

# THE VANTAGE POINT



American Planning Association  
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association

## *2010 Irving Hand*

### Award provides recognition and resource

by Evangeline "Van"  
R. Linkous, AICP

**I am very grateful** to the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association for honoring me with the Irving Hand Award for Professional Development in 2010. The award has helped me make progress in achieving several important goals in my career as a planner.

**AS I INTENDED**, I used the award to fund the purchase of study materials and to cover the registration fee for the **American Institute of Certified Planners exam**. I was fortunate enough to pass the exam on my first try and have been collecting AICP Certification Maintenance credits ever since!

In addition to my AICP certification, the award provided assistance in paying for my doctoral fee as I continue working toward my PhD in City and Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania. For this effort, I am looking at the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## 2010 PA Chapter of APA

# AWARD WINNERS

The PA Chapter of APA recently held its Annual Awards Program at the 2010 Annual Conference in Lancaster, PA. The following individuals and organizations were honored for their excellent contributions to planning in Pennsylvania. **Congratulations!**



### *Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan*

#### **Cultivating Community: A Plan for Union County's Future Union County Planning Commission**

Creating a planning ethic in an area that has not traditionally done extensive planning is always challenging. Through an extensive public participation process, use of well-known outside experts, and creation of alternative development scenarios, Union County has accomplished this difficult task, creating an excellent county plan that will also function as three multi-municipal regional plans.



### *Planning Excellence Award for Best Practice*

#### **PGHSNAP: Pittsburgh's Neighborhood Data and Map Resource City of Pittsburgh, Department of City Planning**

Nowadays, most data and information does not come through published books, printed reports, or bound data sets; instead, people search for data electronically. Pittsburgh, recognizing this new reality, has created a dynamic online data and map center for both more sophisticated users, like investors and government agencies, and more general users, such as residents and community groups. This trend-setting online resource has two main components: a profile area that shows basic demographic data and physical characteristics of a community and an action planning area that overlays different types of information to guide policy decisions.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## 2011 Annual Awards

The Application for the 2011 Annual Awards will be announced in February 2011.

Please visit the PA Chapter website [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org) for details.

Deadline for submission is expected to be late May.

## 2010 PA Chapter of APA

# AWARD WINNERS

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### *Planning Excellence Award for Implementation*

#### **Mechanicsburg: Geared for Progress**

##### **The Borough of Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County, PA**

Sometimes, in older developed communities, it's difficult to get action on planning initiatives. That has not been the case in Mechanicsburg. In less than a decade, the borough has used most of the tools in a planner's toolbox, including adoption of a strategic plan, a new comprehensive plan, a new historic district, a historic preservation guidebook, a shade tree commission ordinance, a new zoning ordinance, traditional neighborhood development zoning, a new subdivision and land development ordinance, enabling legislation for a downtown revitalization organization, a property maintenance ordinance, and a rental inspection ordinance. The borough has attracted new businesses, leveraged significant state and federal money, installed new traffic signals, and renovated the community pool. Overall, the elected officials, volunteers, and local activists in the borough have done a tremendous job of improving their community.

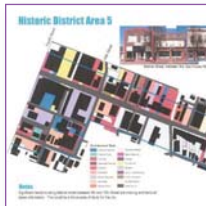


### *Planning Excellence Award for Public Outreach*

#### **Landscapes2, Chester County's Comprehensive Policy Plan**

##### **Chester County Board of Commissioners**

It's often very difficult to get public input on important planning issues. People are busy; they don't understand complex planning issues and laws; and they can be difficult and expensive to reach. For its new comprehensive plan, Chester County decided that traditional outreach approaches were not enough. In addition to public meetings, a steering committee, and focus groups, the county took advantage of web technology and social networking to reach residents, including an interactive web-based map, an online survey, a Facebook page, an e-mail list serve, and a current website with an eBook version of the plan.



### *Student Project Award*

#### **When Sunbury Builds It ... They Will Come, The Sunbury Master Plan** **Department of Landscape Architecture, The Pennsylvania State University**

Working with real clients and places is excellent training for students, and they often come up with innovative ideas and approaches that others haven't considered. This is the case with Pennsylvania State University Landscape Architecture department students who have worked with the town of Sunbury on specific recommendations made in a prior plan. Using this prior plan as a stepping stone, the students conducted detailed evaluations and made useful suggestions in a variety of areas, including parking, circulation, streetscaping, alley design, park design, and historic preservation.

# Congrats



*Planning Leadership Award for Professional Planner*

**William C. Payne**

Planning is not a profession for impatient people who have to see the results of their work immediately, particularly if they work in the Commonwealth's more distressed communities. By the very nature of their work, planners look at the long term. William Payne, who has spent decades leading revitalization efforts in Delaware County and the City of Chester, has seen the results of his impressive efforts, as he helped plan for many major projects in the city, including Harrah's Casino and Race-track, the PPL Stadium, the Wharf at Rivertown office development, University Crossing mixed use development, and the Wellington Heights mixed-income housing development. ♦

## Many thanks

*to the 2010 Awards Committee*

**THANKS** to members of the Awards Committee for the time and hard work they contributed to carefully review all awards nominations.

**Brian O'Leary, AICP, Chair**  
**Robert M. Behling**  
**Cindy Campbell**  
**Graciela Cavicchia, AICP, PP**  
**Denny Puko**  
**Brandi Rosselli, AICP**  
**Vaughn Stebbins, AICP**

## EXCELLENT IN PLANNING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD

2011  
*Irving Hand*  
Award Winners  
Announced

Congratulations are due to **Merry V. Bush**, Planner for the Borough of Gettysburg and **Joseph A. Russo**, Planner for the Delaware County Planning Department. Merry and Joseph were recently selected as the recipients of the 2011 Irving Hand Excellence in Professional Development Award.

## 2010 Irving Hand

## Award provides recognition and resource

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

adoption and performance of transfer of development right programs to support county growth management goals. I anticipate finishing in 2011! Can't wait!

Those of you who were present at the PA-APA conference when I received the award may recall that I had a little one on the way at that time. Novak Mickey Linkous was born January 14, 2010 and will soon celebrate his first birthday. He is a delight and I will be sure he learns all his planning acronyms (TOD, CBD, TDR) along with his ABCs!

With the many professional and personal milestones in my life over the past year, I felt the Irving Hand Award was a wonderful recognition and resource for me. I greatly appreciate the support for the award provided by Delta Development Group and urge planners in Pennsylvania to nominate candidates for this award in years to come. ♦

AWARDS

# INSIDER

A Message from President Alexander J. Graziani, AICP



**IN 1985**, three chapters of the American Planning Association consolidated and merged with the Pennsylvania Planning Association uniting professional planners and planning officials into what we now call the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association.



American Planning Association  
**Pennsylvania Chapter**

Making Great Communities Happen

587 James Drive  
Harrisburg, PA 17112  
717 671-4510 (P)  
717 545-9247 (F)  
[www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org)

**Susan Shermer, CMP**  
Administrative Director  
[sshermer@shermer-assoc.com](mailto:sshermer@shermer-assoc.com)

**Sarah Galbraith Laucks, CMP**  
Chapter Administrator  
[sgalbraith@shermer-assoc.com](mailto:sgalbraith@shermer-assoc.com)

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Please help us close the loop  
and recycle this newsletter.

**AS WE REFLECT** on the last twenty five years we can look back to:

- **Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) Re-enactment – 1988**
- **Creation of the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute – 1992**
- **Passage of the Federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) – 1991**
- **Report of the 21st Century Environment Commission – 1998**
- **Acts 67 and 69 enacted to improve the PA MPC – 2000**
- **Pennsylvania State Planning Board reactivated – 2004**
- **AICP Commission & APA Board of Directors launch AICP Certification Maintenance (CM) – 2007**
- **APA 2007 National Conference, Philadelphia**

**FOR THE LAST 25 YEARS** we have been able to meet at our annual conference to learn — becoming better planners and fostering fellowship with one another. We also get to celebrate the best of Pennsylvania planning through our **annual awards**

**program.** 2010 was no different. This year's award winners once again reinforce the value of planning and the service planners render for their communities. (See the cover story in this issue of *The Vantage Point*)

This year, as in other previous years, our award winners inspired us to see that planning is an essential function of good government and that planning done well gets results. As our Chapter continues, together we must work to position planning to its rightful place in the Commonwealth and in our communities.

This theme that good planning creates results and that planning is an essential function is the theme of our **2011-2014 Development Plan** and for the Planners Unite efforts that helped save the **LUPTAP** program for FY2011. Moreover, the Planners Unite committee has dissolved and its energized members have joined the reinvigorated **Legislative Committee**, with **Shannon Debes** as its new chair.

Moving forward we must continue to work for the communities we serve to improve our economies and quality of life. Telling the story of our successes is essential, as is recog-

nizing elected officials and decision makers who support planning. We must work hard to insure the incoming **Corbett administration** in Harrisburg hears the message.

In 2011 the chapter will hold **elections for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer**. I have asked the six sections of the chapter to provide me with names for a nominating committee. Please feel free to share with me, or your section chairs, if you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, or for standing for elections to the executive committee. Coupled with the ballots for election we will also look to **update our by-laws**.

Moving into our next 25 years we will continue our tradition of a great **annual conference** with 2011's offering in **Scranton on October 16-18, 2011**. We will continue to celebrate the best in planning and work for a stronger Pennsylvania Chapter of the APA.

Thanks for your membership in the association and as always if you ever have an issue that you feel needs my attention, please email me at [info@planningpa.org](mailto:info@planningpa.org). ♦



## New Chapter Members Welcome!

We welcome the following new members who recently joined the PA Chapter of the American Planning Association! With your membership you join nearly 3,000 other 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 of the Chapter are available to answer any questions. Feel free to contact us at 717-671-4510. ♦

**Organizational Members:**  
Hourglass Foundation  
Central Section

**Individual Members:**  
Darin Alviano  
Southwest Section  
Sally Conklin  
Southwest Section

## REGIONAL CONFERENCE

May 5-6, 2011, Cumberland, Maryland

# NEW Perspectives:

## Partnerships for Building Sustainable Communities

**THE MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA AND WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTERS** of the American Planning Association (APA) are partnering to conduct a regional conference focused on planning issues facing the **Mid-Atlantic and Appalachian regions**.

The conference theme coincides with the celebration of the **Nation's first major infrastructure project and the precursor to the Federal-Aid Highway System – the National Road**. The first segment of the Road linking Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia was begun in Cumberland, Maryland.

Commemoration of this public investment provides an important context for the 2011 Spring Conference and an opportunity to reflect on our past achievements, as well as a benchmark to decide what changes we must make to ensure a sustainable future for our communities.

Please call or email **Nick Colonna**, Conference Committee Chair, at 301-600-1248 or [ncolonna@cityoffrederick.com](mailto:ncolonna@cityoffrederick.com) with any questions. ♦

*the national road*

## Building ONE PA Launches a New Initiative

**BUILDING ONE PA** was successfully launched on July 16, 2010. The project will work with leaders from older communities across the state to create the political will for a more comprehensive, transformative approach to these interrelated problems of **population loss, aging infrastructure, concentration of poverty, and inadequate school funding**.

Pennsylvania's manufacturing towns and older, suburban communities were once thriving, diverse and attractive places. But for many decades they have been **victims of federal and state policies that have favored new suburban development at the expense of established communities**. Our aging communities are now experiencing crumbling infrastructure, abandoned Main Streets, loss of jobs, struggling schools, and excessive tax burdens...while **newer communities are at risk for unbalanced growth**.

These problems have been well documented and catalogued in policy reports and roundtables, addresses to the legislature, and media outlets across the commonwealth. But the problems continue to get worse, exacerbated by the weak economy and the diverse fragmented nature of our commonwealth.

For more information about the Building One PA initiative visit <http://10000friends.org/building-one-pennsylvania>. ♦

*building one pa*



## PA Chapter

### Executive Committee

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**Alexander J. Graziani, AICP**  
Smart Growth Partnership

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Professional Planner

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Monroe County Planning Commission

#### Northwest

**Roy Brant, PhD**  
Crawford County Planning Commission

#### Southeast

**Graciela Cavicchia, AICP**  
The Reinvestment Fund

#### Southwest

**Jeff Grim, AICP**  
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**Susan Elks, AICP**

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**Planners Unite Chair**  
**Joy Ruff, AICP**

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



## APA announces Advanced Specialty Certification

APA announced on December 2 that they began accepting applications for the first-ever Advanced Specialty Certification examinations.

### ASC ENABLES QUALIFIED

AICP certified planners to earn an additional credential attesting to their in-depth knowledge, experience, and leadership skills in a specialized field of planning. Applications for the AICP Certified Transportation Planner <http://www.planning.org/asc/transportation/> and AICP Certified Environmental Planner <http://www.planning.org/asc/environment/> examinations will remain open through March 30, 2011, with the exams administered in May.

Visit the APA website for more information about the ASC program and the two new advanced credentials at Advanced Specialty Certification <http://www.planning.org/asc/>

The link contains information on the ASC program including eligibility criteria and exam preparation, as well as testimonials from some of the experts who helped APA develop the criteria and exams for both credentials. Interested members are encouraged to sign up to receive e-mail alerts from APA about Advanced Specialty Certification in the months ahead.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the APA customer service staff at [asc@planning.org](mailto:asc@planning.org) or (312) 431-9100. ♦

## APA Launches the Planning Healthy Communities Forum

The American Planning Association's Planning and Community Health Research Center recently created and launched an exciting new online forum:

### PLANNING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

<http://planninghealthycommunities.webs.com>

The forum provides a venue for discussion among planning and public health practitioners and other stakeholders on topics related to healthy, sustainable communities—including air quality, brownfields, climate change, environmental justice, food systems, health impact assessments, housing choice & affordability, parks, open space & recreation, schools, social equity, transportation alternatives, urban design, and water quality.

The purpose of the forum is to share information about events, best practices, and the latest research in your field as well as learn about what other local and state governments are doing to create healthy, sustainable communities. Among other things, you can ask and answer questions, blog about a hot topic, post events, and participate in discussions. By contributing to this forum, you will help to strengthen and improve the health of urban and rural communities!

To view the forum, visit <http://planninghealthycommunities.webs.com>. To contribute to the content of the forum, create a FREE member profile by clicking on the link in "Ready to Get Started?"

*The creation of this forum was made possible by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.* ♦

## PODO report

by Shirley Yannich, AICP, PP, Planning Officials Development Officer

### Calling all planning officials

**THE NEW YEAR IS AN OPPORTUNE TIME** to join the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association and enjoy the many benefits the chapter offers.

- **Affordable municipal membership dues based on population**
- **The annual dues allows ten municipal appointees to receive the newsletter**
- **Reduced rates for workshops and seminars**
- **Resource to planning articles and books**
- **Connection to planning officials throughout the Commonwealth**
- **Ability to view videos on the chapter's website**
- **Invitation to the "Gathering Table" for Planning Officials at the chapter's annual Fall conference**

Go to [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org) to join and start 2011 by making good planning decisions for your municipality. ♦

**logon**  
[www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org)

# WEBCAST series

## 2011 Professional Development Webcast Series Announced! Earn CM credits

Pennsylvania sponsors the webcast series together with a group of other APA chapters. All webcasts take place from 1:00pm to 2:30pm Eastern Time. For session descriptions and to register visit [www.utah-apa.org](http://www.utah-apa.org). New sessions are regularly added – check the schedule often.

### FIRST QUARTER 2011

#### January 7

Active Design Guidelines — Introductory  
*NY Metro Chapter*  
CM ETHICS CREDITS

#### January 14

Imaginative Connectivity: The Return of Streetcars to America's Central Cities, How and Why — Introductory  
*Illinois Chapter*

#### January 21

Planning Ethics Across the Country — Advanced  
*Northern New England Chapter*  
CM ETHICS CREDITS

#### January 27

RLUIPA — Introductory  
*Michigan Chapter*  
CM LAW CREDITS

#### February 1

Planning with Social Media — Tool or Trauma — Introductory  
*Arkansas Chapter*  
CM APPROVED

#### February 4

Healthy, Active and Vibrant Communities — Allied  
*Missouri Chapter*  
CM APPROVED

#### February 11

Impacts and Opportunities of an Aging Population — Introductory  
*Florida Chapter*  
CM APPROVED

#### February 18

Coastal Development and Regulatory Realities — Introductory  
*Connecticut Chapter*  
CM APPROVED

#### March 1

Planning and Women Division — Child Care — Introductory  
CM APPROVED

#### March 10

Peter Kageyama Renewing Our Love Affair with Cities — Allied  
*Ohio Chapter*  
CM APPROVED

#### March 18th

Special Assessments Must Create Special Benefits: How to Avoid an Unconstitutional "Takings" — Introductory  
*Western Central Chapter*  
CM LAW CREDITS

#### March 25

Planning for an Aging Society: Technologies for Safe Transportation Mobility  
*Technology Division*  
CM APPROVED ♦



# PMPEI

## Courses for Spring 2001

### ZONING

#### West Chester

(Chester County)

March 3, 10, 17

#### Wayne Twp

(Lawrence County)

January 15 and 22

### SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

#### Reading

(Berks County)

February 16, 23; March 2

#### Atglen

(Chester County)

April 5, 12, 19

#### West Chester

(Chester County)

May 5, 12, 19

### COMMUNITY PLANNING

#### Reading

(Berks County)

May 12, 19, 26

#### Wellsboro\*

(Tioga County)

January 12, 19, 26

#### Wysox

(Bradford County)

January 13, 20, 27

#### Wilkes Barre

(Luzerne County)

March 9, 16, 23 ♦

\*location may change

## Planner notes...



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Chapter Administrator **Sarah Galbraith Laucks!** Sarah and her husband Marc welcomed **Max Teichert Michael Laucks** on November 30. Everyone is doing very well, and the PA chapter misses her and cannot wait until she is back in 2011. ♦

## PLANNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



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## Southeast Section

by Graciela Cavicchia, AICP

At its annual reception held at the Ambler Theater on October 28th, the Southeast Section presented its 2010 **scholarship awards** to the following winners:

- First place and \$1,200 to a team from Temple University/Ambler for a paper entitled **Stormwater Management Plan for the Village of Arts and Humanities**. The 12-member team consisted of **Elizabeth Allen, Jeanette Blize, Garrett Byma, Frances Getty, Gavin Hontz, Harry Wilson, Kyle Guie, Melissa Kim, Mark Spiers, Donna Fabry, Richard Murphy, and Sequoia Rock**, with **Professor Richard Nalbandian** as project advisor.

- Second place and \$500 to **Melissa Kim** from Temple/Ambler for a paper entitled **Planning for the Immigrant City**.

- Third place and \$300 to **Matthew Rao** from the University of Pennsylvania for a paper entitled **Mt. Laurel and Affordable Housing**.

Section Council Education Committee members **David Ward, Cheryl Tumola, Joe Luste, Darlene Wynne, and Paula Brumbelow** reviewed the 14 entries and selected the three winners.

The three papers are available for viewing at the PA Chapter website, [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org). See the SE Section page found under "Sections."

## Central Section

by Tara Hitchens, AICP

The Central Section thanks **Frank Chlebnikow, AICP** for his dedication to the Central Section and for being a board member. Mr. Chlebnikow submitted his resignation from the Central Section board, effective December 31, 2010. Given the

upcoming vacancy, the Central Section bylaws allow for an appointment of a person to fill the remaining term. It was unanimously approved that **Jonathan Pinkerton, AICP** be appointed to fill Mr. Chlebnikow's remaining term. Mr. Pinkerton is the Vice President of the Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area. The Central Section board looks forward to working with Mr. Pinkerton and again wishes Mr. Chlebnikow all the best.

The Central PA-APA Section participated in **GIS Day** on November 17, 2010 at the mid-town campus of HACC in Harrisburg. GIS day was attended by students and professionals interested in the various applications of GIS technology. The Central Section's display demonstrated the use of GIS for **Marcellus Shale** in Lycoming County and applications for comprehensive planning and corridor planning in Lebanon County.



**Dick Koch, AICP; Rachelle Ricotta, AICP; and Amy Norton** attended GIS Day and educated HACC students about the profession of planning.

The next meeting of the Central Section will be held on **January 7, 2011** at the Ranch House in Watts, PA at 10am, all are welcome to attend.

## Northeast Section

by Christine Dettore

The Northeast Section is gearing up for the conference next fall. The **2011 Conference** co-chairs are **Howard Grossman** and **Janet Sweeney**. They are looking for additional volunteer help. The northeast section last hosted a conference ten years ago in 2001 in Wilkes-Barre.

The section hosted its **Holiday luncheon** on December 7 and **Peter Wulforth** from the Penn State Cooperative Extension provided an overview of the PMPEI training programs.

Peter Wulforth has recently taken over the reins of Treasurer from **Jesse Ergott**. The Northeast Section board looks forward to working with Mr. Wulforth and wishes Mr. Ergott all the best.

## Southwest Section

by Jeffrey Grim, AICP

Southwest Section held a fall-winter meeting at the North Huntingdon Township municipal building. **Lynn Colosi, Clearview Strategies, and David**



**Jeff Raykes, Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, discusses the Southwest Section's new Mentor-Telemachus Program with Eugene Offerman, a student at IUP, on IUP's Department of Geography and Regional Planning Career Day.**

**Totten, SPC**, presented SPC's new transit planning tool **FIT – Future Investments in TOD** to over 20 Section members. FIT is a step-by-step workbook that can be used as a tool for municipalities, planners, community development organizations, transit agencies, private developers or anyone considering whether **Transit Oriented Development** is an effective method for planning and developing sites around transit or transit stations. The workbook provides 7 factors that should be considered when planning a TOD, with case studies from Southwest Pennsylvania for three different types of TOD's: Urban, Edge, and Commuter. As one planner said, "(the) presentation was good, but (the) opportunity for discussion was excellent."

Southwest Section members attended **IUP's Department of Geography and Regional Planning Career Day**. Career day was a great opportunity to interact with planning students, to offer career advice for those entering a tight job market, and to market the Section's new Mentor-Telemachus program. Over 15 students signed up for the Program for the opportunity to spend a half-day shadowing a professional planner.

Southwest planners wrapped up 2010 and kicked off 2011 with the **3rd Annual Holiday Social**, Friday, December 17th at the Rivertowne North Shore. Events scheduled for 2011 include a **Clean Energy Workshop** in January, a **Stormwater Best Practices Workshop** in March, and **Section elections** in March/April. Stay tuned to Section E-mail Blasts for more information. ♦

## PA Chapter of APA – 2011 Election of Officers

2011 IS AN ELECTION YEAR for the PA Chapter and in the months of August and September, members will be voting for the Chapter Officers who will hold those positions for the next 2 years. Ballots will be delivered in August via electronic or paper means as indicated by your preference in our membership records. We encourage you to watch for these materials and be sure to make your voice heard with your vote!

Results of the election will be announced at the Annual Meeting, which takes place in Scranton during the Annual Conference on October 16-18.

## News & articles

for *The Vantage Point*

### DEADLINES FOR UPCOMING ISSUES:

February: January 21, 2011

April: March 11, 2011

June: May 13, 2011

August: July 8, 2011

October: September 16, 2011

December: November 11, 2011

Submit to: [sgalbraith@shermer-assoc.com](mailto:sgalbraith@shermer-assoc.com)

## EVENTS & training opportunities

Events are added regularly. Visit [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org) for all events and registration details.

### 2011 Good Jobs, Green Jobs National Conference

February 8-10, 2011

Washington, DC

Registration and details at

<http://www.greenjobsconference.org>.

### Brownfields 2011

April 3-5, 2011

Philadelphia, PA

For all the details visit [www.brownfields2011.org](http://www.brownfields2011.org).

### APA National Conference – CM Multiple Credits

April 9-12, 2011

Boston, MA

Visit [www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org) for complete conference details.

### PA APA Annual Conference – CM Multiple Credits

October 16-18, 2011

Scranton, PA

Conference details available in July 2011.

Visit [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org) for information. ♦

## PDO corner

by Susan Elks, AICP, Professional Development Officer

### Supporting Section-Sponsored Training

We have been fortunate in Pennsylvania to have the individual sections of the PA Chapter develop and sponsor training, in addition to the statewide annual conference and other sessions sponsored by the Chapter. Past events held by individual sections include **law, ethics, zoning, alternative energy, and recreation planning**. Section events are critical to making training conveniently available in your local community or nearby, and enable the training to be responsive to the needs of the local community of planners. At the statewide Chapter level, we have **developed submission forms** and **updated a checklist** originally developed by the Southeast Section to help ensure that events offer quality training at an affordable cost, as well as help keep session logistics, and CM registration, manageable.

### Webcast Series for 2011 — Free CM Trainings

For 2011 training, keep in mind the free planning webcast series sponsored by chapters, divisions, and universities. This program was initially begun by a group of chapters, including the PA Chapter, and offered webcasts on the first Friday of each month. The series has continued to grow, and multiple webcasts are now offered each month—**over 48 credits annually**. There are several changes to the series for 2011, focused on making the series more user-friendly for viewers.

**One change is** that one ethic session will be registered as a distance learning event, which will enable PA Chapter members to access the event anytime after it is held for the remainder of 2011 for free.

**Another change** is that all webcasts will be registered with APA by the Ohio Chapter. So, when you go to log your CM credits from viewing a webcast session in 2011, you can find it listed under the Ohio Chapter, regardless of what chapter or division hosted the individual session.

**A last change** is that individual webcast sessions will be categorized as introductory (appropriate for planners who are not working directly in this content area), advanced (appropriate for planners who are working directly in this content area and planners in a management role supervising planners who are working in this content area), or allied (appropriate for all planners and will cover topics in allied fields related to planning). This will help planners to identify how a session matches up with their experience and education background, and if the session would be a good use of their time. For example, a historic preservation planner should skip an intro historic preservation session, but attend an advanced session, while a community planner without an extensive background in historic preservation planning would benefit from an intro historic preservation session. For more information on the webcast series, you can visit the Events Calendar on the PA Chapter website, or go directly to the Utah Chapter website. **Registration for the 2011 events is already open**, and events will be added throughout the year, so continue to check back. ♦

by Richard G. Bickel, FAICP, Outgoing Chair

**The Legislative Committee's 2010 activities** included interim completion of the work of two key task forces, involvement in a campaign to save the Department of Community and Economic Development's (DCED) Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program (LUPTAP), transitioning to a new Committee Chair and preparation for an active role in the next session of the General Assembly.

#### PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDED:

- Acceptance of the final report of the **Required Training Task Force**, which could form the basis of a legislative initiative in the 2011/12 session of the General Assembly.
- Acceptance of the Interim Final Report of the **Municipalities Planning Code (MPC)** Subcommittee.
- Both of these efforts were chaired by **Stan Lembeck**, who resigned in the late summer. **Gil Malone, Esq.** has assumed leadership of the MPC subcommittee for 2011, as it continues to review the MPC and develop additional recommended amendments.
- Extension of the current **Chapter President's Council** grant through 2011, to assist in developing a legislative proposal and an outreach campaign with pertinent organizations and agencies related to the Required Training proposal.
- Through the newly formed **Planner's Unite**, undertook active legislative outreach, including developing a web site with related case studies from municipalities to demonstrate the importance of retaining a strong DCED and especially retention of maximum funding for the LUPTAP program. This campaign, which included a coalition of other organizations,

resulted in preserving a high proportion of funding for the LUPTAP program.

- Drafting a resolution (*subsequently approved and distributed by the Chapter Board*) on the **Marcellus Shale** drilling issue as it related to local land use planning and zoning controls.
- Appointment of a new Chair

**As we begin 2011**, with new leadership in Harrisburg, the Committee is poised to address the legislative and policy challenges that may arise, while continuing to address the important work begun previously.

beginning in 2011: **Shannon Debes**, Principal and Founder of Stratecom Solutions. **Susan Smith, Esq.** will remain as Committee Vice-Chair.

**AS WE BEGIN 2011**, with new leadership in Harrisburg, the Committee is poised to address the legislative and policy challenges that may arise, while continuing to address the important work begun previously. As always, the Committee welcomes the active participation of interested Chapter members to assist in this important function. ♦

by Shannon Debes, Incoming Chair

**In this issue's President's message**, Alex Graziani highlights the evolution of the PA APA from three chapters to a unified entity. Recognizing that planning education, citizen empowerment, organizational partnerships and public policy successes cannot be exacted in a divided environment — we've come together to accomplish these goals.

**OVER THE PAST 25 YEARS**, we have collectively and effectively provided leadership in the development of vital sustainable communities throughout the Commonwealth. It is an honor to be leading the Legislative Committee as we commence our second quarter century of promoting the essential function of planning in Pennsylvania — leveraging the strength we've gained by uniting as an organization in joining with others who share our concerns and goals.

**We extend our deepest gratitude to Richard Bickel, FAICP**, who has served as Legislative Chair for the past 10 years. He has fostered meaningful and productive relationships with legislators who have championed planning causes on our behalf. I'm committed to ensuring that we maintain and build upon his hard work.

Our **Chapter's Legislative Committee** serves as the internal monitor of all legislation, pending and passed, that does and will affect planning practices. It is also the external advocacy arm, constructing position papers and press pieces for publication to promote purposeful planning and quantify its benefits. The Committee encourages dialogue and open discussion on issues that are positively and negatively impacting the planning climate.

Historically, a very small core of people have been actively involved with this committee.

We will need to raise those numbers as we move ahead in 2011. In the past year, we have transitioned from operating in an environment where monitoring was the primary purpose to one where advocacy is a necessity to save, maintain and increase planning funding and programs. While we all know planning to be the sole function by which our communities can create the environment they want for themselves, fostering independence and streamlining budgets — not everyone sees it this way. That's why our efforts to communicate the importance of planning and its accessibility and relevance to lawmakers, officials and the general public is of ever-increasing importance in this depressed economy.

#### So how do we do this? Here's what's on the horizon for the Legislative Committee in 2011:

- We will seek to **appoint section liaisons** who work closely with local legislators and apprise the Chapter of legislative initiatives that are priorities in their area
- We will **foster more meaningful dialogue** with legislators to learn what their interests are and what needs to be in place for them to respond favorably to draft legislation
- We will **work in conjunction with all PA APA standing committees** to determine whether they have needs which can or

# from the outgoing and incoming Chairs...

must be addressed through legislative action

- We will work with the **PA Works!** initiative and continue to build relationships with allied organizations such as PSATS, PSAB, CCAP and 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania — powerful partners with whom we can advance a collective agenda
- We will involve the Chapter membership and special interest groups in **grassroots awareness and advocacy campaigns**, including PSA's, social networking, and the Chapter website
- We will **connect members** with similar advocacy interests and build capacity to address the issue (we got a head start on this in 2010 with the formation of the Planners Unite/

**Our Chapter's Legislative Committee serves as the internal monitor of all legislation, pending and passed, that does and will affect planning practices.**

LUPTAP Committee. Their work will continue under the umbrella of the Legislative Committee).

- We will **enlist APA's expertise** in advocacy and developing relationships with legislators and others in order to enhance the Chapter's effectiveness
- We will use APA's legislative plans as a base for **training**

**Chapter leadership** to craft personalized, cohesive, and on point messages; which may then be understood and embraced by the full membership

- We will contribute to information on the **website** by updating initiatives and making very specific "asks" to accomplish our goals
- We will ensure regular updates will be available in **The Vantage Point**. In the event you aren't able to participate in the work of the Committee from one newsletter to the next, you will remain up to date on all of our initiatives.

**I DO HOPE YOU'LL CONSIDER** giving some of your valuable time to this effort — the health and welfare of our communities depends upon it! Tasks will be

kept small and manageable so that no one will be overwhelmed with this process. A little will go a long way in helping us to accomplish our goals — even the review of one bill one time a year by one individual makes a difference.

More information on the Legislative Committee will be posted on the Chapter website; including a Committee organizational chart, current member's roster, and mission, vision and goals list. There is also a brief bio included so that you may become more familiar with me as I learn more about you and what matters to you in this coming year.

**Our full success depends upon your participation.** I look forward to hearing from you and working with you in 2011. ♦

## AICP Exam Preparation

**The PA Chapter offers a variety of options** to support our members in preparing for the upcoming AICP Exam in May 2011. The PA Chapter is planning a study session this spring.

- **AICP Exam Prep Session**, tentative date of February 26, 2011. This is an in-person, all day study session, and will be held in the Harrisburg area. Registration information will be posted on the PA Chapter website ([www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org)) when available.
- **AICP Exam Prep Webcast** — The audio and slides from the fall 2010 webcast prep session are available on the AICP Exam page of the PA Chapter website.
- **Additional presentations, links to resources, and PDC Study Notes** are also available on the AICP Exam page of the PA Chapter website.
- **The APA AICP Exam Prep Study Manual 1.0** is available to borrow from the PA Chapter office. Past exam participants have found the study manual to be very helpful. Contact the office at 717-671-4510 or [sgalbraith@shermer-assoc.com](mailto:sgalbraith@shermer-assoc.com) for arrangements. While a newer version of the study manual (2.0) was recently published, the 1.0 version contains significant information to assist in your preparation, and includes an addendum. You may also purchase the 2.0 version from APA at [www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org).
- **The PA Chapter annually awards partial scholarships for the AICP Exam**, reducing the fee from \$485 to \$125. Please note that APA requires that scholarship recipients have NOT submitted their AICP Exam application. For this reason, the PA Chapter recommends that scholarship applicants wait until scholarships are awarded to submit their AICP application. Information on the 2011 scholarships is posted on the home page of the website. ♦

*Please let us know if you have any questions and the best of luck in your preparation for the exam.*



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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** now for the PA Chapter of APA 2011 Annual Conference! This year's event takes us to the Northeast Section and Scranton, PA. Planners from across the state will gather Sunday, October 16 to Tuesday, October 18, 2011 at the Hilton Scranton and Conference Center.

**2011 Annual Conference**  
**October 16-18, 2011**

***“Our Changing Landscape”***

**Interested in presenting a workshop?**

The Call for Presentations will be announced in January 2011. Watch for notification by chapter email. All details related to submitting a proposal, including topics sought and important deadlines, will be posted on the PA Chapter website.

**Connect with planners through sponsorship, exhibit and advertising opportunities**

Be part of the largest annual gathering of Pennsylvania's professional planners and planning officials at the PA Chapter of APA 2011 Annual Conference! Attendance at both the 2009 and 2010 Annual Conferences exceeded 500 attendees. Marketing efforts are estimated to reach 5,000 planners in the state. Details for how to confirm your participation will be available in January 2011. ♦

For all the details visit [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org) and go to the 2011 Annual Conference webpage, found under Events and Training.