Who?
The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association

What?
2013 Annual Conference

When?
Sunday, October 20 through Tuesday, October 22

Where?
Hilton Hotel, Harrisburg, PA

Why?
Skills building...networking...top-notch education...products and services on display...new ideas...reconnecting with fellow planners, planning officials, and students!

Planning Innovations: 
Capital Ideas for our Communities

The amazing Conference Planning Committee has been hard at work planning what is sure to be an exciting and educational three days in Harrisburg.

❖ Sunday Morning Golf

THE CONFERENCE IS PACKED with activities from the very start. For those who like to have a little fun before entering the educational phase, we are offering a golf outing on Sunday morning at Dauphin Highlands Golf Course. It is a great way to begin the day with some of your peers and friends. And with the earlier start time this year, you will not miss a single session.

❖ Mobile Workshops

ALWAYS A FAVORITE, this year the committee is working to finalize 5 Mobile Workshops including:
• Carlisle Borough: Putting Planning Innovation into Practice
• Lancaster Transfer Station Revitalization
• Promoting Communities through Public Transportation: Keystone Corridor Stations
• South Mountain Conservation Landscape Initiative
• When the Pieces Fall into Place: Revitalizing Harrisburg’s Midtown Neighborhood

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
MONDAY MORNING will kick off with a session entitled The Rules are Changing: Building 21st Century Communities presented by Tom Murphy, ULI Fellow and ex-Mayor of Pittsburgh, PA. This year’s Pitkin Lecture entitled Parallels in Planning – Pennsylvania and Tennessee will be presented on Monday by Ron Littlefield, AICP, Mayor of Chattanooga, TN (retired).

Also, to open Tuesday morning, we have invited Patrick Henderson, Energy Executive, Office of Governor Tom Corbett to present a session entitled Pennsylvania’s Energy Resources – Powering Communities Into the Future.

Schmooze!  
Schmooze (v.) - to talk informally with friends about things of mutual interest.

AND WE ARE PLEASED to announce that back by popular demand will be the The Irv and Mildred Hand Schmooze Session. We invite you to join Irv Hand, FAICP, and his many friends for a genial and lively discussion on a variety of planning topics. It’s your chance to share ideas about the important planning issues of the day in Pennsylvania and at the national scene.
**CM credits**

Aside from the previously mentioned sessions, there will also be over 35 concurrent sessions from which to choose and many opportunities to get plenty of CM credits as well as Law and Ethics credits.

**mix and mingle**

There will also be a great opportunity to mix and mingle with friends and peers you have not seen since last year's conference at Sunday evening's Welcome Reception taking place in the Kunkle Gallery of the Whitaker Center, just a mere two minute indoor walk from the Harrisburg Hilton. There will be plenty of opportunity to meet with our Exhibitors to learn about what they have to offer during our breaks and especially at the free Monday evening reception at the Hilton.

**nightlife fun!**

And if that is not enough reason to attend, Harrisburg has lots to offer, as well! Just outside the hotel's front door is Restaurant Row, Harrisburg's downtown exciting array of restaurants, bistros and pubs along 2nd Street. Here, among the vibrant city lights and bustling downtown district of Pennsylvania's Capital City, lives a diverse cross-section of establishments offering their own take on Harrisburg hospitality. There's always plenty to choose from, as many of Harrisburg's best known restaurants, bars, and lounges line a three block stretch of prime downtown real estate. There is also plenty of nightlife in the area, as well. To get a better idea of all that Harrisburg has to offer and to help plan your free time while at the conference visit [www.visithersheyharrisburg.org](http://www.visithersheyharrisburg.org).

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

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Brian O’Leary, AICP

Montgomery County Planning Commission

**Vice President**

vacant

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James Cowhey, AICP

Lancaster County Planning Commission

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**Northwest Section Representative**

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Crawford County Planning Commission

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Northeast

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Northwest

Roy Brant, PhD

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Southeast

Martha Cross, AICP, PP, LEED AP

The Reinvestment Fund – Development Partners

Southwest

vacant

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

vacant

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Kyle Guie, Chair

Susan Smith, Esq., AICP, Vice Chair

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

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Hello Fellow Planners. This year, the national planning conference was held in Chicago, a great American City. There were many themes running through the conference, but the emphasis was on public spaces, economic development, and water. The presentations and sessions were excellent, with lots of examples of the great planning work that planners are doing all over the country.

APA IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN how planners communicate their success stories. Too often, planners don’t trumpet their successes, or they let others define who they are. As planners, we need to speak up about the good work we do.

The Chapter Presidents received training from APA about how to do this, and the trainers emphasized that “It’s All Local.” Our message must emphasize specific, local improvements rather than more generic statements, like “We help the environment” or “Planners improve transportation.”

APA wrapped their messaging into 3 themes:

1. APA members help create communities of lasting value – This theme focuses on jobs, tax base, and new development. Their examples, like the High Line planning work in New York City and a waterfront plan in Cincinnati, highlight number of jobs and dollars of investment. As planners, we should always demonstrate that good plans and the projects that grow out of them make sense in dollars and cents.

2. Good planning helps create communities that offer better choices for where and how people work and live – This theme focuses on new opportunities created by planning, such as transit planning work in Arlington that gave residents more transportation choices while reducing traffic 16% on a key boulevard in the city. Planning creates more choices for everyone.

3. Planning enables civic leaders, business interests, and citizens to play a meaningful role in creating communities that enrich people’s lives – This theme focuses on public outreach and engagement, emphasizing the number of citizens who become involved in their local communities. Planners are not top down professionals, and we need to let people know that we are listening.

The Chapter is currently completing a marketing piece that will highlight the importance of planners, and our website has a section, Planner Unite, which can be found at http://planningpa.org/advocacy/planners-unite/ (See Why Planning Matters Case Studies) that provides useful case studies of the difference planning has made.

Hope to see you at our annual conference in Harrisburg this October, which is rapidly approaching. See “supporters” list on page 9.
Rich Bickel, FAICP, has listed the PA Chapter of APA in his will, generously stipulating that $10,000 will be given to the APA/PA Chapter to establish an annual scholarship fund for both undergraduate and graduate students and practicing professionals interested in continuing planning education. We thank Rich for this outstanding gift, although we hope he is with us for many more years!

We say goodbye to a good friend and dedicated member of the Chapter

IN MEMORIAM
John E. Pickett, P.E., AICP

JOHN E. PICKETT passed away on Friday, May 10, 2013 at the age of 68 after a battle with lung cancer. John had previously survived a battle with prostate cancer. He leaves behind three children – Amy, Evan and Doug.

John was a civil engineer and urban planner with over 40 years of experience. As Director of Planning and Community Development at Delaware County, he managed both the Planning Department and the Office of Housing and Community Development. John began at the Delaware County Planning Department in 1977 before becoming co-director in 1982 and director in 1985. Prior to his over 30-year tenure with Delaware County, John was a project manager for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. John received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Swarthmore College and a Master of City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania.

John Pickett was a Charter Member of the American Planning Association of Pennsylvania (CPDAP). He was an active member of the APA and Pennsylvania Planning Association which later became known as the Pennsylvania Chapter of APA (APA-PA). He served many roles including on the 2007 APA National Conference Local Program Committee, as the Southeast Section Chair, and on the APA-PA board as Vice President and Secretary. He represented Delaware County on the board of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, was on the board of directors of the Delaware County Transportation Management Association, and chaired the Darby Borough Community Development Corporation. He also served as Director of Delaware County's Uniform Construction Code Appeal Board.

A Licensed Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania since 1970, Mr. Pickett was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Society of Professional Engineers and the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE). John served as the Secretary of the Delaware County Chapter of PSPE and in 2006, the Delaware County Chapter awarded John E. Pickett their “2006 Engineer of the Year” honor.

“As a society, we need to learn to grow, develop and live in a sustainable manner, so that future generations have the resources they need to continue to prosper.”

— JOHN PICKETT

We thank Rich for this outstanding gift, although we hope he is with us for many more years!
Central Section Update
by Michelle A. Brummer, AICP

Shall We, May We Prepare a Comprehensive Plan?

On May 2, the Central Section offered an educational workshop: The Comprehensive Plan: Meeting the Letter and the Spirit of the Law. The workshop was programmed in response to multiple requests for a comprehensive planning workshop. Stan Lembeck was the master of ceremonies to Matthew Crème, attorney with Nikolaus & Hohenadel, LLP of Lancaster and Denny Puko, Planning Program Manager with PA DCED’s Governor’s Center for Local Government Services.

Did you know that per the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code:

• a planning agency must prepare a comprehensive, and all other planning tools are permissive?
• a planning agency must prepare an annual report by March 1 of each year?
• a comprehensive plan is to be adopted by resolution (as policy), not ordinance (as law)

While there is no user’s guide to the comprehensive plan, it can serve as a reference point for the governing body’s community development and budget decisions, its capital improvement priorities and timing, its subsidies, incentives and tax policies, and its persuasive efforts to garner support for future actions.

Did you know that:

• the application of law is based on experience, not logic (even if the experience did not achieve the best outcome)?
• the governing making body can delegate decision-making authority to the planning agency?
• there’s more zoning case law than there is comprehensive plan case law.

And remember to mind your “shall”s and “may”s; a comprehensive plan shall include a community facilities plan that may include public and private education, recreation, municipal buildings,…in this and other instances, it may address other topics or it may say less.

Denny Puko and his staff have found that many comprehensive plans in Pennsylvania are unimplemented and some even unadopted. After examining several adopted and implemented plans, the Governor’s Center assembled guidance for Creating an Implementable Comprehensive Plan, including five ways to make better plans, not just make plans better. The guidance means moving from a scripted template of activities and plan chapters to a more fluid process of finding solutions, engaging partners and building capacity – perhaps to the point that momentum takes over and implementation begins.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7
AICP Exam Update – What You Need to Know

The November 2013 testing cycle for the AICP exam will have an updated pool of test questions. APA recently undertook an evaluation of all existing test questions and eliminated underperforming or outdated questions, while also adding new questions to the pool. The updates do not change the exam’s basic structure (computerized exam with 170 multiple-choice questions) or how the content areas are weighted (see www.planning.org/certification/ for the content outline).

APA staff and a team of volunteers – including many current and former Professional Development Officers – are working on an updated product to replace APA’s Exam Prep Package 2.0. This product will be completely new and web-based, and is scheduled for release early in 2014. The PA Chapter is assisting with this effort, and looks forward to being able to promote a new exam prep resource that provides planners with a comprehensive study guide.

As part of my role in assisting with the new APA exam prep resource, I recently audited the exam. While it has been some time since I tested, my initial exam to become an AICP was computer based, with a content outline that closely mirrors the current outline. The audit did not feel dramatically different from my initial test, although clearly the pressure was off and my focus was on question format and what a person needs to learn to do well on the exam. Coming away from the experience I was more convinced than ever that the exam is a test of planning experience. There are obviously questions under all of the content areas, but overall I felt the exam accurately tests the knowledge and expertise necessary to be carrying out quality planning work. The audit of the exam will help with my participation in the development of APA’s new exam prep resource, but also with the PA Chapter’s exam prep efforts. To some degree, the audit provided me with reassurance that the advice and resources we offer planners preparing for the exam is on target (see http://planningpa.org/for-planners/professional-planners/aicp-exam-prep/).
**Renewable Energy Ordinance Frameworks**

*By Liz Compitello, Research Analyst, DVRPC*

**Early in 2013**, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) launched a series of Renewable Energy Ordinance Frameworks, developed by DVRPC’s Alternative Energy Ordinance Working Group (AEOWG). The AEOWG brings together leadership from counties and municipalities in the Greater Philadelphia region to support the safe and sound development of small-scale renewable energy systems, including solar photovoltaic, small wind (<100kW), and geothermal.

**These renewable** Energy Ordinance Frameworks are intended to serve as a resource for municipalities as they develop and update ordinances to govern the siting of small-scale renewable energy systems in their community. These frameworks provide clear, consistent guidance on how to construct renewable energy ordinances that are consistent with state laws; not overly restrictive; do not contradict the nature of renewable energy systems; and promote safe and sound community development. These frameworks provide a menu of sample ordinance language options, both permissive and restrictive, to help municipalities build ordinances that address their specific local issues.

As renewable energy becomes more widely used, more and more municipalities throughout Pennsylvania are faced with the task of regulating the installation of small-scale renewable energy systems. As energy costs rise, and the capital costs of the systems decline, more Pennsylvanians are choosing to install renewable energy systems. However, many municipalities do not have ordinances in place to approve, modify, or reject applications to permit these renewable energy systems. As a result, residents and businesses often face the use-variance process, which must be carried out on a case-by-case basis, resulting in considerable time delays, increased project costs, and increased strain on limited municipal resources. Inconsistent and unpredictable land use regulations can create a significant barrier to the installation of renewable energy systems by both residents and businesses, and deter the renewable energy industry from doing business in the region. Further, use variances, if granted, can be construed as spot zoning, creating costly legal challenges and delay.

A handful of municipalities in the Greater Philadelphia region have begun adopting ordinances to proactively regulate the installation of renewable energy systems in an attempt to align the benefits of renewable energy with the goals expressed in their municipal planning documents. Zoning and other land use regulations play an important role in enabling renewable energy projects that are cost effective and...
New PA Chapter Members!

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS 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 under About Us.

Individual Members:
Christopher Blackwell, Southwest Section
Timothy Little, Southwest Section

Organizational Members:
Middle Smithfield Township, Northeast Section
Maser Consulting, Lehigh Valley Section

APA PA SE PDI: Choosing the Renewable Energy Frameworks that Work for Your Community

Register at http://energyframeworks.eventbrite.com/

Thursday, July 18, 2013
8:30 (registration & breakfast)
8:45 to 12 noon (program)

• $25 for APA-PA members & students
• $30 for APA members (not PA Chapter)
• $35 for nonmembers

Approved for 3 AICP CM Credits

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)
190 North Independence Mall West – 8th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19106-1520

Webinar option: If you are not able to make it in person, we are working to provide a webinar option at the same price. Simply select “yes” to the “Are you interested in attending this event as a webinar?” question after selecting your ticket price.

JOIN A PANEL OF LOCAL EXPERTS who will provide an overview of considerations for developing a renewable energy ordinance for solar, small-wind, and geothermal energy systems in Pennsylvania. An overview of Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission’s (DVRPC’s) Renewable Energy Ordinance Frameworks, which include a menu of permissive and restrictive ordinance language options; accompanied by explanatory guidance on the barriers, benefits and cautions for adopting language will be provided. Additionally, panelists will address the key issues surrounding the regulation of each type of renewable energy system at the municipal level.

This session is a part of the 2013 Greenbuild Challenge.

compatible with existing land use. The working group is convened by DVRPC’s Office of Energy and Climate Change Initiatives as a component of its effort to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in the region. This work is in line with DVRPC’s Long-Range Plan, Connections: The Regional Plan for a Sustainable Future, which identifies “Build an Energy Efficient Economy” as one of the four key strategies critical to realizing a sustainable future for our region.

If you are interested in learning more about the Renewable Energy Frameworks, please see the box below for more information on the upcoming APA PA southeast Chapter Professional Development Institute. For the first time, the Southeast Chapter is able to provide a webinar to provide a PDI session at a discount for all APA-PA members.

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Michael Kaiser retiring after 50 years with the LVPC

by Susan L. Rockwell, Editor, LVPC Newsletter

MICHAEL KAISER, Executive Director of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, recently announced his retirement after 50 years with the Commission. The Commission began operation in January 1961. Mike began working for the LVPC as a planner in August 1963. He was appointed Assistant Director in April 1967, Acting Director in August 1967, and Executive Director in January 1968, the position he has held ever since.

During Mike’s career with the LVPC, he has been involved in a wide variety of planning activities for the benefit of the residents of the Lehigh Valley. He has been dedicated to the development and maintenance of a regional Comprehensive Plan to help guide the orderly growth of the Valley. He has advocated for the protection of natural resources, farmland preservation, affordable housing, improved transportation and public infrastructure through the development of numerous plans and programs. They include a Regional Recreation and Open Space Plan; Stormwater Management Plans for all watersheds in the Lehigh Valley; Water Supply and Sewage Facilities Plans; housing studies dealing with supply, affordability and needs in the Valley; Long Range Transportation Plans and Transportation Improvement Programs; Lehigh Valley Greenways Plan; Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan; and Natural Areas Inventory for the Lehigh Valley, among many others.

Under Mike’s direction, the LVPC has provided assistance to local municipalities in the development of local comprehensive plans, multi-municipal plans, zoning ordinances, subdivision and land development ordinances and the creation of a series of model regulations related to smart growth and environmental protection. Plans, multi-municipal plans, zoning ordinances, subdivision and land development ordinances and the creation of a series of model regulations related to smart growth and environmental protection. He has also been active in planning partnerships with PennDOT, LANta, and many other Lehigh Valley agencies in the development and implementation of regional, county and municipal plans. Mike is a current member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and American Planning Association (APA). He has also been active in planning partnerships with PennDOT, LANta, and many other Lehigh Valley agencies in the development and implementation of regional, county and municipal plans. Mike is a current member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and American Planning Association (APA).

In recognition for the planning work he has done, Mike has received several awards including the Pennsylvania Planning Association Professional Planner Distinguished Leadership Award 1995; 1999 March of Dimes Sixth Annual Real Estate Award; and the 2010 Governor’s Award for Local Government Excellence (aka Dallas Dollase Award for Excellence).

Mike retired on May 31, 2013. He plans to spend his free time bike riding, gardening, photography and spending time with his family. We wish him a healthy, long and active retirement.

Vantage Point 2013 Editorial Deadlines

FALL ISSUE
August 19
WINTER 2013-2014 ISSUE
November 15
Dedication & Commitment Recognized

Corbett Administration Honors Director of Montgomery County Planning Commission for Commitment and Dedication to Community Improvement

IN APRIL LT. GOVERNOR JIM CAWLEY, on behalf of Governor Tom Corbett, recognized municipalities and local government officials around the state for their dedication and commitment to strengthen their communities and better serve their residents. Kenneth B. Hughes, formerly of the Montgomery County Planning Commission, received an award that was presented at the state Capitol in Harrisburg.

“The governor and I understand the immense responsibility you all have to provide solutions that make your community a vibrant place to live, work and raise a family,” Cawley said. “Today is recognition of your dedication to public service, and a celebration of leadership and innovation that has resulted in vibrant communities for the citizens you serve.”

The recognitions were part of the 17th Annual Governor’s Awards for Local Government Excellence. In total, eight local government leaders and 12 communities across the state received awards.

The Governor’s Awards for Local Government Excellence are presented annually to communities and individuals by the Governor’s Center for Local Government Services (GCLGS), an office within the Department of Community and Economic Development that works to assist Pennsylvania’s 2,562 local governments.

The presentation was attended by Chapter Administrator Susan Shermer, Legislative Chair Kyle Guie, Treasurer Pam Shellenberger, and Central Section member Michelle Brummer.

FAICP Call for Nominations

Election to Fellow is one of the highest honors that the American Institute of Certified Planners bestows upon a member. APA is pleased to begin the nomination process for the next class of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

FELLOWS OF AICP ARE HONORED in recognition of the achievements of the planner as an individual, elevating the Fellow before the public and the profession as a model planner who has made significant contributions to planning and society. Fellowship is granted to planners who have been members of AICP for at least 15 years and who have exhibited:

- Exceptional and sustained leadership, resulting in a readily definable change to a place, people, or process.
- Innovation and excellence creating consensus and support for a planning activity that lead to community improvements.
- A legacy for his/her profession, community and society, such as an impact that has created or shown potential to provide a benefit to his/her profession, community and society.
- Exceptional accomplishments in planning over the extent of his/her career or an extended period of time.

The PA Chapter is currently considering potential nominees, who must be AICP members in good standing. In 2011, the PA Chapter was pleased to nominate Jerry Walls, who was inducted into FAICP in 2012 at APA’s annual conference. If you would like the Chapter to consider someone for nomination, please contact Susan Elks, PDO, or the Chapter office.

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 (posted for no cost!)
- Scholarships and awards
- Chapter and Section elections
Scholarships Awarded

THE PA CHAPTER OF APA AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS from the Pitkin scholarship fund, the Richard P. Byler Charitable Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation, and the Leslie & Greta Spaulding Education Fund in time for the fall 2013-2014 academic cycle. Four students benefited from the generosity of these funds and donations from our members.

The following students were recipients:
- Amber Knee, University of Pennsylvania
- Brian Refford, Temple University
- Sara Woolf, University of Cincinnati
- Matthew Zochowski, Temple University

We look forward to hearing from these “emerging professionals” in the near future! ✨