

Promoting a Culture of Planning

APA PA

American Planning Association **Pennsylvania Chapter**

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association

Election Results Announced

PA Chapter of APA congratulates the following newly elected officers who will serve from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2015:

President
Brian N. O'Leary, AICP

Vice President James Cowhey, AICP

Secretary Amy McKinney

Treasurer
Pam Shellenberger, AICP

Many thanks to these individuals for their willingness to serve the Chapter.

Mantua before



2013 PA Chapter of APA

Award Winners

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

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association (PA Chapter of APA) held its Annual Awards Luncheon in Harrisburg, PA where 470 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:



Positively Altoona, the City of Altoona's Comprehensive Plan City of Altoona

Positively Altoona was born from uniquely critical circumstances – decades of decline that called for new planning solutions and fiscal recovery under Pennsylvania's Act 47. City planners ensured both were intertwined. Planning goals considered the cost to the average homeowner, and comparisons of finances with similar cities. The plan engaged and energized the community when it was most needed. It has the city moving forward to revitalize itself, reuse blighted properties, make needed investments, and showcase its unique character and assets. It gave a renewed vision of hope for a distressed city.



Mantua Transformation Plan Mt. Vernon Manor Board of Directors

The Mantua Transformation Plan was undertaken under HUD's Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Program to improve the Mt. Vernon Manor Apartments and surrounding neighborhood in Philadelphia. Most of the goals aimed to help people – quality education, economic self-sufficiency, healthy lifestyles, and safety. Partners stepped forward to help – Drexel University, Philadelphia Police Department, Philadelphia Foundation. Early results included formation of a civic league, community home and school association, and a youth recreation program.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2





Award Winners



Planning Excellence Award - Plan Other Than a Comprehensive Plan

Business Route 62 Corridor Study Mercer County Regional Planning Commission Shenango Valley Area Transportation Study MPO

The Business 62 Study dealt with one of Mercer County's busiest corridors in an innovative way. It recommended all low- to moderate-cost improvements, improvements nonetheless that would have high impact in reducing vehicle congestion, and make it better for pedestrians and bicyclers, and help the development in the corridor. Plan recommendations were varied and tailored to the downtown, transition, and suburban parts of the corridor. The plan provided detailed steps on how to implement the recommendations. It led to no-nonsense talk with PennDOT. After six months, several projects were already being designed or underway.



Central Chester County Bicycle & Pedestrian Circulation Plan Chester County Planning Commission

The Chester County Planning Commission worked with seven municipalities to prepare a coordinated action plan to address transportation, public health, and the environment through improvements to walking, bicycling, and public transportation. The plan is wellwritten and well-organized. Twenty-three partners built consensus to identify "missing links" in the transportation systems plus cost estimates and priorities for implementation. The plan also made regulatory recommendations for local ordinances and official maps.



ancaster Avenue

Planning Excellence Award - Public Outreach

Make Your Mark! Lower Lancaster Revitalization Plan

People's Emergency Center Community Development Corporation

Make Your Mark! brought together residents, community groups, local institutions, city reps, and businesses to create a revitalization plan for the Lower Lancaster Avenue area in Philadelphia. The community participated by a variety of creative outreach techniques. A vacant building was used as an open house, painted with chalkboard paint that allowed passers-by to chalk-mark it with ideas and opinions. Inside were a photo suggestion booth and hot-spot maps. "Postcards from the Future" were used in forums to get residents to articulate dreams for the future. Conventional meetings and a steering committee were also used. In all, over 1,000 residents were engaged in the plan.



Student Project Award

Aging with Our Communities: An Aging-in-Place Plan for Montgomery County Temple University Graduate and Undergraduate Planning Studio

Temple University undergraduate and graduate planning students culminated a year-long academic focus on aging communities by preparing a plan for Montgomery County. The plan goal was to help seniors age in place. The plan is thorough and thoughtful, and includes specific recommendations for retrofitting single-family homes, accommodating accessory homes, making roads safer, and avoiding fraud. It presents a concept plan for clustered senior housing and identifies gaps in senior services. And it presents its own senior population projections down to the Census Tract level.



Certificates of Merit

 Plan Other Than a Comprehensive Plan **Lehigh Riverfront Master Plan** City of Allentown



 Public Outreach The Oakland 2025 Master Plan **Oakland Planning and Development Corporation** (Pittsburgh)



Planning Leadership Award – Professional Planner John E. Pickett, P.E., AICP, Delaware County Planning

John Pickett was a planner and civil engineer with over 40 years' experience. He worked over 30 years at Delaware County Planning Department, director of both planning and community development since 1996. He was responsible for many successful plans and projects improving the county and its communities. John was active in PA APA and its forerunners since the early 1980s, most recently as its Vice President. He was the current chairman of the County Planning Directors Association of Pennsylvania. As an engineer, he was honored as Delaware County Engineer of the Year in 2006. John rarely pursued the spotlight and seldom sought the recognition he deserved. The nomination was submitted and this award is given posthumously.



Planning Leadership Award – Citizen Planning Advocate

Ronald Buckalew, Harris Township and Centre Region **Planning Commissions**

Ronald Buckalew has devoted his last 24 years to being a citizen planner. He has been on his home Harris Township Planning Commission since 1989. Accomplishments have been an open space-clustering ordinance, official map, ridge overlay district, and riparian buffer ordinance. He served 18 years on the Centre Region Planning Commission and for 16 years was the representative on the Centre County MPO. He was active in the region's sewage facilities plan, a model well and geothermal borehole ordinance, and being an advocate for coordinated and multimodal transportation in the region.

Planning Leadership Award – Distinguished Service Irving Hand, FAICP Simply stated, Irving Hand exemplifies professional and personal excellence as a planner.

His 60+ year resume includes nationally-recognized accomplishments and distinguished service to Pennsylvania. Prior to coming to PA, he was planning director in Tulsa, OK, and Nashville, TN. With Hand's leadership, the renowned Nashville and Davidson County governmental consolidation occurred. The original plan for metropolitan government was designated a Planning Landmark by the American Institute of Certified Planners. Also in Tennessee, Hand prepared demographic and reapportionment documentation instrumental in deciding the U.S. Supreme Court Baker v. Carr, "one man - one vote" case in 1962. He was director of the Pennsylvania State Planning Board from 1964 to 1972, serving three administrations and helping create the Municipalities Planning Code. In 1972 Hand became a professor in Penn State's graduate urban and regional planning program. While there, he established the Institute of State and Regional Affairs, PA State Data Center, and the Basic Economic Development Course, each of which have educated and served a wealth of planners and Pennsylvania. After retiring from Penn State in 1993, Hand's affiliation with Delta Development Group led to creation of an annual scholarship award for mid-career planning professionals. These and other efforts too numerous to mention merit recognition via PA APA's highest honor. •







March 30th, 1962 You have helped make history in ortionment case.

told you, but I wanted you to my congratulations for the which you prepared for me Legislative Council, and became the basis of the law

Sincerely yours,

Department of Community and Regional Planning, Temple University

Brian O'Leary, AICP Montgomery County

Thanks

THANKS TO THE MEMBERS

of the Awards Committee for the time and hard work they con-

tributed to carefully review all the

the committee and presenting the

Awards Program in Harrisburg.

South Heidelberg Township

Planning Commission

Pennsylvania DCED

Graciela Cavicchia, AICP, PP

Deborah Howe, PhD, FAICP

The Reinvestment Fund

Cindy Campbell

Denny Puko, Chairman Pennsylvania DCED Robert M. Behling

awards submissions, and especially to Denny Puko for chairing

Planning Commission Brandi Rosselli, AICP

Mackin Engineering Vaughn Stebbins, AICP, GISP

Education Management Corporation



Photos by Amy Evans

HARRISBURG2013

Supporters of the Scholarship Fund

Thank you to the following organizations and individuals for the donations of items for the Scholarship Raffle.

Browns Orchard

Chester County/Golden Barrel-Good Food, Inc.

Chester County/Chadds Ford Winery; American Helicopter Museum; Brandywine River Museum; Dansko, LLC; Swarmbustin' Honey; Longwood Gardens; To-Jo Fresh Mushrooms, Inc.; Wharton Esherick Museum; **Neuchatel Swiss Chocolates**

Clarion County Planning Commission

Delaware County / Brandywine CVB

Herr Foods, Inc.

Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc. (cooler of goodies AND a basket of goodies)

Lehigh Valley Section of PA-APA/Crayola and the City of Easton

Lehigh Valley Section of PA-APA/Rodale Press

Lehigh Valley Section of PA-APA/City of Easton, City of Bethlehem, LANTA

Shermer & Associates

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

York County / York Revolution

Thank you to these individuals for their donations to the scholarship fund.

Richard Bickel Calvin Masilela **Delaware County Planning Dept. Keith McGIII Steve Pitoniak** R. Steve Dellinger **Michael Rimer Walter C. Evans Crystal Gilchrist** Pam Shellenberger **Richard Hoch Tracey Vernon**

Dorothy Ives-Dewey

and the countless others who bid on the raffle items!





♦ Up to 12.25 CM credits including Law and Ethics





Brandon Williams, AICP, Township of Derry

Nicole Hostettler



Thank you! With deep appreciation, we thank the sponsors, exhibitors and advertisers. Their support makes the conference possible. And a special thank you to the student volunteers from IUP.

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Commission

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URS Corporation



Professional Development Committee

Northeast Section Rep wanted Southwest Section Rep wanted

The Professional Development Committee includes a representative of each Section (selected by the Section Council) and additional at-large members (appointed by the Chapter President).

Please see more information on the Chapter website http://planningpa.org/for-planners/professional-planners/
professional-development-committee/

This committee, led by Susan Elks, AICP, directs one of the most important and active missions of the Chapter – facilitating continuing education opportunities and supporting AICP membership!

Contact Andrew Hartwell, Southwest Section Chair, at **andrew.hartwell@alleghenycounty.us** or via phone at (412) 350-1360.

Contact Steve Pitoniak, Northeast Section Chair, at **pitoniaks@lackawannacounty.org** or via phone at (570) 963-6400.

SW



Spring Issue Summer Issue Fall Issue Winter 2014-2015 Issue February 7 May 9 August 8 November 7



INSIDER

A Message from President Brian O'Leary, AICP

For those of you who weren't able to make it to Harrisburg, we had a great conference – it was inspiring, educational, and lots of fun, with many opportunities to network and catch up with old friends. As the seat of Pennsylvania's government, Harrisburg was a great location to discuss state-wide issues, and the city, as always, was very walkable, with loads of restaurants, bars, and trails. Kudos to the Central Section, the conference planning committee, and everyone who helped bring about this great success.



American Planning Association **Pennsylvania Chapter**

Making Great Communities Happen

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Please help us close the loop and recycle this newsletter.

There were many excellent sessions on a wide range of topics. I found the keynote speakers particularly inspiring. **Tom Murphy**, the ex-mayor of Pittsburgh, highlighted changing demographics and living preferences, noting how these trends have helped Pittsburgh revitalize. Pittsburgh's colleges and universities and their emphasis on high-tech research has also helped Pittsburgh – Google, for example, started with two employees at Carnegie Mellon in 2006 and now has over 200 employees at a renovated Nabisco cookie factory in Pittsburgh's east end.

Ron Littlefield, the ex-mayor of Chattanooga, discussed that city's revitalization and its focus on reinventing the waterfront, which went from a forgotten area of highways, vacant land, and railroads to a focal point of the community. He told an interesting story about Alstom, a French company that wanted to open up a turbine manufacturing facility in Chattanooga; however, they had one important final request that would seal the deal. Alstom wanted the city to extend its Tennessee Riverwalk trail to their factory; then they would come. It was a no brainer for Chattanooga, and now the city has a great new manufacturing facility plus a longer trail. Who said that trails, quality of life, and environmental stewardship can't lead to good jobs and economic development?

Holding the conference in Harrisburg always offers a great opportunity to interact with the state government. We had a good session with four legislators mostly talking about the transportation bill. Many thanks to **Kyle Guie** and **George Pomeroy** from the Legislative Committee for organizing this, and remember to add your voice to theirs and others in advocating for good planning. **Patrick Henderson** of the governor's office gave Tuesday's opening address on Pennsylvania's energy future, and **Dennis Auker** and **Peter Wulfhorst** organized interesting sessions on the Chapter's unconventional shale gas development strategy. More information on that will be coming soon. One thing is clear – shale gas extraction is here to stay, and we need to plan for it.



Overall, the conference was great. Next year is Philadelphia, which promises to be a fascinating location. Hope you'll be able to come.

Keep up the great planning work and advocating for a better future.

Correction

JASON PRICE passed the May 2013 AICP exam. Although Jason works in PA, APA shows his membership through the New York Upstate chapter and not of the PA chapter. Sorry we missed recognizing his achievement!



Capital Insights: Perspectives from our Legislators –

A GREAT SUCCESS!



AT THIS YEAR'S PA APA con-

ference in Harrisburg, the legislative committee organized a fun and interesting panel discussion with four Pennsylvania State Representatives. Over 80 conference attendees had the opportunity to gain insights and perspective about the legislative process. The panelist included Mary Jo Daley from Montgomery County, Kate Harper from Montgomery County, Chris Ross from Chester County, and Robert Freeman from Northhampton County. The discussion mainly focused on the transportation funding bill and long term transportation priorities. Hopefully by the time this article is published we will have a comprehensive transportation bill. We were fortunate to have the participation of the legislators and we look forward to hosting a similar panel at the next conference in Philadelphia!

Welcome New Members!

Five new members have joined the legislative committee: Wes Ratko – Montgomery County Planning Commission
Leann Chaney – Blairsville Community Development Authority
Kurt Hausamann – Lycoming
County Planning Commission
Kathleen Colbert Gibson –
Southwestern PA Commission
Evan Tobin – Graduate Student at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Evan will now be the student representative on the legislative committee. He has a strong interest in planning and politics.

Looking for Two Members for Executive Committee

There are two vacancies on the executive committee and we want you. We have openings for a vice chair and secretary. The current executive committee includes Kyle Guie-Chair and Andrew Hartwell-Treasurer. If you are interested in talking about one of these positions or if you would like to be a member of the committee, contact Kyle Guie at kguie@gvftma.com or 610-354-8899.

Check Out this Powerful Tool www.openstates.org

Open States is an online application that allows anyone the ability to locate your legislator, review their votes, search upcoming legislation, and track bill progress.

PA Chapter

Executive Committee

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Brian O'Leary, AICP

Montgomery County Planning Commission

INCOMING VICE PRESIDENT

James Cowhey, AICP

Lancaster County Planning Commission

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Amy McKinney

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TREASURER

Pam Shellenberger, AICP

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Susan Elks, AICP

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vacant

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Dennis Martinak, AICP

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vacant

2014 Conference Co-Chairs

Ron Bednar, AICP

Martha Cross, AICP, PP, LEED AP Justiin Dula, AICP

Nando Micale

Legislative Committee

Kyle Guie, Chair

Contact information is available at www.planningpa.org under "About Us".

PDO corner

THE PA CHAPTER IS PLEASED that FEMA Region III is providing our contribution to the chapters, divisions, and universities webcast series. The National Disaster Recovery Framework and Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery session will be held on December 6th. The National Disaster Recovery Framework is a guide that defines how a community can work together following a disaster to best meet recovery needs. This session will discuss the Framework's core principles as well as best practices and lessons learned from post-disaster recovery plans completed in communities in Pennsylvania. Registration is via the Utah Chapter of APA website at www.utah-apa.org/webcasts.

ARCHIVED WEBCAST PRESENTATIONS, which include seven AICP exam prep sessions, are available on YouTube at www.youtube.com/planningwebcast. Please note that at this time none are registered for distance education CM credits, but limited sessions should be made available for distance education CM in the coming months and will be clearly identified as such.

AS THE YEAR COMES TO AN END, keep in mind that another **CM reporting cycle** is also coming to a close. Every planner is automatically provided a grace period until April 30th of the following year, but why wait? There are a variety of CM events available to fulfill requirements. Sources of information include the APA-PA webpage for Professional Planners/For AICP Members, the webpage of AICP CM Opportunities, and the Calendar of Events. Options to fulfill CM requirements include section specific in-person events and the following:

· Monthly Webcasts

Registration and full information on the upcoming schedule on the Utah Chapter website.

• PA Chapter Lending Library

Six CD programs available at \$10.00 rental fee per program, including law and ethics programs. Programs earn a range of 1-2.25 CM credits.

APA

APA has a webpage dedicated to free CM training, currently including more than 25 free online credits.

APA HAS REVAMPED the Advanced Specialty Certification for Transportation – Certified Transportation Planner. If you have considered the exam in the past, please take another look. http://www.planning.org/asc/transportation/

AICP EXAM **PREP**



If you are preparing to take the AICP exam in 2014, keep an eye on the Chapter's website and email blasts. We will again be holding an all-day prep session on Saturday, March 8 in the Harrisburg area. This session goes into detail to how to prepare as well as reviewing test content and providing ample opportunity for questions.

planner notes...

JAMIE KEENER to Lead Eastern Region Sales Efforts for HRG

HERBERT, ROWLAND & Grubic, Inc. (HRG) recently named Jamie Keener, AICP as Senior Sales Executive of the firm's Eastern Region. In this role, Keener is responsible for driving business development activities, identifying and tracking new client leads, managing proposal and qualifications package development, and for client management.

Keener joined the firm in January of 2005 with 18 years of experience and was named a Shareholder in 2007. Prior to taking on this new role, he served as the Director of Land Development Services. Originally from Shippensburg, PA, he earned his bachelor's degree in geography from Bucknell University and began his career in York, PA. Additionally, he sits on a variety of HRG's internal committees and is deeply involved in several community and industry organizations.

"Jamie brings value in this sales role with his ability to cultivate relationships" stated company President and CEO Robert C. Grubic, P.E. "This, coupled with his diverse knowledge of HRG's services and the market as a whole is an asset as we seek growth and expansion opportunities."





Central Section Update

by Rachelle A. Abbott, AICP, Central Section Chair

Central Section Council Has Much to Offer...

The Central Section has had a very busy Fall! Many Central Section Members were involved in the planning, organizing, and execution of the Pennsylvania Chapter's Annual Conference held in Harrisburg in October. Overall, the conference was very well attended, educational, and offered many opportunities for networking. Be sure to mark your calendar for next year's conference to be held in Philadelphia on October 12 - 14.

The Central Section partnered with other organizations, including Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and Lebanon Valley Bicycle Coalition to hold AASHTO's Bicycle Facility Standards Workshop on September 26, 2013. With over fifty in attendance, the day went quite well. Given the positive partnership, Central Section plans to continue to look for mutually beneficial opportunities for partnerships in the future.

Are you providing a planning program for youth in your community? Are you providing a planning curriculum in connection with a school to get students interested in planning? If so, Central Section may be able to help with its **Youth Planning Program Sponsorship** to support the development, purchase, or implementation of a youth planning event, curriculum, or activity. To apply for support, please provide a letter of interest, amount needed, and information about the program to Rachelle Abbott, AICP at **raabbott@stepcorp.org**.

Central Section is also excited to announce that it is offering financial support to municipalities and partners offering Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI) courses. Host municipalities or organizations can receive \$300 to assist with the cost of having a PMPEI Course in your community. PMPEI Courses are an excellent tool for citizen planners and others interested in planning to understand Pennsylvania's Municipalities Planning Code. If your municipality or organization plans to sponsor a PMPEI Course in the next year, please contact Pam Shellenberger of the Central Section Council at pshellenberger@ycpc.org and submit a letter detailing the date, time, location, and type of course you will be offering. For more information about hosting a PMPEI Course in your community, contact Stan Lembeck at sml1@psu.edu.

Are you a citizen planner who wants to get more involved in the Central Section? If so, contact Rachelle Abbott at raabbott@stepcorp.org. Join a great group of planners who are



WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

who joined the PA Chapter over the past few months. The PA Chapter membership includes nearly 2,600 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 under About Us.

Individual Members:

Elizabeth Crager, Southeast Section Darren Johnson, Southwest Section Robert Keppel, Southeast Section

Organizational Members:

Lancaster County Planning Commission, *Central Section* ◆

working to provide valuable opportunities for Central Section members, it will be worth your time!

Be sure to keep a look out for information on Central Section's Spring Workshop, to be held in Harrisburg in early May. CM Credits will be offered. For a complete listing of all Central Section Council members and their contact information, please visit http://planningpa.org/sections/central.

Northeast Section Holiday Meeting and Luncheon

The APA-PA Northeast Section Holiday Meeting and Luncheon will be held on Friday, December 20, at Armetta's Restaurant in Clarks Summit, PA

The Section will meet at 11:30 for a Section meeting, followed by the Luncheon and a presentation by Sally Corrigan, Executive Director of the Pike County Conservation District. Sally will provide an overview of the Conservation District and the Common Waters Initiative. In addition, several awards will be presented to various individuals who have made a contribution to planning and land use.

The cost is \$18 per person and the menu will be a catered buffet style. Cookies will be served for dessert.

Reservations are required. Please RSVP to Peter Wulfhorst, **ptw3@psu.edu** or 570-296-3400 x1445 OR Cindy Campbell, **ccampbell@pa.gov** or 570-963-4574 no later than Monday, December 16. ◆



Two partial scholarships

The PA Chapter of the American Planning Association will award two (2) partial scholarships for the 2014 AICP Exam testing cycles. The scholarship reduces the exam fee from \$495 to \$135 for first time AICP applicants and from \$425 to \$65 for previously approved AICP applicants.

Financial hardship is the primary consideration for the scholarship. Members of ethnic or racial minorities shall be given preference for the scholarship. Test applicants whose employer subsidizes the exam fee are excluded from consideration.

Keep an eye on the Chapter's website and email blasts for more information. •



