

THE VANTAGE POINT



American Planning Association
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association

Applications Now Available

2011 PA Chapter Annual Awards Program

Deadline to Apply:
May 20, 2011

EACH YEAR THE BEST and the brightest plans and planners are recognized by their peers through the highly competitive PA Chapter of APA Awards Program.

The Chapter is now accepting nominations for the 2011 Annual Awards. The winners will be announced at the Annual Awards Program, scheduled for **Tuesday, October 17, 2011** during the **PA Chapter Annual Conference**.

The annual awards application is available online at 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 20, 2011.

To view winners from past years, visit www.planningpa.org and click on Annual Awards, found under the Events & Training heading.

Many thanks to the Awards Committee members for their commitment to this program each year! ♦

by Janet Sweeney, and Howard J. Grossman, AICP
Conference Co-Chairs



Northeastern Pennsylvania is planning the...

Best Conference Ever!
2011 Annual Conference
October 16–18, 2011

THE PLANNING Committee for the upcoming October 2011 Annual Conference continues to meet monthly at the office of the NEPA Alliance. Committees have been organized, a logo has been prepared, and program topics have been discussed and approved so that interested planners can begin to prepare program proposals. Mobile tours are also in the process of being developed and a wide range of activities are being organized to take advantage of the beauty and aesthetics of the October fall season in the Scranton area. The **Hilton Scranton** will be the headquarters for the Conference, and there are many geographic sites and places that will be attractive for the hundreds of attendees who are likely to participate.

As each month goes by, the extensive planning examples that are located within the northeastern Pennsylvania region are being collected and assembled so that these projects can be made known to all attendees. **October 16-18 will be a special time.** Help us celebrate the role of professional and lay planners across the 67 counties of the Commonwealth. We welcome your ideas, your creative thoughts, and of course your attendance at this keystone event in the Keystone State.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Call for Presentations

Deadline: March 18, 2011

Sponsor, Exhibit and Advertise

Deadline for inclusion
in the Preliminary Program:
June 22, 2011

(See Page 2 for details)



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Call for Presentations Announced!

The PA Chapter is seeking dynamic presenters to share their knowledge and expertise at the 2011 Annual Conference in Scranton, PA. Applicants are encouraged to submit session proposals that support the conference theme "Our Changing Landscape" and the list of suggested topics developed by the Conference Committee.

The deadline for submission of session proposals is Friday, March 18, 2011.

Submissions are accepted online only

Visit 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.

Sponsors, Exhibit and Advertise! Connect with PA Planners at the Annual Conference

The PA Chapter Annual Conference offers excellent opportunities to sponsors, exhibitors and advertisers. Be a part of the largest annual gathering of Pennsylvania's professional planners and planning officials by sponsoring, exhibiting or advertising at the event. The Preliminary Program, distributed in July 2011, is expected to reach 5,000 members of Pennsylvania's planning community. Additionally more than 550 planners will be in attendance at the conference.

To be sure your company or organization maximizes the benefit of these opportunities confirm your arrangements with the PA Chapter office no later than June 22, 2011. ♦

Details are available online at www.planningpa.org. Click on "Annual Conference."

SE Section Council lends a hand!

Future City Program Philadelphia

The mission of the National Engineers Week Future City Competition is to provide a fun and exciting educational engineering program for middle school students, which combines a stimulating engineering challenge with a "hands-on" application to present their vision of a city of the future.

by Joseph F. Luste, Jr. PP, PhD,
Southeast Council Education Committee

THE FUTURE CITY Competition, a school based program for middle school students, is held from September through February every year. The National Future City Competition is sponsored in part by the National Engineers Week Foundation, a consortium of professional and technical societies, including engineers, planners, architects, and major U.S. corporations.

Students are expected to:

- **Design and layout** a city of the future using Sim4 computer software
- **Build a table-top model** using recycled materials illustrating one section of the city
- **Write a 500 -700 word** technical report which is researched with a bibliography of references.
- **Present the city model** to teams of judges at an all day competition. In Philadelphia,

the Future City Program is volunteer run and uses the support of the entire engineering and associated communities. Over 200 volunteers work on the program each year as committee members, mentors, organizers, and judges.

This year, Section Council member **Joseph Luste**, representing Pennoni Associates, served as a mentor to Girard

Northwood Academy Charter School, Philadelphia, PA
Award: "Planning Excellence"
By PA Chapter of APA
Judge: John Pickett, AICP, PE



Stewart Middle School, Norristown, PA
Award: "Project Technology"
Mentor: Brian O'Leary, AICP



Girard College Middle School, Philadelphia, PA
Award: "Total Quality Management"
Mentor: Joseph Luste, PP, PhD

College Middle School in Philadelphia, and Council member **Brian O'Leary**, representing the Montgomery County Planning Commission, served as a mentor to Stewart Middle School in Norristown.

In addition, Council member **John Pickett** of the Delaware County Planning Department served as a judge for the PA APA Southeast Planning Excellence Award, given to Northwood Academy Charter School in Philadelphia.

All of us lending a helping hand to the students either by judging or mentoring found it most encouraging that these youngsters have properly considered urban and regional planning issues in planning out their cities and the good of the populations to be served. Credit is also extended to their schools and teachers for a job "well done". ♦

PHILADELPHIA 2035 comprehensive PLAN



by Donna J. Carney, AIA, LEED AP
Director, Philadelphia Citizens Planning Institute,
Philadelphia City Planning Commission

The Philadelphia Citizens Planning Institute & Integrated Planning & Zoning Process

The Philadelphia City Planning Commission and Zoning Code Commission are currently engaged in two large initiatives—reforming the city’s outdated zoning code (*first authored in 1933*) and the preparation of Philadelphia2035, the City’s comprehensive plan (*last updated in 1962*).

PHILADELPHIA2035 consists of two tiers of planning: a 25-year citywide plan and 18 strategic district plans. The city will be “remapped” based on new zoning code classifications as well as the goals and recommendations of the district land-use plans. This integrated planning and zoning process includes a third structure to engage citizens and inform them about planning issues—the Citizens Planning Institute.

The focus of the Citizens Planning Institute is to educate and inform citizens so that they can be more effective at citizen planning activities. One of the goals of the CPI is to provide practical tools individuals can take back to their neighborhood organizations or communities.

Thanks to a generous grant from the **William Penn Foundation**, the pilot phase of the Insti-

tute was launched in May, 2010. A series of three weekly “**Citizen Planner**” classes has just concluded. This pilot course was designed to test the development of classroom materials for ‘101’ level introductions to planning issues and the work of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission, land use and zoning, and the project development process. Despite limited time for public notification, over 80 applications (each requiring an essay) were received for just 30 student spots. Applicants represented 24 of the 165 residential neighborhoods in the city and a wide diversity of civic and other neighborhood organizations.

The course was developed for individuals within neighborhood civic organizations who are highly motivated to engage in planning issues on equal footing with other stakeholders. Participants in the pilot were actively engaged in learning from each other, as well as from volunteer instructors and panelists. The response from participants has been overwhelmingly positive: “The course really opened my eyes to the process... This course

was worth my time and effort and then some. I believe this program has the potential to recreate our communities.” (participant comment on final course evaluation)

This spring, the **CPI “core” course** will be expanded with additional “elective” classes, such as urban design, transportation, housing, commercial corridor development, and the developer’s perspective. Learners who successfully complete the core courses and a determined number of elective courses will earn a **Certificate of Completion as Citizen Planner**. Additionally, the Institute is envisioned to act as a clearinghouse through which civic groups can share information and best practices. The website, **www.citizensplanninginstitute.org** will be updated to share outcomes from the pilot course and to enable downloading of materials from the course.

Research on other “citizen planning academy” models used in other jurisdictions across the country and the PA Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI) informed the design of the course structure. ♦

More information about **Philadelphia2035** will be available in a future issue of *The Vantage Point*.



View the PA Five Year Land Use and Growth Management Report at:

<http://www.newpa.com/get-local-gov-support/community-planning/land-use-reports/2010-state-land-use-and-growth-management-report>

ON JANUARY 14, 2011 the State Planning Board met in conjunction with a release of the Pennsylvania Five Year Land Use and Growth Management Report. This report mandated by the MPC presents the PA Chapter with the opportunity to amplify **our message that planning is an essential function of government** to a new legislature and Governor Corbett in Harrisburg.

IT IS INTERESTING to note that the requirement to produce the report came from Governor Ridge's "Growing Smarter" efforts and the MPC amendments of 2000. Therefore, this report should get some **traction with the new administration**.

For over a year the State Planning Board acted as the major component of the steering committee who met with the DCED Governor's Center for Local Government Services (GCLGS) staff and their consultant team to help identify land use issues. The GCLGS and their consultant also held two work sessions with additional stakeholders plus conducted an outreach to County planners at our 2010 Annual Conference in Lancaster.

Every planner should take time to read the report and share it with their employers, clients and their community. The report contains relevant findings, like how changing demographics are requiring different development demands. Among its recommendations is a case for the relevance of planning for strong communities. The report is very consistent with our recently **adopted Chapter 2011-2014 Development Plan**.

To insure plans are relevant they must be implemented. **Therefore the report contains five keys to a valuable, implementable plan:**

- Focus on community issues and assets.
- Organize the plan the way local officials and citizens think.
- Devise practical and workable recommendations.
- Create a structure and capacity to implement the plan.
- Get and keep local ownership of the plan.

Our duty as planners is to take this very timely and relevant report and help it get attention. The messages, issues and recommendations speak for the need for planning from the local level all the way up to the State Planning Board. **I encourage each member of our Chapter to consider how they can help this report get in front of as many decision makers as possible.** Printed copies are limited, however, with the use of websites and email list serves the online version at www.newpa.com will ensure wide circulation.

Lastly later this year 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 be 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 officer positions. Coupled with the ballots for elections we will also looking to update our by-laws.

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. ♦



American Planning Association
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

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Please help us close the loop
and recycle this newsletter.

View the 2011-2014 Development Plan: www.planningpa.org/about_development_plan11-14.shtml

The Commonwealth released the 2010 State Land Use and Growth Management Report at the January 14, 2011 meeting of the State Planning Board. The report is mandated by the PA Municipalities Planning Code and prepared every five years. The task is assigned to the Center for Local Government Services in the Department of Community and Economic Development.

by Denny Puko
 Governor's Center for Local Government Services,
 PA Department of Community & Economic Development

Five-Year Report Calls for Green and Walkable Development



THE REPORT FINDS that PA's recent history of land-consumptive development continued into the mid-2000s. Then, the 2008-09 recession brought an unprecedented drop in building and development. Despite that, according to Steve Deck, Project Manager for PB Americas, Inc. and the report's consulting team, "The pace of development changed but not the pattern." Indicators showed what little development there was still occurred mostly in suburban, exurban, and rural areas.

Other significant findings are that Pennsylvania's demographics are changing – aging

population, smaller households, and more immigrants.

And, state and local governments are facing growing fiscal stress, which means less ability to support basic infrastructure and services and other assets necessary to attract investment for homes and businesses.

The report recommends that a solution can be found in green and walkable development. It is an emerging market opportunity. Changing demographics point to demand for closer-knit living with less cost for housing and transportation. There is growing interest by homebuyers and businesses for green buildings and development. It's a win-win of capturing an economic growth market and having a more sustainable development pattern.

The report also recommends that, with strained budgets, state and local governments must be more strategic in investing. They should focus on assets – infrastructure and services, economic drivers, and place amenities – most critical to attracting and keeping people and businesses. The report states planning is essential to this, and that local governments need help to conduct successful planning.

The 2010 State Land Use and Growth Management Report is found at DCED's website www.newpa.com, click "Get Local Gov Services" then click "Community Planning." ♦

Findings from the 2010 report:

- From 1992 to 2005, developed land in PA more than doubled while population grew 4.5% and the economy (GDP in constant \$) grew 33%.
- Residential building permits dropped from a 20-year high in 2004 of 49,665 to a 50-year low in 2009 of 18,275.
- Currently one in five Pennsylvanians is over age 60. By 2020 it will be one in four.
- Annual unmet state and local transportation needs are estimated at \$2.3 billion, rising to \$5 billion by 2020. Water and wastewater capital needs exceed \$36.5 billion for the next 20 years.
- Marcellus Shale natural gas was not foreseen in the 2005 report. It has emerged with major community and land use impacts in the state.



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 Smart Growth Partnership

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Susan Smith, Esq., AICP, Vice Chair

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



2011 ELECTIONS

PA Chapter of APA is looking for

A Few Good PLANNERS

Announcing Elections for Chapter Officers

2011 IS AN ELECTION YEAR FOR THE CHAPTER.

This summer we will hold elections for the Chapter's Board Officers — the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Following is a timeline of the process that will take place between now and August. For additional information about elections for the Chapter, please refer to the Bylaws.

They are available on the Chapter website, www.planningpa.org, under the section "About Us".

February

Nominating Committee appointed by the Executive Committee.

April

The Nominating Committee will provide information to Chapter members about how to indicate their interest in running for a chapter office. Details will be published in the April issue of *The Vantage Point*, via E-News, and on the PA APA website.

May

The Nominating Committee will file their Report of Nominations with the Chapter's Executive Committee. The President will appoint a Teller Committee with advice from the Executive Committee.

June

The Executive Committee will validate the status of all the nominees. The nominees will be published in the June 2011 issue of *The Vantage Point*, via E-News, and on PA APA website.

By August 1

Chapter members may nominate additional candidates to the elections slate by August 1.

August 8

The official ballot will be distributed to all members of the Chapter by mail and email.

September 9

Voting closes.

Mid-September

The Teller Committee meets to review the voting results.

October

Election results announced at the Chapter Annual Meeting and via *The Vantage Point*, E-News and the website.

January 2012

New Officers begin their two-year terms.

If you are interested in being considered for the Officer Positions please watch for details in April. ♦

Excellence in Local Government Awards and Luncheon

PA Chapter Members Invited to Attend!

Each year, the Governor's Center for Local Government recognizes the achievements of local government at the Excellence in Local Government Luncheon and Awards Ceremony. More than 300 guests will attend to honor the work of local governments as they partner with their communities and use forward-thinking approaches to revitalize towns, create jobs, and improve the quality of life for residents.

The PA Chapter of APA sponsors this important annual event together with other local government associations. Our sponsorship includes 20 tickets to the luncheon which takes place at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, PA on Thursday, April 15, 2010 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Would you like to attend? A limited number of seats are still available and are open to PA Chapter members. We would be pleased if you would join members of the Chapter's board and staff at the event! If you would like to attend, please send an email to info@planningpa.org with your name, title, organization, phone number and email address no later than April 1, 2011. The seats will be filled on a first-come-first-serve basis. There is no cost to attend. ♦



WEBCAST series

Remember! Webcasts are ...

- **FREE.**
- **Approved** for CM Credits
- **Convenient** to attend from your desk and phone

PENNSYLVANIA SPONSORS the webcast series together with 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. New sessions are added on a regular basis—check the schedule often. Attendees are strongly encourage to register early. Schedule subject to change.

March 1

Child Care (Introductory)
Planning and Women Division

March 10

Peter Kageyama Renewing
Our Love Affair with Cities
(Allied)
Ohio Chapter

March 11

Urban Retail (Advanced)
Economic Development Division

March 18

Special Assessments Must
Create Special Benefits:
How to Avoid an
Unconstitutional “Takings”
(Introductory)
LAW CREDITS
Western Central Chapter

March 25

Planning for an Aging Society:
Technologies for Safe
Transportation Mobility
Technology Division

April 1

New Tools for Public
Participation: Possibilities and
Pitfalls (Advanced)
Technology Division

April 8

Ethics: A Framework for
Decision-Making (Advanced)
ETHICS CREDITS
Pennsylvania Chapter

April 15

Campus Planning for
Pedestrians and Bicyclists
(Advanced)
Ohio State University

May 6

Using GIS to Improve
Planning Decisions,
Part 1: Identifying Factors
that Influence Rural Land
Parcelization—Advanced PDO
(Advanced)
Wisconsin Chapter

May 13

Secrets to Improve
Consultant-Client Relations
(Introductory)
Private Practice Division

May 19

New Ideas for Bike-friendly
Communities (Introductory)
Indiana Chapter ♦



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 17
12:00 noon to 5:00 pm
MONDAY, APRIL 18
7:30 am to 4:00 pm
TUESDAY, APRIL 19
7:30 am to 1:00 pm

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

Thank you! ♦

FUNDS AVAILABLE

Apply for the Irving Hand Professional Development Award

THE PA CHAPTER IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS for the 2012 Irving Hand, FAICP Excellence in Planning Professional Development Award, presented each year to a planner for his or her professional development.

Dr. Hand has long been a strong advocate of professional development. In his honor, **Delta Development Group** funds this annual award given in his name by the PA Chapter.

This award is designed for a planner in mid-career who needs additional resources to fund a professional development activity. This activity might be anything from **graduate school** or **specialized training** to a **study trip** to learn about planning techniques in another part of the world.

Visit the PA Chapter website at www.planningpa.org for the application. The deadline to apply is Friday, August 26, 2011. The recipient is announced at the 2011 Annual Conference and the funds will support professional activities in the 2012 calendar year. ♦

*Planners: support your
professional development*

DEADLINE TO APPLY: AUGUST 26, 2011



AROUND the state

Southeast Section Plans for 2011

by *Graciela Cavicchia, AICP, PP, Southeast Section Chair*

THE SOUTHEAST Section will continue to offer valuable educational and networking opportunities. We are excited about the programs we have scheduled this year and encourage you to become involved!

Plans for 2011 include:

- **High-quality and affordable seminars** through the Professional Development Institute (PDI) which was attended by over 500 professionals in 2010. Please visit www.apapase.org for PDI's 2011 Seminars.

- **The Southeast Section Cocktail Reception & Student**

Scholarship Awards. Excellent opportunity to network and meet professionals in the planning, design, and development fields. This year our Section's Event will be held in Philadelphia.

- **Quarterly Newsletter & News Flash and our Blog** at www.apapase.org to keep you updated on the latest in the region.

Central Section Activities

by *Richard Koch, AICP, Central Section Vice Chair*

CENTRAL SECTION will present a **Spring 2011 Education Session** on law updates and new, innovative public participation techniques. The session takes place **April 7, 2011** at the **Wildwood Conference Center at Harrisburg Area Community College** and is open to

members and guests. This session will be submitted to APA for CM credits. Visit www.planningpa.org for additional details.

Central Section Council also welcomes a new member **Jonathon Pinkerton, AICP.** Jonathon is Vice President of the Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area based in Wrightsville, PA. He replaces long time Board member, Frank Chlebnikow.

The Section is investigating the development of the **Student Representative/Mentoring Program** to provide students with an opportunity to view and discuss the planning profession. Similar programs are offered by the Chapter's Southeast and Southwest Sections. Shippensburg University may be a potential partner for a pilot program in the Central part of the state. ♦

Congratulations to Pennsylvania's newest members of the AICP. The following planners attained their **AICP** during the **Fall 2010** exam testing period:

Congrats!

Laura Ahramjian, AICP
Phil Ehlinger, AICP
Mark Evans, AICP
Karla Farrell, AICP
Patricia Fought, AICP
Jill Hall, AICP
Larry Kurpakus, AICP
Mark Lazzari, AICP
David Manhardt, AICP
Caroline Marshall, AICP

MANY THANKS to the members of the PA Chapter Professional Development Committee for their ongoing efforts in providing exam preparation support through study notes, website resources, and a prep session.

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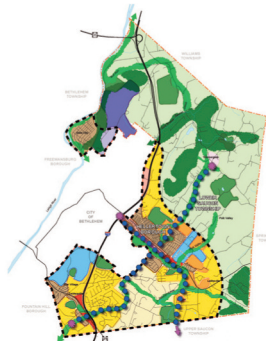
New Chapter Members Welcome!

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. ♦

Student Member:
Robert A Gejeran,
Southeast Section

Individual Members:
David Palomera,
Southwest Section
Kelly Gutshall,
Land Studies Inc,
Central Section

EPD
ENVIRONMENTAL
PLANNING & DESIGN, LLC
Landscape Architects
Community Planners
Urban Designers



100 Ross Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
(412) 261-6000
www.epd-pgh.com

News & articles for *The Vantage Point*

**DEADLINES
FOR UPCOMING
2011 ISSUES:**

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



Are You a **NEW**
Planning Commission Member?

FearNot!

by Shirley Yannich, PP, AICP
Planning Officials Development Officer

NOT EVERY NEW APPOINTEE has an understanding of what is expected of them when asked by the Governing Body to serve on the Planning Commission. If you are one of those persons, fear not, this article will help you get started and will enable you to participate at your meetings with confidence.

THE FIRST THING YOU SHOULD DO is read Article II of the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Code (MPC). This is the enabling legislation the Commonwealth has adopted to create and guide Planning Commissions. The law sets forth the mechanism for a municipality to adopt an ordinance that will establish a Planning Commission. Further, the MPC clearly defines the powers and duties of a Planning Commission that the Governing Body may request.

SECOND, MAKE SURE YOUR MUNICIPAL STAFF has provided you with basic documents; such as:

- Your Comprehensive Plan
- A Zoning Map
- An Official Map, if one exists
- The Zoning Ordinance
- The Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO)
- The Planning Commission's Bylaws, Rules and Regulations
- Last year's Planning Commission's Annual Report to the Governing Body

THIRD, ASK IF YOUR MUNICIPALITY is a member of the PA Chapter of the American Planning Association. The fee is small and the benefits are many. Go to www.planningpa.org for more information.

FOURTH, ATTEND SEMINARS AND COURSES designed especially to educate Planning Commissioners. On the above website for the PA Chapter of APA you will find a link to the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI). They offer classes on how to prepare/review/update your Comprehensive Plan, how to evaluate development applications based on your SALDO and how to prepare and/or amend a Zoning Ordinance. These classes are held once a week, in the evening for 3 hours over a three week period. The participants not only gain useful information they network with freshman and senior Planning Commission members.

LASTLY, ENJOY YOUR NEW ROLE and pat yourself on the back for taking the initiative to be a public servant that provides expertise for the future development and economic stability in your municipality. ♦

PDO corner

by Susan Elks, AICP, Professional Development Officer

**AICP
Prep Session
Saturday
February 26, 2011
Camp Hill, PA
9:00am – 4:00pm**

AICP Exam

The spring 2011 AICP exam application window is now closed, and the testing window is set for May. The PA Chapter awarded two reduced-fee scholarships for the May exam — congratulations to the recipients! In these difficult economic times, it is its own reward to assist planners who are working to advance their career through certification. Speaking of the exam, the PA Chapter will be holding its annual in-person, **all-day prep session on Saturday February 26, 2011**, which provides general testing tips and focused review of all of the test content topics. Full details and registration information is available at the PA Chapter website, www.planningpa.org. *There is no fee to attend for PA Chapter members.*

Donate Your AICP Exam Study Materials

If you have taken the exam in the past and are wondering what to do with your study materials, consider helping out future test takers. The Professional Development Committee would 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. *Thanks in advance for your willingness to share your materials.*

Remember... Free Webcast Training is Available

For 2011 training, keep in mind the free planning webcast series sponsored by chapters, divisions, and universities. Initially begun by a group of chapters, including the PA Chapter, the series has continued to grow, and multiple **webcasts are now offered each month — over 48 credits annually**. Details can be found on the PA Chapter's **Events Calendar online**, or go directly to the Utah Chapter website. Sessions will be added throughout the year, so continue to check back. *The PA Chapter is providing the April 8, 2011 session on ethics.*

Announcing! PA Chapter-sponsored Trainings on Transportation and Zoning

In addition to participating in distance learning opportunities, the PA Chapter is committed to providing in-person training to its members. Sections accomplish much in this regard through the dedication of volunteers. The Professional Development Committee of the PA Chapter is coordinating **two separate in-person training series** in various locations across the state in 2011, focused on **transportation and zoning**. Details on the transportation training, being held in March and April, are now posted to the **Events Calendar** on the Chapter website. Details on the zoning training will be posted when finalized. As always, the Events Calendar is a great resource for finding training, CM and otherwise. Visit www.planningpa.org. ♦

APA National Conference Coming Soon!

from Angela Vincent, Region 1
Director, Board of Directors

Register now for the National APA Conference!

Join APA and more than 5,000 fellow planners and officials in Boston for the 2011 National Planning Conference, April 9-12.

www.planning.org/conference

New England or Region 1 Reception at the National APA Conference in Boston

Based on the popularity of the Region 1 Reception at the New Orleans, we are currently soliciting feedback on the demand to hold either a New England or an entire Region 1 Reception. New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York members – would you want to participate in a Region 1 reception? If so, please email Angela Vincent ASAP to inform the planning for this event. She can be reached at angela.vincent@iclei.org.

International Forum on Sustainable Urbanization — Next Generation Planners 40 and Under Invited!

Young planners are invited to participate in APA's "International Forum on Sustainable Urbanization—Next Generation," a one-day youth forum taking place April 9, 2011 at the APA National Conference in Boston.

As the most urbanized countries and fastest growing urban areas in the world, the United States and China are facing a challenging future, and the voice from young generations of both countries represents a shape of future. As the first unofficial dialogue channel for young generations between United States and China, the purpose of this event is to provide a venue to get Chinese and American young generations (under age of 40) to express their perspectives on urban issues. Participants are not limited to planners, but all the young people who care about our cities in the future. For more information contact Andy Fang at chinaprogram@planning.org

or 202-872-0611 ext.1039.

from David Kruse, SRC
Representative from Region 1

Student Opportunities for Interaction at the APA National Conference

This year's National Conference will be upon us before we know it! Between numerous sessions, mobile workshops, tours, and meeting with Planning peers, there are also many opportunities for "young" planners to network with each other. One of the first events offered is the **Happy Hour Networking Social at Kings** on Saturday from 4pm to 6pm. Monday will include two more events centered on Young Planners. The **Student and Young Planners Discussion**, from 9am to 10:15am, will showcase some of the work each group has completed. Later in the day, a **Young Planners Groups Discussion** takes place from 2:30pm to 3:45pm - this session can "build upon existing resources and strategies."

Additionally, an added benefit to this year's Conference is the presence of Fenway Park and the start of Major League Baseball's 2011 season. The Tampa Bay Rays will be in town for a 3-game series, beginning Monday night. Tickets are available as low as \$29. Groups of tickets are available and can be a great way for professional planners and students to interact in a unique way, building off the mobile workshop earlier in the day regarding **TOD and Sports**. ♦



Rittenhouse Square
in Springtime.

2010 Great Places Awards Two Pennsylvania Communities Honored!

IN OCTOBER 2010, APA recognized the third round of Great Places in America Awards. Through Great Places in America, APA recognizes unique and authentic characteristics found in three essential components of all communities — **streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces**. APA Great Places offer better choices for where and how people work and live and are defined by many things including planning, architectural styles, accessibility and community involvement. Since APA began Great Places in America in 2007, 40 neighborhoods, 40 streets and 30 public spaces have been designated in 47 states and the District of Columbia.

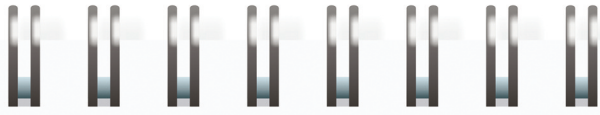
The 2010 awards recognized two Pennsylvania communities for their great spaces:

- **Liberty Street in Franklin, PA—Great Street**
- **Rittenhouse Square in Philadelphia, PA—Great Public Space**

We'll share more about these two great Pennsylvania places in the April issue of *The Vantage Point*. ♦

APA Announces Application Period for Student Project Awards

As a student, the deadline for submitting projects for award considerations is fast approaching. The AICP Outstanding Student Award will be accepting submissions between March 1 and May 5, 2011. The following link takes you to the student section of APA's website for further details: www.planning.org/students/



Planner notes...

Gannett Fleming Celebrates 95th Anniversary — Planning Practice Integral to Firm's Success

Gannett Fleming, founded in Harrisburg, celebrated its 95th anniversary in 2010. From a two-person office the company has grown to more than 2,100 professionals in more than 60 offices worldwide. During the past 95 years, Gannett Fleming has completed projects in every U.S. state and more than 50 countries.

The company's Planning Practice is a multi-disciplinary group of certified community and transportation planners, architects, landscape architects, environmental managers, and GIS/IT analysts. It boasts more than 50 planners with diverse areas of expertise, including transportation, freight, transit operations, community, land use, and strategic planning efforts, as well as corridor studies, urban design, management consulting, and workforce development. The practice has explored and addressed many issues facing varied communities and has had the opportunity to implement the most effective approaches to help plan for the future.

The PA Chapter of APA congratulates Gannett Fleming on their achievements! ♦

Do you need a SUMMER INTERN?

PA CHAPTER OF APA member agencies, companies, and organizations are welcome to post internship opportunities on the Chapter's website www.planningpa.org. This service is provided at no charge as a benefit of Chapter membership.

To post an internship please send the following information to info@planningpa.org:

- Name of Company/Organization and website address
- Contact Email, Telephone, and Mailing Address
- Internship Title and General Description (include duties, qualifications, hours, if the internship is paid or unpaid, and dates)
- Information on How to Apply and Deadline
- Date to Remove Posting from PA Chapter website ♦

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PMPEI

PA Municipal Planning Education Institute Schedule

PMPEI offers in-depth, stimulating, and interactive education for citizen planners, zoners, appointed and elected municipal and county officials, and professionals involved in planning.

PMPEI produces four courses, each offered through three in-dept sessions:

- Course in Community Planning
- Course in Zoning
- Course in Zoning Administration
- Course in Subdivision and Land Development Review

The courses are offered annually throughout the state. For the current schedule with locations and for full descriptions of each course, visit

www.planningpa.org/events_pmpei.shtml.

New courses are added regularly. Don't see one in your area? Contact contact Stan Lembeck, AICP at sml1@psu.edu for more details on how to host a PMPEI course in your community. ♦

The APA Divisions Council and associated Divisions invite you to a very special event:

Local Foods Role in Economic Recovery

Ken Meter of Crossroads Research Center, a national expert on community food systems, will be the keynote speaker at dinner at Vhora on Sunday, April 10, 2011 during the National Conference. Join us for an evening of conversation, camaraderie, and comestibles focused on food systems. Vhora has developed a menu of locally sourced food choices with some excellent wines to highlight the evening. Look for this ticketed event in the conference program as "Local Foods Dinner" when you register. We hope to see you in Boston!

www.planning.org/conference



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EVENTS &

training opportunities

2011 ASLA PA-DE Annual Meeting

April 8-9, 2011
Skytop Lodge, Skytop, PA
www.landscapearchitects.org

APA National Conference

April 9-12
Boston, MA
www.planningpa.org
An excellent opportunity to earn multiple
CM credits and connect with colleagues.
Pre-Registration closes on March 10.

Brownfields 2011

April 3-5, 2011
Philadelphia Convention Center
Philadelphia, PA
www.brownfields2011.org

**2011 National Roads Regional
Conference**

May 5-6, 2011
Cumberland, MD
www.planningpa.org

**9th Annual PA Land Conservation
Conference**

May 19-21, 2011
Hilton Harrisburg
Harrisburg, PA
www.conserveland.org

PA GIS Conference 2011

May 23-26, 2011
Harrisburg, PA
www.pagisconference.org

PA Chapter of APA Annual Conference

October 16-18, 2011
Scranton, PA
www.planningpa.org ◆



VIDEOTO WATCH

"Tools for an Effective Planning Commissioner"

The PA Chapter of APA is pleased to make "Tools for an Effective Planning Commissioner" available for FREE viewing. The video, produced by the PA Chapter of APA in association with Penn State Cooperative Extension, is available by visiting www.planningpa.org. Click on Video under the Events & Training section.

Quick link to free video: http://www.planningpa.org/events_video.shtml

Events are added regularly. Visit www.planningpa.org for all events and registration details.