



American Society for Public Administration

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Nebraska ASPA Chapter Newsletter

ASPA Council Holds Strategic Planning Session

The ASPA-Nebraska Council held a Strategic Planning Session on August 19th at the University of Nebraska-Omaha Thompson Alumni Center. The facilitator for the session was Patrick McNamara, Director of Philanthropic Services for the Omaha Community Foundation.

The Council would also like to thank Rick Noyes, Perry Pirsch, John Bartle and Carol Ebdon for participating in the planning session. Their insights and expertise were a valuable contribution to the planning process.

The context for the morning session was to articulate why the Council was holding the session and what they hoped the outcomes would be. Extensive discussions were held regarding what was working well in the Nebraska ASPA Chapter and also to define what some of the upcoming challenges would be for the Chapter and its membership.

Program information from other selected ASPA Chapters such as Centex (CTX) Central Texas Chap-

ter, Empire State Capitol Area Chapter in Albany, NY, Evergreen Chapter for Washington State, Greater Kansas City Chapter, MassASPA Massachusetts Chapter, Maryland Chapter, National Capitol Area Chapter in Washington D.C., the New York Metro Chapter, the Northern Virginia (NOVA) Chapter, and the Sun Coast South Carolina Chapter, was used to determine what types of programs are being offered to ASPA Chapters nationally and comparing the ASPA-NE Chapter offerings.

Your Council is excited to report that in comparison to the other Chapters, our Chapter is providing many valuable member services and programs.....but we aren't done yet!

Watch your newsletter and Chapter website for upcoming programs and events. Your Council is energized and excited to begin another program year serving our members.

A Message from your ASPA-Nebraska Chapter President

Dear ASPA-Nebraska Members—

I am proud to serve as your President for the 2006-2007 year and excited about the direction your ASPA-NE Council is going. Recently, the Council held a strategic planning session to develop the Chapter's priorities for the next 2-3 years. Promoting public service, encouraging professional growth for public servants, increasing membership, and establishing partnerships with other public service associations are the four goals the Council will be striving to achieve. We will accomplish those goals through a mix of events, programs and initiatives, some of which you may be familiar and others we will be introducing to the Chapter for the first time. Your ASPA-NE Council is comprised of committed public servants who

dedicate much of their 'free' time to ASPA Nebraska service and I have no doubt we will be successful in achieving our goals. I hope each of you continue to see the value of being a member of ASPA, take an interest in the Council's activities and be a partner in helping us achieve our goals....including telling ASPA's story to potential members.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your President and feel free to contact me any time regarding ASPA-Nebraska.

Scott Bovick ,City Administrator
City of Nebraska City

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AGA Lincoln Chapter Announces Fall Seminar

The Advancing Government Accounting (AGA) Lincoln Chapter is pleased to announce their Fall Seminar on September 21, 2006 at Lincoln's Villager Hotel. A dream team line-up of speakers will educate and challenge you to excel in your professional career. By attending this program, you will be on the front lines to becoming a more effective leader and also ensuring that the resources in your workplace are used more efficiently and effectively. For seminar details and registration, visit the Chapter's website at:

<http://www.lincolnneaga.org>

Headlining this seminar is Connie Nass, State Auditor of Indiana. Connie is also the President of the National Association of State Comptrollers and services on the Executive Board of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers & Treasurers. In 2002, Connie was inducted into the AGA's Speakers Hall of Fame. Connie will speak on two topics, Accountability and Leadership. As the demands on our profession continue to grow, these two topics are critical in today's workplace. The seminar will also feature the following presentations:

- Check & Electronic Transfer Fraud & Prevention 101-Tim Schlegelmilch & Jerry Syslo, U.S. Bank
- The Balancing Act in City Finance: Choices & Challenges-Carol Ebdon, PhD Finance Director, City of Omaha
- Ethics-What's the Dilemma?-Dr. Janice Lawrence, University of Nebraska
- Security-What Keeps Us Awake at Night?-Brenda Decker-State of Nebraska

In addition to these outstanding topics, the lunch keynote speaker will be Nebraska State Senator Mike Foley. Mike will speak on public service and also comment on his run for the office of State Auditor of Nebraska. The program provides 8 hours of CPE. Fees include all materials, food & beverages and free parking!

ASPA Members may register at the membership rate for AGAI

A Tip of the Hat to Public Service !
A government employee at the U.S. Department of Agriculture pioneered the bar code scanner that automatically computes the cost of your purchase at the store!

Reflection on Women as Global Leaders Conference

Dr. Deinz Leuenberger, Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Political Science at Bridgewater State College, visited Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates during spring break to present at the Women as Global Leaders Conference: Communities in Transition from March 12 to March 14th. She presented on caring labor and the measurement of labor of care in non-profit and government organizations. Her trip was sponsored by The Center for Legislative Studies and Bridgewater State College.

Major speakers at the conference included Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan, Mary Robinson, former Prime Minister of Ireland and United Nations High Commissioner, and Cherie Booth, British Attorney and wife of England's Prime Minister Tony Blair. Students, faculty, and profession-

als in 87 countries gathered to discuss issues relevant to women. Presentations included discussion of human rights issues, democratization, expanding role of women in the work place, the role of education in expanding the participation of women, and international impacts of governmental policies.

Dr. Leuenberger discovered as a theme in the conversation of women from the Middle East, including U.A.E., Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, Quatar, Kuwait, and Jordon, a desire to increase women's equity in the context of their national traditions, religion, and identities. They reported a desire to increase women's role outside of the influence of Western ideas of democratization.

Jodie Drapal-Kluever

ASPA Code of Ethics

- I. Serve the Public Interest
- II. Respect the Constitution and the Law
- III. Demonstrate Personal Integrity
- IV. Promote Ethical Organizations.
- V. Strive for Professional Excellence

2005-2006 NE ASPA Chapter Program Highlights

Your ASPA Council and Officers worked hard last year to provide the NE-ASPA Chapter members quality programs and networking events. Watch for upcoming 2006-2007 events and programs!

*Implemented Nebraska only memberships for \$20/year.

*Social Equity Conference

*Resume Feedback and Mock Interviews

*Elected Officials and Local Government Administrators: A Partnership for Community Improvement in Nebraska and Iowa, co-sponsored by the UNO PA Department, NCMA, SW Iowa

City Managers Association

*Networking Reception with Public Officials

*Public Service Week Proclamation Signing by Governor Dave Heinemann

*Concord Coalition Program

*AGA Spring Seminar in Lincoln with ASPA members receiving the AGA member rate

*Annual Luncheon and Awards Ceremony in partnership with Pi Alpha Alpha

Keynote Address:

State Senator Dave Landis

Elected Official of the Year:

Kate Witek, NE Auditor of Public Accounts

Public Administrator of the Year:

Mike Nolan, City Administrator for the City of Norfolk

Lifetime Achievement Award:

Randy Reyzlik, City Administrator for the City of Fremont (given posthumously)

Social Equity Award:

Frank Peak, Community Outreach Services, Creighton University



SAVE THE DATE

September 15-17: ASPA's Mid-Year Leadership Meetings, Washington, D.C.

September 21: Advancing Government Accountability (AGA) Fall Seminar-Villager Hotel, Lincoln

September 27-29: Nebraska

League of Municipalities (NLM) Annual Conference-Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln

October 5: Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Legislative Conference-Holiday Inn, Kearney

December 5-7: Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Annual Conference-72nd & Grover Holiday Inn, Omaha

Inside ASPA-Nebraska

Meeyoung Lamothe:

Meeyoung has left her position as Coordinator for the UNL-MPA program and accepted a position with the University of Oklahoma as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science.

Patricia Owen:

Trish won the Republican Primary election in Lancaster County and will be the Republican nominee for the Lancaster County Clerk's office in the November election. She is currently serving as the

Chief Deputy Lancaster County Clerk.

Carl Ekstrom:

Carl has returned from teaching Public Administration at the International Summer University, Macedonia 2006, in Tetovo, Macedonia and is teaching this academic year in the MPA program at Iowa State University.

Wes Blecke:

Wes left his job as City Adminis-

trator for the City of Ashland in December 2005 and relocated to Wayne, NE. He is currently working in Economic Development for the Wayne Area Economic Development Corporation. You can reach Wes at wblecke@waedi.org or by phone at: (402) 375-2240.

Kathleen A. Hall:

Kathleen will be receiving the Omaha Chapter of AGA's "Presidents Award" in late August.

Gregory S. Fetterman:

Greg has changed jobs! Previously serving as the congressional liaison for the Nebraska Service Center for US Citizenship & Immigration Services-Dept. of Homeland Security, he will now be working as the Logistics Supervisor and Supervisory Management & Program Analyst for the organization. Congratulations Greg!

Nebraska Local Governing Information Program

The ASPA/NE and Pi Alpha Alpha Annual Awards Luncheon at the University of Nebraska at Omaha was the occasion for the launching of a guide to local governing for newly elected local government officials in very small municipalities.

While providing technical assistance to small local governments, leaders of the multidisciplinary team that developed the guide had seen first-hand how communities missed economic development opportunities due to the lack of basic, readily accessible information about governing.

This, as small rural communities face a variety of escalating challenges that include aging public infrastructure systems, budget constraints, levy lids, economic transition, out-migration, declining property values and changing demographic characteristics. How to help? What to do?

As professionals, they knew that persons elected to Village Boards and Municipal Commissions in communities with populations under 5000 typically do not have the information they need.

Existing local governance information materials are more relevant for larger communities. Larger communities also are more likely to have professional managers or administrators able to provide a wealth of information to elected officials. In smaller communities, many elected officials must piece information together through a trial and error approach.

The approach to meeting the need grew from a successful experience with customized and accessible information. In 1997, the Nebraska Chapter of ASPA, the Community Development Society and the University of Nebraska at Omaha had helped the Village of Weston (pop. 300) initiate a strategic planning process. Weston has moved from a history of \$0 grant funding in 1997 to \$3.5 million and growing. The strategic process designed for Weston is described in a booklet that has been used with similar success by

other small communities in Nebraska. A booklet of information targeted specifically to small communities.

In 2002, the project leaders (an MPA Economic Development Specialist, and a Community Development Specialist) revisited their ASPA connections to recruit two other professionals (A PhD in PA college professor and an MPA Small Business Development Assistance Specialist), and the project to develop a booklet of information about governing for newly elected officials was begun. The multidisciplinary team is incorporated as The Nebraska Local Government Information Program (NELGIP).

At the 2004 ASPA Midwest Regional Conference, NELGIP conducted an interactive session to discuss the outline of the booklet. After a year and a half of drafting, review by experts and local officials, and re-drafting, the finished booklet was introduced at the 2006 ASPA Nebraska Chapter/Pi Alpha Alpha Annual Awards Luncheon.

ASPA provided the network that permitted concerned individuals to 'connect the dots' that led to a little booklet that could help small communities in Nebraska survive and prosper.

Contacts for the Nebraska Local Governing Information Program:

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Lynn Holley, PA Times, July 2006

Getting it Right! A Tribute to Successes in Public Administration

The ASPA-Nebraska newsletter will be adding a new on-going column called "Getting it Right!". This section of your quarterly newsletter will highlight Nebraska communities and their administrators who are contributing to the growth and quality of life in their communities and in Nebraska through their work.

Part of educating the public about public service professionalism is through the sharing of what our public administration practitioners are doing right every day.

We are asking ASPA member public administration practitioners to submit their community or their administrators for inclusion in this section. From the smallest community to the largest, each has an important story to tell. This will be a great chance to share with others in the field, and more importantly, those still pursuing their education,

what is happening in your community.

This section would like to explore and promote how these community successes are occurring with the hope that this type of information and sharing will help other communities succeed as well.

Pictures and other information are welcomed and we hope our membership will take advantage of this column to learn from others successes and missed opportunities. It's time to toot the horn about successful professional public administration in our non-profit and governmental organizations.

To include your project, program, community issue or other news please email Trish Owen at trisho@neb.rr.com.

ASPA National Wants to Welcome Students!

Who We Are

August marks the start of ASPA's bi-annual Student Recruitment Campaign. For the past 10 years ASPA has launched their recruitment campaign to coincide with the traditional fall and spring semesters. The purpose of this membership campaign is to attract and recruit students into the ASPA society.

ASPA wants to provide you with the support, services and resources needed as you pursue your studies. Your membership also helps to form a solid foundation for future work in the field of professional public service.

ASPA invites you to enter into the dynamic community of people, challenges and information that make public service what it is today!

We are advocates for greater effectiveness in government; agents of goodwill and professionalism; publishers of progressive journalism at its very best; purveyors of academic theory and best practices; and providers of global citizenship.

ASPA believes that by embracing new ideas, addressing key public service issues and promoting effective management at both the local and international levels, we can enhance the quality of lives worldwide.

Benefits of Student Membership

If you are a student enrolled in a college or university in the United States, membership in ASPA is available for a maximum of three years. The benefits are:

- On-line access to the Public Administration Review (PAR), the premier PA journal in the world since 1940.
- On-line career center to access job listings, apply for jobs, post resumes and cover letters.
- PA Times-ASPA's monthly newspaper reporting on the latest trends and happenings in public administration, including regular columns on advancing your career.
- Annual Education Supplement-in the October issue of PA Times

- Subscription to The Bridge-ASPA's bi-monthly electronic newsletter
- Professional Development Opportunities-skill based training, annual conference panels, web resources and publications
- Local Chapters, special focus sections and volunteer leadership opportunities for students to develop interests, skills and talents

Student Scholarships and Student Conference Grants

Students can apply for one of four \$250 grants ASPA offers to outstanding students to attend the national ASPA conference. Other scholarships for educational and conference opportunities are offered by ASPA's chapters and sections.

New On-line Features

Coming soon, ASPA will be expanding resources and services developed especially for students and new professionals.

Networking Opportunities

Take advantage of your local Nebraska ASPA Chapter and its activities and programs. What a great way to meet the academics and PA practitioners who share your passion for public service? The Nebraska Chapters website is:

www.aspaonline.org/nebraska

Log on today and learn more about your local Chapter and what it can offer you!

How to Join National ASPA

Log onto <http://aspanet.org> to find your membership application. A full student membership, which includes hard copies of PAR and PA Times and access to the archives is only \$75 a year. An electronic student membership includes access to PAR current issues and archives on line, and the PA Times by mail, and only costs \$40 a year.

If you have additional questions call Patricia Yearwood, Senior Director for Membership Development and Recruitment at pyearwood@aspanet.org.

"In the long run every government is the exact symbol of its People, with their wisdom and unwisdom; we have to say, Like People like Government."

Thomas Carlyle



Nebraska ASPA Chapter Newsletter

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The ASPA Nebraska Chapter Newsletter is published quarterly. The newsletter is distributed to all Chapter members and is posted on the Chapter's website.

We're on the Web!

www.aspaonline.org/nebraska

2006-2007 ASPA Nebraska Board

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Dr. Mary Hamilton, University of Nebraska-Omaha

Patricia Langer, State of Nebraska

CONGRATULATIONS to our ASPA members who have completed their MPA degrees:

Joseph J. Johnson-Omaha

Lawrence Runana-Omaha

Harvard Business School Press

More than 250,000 people annually are elected to public office or move into public sector leadership positions in the United States. As they do, they may assume higher public profiles and have to navigate through volatile political environments. A new book by Peter Daly, a former federal executive agency head, and Michael Watkins, a leadership development consultant, aims to help new leaders adapt to their roles.

The First 90 Days in Government, published by The Harvard Business School Press, outlines strategies new government leaders can use to overcome transition challenges, including defining goals, building teams and managing stress. The book also addresses the difference between the private and public sectors in how success and failure are defined, measured and rewarded or penalized.

American City & County
August 2006 Issue

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For more information about a Nebraska-only ASPA membership please visit our website or ask a Council member for more details!