



American Society of Public Administration
Evergreen Chapter
Winter 2007 Newsletter

President's Corner – Opportunities and Challenges

By Gary Walker

BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS, the holiday season will have passed and a new year will have begun. I hope that your holiday season was a joyous one, filled with good memories and shared with loved ones.

This holiday season will be memorable in another way as well. The horrific windstorm that struck the Pacific Northwest left a lot of destruction in its path and saddened the holidays for countless families. I offer my thanks, along with untold others, to the public administrators who were responsible for helping our beautiful region to recover from the immediate crisis and those still working to help those families and individuals still suffering.

As is traditional for this time of year, this is time for reflection on the past year and preparing for the coming one. Each of us should take some time to reflect on our personal triumphs and successes in 2006. Rejoice in those events no matter how great or small they were. Look back over the contributions that you have made to improve the lives of others. Recognize how much a difference you have made. Lastly, take a few moments to just be thankful.

We should also take a few moments to reflect on things that didn't go well personally and professionally in 2006. Without spending a lot of time dwelling on those shortcomings, they do provide us with an opportunity to learn and grow so that we don't repeat past mistakes.

As part of this reflection, remember those who have passed from us. As long as we remember, they cannot be forgotten. Also, be thankful for the new people who have entered our lives. Our lives are much richer for what they have brought in to it.

As the New Year approaches, we should be prepared for the opportunities and challenges 2007 will present. Lacking the proverbial crystal ball, we cannot always know what those opportunities and challenges will be. We should approach 2007 with a sense of optimism and hope, expecting to make a positive difference. This is a time to renew ourselves, reinvigorate our dedication to public service, and refresh our bodies, spirits, and minds for what lays ahead.

As part of this preparation, we should ask ourselves several questions. First, how can I make a positive difference as a public servant in the lives of others and in the community where I live? Second, how can I help my organization make a positive difference in lives of others or in the community it serves? Like all of us, when 2007 comes to an end and I look back over it, I want to feel that what I did mattered.

In working to make a positive difference, we do not do so in a vacuum. We do it in partnership with co-workers, other organizations, and the citizens we serve. How do we engage those whom

we serve? Civic engagement is never a simple affair, ask anyone who has organized a public hearing. As much work as civic engagement is, it is vital to what we do. Helping to build or rebuild the social capital is vital and will be an on-going task. On a side note, Robert Putnam's book *Bowling Alone* is a great book on this topic and one I would recommend to everyone.

In closing, I hope that everyone has a great 2007 and thanks for all you do on behalf of our citizens and our communities. They are much better for your efforts.

Election Recap

By Wendy Ekren

FORMER SEATTLE MAYOR NORM RICE, a Distinguished Practitioner in Residence currently serving as head of the Civil Engagement in the 21st Century Project at the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs, moderated the Chapter's annual Post-Election event at the University of Washington's Parrington Hall, on Tuesday, November 14, 2006. The well-attended event was taped by TVW for future airings.

The program, *Election Results and Implications*, focused on local, state and national election contests and were discussed by the panelists Christian Siderman, Political Consultant, Northwest Passage; Bryan Jones, Ph.D., Director Political Science Department, University of Washington; Todd Myers, Political Consultant, Todd Myers Communications; and Andrew Thibault, Pollster, Evans McDonough Company.

Thanks and appreciation is owed to co-sponsors The Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs and the Evans School Student Organization for contributing to the event.

The Chapter especially thanks the hard working Event Planning Committee Board members Wendy Ekern, Todd Haskins and Nick Peyton. Their time and talent made the event successful.

2007 ASPA National Conference

By Nick Peyton

PLANNING A NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN YOUR FREE TIME is something that I would not advise. I know this from personal experience. I was a board member for a growing nonprofit - a nonprofit without a staff. And I helped plan a national conference here in Seattle in November. It went very well and I have a newfound respect for conference planners. The reason I bring this up is that ASPA's 2007 National Conference is right around the corner.

This annual conference titled *Monumental Possibilities – Capitalizing on Collaboration* will be held March 23 – 27 in Washington D.C. This conference is known as the most comprehensive public administration conference of the year. Hundreds of public service experts will offer creative and innovative solutions to the problems we face everyday. There are plenty of professional development opportunities and special events. For more information on the sessions and the cost of the conference, please check out ASPA's website at <http://www.aspanet.org>.

Budget Update

By Brian Estes

Below is the 2005-2006 ASPA Evergreen Chapter Year End Budget

Expenses

Meetings		\$3,049.51
Ethics	\$1,938.43	
Women's event	\$1,111.08	
Awards		\$366.00
Printing		\$25.00
Postage		\$7.80
Misc.		\$478.74
Chap support of Nat candidate	\$250.00	
Student memberships	\$190.00	
Other	\$38.74	
Total		<u>\$3,927.05</u>

Revenues

Chapter Rebate (2)		\$1,470.00
8/05 - \$804		
3/06- \$666		
Meetings		\$3,487.00
Ethics	\$2,057.00	
Women's event	\$1,430.00	
Misc		\$75.00
Interest		\$5.43
Total		<u>\$5,037.43</u>

Open Board Position!

AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY IS NOW AVAILABLE. The ASPA Evergreen Chapter has an open Board of Director's Position. Responsibilities include helping in the governing decisions of the Chapter, participating in event planning and attending monthly meetings. We are looking for someone to take an active role and come with fresh ideas. If you are interested in being a Board member, please email your resume and a short statement on why you want to serve to Gary Walker at Walkersolympia@aol.com. Reminder – you have to be a current ASPA member to serve on the board.

Upcoming Events

Hunger Action Days in Olympia

January 22 & 23, 2007

Location: **Jan. 22** - Olympia, WA, Third floor of the Legislative Building (Capitol Building), **Jan 23** – Olympia, WA, First Floor of the Legislative Building, Senate Rules Room (Capitol Building).

Make your voice heard by scheduling visits now to meet with your lawmakers on either January 22 or January 23. If you would like assistance scheduling appointments or coordinating with

others in your district, please contact **Kelsey Beck**, Food Lifeline's Public Policy Advocate, at KelseyB@fll.org, or 206-545-6600. Can't make it Olympia? Participate in a virtual Hunger Action Day! Contact **Linda Stone** at Linda@childrensalliance.org to receive information on easy ways to call or email your legislators on these days.

Current Board Members

Gary Walker – President
walkersolympia@aol.com
Term expires 6-30-08

Mary Van Verst – Immediate Past President
vanverst@comcast.net
Term expires 6-30-07

David Broom
dcbroom@comcast.net
Term expires 6-30-07

Wendy Ekern
eee8@u.washington.edu
Term expires 6-30-08

R. Peggy Smith, Secretary
rpps2u@aol.com
Term expires 6-30-08

Brian Estes – Treasurer/Finance
estesb@gao.gov
Term expires 6-30-07

Andrew Franz
franza@seattleu.edu
Term expires 6-30-08

Jim Dick
jgdline@yahoo.com
Term expires 6-30-08

Monica McCallum
momicajoy@gmail.com
Term expires 6-30-07 SU student

J Paul Blake – President Elect/Programs
jpaul.blake@seattle.gov
Term expires 6-30-08

Scott Haskins
scott.haskins@seattle.gov
Term expires 6-30-08

Fran Kwak
kwakfran@yahooo.com
Term expires 6-30-08

Steve Benowitz
stevebenowitz@comcast.net
Term expires 6-30-08

Nick Peyton – Newsletter Ed./Membership
npeyton@u.washington.edu
Term expires 6-30-08

Todd Haskins – Webmaster
toddhaskins82@hotmail.com
Term expires 6-30-07 UW Student

Stephanie Carlson
carlsos2@yahoo.com
Term expires 6-30-08

Alan Lloyd
mulloyd@juno.com
Term expires 6-30-07 TESC student

Gwendolyn Voelpel
gmkope@comcast.net
Term expires 6-30-08