



THE VANTAGE POINT



American Planning Association
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association

PA Chapter of APA 2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*Celebrating the
strength of PA's
planning community*

FROM THE WELCOME

Reception at the new Lancaster County Convention Center to the compelling main sessions, the 2010 Annual Conference offered conference attendees many opportunities to learn, share, sharpen skills, build relationships, and pursue professional development.

The PA Chapter is grateful to the conference planning committee for their many contributions to the success of the event including selecting what attendees have roundly acclaimed as an outstanding group of main session speakers and a slate of workshops featuring 60 sessions and mobiles. The committee also coordinated two terrific receptions and logistics support.

We also extend our sincere thanks to the many universities, organizations, and companies for their support of the conference as

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"I have been going to these conferences for a long time and this one was the best I have attended."

— Richard Koch, AICP,
Gannett Fleming
and co-chair for the
2010 Annual Conference

ANNOUNCING THE **NEW** CHAPTER

Development PLAN

As we come to the end of 2010, our 25th as a Chapter of the American Planning Association, the Chapter is about to embark on a new Development Plan to help us make good strategic decisions. Our current development plan covers the years 2006-2010 and can be viewed on the chapter's website under the "About Us" section.

by President Alexander J. Graziani, AICP

THE DRAFT PLAN for 2011-2014 was initiated at a chapter leadership retreat January 28-29 in State College. In an attempt towards inclusivity the Board of Directors invited additional chapter members to participate in the event, striving to have representation from all of our major member segments. In total we had 30 participants including staff from APA, student members, and planners from across the spectrum of our profession.

After the retreat a committee was formed to finalize the draft plan. In September a survey was issued to the original retreat attendees to solicit their feedback on the strategic directions. My appreciation goes out to the dedicated volunteers who give so much

time to the association and to those who worked on this plan.

We are pleased to share the Development Plan with you via this issue of The Vantage Point. We need your help to review the draft plan and comment by December 8, 2010 so we can adopt it at our Board of Directors December 2010 meeting.

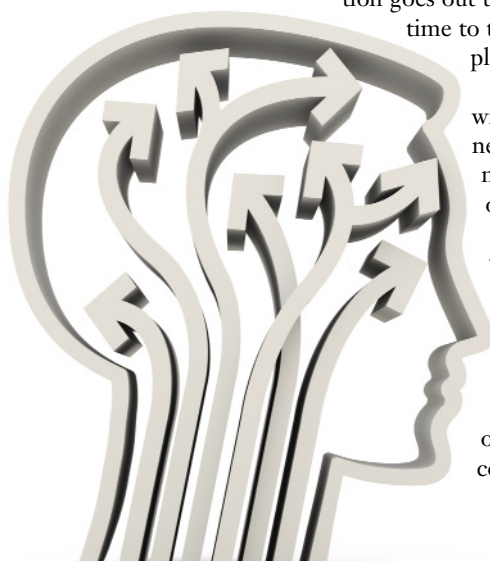
With a new governor and a new legislator to work with it is imperative that we work together to strengthen the voice of planning and act in the best interest of our membership.

To share your feedback please visit the Chapter website at www.planningpa.org. On the home page you will find a link to the Development Plan Survey. Please take a few minutes to complete this short survey—your comments are

2010-2011 PA Chapter of APA **DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Sections:

- I. Introduction and Background
- II. Mission
- III. Vision
- IV. Values
- V. Organizational Narrative
- VI. Organizational Priorities
- VII. Strategies
- VIII. Benchmarks
- IX. Bylaws Review



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Development PLAN

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During the two-day the facilitators guided attendees through multiple items designed to identify the organization's **mission, vision, values, and key priorities.**

extremely important to the final completion of this document.

I. Introduction and Background

The PA Chapter of APA (PA APA) is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization for professional planners and planning officials in the Commonwealth. The organization is a chapter of the American Planning Association (APA). Approximately 3,000 members strong, the PA APA works to promote planning at all levels of the Commonwealth through

trainings, the annual conference, legislative monitoring, and public awareness efforts. PA APA members participate with various statewide and regional groups with shared values and goals.

APA requires each chapter to maintain a current development plan. The development plan guides the chapter in its activities and supports chapter leaders by providing key direction concerning the organizations priorities and goals. The PA APA development plan was due to conclude at in December 2010 and a new plan was needed.

During 2009 the Chapter Board of Directors made plans for the preparation of a new development plan. The Chapter applied for and received an APA Chapter President's Council (CPC) Grant to support the costs of preparing a new development plan. A retreat was scheduled for January 2010. Invited attendees included members of the board of directors, committee and PMPEI chairs, past chapter presidents, and additional select chapter members. An RFP was distributed in fall 2009 to obtain proposals from potential facilitators to guide the retreat attendees. Edward Swenson & Associates were selected as the facilitator. The retreat took place January 28-29, 2010 in State College, PA. During the two-day the facilitators guided attendees through multiple items designed to identify the organization's

mission, vision, values, and key priorities. The facilitators produced a follow up report with detailed results from the retreat activities.

Their report can be found at http://planningpa.org/about_chapdevplan_completiontime_line.shtml. Report components include the following documents:

1. Retreat Notes
2. Benchmarking and Performance Indicators
3. Draft Goals, Objectives & Actions
4. Guiding Principles for the Chapter
5. Strategic Plan Summary
6. Strategic Implementation Guide

Following receipt of the report, which was shared with all retreat attendees, a small committee was formed to work through the report materials and complete a draft plan. The results of those efforts are found in this draft plan. The draft plan is a proposed document and is open to feedback from chapter leaders, retreat attendees, and members. Following a review period by these individuals, the board of directors will adopt a final version of the plan at the 2010 Annual Conference, October 3-6, 2010 in Lancaster, PA. The plan will be published in final form on the chapter website and a copy will be forwarded to APA and the CPC.

The Development Plan is a four year plan, beginning in January 2011 and concluding in December 2014. The Chapter currently plans a 1-year budget. Beginning in 2011 we will pre-

pare a 2-year budget to coincide with the Development Plan. A retreat will be scheduled to review the plan every two years. The goal is to schedule this event in conjunction with the annual conference when possible. The next retreat will take place in the fall of 2011.

II. Mission

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association provides leadership in the development of vital and sustainable communities by advocating excellence in community planning through education, citizen empowerment, partnership, and public policy.

III. Vision

Planning Matters

Planning is valued as an essential function in creating sustainable and compatible land use, and social and economic change. The PA Chapter of APA with its diverse and engaged membership positively influences the provision of planning resources at all levels of government and ensures its involvement in planning practice throughout the Commonwealth of PA.

IV. Values

The PA Chapter of APA believes:

- Planning is a critical function of government and citizenship;
- Planning brings forth the best ideas by balancing varied interests and resources;
- Planning is objective and open-minded;
- Planning is inclusive, and empowering; and
- Planning values the diversity of Pennsylvania's communities, cultures, and places.

V. Organizational Narrative

The PA Chapter of the American Planning Association (PA Chapter of APA) is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization for professional planners and planning officials in the Commonwealth. The organization is a chapter of the American Planning Association (APA). Approximately 3,000 members strong, the PA Chapter of APA works to promote planning at all levels of the Commonwealth through



American Planning Association
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

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Please help us close the loop
and recycle this newsletter.

trainings, the annual conference, legislative monitoring, and public awareness efforts. PA Chapter of APA members participate with various statewide and regional groups with shared values and goals. The Chapter is organized into six sections which provide local service to members and others through program meetings, local workshops, newsletters, and announcements.

VI. Organizational Priorities

1. Promote a "Culture of Planning" throughout the Commonwealth.
2. Promote the need for resources for planning and plan implementation at all levels of government.
3. Enhance the Chapter's organizational and programmatic capacity.

VII. Strategies

1. Promote a "Culture of Planning" throughout the Commonwealth

1a. Charge the Sections with building a strong network of membership support, within their region, aligned with statewide goals.

1b. Develop peer to peer information exchange capability for technical planning requests, to share examples of best practices, and to connect members with similar planning interests.

1c. PA APA will publish an annual report on how the practice of planning has affected Pennsylvania.

2. Promote the need for resources for planning and plan implementation at all levels of government.

2a. Expand Chapter contacts with key legislative committee chairs and their staff with similar planning interests.

2b. Make the case to the PA State Legislature for amendments to and/or rewrite of the Municipal Planning Code.

2c. Make the case for required training for planning commissioners, zoning hearing board members, and zoning officers.

3. Enhance the Chapter's organizational and programmatic capacity.

3a. Evaluate the full scope of engaging an Executive Director with

Approximately 3,000 members strong, the PA Chapter of APA works to promote planning at all levels of the Commonwealth through trainings, the annual conference, legislative monitoring, and public awareness efforts.

planning expertise, full or part time.

3b. Provide an orientation process for board members, committee/selection chairs, and committee/section members.

3c. Maximize the use of technology via the Chapter website and newsletter

3d. Work with Section leadership to strengthen the alignment of regional strategies with state chapter goals and objectives.

XIII. Benchmarks

One of the desires of this plan is to establish a committee on chapter benchmarking. The committee will investigate rele-

vant and measurable benchmarks to compare our chapter to other APA chapters as well as other Pennsylvania non-profit membership associations.

IX. Bylaws Review

A Bylaws Review Committee will be formed in December 2010.

The Committee will review the current Bylaws and recommend revisions to the Board of Directors by May 2011.

The PA Chapter of APA membership will vote on proposed revisions at the 2011 ♦

Final PA DEP

OUTDOOR WOOD-FIRED BOILER REGULATION *Published*

The Final PA DEP outdoor wood-fired boiler regulation was published on October 2, 2010, in the *PA Bulletin*. The regulation became effective on that date. Visit this link to view the regulation which is listed toward the end of the document.

www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol40/40-40/1876.html

Additional Resources:

EPA website listing Phase 2 OWBs:

<http://www.epa.gov/burnwise/owhlist.html>

Summary Document on PA Chapter website. Visit www.planningpa.org for the link which is on the home page.

Questions about the regulation?

Please feel free to contact **Jane E. Greber**, Air Quality Program Specialist for the PA Department of Environmental Protection at 717-772-2328 or jgreber@state.pa.us. Jane Greber recently presented at the PA APA Central Section's Alternative Energy Workshop in September and spoke about DEP's Outdoor Wood-Fired Boiler draft regulations. ♦



PA Chapter

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

NEW MPC

Drafting a new Municipalities Planning Code for Pennsylvania

by Pam Shellenberger, AICP, York County Planning Commission

The MPC Subcommittee, a working group chaired by Stan Lembeck under the direction of the PA APA Chapter Legislative Committee, was given the charge of drafting a new Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) for Pennsylvania.

The goal was to produce a streamlined, truly enabling MPC that avoids, to the greatest extent possible, being overly prescriptive and **promotes innovative and creative planning solutions to community problems.**

OVER THE PAST several years, members of the Subcommittee, consisting of professional planners, planning officials, and land use attorneys, contributed their time, energy, and thought toward improving planning in the Commonwealth. Monthly meetings to discuss issues, policies, and concepts, as well as draft “new” provisions, were held. In May of 2010, due in part to the current economic and legislative climate in Pennsylvania, the Chapter Board of Directors suspended the work of the Subcommittee. This resulted in the preparation of the *Summary Report 2001-2010* that documents accomplishments of the Subcommittee. The Report is available on the PA Chapter website at www.planningpa.org — see the MPC section which is found under the heading “Legislation/Law.”

The *Summary Report* consists of two (2) parts. Part I contains selected portions of the 2002 *Final Report of the PPA MPC Task Force* (amended in 2003), which

is also available on the Chapter website. In particular, the Statement of Planning Principles, which was adopted by the Chapter Board of Directors in 2003, is included as it provides the foundation for analyzing the current MPC and drafting the “new” MPC. These Principles articulate the core values of the Chapter. Additionally, the six (6) recommendations contained in the 2002/2003 Report are presented, together with a brief summary of actions taken to date.

Part II contains material drafted by the Subcommittee for the purpose of creating a “new” MPC and is considered to be a “work in progress.” Of note is the proposed structure of the “new” MPC, which condenses it into five (5) articles, as follows:

- **Article I, General Provisions**
- **Article II, The Planning Agency**
- **Article III, Comprehensive Planning**
- **Article IV, Implementation of the Comprehensive Plan**
- **Article V, General Procedures**

PROGRESS HAS been made on developing each of the Articles; however, the degree of completeness varies. Further discussion and refinement of some sections is needed, while other sections remain to be developed in their entirety. In addition to simplifying the MPC, a few of the key highlights include:

- A new **Purpose Statement** that defines municipal and county planning, sets standards and expectations for what planning should be, and clearly notes that the responsibility for community planning is vested in the elected governing body.

- Distinction between the various **forms of planning agency.**

- Provisions for **required training** of planning commission and zoning hearing board members, as well as zoning officers.

- A new focus to the current Comprehensive Plan Article; the focus is on **Comprehensive Planning** as an active and continuous function of all governmental units; the idea is to promote “planning,” not just the making of a comprehensive plan.

- Requirement for a **capital improvements plan** as an element of the Comprehensive Plan.

- Requirement for adopted **Sewage Facility (Act 537) Plans** to be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan by reference.

- Provisions dealing with other **Optional Plans.**

- Consolidation of all current **tools to implement** the Comprehensive Plan into a single Implementation Article and the addition of a Unified Development Ordinance as a new tool.

- Consolidation of all **review/amendment/adoption procedures** into a single Article to eliminate redundancy and promote uniformity.

THE CHAPTER IS currently pursuing two (2) avenues for furthering the work of the Subcommittee. One in the re-activation of the Subcommittee and the other is requesting the PA Local Government Commission to consider re-establishing a multi-organizational and legislative MPC Task Force in 2011. Stan Lembeck recently resigned from his position as Chair of the Subcommittee after many years of service; he is to be commended for his diligence and dedication to the work of drafting a new MPC since 2003. Gilbert Malone, a land use attorney from York and a long-time member of the Subcommittee, has agreed to serve as Chair to complete the mission of drafting a new MPC.

This interim period provides an opportune time for members of the Chapter and others to review and comment on the work that has been completed to date. **You are strongly encouraged to review the Summary Report and provide feedback.** The “new” MPC needs to represent the best thinking of those directly involved in the day-to-day working of planning. Thus, your comments are vital to producing an effective product. Please send your comments/suggestions to Pam Shellenberger, AICP; email address pshellenberger@ycpc.org.

It is also noted that the Subcommittee has always welcomed new persons to participate in the work. If you are interested in participating on a future re-activated MPC Subcommittee or re-established PA Local Government Commission MPC Task Force, please inform Pam and you will be kept abreast of any future endeavors. ♦

VIDEOTOWATCH

"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.

PLANNING
OFFICIALS:
Video Training
Now Available

This video provides both new and experienced planning commissioners with an overview of what planning commissions do and where they fit in their city, borough, township or county government. The basic tools of comprehensive planning, subdivision and land development regulation, and zoning are described so commissioners can learn how they can effectively contribute to the quality of life in their municipalities.

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

Commute**INFO** launches redesigned website for commuters

AS GAS PRICES continue to surpass \$2.50 per gallon, many of us are looking for ways to save some money. Alternatives to driving alone, like carpooling, using public transit or biking to work, are just a few ways to lower the commuting bill.

To assist those looking for alternatives to driving alone, the **CommuteInfo** program provides resources for commuters, employers, job seekers, the media and people just interested in learning more about commuting alternatives. With the help of customer feedback, the **CommuteInfo** website www.CommuteInfo.org has been redesigned and relaunched to provide easier access to all of the resources the site contains. Most information can now be accessed by "one-click."

Visit the updated site at www.commuteinfo.org, learn more about commuting alternatives and even take advantage of the **Commute Cost Calculator** to estimate how much can be saved by sharing a ride!

CommuteInfo is a program of

the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, coordinated in partnership with transportation management associations, transportation providers, businesses and non-profit service organizations throughout Southwestern PA. The CommuteInfo program is designed to serve commuters and employers as a clearinghouse for information about transit, carpooling, and vanpooling. The program serves employers and commuters in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.

THERE ARE SIMILAR programs in other areas of the Commonwealth. Resources for commuters and employers are similar among the programs.

Greater Philadelphia area's rideshare info for Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, & Philadelphia Counties:

• **Mobility Alternatives Program** (from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission):

education and outreach program for employers in the five-county Southeastern PA region.

• **Share-A-Ride Program** (also from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission): a free, computerized ride match program for employees/commuters who WORK in the five-county Southeastern PA region.

• **TransitChek Program** (also from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission): This program allows employers to offer a tax-free way for employees to commute to work by transit and can save employers on taxes, too. It covers the following transit agencies: SEPTA, NJ TRANSIT, PATCO, DART-

First State, CAT (Harrisburg), COLT (Lebanon), Red Rose Transit (Lancaster) and rabbit-transit (York).

Greater Harrisburg area's rideshare info for Lancaster, Berks, Franklin, Lebanon, York, Dauphin, Perry, Cumberland and Adams Counties:
www.pacommuterservices.com

Greater State College's Rideshare info:
<http://rideshare.nextinsight.com/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION about **CommuteInfo** and commute alternatives for southwestern Pennsylvania, please visit www.commuteinfo.org, or call toll free 1-888-819-6110.

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) is the region's forum for collaboration, planning and public decision-making. As the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the ten-county region including the City of Pittsburgh and the counties of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington, and Westmoreland, SPC is responsible for planning and prioritizing the use of all state and federal transportation funds allocated to the region. As the Local Development District (LDD) and Economic Development District for Southwestern Pennsylvania (as designated by the U.S. Appalachian Regional Commission and the U.S. Department of Commerce), SPC establishes regional economic development priorities and provides a wide range of public services to the region. ♦

AROUND^{the}STATE

Central Section

by Tara A. Hitchens,
AICP, Section Chair

WHAT A TURN OUT the "Alternative Energy Sources and Regulations in PA Communities" had on September 2 at HACCC (Harrisburg Area Community College)! The Central Section was thrilled to see 60 attendees at the daylong workshop. The workshop started off with PA Department of Environmental Protection Deputy Secretary of Energy Andrew Place discussing where Pennsylvania is with alternative energy sources and where the state is heading. This provided an excellent overview for attendees. Michael Newman of Advanced Solar Industries (New Holland, PA) and Charlie Williams, Jr. of Myers Brothers Drilling followed to discuss solar and geothermal alternatives, respectively.

Kevin Lampo of Sun Lion Energy Systems, Inc. informed the group of wind energy alternatives while Jane Greber an Air Quality Specialist with the PA DEP updated the attendees on the proposed regulations on outdoor wood fired boilers.

DURING LUNCH, Dr. Charles Ray, an Associate Professor of Wood Operations Research at the Pennsylvania State University, presented wood as an alternative energy source for Pennsylvanians.

MATT TUNNELL, Senior Vice President of Greenworks Development Inc, provided an example of how energy alternatives shape the design and construction of an individual building. His company developed the Campus Square

Building in Harrisburg, which is slated to be Gold LEED Certified. The building is heated and cooled with a geothermal system and has a 50 kilowatt solar array. Tom Comitta, President and founder of Tom Comitta, Associates is a leading writer of codes for various compact, mixed use, walkable and sustainable communities and neighborhoods. Mr. Comitta offered the perspective of energy savings through appropriate codes for the design of communities.

THE FINAL SESSION for the day was a panel lead by Susan Smith of the Law offices of Susan J. Smith. Ms. Smith pre-

sented the legal perspective on alternative energy sources in municipal codes. The panel, consisting of Brandon Williams, Zoning Officer for Mount Joy Township Lancaster County; Julie Cheyney, Zoning Officer for Lebanon County; Kevin Lampo and Dr. Charles Ray offered examples of municipal ordinances and issues that have arisen at the municipal level when dealing with alternative energy sources.

SPECIAL THANKS to Richard Koch, AICP, Pam Shellenberger, AICP, and William Gomes, AICP for their dedication to this workshop. ♦

Presentations from this workshop have been made available on the PA Chapter website at http://www.planningpa.org/events_webcasts.shtml

by Jeffrey Barg, Abby Poses, and Katie Olson, University of Pennsylvania

MENTORING Program

THE SOUTHEAST Section's professional-student mentoring program recently entered its third year, with **plans to expand beyond its flagship student base** at the University of Pennsylvania to include Temple's and West Chester University's planning programs as well. Coordination of the program is now handled by **Abby Poses**, a second-year Penn planning student from Philadelphia, and **Katie Olson**, a first-year Penn planning student from Milwaukee, along with **Jeannette Brugger** of Philadelphia City Planning Commission, who has been with the mentoring program since its inception.

Mentors and prospective mentees sign up via a web form, indicating their interests and areas of specialty. Poses, Olson, and Brugger then match up students with professionals, and they embark upon a mentoring rela-

tionship that, while nominally lasting only a year, in the past has proven to forge lasting relationships as the students progress through school and into the professional world. The students and mentors first meet at a kickoff party hosted by Penn's Department of City and Regional Planning at the downtown Philadelphia offices of Wallace Roberts and Todd, and are then on their own to schedule future mentoring sessions over lunch, meetings or drinks. Additionally, the section organizes periodic **"meet-up events"** at lectures, happy hours or other planning-related gatherings, where lots of mentors and mentees can come together in a formal setting.

Recent reviews of the mentoring program have given the Southeast Section high marks for bringing students and professionals together. **"I learned a lot more about what I was interested in as the semester progressed,"** indi-

cated one mentee at the end of the semester. **"My mentor conveniently tied into what I thought my interests would be AND what they became."**

The second year of the program found success even with mentors who had been mentees just a year earlier. **"My mentor was a bit hesitant to be a mentor since she only graduated last year, but she was really great,"** indicated another current student in a feedback form about the mentoring program. **"She had an excellent perspective on what it's like to be a new planner in a small municipality in the Philadelphia area. Please encourage planners who are working, but are young and new to the job market to be mentors. It's valuable to talk with them as well!"**

In past years, all of the planning students have come from Penn's program. This year, however, the section plans to advertise the program to students at Temple and



Katie Olson (left) and Abby Poses (right) of the Southeast Section Mentor Program

West Chester. In the future, they have considered drawing in undergraduate students in local urban studies programs. Students and professionals in the Southeast Section interested in signing up to participate in the mentoring program can do so at the section's news blog, apapase.org. ♦

CONSERVATION TOOLS.ORG

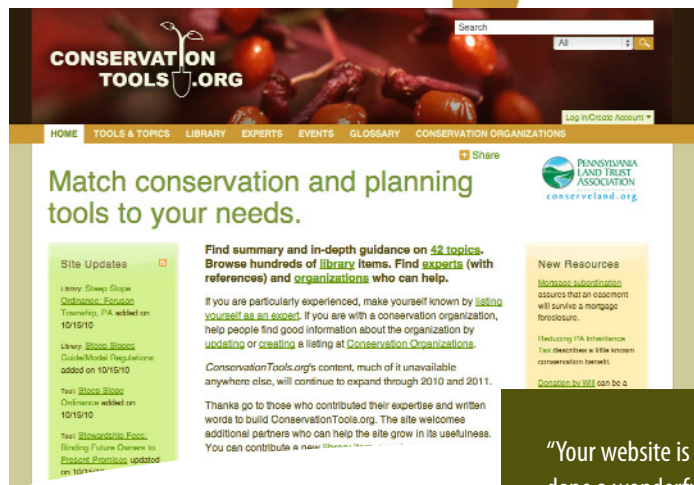
A Land Use Planning & Conservation Resource for Borough Officials

by Nicole Faraguna, PA Land Trust Association

CONSERVATIONTOOLS.ORG is an excellent resource for planners and municipal officials on land-use planning and conservation efforts. **ConservationTools.org** makes it easy to match appropriate tools to a community's needs; explore topics in depth; and identify experts, publications and other resources to move forward with a project. Visitors to **ConservationTools.org** find comprehensive information on a variety of topics, much of which is not available anywhere else. With partners frequently adding content, the site is always fresh.

Whether for matching tools and resources to community needs or supplying in-depth guidance on a topic, **ConservationTools.org** is in demand by Pennsylvanians working to improve their communities. Check out just some of the tools you'll find at **ConservationTools.org**:

- **Agricultural Protection Zoning**
- **Build-Out Analysis**
- **Community Visioning**
- **Conservation by Design**
- **Cost of Community Services Studies**
- **Development Threat Analysis**
- **Historic Preservation Ordinance**
- **Lighting Ordinance**
- **Official Map**
- **Public Dedication and Fees-in-Lieu**
- **Sign Ordinance**
- **Steep Slope Ordinance**
- **Street and Sidewalk Design**
- **Traditional Neighborhood Development**
- **Transfer of Development Rights**
- **Tree Ordinance**
- **Urban Growth Boundary**



ConservationTools.org is the one-stop resource for conservation and planning information. Please share this website and its wealth of information with fellow colleagues and partners.

Users can access all of this information via the site's powerful search engine or through topic directories. In addition, users will a comprehensive compilation of library items that include reports, articles, sample ordinances, guidelines, etc. Users can also check out upcoming events and find extensive information on land trusts, agricultural preservation boards, trail groups and other organizations working in Pennsylvania.

One of the website's unique features is its database of conservation experts; professionals can market their conservation or land use related services through the experts database, add contact information and even references.

The site welcomes additional content so please submit ideas for new tools, publications for the library, events as well as other content to help the site grow.

The website was developed by the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources as well as through the support of a dozen partner organizations.

Feel free to contact Nicole Faraguna at 717.909.1298 or nfaraguna@conserveland.org to learn more. ♦

"Your website is great! You have done a wonderful job of organizing very valuable information in an accessible way. Through this tool your organization provides yet another great service. Many thanks for making information searches much easier."

Alice Trowbridge, RLA,
Landscape Architect

"A great resource! One stop shopping for planning, open space and other municipal resources. Great organization of information—I like how you can work your way through a topic and have easy access to related tools and library items."

David Albright, Township Manager,
Chestnut Hill Township



2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sponsors, exhibitors, and advertisers. Their contributions help make the conference possible for the 550 planners who attend.

Recognition goes out to the Raffle Subcommittee and the donors they coordinated to provide 20+ gift baskets for the annual raffle. Combined with the generous donations made by individual attendees when they registered, the Chapter raised more than \$1500, all of which will go to the Scholarship Fund. This money assists students in both undergraduate and graduate planning programs in PA. We appreciate everyone who supported this effort through the purchase of raffle tickets at the conference.

"I was really impressed by the Conference. Being a voracious note taker, I took 42 pages!"
— **Richard L. Jackson, ELA Group**

CONFERENCE BY THE NUMBERS

- 550** Total Attendees
- 60** Workshops
- 8** Mobile Workshops
- 24** Exhibitors

2010 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The 2010 Annual Conference is the product of many hours of careful planning and work by the local conference committee. Many thanks to the conference committee members for their efforts during a year of preparation for the event!

Committee Co-Chairs:

James Cowhey, AICP, Lancaster County Planning Commission
Jeffery Featherstone, PhD, Temple University, Center for Sustainable Communities

Richard Koch, AICP, Gannett Fleming

Committee:

John Ahlfeld, AICP, Lancaster Inter-Municipal Committee
Eugene Aleci, AICP, Community Heritage Partners
Christina Arlt, Warwick Township
Andrew Batson, Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.
Angela Cuthbert, PhD, Millersville University
Thomas Daniels, PhD, University of Pennsylvania
Mary Frey, AICP, Lancaster County Planning Commission
Joiann Galiano, AICP, York County Planning Commission
William Gomes, AICP, Mifflin County Planning Department
Matthew Harlow, ELA Group Inc
Tara Hitchens, AICP, Lancaster County Planning Commission
Richard Jackson, ELA Group Inc
Paula Jackson, Lancaster City
Gwendolyn Newell, AICP, Lancaster County Planning Commission
Leah P. Rowand, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
Megan Beste Santucci, Taggart Associates
Dean Severson, AICP, Lancaster County Planning Commission
Pam Shellenberger, AICP, Manor Township Planning Commission
Christopher Spahr, Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.
Tim Staub, AICP, Rettew Associates Inc
Lynn Marie Stauffer, Lancaster Township Planning Commission
Andrew B. Stern, AICP, Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson
Mark Stivers, AICP, East Hempfield Township
Glenn Taggart, Taggart Associates
Joellyn Warren, West Lampeter Township
Danny Whittle, AICP, Lancaster County Planning Commission
Dale Witmer, AICP, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.
Sarah Galbraith Laucks, CMP, Chapter Administrator

With deep appreciation, we thank the following CONFERENCE SPONSORS

Their support makes the conference possible. Please consider these organizations when making your purchasing decisions.

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LOGISTICS SUPPORT through the Loan of LCD Projectors

The Conference is able to save substantially in the area of audio-visual costs through the borrowing of LCD Projectors from members. Their willingness to provide LCD Projectors at the event saves the Chapter as much as \$6,500. We are grateful to them for their willingness to support the conference in this manner:

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Lancaster County
Planning
Commission

Michael Baker Jr., Inc.
Smart Growth
Partnership
The Reinvestment
Fund

Support of the SCHOLARSHIP FUND

A gracious thank you to the many individuals and organizations who contributed support to the Scholarship Fund through this year's conference.

From gift basket donations and the purchase of raffle tickets to individual contributions and the subcommittee who worked on the project...this year's efforts were a great success, raising more than \$1500 for the chapter's Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship Fund benefits young planners by providing financial support to offset their educational costs.

We received an overwhelming number of gift basket donations of gift baskets to this year's raffle. Many, many thanks to the planning departments, planning firms, and other organizations who supported the Raffle and its beneficiary, the PA Chapter Scholarship Fund. For a full list of donors, please visit the 2010 Conference webpage, found in the Conference Archives section under Events & Training.

THANK YOU to the following individuals for their donations to the Scholarship Fund:

R. Steven Dellinger, AICP
Walter Evans
Marvin Brotter
Tracey Vernon
Dennis Livrone
Jerry Walls

A DEDICATED group of committee members made the Raffle possible through the recruitment of gift baskets and selling of tickets at the conference. Our special thanks to these talented volunteers!

Christina Arlt
Trisha Lang
Gwen Newell
Dean Severson
Pam Shellenberger

APA

Fall updates...

from Angela Vincent, Region 1 Director, Board of Directors

SUMMER IS OVER, fall is upon us and there's so much going on in the planning community! As your representative from the APA Board of Directors I've compiled some great updates and resources to help you transition into fall and take advantage of all of the great events and opportunities available to planners.

Summer Leadership Retreat

The APA Board of Directors and AICP Commissioners met in Chicago in July for an APA Leadership Retreat. This retreat, which only happens every two years, brought together new and existing Board members and Commissioners for an action-packed weekend of updates, brainstorming, and teambuilding. Some of the highlights from this retreat, and things to look forward to, include:

- **APA Development Plan:** with a new President-Elect on board (congratulations Mitchell Silver), comes the creation of a new Development Plan for APA. The purpose of this biennial Development Plan is to outline new initiatives and leading priorities for the American Planning Association. The Development Plan is a tool to ensure that our operations and activities relate directly to our mission, vision, and goals. It serves as a guide to assist APA's leaders, the Professional Institute, and all components, including Chapters and Divisions, in formulating the association's budget. We hold ourselves and the organization accountable as we work to achieve the goals of this Development Plan. The Development Plan will be devised over the next 6-8 months, reviewed by the Board of Directors, and voted on by the APA Board at the National Conference in Boston in 2011. Stay tuned for more information about this instrumental Plan.

- **Sustaining Places Initiative:** in March 2010, APA President Bruce Knight, FAICP formally

announced the Sustaining Places Initiative. This Initiative is a multi-year, multi-faceted program to define the role of planning in addressing all human settlement issues relating to sustainability. President Knight emphasizes that this role is recognized as not being "limited to a building or a site, but encompasses all scales and all forms of organization of human settlements, from rural areas and small towns to cities and metropolitan regions. We look forward to providing more details on this Initiative. For highlights about the launch of this Initiative and updates about its progress, please visit: <http://www.planning.org/sustainingplaces/>

APA Assistance for Planners

In these tough economic times, it is even more important that planners can stay connected and have access to planning tools, resources and support. APA has created two ways to stay connected:

• Unemployment Membership

Category: Active (current and continuous) paid APA membership for the past 3 or more years entitles you to 1 year of membership dues at the unemployment rate for a maximum of 5 years (15 years of active service). This is not a billable rate, so you will have to request the unemployment rate every year upon renewal.

- **Unemployment rates:** APA dues \$50, Chapter dues \$10, AICP (if applicable) \$25. All publications and divisions are at regular price. Call 312-431-9100 or e-mail customerservice@planning.org.

- **Jobs Online:** Looking for the next perfect planning job or internship? Search APA's extensive database of jobs in planning: <http://www.planning.org/jobs/>

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions or ideas for future reports from the Board:
Angela Vincent
APA Region 1 Director
angela.aparegion1@gmail.com
603-305-5385 ♦

EVENTS & Training Opportunities

Events are added regularly. Visit 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.

APA National Conference – CM Multiple Credits

April 9-12, 2011
Boston, MA
Visit 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 for information. ♦

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www.planningpa.org

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:

December: November 12, 2010

February: January 21, 2011

Submit to: sgalbraith@shermer-assoc.com ♦



PDOCORNER

by Susan Elks, AICP, PA Chapter Professional Development Officer

THE FALL always seems to bring many opportunities for training, the PA Chapter conference among them. This year, it seems a good time to discuss **professional development**, and the Chapter's efforts in that regard, in more general terms. While I typically try and update various efforts in this column (the spring and fall AICP exam cycles and exam preparation sessions, new specialty certifications, upcoming CM training, etc.), sometimes it's a good idea to step back and look at the big picture.

PROFESSIONAL development, to me, is a rather broad term. It includes formal training, in-person and on-line. It includes researching on your own. It includes informal networking,

peer to peer, or experienced to inexperienced. It's about your own growth as a professional in the planning field, and increasing the knowledge base of the field of planning more generally.

PROFESSIONAL development applies not only to those planners who are AICPs and working on Certification Maintenance compliance. It's something that undergraduate planning students can and should be aware of, as it offers a view into the everyday workings of planning as a career. It's something that professional planners, private and public sector, should be working on, in order to offer the best ideas to their clients and communities. It's something that volunteer planners should be working on,

in order to make the best decisions for their communities.

HERE AT THE PA Chapter, we have a Professional Development Committee, a Planning Officials Development Committee, and an Education Committee. Each committee has a different audience that they are trying to reach, but each is trying to provide resources to raise the level of planning that occurs in communities across the state. As the Chapter develops a new Chapter Development Plan for 2011-2014, there are many ideas of what needs to be accomplished and how items should be prioritized. When I consider what seems to be a potentially endless list of action items and become unsure of the impor-

tance of an item, I return to my idea that in planning, the end goal of professional development needs to be equipping those working in planning with the best knowledge so that they can positively impact communities. I know we have to figure out the details of who, and when, but my first and last thoughts on Chapter efforts in professional development always return to this end goal. To view the draft Chapter Development Plan, please see the front page of this issue of *The Vantage Point*, or visit the PA Chapter website at www.planningpa.org. We are seeking feedback through December 8. As always, additional feedback can also be made to your section or any Chapter officer. ♦

PLANNERS' Communications Guide

The Planners' Communications Guide: Strategies, Examples, and Tools for Everyday Practice helps APA members reach and deliver positive, values-based messages about planning and APA to targeted audiences. The document is downloadable in full or in part at <http://www.planning.org/communicationsguide> and does not have to be read in its entirety prior to being used.

Three messages were developed, tested, and adopted by the APA Board of Directors with this purpose in mind:

- **APA members help create communities of lasting value.**
- **Good planning helps create communities that offer better choices for where and how people work and live.**
- **Planning enables civic leaders, business interests, and citizens to play a meaningful role in creating communities that enrich people's lives.**

The guide provides great examples of the benefits of utilizing a planner and implementing a plan in a chapter that describes the dollar value of planning. Another chapter describes how to form alliances with influential parties and key stakeholders from government, the development community, businesses, and the general public in order to gain support for your plan and put it into action. The guide explains that it's not only your message, but how it's conveyed, that matters.

The Planners' Communications Guide: Strategies, Examples, and Tools for Everyday Practice empowers you as a planner by providing a multitude of communication options for delivering a message, project, plan or presentation to your audience. ♦

APA

Requests Your Input...

National Planners Climate Change Mitigation Survey

APA launched the National Planners Climate Change Mitigation Survey on October 1 via the *Interact* newsletter. The completion results have been mixed and they are in need of more survey responses.

We encourage you to take a few minutes to complete this survey and assist APA with the project. A broad geographical response will significantly strengthen the ultimate results of this survey. Missouri, Tennessee, and Vermont have also demonstrated significant planner participation.

Participation is sought from both practicing planners and planning academics. Respondents can opt to remain anonymous. The survey can be found at the following address:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/NationalPlannersClimateChangeMitigationSurvey APA CP ♦

WEBCAST series

The 2010 Webcast Series provides CM approved professional development for PA Chapter members. For session descriptions and to register visit www.utah-apa.org. New sessions are regularly added – check the schedule often.

November 18

New Approaches to Integrating Economic Development Planning
APA Economic Development Division

November 19

To LEED or not to LEED: How Do You Promote “Green Building Design” at the Municipal Level
New York Metro Chapter

December 3

Bridging the Gap Between Community Based Organizations and the Planning Community: How We Can Better Leverage On-the-Ground Not-For-Profit Activities with Comprehensive Community Planning Support
New Jersey Chapter

December 10

Supporting a Diverse Local Agricultural Economy

December 17

Economic Development Division:
Fiscal Sustainability

Past Presentations Available for CM Credit!

A number of past sessions are available for viewing and will earn Distance Education CM credits. The list currently includes sessions that qualify for Law and Ethics credits. For the list of sessions, links to watch, and details about CM credits, please visit www.utah-apa.org/pastwebcasts.htm.



UPCOMING WEBCASTS: All webcasts qualify for 1.5 CM credits and take place from 1:00pm to 2:30pm ET.

COMING SOON! THE 2011 WEBCAST SERIES!

The 2011 Webcast Series will be announced in the next few weeks. It's packed with quality CM content including required ethics and law sessions. The schedule is expected to be posted by December 2010.

PMPEI

PA Municipal Planning Education Institute Schedule

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

Fall 2010 offers many courses throughout the state. New PMPEI courses are added regularly. Visit www.planningpa.org/events_pmpei.shtml for the complete and current schedule.

To host a PMPEI course in your community contact Stan Lembeck, AICP at sml1@psu.edu for more details. ♦

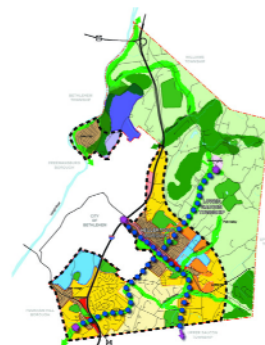
SOUTHWEST SECTION MENTOR-TELEMACHUS PROGRAM

For more information on this exciting new program please visit our link:
<http://www.planningpa.org/about.section.pitt.shtml>
or
Send inquiries to mentorship@ceo.co.indiana.pa.us

"We shall contribute time and resources to the professional development of students, interns, beginning professionals, and other colleagues."
[AICP Code of Ethics, Section 3(f)]



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GOVERNOR'S AWARDS for Local Government Excellence

Now Accepting Submissions for 2011 Awards

The Governor's Center for Local Government Services invites you to submit your project or program for recognition as part of our Local Government Day celebration. The Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence honors municipalities, municipal authorities and councils of government that have demonstrated vision by implementing programs that improve the quality of life of the Pennsylvania citizens they serve.

Local Government Day provides the Governor's Center for Local Government Services with the opportunity to recognize those communities that have exemplified excellence in the provision of municipal services and publicly acknowledge these contributions. Through the recognition of such projects we establish best practices that can be shared with local officials across the Commonwealth to assist in addressing similar issues.

For more information including the Categories for the Awards, Deadlines, and How to Submit Your Application, please visit this link:

<http://newpa.winstormdp.com/emercial.html?id=12882015470.61966&template=Pennsylvania>

