

Northern Virginia News

Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Chapter of
The American Society for Public Administration

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Chapter Improving Communications, Developing Activities for Members

2005 State of the Chapter Message, By Gene Bacher, Chapter President

First, regarding communications, thanks to new Council member Ken Hunter, we transferred the Chapter's web site to ASPA for hosting. This should make it make easier for you to connect national public administration discourse with events and plans for the Chapter. A hearty "thank you" to George Mason University for hosting it for the past couple of years. Please add this new address to your list of favorites. Suggestions for improvements to the new site are welcome at any time. Contact Ken or myself (see contact information elsewhere on the site).

You have undoubtedly detected more email correspondence and electronic actions. Cathy Wiltse, our new Treasurer, successfully researched how to, and then conducted, the annual Council election via a web-based voting tool. It worked like a charm, except for the limitation resulting from inaccurate or non-existent email addresses. We are considering going "all electronic" before the end of the year reducing the time and expense associated with hard copy newsletters, flyers, and invitations. To this end, James Small, another new Council member, has volunteered to update the email list we get from ASPA Headquarters. You have already received a roll call message from him by email. We will next be phoning those for whom no current email address is registered and hope to entice them to provide, and keep up-to-date, email addresses.

Secondly, regarding Chapter events, we are planning several for the spring. At the suggestion of Yuki Graves, our new Chapter Secretary, the first event will be a Chapter Strategic planning session on Saturday, February 26, starting at 9:00 a.m. in the Fairfax County Government Center. We will be developing specific goals and objectives for fulfilling the Chapter's mission (career education, public service celebration, and process assistance). All Chapter members are invited to participate. We plan to send a draft of the plan to all Chapter members for comment before going final.

In mid-April we will host, at the Fairfax Government Center, a panel discussion on the use of evidence-based performance measurement. Performance measurement has been, and continues to be, a primary public administration topic at all levels of government as part of the New Public Management movement. Social service providers in Fairfax have successfully used this variation and they will be sharing their experiences with its use with county and chapter participants. While the exact time has not been set, it will be late afternoon during the week. Watch the site for details

We are also gearing up to improve our participation in the annual Public Service Recognition Week that is held each year during the first week in May. Details of this will be forth-coming but we can predict we will be looking for volunteers who can spend a couple of hours one day during that week to greet and thank public employees at venues throughout the Chapter's jurisdiction. If you have a few hours to help organize and/or participate in this event, please contact me as soon as possible.

Thirdly, regarding finances, George Hohmann, our past Treasurer and President-elect, has done yeoman service keeping the chapter solvent, particularly in light of the fact that we have conducted no revenue generating events in the recent past. As part of our strategic planning session, we will revisit this strategy and perhaps elect to find ways to increase our small cash reserves.

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State of the Chapter Message (Continued)

Fourthly, council elections, normally held in time to transfer responsibility at the annual Chapter Public Service Awards Banquet in June, were delayed a bit, but we plan to get them back on track this spring. So, you will be seeing an invitation to participate in the Council shortly. I hope that you will consider spending a few hours a month as a good way to establish and maintain your professional and academic associations within the field of public administration through Council participation.

Fifth, one the Chapter's major activities celebrates noteworthy public administration contributions at an annual awards banquet. Last year's event, held at the Alpine Restaurant in Arlington was a great success with many chapter members, friends, and colleagues of the recipients attending. To make it successful, we need as many award nominations as we can get. I encourage each of you to identify potential candidates and be prepared to make nominations during the next few months. Specific awards and nomination information can be found elsewhere on this site. We'll send out an email reminder as the time for nomination draws near.

As ASPA member, you already know and appreciate the daily work performed by public servants that keep government services functioning, from education to law enforcement, from food inspection to national defense, from fire protection to victim assistance, from income security to social services to name a few. Many in these fields, however, have little appreciation for the rich theoretical underpinnings of their work. I believe that one of the primer roles of the Chapter is to help all those practitioners make a better connection to the theory of public administration and hope that each of you will find appropriate ways to help the chapter make those connections.

Vacation Deals Available for PA's

Federal, state, and local government employees can take advantage of special deals on numerous vacation locales through a special web-based service.

The Government Employee Travel Opportunity Program is a free service for public administrators. The program offers access to vacation condos and rentals at rates for under \$300 per week (off-season) at locations throughout the United States and around the world. Discounts are also available for peak season rentals and hotel lodging.

For more information, visit www.gettravelop.com.

This is not a paid advertisement or endorsement of service described.

Northern Virginia News

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Mission: To advance the theory and practice of public administration in Northern Virginia.

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Board Meetings

The second Wednesday of each month at:

Beacon Street Café
Greenbriar Shopping Center, Route 50
Chantilly, VA

The American Society for Public Administration was formed in 1939 and is the premier professional association for public administrators in the United States. Our chapter is a voluntary association of individuals from government, nonprofit, academia, and private sector organizations dedicated to promoting recognition for public service, providing professional opportunities, and offering technical assistance to area public administrators.

Professional Inspiration enhances Public Servant's Role

By Karen L. Bune, Past President

When people learn of my 26 years in the field of criminal justice, they react with a combination of surprise and amazement. In present times, people change careers many times. However, I have the fortune to have been enriched by some professional sources of inspiration who served as enduring role models throughout my career.

My initial inspiration was a former college professor, Dr. Ronald Weiner, in the School of Justice at American University (AU). With his reputation as a "tough" professor, I recognized that he possessed a wealth of knowledge in the field—both academically and experientially-- and I learned a great deal from him. His enthusiasm and devotion to his subject matter was contagious.

Dr. Weiner encouraged me toward pursuit of further education in the field, noting my talent and strong interest in the subject area. He was the catalyst of inspiration for me, and I received my Master's degree, with distinction, from AU and began working in my field in 1979.

I also had the benefit of public servants who inspired me in various ways. Constance Morella, former Congresswoman and current U. S. Ambassador to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in France, is a colleague and friend who reinforced the fact that there remains a place in public service for grace, elegance, class, and non-partisanship. She proves that one can uphold their principles and beliefs with strength and positivism.

The last individual I will mention serves as a continued source of professional inspiration. U.S. Capitol Police Chief Terrance W. Gainer is a high achiever with a tremendous record of professional accomplishment, an unrelenting determination, motivation, and proven success. These traits fostered in me a belief that one should never give up hope in their desire to make the world a better place and impact public service in a positive way. His diverse areas of knowledge and his broad expertise generated in me a desire to pursue various paths within my own career and aspire to be the best public servant I can be. Chief Gainer's wonderful sense of humor reminds me to retain my own, a necessity to survive in a field often replete with tragedy and sadness.

Personal inspiration and role models are a critical and important part of one's successful professional life. Perhaps, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe summarized best when he stated, "Treat people as if they were what they ought to be and you help them become what they are capable of being." My sources of professional inspiration do that for me and the enrichment of my life, personally and professionally, represents the result.

Karen serves as a Victim Specialist/Legal Assistant in the State's Attorney's Office for Prince George's County, Maryland.

Submissions Welcome

Letters, articles, advertisements, and other items for submission are welcome from ASPA members. Please contact Kenneth Hunter, kwhunter@gmail.com, for more information and submission guidelines. A fee will be assessed for advertisements.

Murray wins Howell Public Service Scholarship

Congratulations to Cheryl Murray, a Master's student in Public Policy at George Mason University's School of Public Policy! She is this year's recipient of the Chapter's Brady K. Howell Public Service Scholarship for studies associated with public service. This award, named in honor of Brady K. Howell, a graduate in public administration who lost his life in the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon, is presented annually based upon an essay. Council member David Ellis (Chairman), along with Past President Karen Bune and Council member James Small, made the selection from a record five applications. Cheryl will receive a check for \$750.

Nominate People for Chapter Awards

The Northern Virginia Chapter is currently accepting nominations for its annual awards program. These honors are designed to recognize public administrators in the area for their ongoing commitment to the profession, public service, and research.

Awards will be presented at our annual awards banquet this spring, and they include the following:

- The Hodding Carter Outstanding Journalism Award
- Public Service Award
- Public Administrator / New Professional Award
- The Kathy Hensley Award for Distinguished Chapter Service
- Special Achievement Award
- Outstanding Service Award

A nomination form is included with this newsletter, and it is also available online at www.aspaonline.org/nova/awards.htm.

Calendar of Events

Events	Day & Time	Location
February Meeting	Wednesday Feb. 9 th 6:00 p.m.	Beacon Street Café
Strategic Planning	Saturday Feb. 26 th 9:00 a.m.	Fairfax County Government Center
March Meeting	Wednesday Mar. 9 th 6:00 p.m.	Beacon Street Café
Panel Discussion <i>Evidence-Based Performance Measurement</i>	Wednesday April 13 th 3:30 p.m. <i>(Monthly Board Meeting follows)</i>	Fairfax County Government Center
Chapter Public Service Awards Nomination Deadline	Sunday May 1 st	More information available at www.aspaonline.org/nova/
Public Service Recognition Week	May 2-8	More information available at www.theroundtable.org/psrw.html
May Meeting	Wednesday May 11 th 6:00 p.m.	Beacon Street Café
June Meeting	Wednesday June 8 th 6:00 p.m.	Beacon Street Café
Chapter Public Service Awards Banquet	Wednesday June 23 rd 6:30 p.m.	Alpine Restaurant 4770 Lee Highway Arlington
July Meeting	Wednesday July 13 th 6:00 p.m.	Beacon Street Café



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Visit Us Online At
www.aspaonline.org/nova/