Election Results Announced

PA Chapter of APA congratulates the following newly elected officers who will serve from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2015:

**President**
Brian N. O’Leary, AICP

**Vice President**
James Cowhey, AICP

**Secretary**
Amy McKinney

**Treasurer**
Pam Shellenberger, AICP

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

2013 PA Chapter of APA Award Winners

The Best and Brightest recognized at the Annual Awards Luncheon in Harrisburg!

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association (PA Chapter of APA) held its Annual Awards Luncheon in Harrisburg, PA where 470 attendees celebrated the esteemed award winners of this year’s highly competitive program. The following individuals and organizations were honored for their excellent contributions to planning in Pennsylvania. Congratulations!

The following awards were presented:

**Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan**
Positively Altoona, the City of Altoona’s Comprehensive Plan City of Altoona

Positively Altoona was born from uniquely critical circumstances – decades of decline that called for new planning solutions and fiscal recovery under Pennsylvania’s Act 47. City planners ensured both were intertwined. Planning goals considered the cost to the average homeowner, and comparisons of finances with similar cities. The plan engaged and energized the community when it was most needed. It has the city moving forward to revitalize itself, reuse blighted properties, make needed investments, and showcase its unique character and assets. It gave a renewed vision of hope for a distressed city.

**Opportunity and Empowerment Award**
Mantua Transformation Plan
Mt. Vernon Manor Board of Directors

The Mantua Transformation Plan was undertaken under HUD’s Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Program to improve the Mt. Vernon Manor Apartments and surrounding neighborhood in Philadelphia. Most of the goals aimed to help people – quality education, economic self-sufficiency, healthy lifestyles, and safety. Partners stepped forward to help – Drexel University, Philadelphia Police Department, Philadelphia Foundation. Early results included formation of a civic league, community home and school association, and a youth recreation program.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
**Planning Excellence Award – Plan Other Than a Comprehensive Plan**

**Business Route 62 Corridor Study**  
**Mercer County Regional Planning Commission**  
**Shenango Valley Area Transportation Study MPO**

The Business 62 Study dealt with one of Mercer County's busiest corridors in an innovative way. It recommended all low- to moderate-cost improvements, improvements nonetheless that would have high impact in reducing vehicle congestion, and make it better for pedestrians and bicyclers, and help the development in the corridor. Plan recommendations were varied and tailored to the downtown, transition, and suburban parts of the corridor. The plan provided detailed steps on how to implement the recommendations. It led to no-nonsense talk with PennDOT. After six months, several projects were already being designed or underway.

**Planning Excellence Award – Plan Other Than a Comprehensive Plan**

**Central Chester County Bicycle & Pedestrian Circulation Plan**  
**Chester County Planning Commission**

The Chester County Planning Commission worked with seven municipalities to prepare a coordinated action plan to address transportation, public health, and the environment through improvements to walking, bicycling, and public transportation. The plan is well-written and well-organized. Twenty-three partners built consensus to identify “missing links” in the transportation systems plus cost estimates and priorities for implementation. The plan also made regulatory recommendations for local ordinances and official maps.

**Planning Excellence Award – Public Outreach**

**Make Your Mark! Lower Lancaster Revitalization Plan**  
**People’s Emergency Center Community Development Corporation**

Make Your Mark! brought together residents, community groups, local institutions, city reps, and businesses to create a revitalization plan for the Lower Lancaster Avenue area in Philadelphia. The community participated by a variety of creative outreach techniques. A vacant building was used as an open house, painted with chalkboard paint that allowed passers-by to chalk-mark it with ideas and opinions. Inside were a photo suggestion booth and hot-spot maps. “Postcards from the Future” were used in forums to get residents to articulate dreams for the future. Conventional meetings and a steering committee were also used. In all, over 1,000 residents were engaged in the plan.

**Student Project Award**

**Aging with Our Communities: An Aging-in-Place Plan for Montgomery County**  
**Temple University Graduate and Undergraduate Planning Studio**

Temple University undergraduate and graduate planning students culminated a year-long academic focus on aging communities by preparing a plan for Montgomery County. The plan goal was to help seniors age in place. The plan is thorough and thoughtful, and includes specific recommendations for retrofitting single-family homes, accommodating accessory homes, making roads safer, and avoiding fraud. It presents a concept plan for clustered senior housing and identifies gaps in senior services. And it presents its own senior population projections down to the Census Tract level.
Planning Leadership Award – Professional Planner
John E. Pickett, P.E., AICP, Delaware County Planning Department

John Pickett was a planner and civil engineer with over 40 years’ experience. He worked over 30 years at Delaware County Planning Department, director of both planning and community development since 1996. He was responsible for many successful plans and projects improving the county and its communities. John was active in PA APA and its forerunners since the early 1980s, most recently as its Vice President. He was the current chairman of the County Planning Directors Association of Pennsylvania. As an engineer, he was honored as Delaware County Engineer of the Year in 2006. John rarely pursued the spotlight and seldom sought the recognition he deserved. The nomination was submitted and this award is given posthumously.

Planning Leadership Award – Citizen Planning Advocate
Ronald Buckalew, Harris Township and Centre Region Planning Commissions

Ronald Buckalew has devoted his last 24 years to being a citizen planner. He has been on his home Harris Township Planning Commission since 1989. Accomplishments have been an open space-clustering ordinance, official map, ridge overlay district, and riparian buffer ordinance. He served 18 years on the Centre Region Planning Commission and for 16 years was the representative on the Centre County MPO. He was active in the region’s sewage facilities plan, a model well and geothermal borehole ordinance, and being an advocate for coordinated and multimodal transportation in the region.

Planning Leadership Award – Distinguished Service
Irving Hand, FAICP

Simply stated, Irving Hand exemplifies professional and personal excellence as a planner. His 60+ year resume includes nationally-recognized accomplishments and distinguished service to Pennsylvania. Prior to coming to PA, he was planning director in Tulsa, OK, and Nashville, TN. With Hand’s leadership, the renowned Nashville and Davidson County governmental consolidation occurred. The original plan for metropolitan government was designated a Planning Landmark by the American Institute of Certified Planners. Also in Tennessee, Hand prepared demographic and reapportionment documentation instrumental in deciding the U.S. Supreme Court Baker v. Carr, “one man – one vote” case in 1962. He was director of the Pennsylvania State Planning Board from 1964 to 1972, serving three administrations and helping create the Municipalities Planning Code. In 1972 Hand became a professor in Penn State’s graduate urban and regional planning program. While there, he established the Institute of State and Regional Affairs, PA State Data Center, and the Basic Economic Development Course, each of which have educated and served a wealth of planners and Pennsylvania. After retiring from Penn State in 1993, Hand’s affiliation with Delta Development Group led to creation of an annual scholarship award for mid-career planning professionals. These and other efforts too numerous to mention merit recognition via PA APAs highest honor.
Supporters of the Scholarship Fund

Thank you to the following organizations and individuals for the donations of items for the Scholarship Raffle.

- Browns Orchard
- Chester County/Golden Barrel-Good Food, Inc.
- Chester County/Chadds Ford Winery; American Helicopter Museum;
  - Brandywine River Museum; Dansko, LLC; Swarmbustin’ Honey; Longwood Gardens; To-Jo Fresh Mushrooms, Inc.; Wharton Esherick Museum;
  - Neuchatel Swiss Chocolates
- Clarion County Planning Commission
- Delaware County / Brandywine CVB
- Herr Foods, Inc.
- Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc. (cooler of goodies AND a basket of goodies)
- Lehigh Valley Section of PA-APA/Crayola and the City of Easton
- Lehigh Valley Section of PA-APA/Rodale Press
- Lehigh Valley Section of PA-APA/City of Easton, City of Bethlehem, LANTA Shermer & Associates
- Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
- York County / York Revolution

Thank you to these individuals for their donations to the scholarship fund.

- Richard Bickel
- Delaware County Planning Dept.
- R. Steve Dellinger
- Walter C. Evans
- Crystal Gilchrist
- Richard Hoch
- Dorothy Ives-Dewey
- Calvin Masilela
- Keith McGill
- Steve Pitoniak
- Michael Rimer
- Pam Shellenberger
- Tracey Vernon

and the countless others who bid on the raffle items!
2013 CONFERENCE Committee

The 2013 conference was successful due in large part to the tireless efforts of the local conference committee. Many thanks to the committee for their hard work!

Committee Co-Chairs:
Felicia Dell, AICP, York County Planning Commission
Diana Myers-Krug, AICP, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
Tracey Vernon, AICP, Vernon Land Use

Committee Members:
Dennis Auker, AICP, Auker Consulting
Andy Batson, AICP, Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.
Michelle Brummer, AICP, Gannett Fleming, Inc.
Steve Deck, AICP, Parsons Brinckerhoff
Scott Dellett, AICP, Gettysburg Borough
R. Steven Dellinger, AICP, Hanover Engineering Associates
Scott Duncanson, AICP, LEED, Gannett Fleming, Inc.
Jessica Fieldhouse, AICP, Millinn and Lonergan Associates, Inc.
Joann Galiano, AICP, York County Planning Commission
Bill Gomes, AICP, Mifflin County Planning & Development
Ralph Hess, East Buffalo, Kelly, White Deer Townships
Tara Hitchens, AICP, East Lampeter Township
Jamie Keener, AICP, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.
Jeff Kelly, AICP, Cumberland Co. Planning Commission
Stan Lembeck, PhD, AICP
Jamie Lemon, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
Andrew Merkel, AICP, Adams County Office of Planning and Development
Leah Pearlman-Storch, AICP, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
George Pomeroy, PhD, AICP, Shippensburg University
Terry Ruby, AICP, York County Planning Commission
Dick Schmoyer, AICP
Pam Shellenberger, AICP, York County Planning Commission
Will Soper, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
Deborah Tollett, AICP, Delta Development Group, Inc.
Meagan Tuttle, Borough of State College
Bryan Van Sweden, Bureau for Historic Preservation/Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Jerry S. Walls, FAICP
Brandon Williams, AICP, Township of Derry

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Thank you! With deep appreciation, we thank the sponsors, exhibitors and advertisers. Their support makes the conference possible. And a special thank you to the student volunteers from IUP.

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West Chester University

*Over $1300 raised for the Scholarship Raffle*
Professional Development Committee

Northeast Section Rep **wanted**
Southwest Section Rep **wanted**

The Professional Development Committee includes a representative of each Section (selected by the Section Council) and additional at-large members (appointed by the Chapter President).

Please see more information on the Chapter website http://planningpa.org/for-planners/professional-planners/professional-development-committee/

This committee, led by Susan Elks, AICP, directs one of the most important and active missions of the Chapter – facilitating continuing education opportunities and supporting AICP membership!

Contact Andrew Hartwell, Southwest Section Chair, at andrew.hartwell@alleghenycounty.us or via phone at (412) 350-1360.

Contact Steve Pitoniak, Northeast Section Chair, at pitoniaks@lackawannacounty.org or via phone at (570) 963-6400.

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**Vantage Point 2013 Editorial Deadlines**

- Spring Issue: February 7
- Summer Issue: May 9
- Fall Issue: August 8
- Winter 2014-2015 Issue: November 7
For those of you who weren’t able to make it to Harrisburg, we had a great conference – it was inspiring, educational, and lots of fun, with many opportunities to network and catch up with old friends. As the seat of Pennsylvania’s government, Harrisburg was a great location to discuss state-wide issues, and the city, as always, was very walkable, with loads of restaurants, bars, and trails. Kudos to the Central Section, the conference planning committee, and everyone who helped bring about this great success.

There were many excellent sessions on a wide range of topics. I found the keynote speakers particularly inspiring. Tom Murphy, the ex-mayor of Pittsburgh, highlighted changing demographics and living preferences, noting how these trends have helped Pittsburgh revitalize. Pittsburgh’s colleges and universities and their emphasis on high-tech research has also helped Pittsburgh – Google, for example, started with two employees at Carnegie Mellon in 2006 and now has over 200 employees at a renovated Nabisco cookie factory in Pittsburgh’s east end.

Ron Littlefield, the ex-mayor of Chattanooga, discussed that city’s revitalization and its focus on reinventing the waterfront, which went from a forgotten area of highways, vacant land, and railroads to a focal point of the community. He told an interesting story about Alstom, a French company that wanted to open up a turbine manufacturing facility in Chattanooga; however, they had one important final request that would seal the deal. Alstom wanted the city to extend its Tennessee Riverwalk trail to their factory; then they would come. It was a no brainer for Chattanooga, and now the city has a great new manufacturing facility plus a longer trail. Who said that trails, quality of life, and environmental stewardship can’t lead to good jobs and economic development?

Holding the conference in Harrisburg always offers a great opportunity to interact with the state government. We had a good session with four legislators mostly talking about the transportation bill. Many thanks to Kyle Guie and George Pomeroy from the Legislative Committee for organizing this, and remember to add your voice to theirs and others in advocating for good planning. Patrick Henderson of the governor’s office gave Tuesday’s opening address on Pennsylvania’s energy future, and Dennis Auker and Peter Wulfhorst organized interesting sessions on the Chapter’s unconventional shale gas development strategy. More information on that will be coming soon. One thing is clear – shale gas extraction is here to stay, and we need to plan for it.

Overall, the conference was great. Next year is Philadelphia, which promises to be a fascinating location. Hope you’ll be able to come.

Keep up the great planning work and advocating for a better future.

Correction

JASON PRICE passed the May 2013 AICP exam. Although Jason works in PA, APA shows his membership through the New York Upstate chapter and not of the PA chapter. Sorry we missed recognizing his achievement!
Capital Insights: Perspectives from our Legislators – A GREAT SUCCESS!

Welcome New Members!

Five new members have joined the legislative committee: Wes Ratko – Montgomery County Planning Commission, Leann Chaney – Blairsville Community Development Authority, Kurt Hausmann – Lycoming County Planning Commission, Kathleen Colbert Gibson – Southwestern PA Commission, Evan Tobin – Graduate Student at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Looking for Two Members for Executive Committee

There are two vacancies on the executive committee and we want you. We have openings for a vice chair and secretary. The current executive committee includes Kyle Guie-Chair and Andrew Hartwell-Treasurer. If you are interested in talking about one of these positions or if you would like to be a member of the committee, contact Kyle Guie at kguié@gvtma.com or 610-354-8899.

Check Out this Powerful Tool www.openstates.org

Open States is an online application that allows anyone the ability to locate your legislator, review their votes, search upcoming legislation, and track bill progress.
THE PA CHAPTER IS PLEASED that FEMA Region III is providing our contribution to the chapters, divisions, and universities webcast series. The National Disaster Recovery Framework and Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery session will be held on December 6th. The National Disaster Recovery Framework is a guide that defines how a community can work together following a disaster to best meet recovery needs. This session will discuss the Framework’s core principles as well as best practices and lessons learned from post-disaster recovery plans completed in communities in Pennsylvania. Registration is via the Utah Chapter of APA website at www.utah-apa.org/webcasts.

ARCHIVED WEBCAST PRESENTATIONS, which include seven AICP exam prep sessions, are available on YouTube at www.youtube.com/planningwebcast. Please note that at this time none are registered for distance education CM credits, but limited sessions should be made available for distance education CM in the coming months and will be clearly identified as such.

AS THE YEAR COMES TO AN END, keep in mind that another CM reporting cycle is also coming to a close. Every planner is automatically provided a grace period until April 30th of the following year, but why wait? There are a variety of CM events available to fulfill requirements. Sources of information include the APA-PA webpage for Professional Planners/For AICP Members, the webpage of AICP CM Opportunities, and the Calendar of Events. Options to fulfill CM requirements include section specific in-person events and the following:

- Monthly Webcasts
  Registration and full information on the upcoming schedule on the Utah Chapter website.

- PA Chapter Lending Library
  Six CD programs available at $10.00 rental fee per program, including law and ethics programs. Programs earn a range of 1-2.25 CM credits.

- APA
  APA has a webpage dedicated to free CM training, currently including more than 25 free online credits.

APA HAS REVAMPED the Advanced Specialty Certification for Transportation – Certified Transportation Planner. If you have considered the exam in the past, please take another look. http://www.planning.org/asc/transportation/

HERBERT, ROWLAND & Grubic, Inc. (HRG) recently named Jamie Keener, AICP as Senior Sales Executive of the firm’s Eastern Region. In this role, Keener is responsible for driving business development activities, identifying and tracking new client leads, managing proposal and qualifications package development, and for client management.

Keener joined the firm in January of 2005 with 18 years of experience and was named a Shareholder in 2007. Prior to taking on this new role, he served as the Director of Land Development Services. Originally from Shippensburg, PA, he earned his bachelor’s degree in geography from Bucknell University and began his career in York, PA. Additionally, he sits on a variety of HRG’s internal committees and is deeply involved in several community and industry organizations.

“Jamie brings value in this sales role with his ability to cultivate relationships” stated company President and CEO Robert C. Grubic, P.E. “This, coupled with his diverse knowledge of HRG’s services and the market as a whole is an asset as we seek growth and expansion opportunities.”

If you are preparing to take the AICP exam in 2014, keep an eye on the Chapter’s website and email blasts. We will again be holding an all-day prep session on Saturday, March 8 in the Harrisburg area. This session goes into detail to how to prepare as well as reviewing test content and providing ample opportunity for questions.

planner notes...

JAMIE KEENER to Lead Eastern Region Sales Efforts for HRG
Central Section Update
by Rachelle A. Abbott, AICP, Central Section Chair

Central Section Council Has Much to Offer...

The Central Section has had a very busy Fall! Many Central Section Members were involved in the planning, organizing, and execution of the Pennsylvania Chapter’s Annual Conference held in Harrisburg in October. Overall, the conference was very well attended, educational, and offered many opportunities for networking. Be sure to mark your calendar for next year’s conference to be held in Philadelphia on October 12 – 14.

The Central Section partnered with other organizations, including Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and Lebanon Valley Bicycle Coalition to hold AASHTO’s Bicycle Facility Standards Workshop on September 26, 2013. With over fifty in attendance, the day went quite well. Given the positive partnership, Central Section plans to continue to look for mutually beneficial opportunities for partnerships in the future.

Are you providing a planning program for youth in your community? Are you providing a planning curriculum in connection with a school to get students interested in planning? If so, Central Section may be able to help with its Youth Planning Program Sponsorship to support the development, purchase, or implementation of a youth planning event, curriculum, or activity. To apply for support, please provide a letter of interest, amount needed, and information about the program to Rachelle Abbott, AICP at raabbott@stepcorp.org.

Central Section is also excited to announce that it is offering financial support to municipalities and partners offering Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI) courses. Host municipalities or organizations can receive $300 to assist with the cost of having a PMPEI Course in your community. PMPEI Courses are an excellent tool for citizen planners and others interested in planning to understand Pennsylvania’s Municipalities Planning Code. If your municipality or organization plans to sponsor a PMPEI Course in the next year, please contact Pam Shellenberger of the Central Section Council at pshellenberger@ycpc.org and submit a letter detailing the date, time, location, and type of course you will be offering. For more information about hosting a PMPEI Course in your community, contact Stan Lember at sl1@psu.edu.

Are you a citizen planner who wants to get more involved in the Central Section? If so, contact Rachelle Abbott at raabbott@stepcorp.org. Join a great group of planners who are working to provide valuable opportunities for Central Section members, it will be worth your time!

Be sure to keep a look out for information on Central Section’s Spring Workshop, to be held in Harrisburg in early May. CM Credits will be offered. For a complete listing of all Central Section Council members and their contact information, please visit http://planningpa.org/sections/central.

Northeast Section
Holiday Meeting and Luncheon

The APA-PA Northeast Section Holiday Meeting and Luncheon will be held on Friday, December 20, at Armeta’s Restaurant in Clarks Summit, PA.

The Section will meet at 11:30 for a Section meeting, followed by the Luncheon and a presentation by Sally Corrigan, Executive Director of the Pike County Conservation District. Sally will provide an overview of the Conservation District and the Common Waters Initiative. In addition, several awards will be presented to various individuals who have made a contribution to planning and land use.

The cost is $18 per person and the menu will be a catered buffet style. Cookies will be served for dessert.

Reservations are required. Please RSVP to Peter Wulforst, ptw3@psu.edu or 570-296-3400 x1445 OR Cindy Campbell, ccampbell@pa.gov or 570-963-4574 no later than Monday, December 16.
Two partial scholarships

The PA Chapter of the American Planning Association will award two (2) partial scholarships for the 2014 AICP Exam testing cycles. The scholarship reduces the exam fee from $495 to $135 for first time AICP applicants and from $425 to $65 for previously approved AICP applicants.

Financial hardship is the primary consideration for the scholarship. Members of ethnic or racial minorities shall be given preference for the scholarship. Test applicants whose employer subsidizes the exam fee are excluded from consideration.

Keep an eye on the Chapter’s website and email blasts for more information.