



Promoting a Culture of Planning

# THE VANTAGE POINT



American Planning Association  
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association



*Congratulations to our new*

## AICPs!

- Christina Arlt\*
- Marley Bice
- Jennifer Boyer
- Christine Gaggiano
- Jennifer Easton
- James France
- Steven Herman
- Megan Lehman
- Amy Miller
- John Morgan
- Lynn Reynolds
- Leo Scott
- Natalie Shieh

The PA Chapter had 13 of 15 pass in November for a **87% pass rate**. Overall, 500 took the exam and 315 passed for a 63% pass rate. *Go PA Chapter!*



\*Christina was the recipient of the Irving Hand Excellence in Planning Professional Development Award announced during

the Erie conference. One scholarship in the amount of \$2,500.00 is awarded annually to an outstanding Pennsylvania applicant who demonstrates excellence in the field of community planning, and a desire to enhance their expertise and/or develop new skills. The Award recipient is announced in October via a submission process which ends in late August. ♦

# Got Milk(y Way)?

by James R. Cowbey, AICP

## When was the last time you saw the Milky Way?

Most children in the United States today have never seen a dark sky full of stars. Except in the most remote areas of Pennsylvania, truly dark skies have disappeared from our state.

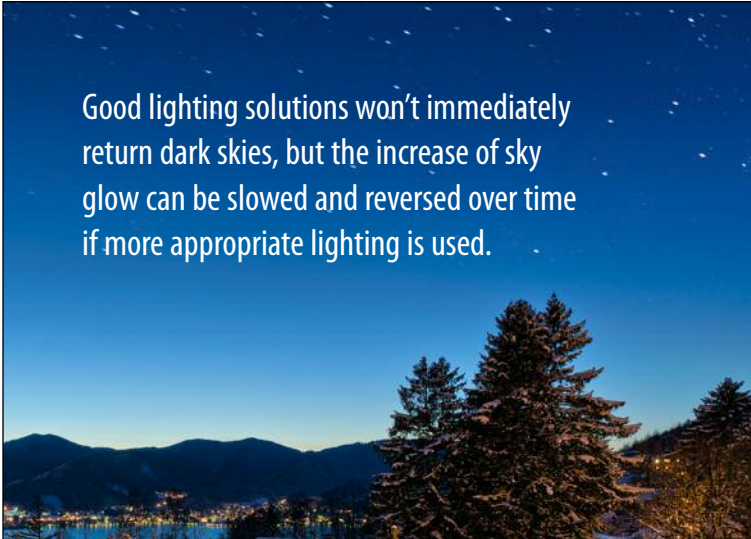
**SKY GLOW IS SO PREVALENT** and incremental that many rural residents don't think they are affected, but the effect is quantifiable in much of Pennsylvania and has increased in the past thirty years. Parts of Lycoming, Clinton, Cameron, Potter, Tioga, Bradford, Sullivan, Forest, Elk, and Jefferson counties remain mostly unaffected. Other mountain and plateau province counties are somewhat affected by isolated population centers. **The loss of dark skies is as much a loss of our natural environment as the loss of clean water or forested open space.** Light pollution has detrimental effects on wildlife by disrupting circadian rhythms and navigation of migration routes. Dark skies are part our human experience and should be considered as much a part of our legacy as clean water and air.

Urban sky glow, the noticeable lightening of the sky at night, is the problem;



its cause is the use of inappropriate lighting. (Note that there is a natural background sky glow. Light pollution is orders of magnitude brighter than the background glow.) The gradual **loss of dark skies has accelerated over the last thirty years** as the number of lights and their brightness has increased along with their misap-

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Good lighting solutions won't immediately return dark skies, but the increase of sky glow can be slowed and reversed over time if more appropriate lighting is used.

CONTINUED FROM COVER

## Got Milk(y Way)?

plication. Sky glow blots out all but the brightest stars in the night sky. Because the loss has been incremental, most people have not really noticed it. But the issue is slowly gaining notice throughout the developed world including the United States. Light pollution is not restricted to urbanized areas since sky glow is visible for many miles and affects the view of the sky in rural areas where it has had some noticeable effects on the nighttime landscape. For example, many once remote astronomical observatories now have a restricted field of view because the horizon glows so brightly. Sky glow appears like constant dawn all night with lightening of the horizon that detracts from the natural background of the stars. Misty weather and low clouds magnify the effect of sky glow. Think about it: the concentration of light caused by street lights, digital billboards, neon signs, interior office lights, lights at the interchanges of major roads, light towers over parking lots, landscaping lights, yard lights, security lights, stadium lights, traffic lights, headlights. The list is long. Have you seen the light?

Night lighting is needed for security and safety, but there is good lighting and bad lighting. **Good lighting** provides necessary illumination, saves energy, and

does not contribute to light pollution. **Bad lighting** increases urban sky glow, trespasses on to neighboring properties, is glaring, and wastes energy. Bad lighting adds to urban sky glow primarily by allowing light to shine upwards and outwards to where it isn't really needed or intended.

**There are simple solutions to bad lighting and planners should**

**be advocates for better lighting.**

Such advocacy is clearly a responsibility of a profession dedicated to improving the built and natural environments. Planners have the knowledge and vocabulary to speak to communities about safety, security, the role of proper lighting, and the detrimental impacts of inappropriate lighting. There are success stories. Tucson and Flagstaff are two Southwestern cities that have been successful in slowing the increase in sky glow despite high population growth.

Light pollution is caused by poor fixture design and installation, inadequate lighting plan design, lack of lighting time management, and commercial pressure to provide "daylight" brightness in parking lots (like at the ubiquitous garishly lit convenience/filling stations). Light pollution is, however, reversible.

Good lighting results from the application of simple principles. Light fixtures are available that direct illumination to the area where it is needed. These fixtures are designed so that the light does not shine upward or outward to where it is not intended. For many applications,

outdoor lighting controls such as timers and motion sensors are available so that light is only shining when it is needed. More light is not always better; this is not only an aesthetic consideration, but a safety one as well. Glare can be a problem, particularly for drivers. There are many new energy efficient systems available using LEDs and CFLs. Careful lighting design and choice of fixtures can meet lighting needs and not contribute to bad lighting and increasing sky glow.

Good lighting solutions won't immediately return dark skies, but the increase of sky glow can be slowed and reversed over time if more appropriate lighting is used. Planners accept long time horizons and incremental implementation of objectives. The return of dark skies is the kind of goal our profession is able to help realize.

Eventually, as the issue becomes known and new fixtures replace old, we may once again be able to point up at a dark night sky from our backyard and say, "I got the Milky Way." This would be a lasting gift to our grandchildren. ♦

### *The realization...*

**The loss of dark skies was brought to my attention** again recently. On my way to the Erie conference in October, I spent a night in Coudersport so I could visit Cherry Springs State Park which was only the second International Dark Sky Park designated by IDA and the first dark sky observing park in Pennsylvania. <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/cherrysprings> I was fortunate to be there on a clear, moonless, crisp evening. I saw the sky like I remember it from our backyard as a child in Cleona when the streetlights weren't so bright and people turned their porch lights off before they went to bed. The sky was awesome in the real sense of the word. Visit Cherry Springs on a clear moonless night and you won't soon forget it.

### *The mission...*

**The mission of The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA)** is to educate the public about the issue of light pollution and to offer solutions. The Association believes that there are common sense solutions to light pollution problems. The Association's website at <http://www.darksky.org> makes available a wide range of resources on the topic. The Pennsylvania Outdoor Lighting Council (POLC) is the state chapter of the IDA and is a source for model ordinances, presentations, and other information about light pollution and solutions for Pennsylvania. <http://www.polcouncil.org>

### *The standards...*

**"Dark-sky lighting standards" can be made part of local development ordinances.** The Model Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance published by the Lancaster County Planning Commission includes basic "dark sky" lighting standards for both urban/suburban and rural development. The standards are based on lighting industry specifications and recommendations from The International Dark-Sky Association. The ordinance is available at the Commission's website; <http://www.co.lancaster.pa.us/toolbox/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=620182>.



## Corbett Administration Approves Funding to Support Local Governments; Community Partnerships

The Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) announced on January 18 that it approved eight projects through the Municipal Assistance Program (MAP) to improve local emergency services, assist municipal planning and support community partnerships.

**“MUNICIPALITIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR** providing more services than ever and the costs of providing those services continue to rise,” said DCED Secretary C. Alan Walker. “MAP funding will provide critical funding for local governments and organizations that are working together and thinking strategically to improve their communities.”

In total, DCED approved \$158,800 in MAP funding for eight municipal projects throughout the commonwealth. The department provides funding to local governments for community planning through MAP. Funding supports multi-municipal, regional and county planning and implementation efforts across the state. Support is available for three groups of activities shared services, community planning, and floodplain management.

One of the projects selected for the program, the **Susquehanna Greenway Partnership**, was awarded a \$35,000 MAP grant to help with flood mitigation and revitalization planning in Shikshinny and Hemlock Township. Both communities were impacted by the September flooding in 2011. The municipalities plan to follow as a guide its River Towns Program, addressing flood mitigation and minimization, economic revitalization and best land uses.

The Governor's Center for Local Government Services (GCLGS), housed within DCED, aided with the project selections and oversees the MAP program. GCLGS provides technical resources and assistance for municipalities, consolidation, regional efforts and also serves as a resource for local government officials, developers, and citizens interested in planning to improve, grow and enhance communities. ♦

**To learn more about MAP and other DCED programs, visit [www.newPA.com](http://www.newPA.com) or call 1-866-466-3972.**

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

## Let APA-PA Help You in Your Community!

### What do Planners do?

- Help government, business, and citizens create better communities.

### What do Planners promote?

- Clean air and water
- Healthy living
- Safe neighborhoods
- Efficient transportation
- Quality affordable housing
- Jobs and a stable economy

### Why do Planners plan?

- To improve the future of our communities.



# Leadership AWARD WINNERS

The Lancaster County Planning Commission held its Envision Lancaster County Leadership Awards Program in January

## Leadership Award winner

The winner of this year's Leadership Award was the **Ware Floodplain Restoration Project** in Lancaster Township. Project consultants were RGS Associates and LandStudies. As part of a master plan created for the Ware's five-acre, 19th century home, a conventional storm-water detention basin was removed and the floodplain of a heavily eroded tributary to the Little Conestoga Creek was restored. Following removal of sediment, widening of the floodplain, and creation of a slower, meandering channel, the formerly impaired stream has been reconnected with its pre-settlement streambed. This project is the first floodplain restoration in Lancaster County to be permitted as a stormwater management facility as well as the first to be completed using only private funding.



Ware Floodplain Restoration



Eastern Market and Plaza



## Three Achievement Awards were given

The winners were **Eastern Market** by Tabor Community Services, **Whistle Stop Plaza** by Downtown Ephrata, Inc. and Ephrata Borough, and **Marietta Senior Apartments** by Community Basics.

Located within the Historic District, Eastern Market, one of the five original farmer's markets in Lancaster City, is listed on the National Register as a contributing building of historic sig-

nificance. In addition to preservation and restoration work on the market building, Tabor in partnership with the City of Lancaster constructed a new triangle-shaped plaza, a grid of bricks and concrete paving stones, fronting Eastern Market which is home to Tabor's offices.

Ephrata Borough's Whistle Stop Plaza serves as "downtown central." It has become a gathering place, and residents have already requested additional seating areas. Commerce sur-



**Marietta Senior Apartments**

rounds it, a rail-trail goes through it, visitors gravitate to it, and residents make it their frequent stop. Bikes, cars and, sometimes, skate boards also share the space.

Community Basics' Marietta Senior Apartments provide 56-units of affordable housing for tenants 62 and older on a site that was a severely polluted Brownfield. The new 60,000 square foot building assimilates gracefully into the streetscape replicating the scale and features of the surrounding architecture. The building provides significant density – 37 units per acre - while blending into the residential neighborhood.

**Certificates of Merit earned**

Certificates of Merit were earned by the **Long Community at Highland** in Manheim Township by Presbyterian Senior Living and the **Willow Valley pumping station** by Willow Valley Retirement Communities and the City of Lancaster in West Lampeter Township.

Presbyterian Senior Living's community demonstrates the benefits of infill development within the urban growth area, compact development and building design; densities that support community infrastructure; and integration of housing opportunities for a range of incomes.

The Willow Valley water pump station was designed to blend into the surrounding community. Aesthetic features include the roof lines, windows, exterior lighting, upgraded exterior veneer materials, and landscaping. Employing green technology, the pump station uses a bio-retention area to manage stormwater.

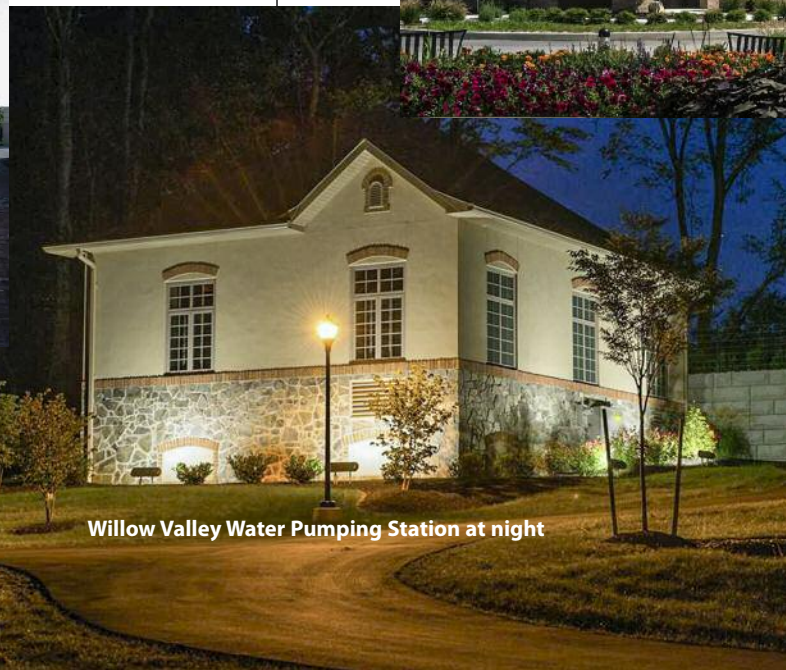
The Envision Leadership Awards program recognizes projects that embrace smart growth concepts and highlights the advantages of good planning. Entries are evaluated for replicability, effectiveness, support for county and local plans, and community involvement and partnerships. ♦



**The Long Community at Highland**



**Ephrata Whistle Stop Plaza Opening**



**Willow Valley Water Pumping Station at night**



# INSIDER

A Message from President **Brian O'Leary, AICP**

**Hello Fellow Planners.** The Chapter and its Sections had another strong year in 2012, supporting cutting-edge training for professional and citizen planners, holding a great conference in Erie, honoring many excellent and innovative planning initiatives with our awards program, and advocating for good planning and legislation in Pennsylvania. The Chapter also unveiled a new, more user-friendly and attractive website. I hope you've had a chance to check it out. In addition, we've entered the modern social media world with new Facebook and Twitter accounts.



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Please help us close the loop and recycle this newsletter.

**AND, AS ALWAYS,** we continue to be the voice for planning in Pennsylvania. Do you want to help be that voice?

**See the back cover for 2013 Elections information!**

The Chapter Board met in mid-December and adopted a budget for 2013, which is expected to be about \$215,000. Once again, the budget is very tight, but we've managed to not raise our membership fees for another year.

Our largest expenses include approximately \$77,000 for the professional firm that runs the Chapter, \$54,000 for the annual conference, \$8,300 for the six sections, \$8,200 for our legislative outreach efforts, and \$6,400 for training and Certification Maintenance programs.

As one would expect, running the Chapter on a day-to-day

basis is our biggest expense; it's also our most important one, since we couldn't accomplish any of our work without this help. Although the annual conference is very expensive to run, we often receive a lot of revenue to offset or even exceed the expense.

Because we believe the Sections are very important to our members, **we increased the Section allocation from \$6,000 to \$8,300.** As part of this budget increase, we changed how the money is allocated, guaranteeing a base amount of \$600 for all sections, no matter how big they are, and then distributing the rest of the funds based on membership. This will allow our smallest Sections to have enough money to hold their annual events. In addition, we've made **the Chapter conference phone**



**Jerry Walls and Brian O'Leary**

**line available to the Sections,** which should help some of our geographically large Sections.

At our Board meeting, I also had the pleasure of accepting a check for \$2,000 from **Jerry Walls** for the Jerry S. Walls Planning Professional Development Award. *Thanks Jerry!*

Planning Innovations:  
*Capital Ideas for our Communities*

# APA PA2013



Hope to see you at our annual conference in Harrisburg on October 20-22. You can find the Call for Presenters information and sponsorship forms for the conference on our website at <http://planningpa.org/events-training/annual-conference/program-registration/>



# legislative update

by Kyle Guie, Legislative Committee Chair

The legislative committee is off to an exciting year! We are currently planning various legislative activities for the Annual Conference in October and are looking into a potential partnership with another organization to provide legislative services.

### THE COMMITTEE APPROVED

the 2013 goals and objectives at the November 2012 meeting. The goals and objectives can be viewed under the legislative section of [planningpa.org](http://planningpa.org). Over the last few months we have added several new members to the committee. If you would like to get involved please contact legislative committee chair, Kyle Guie at [kguie@gvftma.com](mailto:kguie@gvftma.com).

*Below are several legislative actions that members should be aware of.*

### Transportation Funding Plan Announced

*Information provided by PennDOT and GVF TMA*

**ON TUESDAY**, Feb 5, 2013, Governor Tom Corbett presented his budget address to all members of the state legislature. Included in the many issues he addressed was dealing with transportation funding. The Governor's plan is phased over five years and includes a 17% cut in the flat tax of gasoline at the pump and uncapping the Oil Company Franchise Tax. The Governor expects that his plan will raise an additional \$1.8 billion for transportation project throughout the state. The legislative committee commends the Governor for taking this step to propose increased funding for transportation and we will work with organizations like the Keystone Transportation Funding Coalition to seek early action on the proposal in order to advance increased funding for all modes of transportation.

### The money is planned to be allocated as follows:

- \$250 million for transit
- \$200 million for locally owned roads and bridges
- \$80 million for multi-modal improvements to bicycle and pedestrian facilities, ports, airports, and railways
- \$85 million for Turnpike expansion projects
- \$1.2 billion for improvements to PennDOT maintained roads and bridges
- Utilizes the Public-Private Transportation Partnership Board
- Ends contributions from the PA Turnpike in 10 years

### The Governor also proposed plans to modernize transportation in PA

- 2-year registration
- 6-year driver's license
- Improve public transportation
- Invest in local roads and bridges
- Create a Multi-Modal Fund
- Continue PennDOT Next Generation Initiative

### ACT 191 of 2012 – Wireless Broadband Collocation Act

*Information provided by Mark Stivers and PSATS*

**ON OCTOBER 24, 2012**, Governor Corbett signed into law the Wireless Broadband Collocation Act (“Act 191”). The purpose of Act 191 is to provide for a streamlined approval process for the modification or replacements of existing facilities and for the collocation of additional antenna on existing structures. Act 191 went into effect on December 23, 2012. Act 191 is a response to the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 that was signed into law by President Obama on Feb 22, 2012. Buried in the federal law (Section 6409) was language to improve and shorten the upgrade process for wireless infrastructure.

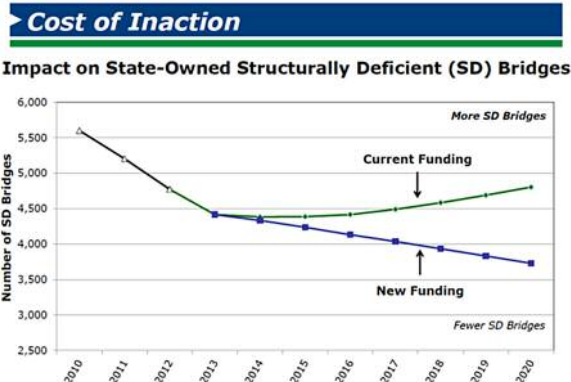
Act 191 expands on the federal legislation by providing guidance as to what qualifies as eligible facilities under this act. The act allows an applicant to streamline the permit and

approval process for the replacement of existing equipment, the collocations or modifications to antenna, and/or repair or upgrades to existing wireless support structures. Such applications shall be reviewed as a building permit application only. Significantly, certain qualifying replacements such as swap-outs of antennas and equipment which do not change the wind loading and structural loading, do not substantially change the physical dimensions of the support structure or do not change the size of the compound may be performed without securing any approvals from the municipality. A municipality has 90 days to review a complete application and provide a written decision or the applicant will be entitled to a “deemed approval” of its application. The 90 day time is not affected by act 46 (as amended) that administratively extended the timeline for municipal approvals until July 2, 2016.

### Under this act, an eligible facility is one that:

- The proposed changes do not substantially change the physical dimensions of the support structure (a “substantial change” is defined as increasing the height of the wireless support structure by more than 10% or by the height of one additional antenna array, whichever is greater).
- The proposed changes cannot be the second time the height of the support structure was extended by more than 10% of its original approved height or

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8





by the height of one additional antenna array.
• The dimensions of the equipment compound may not be increased.
• The changes comply with applicable conditions of approval applied to the initial facility.
• The changes may not exceed the applicable wind loading and structural capacity for the support structure.

The Pipeline Act

Information provided by Chris Bova

THE GAS AND Hazardous Liquids Pipelines Act, also known simply as "the Pipeline Act", was signed into law on December 22, 2011 with an effective date of February 20, 2012. The Act expands the Public Utility Commission's (PUC) authority to enforce federal pipeline safety laws for any non-public pipelines and facilities that are regulated under federal pipeline safety laws. Gathering lines (pipeline that transports gas from a current production facility to a transmission line or main) in Class 1 locations (refers to any location within 220 yards of a pipeline that contains 10 or fewer dwellings) are not subject to federal pipeline regulations, therefore, are not regulated under Act 127. However, transmission pipelines in all class locations are regulated by federal pipeline safety laws.

In addition to expanded enforcement of federal pipeline safety laws, the PUC is required to develop and annually update a registry of pipeline operators and pipeline facilities within the state. The registry will include contact information of the pipeline operator as well as the location of the pipeline by class. A list of pipeline operators can be found on the PUC's website at www.puc.state.pa.us, keyword search "Act 127". The Act 127 page contains a link to "Search for Public Documents" and instructions on how to find the current list of pipeline operators.



Education Committee Update:

Member Survey

WHAT A TOPIC! The results of the survey on our members' education background is in; many thanks to those who replied. The replies to the electronic survey tool were 25% of the membership which far exceeds the usual survey response rate. To be inclusive, the survey was offered to the membership without the electronic access through a newsletter request to reply.

The survey results included useful information on the member ages and years in the planning field, as well as the varied level of education attainment. Nearly all respondents had a degree from an educational institution in Pennsylvania or a neighboring adjacent state, including West Virginia. A comparison could be done to see how many respondents had planning or planning related degrees. Other replies are going to be most helpful as guidance in the future topics for workshops, trainings, and possible conference sessions by those Chapter Committees. The full set of data can be found at http://planningpa.org/for-planners/professional-planners/education-committee/

Here's a snapshot of the survey data:

Of the 613 replies for which best describes involvement in the field:

Table with 3 columns: Educational Institution, Response %, and Response Count. Rows include College/University Level, Public Sector: Federal, State, Regional, County, Local, Non-Profit Sector, Private Sector: Firm with multiple offices/branches, single office, Partnership, Sole proprietorship, and Citizen Planner: Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board, Elected Official, No Involvement / Not Employed at this time, Other, please specify.

Another highlight of the replies is years in the field:

Table with 3 columns: Years in field, Response %, and Response Count. Rows include Less than 1 year, 1 to 3 years, 4 to 6 years, 7 to 10 years, More than 10 years.

Vantage Point 2013 Editorial Deadlines

Table with 2 columns: Issue Name and Date. Rows include Summer Issue (May 17), Fall Issue (August 19), Winter 2013-2014 issue (November 15).



# Overview

by Cliff Kanz, AICP, outgoing Education Chairman

**On the question of rating education and experience pertaining to the current job in the field,** replies were on a scale with the statement in “a thru c”:

	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>	<b>Rating Average</b>	<b>Rating Count</b>
<b>a.</b> <i>I believe my education was the primary factor in obtaining my current planning position and my experience was a secondary factor.</i>	<b>16.3% (100)</b>	<b>25.1% (154)</b>	<b>37.7% (231)</b>	<b>10.0% (61)</b>	<b>10.9% (67)</b>	<b>2.74</b>	<b>613</b>
<b>b.</b> <i>I believe my education was a factor in obtaining my current planning position with equal weight given to my experience.</i>	<b>14.2% (87)</b>	<b>33.1% (203)</b>	<b>34.3% (210)</b>	<b>6.2% (38)</b>	<b>12.2% (75)</b>	<b>2.69</b>	<b>613</b>
<b>c.</b> <i>I believe my education was a factor in obtaining my current planning position, but it was secondary to my experience.</i>	<b>15.3% (94)</b>	<b>29.4% (180)</b>	<b>31.6% (194)</b>	<b>10.0% (61)</b>	<b>13.7% (84)</b>	<b>2.77</b>	

Here’s a SAMPLE OF OPEN ENDED QUESTION/REPLIES at the end of the survey which asked  
**“Please provide any areas of the planning field that could get more focus from education providers.”**  
I feel that the open ended replies were generally heartfelt and consciencous.

- Planning for sustainable development
- I would like to see PMPEI move to more web-based approach. The Master Planner certificate that Berks County has should be expanded statewide. One day should be required at a partner education institution and the rest should be available as web-based training.
- Food systems planning
- Fundraising in the nonprofit sector. I've been at two different CDCs over the last 6 years (out of college) and it's all about finding IMPLEMENTATION DOLLARS!
- Effective Group Facilitation and Conflict Resolution is a skill set that I along with other planners struggle with out of college. Many are eloquent speakers but if you cannot facilitate a large crowd you will definitely struggle.
- More education in how local government actually works (Public Administration).
- again, REAL LIFE PA issues.
- It would be useful to provide citizen planners with an opportunity to obtain more technical knowledge such as stormwater management, how to correctly read land development plans, and the intellectual foundations for long-term municipal planning
- Real life planning for real life clients, including small govts, would be good.

**IN CONCLUSION,** the data is for the **incoming Chairperson** of the Education Committee, **Jim Segedy.** He’s welcomed with open arms to bring the Education Committee to the next level for the remainder of this decade. The list of members of the APA-PA Education Committee and Mission Statement are on the Chapter Website via “For Planners”-“Professional Planners.”

As the chair of the Education Committee, my role was longer than I expected. It was fun; a diversion to paid work. Many thanks goes to the committee members in getting the survey together and to the Chapter administrative crew. The Board of Directors’ support made this survey possible.

The survey results are useful information in this information age. Our challenge going forward is how to embark on a continued improvement to getting community planning done.

# PDO *corner*

by *Susan Elks, AICP, Professional Development Officer*

## AICP EXAM PREPARATION

The Professional Development Committee (PDC) of the PA Chapter is once again hosting an in-person prep session for the AICP exam. **This year's session will be held on March 23rd, 9 am – 4 pm, in Harrisburg.** We cover study resources, content, and encourage questions during this session. This session is free for PA Chapter members and \$20 for non-members. Details and registration information can be found on the **PA Chapter exam webpage: <http://planningpa.org/for-planners/professional-planners/aicp-exam-prep/>.** Additional resources on the webpage include past prep session PowerPoints, the PDC study notes, and links to other Chapters with extensive prep material, as well as a link to the Utah Chapter webcast series, which included a series of AICP exam prep sessions in 2012. Keep in mind that the May 2013 testing cycle will use the same pool of test questions that APA has used for the past few years, while the November 2013 testing cycle will have an updated pool of test questions. APA will be providing additional information on the changes via the APA's Interact.

## CALL FOR WEBCASTS!

Speaking of webcasts, as a member of the Planning Webcast Series, the co-op of APA chapters and divisions that provides free webcasts to a national audience, the PA Chapter is obligated to host a session. **We are still looking for our 2013 session!** If you have a great project you would like to share with a national audience, please contact me at [selks@chesco.org](mailto:selks@chesco.org). A session needs to be 90 minutes and the level of content must be appropriate to receive Certification Maintenance credits.

## UPCOMING TRAINING

The Chapter is currently co-sponsoring a training series on **Improving Connectivity and System Function Through Local Planning**, and a series on hazard mitigation and emergency management is in the planning stages. Details can be found on the Chapter **calendar of events**, or check the page specific to **CM events**. **An extensive, free, online training opportunity** for this spring is **TechniCity**, a Massive Online Open Course being taught by Jennifer Evans-Cowley (The Ohio State University) and Tom Sanchez (Virginia Tech). This course begins by examining how our cities are changing, and then jumps into how technology is used to engage with the public to support decision-making. Participants will examine tools for analyzing the city, and explore the infrastructure that makes the real time city possible. The four week course has been approved for **15 hours of CM credit** and starts on May 4th. **For more information about the TechniCity course, go to: <https://www.coursera.org/course/techcity>.** ♦



### Central Section Update

by *Rachelle A. Abbott, AICP, Section Chair*

#### Upcoming Workshop being planned

The Central Section is planning a Spring workshop, **Meeting the Letter and Spirit of the Law: Legal Components of Comprehensive Plans**, for **Thursday, May 2nd**. The purpose of the

workshop is to provide planners and community leaders with a better understanding of the linkages between laws mentioned in Article III, Comprehensive Plan, Municipal Planning Code and the importance of developing implementable comprehensive

plans. The three speakers for the event include: **Denny Puko**, Planning Program Manager at Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, **Stan Lembeck**, Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, and **Matthew J. Creme, Jr.**, Attorney at Law at Nikolaus & Hohenadel, LLP. The workshop will take place at the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association Community Room, 3899 N. Front Street in Harrisburg from **8:30 am to 4:15 pm**. CM credits in the amount of 5.75 for the workshop are pending.

Brochures will be sent to all Central Section members in March and will be posted on the Chapter Website. The workshop fee will be minimal and the workshop is open to all who wish to attend. ♦

## Stay Connected!

The PA Chapter of APA has a robust website, LinkedIn, Facebook page, and now we tweet!

*Be sure to check out*

- **Job postings**
- **Internships**  
(posted for no cost!)
- **Calendar of events**
- **Conference Information**
- **Featured News**  
(grants, etc.)
- **RFP and RFQs**
- **Scholarships and awards**

*Coming soon:*

- **Chapter elections**
- **Annual Awards** ♦

## planner notes...

**MARK E. STIVERS, AICP** was re-appointed as the chair of the AICP/APA Student Awards committee. The AICP Outstanding Student Award recognizes outstanding attainment in the study of planning by students graduating from Planning Accreditation Board-accredited planning programs (one at the undergraduate level and one at the graduate level, if applicable) during the academic year of the award. PA accredited programs are encourage to make submissions through <http://www.planning.org/awards/outstandingstudents/>

**Congratulations to Kim Wheeler, AICP** on the birth on her second child. Madeline Ray Wheeler was born on January 21st (MLK Day) at 3:26p.m., weighing in at 8lb 2oz.



**McMahon Associates, Inc.**, a full-service transportation engineering and planning firm providing responsive client solutions since 1976, is proud to announce the addition of John W. Fuller, E.I.T. as senior project engineer to its Mid-Atlantic Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and Traffic Signal Department.

**McMahon Associates, Inc.** is proud to announce its grand opening of its newest Mid-Atlantic office in the Lehigh Valley region in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. With the Lehigh Valley being one of the fastest growing regions in the state, and Lehigh County ranking in the Top 10 in economic growth in the U.S., McMahon is reinforcing its mission to provide responsive client solutions in the region. ♦

## Two Educational Scholarship Programs

*Offered to Qualified Students for the 2013-2014 Academic Year*

**EACH YEAR** the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association offers a scholarship program to support individuals seeking funds for academic degree programs, internships, and professional development activities that enhance planning at the local, regional, state, and national levels.

*The program is supported by:*

- **The Francis Pitkin scholarship fund and funding from the Richard P. Byler Charitable Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation**
- **Funding from The Leslie and Greta Spaulding Education Fund**

**The PA Chapter is accepting scholarship applications from students in undergraduate and graduate planning programs until April 30.**

**Detailed information can be found at**

<http://planningpa.org/for-planners/professional-planners/student-scholarships/> ♦



*welcome*  
**New PA Chapter Members!**

**WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBER** who joined the PA Chapter over the past few months. The PA Chapter membership includes nearly 3,000 planning officials, professional planners, and others who care about how Pennsylvania continues to grow the places where we live, work, and enjoy recreation. The board and staff are available to answer any questions. Feel free to contact the Chapter Office at 717-671-4510. Board member contact information is available at [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org) under **About Us**.

### **Organizational Members:**

**City of Latrobe, Southwest Section**  
**Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association, Southeast Section** ♦

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GAYS & LESBIANS IN PLANNING  
Sustainable Communities

**Planning & Women**

**COUNTY PLANNING**

City Planning & Management  
International

[www.planning.org/divisions](http://www.planning.org/divisions)

**JOIN AN APA DIVISION**



*listen up!*

## Announcing Elections for Chapter Officers

*Here is your chance to help lead your association dedicated to promoting a culture of planning*

**2013 IS AN ELECTION YEAR FOR THE CHAPTER.** This summer we will hold elections for the Chapter's Board Officers – the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

### **Are you interested in serving?**

- **Review the Chapter Bylaws** for descriptions of the Officer roles and responsibilities. The bylaws are available at: <http://planningpa.org/about/bylaws/>
- **Determine if your schedule will allow** sufficient time for the position. Officers serve the Chapter for two year terms which begin in January 2014 and conclude in December 2015.
- **Talk with current officers** for additional information.
- **Share your interest with the Nominating Committee.** Send an email of interest to Chapter Administrator Susan Shermer at [sshermer@shermer-assoc.com](mailto:sshermer@shermer-assoc.com).
- **Have additional questions?** Please contact us!

The official elections ballot will be distributed on **August 1, 2013**. Voting will be open throughout August and concludes on **September 13**. The election results will be announced at the Conference during the Chapter Annual Meeting and via *The Vantage Point*, email news and the website. ♦



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