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# THE VANTAGE POINT



American Planning Association  
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association



*The Best and Brightest in Pennsylvania Planning!*

2011 PA Chapter of APA

## AWARD WINNERS

### Election Results Announced

PA Chapter of APA congratulates the following newly elected officers who will serve from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2013:

**President**  
**Brian N. O'Leary, AICP**

**Vice President**  
**John Pickett, AICP, PE**

**Secretary**  
**James Cowhey, AICP**

**Treasurer**  
**Pam Shellenberger, AICP**

Many thanks to these individuals for their willingness to serve the chapter.

The PA Chapter of APA recently held its Annual Awards Program at the 2011 Annual Conference in Scranton, PA. The following individuals and organizations were honored for their excellent contributions to planning in Pennsylvania. ***Congratulations!***



*Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan*

**Allegheny Places: The Allegheny County Comprehensive Plan  
Allegheny County Department of Economic Development**

Uniting a place with 130 different municipalities, each with its own strong identity, is a true challenge. Allegheny County has clearly met this challenge with its first comprehensive plan, a dynamic document and web site guided by extensive public outreach, including a highly-successful "What's Your Favorite Place" campaign. Allegheny Places is an impressive plan covering a wide range of topics while reaching an extremely diverse audience.



*Planning Excellence Award for Best Practice*

**An Industrial Land and Market Strategy for the City of Philadelphia  
Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation and Philadelphia City Planning Commission**

In older post-industrial cities, it is often assumed that industrial zoning and uses are passé, that they should be eliminated over time. Recognizing that industrial uses play a critical role in a well-functioning city, acknowledging that industrial employment remains important, and realizing that industrial land was under pressure to be rezoned, the City of Philadelphia conducted a comprehensive and innovative study of its industrial land to determine the role of this land in the city's future. This excellent study of an overlooked land use provides a useful and imaginative guide for city decision makers.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**2012 Annual Awards**  
 The Application for the  
 2012 Annual Awards will be  
 announced in February 2012.  
 Please visit the  
 PA Chapter website  
[www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org)  
 for details.  
 Deadline for submission  
 is expected to be  
 late May 2012.

## 2011 PA Chapter of APA

# AWARD WINNERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



### *Planning Excellence Award for Implementation* **Historic Souderton Downtown Revitalization** **Souderton Borough**

Sometimes, in older developed communities, it's difficult to get traction on planning initiatives and revitalization efforts. That has not been the case in Souderton. In less than a decade and as a follow-up to its 2001 Revitalization Plan, the borough has revamped its downtown zoning, improved its sign ordinance, updated its maintenance code, created a joint Main Street program with a neighbor, improved marketing, installed streetscaping, built a new parking lot, installed a plaza and public art, supported the expansion of a performing arts theater, helped property owners rehabilitate old mill buildings, and cooperated on the redevelopment of an old movie house. Souderton is clearly a community on the move.



### *Planning Excellence Award for Public Outreach* **Renewable Energy Series** **Montgomery County Planning Commission**

In planning, it's often necessary to respond to new land uses and new ideas, but it can take a long time for local communities to respond. Montgomery County's flyers on renewable energy, which implement the county's 2005 comprehensive plan and 2007 GreenPrint Plan, provide excellent information on solar energy, small wind turbines, geothermal energy, outdoor hydronic heaters, and energy-aware site design to local communities. These flyers, which could be helpful to any municipality in the state, describe basic aspects of the technology while highlighting regulatory issues and additional resources.



### *Planning Excellence Award for Innovation in Best Practices for Sustainability*

#### **Eating Here: Greater Philadelphia's Food System Plan** **Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission**

There are many factors that make a place sustainable, including one factor often overlooked by planners – the food system. Recognizing that all the various elements of the food system – growing food, transporting food, and selling food – are critical for sustainability, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission prepared a Food System Plan, bringing together many diverse stakeholders who often have little contact with the planning world. This excellent and innovative plan expands the role of planning into a new and exciting area.

# Congrats

## A Belated Happy Birthday Wish to IRV HAND!

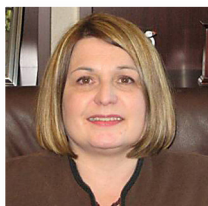
ON JULY 2, 2011 PA Chapter of APA members **John Pickett, PE, AICP, Ron Bednar, AICP, and Richard Bickel, FAICP** joined about 25 others at the Jewish Home near Colonial Park, east of Harrisburg, to celebrate Irv Hand's 90th birthday. **Anna Breinich, AICP**, the AICP Commission President and a former PA Chapter of APA member, also attended the celebration. **Rick Bernhardt, FAICP, Executive Director of the City of Nashville** Planning Department joined the festivities via computer connection to present Irv with a plaque signed by the Mayor and others commemorating Irv's term as City Planning Director of Nashville.

Rich Bickel shared with Irv the PA Chapter's best wishes and praise for his scholarship program through Delta Development. The 2012 winner of the Irving Hand Excellence in Planning Professional Development Award was recently announced at the PA Chapter of APA Annual Awards Program. The winner, **Susan Elks, AICP**, will use the award to further develop her professional skills by attending several mediation trainings.



### *Student Project Award* **Pittsburgh in the 21st Century: A Decade of Difference** **University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs**

At times, it's very useful to look backwards and say "How did we do? Were our ideas correct?" This probably happens less frequently than it should, but a group of students from the University of Pittsburgh has taken on this task, looking back at Richard Florida's research report, "Competing in the Age of Talent," and using this as a template to analyze data on education, diversity, social networking, outdoor amenities, and migration patterns in the Pittsburgh area. This fun report provides an insightful look at the changing nature of Pittsburgh and its people.



### *Planning Leadership Award for Professional Planner* **Cindy L. Davis**

Planning is a tough profession in Pennsylvania, and it becomes even harder when multiple municipalities are involved. Undaunted by these realities, Cindy Davis, the zoning officer for Butler Township, successfully led efforts to create a very successful Butler-area comprehensive plan that includes five municipalities. Her energy, dedication, and leadership have raised the profile of planning and planners in Butler County. ♦

### Many thanks

*to the 2010  
Awards Committee*

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

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





**With the 2011 Elections** recently completed I wanted to share with members the detailed process that the nominating committee worked through to select the slate of candidates. The nominating committee spent many hours working to present an outstanding slate of candidates for chapter members to choose from.



American Planning Association  
**Pennsylvania Chapter**

Making Great Communities Happen

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Please help us close the loop  
and recycle this newsletter.

## A Careful Process

The chapter published information about the 2011 elections in the December, February and April newsletters. We invited members to notify us if they were interested in serving as an officer. We also sent an email to the full membership specifically inviting members to submit names or nominate themselves.

The nominating committee spent May and June of 2011 reviewing the entire membership list and recommendations from members and staff. They examined who was currently serving the chapter in other roles (such as chairing or serving on committees).

The committee followed the chapter bylaws very carefully with regard to seeking a diverse slate of candidates – see bylaws portion referenced. Members can review the elections section of the bylaws; visit [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org) – the bylaws are listed under the About Us section.

## From Bylaws, 10.2 Elections: Nominations

“It is desirable that there be at least two candidates for each position; it is also desirable that the candidates represent geographic diversity, employment diversity (e.g., public, consultant, and academic), and a mix of both professional planners and planning officials. Each candidate shall be a member of the Chapter.”

The committee also spent time discussing specific goals related to what they wanted the in regards to diversity of geography, professional and demographic diversity.

## 38 Members Approached

The committee then approached 38 members to assess their willingness and ability to serve. Each of the 38 members was asked to complete a two-page survey to gauge their interest, experience, and availability.

Many members were honored to be considered for the various

officer positions, but needed to decline the opportunity due to their job responsibilities, family situation, graduate degree work, or other reasons. It is a very important reality for candidates to understand the work volume that will come with serving the chapter. Potential candidates seriously considered their ability to serve and declined when necessary.

This process brought the nomination committee to the final slate of qualified candidates

## Voting

Ballots were distributed to all voting members on August 15. At that time the bios and statements of all candidates were also published on the chapter website. Voting concluded on September 15. The results were announced at the annual conference.

## Thank You

Thank you to the nominating committee, all members who were interested in serving, the final slate of officers and our newly elected officers for participating in this careful process. It's a pleasure to work with so many fellow members who give of their time serving the chapter in various volunteer roles.

As always, if you have any questions about the nominating process or other Chapter activities, please feel free to contact me at 724-539-8548 x17 or [agraziani@cityoflatrobe.com](mailto:agraziani@cityoflatrobe.com). ♦



## Mission Statement

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



## approve? deny?

### Reviewing a Subdivision Plan

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

Most Planning Commissions are asked to review subdivision applications and make a recommendation to the governing body to either approve or deny the application. Sounds easy? Not really! New appointees and some senior planning commissioners have not been taught how to do the review. This article is designed to give you a step-by-step approach to a thorough review.

**1/ You should** familiarize yourself with your subdivision and land development ordinance (SALDO). It is in this document wherein the applicant is told what the municipality expects to be shown on a plan. If an application is for a minor subdivision the requirements are usually less than if the application is for a major subdivision.

**2/ Let's assume** we are talking about a major subdivision. Plans for major subdivisions can have multiple sheets. It is not uncommon to handle a plan that has fifty or more sheets attached. Nearly half of the sheets are engineering details that your municipal engineer will address fully.

**3/ The sheets** that you should focus on are the:

- **Cover sheet**
- **Proposed subdivision layout**
- **Existing features**
- **Utility (water/sewer)**
- **Landscape and lighting (planting species, placement of trees and buffer areas)**
- **Storm water management**
- **Details (such as type of street light)**

**Most of the other** sheets are engineering details such as the profile of a proposed roadway, construction improvement (storm sewer and grading), ero-

sion and sediment control and site improvement.

#### The Cover Sheet:

Usually the name of the proposed subdivision is on this cover sheet along with the applicant and engineer names and addresses. A list of the title pages for each sheet is noted along with a graphic showing the layout of the subdivision and a site location of where the proposed subdivision is situated within the municipality. The plan will say if it is a preliminary and/or final subdivision plan. If it is preliminary an application needs to be submitted for the final approval. The Pennsylvania Municipality Planning Code (MPC) outlines what rights a developer has under a preliminary and a final approval. The final plan submission is usually just a few sheets and is the document that gets signed by the township, county and other agencies before being filed at the county.

You should note the date stamped by the township as to when they received the application. Remember every completed application submitted has a statutory clock defining the time limit the municipality has to review and approve or deny the plan. If time runs out and the applicant has not granted the municipality an extension of

time or the municipality does not grant such extension the application is deemed approved under the MPC.

#### The Subdivision Layout:

Zoning information, recording notes, general notes, and the layout are shown on this sheet. At staff level a zoning officer should have determined if the subdivision is conforming to the zoning standards. Look at the lot and determine if there is a rational reason for the layout. Are some lots configured in such a way that the building envelope (the area defined by the setback standards) leaves no room for a homeowner to construct a deck or a shed in the back yard without requiring a variance from the Zoning Hearing Board?

Read the general and recording notes carefully. They tell you what the applicant proposes such as maintenance of the detention basin through a homeowners association or deeding the basin to the municipality to maintain. Check for existing easements that may impact the design of the subdivision.

#### Existing Features:

Is there a historic structure that needs to be preserved? If there is an existing residential dwelling on the tract is it incor-

porated into the subdivision? Should it be? Do you need to ask your Historic Commission for their input? This sheet usually has the earth's contour lines and when you look at them closely they will tell you if the land slopes, are flat or hilly. This knowledge is useful when you are looking at the propose lot layout and the downstream houses that may have basements.

#### Utilities:

Your water and sewer authority and maybe your health officer should be giving you a report on this sheet. Familiarize yourself with this sheet.

#### Landscape & Lighting:

Your ordinance probably defines the species that you will accept along with the placement of street trees. Buffer areas may require more review especially if the proposed subdivision abuts a non-residential zoning district or use.

#### Storm Water Management:

You should be able to depend on the review of the storm water management plan by your municipal engineer. He or she will usually make a written report and may attend your meeting. Allow the engineer to review his/her report and ask questions when you don't understand something.

*The Planning Official Committee of the PA Chapter of APA recommends obtaining further knowledge through the Pennsylvania Municipality Planning Education Institute (PMPEI). PMPEI offers a 10-hour course given once a week for three weeks devoted solely to subdivision and land use. For more information visit [www.planningpa.org/events\\_pmpei.shtml](http://www.planningpa.org/events_pmpei.shtml). ♦*

# ACTIVE DESIGN

## *A New Philosophy for Community Planning*

By Andrew JG Schwartz, AICP, RLA, LEED AP®  
Managing Principal, Environmental Planning and Design, LLC, Pittsburgh, PA

The media reports daily of increases in heart disease, obesity, diabetes and mental illness. In 2010, the *New York Times* reported that 34% of Americans are obese. In 2011, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation announced that Pennsylvania is the 19th most obese State including nearly 1/5 of the State's children. Other studies and surveys have shown that an American adult drives more than 6 miles per day and walks only about 2 miles, spends 10 fewer hours outdoors per week than the previous decade, and knows only about 25% of their neighbors' first names. In becoming more sedentary, Americans have become more removed from their community.

**WHAT CAN A COMMUNITY planner** do to help reverse these trends? Enter **Active Design** as a fundamental planning and design approach. The goal of Active Design is to **create places that people want to experience and relate to – places where people want to visit, enjoy, recreate, commune and return again.** In short, the **Active Design** philosophy infuses health and fitness considerations and objectives into municipally controlled public policies and capital improvement projects. **Active Design** simply raises the bar by challenging communities to be proactive and thoughtful about their resident's health and wellness.

### **The Downward Spiral**

Why should communities care about their resident's health? Over 30 years, America's appetite to drive has grown. In the same time: obesity has risen nearly 20%; the average household budget allocation for mobility has increased to 17% second only to spending on housing and 30% more than food; health care premiums have more than doubled all while the average American's lifespan has increased by 5 years to 78 years of age. The proportion of the national popu-

lation made up of seniors has grown to 13% and is expected to increase to 19% in the next 10 years.

These growth trends translate to less household income available for housing, deferred property maintenance and upkeep and more dependency on publicly funded social services and programs. Both consequences affect a community's tax revenues and its annual expenditures. Impacts are further compounded by the nation's economic condition. Both the Pennsylvania Departments of Community and Economic Development and Conservation and Natural Resources have experienced budgetary cut-backs from 2008 levels that near 50%. Decreasing state and municipal fiscal resources result in communities doing less planning. These are all sound reasons for communities to be concerned.

### **Possible Ways Out**

**Active Design** requires a philosophical transformation of how communities view themselves and how they plan. The approach is more than simply constructing a fitness trail or building a neighborhood playground. It's a philosophy that

makes the level of health and wellness a "lens" to view and enhance all other community-related decisions.

### **How does a community make the transformation?** *Some initial ideas...*

**1/ Increase public awareness** of the issue and its long-term implications. Communities can form task forces, complete wellness audits identifying public policies, programs and improvements that are obstacles to better health, and publish literature to educate and motivate residents.

**2/ Include health and wellness** as part of every day community planning and design functions and activities. The evaluation of health and wellness statistics, the definition of wellness goals and the development of wellness-related recommendations and standards can occur as part comprehensive planning efforts, park and recreation studies, streetscape designs and greenway/trail assessments.

**3/ Think outside the box** of where better health and wellness can be achieved. For example, forming partnerships between municipalities and local health

### **A walkable neighborhood supports health, wellness and better fellowship among residents.**

providers to develop a community health program where incentives can be earned for achieving wellness benchmarks. Another possibility is the creation of wellness districts where tax abatements or similar financial inducements can be earned in return for residency. The wellness districts could be neighborhoods where higher densities, land use diversity, multimodal amenities are integrated to induce walking, cycling, socialization and subsequently better health, wellness and fellowship.

### **How does a community start the transformation?**

For more information and discussion on the Active Design approach please see the presentation materials from the Active Design seminar that took place at the recent PA Chapter of APA 2011 Annual Conference. The seminar featured a roundtable discussion lead by a panel of healthcare providers, community planners, recreational professionals and landscape architects. The goal of the seminar was to further illuminate the health and wellness issues challenging our communities. To access the files visit [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org) and go to the **2011 Annual Conference page** which can be found in the **Events & Training section.** ♦







# welcome

## New Chapter Members!

**WE WELCOME** the following new members who recently joined the PA Chapter of APA! 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.

### Individual Members:

**Rich Fender**,  
from Jefferson County, Regional  
Planning Commission, *Southwest Section*  
**Janis M Lyman**, citizen  
*Central Section*  
**Albert Evan Celini**, student citizen  
*Southeast Section*  
**Tom Graney**, GCCA, *Northwest Section*  
**Thomas Graney, Jr.**, GCCA  
*Northwest Section*

### Organizational Members:

**Borough of New Brighton**  
*Southwest Section*  
**Bedford County**  
**Planning Commission**  
*Southwest Section*  
**Live Well Luzerne**  
*Northeast Section*  
**Warrington Township**  
*Southeast Section*

## Congrats!

*Congrats to the PA Chapter's  
New AICP CEP's:*

**Teresa Durkin, AICP CEP**  
**William P. Fritz, AICP CEP**  
**Richard J. Hoch, AICP CEP**  
**Anna M. Kitces, AICP CEP**

2011 was the first year for the ASC (Advanced Specialty Certification) exams, so these planners are among the first to earn the credential. ASC exams currently include the Certified Environmental Planner (CEP) and Certified Transportation Planner (CTP). Nationwide there was an 80% pass rate for the CEP exam and a 50% pass rate for the CTP exam. The next round of testing is expected to be in spring 2012, with the application window opening this winter. Planners must already have their AICP and demonstrate a minimum of 8 years of experience specific to the field they are testing in to sit for the exams. After a planner has passed the exam, a portion of their CM must be in the field in which they have their specialty certification. These designations publicly confirm their achievement and identify planning as a profession that values, encourages, and recognizes expertise and leadership. ♦



# info

## Don't Wait to Apply for CM Exemption

**MEMBERS MAY REQUEST EXEMPTIONS** from the 2010-11 CM requirements for a variety of circumstances including unemployment, ill health, and parental leave. Depending on the circumstances, some exemptions allow active AICP membership while others require inactive status. Submit a request by December 31, 2011; APA will not accept applications for exemption during the January 1-April 30, 2012 grace period. For more information visit [www.planning.org/cm/exemptions.html](http://www.planning.org/cm/exemptions.html).

**Contact AICPCM@planning.org with questions.** ♦

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## PA Chapter

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Smart Growth Partnership

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CHPlanning, Ltd.

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Delaware County Planning Department

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Lancaster County Planning Department

#### LEHIGH VALLEY SECTION REPRESENTATIVE

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Professional Planner

#### NORTHEAST SECTION REPRESENTATIVE

**Peter T. Wulffhorst, AICP**  
Penn State Cooperative Extension

#### NORTHWEST SECTION REPRESENTATIVE

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

#### PAST PRESIDENT

**Carl Hess, AICP**  
Borough of State College

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**Tara Hitchens, AICP**  
Lancaster County Planning Commission

#### Lehigh Valley

**Anthony Toth, AICP**  
Professional Planner

#### Northeast

**Christine Dettore**  
Monroe County Planning Commission

#### Northwest

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

#### Southeast

**Graciela Cavicchia, AICP**  
The Reinvestment Fund

#### Southwest

**Jim Segedy, PhD, FAICP**  
PA Environmental Council

### Committee Chairs

#### Professional Development

*Officer/Professional Development  
Committee Chair*

**Susan Elks, AICP**

#### Planning Officials Development

*Officer/Chair of the Planning Officials  
Development Committee*

**To be determined**

*Communications Committee Chair*

**Dennis Martinak, AICP**

#### Education Committee Chair

**Cliff Kanz, AICP**

#### 2012 Conference Co-Chairs

**Amy McKinney**  
**Jake Welsh, AICP**

#### Legislative Committee

**Shannon Debes, AICP, Chair**  
**Susan Smith, Esq., AICP, Vice Chair**

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



*on the move!*

## PA Chapter of APA President Alexander J. Graziani TAKES ON NEW ROLE

The month of August 2011 brought changes for the PA Chapter's two-term president, Alexander J. Graziani, AICP. That month marked his departure from **Smart Growth Partnership** to take over the reigns as the new city manager for Latrobe, PA.

Following are excerpts from an article published in the *Latrobe Bulletin News Editor*, "New City Manager for Latrobe" August 9, 2011 by Marie McCandless, *Latrobe Bulletin News Editor*

**AS EXECUTIVE** director of Smart Growth Partnership, Alex spent the last 10 years promoting the **principles of smart growth** – such as encouraging community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions – and now he will get the chance to put them into practice [as the new city manager for Latrobe, PA.

Graziani said of his new position, "I will have the opportunity to take what we've been talking about and apply it in the community. Latrobe has a lot going for it. I have the opportunity to apply theory to real circumstances."

And it won't be just theory he's applying. Graziani said he will "take the policy direction and vision of council and apply it."

**Deputy Mayor Ken Baldonieri** said, "The enthusiasm and energy Alex Graziani brings to the job will have a positive effect on all the citizens of Latrobe."

"I am honored to have the confidence of the mayor and council to select me for this position," Graziani said.

"Latrobe is a great city with a



storied past and much potential for the future," he said.

Smart Growth Partnership board chair **Allen Kukovich** said that, "Alex has done a great job for us over the last 10 years. He is the only executive director **Smart Growth** has had."

Kukovich, who with **Frank Cassell**, past president of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, helped found Smart Growth, noted it was surprising to review the "quantity of work for such a small staff." He said the partnership is taking a fresh look at its accomplishments and where it is headed.

"While I feel bad that Alex is leaving the Smart Growth Partnership," Kukovich commented, "I think it is excellent potential for Latrobe. He can bring his experience with Smart Growth and his most creative and new ideas for the community."

A certified community plan-

ning professional, Graziani previously was a senior planner with Benatec Associates. While working with private, government and nonprofit sectors of the economy he has accumulated almost 20 years of professional experience – 15 in leadership and management positions.

Graziani is current president, Pennsylvania Chapter, American Planning Association; associate director, Westmoreland Conservation District; board member, Westmoreland County Land Trust; elder, Greensburg Alliance Church, and committee secretary, Boy Scouts of America Troop 465 at Harrold Zion Lutheran Church, Fort Allen.

In 2004, he was appointed to the Pennsylvania State Planning Board, becoming vice chair the following year. Graziani has received the **2007 Pennsylvania Business Central Entrepreneur of the Year Award**; **2009 Green Building Alliance Shades of Green Award**, and **2010 Westmoreland Community Action County Service Award**.

Having led the Latrobe downtown visioning workshops in 2006, Graziani is familiar with the opportunities and challenges facing the city. With his efforts at the Smart Growth Partnership, he helped Latrobe become a Main Street community and has assisted the Latrobe Revital-

ization Committee. He also was instrumental in Latrobe getting the state grant to complete its recent comprehensive plan.

Graziani was born in New Castle. He has a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Westminster College and master's in public policy and management from the University of Pittsburgh. He and his wife of more than 22 years, Eva, live in Greensburg with their five children, Andrew, Seth, Philip, Carissa and Paul. The family is considering a move to Latrobe.

**On August 10, 2011, Smart Growth Partnership issued its thanks to Graziani for 10 years of service:**

The Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County (SGPWC) acknowledged the departure of Executive Director Alex Graziani who has recently been named as the City Manager for the City of Latrobe. Graziani took the helm in 2001 as the first Executive Director of the Smart Growth Partnership.

"On behalf of the entire board of directors, I would like to thank Alex for his dedicated service to furthering the goals of smart growth in Westmoreland County," said Allen Kukovich, Board Chairman. "When we set out 10 years ago, smart growth was little more than a buzzword – but because of his work, and the efforts of a dedicated board, there is evidence throughout the region that people are thinking about the long-term impacts of sprawl and unplanned development. We know that by working together, we can promote economic development while maintaining the beautiful features of our small towns and countryside. And, as Alex prepares for his next challenge, we wish him all the best," Kukovich continued.

The partnership was created to provide education, technical assistance and leadership to help foster good long-term decision-making. Its ultimate success is not, therefore, in what it does, but the success is in what it is able to help others to accomplish.

The value of the partnership



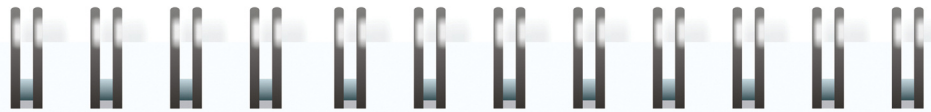
has been the combination of an accomplished and respected board of directors and a capable staff working together to provide leadership, vision and information/assistance to motivate and enable communities and developers in Westmoreland County to implement appropriate Smart Growth principles.

Over the 10-years of Graziani's service the Smart Growth Partnership has been a part of many important community-planning efforts, and has helped shape the conversation as dozens of communities have taken steps to plan for their future.

*Some highlights of these collaborations include:*

- **First ever Westmoreland County Comprehensive Plan which led to a focus of county investments in our small towns**
- **First ever Westmoreland County Greenway and Open Space plan which was adopted as an amendment to the comprehensive plans and guides recreation and open space preservation county-wide**
- **Creation of a Westmoreland County GIS Department**
- **Five Main Street programs leading to the subsequent main street improvements and downtown developments**
- **Westmoreland Land Trust - preserving land in the County development triangle as designated in the County Comprehensive Plan**
- **Route 30 Master Plan and Development Tool Kit**
- **First ever Westmoreland County multi-day Charrette as a part of the Route 30 Master Plan**

Reflecting on the accomplishments of the first ten years, founding board member **Michael Walsh** said, "I think the list of accomplishments demonstrates the value of a "partnership," as success did not come on any of these projects only because of the SGP – and yet much of what occurred might not have without the efforts of the SGP. Certainly, the SGP has been a catalyst for engaging folks and raising the bar on quality of life issues." ♦



## *Planner notes...*



**Richard Bartholomew**

### **Richard W. Bartholomew Receives Harbeson Award from AIA Philadelphia**

At its annual Design Awards Presentation and Ceremony October 6, 2011, at the Loews Philadelphia Hotel, AIA Philadelphia presented Richard W. Bartholomew, FAIA, AICP, PP, with the John Frederick Harbeson Award.

The Harbeson Award is presented annually to a long-standing member of the architectural community and is intended to **recognize their significant contributions over their lifetime to the architectural profession** and its related disciplines. The recipient of this award will have distinguished themselves throughout their career by their contributions to the architectural profession, the American Institute of Architects, the education of the architectural community, and their contributions to the Philadelphia community at large.

An **urban designer, architect, and planner**, Bartholomew has directed many of Wallace Roberts and Todd's major projects during his 30-year career. His professional practice has been enriched by active involvement in civic and professional organizations and through his teaching at the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Fine Arts (now PennDesign), where he was on the faculty from 1974-1992. Bartholomew serves on the management council that guides the work and growth of WRT's Philadelphia office.

Among many national and professional honors and awards, Bartholomew received the **Rome Prize for Architecture** in 1971, and was awarded a **Thouron Fellowship** from the University of Pennsylvania in 1965. His most notable projects include the **Civic Vision for the Central Delaware Riverfront in Philadelphia**, the **Master Facilities Plan for the U.S. House of Representatives**, and the **Anacostia Waterfront Initiative in Washington**. Earlier in his career he played a key role in the master planning of **Liberty Place** that resulted in breaking the traditional height limit for buildings in downtown Philadelphia.

### **Charnelle Hicks Named Chair of the Board of Directors of The Partnership of the Delaware River Estuary**

In August 2011, Charnelle Hicks, AICP, PP, President of CHPlanning, Ltd., and Vice President of the PA Chapter of APA, was named Chair of the Board of Directors of The Partnership of the Delaware River Estuary. The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary is a nonprofit organization established in 1996 to take a leadership role in **protecting and enhancing the Delaware Estuary**, where fresh water from the Delaware River mixes with salt water from the Atlantic Ocean. It is one of 28 congressionally-designated National Estuary Programs throughout the coastal United States working to improve the environmental health of the nation's estuaries.

Additionally Ms. Hicks was selected again to participate in the **2011 Greater Philadelphia Leadership Exchange**, in Philadelphia in October. She attended last year in San Francisco. She joined more than 100 prominent business, nonprofit, government, education, labor, health care and community leaders from the Philadelphia region. The Economy League of Greater Philadelphia, which sponsors the meeting is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to research and analysis of the region's resources and challenges with the goal of promoting sound public policy and increasing the region's prosperity. ♦



## around the state

### Southwest Section Election Results

Earlier this year the Southwest Section held elections. The following will take office in January 2012 and will hold their office for 2 years.

**Section Chair:** Dr. Jim Segedy, FAICP, AIA (Assoc)

**Secretary:** Amy Wiles, AICP

**Treasurer:** Andrew Hartwell

**Professional Planner:** Scott Brilhart, AICP; Gus Drizos, AICP; Joe Romano, AICP; and Rachael Swaysland, AICP

**Citizen Planner:** Joy Ruff, AICP; and Kevin Smay ♦



## resources

### Appalachian Mountain Club Launches Pennsylvania Highlands Conservation Information Center

**THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB** recently released the Pennsylvania Highlands Conservation Information Center (PHCIC) website, an amazing web tool that will help with the conservation planning and keeping track of land and water conservation in the PA Highlands. Visit the center and check out the 1,500 searchable entries that include spatial data, organizations working in the PA Highlands, research projects, model ordinances/easements/agreements, zoning documents, county-level conservation district programs and resources, and conservation, recreation, and planning projects occurring in the PA Highlands.

Visit the website at

<http://henri.newark.rutgers.edu/phcic/index.html> ♦



## support

### Grant received from the Richard P. Byler Charitable Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation

**THE PA CHAPTER OF APA** has received a grant in the amount of nearly \$630.00 from the Richard P. Byler Charitable Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation to support the scholarship program. Announcement of the grant was made by **R. Andrew Swinney**, President of the Foundation, whose Board of Managers approved the grant in June 2011. The funds will be used for the **Pitkin Fund** to support the scholarship program for young planners. The Pa Chapter of APA scholarship program supports young planners in furthering their education.

**The Philadelphia Foundation**, a public charity, is Southeastern Pennsylvania's leading center for community philanthropic engagement and is committed to improving the quality of life in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties through funds established by its donors. Established in 1918, The Philadelphia Foundation continues to help donors harness their generosity and vision by providing tools, knowledge and financial stewardship directed to maximize the strategic impact of charitable contributions. Grants from more than 750 charitable funds strengthen the effectiveness of nonprofits and supports programs that are vital to the people of this region. ♦

## Congrats!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LATEST GROUP** of planners to join the ranks of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). AICP is the American Planning Association's professional institute, providing recognized leadership nationwide in the certification of professional planners, ethics, professional development, planning education, and the standards of planning practice. AICP certified planners carry a high mark of distinction because they are required to meet rigorous standards, maintain their expertise through continuing education, and serve community interests.

The following Pennsylvania planners passed their AICP exam in May of this year. **Welcome to AICP!**

**Laura Baum, AICP**

**Scott Bechard, AICP**

**Taylor Berkowitz, AICP**

**Jeffrey Bonnerwith, AICP**

**Geoffrey Grace, AICP**

**Joan Huston, AICP**

**Mark Jewell, AICP**

**Katherine Meade, AICP**

**Alexis Melusky, AICP**

**Joseph Nickol, AICP**

**David Schaarsmith, AICP**

# AICP

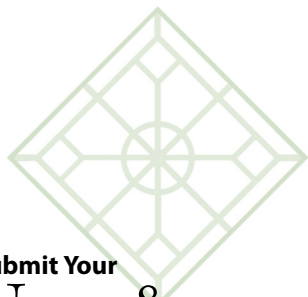
If you are interested in pursuing membership in AICP, please visit the following links for information and resources:

The PA Chapter website

[www.planningpa.org/career\\_aicp.shtml](http://www.planningpa.org/career_aicp.shtml)

APA's website [www.planning.org/certification/index.htm](http://www.planning.org/certification/index.htm) ♦





## Submit Your 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. Please include artwork, illustrations or photographs if possible. 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 welcome.

**Deadlines for  
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**Feb 2012 Issue: Jan 20, 2012**  
**Apr 2012 Issue: Mar 23, 2012**  
**Jun 2012 Issue: May 18, 2012**

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

## PDOcorner

by Susan Elks, AICP, Professional Development Officer

*Training, conference, APA exams – there's quite a bit going on regarding professional development these days.*

### Thank you to...

**Kurt Hausamann, Jr., AICP** of Lycoming County Department of Planning and Community Development Department, as well as **Neal Fogle** and **Peter Wulforst, AICP** of Penn State Cooperative Extension. Together they presented the **September 23, 2011 national webcast** discussing the planning implications of natural gas extraction. This webcast was the PA Chapter's second contribution of 2011 to the free planning webcast series. There are still webcasts available to take in 2011. Most qualify for **1.5 CM credits** and most are free. For details visit [www.utah-apa.org/webcasts](http://www.utah-apa.org/webcasts).

### Zoning Matters Training Update

We are also pleased to report that the chapter completed six sessions of **Zoning Matters: The Process of an Update and the Legal Issues that Should Concern You**. This 3-CM credit session (which included 1.5 credits for law) focused on the creation or update of a zoning ordinance, providing a legal and planning baseline. Many thanks our speakers, planner **Chris Rearick**,

**AICP** and attorneys **Tim Bish, Elizabeth Dupuis, Tim Schoonover**, and **Krista-Ann Staley** of Babst Calland, as well as the PA Local Government Training Partnership, which provided a portion of the funding for the training.

### CM progress

If you are an AICP member, now would be a good time to check on your CM progress. Many planners are in the two-year reporting cycle that ends **December 31, 2011**. 32 credits are required, including 1.5 in law and 1.5 in ethics. Aside from the PA Chapter's fall conference, there are many online options, the Chapter's lending library of CDs has some new titles, and in-person training is available through other providers. Check the PA Chapter's Event Calendar or the APA website for the latest information on CM opportunities.

### Advanced Specialty Certifications

APA held its first round of testing for the Advanced Specialty Certifications, currently consisting of the Certified Environmental Planner (CEP) and the Certified Transportation Planner (CTP). **APA plans to hold one testing round annually for the certifications.** Nationwide almost 100 planners test and we are pleased to congratulate four PA planners for obtaining their AICP CEP credential. Information on eligibility and test content can be found on APA's website.

### AICP exam

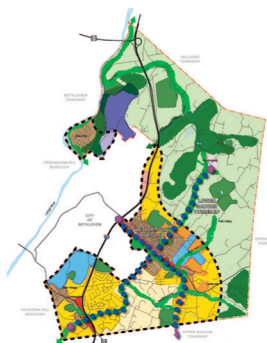
The fall testing period for the AICP exam is upon us. If you are scheduled to take the exam this November, good luck with exam preparations, and remember to visit the Chapter website for a variety of exam preparation resources. The Chapter has copies of APA's AICP Exam Prep Guide to loan out, and the website includes study notes, presentation materials, and links to other resources. ♦

## *congrats to four!*

Nationwide almost 100 planners test for their **Advanced Specialty Certifications** and we are pleased to congratulate four PA planners for obtaining their AICP CEP credential.

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*listen up!*

# AICP reminder

December 30, 2011 is the end of the current reporting period for AICP members.

**TO MAINTAIN** your AICP credential, you must log 32 credits including the Law and Ethics requirements and be current on your AICP membership fees.

Remember to log your credits and pay your fees timely to maintain your AICP. It is an ethics violation to use your AICP credential when it is not current.

## Running short on CM credits?

Good news! There are many ways to make up credits via distance learning webcasts through

APA and the Chapter Webcast Series. This includes the law and ethics requirements.

### Free Options include:

**1/ APA Free webcasts.** Visit <http://planning.org/cm/free> for list of webcasts that qualify for CM credits. Tip: be sure to click on the "Tuesdays at APA" heading for the full list of Tuesdays at APA webcasts. An estimated 25 credits are available at this source.

**2/ Chapter Webcast Series** – Past Presentations. Visit this link for past webcasts that are approved for distance learning CM credits

(after their regular live presentation). Two Ethics and two Law courses are available via this option. <http://www.utah-apa.org/webcast-archive>

### 3/ Chapter Webcast Series.

There are still a number of live webcast presentations scheduled. All are just 1.5 hours long. Check out the complete list at: [www.utah-apa.org/webcasts](http://www.utah-apa.org/webcasts)

### Ethics and Law Credits:

If you are in need of these credits please see bullet #2 above for free webcasts you can view to fulfill these requirements. Plan-

ning Ethics Around the Country and Ethics for Planners are both approved for ethics credits. RLUIPA and Zoning Statutes for Sustainable Development are approved for law credits.

### Questions?

Visit [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org) or contact the Chapter Office at 717-671-4510. ♦