

THE VANTAGE POINT



American Planning Association
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

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PENNDOT CONNECTS

by Leslie S. Richards

As Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, and a former Montgomery County Commissioner as well as being a Planner, I am extremely excited to announce our new initiative titled **PennDOT Connects**. PennDOT is committed to bettering Pennsylvania communities and our transportation system through a collaborative planning process. By working together, I believe creative transportation and land use solutions can be identified to sustain and expand mobility while improving communities throughout the Commonwealth. *We want to build partnerships that invest in sustainable transportation.* We are positioning ourselves as a forward thinking organization by broadening the benefits we deliver and taking a holistic approach to planning. We are tasking PennDOT staff and our Metropolitan and Rural Planning Organization (MPO/RPO) partners to consider community needs at the beginning of the planning process to ensure an appropriate allocation of our resources. *PennDOT Connects* will make our planning processes more efficient and cost effective to the benefit of all Pennsylvanians.

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2016 PA Chapter of APA

Award Winners

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

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association (PA Chapter of APA) held its Annual Awards Luncheon in Allentown, PA where nearly 400 participants joined us. This year was unusual - our venue wasn't the hotel ballroom; attendees celebrated the esteemed award winners of this year's highly competitive program on the arena floor on the PPL Center.

The following awards were presented:

Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan **Erie Refocused: Comprehensive Plan & Community** **Decision-Making Guide**

City of Erie
czbLLC

The City of Erie Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2016. The plan's original data and pointed presentation bring clarity to the city's recent weak market conditions and spreading disinvestment, and invoke the need to right-size and prioritize. A "trade-off exercise" helped make difficult choices about deployment of limited resources. The plan provides strategies tailored to specific sub-markets. It provides principles for decision-making, including "civic dos and don'ts," to guide city council, departments, and local organizations in investing in and improving the city.



Planning Excellence Award – Best Practice **Zoning Ordinance of Clymer Borough**

Clymer Borough
Indiana County Office of Planning & Development
Environmental Planning & Design
Indiana University of PA
Zanetta Illustrations
UpStreet Architecture

In December 2014 Clymer Borough, a rural coal town with 1,357 people, enacted its first-ever zoning ordinance. The ordinance it chose to enact, after



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2016 PA Chapter of APA

Award Winners

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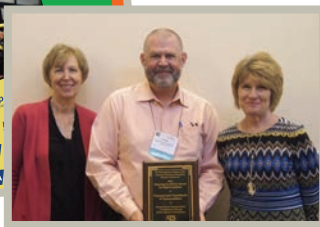
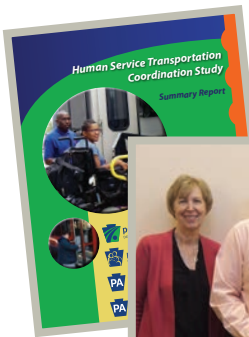


a year of evaluation of various formats with the Indiana County Office of Planning & Development, is form-based. The ordinance focuses on a point of pride, the community's historic, small-town, and walkable character, and it minimizes use and other regulations perceived as burdensome. Citizens were active in developing the ordinance which led to strong support for the ordinance and increased interest generally in community affairs and service on board and committees.

Planning Excellence Award – Implementation

Human Service Transportation Coordination Plan and Transit System Consolidation Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

In 2009 PennDOT, in collaboration with the Departments of Aging and Public Welfare and the Governor's Office, completed a plan to improve customer service, service delivery, and cost-efficiencies in human service transportation around the state. Implementation results have been impressive. PennDOT helped create a training seminar to improve management skills of public transit managers. PennDOT conducted additional studies which resulted in eight transit systems consolidating to four, and a two-county transit system assuming management of human service transit in seven additional counties, resulting in savings in the millions and expanded service. And PennDOT purchased state-of-the-art shared-ride software being deployed statewide.



Planning Excellence Award – Plan Other Than a Comprehensive Plan

Downtown Allentown Development and Urban Design Plan

Goody Clancy
City of Allentown
Nelson/Nygaard
Barry Islett & Associates
CodaMetrics
Zimmerman/Volk Associates

Allentown commissioned this plan in 2014 to provide new direction in response to growth and major investments from the Neighborhood Improvement Zone program. NIZ had catalyzed development of an arena, office buildings, and restaurants, but not new housing or reuse of historic buildings. The plan shows a market for new housing and walkable, mixed-use development. And it makes a case to NIZ administrators to invest in mixed-income housing, particularly in underutilized public property, and employ building form guidelines in projects. To date, the design guidelines were used to refine five major development proposals, a planned parking garage was modified to include housing, and there's been an increase in events programming in public spaces.



Planning Excellence Award – Plan Other Than a Comprehensive Plan

Millvale Pivot 2.0 EcoDistrict Plan

evolveEA
Millvale Borough
Millvale Community Development Corporation
Millvale Community Library
New Sun Rising
Sisters of Saint Francis at Mt. Alvernia

The Pivot 2.0 EcoDistrict Plan successfully continues the multi-year efforts of this classic Western Pennsylvania milltown to use its new EcoDistrict identity and culture to improve quality of life and attract new residents and businesses. The



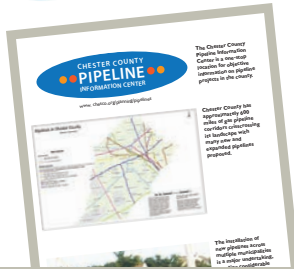
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2016 PA Chapter of APA

Award Winners

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plan emphasizes placemaking in addition to sustainability, plus building capacity for creating successes. Results have included construction of raingardens, \$1 million in funding to construct a food hub, opening of new food-related businesses, and expansion of the town's community garden in hopes of providing up to 95 percent of the food needs for Millvale's restaurants. Plus, Millvale is pursuing construction of a solar farm to produce the community's electricity.

Planning Excellence Award – Public Outreach

Chester County Pipeline Information Center Initiative

Chester County Planning Commission
Chester County Board of Commissioners



With Chester County located between Pennsylvania's natural gas fields and the refineries and ports of Philadelphia, and facing proposals for more pipelines, the county initiated a major public outreach effort. It includes three parts. The Pipeline Information Center website has the latest information on active pipeline projects, including a map searchable by address. The Pipeline Notification Protocol allows pipeline operators, government agencies, municipalities, and partners to share information of each other's activities. The Pipeline Point-of-Contact provides an experienced planner to answer public questions and address concerns.

Planning Leadership Award – Professional Planner

Sara Pandl, AICP, RLA, Lower Macungie Township

Sara Pandl has been a dynamo supporting and advocating for planning for Lower Macungie Township and the APA PA Chapter. As Director of Planning and Community Development for the township, Sara brought new initiatives such as preserving and improving green space, improving walkability and bikability, and promoting mixed-use and village development. Sara is a leader in the 6-municipality Southwestern Lehigh Comprehensive Plan now being updated. Sara was a leader in reorganizing and revitalizing the Lehigh Valley/Berks Section of APA PA and has long been section chair and rep to the statewide board. She is co-chair of the 2016 APA PA Planning Conference.



Planning Leadership Award – Elected Official

Sherry Capello, Mayor, City of Lebanon

Lebanon Mayor Sherry Capello led efforts to complete the city's recent economic development strategic plan – Grow Lebanon 2020 – and has been instrumental in other efforts to revitalize the city. Mayor Capello ensured the planning process was inclusive. It included a community survey, including a Spanish version. The Mayor hosted cross-sectional working groups and engaged regional leaders. Since plan completion, Mayor Capello has been promoting the plan at public and organization events. She also worked to implement a plan recommendation, creation of a Business Improvement District for downtown Lebanon.



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2016 PA Chapter of APA

Award Winners

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Planning Leadership Award – Emerging Planner

Christina Arlt, AICP, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

In her young career as a planner, Christina Arlt has a list of contributions that belies the notion she is an emerging planner. At DVRPC, Christina coordinates programs providing planning information and technical assistance to planners, community officials, and volunteers. She is active in and head of the events committee for the APA PA Southeast Section. Between DVRPC work and APA PA volunteering, she arranges dozens of events each year for planners. She volunteered in 2015 on one of APA's Community Planning Assistance Teams helping Harford County, MD. Christina is also an adjunct professor teaching a new generation of planners at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design.

Thanks TO THE MEMBERS of the 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

Robert M. Behling
Chairman

South Heidelberg Township Planning Commission

Graciela Cavicchia, AICP, PP
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Jonathan Heilman, AICP
Transportation Planner
Gannett Fleming, Inc.

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

Brandi Rosselli, AICP
Manager, Planning Services
Mackin Engineering Company



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 2,600 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:

Edward Cowan, *Southwest Section*

Agency Members:

County of Luzerne, *Northeast Section* ♦



INSIDER

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

The Chapter's tagline "Making Great Communities Happen" says a lot in just four words. Most obviously it means we planners help bring about great built and natural places. But there is more to this idea than physical characteristics. Fundamentally, community is about people that have some affinity to one another. Our communities consist of family, neighbors, and business associates. We work to make great physical places that **support fair, equitable, productive, and rewarding societal interactions**. It is our participatory methods and processes that result in physical places that support strong societal bonds. These goals are the basis for our ethical principles and code of professional conduct.

Our nation has just completed the most grueling presidential election I have witnessed in all my turns around the Sun. It was historic in its nature and result. Whether you celebrated the outcome or not, I am sure you agree that it was divisive and exhausting.

My message is simple. Please consider how you, as a planner, **can provide meaningful opportunities for all citizens to participate in community planning**. We have all witnessed the way engagement has helped strengthen understanding and friendship among citizens. Our planning methods can bridge divides. Now more than ever we need to **promote citizen participation in planning**. Our nation needs to heal. Planners have a responsibility to help facilitate the healing. Let's make great participation happen! ♦

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



Vantage Point 2017 Editorial Deadlines

Spring Issue: Feb. 10

Summer Issue: May 19

Fall Issue: Aug. 11

Winter 2017-18 Issue: Nov. 3



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Making Great Communities Happen

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PENNDOT CONNECTS

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An issue which occasionally occurs in PennDOT projects is the lack of early communication with the community. Without early community input crucial elements may not be included at the outset of project scoping. Including those elements later results in project delays and higher project costs. Our goal is always to make every investment as safe and effective as it can be for every community. To further the goal of addressing community needs to the fullest extent practical, District Office staff will meet with appropriate local government staff early in project planning. ***PennDOT will lead and innovate for a more livable PA.***

Collaboration meetings with Planning Partners and local governments will now become a routine element of the planning process for all new projects. This new approach to project planning will make the decision-making process for project scopes more transparent. ***More transparency provides the opportunity for community input into our project scopes earlier in the process, providing PennDOT with a better understanding of local community issues in planning, thus avoiding delays later in project delivery.***

This local government outreach will involve consideration of local planning objectives and community mobility needs, including, but not limited to, bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, transit access, stormwater management, and green infrastructure. MPO/RPO's and local governments must demonstrate the need to include community mobility and related objectives in project scopes. Ideally, decisions should be based in-part, on comprehensive planning or other related planning studies that demonstrate a need for these elements.

If no documented planning is available, project elements must be well thought-out and consistent with the current and future land uses within the community. If suggested community-related project features are justified, the community mobility needs identified during these local collaboration meetings can be incorporated into project scopes of work for consideration during project delivery. Unfortunately, in some instances not all features discussed during local government collaboration will be able to be accommodated. These features may not be reasonable due to a lack of adequate planning documentation or justification, unacceptable impacts to environmental resources, excessive right-of way impacts, maintenance and ownership difficulties, the need to construct or relocate retaining walls or other structures, or other issues related to impacts or excessive cost. The *PennDOT Connects* process will ensure reviews of every unique enhancement to a project. PennDOT staff will strive to plan projects that improve economic competitiveness, access to work, and overall quality of life. ***We strive to leverage resources to improve communities.***

The *PennDOT Connects* process will be applied to projects on the 2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Collaborative meetings will also be required for all projects that had no project phase included on a prior TIP, as well as for all other TIP projects that have not started Preliminary Engineering or started Preliminary Engineering after July 1, 2016. Looking to the future, local government collaboration meetings must occur before new projects are added to future TIPs.

Another key component of *PennDOT Connects* is training. Training of internal PennDOT staff is currently

underway. The next phase of training includes developing a training strategy to raise awareness and understanding of *PennDOT Connects*, its value, and the basic framework for a partnership approach going forward for local government employees. The training is also intended to manage the expectations of local governments, and encourage planning at the local level today to support opportunities for better projects in the future.

The *PennDOT Connects* policy may require additional time and financial resources in the planning and early preliminary engineering phases for project delivery. However, the benefits that community features such as sidewalks, bike lanes, and transit accessibility can provide in terms of improving economic competitiveness, access to work, and quality of life, as well as the potential to avoid delays later in project delivery, can far outweigh the additional resource requirements. ***As planners, your role is essential to help communities identify and communicate their mobility needs through this new collaboration process to ensure transportation projects help move their vision for the future forward.***

I truly believe that better communities and mobility is powered through collaboration! We are looking forward to building upon existing and making new connections with our communities. ♦



PDO^{corner}

by Susan Elks, AICP, Professional Development Officer

Depending on which Certification Maintenance (CM) cycle you are in, you are either coming to a close, or halfway through. In addition the in-person training available at the PA Chapter's annual conference, there are many opportunities to earn CM credits and fulfill your AICP requirements. These include:

- **In-person training offered by PA Chapter Sections.** These are posted to the Chapter calendar of events as they become finalized, but be sure to stay connected with your Section to hear about (or perhaps help in the planning of) upcoming events. The holiday season is typically a quiet time for in-person training, but things pick back up in the early spring. View the Chapter calendar here: <http://planningpa.org/events/>
- **CM credits through partner organizations.** These are posted to the Chapter calendar when possible, but the APA calendar of events would have the most complete listing. Search the APA site here: <https://www.planning.org/cm/search/>. DVRPC is one organization that regularly hosts CM training. View the DVRPC calendar and link through to their partner calendar here: <http://www.dvrpc.org/Calendar/>
- **Planning Webcast Consortium.** This free series continues to offer sessions most Fridays, and strives to include at least one ethics and one law session each year. Most sessions must be viewed live for CM credits, but the Consortium registers a limited number for distance education as well. View the full schedule and distance education offerings here: http://www.ohioplanning.org/aws/APAOH/pt/sp/development_webcast

- **APA, of course.** In addition to fee based CM products, including the national conference (May 2017's conference is in New York City) and streaming options, there are several CM offerings that are free. Free sessions can be viewed here: <https://www.planning.org/cm/free/>

Continuing on AICP information, the October conference included a session on the recent changes to the **AICP Code of Ethics** and discussion of ethical scenarios. The Code changes were procedural in nature, with the aspirational principles and the rules of conduct remaining unchanged. Sections C, D, and E now cover:

C: How to obtain a formal or informal advisory ruling; requirements for an annual report

D: How to file a complaint of misconduct; how complaints are investigated and adjudicated

E: Forms of disciplinary actions

The scenario discussion focused on scenarios presented in a new publication - *The Ethical Planning Practitioner* by Jerry Weitz, FAICP. Many thanks to **Rich Bickel** and **Jerry Walls** for leading this portion of the session. The PowerPoint and two handouts from the session (A2 – Navigating the Revised Code of Ethics) are available on the Chapter's conference archive: <http://planningpa.org/conference-news/2016-annual-conference/>

Please keep in mind that **we have only one full-day AICP exam prep session** – the spring session. **If you are testing in 2017, all of the latest details will be reviewed during this session**, targeted for March 4 in Harrisburg. Registration and full details will be available in early 2017. APA is proposing changes to the AICP Comprehensive Exam content outline for May 2017. You can hear all about it at the session. ♦

Reduced AICP Exam Fee Scholarships

The PA Chapter of APA has two partial scholarships for the 2017 AICP Exam testing cycle (testing in either May or November). The scholarship reduces the exam fee from \$495 to \$145 for the first time AICP applicants and from \$425 to \$75 for previously approved AICP applicants. Financial hardship is the primary consideration for the scholarship. Members of ethnic and racial minorities shall be given preference for the scholarship. Test applicants whose employer subsidizes the exam fee are excluded from consideration. Applications must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. Friday, February 10, 2017 for consideration. See the website for details and the application.





Central Section Update

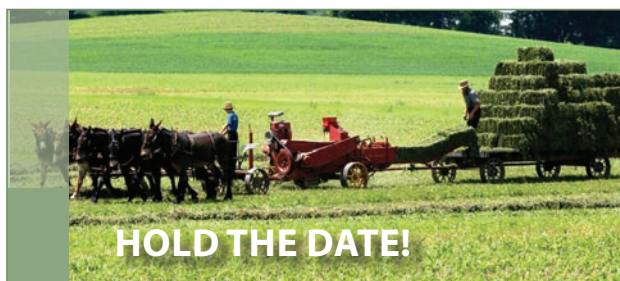
By *Rachelle A. Abbott, AICP, Section Chair*

The **APA-PA Central Section Professional Development Scholarship deadline is February 1, 2017**. To access the application for the APA – PA Central Section Professional Development Scholarship, please check the APA – PA Chapter website at 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 for support for an upcoming workshop in 2017, please send a letter with the details about the meeting, including location and date and time to Rachelle Abbott, AICP at raabbott@stepcorp.org.

The 2017 APA-PA Chapter Conference is on the minds of the Central Section as the location is set for State College! The conference dates are October 22 – 24, 2017, so be sure to mark your calendars! VOLUNTEERS are needed to make the 2017 Conference a success. If you are interested in being involved as a committee volunteer, please contact Rachelle Abbott, AICP at raabbott@stepcorp.org. Remember, actively involved committee members receive **FREE** registration!

As always, the APA – PA Central Section welcomes guests to our upcoming meetings. Our next meeting is **December 16th at the Ranch House at 10am**. 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. ♦



APA-PA2017
annual conference

OCTOBER 22 – 24, 2017
The Penn Stater • State College, PA



Southeast Section Update

By *Alexis Williams, AICP, Section Vice Chair*

The APA – PA Southeast Section held its Annual Event on November 3 in Conshohocken. Over 50 people attended the evening event which began with a panel presentation on Transformative Transportation in the Philadelphia Region, moderated by **Denise Goren** of WSP / Parson Brinkerhoff. Presenters included **Chris Jandoli** (WSP / Parson Brinkerhoff), **Aaron Ritz** (City of Philadelphia's Office of Transportation & Infrastructure Systems), **Dan Nemiroff** (SEPTA), and **Matthew Edmond** (Montgomery County Planning Commission) who spoke about the Northeast Corridor, Indego Bike Share, Roosevelt Boulevard Bus Service, and the Ridge Pike Improvement Project, respectively.

Following the panel presentations, winners of the 2016 John Pickett Memorial Scholarship were recognized. The Southeast Section awards annual scholarships to graduate school students who submit papers about topics and issues relevant to the Delaware Valley Region. This year's winners were:

- **First Place in Group Project: Community Engagement - Kensington**
 - Michelle Atherton, Leonard Bonarek, and Ted Mullen from Temple University
- **Second Place in Group Project: Division Street Revitalization**
 - Corey Brown, Michelle Goddard, and Mark Huber from Temple University
- **Best Individual Paper: 3D Modeling in Land Development Planning**
 - Madeline Schueren from West Chester University

Congratulations to all of our 2016 winners! ♦



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Southwest Section Update

By Katie Stringent, Incoming Section Chair

On Monday, September 19, 2016 the Southwest Section held a workshop entitled “*Building Healthy Communities: Planning and Public Health Working Together*.” The workshop covered the roles and responsibilities of the PA Health Department, the role of data in providing for healthy communities, and the ways in which planners intersect with the public health industry. Featured presenters included **Karen Hacker, M.D., M.P.H.** Director Allegheny County Health Department, and **Hannah Hardy**, Program Manager for Chronic Disease Prevention, Allegheny County Health Department. Copies of the PowerPoint presented at the workshop can be obtained by e-mailing planswpa@gmail.com. The Southwest Section thanks all those who attended the workshop. Please look for information regarding additional workshops in spring 2017.

The Southwest Section Council election took place in the fall of 2016. The new Section Council will be seated in January 2017 as follows:

- Section Chair, Katie Stringent
- Section Vice-Chair, William McLain
- Section Treasurer, Josh Lippert
- Section Secretary, Nick Fedorek
- Planner At Large, Nicole Zimsky, AICP
- Planner At Large, Rhiannon Haller, AICP
- Planner At Large, Steve Wiedemer, AICP

All Section Council members can be reached via e-mail at planswpa@gmail.com. Thank you to all Section members who took part in the election.

The Southwest Section will again be sponsoring the **Best City Layout** award for the **Pittsburgh Regional Future City Competition** taking place on Saturday, January 21, 2017 at Carnegie Music Hall. For additional information regarding the Future Cities Competition, or to volunteer please contact the Southwest Section Council.

The Southwest Section will soon be planning the spring 2017 Social. For suggestions on activities or potential locations please contact the Section Council. ♦



News You Can Use

RETTEW recently hired **Chad E. Dixon** as a regional manager. He will manage client relationships and projects in southeastern Pennsylvania, central and southern New Jersey, and northern Delaware.



Dixon’s responsibilities focus on business development and client acquisition, and he maintains a role in operational quality as well. As RETTEW expands in the Greater Philadelphia area, he will manage the local office, providing high-level oversight of staff and clients throughout the region. Dixon’s efforts in Philadelphia are part of RETTEW’s overall strategy to offer multi-discipline services with a reputation of excellence throughout the Northeast.

Dixon has prior experience establishing a new office and managing regional operations for a growing engineering firm. He most recently worked as a mobility manager for the Greater Mercer Transportation Management Association. Dixon has also worked as a municipal services manager for a transportation engineering firm and as a transportation planner for Chester County.

Dixon began in his role at RETTEW Oct. 3. He has a bachelor’s degree in regional planning from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and is a certified planner through the American Institute of Certified Planners, and holds a professional planner license in New Jersey. He is also a member of the American Planning Association’s Pennsylvania Chapter and the Urban Land Institute’s Philadelphia section. Dixon serves on the board of directors for his local homeowner’s association, and lives in Warwick Township, Bucks County, with his wife and stepson. ♦



APA-PA2016 *annual conference recap*

COMMUNITIES, CORRIDORS & CONNECTIONS

Conference Photos by Pattie Guttenplan
(unless noted)



❖ 40 Concurrent Sessions



❖ 5 Mobile Workshops



❖ 2 main sessions and our State of the Chapter
and Annual Awards luncheon



ALLENTOWN 2016

❖ *12 credits
including Law and Ethics*



❖ *The Scholarship
subcommittee
raised over
\$2000 this year
through a 50/50,
a silent auction
and a raffle.*



2016 CONFERENCE *Committee*

The 2016 conference was successful due in large part to the tireless efforts of the local conference committee. Many thanks to the committee for their hard work!

Shannon Calluori, City of Allentown, **Co-Chair**

Sara Pandl, AICP, RLA, Lower Macungie Township, **Co-Chair**

Becky Bradley, AICP, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Joe Calhoun, Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority

Brendan Cotter, Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority

Michael Donchez, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Darlene Heller, AICP, City of Bethlehem

Gabe Hurtado, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

David Kimmerly, City of Allentown

George Kinney, AICP, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Bob Korp, Barry Isett & Associates

Eric McAfee, AICP, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Matt McGough, Berks County Planning Commission

Steve Neratko, City of Allentown

Tracy Oscavich, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Geoff Reese, PE, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Richard Roseberry, AICP, Maser Consulting P.A.

Tina Roseberry, AICP, City of Easton

Shannon Rossman, AICP, Berks County Planning Commission

Tracey Samuelson, City of Bethlehem

Charlie Schmehl, Urban Research and Development Corp.

Suzanne Stianche, Discover Lehigh Valley

Molly Wood, AICP, Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority



APA-PA2016 *annual conference recap*

COMMUNITIES, CORRIDORS & CONNECTIONS

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

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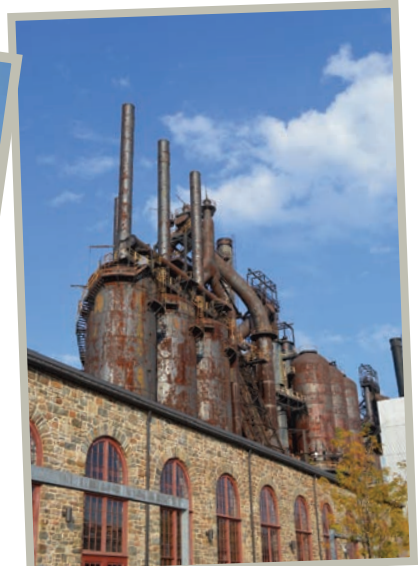
ALLENTOWN 2016



ALLENTOWN 2016

❖ *“Transforming a Steel Town with Arts and Culture” mobile workshop*

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ALLENTOWN 2016

Outstanding Achievement in Planning Education Award

Outstanding Achievement in Planning Education Award was presented at the annual conference in Allentown to Ed Child, Borough President in Trumbauersville (Bucks County). Mr. Child is the first recipient of this new award.

The Executive Director Christopher Cap, and Ed Knittel Senior Director, Education and Sustainability of the PA State Association of Boroughs, were on hand for the presentation. PA of APA Board President James Cowhey congratulated Mr. Child on his long service to local government and his commitment to planning education. We hope his dedication will inspire other local officials to learn how planning can contribute to local governments and the well-being of their citizens.

This award will be presented to everyone who completes the four course (40 hour) PMPEI Course in Community Planning and Land Use Regulations. It is a joint award of the PA Chapter-of APA, The PA State Association of Boroughs, and the PA Municipal Planning Education Institute.



WHAT ROLE CAN THE HUMANITIES PLAY IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT?

A powerful one, according to the Pennsylvania Humanities Council (PHC).

Today, across the commonwealth, PHC puts the humanities in action to build avenues for civic involvement and community development, and for youth and adult learners to build skills for school, work, and personal improvement.



In 2015, in order to achieve the greatest impact and broadest reach through its humanities-focused community development work, PHC partnered with the Orton Family Foundation to bring Orton's Community Heart & Soul® method to Pennsylvania communities. Community Heart & Soul is a proven process that empowers people to shape the future of their communities by creating a shared sense of belonging that improves local decision-making and ultimately strengthens social, cultural and economic vibrancy.

Currently PHC and Orton are working with three Pennsylvania communities: Carlisle, Meadville and Williamsport. All three are using the Heart & Soul method to frame their planning processes. Key to the method is learning what matters most to the community through gathering stories from and engaging as many residents as possible, including those who

don't typically participate in public processes.

One of the first steps is to develop a more comprehensive understanding of who comprises the community by conducting a Community Network Analysis to identify population segment, social networks, and the links among them. The results are often surprising. For example, after digging deep to learn more about local residents, the Carlisle Heart & Soul leadership team identified small populations of minorities and immigrants they weren't aware of. "Many of us found it interesting that some groups living in the region were not represented in the census data," said the director of Greater Carlisle Project, Lindsay Houpt-Varnier. "For example, there is a small Bosnian community in the region, but their representation in the data was not there," she explained.



The next equally important step is story gathering. By gathering stories, Heart & Soul leadership teams are able to bring to light the values and interests of those living and working closely together and begin to engage missing voices. Gathering information in story form can provide insight on hard-to-answer questions like "What does it mean to be a resident of a given community? What unifies the community? Why don't all residents get along with one another?" And help find common



ground around questions like "What do you love about your town?" and "What would you change?"

The power of the humanities in community development becomes even more apparent during the data-analysis process, in which stories are examined, relevant data is extracted, and patterns highlighting what matters most to residents emerge. This step, where core and shared values are identified, produces Heart & Soul Statements, which is key to setting the stage for meaningful and transformative plans for action. The common themes that emerge are vetted with the community and, if they ring true, they become Heart & Soul Statements that will inform the actions that follow.

After this process is complete, a Heart & Soul community's leadership team and residents come together to brainstorm ideas about how to protect and reinforce the community's values. These ideas then become options for action, and once these options are prioritized, they form an action plan that represents the shared values of all residents.

As community teams in Carlisle, Meadville, and Williamsport enter their second year of humanities-based engagement and planning, PHC and Orton are working to bring Heart & Soul to additional Pennsylvania communities. Staff from both organizations recently traveled to Ridgway and Clarks Summit to

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present workshops on Heart & Soul, in partnership with PA Department of Community and Economic Development, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PA Historical and Museum Commission's PA State Historic Preservation Office, PA Chapter of the American Planning Association, USDA Rural Development, and North Central PA Regional Planning and Development Commission. Community groups and organizations traveled from near and far to learn how the humanities could pave the way for positive change in their communities.

To PHC, the path is clear. "We passionately believe the humanities inspire people to make a difference and come together to advance cultural diversity, economic vibrancy, and an equitable society," said Laurie Zierer, executive director of PHC. "With humanities at the heart of planning and development, local values and voices become the foundation for building communities that are connected, innovative, competitive, and strong." ♦

Penn State Extension **LAND USE** Webinar Series

By Peter Wulfhorst, AICP

PENN STATE EXTENSION will be conducting their sixth Land Use Webinar series starting in January 2017 and continuing until May 2017. The webinars will occur on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from Noon – 1:15 pm except for April 12. Recordings of the webinars will also be made available to registrants.

The cost of the webinar series is \$40 for all 5 webinars, \$45 for CE credits for all 5 webinars for Registered Landscape Architects and \$75 for all 5 webinars for those who want to get CM credits for AICP as well as PDH for Professional Engineers.

Registration information can be found at <http://agsci.psu.edu/land-use-webinar> starting on January 1, 2017 including complete topic descriptions.

Topics include:

- **Intergenerational Spaces and Places – January 18, 2017**
- **The Subdivision and Land Development Review Process in Pennsylvania – February 15, 2017**
- **Pipelines & People: How communities can better understand and manage pipelines – March 15, 2017**
- **Planning with School Districts – April 12, 2017**
- **Using Reverse Fiscal Impact Analysis in Pre-Disaster Planning – May 17, 2017**

For registration information, please contact Extension Educator Peter Wulfhorst at 570-296-3400 or e-mail at ptw3@psu.edu

