



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Message from the President</i>	2
<i>Florida ASPA Conference</i>	3
<i>Easter Basket Drive</i>	3
<i>What is ASPA?</i>	4
<i>10 Reasons to Join</i>	4

Ramon "Ray" de Arrigunaga
President

Terry Murphy
President-Elect

Steven Bobes
Treasurer

Ana Morgenstern
Recording Secretary

Shannon Nazzal, CSA
Communications Secretary

Roslyn Alic-Batson
Immediate Past President

Board of Directors

Jaime Ceballos
John Collins
Glenn C. Joseph
Kim Loutzenhiser
Merideth Newman
Allan Rosenbaum
William Solomon
Ingrid D. Stuart
Jonathan P. West

Phone: 786-243-9294
Fax: 305-372-6130
rdearrig@bellsouth.net

We're on the Web!
www.aspaonline.org/southfla/

*Advancing Excellence
in Public Service*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT YEAR

By Terry Murphy

The South Florida Chapter of ASPA is in high performance mode. We are fortunate to have a strong, balanced board of seasoned public administrators and nationally recognized university professors. Our members have the opportunity to hear great speakers at the monthly luncheons, attend professional development seminars, and participate in local, state and national conferences. This chapter is deeply committed to improving the quality of public administration in South Florida.

As the President of the Chapter this coming year, I want to focus on ASPA members who are seeking to advance their public ser-

vice careers. Academic achievement in the field of public administration deserves to be recognized and promoted. Managers and department directors should be encouraged to fully utilize the skills, knowledge and talents of their employees. An employee with a graduate degree should not be overlooked. I invite all members of this chapter to help develop this idea into a structured activity.

At the Annual Meeting on June 16th, we will entertain a host of issues for the coming year, including: suggestions for the calendar of events; scholarships and grants to be offered; fiscal policy issues; membership benefits; awards criteria;

and conference themes. All are welcome to attend.

To ensure the success of every activity, we will need all of our members and sponsors to participate. Our fine board of directors is prepared to lead, but we will need more hands on deck to manage all of the activities and interests of this chapter. I hope you will choose to become involved this year and experience the many benefits of belonging to the South Florida Chapter of ASPA.



SOUTH FLORIDA "BEST PRACTICES" CONFERENCE

By Dr Ray de Arrigunaga, RdeArrig@bellsouth.net

Back in the Fall, 2006, at a regular meeting of the ASPA South Florida Chapter Board of Directors, a proposal was made to convene a conference to take place sometime during the Spring of 2007. The focus of the conference would be on the Public Administration Practitioner. The Board collectively felt that many municipalities and local governments were developing and implementing highly productive, high quality programs and procedures, many

of which would probably be of great interest to other like-minded governments. The decision was made to proceed. Obviously, there were issues that needed to be addressed and resolved.

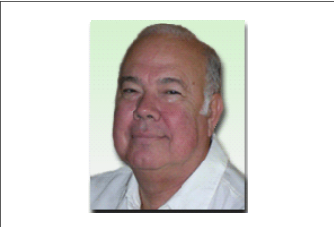
Issue #1: Where would this conference take place? The solution was that the University of Miami School of Business agreed to provide us, free of charge, with four multi-media classrooms, each one seating about 40 people; a 300 person capac-

ity multi media auditorium as well as its adjacent lobby; the 130 person capacity executive dining room; and access to the university parking garage.

Issue # 2: Who would be invited? We felt that the people who could best benefit from attendance and participation at such a conference would be the professional staffs of the Miami Dade County and Broward County Governments, as well as the staffs of

Continued, Page 2

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dr. Ramon "Ray" de Arrigunaga

By anyone's method of measurement, this has been one outstanding year for the South Florida Chapter in terms of activities and accomplishments!!! For the Annual Awards luncheon I decided to make up a comprehensive list of everything that the Chapter had accomplished. As I finished the list and reviewed it for completeness, I was truly amazed and gratified!!!

Here are some "gee whiz" bits and pieces of information:

The Chapter hosted seven luncheons, featuring prominent local guest speakers which included: Katherine Fernandez Rundle, State Attorney for the 11th Judicial District, Miami Dade County; Jim DeFede, Political Commentator; Coral Gables Mayor Don Slesnick; Miami Dade County Manager George Bur-

gess; Miami Gardens Mayor Shirley Gibson; Miami Mayor "Manny" Diaz; and on May 30, 2007, we had our Annual Awards Luncheon at which time Katherine Fernandez Rundle was presented with the Outstanding Public Administrator of the Year Award for her leadership and management abilities in making the Miami Dade County Justice System a truly outstanding program; Miami Dade County and the City of Miami both received the Outstanding Public Sector Organization of the Year Award for the joint operation of the 311 Answer Center; and, Mr. Scott Champagne from Barry University received the \$500 Best Essay Scholarship Award.

Other activities throughout the year included the preparation and distribution of Christmas Baskets to needy families (Dec 2006); our Annual Christmas Holiday Party at the Coral Gables home of Board Member and incoming President-Elect Dr. Allan Rosenbaum and his wife, Dr. Judi Rosenbaum (Dec 06); an event recognizing Black His-

tory Month (Feb 07); an event recognizing Women in Government (Mar 07); and, the preparation and distribution of Easter Baskets to needy families (Apr 2007).

ASPAs involvement in its continuous quest for knowledge was not neglected. Chapter members participated in the ASPA National Conference in Washington, DC (Mar 2007), contributed to the planning of, and participation in, the ASPA Florida State Conference in St. Petersburg (May 2007), and organized in its entirety a highly successful, Best Practices Conference here in Miami. Attendees and participants were drawn from the two county area of Broward and Miami Dade. About 120 people attended. The conference was focused on the practitioner and was highly praised by those in attendance.

Professional Development Seminars were also sponsored by the Chapter. These lunchtime events were designed for those individuals desirous of enhancing their value to the governmental entity in which they work. These seminars included

such topics as leadership, personal and professional relationships, networking and communications.

Three of our chapter members were recognized for their outstanding achievements in support of ASPA goals and mission. Long time Board Member Bill Solomon, JD, received the Donald C. Stone Award for superior service to ASPA, and Board Member Meredith Newman, Ph.D., was honored as the recipient of the ASPA Presidential Citation of Merit. Steve Bobes, long time chapter Treasurer, was elected to the National Council as a representative from ASPA Region III.

As I said at the beginning of this article, this has been one outstanding year in terms of accomplishments!!! However, even though the Board Members provided a lot of the "grunt" work and effort, nothing could have been accomplished without the active participation and support of you, the individual members of the chapter!

Thanks to every one of you for having made this year the success it has been!

SOUTH FLORIDA ASPA CONFERENCE, CONT. (FROM COVER)

the 70 somewhat-odd municipalities within the geographical boundaries of the two counties.

Issue # 3: What panels would be convened? A total of 12 panels were proposed and approved, each one dealing with a relevant topic within the two county areas: Ethics and Integrity in the Public Sector, Training and Professional Development, Leadership and Management, Emergency Management, Economic Development, Growth Management and Environmental Concerns, Human Resources, Transportation

Issues, Low Cost Housing Issues, Technical Innovations, Strategic Planning, and Customer Service. The Board felt that these topics were broad enough to accommodate a variety of panelists' positions and narrow enough to differentiate among the panels' overall themes.

Issue # 4: How about the cost of attendance and participation? Early on, the decision was made that all attendees, to include panelists, would be required to pay the registration fee, which amounted to \$50 per person. This fee would cover the cost of a con-

tinental breakfast, two coffee breaks with snacks, a lunch, and a final, two-hour duration, cocktail party with heavy hors d'oeuvres sponsored by Bacardi USA!!! In addition, corporate sponsors were obtained which contributed \$2500 to help defray the overall conference costs.

Issue # 5: Would we allow academic participation? The answer was "yes." Our academicians on the Board are experts in planning and organizing conferences. However, we would not allow panelists to make purely theoretical, research-based presenta-



L-R Allan Rosenbaum, Ray de Arrigunaga, Jonathan West, Royce Burnett, Mayor Carlos Alvarez, William Solomon and Terry Murphy.

tions, unless these had a direct, practical application to enhancing or resolving real-world government problems.

Continued, Page 3

SOUTH FLORIDA ASPA CONFERENCE, CONT.

The date for the event was set at Friday, April 27th, 2007. The Keynote Speaker was the Mayor of Miami Dade County, the Honorable Carlos Alvarez; the luncheon speaker was Dr. Don Klingner, incoming President-Elect of ASPA National. Our final count was about 120 attendees, which we felt was outstanding, considering that our solicitation area for participation and attendance was only a two county area, and that we virtually neglected the Federal Sector as well as most of the State of Florida.

We felt that the governments "...on the front lines..." (i.e., local governments) were the entities that would derive the most from the conference. At the time that the conference was being conceptualized, we made it a point to invite as many potential presenters as possible, even if their presentations had been delivered elsewhere at other conferences. What we were interested in was getting the "word" out: what successful "Best Practices" were being developed and implemented by practitioners within our

two-county area? Many opportunities were presented to the attendees and participants for networking and exchange of information and business cards. Anecdotally, from comments overheard during the breaks, the lunch and the cocktail party, this was a truly outstanding conference. We did not hear a single unsatisfactory comment nor remark, but we did receive many e-mails and comments applauding our efforts and achievements. What the success of the con-

ference did prove to us was what many of us have suspected for a long time, and that is, that ASPA - to include its practitioners AND academicians - MUST turn its attention a LOT more to the millions of public administration practitioners in this country, especially at the level of local government. Therein lies the future of a successful, growth-oriented, viable, relevant ASPA. On a personal note, I do not believe that we are anywhere near achieving this goal, but I also do believe that it can be accomplished.

2007 FLORIDA ASPA CONFERENCE

By Claire Mostel and Bill Solomon

The Third Annual Florida ASPA Conference was held at St. Petersburg College on May 11, 2007. ASPA National President Harvey White spoke about the merits and virtues of public service and also participated on a conference panel. Pinellas County Administrator Steve Spratt was the opening speaker and addressed best practices in local government. Conference attendees braved the smoke from the fires that consumed the state to hear top notch presentations on performance measures, program evaluation, ethics, the housing crisis, health care, collaborations between academia and practitioners, and succession planning. Dr. Steve Liebowitz, of Wisdom at Work, conducted a customer service workshop. The closing forum was Collaborative Communication to Engage the Public; panel members included communications directors from surrounding cities. Plans are already in the works for next year's conference so mark your calendars for May 2, 2008.



Conference goers listen in at one of the many informative educational sessions.

ANNUAL EASTER BASKET DRIVE

By Jaime Ceballo



As a continued tradition, the Annual Easter Basket Drive was a success. Over 60 baskets were collected and delivered to disadvantaged children in our community. In partnership with the West Kendall Baptist Church and the Miami Children's Hospital Early Intervention program, our ASPA chapter made Easter wishes come true for these lucky children. Mr. Jaime Ceballo and Mary Lou Bobes visited the Children's Home on April 6, 2007 where over 30 baskets were received with open arms. The children who are in foster care or awaiting adoption welcomed the members and were thrilled to receive the

baskets. Next, they visited the Miami Children's Hospital South Dade Center where the remaining baskets were distributed to Early Intervention Program families and sick children at the hospital. These baskets brought smiles and happiness to needy children in our community. Special thanks to our friends Dr. George Bailey of Country Club Animal Hospital as well as the staff at Miami Dade Parks and Recreation and Mr. Bill Solomon, who were instrumental in assembling the beautiful baskets donated.



South Florida Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration

29525 SW 182 Avenue
Homestead, FL 33030

Phone: 786-243-9294
Fax: 305-372-6130
rdearrig@bellsouth.net

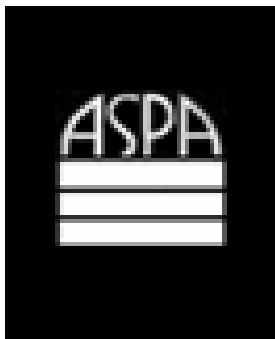
We're on the Web!
www.aspaonline.org/southfla/

*Advancing Excellence
in Public Service*



Thank You for Your Support

"The American Society for Public Administration is the professional home for more than 9,000 PA practitioners, academics and students with its South Florida Chapter consisting of 167 members strong and growing."



WHAT IS ASPA?

The American Society for Public Administration is the professional home for more than 9,000 PA practitioners, academics and students with its South Florida Chapter consisting of 167 members strong and growing. The Chapter embraces the society's original concept in finding ways of assisting its members to work better in their profession under the auspices of the national founder. ASPA was established 65 years ago to professionalize public service, to keep members on the cutting edge of good government, and to help answer the enduring question of how to make a government work better.

Over the years the Society has played a major role in achieving these ends. The society is a non-for profit internationally recognized Society committed to excellence in public service. ASPA provides its membership with education, research, technical assistance and networking opportunities between academics and practitioners. ASPA's Mission is to advance excellence in public service. The Chapter's mission is to enhance public administration, promote the profession and preserve the public trust by providing expertise, direction, and leadership for all its members and other stakeholders.

10 GREAT REASONS TO JOIN ASPA

Public Administration Review

As a member you will enjoy a one year subscription to PAR, the top journal in public administration for more than 50 years. A crucial tool for public administrators, academics, and students alike, PAR helps members stay current on topics important to administrators.

PA Times

You will also enjoy a one-year subscription to ASPA's monthly newspaper, the PA Times. Focusing on concerns of public administrators and highlighting best practices in the field, PA Times contains news you can use. PA Times also contains The Recruiter, a special classified section listing diverse employment opportunities in the public administration field.

Local Chapter Membership

The heart and soul of ASPA, local chapters provide public administrators the opportunity to meet and network with others in their area. As a chapter member you will have the opportunity to attend informative lectures, conferences, and seminars, as well as participate in networking luncheons and award banquets. Most importantly, regular chapter meetings help keep members up-to-date on the happenings in their local community.

Section Membership

ASPA has 20 special interest sections for members, including many that offer outstanding scholarly journals and newsletters that help keep members current in specialized fields.

Online Community

The members-only community includes a career center, special interest message boards, scheduled chats with prominent professionals in the field, and a permanent forwarding e-mail address. It allows ASPA members to conference and network across the country and the world.

Conferences

As a member, you will have the opportunity to attend National and Regional Conferences where experts converge from all levels and fields of public administration to discuss the trends and issues and share other valuable information.

Center for Accountability & Performance

A special resource for members interested in performance measurement and managing for results, ASPA's Center for Accountability and Performance offers case studies, workshops, workbooks, symposia and other educational and training opportunities to help members acquire the knowl-

edge they need to improve program performance.

Volunteer & Networking Opportunities

ASPA offers countless opportunities to volunteer in the both the organization and the field of public administration in general. Volunteering can be done on a local, regional, or national level, and offers networking opportunities, adds to experience and exposure in the field, and helps to bolster resumes. Participation in all that ASPA has to offer exposes one to a vast network of public administration professionals. ASPA members use this network to draw on experience, best practices, mentoring, and a host of other professional and personal needs.

Group Insurance Rates

Members may participate in special group discount rates on Health, Disability, Life, Dental and Legal Insurance.

Advancing Excellence in Public Administration

For many, the best reason to join is to support the only generalist organization in the field. By doing so, members play a powerful role in advancing the science and art of public administration.