

UpstatePlanner

2004 Upstate Chapter Annual Report

The 2005 Annual Report is presented to the membership of the New York Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association. The report has been prepared by the officers and committee leaders of the Chapter.

President/Vice President

Rocky Ferraro, AICP

“2004 began as a very sad and difficult year for the Chapter with the untimely and unexpected death of Mike Krasner, Chapter President, on February 4th, 2004. As outlined in the Chapter Bylaws, if the office of President becomes vacant, the Vice President shall become President to serve the unexpired term. The full Board contributed immensely in filling the huge void that resulted with Mike’s passing.”

“As President, I chaired the five remaining meetings of 2004 as well as the annual Chapter Business Meeting at the conference in Rochester. One of the first initiatives by the Board was the creation of the Michael Krasner Scholarship Fund designed to honor the memory, interest, and commitment of Mike to the practice and education of urban and regional planning. A \$1,500 tuition scholarship will be awarded annually, as long as funding permits, to a graduate student who is entering their final year of graduate study in planning at the University of Buffalo and whose academic and professional career plans exemplify a commitment to planning issues in Western New York. A total of \$8,776 was donated by friends, relatives, and colleagues from across the country during 2004. This year’s award recipient, Eric Ameigh was presented a check for \$1500 at the Chapter’s Annual conference.”

“A survey was distributed to all the members in the Central New York Section to gauge their opinion about the Section’s future direction. Upon review of the survey results and discussion by the Board, it was determined that the Section will continue with a renewed effort to establish Section level programs and activities. SUNY-ESF, which will play a more active role in Section programs, hosted the Chapter student reception in October.”

“Michael Long represented the Chapter at the Chapter’s President’s Council meeting in Portland, Oregon in the fall and at the APA national conference in Washington D.C. Judy Breselor and Diane Carlton represented the Chapter at the Chapters’ Delegates meeting at the conference. Also, Niagara Reservation/Niagara Falls State Park won the 2004 Planning Landmark Award from APA. The application was prepared and submitted by Mike Krasner and Marcia Kees.”

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COMING UP!

2005 New York Upstate Chapter Awards

Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2005 Chapter Awards Program. All applications are due by July 9, 2005. More information is available at <http://www.nyupstateplanning.org>.

National Bike to Work Day

National Bike to Work Day is Friday, May 20, 2005. APA members are encouraged to participate. More information about “Bike to Work” can be found at <http://www.bikemonth.org>.

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From the President

by Michael H. Long, AICP, RLA

As you know, this is a membership organization with over 650 members. One of my goals is to focus on better communication between the members and the Executive Board. The APA Executive Board is an all volunteers group that give freely of their time and talents in order to make this a better organization. Please familiarize yourselves with our new board members, where they are located, and what they help us with. We are always looking for new volunteers to assist the board and make things better for all members. If you have an interest in lending a hand, please do not hesitate to give one of us a call.

Thanks go out to **Rocky Ferraro** who served as President after the untimely death of Mike Krasner last year. He and all of the board members pulled together for another successful year. We created the Michael J. Krasner Scholarship program and last year raised \$8,776 from throughout the United States through the APA Chapter President's Council, the University of Buffalo, Executive Board Members, various NY Upstate Sections, and most importantly many friends and family.

One of the best communication devices we have is the New York Upstate Chapter web site at www.nyupstateplanning.org Jean Pearl Waterbury; our past president and web master has done an outstanding job putting this together. It is a reference source for many of our popular programs, including the annual awards program, board members, job listing, and calendar of events, conferences, and so many others. It even links with the National American Planning Association's web site. Another goal for the upcoming year is to begin more electronic communication with the members.

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AICP News & Update

by Judy Breselor, AICP, Professional Development

New York Upstate Chapter Members Gain National AICP Certification

The New York Upstate Chapter extends its congratulations to the following planners who were recently certified as members of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) after passing the November, 2004 AICP examination:

Bryan Caccoiotti, Amherst
Todd Dreyer, Poughkeepsie
Karl Heck, East Durham
Brandy Saxton, Port Henry
Scott Shannon, Syracuse

AICP is the American Planning Association's professional institute, providing recognized leadership nationwide in the certification of professional planners, ethics, professional development, planning education, and the standards of planning practice. Certification requires specific education and experience, as well as a passing score on a rigorous examination covering a wide range of planning topics.

The registration deadline for the Spring 2005 exam is March 15th. Application information can be found on the APA website at <http://www.planning.org/certification>. The New York Upstate Chapter also offers assistance for those preparing for the AICP exam. The Chapter distributes the Chapter Presidents Council Study Manual for the AICP Examination and provides access to reference materials.

For additional information regarding AICP certification, contact the Chapter's Professional Development Officer, Judy Breselor at (518) 283-0973 or jbreselor@renesco.com.

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Law & Ethics: Smart Ethics

by Patricia E. Salkin, Esq.

Editor's Note: This article is Part One in a series of Two. Part Two will appear in the next issue, Spring 2005.

A number of provisions in both the APA Ethical Principles in Planning and the AICP Code of Ethics directly relate to core principles of the smart growth movement. For example, Section A of the Principles, provides that participants in the planning process should, among other things, 1) recognize the rights of citizens to participate in planning decisions, 2) strive to expand choice and opportunity for all persons, recognizing a special responsibility to plan for the needs of disadvantaged groups and persons, 3) assist in the clarification of community goals, objectives and policies in plan-making, 4) strive to protect the integrity of the natural environment and the heritage of the built environment; and 5) pay special attention to the interrelatedness of decisions and the long-range consequences of present actions.

Effective Citizen Participation

Recognition of the planner's responsibility to engage active citizen participation in the development of local comprehensive plans is a core principal of the smart growth movement. The American Planning Association's Growing Smart Legislative Guidebook explains, "Planning statutes must do more to recognize and encourage and perhaps even mandate greater community involvement in local comprehensive planning." In offering model language for public participation, the Guidebook suggests that while useful, and often required by law, public hearings alone do not adequately address

effective citizen participation and involvement as the hearings may often be adversarial and often result in one-way conversations from the public to the board members. The APA Policy Guide on Smart Growth states that, "All planning processes, as well as the distribution of resources, must be equitable. A diversity of voices must be included in the community planning and implementation." Increasing citizen participation, according to the Policy Guide, will ensure that planning outcomes are equitable. The Policy Guide supports planning processes that involve comprehensive strategies to engage meaningful citizen participation and that seek to find common ground for decision making.

To meet ethical responsibilities under the APA Principles, planners must strive to design and guide a local land use planning process that is inclusive of all in the community. This means encouraging municipal boards to go beyond the minimal mandates of state statutes that typically require just one or two public hearings prior to adoption of new plans and land use laws, in favor of multiple public workshops and information sessions prior to formal public hearings, and further ensuring that all meetings and hearings are scheduled at times and locations to optimize maximum public participation from all segments of the community. In addition, all relevant documents should be made publicly available throughout the community for easy review. Public libraries, community centers and municipal websites should all have copies of reports, studies and proposals related to proposed community planning and land use regulations.

The planner's responsibility to assist in the clarification of community goals, objectives and policies in plan making is also critical to ensuring effective and informed citizen participation. Planners and other land use professionals who interact with the public on proposed land use plans and regulatory changes have an

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“And finally, the Chapter handed out eight awards in seven different categories in 2004 at the Chapter’s annual conference in Rochester. Each of the plans, projects, and individuals honored with an award made significant contributions toward improving the quality of life for people throughout Upstate New York. The selection criteria by which each of the nominees were considered consisted of quality, originality, transferability, implementation, comprehensiveness, and effectiveness/results. A listing of projects, awards and recipients were published in a previous newsletter issue.”

Treasurer

Michael H. Long, AICP, RLA

“Over the last year, the finances of the Chapter continue to grow stronger. With a slight increase in the Chapter dues, we received \$14,400 in rebates from the National APA. We also received a \$693 grant from AICP dues rebates for use in the professional development efforts. After the passing of Michael Krasner, a new scholarship was developed which received \$8,776 for this restricted account, which results in an annual \$1,500 grant to a second year student at the University of Buffalo where Mike taught part-time. The Chapter also received a \$1,000 AICP grant to participate in the Farmland Trust training programs and workshops. Overall, we received \$26,171.37 in revenues plus the profits of the fall Chapter conference held in Rochester, N.Y.”

“In terms of expenses, the largest is rebates to various chapter sections, for the publication and distribution of newsletters, the Chapter President’s and Delegate Assembly representatives expenses to attend the National Leadership meetings, the Krasner Scholarship, the Farmland Trust project (AICP grant), insurance, tax filings and reports and meeting expenses. Our expenses totaled \$17,044. For a detailed breakdown of the chapter revenues and / or expenses, contact me at [mlong@ci.auburn.ny.us](mailto:mhlong@ci.auburn.ny.us).”

Membership

Eve Holberg

“In 2004, former Membership Officer Mary Kopaskie resigned to take a planning position with the government of Qatar. Since my appointment, I have been learning the ropes and helping sections keep better track of the ebb and flow of membership. One of my goals is

to provide data on expiring memberships as well as new members in a timely fashion. This way, sections can reach out to expiring members to make sure they renew their memberships and welcome new members.”

“It is particularly helpful to your Chapter and local section if we have current e-mail addresses for our members. If you haven’t done so recently, log onto the APA’s website at www.planning.org update your membership information. You will need your six-digit membership number to log-on, found on the address label of your *Planning* magazine.”

Member-at-Large

Diane Carlton

“During the past year, I was involved with continuing liaison efforts with OPPI, our Canadian affiliation in Ontario. I also was responsible for collecting and tabulating election results for the Chapter. Finally, I recorded and distributed minutes several times during he year when our secretary was unable to attend our meetings.”

Education Officer

Dan Aken

“The past year was a great one as the Chapter Education Officer. The duties of this office include continually reaching out to Upstate students and encourage their participation in the APA. Communications with students from SUNY ESF during the course of the year led to a decision by the Executive Board to alter the three-year rotating schedule of visiting one of the three upstate university’s planning programs (SUNY Albany, SUNY Buffalo, and Cornell University) in November of each year. The November Executive Board meeting was held instead at SUNY ESF (Syracuse), starting a new tradition and thus a four-year rotating schedule.”

Canadian Officer

George McKibbin RPP, AICP

“As the Canadian representative to this Chapter, I am cross-appointed by the Chapter and the Ontario Professional Planners Institute Board, the planning body which regulates the profession in the Province of Ontario, Canada. Presently, Canadian members of the American Planning Association are assigned to State Chapters

contiguous to their home Provinces. Over 10 % of the Chapter live and work in either Ontario or Quebec. As Canadian representative, I make certain that Chapter conferences and events of interest to APA planners in Ontario are posted for information on the Institute's web site and distributed in regular e-mail newsletters to over 2700 Ontario Professional Planners Institute members and, likewise, I make available information on Institute events which may be of interest to Chapter members. We also share perspectives and experiences back and forth. Many Ontario's Chapter members identify themselves to me at OPPI events and I answer questions about the Chapter as best I can. This is a unique and exciting relationship and I thank the Board for the opportunity to serve and am committed to helping this joint initiative succeed."

Professional Development Officer

Andrew Labruzzo, AICP

"The Chapter's professional development activities are designed to improve the planning skills of all Chapter members. One of the most important professional development activities is to promote membership in the American Institute of Certified Planners, the American Planning Association's professional institute. AICP provides national leadership in the certification of professional planners, ethics, professional development, planning education, and the standards of planning practice. Certification requires specific education and experience, as well as a passing score on a rigorous examination covering a wide range of planning topics."

"The Chapter encourages members to become AICP certified by offering assistance to those preparing for the AICP exam. The Chapter distributes the Chapter Presidents Council (CPC) Study Manual for the AICP Examination and a resource manual prepared an AICP exam preparation course sponsored by the Chapter in 2003. Additionally, the Chapter helps candidates set up study groups and provides access to reference materials."

"In 2004, the AICP exam was held during two testing windows: one in May and one in November. In May, 12 NY Upstate Chapter members took the AICP exam and 83% of Chapter candidates passed the exam, exceeding the national rate of 63%. In November, 8 NY Upstate Chapter members took the AICP exam. 63% of Chapter candidates passed, exceeding the national rate of 60%."

"All AICP members are encouraged to maintain their proficiency in planning through continuing education and professional development. The Continuing Professional Development Program helps AICP members keep track

of their continuing education efforts. A minimum number of 60 hours of professional development credit, obtained over a three-year period is the principal requirement. Of the sixty hours, 50% or 30 hours must come from APA, AICP or PAB (Planning Accreditation Board) sources, while the remaining 50% or 30 hours may be earned through attendance at CPDP sessions sanctioned by the local APA chapter. The Chapter promotes continuing education by assisting in the identification of acceptable courses and other learning opportunities for members, advertising and publicizing CPDP programs, and offering chapter based programs."

Legislative Affairs Director

Judy Breselor, AICP

"In January 2004, the Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association was asked to participate in a series of Smart Growth Workshops sponsored by the NYS Department of State. Panel discussion involved not for profits groups working on Smart Growth initiatives within New York State wishing to promote quality communities utilizing solid planning. The group met several times throughout the year and stressed that as individual groups it was necessary to create a series of white papers that would be used for land use planning. The working groups culminated in June with a full day workshop and included speakers and facilitator to review planning issues and papers that were presented to the committee throughout the year. It was felt that this was a much needed endeavor and our Chapter was grateful to the Department of State for sponsoring these workshops. The session was attended by many non-profits throughout the state and was focused on reviewing the current status of Quality Communities. State agencies are looking to the non-profits for advice on short term and long term goals to help implement Smart Growth initiatives in New York State. The State asked for recommendations on developing a series of discussion papers pertaining to community center revitalization."

"Our Chapter was once again invited to participate as a member of the New York State Land Use Advisory Committee. The Committee reviewed proposed legislation regarding bill proposals for the legislative session. The Chapter helped the committee review and prioritizes Statewide Bills for consideration and sponsorship. The committee began meeting in the early fall of 2004, where potential Bills have been examined and are being recommended for 2005. These potential

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ethical duty to explain in simple, easy to understand terms, the process being used, the data and information being relied upon and the decisions which confront the municipality. In furtherance of enabling participation by all, this may include securing the services of a translator to ensure that there is meaningful communication will non-English speaking segments of the local population.


The first section of the AICP Code is entitled "The Planner's Responsibility to the Public." This section contains seven obligations of the planner to serve the public interest and largely includes the concepts discussed above as language significantly overlaps with the APA Planning Principles. The AICP obligation addressing citizen participation goes further, requiring that participation be broad enough "to include people who lack formal organization or influence." In addition, the Code suggests that the planner's responsibility to plan for the needs of disadvantaged groups includes the responsibility to "urge the alteration of policies, institutions and decisions which oppose such needs." It

is perhaps through these more explicit articulations that both the APA Ethical Principles in Planning and the AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct address the responsibility of planners to ensure a balance of social equity in planning and zoning decision-making.

This article is Part One in a series of Two. Part Two will appear in the next issue, Spring 2005.

Patricia E. Salkin, Esq. is the Director of the Government Law Center of Albany Law School. She is the author of most recent ethics assessment commissioned by the AICP. She is a member of APA and a member of the Upstate Chapter. □





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About Upstate Planner

The *Upstate Planner* is the newsletter of the New York Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association. The *Upstate Planner* is provided to members of the NY Upstate Section four times per year.

Written and graphic contributions are always welcome. Please submit material to the editor via mail or electronically.

To support the *Upstate Planner* with your businesses' ad, contact the editor.

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Bills include issues pertaining to municipal cooperation for sharing of taxes and services; voluntary municipal annexation by local governing bodies; mediation in municipal planning and zoning and once again a proposal for the training of Planning and Zoning Board Members. The committee also took a look at legislation pertaining to affordable housing which is of the utmost importance to residents of New York.”

“Federal transportation spending was closely watched and monitored by this Chapter. Our Chapter worked with APA National office for Legislative & Policy committee’s to lobby on the long awaited renewal for Transportation funding that was scheduled to be passed but not receive approval. The Chapter continues to monitor this bill and all other pertinent legislation out of Washington. It is anticipate that Congress will soon address this Bill in the early months of 2005.”

County Planning Directors

Michael Kayes

“The New York State Association of County Planning Directors is an affiliate of the New York State Association

of Counties. This Association has as its membership almost all of the Directors of County Planning Departments in New York State. A large percentage of NYSACPD members are also members of this Chapter.”

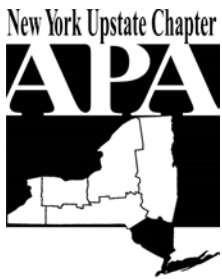
“The group meets four times a year, with its annual meeting being in the fall in conjunction with the New York Planning Federation and in the winter in conjunction with the New York State Association of Counties Legislative meeting. The final two are hosted by a planning department in New York State. Agenda items include discussions on current legislation, New York State Programs and various subcommittees reports. The group also sponsors sessions at the NYSAC meetings at the New York Planning Federation Meetings.”

“The National counterpart to NYSACPD - The National Association of County Planners have developed a web site, created a LISTSERV, sponsored annual meetings and a booth at National APA, created an awards program, as well as sponsoring sessions at National APA and National Association of Counties meetings. The Board of Directors meet five times a year with several committee meetings between them.”

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Around the State: APA Section News

Capital District Planners Association shares its 2004 programming success. In 2004, CDPA had over 280 people attend its monthly luncheons at various locations throughout the section. In 2004, the Section also wrapped up a third year of section-sponsored APA Audio Conferences and the program will continue through 2005.

Rita M. Petkash named Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development in the Southern Tier's Broome County. Rita has 20 plus years of experience in planning, budgeting, and government service. Upcoming projects include the Inter Modal Transportation facility proposed for downtown Binghamton combining local public transportation, taxi cabs, and regional bus carriers under one roof.

Broome County Department of Planning unveils its GIS Webportal. Users can view tax parcel information, environmental features such as floodplains and slopes,

aerial photos, zoning and demographics. A link to the GIS webportal is on the County's main webpage: www.gobroomecounty.com.

Save the Date! The Western New York Section is busy preparing for the **2005 Chapter Conference** to be held at the Hyatt Regency in Buffalo, NY, September 21 through Friday September 23. The theme of this year's Conference is Community by Design. A call for presentations has been circulated and is available on the Chapter website: <http://www.nyupstateplanning.org>.

WNY Section organizes APA/AICP training programs. These a one-hour webcast training programs for elected and appointed officials provide a general overview of current planning topics, and serve as an opportunity for local officials and planners to learn what is happening in other areas of the country.

MOVING? CHANGED E-MAIL ADDRESSES? -- Update your information at <http://www.planning.org>. You will need the six-digit member ID above your name on the mailing label of this newsletter or *Planning* magazine.

BEEN AN AICP MEMBER FOR OVER 20 YEARS? -- FAICP nominations are due. Contact Judy Breselor for more information at jbreselor@rensko.com