiative to reestablish and manage a greenways system in Pittsburgh. It includes a Policy Guide that sets forth the technical basis for legal designation of greenways and provides for community stewardship of greenways by citizens and non-profits in cooperation with the city. It also includes a Resource Guide, an easy-to-read and graphic toolkit to guide citizens on stewarding a greenway. Resources range from funding and project ideas to deer management options to website mockups. Greenways 2.0 outlines the means for Pittsburgh to have more capacity and be more effective in permanently conserving open space for the benefit of adjacent neighborhoods and the general public.



PHOTO CREDIT: PATTIE GUTTENPLAN

### *Award for a Project, Program or Practice*

#### **My Meadville**

My Meadville

My Meadville is a community-based initiative that helped the City of Meadville in Crawford County devise a plan for the city’s future. My Meadville used the Orton Community Heat & Soul process grounded in storytelling, discussion of shared values, and collaboration towards positive change. Over two years, My Meadville organized potlucks, staged story-collecting booths and story circles, and did surveys and interviews, amassing 1,400 data points leading to eight community value statements with achievable actions for the city. The process also developed partnerships with community institutions and businesses. My Meadville’s work helped spur a city zoning ordinance update, including urban ag provisions, a façade improvement program, entrepreneur program, and a human services “neighborhood hub.”



PHOTO CREDIT: CHRIS STEWART

### *Award for Special Achievement*

#### **Philadelphia2035 Comprehensive Plan**

Philadelphia City Planning Commission

Philadelphia2035 is the official vision for the future of the city’s development, the first written comprehensive plan since the 1960 plan under the directorship of Edmund Bacon. Philadelphia2035 is the culmination of research, outreach, collaboration, and planning with multiple partners and stakeholders. Over the period of nine years, the city completely overhauled



PHOTO CREDIT: CHRIS STEWART

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



2018 PA Chapter of APA

# Award Winners

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Congrats



its plan, rewrote the city’s zoning code, added a civic design review process, institutionalized a civic engagement arm of city government, and created a process to implement plan recommendations through exchange meetings and zoning remapping. Almost every aspect of work has been done in-house by the staff of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission. The plan aims to position Philadelphia to THRIVE in the center of a competitive region, CONNECT seamlessly to the region and the world, and RENEW valuable resources to sustain a bright future.



PHOTO CREDIT: PATTIE GUTTENPLAN

### *Award for a Leader – Professional Planner*

**Patty Elkis, AICP, Director, Planning Division, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission**

Patty Elkis has a distinguished planning career spanning 30 years, leading innovative projects and inspiring others. She directs a staff of 38 at DVRPC doing long-range planning for transportation, smart growth, the environment, and economic development. Patty’s innovative work includes *Return on Environment*, groundbreaking research on the economic value of open space, and several other major open space preservation initiatives; DVRPC’s Healthy Communities Task Force; and *Municipal Actions to Improve Water Quality*. Patty is a planning advocate on a number of boards and committees, such as ULI’s Philadelphia Chapter. And, she has been generous sharing time and knowledge with DVRPC staff and other planners.



PHOTO CREDIT: CHRIS STEWART

### *Award for a Leader – Distinguished Service*

**Michael M. Stokes, AICP**

Michael Stokes recently retired after nearly 34 years at the Montgomery County Planning Commission. He was often the first into the office and last to leave. His passion for planning is unmatched. His limitless capacity for hard work, combined with his intellectual curiosity, made him the go-to, in-house expert on all types of projects, plans, and studies. Michael’s greatest contribution was with Montgomery County’s open space program. He guided the county through comprehensive open space planning and two programs of preservation funding over 20+ years totaling \$250 million which resulted in 41,000 acres of permanently preserved open space. Michael has been a long time PMPEI instructor, teaching countless citizen planners and elected officials. His local involvement in planning includes chairing the Limerick Township Planning Commission for 10 years, and serving on the board of the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy, 10,000 Friends of PA Policy Council, PA Trails Advisory Committee, and PA Water Plan Delaware Basin Committee.



### *Certificate of Merit awarded*

**Downtown Upper Darby Vision Plan**

Delaware County Planning Department ♦



# INSIDER

A Message from President **James Cowhey, AICP**

Autumn is a busy time when many organizations hold their annual meetings and conferences and, of course, October is the time when our membership looks forward to our PA of APA Annual Conference. Our annual conference is the result of many, many hours of work to provide members with an extraordinary opportunity to learn from and network with colleagues. If you attended the conference, you were likely impressed with what the Chapter can accomplish through the hard work of our conference planning committee with the assistance of Susan Shermer and her dedicated staff. The conference is an outstanding example of how the Chapter stands ready to support members and to strengthen the value of planning. My thanks and gratitude to all those who made the Erie conference such a success.

In December the Board of Directors will consider a new 2019-2022 Chapter Development Plan the purpose of which is to strengthen our organization. The plan will enable us to enhance service to members. Chapter priorities will include

- 1) strengthen the organization to ensure implementation of the plan,
- 2) restart and reinvigorate the legislative committee,
- 3) orient and provide onboarding for new members and planning students, and
- 4) research and provide education on relevant planning topics.

New to the plan will be the development of an annual work program which is essential for the Chapter, I believe. We also want to enhance communication from the bottom up, including members, Sections, committees, and the Board of Directors. I am very optimistic that the plan will set out the actions needed to make the Pennsylvania Chapter a standout among the forty-seven APA chapters. Adoption and publication of the plan will be announced before the end of the year and I hope you'll spend a little time considering the plan and how you might help implement it.

Keep the planning light burning! ♦



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Making Great Communities Happen

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## PA Chapter Executive Committee

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**Troy Truax, AICP**

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*Legislative Committee Chair*  
**Ed LeClear, AICP**

Contact information is available at [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org) under "About Us"

# PDO<sub>corner</sub>

By Alexis Williams, AICP, PP, Professional Development Officer

Congratulations to the Conference Committee on a fun and successful annual conference in downtown Erie. This year's conference featured great speakers, mobile workshops, and of course, plenty of opportunities to earn CM credits. If you attended the conference, **don't forget to log your CM credits** on the APA website, [www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org). **You can search for the annual conference by APA-PA as the provider, or through the event number: 9159293.**

Speaking of CMs, **the end of the calendar year brings the end of the CM cycle for many AICP planners, depending on when you passed the exam. Be sure to check the APA website to see if you are part of this cycle and may be short on CM credits.** While there is a four-month grace period following the end of the cycle, there are also

many opportunities, both in-person and online, to obtain your CM credits before the deadline.

AICP members who do not meet CM requirements within four years will be obliged to seek recertification in order to regain the AICP credential. Don't let this happen to you! If you find yourself short on credits, **APA National provides the following CM opportunities (including free credits!):**

- **Free On-Demand Education:** <https://www.planning.org/cm/free/>
- **All On-Demand Education:** <https://www.planning.org/ondemand/>
- **Live Online Education:** <https://www.planning.org/education/live/> ♦

## Thinking about Taking the AICP Exam in 2019?

Save the date for the Chapter's AICP Exam Prep Session.

**Saturday, February 23, 2019**  
Giant Community Center  
2300 Linglestown Road  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

More details and registration will follow in the new year.



welcome  
New PA Chapter Members!

**WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS** who joined the PA Chapter over the past few months. The PA Chapter membership includes nearly 2,500 planning officials, professional planners, and others who care about how Pennsylvania continues to grow the places where we live, work, and enjoy recreation. The Board and staff are available to answer any questions. Feel free to contact the Chapter Office at 717-671-4510. Board member contact information is available at [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org) under **About Us**.

### Organizational Members:

Summit Township, *Northwest Section*

### Individual Members:

Austin Daily, *Central Section*

Phil Wolgemuth, *Central Section*

**HOLD THE DATE!**

**APA-PA2019**  
annual conference

**OCTOBER 20-22, 2019**  
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel  
Reading, PA

## ENSURING FORESTS IN PA (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



PHOTO CREDIT: LAURA KIRT

70% of forest acreage in Pennsylvania (PA) is privately owned. Tracts of all types, sizes, and ownerships contribute economic, environmental, health, and recreational benefits to PA communities.

While seemingly an enduring feature of the Commonwealth's landscapes, the future of PA's forests is, in fact, at risk from an increasing number of natural and man-made forces, including invasive plants and pests, changing ownership patterns, and unsustainable harvesting practices. Pennsylvania communities deriving benefits from forests must initiate the necessary steps to conserve forests if they hope to continue enjoying these benefits in the future.

Planning professionals are uniquely qualified, and are in a position, to guide communities in articulating and valuing the many benefits forests provide, in determining the role forests will play in community life and place, and in developing policies that promote retention and sustainable use of forests.

### WHY FORESTS ARE SO IMPORTANT TO PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania's forests support a significant part of the state's economy and enrich the lives of its residents in a multitude of ways.

**Economy.** Forests are the foundation of the forest, paper, and wood products industries, which have an economic impact on the state exceeding \$19 billion per year. Forests also are an important component of the outdoor recreation industry, which accounts for \$21.5 billion in consumer spending annually. Forestry-related businesses are present in virtually every county across the Commonwealth. Locally, properties located near forests and

trees typically have higher property values than comparable properties in other areas. Commercial and retail locations containing trees tend to attract more customers, who shop longer and purchase more in goods and services.

**Environment.** Ecologically, forests are the dominant contributor to green infrastructure that provides billions in services to PA communities. They are integral to air quality, water quality and supply, stormwater mitigation, and erosion control. Forests intercept rainfall, absorb and deactivate harmful chemicals, filter and recharge groundwater, and reduce overland runoff. They are the source of more than one-half of US drinking water. Both publicly and privately owned forests contribute to this green infrastructure, sparing communities the substantial capital expense of developing "gray," or built, infrastructure.

**Health.** From the health and wellness perspective, forests provide numerous benefits, from stress reduction to improved attention span, creativity, and problem-solving ability. In studies, exposure to natural scenes inspired people to demonstrate increased generosity, trust, and helpfulness and reduced feelings of anger and aggression.<sup>1</sup> There is a recognized correlation between green space and reduced crime. Researchers have even been able to document changes in the brain following exposure to nature.



PHOTO CREDIT: LAURA KIRT

**Community Life.** Socially, forests are the sites of a diverse set of recreational activities, from hiking to hunting to wildlife observation. In a Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources study conducted in 2014, 91% of residents surveyed described outdoor recreation as extremely important/important in their daily lives. 89% of residents surveyed indicated that trails, natural areas, and waterways best reflected what they valued about their communities.<sup>3</sup> Forests provide vital wildlife habitat, with 250 acres capable of housing more than 1,000 species of wildlife.<sup>4</sup> Forests contribute aesthetic values as well as settings for personal and spiritual renewal.

Planning professionals can guide communities in identifying and valuing the many contributions forests make to the lives of residents and visitors, ensuring that any community plans and policies that are developed reflect these values.

### THREATS TO HEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA'S FORESTS

Thoughtful consideration of forests and their role in PA's communities is urgently needed because the health of PA's forests is under threat from a number of natural and man-made forces.

**Forest Loss.** Conversion of forests to residential, industrial/commercial, and institutional uses is occurring, destroying the continuous land cover necessary for forests to perform services for the community ecosystem.

**Changing Ownership Patterns.** The population of 740,000 landowners who own 12 million of PA's 17 million forested acres (70% of total acreage) is rapidly growing and changing as intergenerational land transfers occur. With these transfers, large tracts are being divided into smaller parcels owned by multiple parties (*parcelization*) or small, isolated tracts surrounded by development (*fragmentation*). Smaller, non-contiguous parcels are more difficult to manage cost-effectively and sustainably. They also are less attractive as wildlife habitat and adversely affect wildlife migration patterns.

**Pests, Invasive Species, and Disease.** Insects, such as the spotted lanternfly and emerald ash borer, along with

invasive plants, diseases, and pests such as deer, continue to impair the health of PA's forests. When present in numbers exceeding land capacity, deer browse oak and other desirable seedlings to an extent that significantly impairs regrowth or regeneration of native trees and shrubs.

**Unsustainable Management and Harvesting Practices.** Less knowledgeable landowners may manage, and harvest timber from, their forests in ways that impair long-term sustainability. However, sustainable forest management and harvesting practices do exist that allow landowners to earn income from timbering and other forest-related activities while simultaneously enhancing their properties. Landowners who are not experienced in forest management, or who do not seek the right advice, may not make use of these practices, thereby impairing the long-term health of their woodlands.

The adverse changes occurring in the forest as a result of these threats are all but invisible on a daily basis. With a forest life cycle measured in decades and across generations, effective planning is essential in ensuring that communities recognize, assess, and protect the many benefits that forests provide.

### **WAYS PLANNING PROFESSIONALS CAN HELP PROTECT PENNSYLVANIA'S FORESTS**

There are a number of steps that planning professionals can take to encourage communities to consider the contributions of forests to their health, prosperity, and overall well-being.

- Raise awareness of the role forests already play in communities and how forests contribute to successful community growth and development. Initiatives such as **Healthy Community Design** and **Great Places in Pennsylvania**, in which natural resources play an important role, represent opportunities to highlight the contributions of forests and other natural resources to community health and well-being.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)



PHOTO CREDIT: LAURA KRIT

## **Publication Encourages Protection and Conservation of Forest Lands through Comprehensive Planning**

A new handbook for planners and policy-makers highlights the importance of Pennsylvania's forests as sources of economic, environmental, health, and recreational benefits to communities. *Sustaining and Improving Pennsylvania's Forest Land through Comprehensive Plans: The Vital Role of Counties and Municipalities* is available as a PDF at no charge.

The publication is co-authored by Paul Solomon, a supervisor for Shrewsbury Township in York County, and Jeanne Riley, a private forest landowner from Huntingdon County, who undertook this project as volunteers. Solomon is also a private forest landowner and a Pennsylvania forest steward of Penn State University's Center for Private Forests and master watershed steward of the Penn State Extension. Now retired, he served as a senior planner for York County's planning commission and later worked in the comprehensive planning division of the office of planning and zoning for Baltimore County in Maryland.

Riley is a steward, along with her husband, of about 190 acres of forest and agricultural land in Spruce Creek. The land includes a family legacy property that is now managed by multiple generations. She is also a Pennsylvania forest steward and volunteer for the Center for Private Forests.

The authors encourage planners and policy makers to take stock of the many benefits forests provide and to increase their awareness of the many threats forested landscapes currently face. The authors advise public officials to make effective use of the comprehensive planning process: to assess the state of forests within their county or municipality; to document the many benefits forests provide; to articulate a vision for forests that is integrated with community growth and development plans; and to establish land use management strategies that protect forests as unique natural resources.

The publication encourages the responsible practice of sustainable forestry as a permitted land use throughout Pennsylvania and provides an overview of the various tools counties and municipalities have at their disposal to protect forest land.

To obtain the free publication, request a PDF by emailing Jeanne Riley at [ariley202@comcast.net](mailto:ariley202@comcast.net).

## ENSURING FORESTS IN PA (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

- Provide policy-makers with tools to analyze how forests contribute to community life and infrastructure and to assess whether their forested landscapes are at risk.
- Advise public officials on ways of developing broad consensus regarding how forested landscapes fit into the vision for the community.
- Aid communities in recognizing the interconnectedness among natural resources, particularly between forests and water.
- Recommend land use planning tools, such as zoning and land development ordinances, that are available for conserving forests.
- Promote collaboration among adjacent counties or municipalities in devising strategies to conserve contiguous forested land cover and other green infrastructure.

The comprehensive planning process is an ideal vehicle for articulating, valuing, and protecting the place of forests in the life of the community.



PHOTO CREDIT: LAURAKIRTI

In fact, the Municipalities Planning Code (Article III, Section 301) requires counties, and municipalities that choose to prepare comprehensive plans, to develop provisions for the protection of natural and historic resources such as forests. Using this essential planning tool, planners can aid communities in articulating and documenting how forests contribute to the health, well-being, and economic prosperity of their communities, and in developing strategies to promote these values. ♦

<sup>1</sup> Suttie J. How Nature Can Make You Kinder, Happier, and More Creative. **Greater Good**, March 2, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Spector J. Another Reason to Love Urban Green Space: It Fights Crime. **Citylab** April 13, 2016.

<sup>3</sup> Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). **Pennsylvania Outdoor Recreation Online Surveys**, 2014.

<sup>4</sup> [www.americanforestfoundation.org](http://www.americanforestfoundation.org).

# Penn State Extension **LAND USE** Webinar Series

By Peter Wulfhorst, AICP

**PENN STATE EXTENSION** will be conducting the next Land Use Webinar series starting in January 2019 and continuing until May 2019. The webinars will occur on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 12 noon – 1:15 pm. Recordings of the webinars will also be made available to registrants. The cost of the webinar series is \$50 for all 5 webinars and \$95 for all 5 webinars for those who want to get CM credits as well as Professional Engineering credits. In addition, Registered Landscape Architects registration is \$65.

Registration information can be found at starting in early January at <https://extension.psu.edu/land-use-webinar>.

The Winter/Spring topics include the following:

- Zoning Ethics
- The Benefits and Challenges of Ridesharing on the Transportation System
- Geo Design for landscapes
- Sinkholes/landslides & their effect on land use planning
- TBD

The dates are **January 16, February 20, March 20, April 17 & May 15.**

**For registration information, please contact Extension Educator Peter Wulfhorst at 570-296-3400 or e-mail at [ptw3@psu.edu](mailto:ptw3@psu.edu)**







## Chapter Volunteer Profile

# Denny Puko

Many planners around Pennsylvania know Denny Puko as the go-to-guy for planning at the PA Department of Community & Economic Development, but he's also the chair of the Chapter's awards committee and helps the Chapter with strategic planning. Here's a conversation we recently had with Denny about planning and life.

### What's your favorite place in Pennsylvania?

I have two favorite places, one of which is no longer here - Forbes Field, the Pirates' old ballpark. I went to a lot of games with my dad and still remember walking out of the concourse into the bright sunshine with the green grass, blue sky, and white uniforms.

My other favorite place is the Laurel Highlands, where I fish with high school buddies, hike, bike, and get away.

### What did you want to be when you were growing up?

I always loved maps and wanted to be in a spatially-oriented field. My guidance counselor said engineering was a bad field to go into because there were too many engineers; so, I ended up majoring in planning at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

### What was your first planning job?

My first job out of college was with the Jefferson County Planning Commission. Connections made

through a college internship helped me find this job.

### What has changed in planning since you first started?

Technology, of course, is dramatically different. When I first started, high-tech was having a dictaphone.

Nowadays, I think planning is much less boilerplate than it was when planners wanted to replicate suburban development everywhere. Also, today's understanding of zoning approaches is much improved over the past.

### If you were "Planner King" for the day, what would you declare?

Ban the "big book" comprehensive plan; instead, make planning more fluid.

### Who has influenced you?

I had a game changing moment when I saw Paul Zucker, the management guru, present at a PPA annual conference. He really showed how we can approach planning thoughtfully, strategically, and motivationally.

Although I was the team leader, I was greatly influenced by the planning team at DCED – Ron Bednar, Cindy Campbell, Ed LeClear, Joy Ruff, and Kim Wheeler. I actually keep a



picture of the team hanging by my desk, and I like to think of them as the New York Yankees of planning.

### What is the last book you read?

I'm reading biographies of the presidents. I'm incredibly impressed by all of them. I just finished Hoover.

### What is your life philosophy?

Over the past ten years, I've adopted the philosophy that "Different is Better." There's nothing more risky than the status quo.

### What three words best describe you?

It's more than three words, but I work hard, act with integrity, and act with community spirit.

### Where would we find you after work?

You might find me outdoors, riding my bicycle or hiking. Or, you'd find me on my patio with a glass of scotch and a guitar. ♦

## Thanks TO THE MEMBERS of the 2018

Awards Committee for the time and hard work they contributed to carefully review the awards submissions, and especially to Denny Puko for chairing the committee and presenting the Awards Program.

**Denny Puko, Chair**  
Planner  
PA Department of Community  
& Economic Development

**Andrea Campisi**  
Senior Planner  
Lower Merion Township

**Ray Gastil, AICP**  
Planning Director  
City of Pittsburgh

**Jonathan Heilman, AICP**  
Transportation Planner  
Gannett Fleming, Inc.

**Brian O'Leary, AICP**  
Executive Director  
Chester County Planning Commission

**Craig Peiffer, AICP**

**Jeff Raykes, D.Ed., AICP**  
Deputy Director  
Indiana County Office of Planning  
and Development



## APA-PA2018 *annual conference recap*



### ❖ *5 Mobile Workshops*



### ❖ *3 main sessions and our State of the Chapter and Annual Awards luncheon*

# ERIE 2018

❖ 48 sessions including  
*Law and Ethics*



❖ *The scholarship subcommittee raised just over \$1,600 this year, through a 50/50, silent auction and raffle*

## 2018 CONFERENCE *Committee*

The 2018 conference was a great success due in large part to the efforts of the local conference committee. A special thank you to all of you for your hard work

**Amy McKinney**, Lawrence County Department of Planning and Community Development, **Conference Co-Chair**

**Kathy Wyrosdick**, AICP, City of Erie, **Conference Co-Chair**

**Kristi Amato**, Clarion County

**Jim Cardman**, Fairview Township

**Jeremy Coxe**, City of Hermitage

**Dan Glotz**, Warren County

**Dennis Martinak**, AICP, Mackin Engineering

**Jeremy Morey**, McKean County Planning Commission

**Zachery Norwood**, Crawford County Planning Commission

**Brittany Prischak**, Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development

**Denny Puko**, PA DCED

**Travis Siegel**, Northwest Commission

**Sue Smith**

**Matt Waldinger**, Millcreek Township





## APA-PA2018 *annual conference recap*

**Thank you! With gratitude, we thank our sponsors, exhibitors and advertisers for supporting this year's conference! Without them, the conference would not be possible. Thank you also to our student volunteers from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.**

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# ERIE 2018



# Wolf Administration Receives Funding to Improve Nutrition, Accessible Physical Activity for Pennsylvanians

**Harrisburg, PA** – The Pennsylvania Department of Health announced that it received the State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to improve nutrition and increase opportunities for **safe and accessible physical activity** for all Pennsylvanians.

“Promoting and providing healthy environments is a top priority of the department,” Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine said. “Through this grant, we can continue to work on improving the health of individuals across the state. State programs, such as WalkWorks, will have the available resources needed to continue to operate and enhance the health of our residents.”

The \$923,000 grant, which the department will receive each year through 2023, will help with efforts to increase the availability of healthy foods in hospitals and community settings, breastfeeding support in birthing facilities and communities; **places that implement community planning and transportation interventions to support safe and accessible physical activity**; and implementation of nutrition and physical activity standards in early care and education systems.

Through this grant, the department will be able to enhance the outreach of the PA Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care (NAP SACC) Program. The NAP SACC program is a free, web-based quality improvement tool that educates child care workers on ways to implement and improve nutrition and physical activity standards in their facilities. Technical assistance is provided to licensed child care centers to support the development and adoption of nutrition and physical activity standards. The department will also work with the Office of Child Development and Early Learning, Department of Human Services and the Department of Education to identify opportunities to implement and integrate nutrition and physical activity standards into statewide early care and education (ECE) systems to prevent childhood obesity.

**The department will also be able to increase safe and accessible physical activity through WalkWorks by supporting local communities to develop and adopt active transportation plans and policies to improve pedestrian, bicycle and transit transportation systems and increase connectivity to everyday destinations.**

For more information on WalkWorks, PA NAP SACC and other healthy initiatives throughout the state visit [www.health.pa.gov](http://www.health.pa.gov) or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

MEDIA CONTACT: Nate Wardle, 717-787-1783 or [ra-dhpressoffice@pa.gov](mailto:ra-dhpressoffice@pa.gov) ♦

## PMPEI COURSES FOR JANUARY/JUNE 2019

We are just beginning to put together PMPEI classes for Winter/Spring 2019. These are the courses we have scheduled at this time; exact dates and locations will be determined.

### COURSES

#### Course in Community Planning

Lycoming County	February
Chester County	March
Bucks County	March

#### Course in Subdivision & Land Development Review

Lycoming County	March
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#### Course in Zoning

Dauphin County	March
Lycoming County	April
Chester County	April
Delaware County	April/May

#### Course in Zoning Administration

Chester County	April/May
Bucks County	May

### WEBINARS

In addition, we have 4 webinars scheduled as part of the PMPEI/PSAB Webinar Series. This group of webinars is scheduled for the 5:30-6:30 PM time slot.

#### The Benefits of an Effective Planning Commission Wednesday, March 27

#### The Elected Officials' Role in Subdivision & Land Development Review Thursday, March 28

#### The Duties of the Zoning Hearing Board Wednesday, April 3

#### The Duties of the Zoning Officer Thursday, April 4



## Central Section Update

By *Rachelle Abbott, AICP*



The APA-PA Central Section hosted its **Fall Workshop on Friday, November 9, 2018** at the Linglestown Giant Food Store. The topic was **Community Revitalization** and case studies from borough, township, city, and county perspectives throughout our region were shared. Both DCED and the Pennsylvania Downtown Center offered resources to participants.

The APA-PA **Central Section Professional Development Scholarship deadline is February 1, 2019**. The scholarship can support a variety of professional development activities, including conference registration fees, AICP testing fees, workshop registrations, and other activities to advance planners through their careers. To access the rather simple application for the APA – PA Central Section Professional Development Scholarship, please check the APA – PA Chapter website at [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org) and upcoming communications from the Section.

The APA-PA Central Section continues to support entities that host PMPEI training courses for citizen planners. To request support for upcoming workshops in 2019, please send a letter with the details about the meeting, including location and date and time to Rachelle Abbott, AICP at [raabbott@stepcorp.org](mailto:raabbott@stepcorp.org). In 2018, four entities were each provided a \$400 sponsorship to assist with the cost of hosting PMPEI training courses.

As always, the APA – PA Central Section welcomes guests to our upcoming meetings. If you are interested in attending or have information to provide, please email the APA – PA Central Section Chair, Rachelle Abbott, AICP at [raabbott@stepcorp.org](mailto:raabbott@stepcorp.org)

## Northeast Section Update

By *Peter Wulfhorst, AICP*

The PA-APA Northeast Section will be having a Holiday Luncheon Meeting on **Friday, December 7 from 11:30 – 1:30** at **Marzoni's** 26 Montage Mountain Rd, Moosic, PA 18507.

There will be a **presentation on Short-term Rentals** by Judy Acosta, Zoning Administrator, Middle Smithfield Township, Monroe County Pennsylvania.

The cost of the Holiday Luncheon is \$20 and reservations can be made by contacting Northeast Section Secretary Victor Rodite at [victor.rodite@gmail.com](mailto:victor.rodite@gmail.com) by November 30.

## Southeast Section Update

By *Justin Dula, AICP*



APAPASE booth at the **Future City Engineering Fair** on October 13, 2018 at SAP America. Our volunteers from left to right: *Addison Larson (DVRPC), Karen Whitaker (DVRPC), and Al Beatty (DVRPC)*. APAPASE Engagement Committee members *John Federico (Urban Engineers, not featured above) and Karen Whitaker* organized and prepared the materials for the activity.

APAPASE participated in the successful **Future City Engineering Fair** at SAP America in Newtown Square, PA on Saturday, October 13. Our booth had some terrific information about climate change and sea-level rise, as this year's competition theme is *Powering our Future*, how to build a resilient power grid. A hands-on land use activity was used to encourage students to incorporate city planning into their projects for the 2019 Future City Regional Competition. Using sea-level rise information displayed on the NOAA web

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(SOUTHEAST SECTION UPDATE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15)

map, students were asked to organize land uses (represented by Lego blocks) on a map of the Philadelphia Pennsport neighborhood. The children loved the learning activity, and some wowed our volunteers with their creative and thoughtful land use planning. Students also picked up articles from the *APA Planning* magazine August/September special issue on climate to aid them in their research.

### Planners come together for the Southeast Section Annual Event

The Southeast Section's annual event brought together planners in Lansdowne Borough, Delaware County to explore how communities can leverage history and the arts to revitalize communities. The event was held on Wednesday, September 12, 2018 and included a walking tour and panel discussion as well as time for socializing.

The evening started with a one-hour walking tour of downtown Lansdowne, highlighting how Lansdowne is using its historical character to create economic development opportunities. Intrepid planners braved a downpour but were rewarded with a tour of two innovative (and dry) sites in the borough. The tour started at [Utility Works](#), a former Delaware County Electric Company building that has been converted into co-working artist studio space. The building is operated by the Lansdowne Economic Development Corp. and houses artist studios as well as more flexible spaces. There is a rotating gallery space and a juice bar to take advantage of the street frontage. The tour then continued to the [Lansdowne Theater](#), a 1920s movie house that is being restored and converted into a live music venue. The architectural highlights of the building were called out by Matt Schultz, Chief Executive Officer of the Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation. He pointed out some of



the key features of the building and the plan to convert it to a live music use. There was also discussion about how this new use could help spur economic revitalization in Lansdowne Borough.

The tour ended at the Twentieth Century Club, where the presentation on *Leveraging History to Revitalize Communities* was held after Justin Dula, Chair of the Southeast Section, welcomed attendees and gave a section update. The presentations, which covered a variety of perspectives on historic preservation, from statewide to specific projects. The panel was moderated by Rebecca Ross of the Delaware County Planning Department, who also highlighted Delaware County's [Historic Preservation Plan](#). Elizabeth Rairigh of the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office discussed how the State can assist with local preservation efforts. James Wright of the People's Emergency Center discussed how history is uniting and revitalizing communities along Lancaster Avenue in Philadelphia. Finally, Kate Cowing of Materials Conservation spoke about the adaptive reuse and restoration of the Union National Bank Building to be used as a technology company Linode's headquarters in Philadelphia. The presentations rounded off with a panel discussion and questions and answers from the audience.

There was also plenty of time for networking and food and drinks. It was a successful and fun event! ♦

### Vantage Point 2019 Editorial Deadlines

Spring 2019 Issue: Feb. 8

Summer 2019 Issue: May 17

Fall 2019 Issue: Aug. 9

Winter 2019-20 Issue: Nov. 1

