



# THE VANTAGE POINT



American Planning Association  
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association

## Call for Presentations Announced!

### "Cultivating Strong Communities"

2010  
Annual Conference  
October 3-5

THE PA CHAPTER is seeking dynamic presenters to share their knowledge and expertise at the 2010 Annual Conference "Cultivating Strong Communities" in Lancaster, PA. Applicants are encouraged to submit session proposals that support the conference theme "Cultivating Strong Communities" and the list of suggested topics developed by the Conference Committee.

The deadline for submission of session proposals is Friday, March 19, 2010. Submissions are accepted ONLINE only.

Visit [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org) and click on "Annual Conference" for more information. If you have any questions please contact the Chapter Office at 717-671-4510 or [info@planningpa.org](mailto:info@planningpa.org).

# THE POWER OF CHOICE

PA LAND CHOICES teaches the importance of Land Use Planning

**PA Land Choices is a program of DCNR State Parks that offers teachers, conservation professionals and community leaders a new way to engage and enlighten students and adults regarding the importance of civic involvement and land use planning.**

**FULLY REVISED IN 2009**, *PA Land Choices* is a collection of activities that help the learner to understand the power of choice. Because of its strong focus on land use planning, the PA Chapter of APA Board of Directors has endorsed the following recommendations proposed by the Chapter's Education Committee:

**Recommendation #1:** The PA Chapter of APA supports and endorses *PA Land Choices*. It fits well within the mission of the PA Chapter.

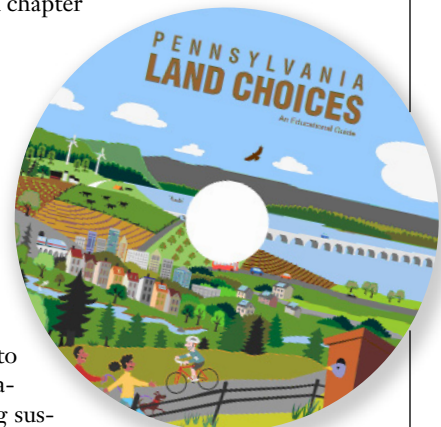
**Recommendation #2:** The efforts of the *PA Land Choices* program implementation are further supported by the PA Chapter resources of, A) a list or roster of PA Chapter members available to be contacted by the *PA Land Choices* staff to provide planning participation at locations of

schools, DCNR staff training sites; and B) the roster and the *PA Land Choices* program will be added to the PA chapter website.

**Cliff Kanz, chair of the PA Chapter Education Committee, recently interviewed Estelle Ruppert about the PA Land Choices project.**

**CK:** Estelle, please share with us a little more about yourself and the staff resources that were involved in this project? Where can readers contact you for more information?

**ER:** Thank you for giving me an opportunity to explain a community/school educational initiative supported by DCNR to advance planning sus-



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# THE POWER OF CHOICE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tainable communities and land conservation. My name is Estelle Ruppert, Program Specialist for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, in Harrisburg and the *Pennsylvania Land Choices* Coordinator. I work within the Education and Interpretation Section of the State Parks Outdoor Programming Services. A background in education and curriculum development and a master's degree in science education are utilized in providing programs and trainings for young people, community leaders, teachers and staff. I am also an adjunct professor at Lebanon Valley College and have numerous certifications.

A personal passion for civics education and community planning has manifested itself in a publication called *Pennsylvania Land Choices* which supports the goals of DCNR and encourages regional planning initiatives. *PA Land Choices* is a 250-page guide of lessons and activities that provides a framework for teaching about local government, planning, and land conservation with emphasis for students on service learning. It was developed and coordinated with support from DCNR including the Bureaus of State Parks, Forestry, Geology and Recreation and Conservation in partnership with the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association. Numerous professional planners and organizations including the PA Chapter of APA have supported the initiative and provide expertise and guidance in workshops for teachers and communities.

***PA Land Choices* is available for review or downloading through [www.palandchoices.org](http://www.palandchoices.org).** For more information or for a

hard copy of the book, contact our Harrisburg office at 717-783-4356 or [palandchoices@state.pa.us](mailto:palandchoices@state.pa.us).

**CK:** Wow that's impressive. Which state agencies and other organizations are involved with the development of the project and how is it being put into action through workshops and other trainings?

**ER:** The development, design

and printing of the *PA Land Choices*, An Education Guide was funded by DCNR in 2009 in partnership with the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association (PALTA). Within the past few years, we have presented to over 3,000 participants and trained over 300 department staff, of which about 60 are trained facilitators from DCNR capable of helping to organize workshops across the state. We encourage professional planners, education leaders, and organizations to connect with state park education staff to develop planning education initiatives for schools and communities. The workshops utilize a collection of resources including *PA Land Choices* and address local government, land conservation, planning and citizenship. They

reflect the regional issues and character of the communities in which they are scheduled and involve an array of local professional planners, community leaders, state and local agencies and nonprofit groups. We appreciate the support of the local professional planning organizations and local members of the APA in encouraging connections between schools and the planning community.

**CK:** That's a lot of people. Can you share with us more information about how the program is being implemented in the public school setting?

**ER:** In working with teachers and schools, it is important to note that the activities in *PA Land Choices* are aligned to PDE academic standards. It is not only focused on the social studies but also environment and ecology as well as other disciplines. There is a section in *Land Choices* which explains the connection to the Standards Aligned Systems. The program is approved by the PA Department of Education to provide Act 48 professional hours and also continuing credits to teachers.

The teacher workshops that offer credit or Act 48 hours are usually scheduled over two to four days so that time in the classroom equals 16 hours and there is an additional 16 hours of non-contact time through readings and assignments. Class size can be from 6 teachers to 25 teachers. We also provide brief trainings or programs for conference presentations or for small groups of interested participants. We may also work directly in the classroom, as time allows. Teachers are usually from 6th through 12th grades but we have elementary grade teachers and college professors who adapt the activities to meet the needs of their students. Teachers from all disciplines are represented but the focus is most appropriate for civics, geography,

**Teachers from the Erie School District participate in *PA Land Choices* training.**



environment, and ecology. Administrators, service learning coordinators, and physical fitness teachers also benefit from the program.

In 2010, we are beginning to plan a series of teacher workshops involving various school districts connected to regional initiatives throughout the state. Upcoming workshops include programs for the Erie School District, Gateway Middle School in Monroeville, Jonestown Elementary School in Lebanon County, and school districts in Tioga County and Somerset County. Each year, we provide *PA Land Choices* training for PA and NJ teachers involved with the National Park Service Program "A Trail to Every Classroom" which focuses on using public trails for education such as the Appalachian Trail.

**CK:** Somewhere you covered the aspect of community planning in the workshop settings. I know PA Chapter of APA members have already participated in some workshops. For others who would like to get involved, what does this commitment entail?

**ER:** Community planning is a key part of the workshop and that is why it is imperative that *PA Land Choices* workshops encourage and even require workshop organizers to seek partnerships with professional planners. It is important for the success of the educational experience to notify and involve professional planners at their convenience. *PA Land Choices* facilitators are instructed to contact local and/or county planning offices and request support. Planners may choose their level of commitment — participating in the development of the entire workshop or providing one session on local planning.

Planners interested in starting an initiative are also encouraged to contact their local or regional state park educator and initiate the development of a workshop by recruiting educational support from state parks. At times, funding may be available to support the involvement of planners. Contact information is available by contacting Estelle



**ABOVE:** Erie School District teachers gather for a group photo during *PA Land Choices* training at Presque Isle State Park.

**BELOW:** An exercise from *PA Land Choices* used to determine the value of urban forests.

Ruppert at 717-783-4356.

County and local planning offices have participated in workshops across the state, to numerous to mention. One example that you might know is Alex Graziani, who provided presentations on Westmoreland Smart Growth during *PA Land Choices* workshops for the Governor's Teacher Institutes. We are seeking support from the PA

Chapter to identify planners interested in helping with educational programs and expanding the knowledge of local and regional government. We hope to encourage planners to identify their interest in supporting planning in public schools and create a speakers list of contacts that could be used by *PA Land Choices* workshop organizers as well as teachers interested in having



planners visit the classroom. We also hope that planners would help spread the word that *PA Land Choices* is a valuable resource and tool for classroom teachers and community educators. They are welcome to receive a complementary copy to use in advancing local government education in schools. Please contact Estelle Ruppert using the contact information provided.

**CK:** That's a lot of community planning for lots of people that has everyday applicability. The Education Committee is pleased that the PA Chapter Board has endorsed the *PA Land Choices* endeavor, and will begin activities to support the workshop activities as well as beginning a roster of interested planners. The membership of the PA Chapter is a great resource to be tapped to participate.

**If you are interested in learning more about this project or adding your name to the roster, please contact the PA Chapter office at 717-671-4510 or [info@planningpa.org](mailto:info@planningpa.org). Specify *PA Land Choices* in your communication. Stay tuned for more news about *PA Land Choices* in future newsletters. ♦**

# INSIDER

## A Message from President Alexander J. Graziani, AICP



### Happy Anniversary:

2010 is the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association. To celebrate *The Vantage Point* would like to feature stories about our predecessors and our beginnings. If you are interested in contributing an article for an upcoming issue please let us know at [info@planningpa.org](mailto:info@planningpa.org).

### Chapter Development Plan:

By the time you read this article, the PA Chapter of APA Board of Directors will have completed their 2010 planning retreat to create a new Development Plan for the Chapter. The new plan will guide the organization's strategic decisions over the next 3-5 years.

To help facilitate this process the Chapter hired Edward F. Swenson & Associates, Inc. and

will work with Edward F. Swenson, III and Jennifer Shropshire from this top notch Philadelphia firm.

The chapter received 30 proposals for this project – they arrived from literally all over the country! After receiving the proposals on Monday January 4, 2010, our association management firm Shermer & Associates created a secure webpage of all thirty submissions for review by the PA Chapter Executive Committee.

Committee members participated on a conference call on Thursday January 7, 2010 after reviewing the proposals on their own! With thirty submissions this was no easy task. We received a number of outstanding proposals.

Being community planners each reviewer was familiar with the latest facilitation techniques. Many have strategic planning experience for community development groups.

My thanks goes out to the dedicated volunteers who give so much time to the association. Nearly 30 members attended the January 28-29, 2010 retreat in State College. It is gratifying to serve an association with so many dedicated volunteers. I would also like to thank Shermer & Associates for their extra efforts to help make the retreat successful.

### State 5-Year Land Use and Growth Management Report:

Speaking of consultant selection, I represented PA APA and the State Planning Board on the committee formed by the PA DCED Governor's Center for Local Government Services to select the consultant to write the next State Land Use and Growth Management report. This report is very important to the planning profession in Pennsylvania. Section 107 of the MPC states:

"The State Land Use and Growth Management Report is a comprehensive land use and growth management report to be prepared by the Center for Local Government Services and which shall contain information, data and conclusions regarding growth and development patterns in this Commonwealth and which will offer recommendations to commonwealth agencies for coordination of executive action, regulation and programs."

### And Section 307 states:

"State Land Use and Growth Management Report: The Center for Local Government Services shall issue a land use and growth management report by the year 2005 and shall review and update the report at five-year intervals."

This report will be completed over the next 12 months; please

stay tuned and be prepared to offer input. With the gubernatorial election coming this fall this document may be critical in helping to guide the next administration.

In my opinion this report needs to communicate the importance of good long-term decision making. We need this report to highlight how plans get implemented and lead to vibrant economic and community development. It has to offer policy recommendations that shape the new DCED!

### AICP Certification Maintenance:

I know this does not apply to all our PA Chapter members but the deadline for AICP Certification Maintenance has passed. AICP members had until December 31, 2009 to log their credits to maintain their certification. Fortunately a grace period has been implemented and extends the final deadline to April 30, 2010. Please read the PDO corner for more information about AICP CM.

### Your Ideas Welcome:

As always feel free to share with me ([alex@smartgrowthpa.org](mailto:alex@smartgrowthpa.org)) your ideas about any of the above items. The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association is a membership organization. Help us better serve you the planning professional and planning official. ♦



American Planning Association  
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

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Please help us close the loop and recycle this newsletter.

## NEW PA CHAPTER MEMBER welcome!

**WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBER** who joined the PA Chapter in May 2009. The PA Chapter membership includes 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 are available to answer any questions. Feel free to contact us at 717-671-4510.

*Individual Member:* **Belachew Ayele**, Southwestern PA Commission, Southwest Section ♦

# WEBCASTS

2010 Professional Development Series

earnCMcredits

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 will be added – check the schedule often. Please note that several webcasts meet the CM Law requirement. We encourage you to register early. These webcasts are provided at no cost to PA Chapter members. Schedule subject to change.

## March 12

MYFACE, SPACEBOOK, LINKING, TWITTER . . .  
WHAT? – CM 1.5

Mayana Anderson, AICP, Senior Planner, WLC Engineering, Surveying and Planning, Inc.; Leah Reeb, MPO Supervisor, City of Casper

## March 19

THE ABC'S OF RFP'S AND RFQ'S – CM 1.5  
Paulette M. Carolin, FAICP, Principal Planner, Las Vegas Regional Transportation Commission;  
Allan A. Hodges, FAICP, Senior Professional Associate, Parsons Brinckerhoff; Robert S. Cowell, Jr., AICP, Planning Director, City of College Station, Texas

## March 26

THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: IMPLI-

CATIONS FOR LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT PLANNERS – CM 1.5 LAW

C. Jeffery Evans, Owner, Evans Consulting

## April 2

USING FORM BASED REGULATIONS TO SUSTAIN NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER - CM 1.5

Frank Duke, AICP, Director, Dept. of Planning and Community Development, Norfolk, Virginia

## April 9

THE AMERICAN HOUSING SURVEY - CM 1.5

## May 7

To Be Announced

## May 14

IMPLEMENTING PLANNING SUPPORT TOOLS: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR ADOPTION AND USE - CM 1.5

# PODO report

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

**PLANNING OFFICIAL** (plan`ning) (o fish`al). n. 1. An individual appointed by an elected governing body to serve on a board or commission. 2. A volunteer who gives of himself or herself for the good of the general public. 3. A public servant. 4. A person willing to devote long hours for the betterment of his or her community. [<LL official (is) of duty. See Office, -AL1]

**THE PLANNING** Official Development Committee of the PA Chapter of APA will be contacting local Planning Officials throughout the course of 2010 to report on the progress of the chapter's initiative to put forth a legislative bill that will require mandatory training of planning officials. We'll also be sharing information on training opportunities to gain tools for more effective planning efforts.

It is beneficial for municipalities, small or large, to become a member of the Pennsylvania Chapter at this

time more than ever. Membership rates are available for individuals and organizations. Please refer to our website, [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org) for a complete list of membership categories. Your yearly membership entitles you to an abundance of planning related material; such as, a copy of this newsletter, *The Vantage Point*, in either e-form or paper, discounts for workshops and publications, participation at the Chapter's annual conference, a network of planning officials, a source to research land use and zoning ordinances and eligibility for an award as an outstanding planning official. ♦

## Local Government Day

Local Government Day will be celebrated April 15 at the State Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, PA. More than 200 guests are expected at the awards presentation which the PA Chapter of APA sponsors together with other local government associations. This event recognizes local government officials for their accomplishments.

CELEBRATE  
APRIL 15, 2010

## PA Chapter

Executive Committee

### PRESIDENT

Alexander J. Graziani, AICP  
Smart Growth Partnership

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CHPlanning, Ltd.

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Penn State Cooperative Extension

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Crawford County Planning Commission

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Borough of State College

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Mifflin County Planning Commission

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### Northeast

Christine Dettore  
Monroe County Planning Commission

### Northwest

Roy Brant, PhD  
Crawford County Planning Commission

### Southeast

Graciela Cavicchia, AICP  
The Reinvestment Fund

### Southwest

Jeff Grim, AICP  
Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

## Committee Chairs

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Susan Elks, AICP

Planning Officials Development Officer/Chair of the Planning Officials Development Committee

Shirley A. Yannich, PP, AICP  
Communications Committee Chair  
Dennis Martinak, AICP

Education Committee Chair  
Cliff Kanz, AICP

### 2010 Conference Co-Chairs

James Cowhey, AICP  
Jeffrey Featherstone, PhD  
Richard Koch, AICP

### Legislative Committee

Richard Bickel, AICP, Chair  
Susan Smith, Esq., AICP, Vice Chair

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

## PA Chapter Undertakes

# REQUIRED TRAINING INITIATIVE

by Richard G. Bickel, AICP, Chair, Chapter Legislative Committee

**WITH SUPPORT** from an American Planning Association (APA) through a Chapter President's Council (CPC) Grant, the Chapter's Legislative Committee and Required Training Subcommittee will be drafting a legislative proposal during 2010, which would implement a required training program for planning commissioners, zoning hearing board members and zoning officers. We will also undertake outreach and information activities to address concerns and to gain support for enactment of such a program in 2011. The APA grant will be used for outreach to various local government associations and interest groups, and to initiate contacts to advance the Required Training program in the General Assembly.

One of the common bonds that unites Pennsylvania's planners (professional and citizen) is the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), and their appreciation that the planning process works best when all the participants know how to perform their duties effectively. With this in mind, the APA/PA formed a Task Force in 2007, to address the training issue, chaired by Stan Lembeck, AICP. The report of the Task Force was completed in 2008 and has been endorsed by the APA/PA Board. It includes recommendations for required training programs to provide the members of municipal and county Planning Commissions, Zoning Hearing Boards and Zoning Officers with a basic understanding of planning concepts and their respective roles in the zoning, land development and appeals process. Since completion of their final report, the subcommittee has refined the

original proposal to address program implementation, course delivery and cost factors raised at Chapter Annual Conference sessions and other preliminary discussions. It is likely that further refinements will be made in 2010, as the outreach and information process moves forward.

The Legislative Committee and the Required Training Subcommittee believe this initiative is worthy of your attention and consideration as we seek ways to attain program implementation. (The new proposed Mission Statement of the Subcommittee accompanies this article.) We will continue to provide updates

on our progress through the Chapter newsletter and at the Annual Conference in Lancaster next October. Chapter members who would like to become more involved with this initiative or the Legislative Committee should contact me at [rbickel@dvrpc.org](mailto:rbickel@dvrpc.org). Your participation is welcomed. ♦

## REQUIRED TRAINING SUBCOMMITTEE

### (RTS) Mission Statement

*(Draft as of December 2009)*

**The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA/PA) has formed and appointed a Subcommittee of the Chapter Legislative Committee to examine the issues and options related to required training for planning commission and zoning hearing board members, as well as zoning officers. This initiative is intended as a logical next step, building upon the work already undertaken by the 2007/2008 Required Training Task Force. The Subcommittee will report to the Legislative Committee and to the Chapter Board.**

**The primary mission of the Required Training Subcommittee (RTS) is to:**

1. Draft and refine a legislative proposal for a required training program in Pennsylvania, using the previous work of the Required Training Task Force as a starting point that APA/PA could use to seek sponsorship and a proposed House or Senate bill(s) in the General Assembly;
2. Continue to examine current statutes in other states for their applicability in Pennsylvania;
3. Consult with various interests (local government associations, Department of Community and Economic Development, State Planning Board and pertinent local government-related committees of the General Assembly) to hear and address their opinions about the merits or concerns of a proposed required training program; and
4. Summarize the outcome of these activities in a report to the Chapter Board and to the APA Chapter President's Council (in fulfillment of the APA Chapter grant that is intended to assist in the education and outreach activities).

**The RTS's primary charge** is intended to be accomplished in twelve (12) months, from January 1, to December 31, 2010, including a report to the APA/PA Board, the Chapter membership (through periodic Chapter newsletter articles and a session at the Chapter's Annual Planning Conference in Lancaster in October 2010), as well as a summary report for the APA Chapter President's Council at the APA Annual Conference, in Boston, in April 2011.

**Following review and discussion** by the APA/PA Board, should there be support to advance a legislative proposal, it is the overall goal of this process that APA/PA will be in position to do so by the end of calendar year 2010, with further action in the 2011/2012 session of the PA General Assembly.

**This mission statement is expected to be adopted** by the APA/PA Required Training Subcommittee at their first meeting in 2010. ♦

# AROUND the STATE

## Envision Lancaster County Wins Top Award from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**THE LANCASTER** County Planning Commission (LCPC) recently won the Overall Excellence Award for Smart Growth Achievement for Envision Lancaster County, the County's Comprehensive Plan and its implementation, from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"U.S. EPA Smart Growth award is really a great honor for Lancaster County's citizens and business leaders," said James R. Cowhey, AICP, executive director of the LCPC. "The award recognizes the community's commitment to ensuring a continued high quality of life through a truly comprehensive approach to Smart Growth," he said. "Lancastrians are working

hard to preserve a working agricultural landscape, a distinct culture and heritage, sustain a strong local and regional economy, and deliver a smart transportation system."

The EPA recognized four diverse communities for their comprehensive approach to improving access to affordable housing, providing more transportation options and protecting the local environment for residents.

"It's great to be chosen as a national leader in planning and growth management," said Cowhey, as he accepted the top award on behalf of Lancaster County. Winning this award sets the bar for our ongoing efforts in planning for a great future for Lancaster County.

More information on the winners and EPA's Smart Growth Program visit [www.epa.gov/smartgrowth](http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth).

## Christopher Knarr, AICP to chair Cumberland County Planning Commission

**IN JANUARY 2010** members of the Cumberland County Planning Commission (CCPC) elected Christopher Knarr, AICP, to serve as chairman of the commission. As chairman, Knarr will govern CCPC meetings and help to set the direction for CCPC and its staff. "I will make sure CCPC continues to be a relevant and respected resource for the County Commissioners, as well as the county's 33 municipalities, by continuing to provide a high level of professional and technical community planning, outreach and educational support services," Knarr added. Knarr is a community development specialist at RETTEW, an engineering, planning and consulting firm. ♦

## planners needed

for the PA Chapter Booth at the **PSATS Annual Convention**

**PLANNERS** are needed to staff our exhibit booth during the PSATS Annual Convention at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA. Volunteers may attend educational sessions on the day they volunteer.

Show dates and hours:

**SUNDAY, APRIL 18**

**12:00 noon to 5:00 pm**

**MONDAY, APRIL 19**

**7:30 am to 4:00 pm**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 20**

**7:30 am to 1:00 pm**

To volunteer, please contact the PA Chapter Office at 717-671-4510 or [info@planningpa.org](mailto:info@planningpa.org). Let us know which days and times you are able to volunteer.

Thank you! ♦

## PA CHAPTER ANNUAL AWARDS

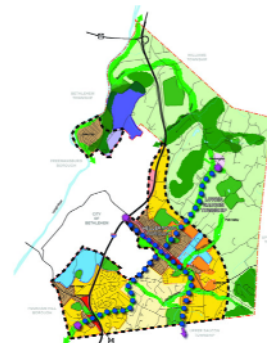
### Applications Now Available

best & brightest 2010

The best and the brightest plans and planners are recognized each year by their peers through the highly competitive PA Chapter Awards Program. The annual awards application is now available online at [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org) or by calling the PA Chapter office at 717-671-4510. The deadline for this year's awards applications is Friday, May 21, 2010. The winners will be announced at the Annual Awards Program, scheduled for Tuesday, October 5, 2010 during the PA Chapter Annual Conference. Many thanks to Brian O'Leary, AICP and the Awards Committee members for their commitment to this program each year!

## deadline 05.21.10

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# PDOCORNER

by Susan Elks, AICP, PA Chapter Professional Development Officer

## CM Deadline Extended:

If you haven't already heard, the deadline for the first reporting cycle of CM has been extended to April 30, 2010 for those members who had not met the requirement of 32 credits. Members who had at least 32 credits at the end of 2009 began to earn credits against their second reporting cycle starting January 1, 2010. Members with more than 32 credits at the end of 2009 automatically carry surplus credits (a maximum of 16) into the next reporting cycle, excluding the specific law and ethics requirements. If you have questions or need any assistance identifying sessions you have attended, logging credits on the APA website, or finding sessions to attend prior to the extended

deadline please feel free to contact the Chapter Office or myself (selks@chesco.org, 610-344-6285).

## AICP Exam:

The spring AICP exam application window is now closed, and the testing window is set for May 10-24, 2010. The PA Chapter will be holding its annual in-person, all-day prep session on Saturday March 6, 2010, which provides general testing tips and focused review of all of the test content topics. Please contact myself or the Chapter office to register for the session. There is no fee to attend.

## Seeking AICP Exam Study Materials:

Speaking of the AICP Exam, if you have taken the exam in the past and are wondering what to do with your study materials, the Professional Development Committee would be glad to take them and then lend them out to future test takers. We'd love to grow our small library of materials for planners studying for the AICP exam. If you have any AICP exam study materials that you would be willing to part with, please contact myself or the Chapter office. We are most interested in the following: The Practice of Local Government Planning (Green Book), 3rd or 4th editions; Everyday Ethics for Practicing Planners by Carol Barnett; or the AICP Exam Prep

2.0. Thank you in advance for your willingness to share your materials.

## Webcast Series:

The free Friday webcast series has already kicked off for 2010. At least 48 credits will be offered through this series of webcasts, primarily presented on Friday afternoons from 1:00pm to 2:30pm. The webcasts are a great way to earn free CM credits, but more importantly a great training resource regardless of CM. Topics this year include use of social networking tools such as Facebook, regulation of electronic signs, ADA and Fair Housing compliance, and the CM-required planning law and ethics. Registration information can be found at the PA Chapter's online events calendar. ♦

# PMPEI

## Announces 2010 "Train-the-Trainer" Session

by Stan Lembeck, AICP

The PA Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI) will hold a train-the-trainer class **April 16-17, 2010** to prepare new instructors to teach **The Course in Community Planning**. If you are interested in helping local planning and zoning officials learn how to effectively carry out their planning responsibilities consider becoming a PMPEI Certified Instructor.

PMPEI is **Pennsylvania's primary education outreach program** for planning commissioners, zoning board members, zoning officers, and elected officials. The Institute is a collaborative effort of the PA Chapter of APA and Penn State University Cooperative Extension. The Course in Community Planning is one of PMPEI's **four, 10-hour, in-depth courses** that are presented throughout the Commonwealth.

The train-the-trainer session is a **fast-paced 16 hour program over two days** in which new instructors review and discuss the course materials, techniques for teaching adults, how to team teach with other instructors, and ways to present the course material to make it exciting and understandable. Upon completion of the training **instructors become certified** to teach The Course in Community Planning, for which they receive compensation and travel expenses. *CM credit for AICP members is pending.*

The train-the-trainer class will be held at the **Hilton Garden Inn in State College, Friday and Saturday, April 16 and 17, 2010**. Citizen and professional planners with a minimum of five year's experience in planning are eligible to become certified instructors. The registration **fee for the training is \$160**, which includes instruction, materials, meals, and breaks. **The deadline for applications is May 31, 2010**. For more information or an application for the training contact **Stan Lembeck, AICP, at 814-237-2382 or sml1@psu.edu**. For information about the Institute and its courses check the PMPEI website- <http://cax.aers.psu.edu/pmpei/>. ♦



Mark Your Calendars Now!  
10.3-5.2010

The 2010 Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association Annual Conference will be held October 3 to 5 at the Lancaster Convention Center and Marriott in Lancaster, PA.

PREPARED BY TIVE LOBBYING / JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2010

## LEGISLATIVE BOX SCORE

**KEY TO COMMITTEE ABBREVIATIONS:** AGR—Agriculture and Rural Affairs; APP—Appropriations; CED—Community and Economic Development; COM—Commerce and Economic Development; ERE—Environmental Resources and Energy; FIN—Finance; G&F—Game and Fisheries; LAB—Labor Relations; LOC—Local Government; RUL—Rules; STA—State Government; TOU—Tourism and Recreational Development; TRN—Transportation; URB—Urban Affairs and Housing

HB 60	Amends Housing Finance Agency Law to establish the Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Program	Daley	On House floor		
HB 1609	Amends MPC to define "traditional neighborhood development" and to grant powers to municipalities over such	Freeman	Passed 195-0	Tabled	
HB 1772	Provides for acquisition, taxing and eminent domain of open spaces	Matzie	House APP		
HB 1831	Amends MPC providing for review fees	Houghton	On House floor		
HB 2085	Amends MPC prohibiting the location of advertising signs in certain locations	Adolph	House LOC		
SB 298	Amends Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act for split-off, separation or transfer	Yaw	Passed 50-0	House AGR	
SB 884	Amends Agricultural Security Area Law on proceeds from sales by the Dept. of Agriculture and for grants for agricultural land conservation assistance	Waugh	Senate APP		
SB 1139	Amends MPC providing for contents of municipal ordinances	Leach	Senate LOC		

where's the bill?

## PMPEI Educational Institute

### COURSE IN ZONING

West Chester (Chester County)  
Graduate Business Center, West Chester University  
Thursdays, March 4, 11 and 18, 2010  
For registration information contact:  
William Stevens 610-924-0900  
More info at <http://cax.aers.psu.edu/pmpei/>

### TRAIN-THE-TRAINER COURSE

State College (Centre County)  
April 16-17, 2010  
See information on previous page.

### COURSE IN SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

Thursdays, May 6, 13 and 20, 2010  
WCU Graduate Business Center  
For registration information contact:  
William Stevens 610-924-0900  
More info at <http://cax.aers.psu.edu/pmpei/>

## APA National Planning Conference

JOIN APA and more than 5,000 planners and officials in New Orleans for the world's premier planning event. The 2010 National Planning Conference is the largest and best educational opportunity available to planners. With hundreds of sessions, workshops, mobile workshops, and networking opportunities, there is something for everyone! AICP members may earn up to 32 CM credits at the event.

### UPCOMING DEADLINES:

**February 18:** Early registration deadline. Register by this date for the lowest fees.  
**March 9:** Student volunteer applications due.  
**March 11:** Last day to pre-register. Deadline for hotel reservations. After this date attendees must register on site.

PA Chapter President Alex Graziani, AICP will represent the Chapter at the Chapter President's Council meetings during the conference. ♦



# NEWS & NOTES

## Preparedness Grants Program Announced for 2010

In mid December 2009 the Department of Homeland Security published guidance on the Preparedness Grants Program for 2010. While the program shows a slight decrease from 2009, there are opportunities worth \$2.7 billion which may interest planners. The full document is available at: <http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/grant-program-overview-fy2010.pdf>.

## DCNR Announces 2010 Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) Grant Open Application Period

Grant funding from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) is available to assist communities and organizations across PA to plan, acquire and develop recreation and park facilities, trails and conserve open space. During the open application period, applications will be accepted for these grants from January 6 to April 21, 2010. For more information on the grants, application process and other items please visit [www.grants.dcnr.state.pa.us/index.aspx](http://www.grants.dcnr.state.pa.us/index.aspx). ♦

# AICP Exam Prep Session

**Saturday, March 6, 2010**

**9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

**Temple University Harrisburg  
Harrisburg, PA**

The prep session is provided complimentary to attendees by the PA Chapter of APA and is intended for those planners who are planning to take the exam in May or November 2010. Test tips and a detailed review of the test subject areas will be provided.

The session will take place from 9:00am to 4:00pm at Temple University Harrisburg Campus in Harrisburg, PA. Attendees are on their own for lunch. Temple is connected to Strawberry Square which includes a food court. Parking is available free on street and for a small fee (\$5.00) in the Walnut Square Garage.

To register for this session, please send an email with your name, organization, phone and email to [info@planningpa.org](mailto:info@planningpa.org). Questions, call the PA Chapter office at 717-671-4510. ♦

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## News & articles

for *The Vantage Point*



We are always seeking articles on current planning topics and planning news!

*The Vantage Point* is published bimonthly and contributions that are timely, newsworthy, and of statewide interest are welcome. Dated material should be submitted well in advance according to our deadlines below. Submitted articles of 500 words or less in length should be sent by email to address below. Articles that include artwork, illustrations or photographs will receive first consideration. Images must be scanned at 300 dpi with a print size of at least 2.5 inches wide. The author's name, position, and employer's name and city must also be included to ensure proper credit. Shorter articles and announcements of 100-150 words are also welcome.

### DEADLINES FOR UPCOMING ISSUES:

**April: March 5, 2010**

**June: May 7, 2010**

**August: July 9, 2010**

**October: September 3, 2010**

**December: November 12, 2010**

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

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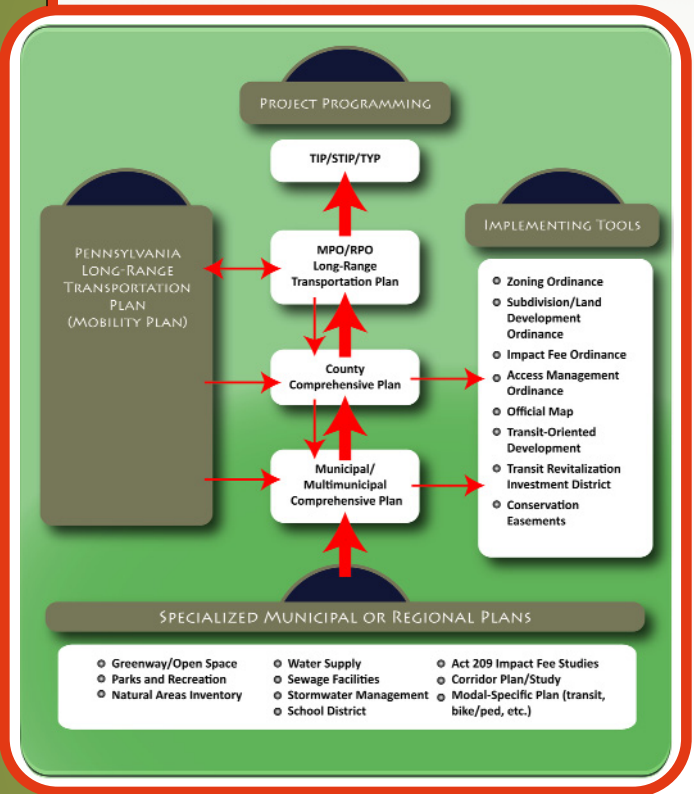
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# THE TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT.



**INTEGRATING TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE INTO COMPREHENSIVE PLANS**

by Mark Stivers, AICP



COURTESY OF PENNDOT PUBLICATION 688

**In municipalities across the Commonwealth,** local governments are developing comprehensive plans. One of the key elements of these plans is the transportation element. Planning for transportation infrastructure is both one of the primary roles of local government as well as one of the hardest tasks for them to complete. **Talking about transportation improvements can fill a meeting room.**

ensure that when a municipality follows the guidelines, the transportation element will contain all the necessary information to guide them in making the difficult decisions on the development and improvement of the transportation infrastructure. The plan includes links to vital resources that will aid leaders and planners in developing both the plan as well as the resources necessary to implement the plan. In addition, the plan includes Appendices, including Best Practices for Addressing Transportation in Comprehensive Planning which provides summaries of over 30 best practice techniques and examples from Pennsylvania communities.

**The handbook is available** at the following link: <ftp://ftp.dot.state.pa.us/public/Bureaus/Cpdm/IntegratingTransportation.pdf>

*This project is one of a series that PennDOT has commissioned to assist local, county, and regional governments to work together to improve the transportation system in the Commonwealth. The other handbooks in this series include:*

- **Sound Land Use Planning for Your Community: Model Ordinance Language for Addressing Traffic Noise**
- **Access Management – Model Ordinances for Pennsylvania Municipalities Handbook**
- **Transportation Impact Fees – A Handbook for Pennsylvania Municipalities**
- **Smart Transportation Guidebook – Planning and Designing Highways and Streets that Support Sustainable and Livable Communities**

**T**AKING THE time necessary to plan for the coordination of land use and transportation is important to developing a good plan. APA-PA, together with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation worked together to develop a handbook for municipalities and counties on how to develop a strong link between land use planning and transportation planning in comprehensive plans. The handbook was prepared by Parsons Brinckerhoff along with Gannett Fleming and Transportation Planning and Design and Wordsworth Communications.

The purpose of the handbook is to provide government leaders and planners with guidance for preparing the transportation elements of municipal and county comprehensive plans and to maximize the linkages between comprehensive plans and the decision-making processes outlined in the long-range transportation plans (LRTPs) completed by the state's metropolitan and rural planning organizations (MPOs and RPOs). The handbook is organized so as to provide step-by-step guidance to walk leaders through the process and helps to

Training for municipal officials is available through PennDOT on any of the above handbooks by contacting Mr. Brian Wall at [bwall@state.pa.us](mailto:bwall@state.pa.us) or 717-772-0827. APA-PA plans to sponsor training for the Integrating Transportation and Land Use in Comprehensive Plans handbook in each of the sections in 2010. ♦



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# EVENTS & Training Opportunities

## **ASLA PA/DE Chapter 2010 Annual Meeting**

March 4-6  
Pittsburgh, PA  
[www.padeasla.org](http://www.padeasla.org)  
CM: Multiple sessions pending

## **PA Land Conservation Conference**

April 8-10, 2010  
Malvern, PA  
[www.conserveland.org](http://www.conserveland.org)  
CM: Multiple sessions pending

## **APA National Conference**

April 10-13  
New Orleans, LA  
[www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org)  
CM: Earn up to 32 credits!  
Early Registration Deadline is February 18. Pre-Registration closes on March 11.

## **61st Annual Atlantic Builders Convention (ABC)**

April 14-16  
Atlantic City, NJ  
[www.abconvention.com](http://www.abconvention.com)  
CM: Multiple sessions pending

## **Business of Brownfields 2010 Conference**

April 19-21  
Pittsburgh, PA  
[www.eswp.com/brownfields](http://www.eswp.com/brownfields)

## **Delaware-Maryland APA Regional Conference**

May 5-7, 2010  
Dover, DE  
[www.delawareapa.org](http://www.delawareapa.org)  
CM: Multiple sessions pending

## **Good Jobs, Green Jobs National Conference**

May 4-6, 2010  
Washington, DC  
More info at: [www.greenjobsconference.org](http://www.greenjobsconference.org)

## **PA GIS Conference 2010**

May 11-12  
Johnstown, PA  
[www.pagisconference.org](http://www.pagisconference.org)

## **PA Chapter of APA Annual Conference- CM\***

October 3-5, 2010  
Lancaster, PA  
[www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org)  
CM: Multiple sessions planned.