

The Upstate Planner

Making Great Communities Happen

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Issue 1

President's Message

By Mike Long, AICP, RLA

This is the New York Upstate Chapter APA issue where each of the Executive Committee Members gives an annual report. These are published in the newsletter, which is our primary means of communication with our members. Generally speaking, if we don't hear that there is a problem, and that everything is running smoothly, we assume that things are all right. We ask for your patience and assistance as we begin the new year.

Next year we hope to have an expanded "Certification Maintenance" program for our AICP members. As you should have heard by now, all of the AICP members need to meet educational requirements.

This year, we also anticipate getting some professional assistance staffing our organization. There is only so much a volunteer can do. We are experiencing growing pains in the form of increased membership (primarily due to the reduced costs to students) and the conferences continue to get larger. We now are nearing the 800 members mark and are one of the mid-sized APA Chapters across the country.

Don't forget to update your addresses, especially your e-mail address, with the APA. Twenty percent of our members have old information on file. We continue to use the e-mail as a source of getting the word out about upcoming events and programs of interest to the membership.

Thanks for your continued support.

Long is the Director of Capital Projects for the City of Auburn.

Erie Canalway takes top APA national award

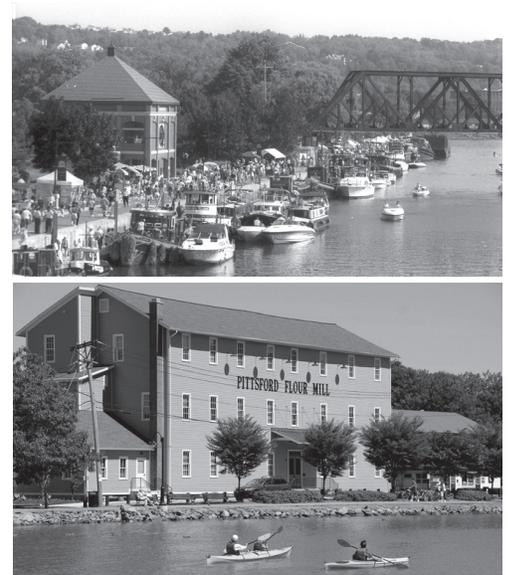
by Jean Mackay and Denny Johnson

The American Planning Association (APA) has named the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Preservation and Management Plan recipient of the 2008 Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan, the organization's top national planning award. The plan honors the Erie Canalway, considered by many as the most historically significant and influential canal system in the United States.

The plan goes beyond preserving the canal system as an early 19th century engineering marvel and critical transportation network. It provides a model for weaving history into economic development strategies.

APA's most prestigious award is named after America's most famous planner, Daniel Burnham, who developed the 1909 Burnham Plan for Chicago. Similar to Burnham's ideas, the Erie Canalway plan reflects its 27-member federal commission's belief in the value of thinking big.

See Canalway, continued on page 6



The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor's award-winning plan includes implementation strategies designed to ensure that economic growth and heritage development are balanced and self-sustaining. (Photos: Erie Canalway NHC)

Shared Services Soar in Chemung County

By J. Justin Woods

The New Year has arrived and with it comes the deadline for Elmira area communities to comply with the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System regulations. This compliance turns out to be just one example of Chemung County's cutting edge intermunicipal agreements and shared services.

The 12-member Chemung County Stormwater Coalition has been working with the water resource staff from the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board, Chemung County Soil & Water District, and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chemung County to develop Stormwater Phase II construction regulations as a countywide strategy. A proposal to provide these services has received support from many of the municipalities and the county, many of which have already budgeted for the agreement. This is only one of the recent intermunicipal

pal successes.

While the Spitzer Administration should be commended for marshaling the state's resources and competitive grants in support of shared service initiatives, Chemung County and its municipalities have been doing this for years. The county created a Shared Services Task Force over three years ago. Since its inception, the task force reviewed many service delivery systems and found ways for local governments to work together - not only saving money, but delivering better and more efficient services to residents, business owners and visitors. Chemung County Executive Tom Santulli, Elmira Mayor John Tonello, Big Flats Supervisor Mary Ann Balland and Horseheads Supervisor Michael Edwards have led the effort.

The Shared Services Task Force surveyed the municipal highway departments regarding operations and led to the creation of the

See Shared Services, continued on page 4

Smart growth director outlines first year priorities



New York's new Smart Growth director plans to use incentives and technical assistance to promote bottom up planning. However, Paul Beyer is spending his first few months on the road getting an understanding of smart growth across the state. "I'm learning what smart growth means to different communities," he told planners at a Capital District luncheon in Colonie in February. "In some communities, smart growth doesn't mean a heck of a lot."

Beyer, whose official title is New York State Director for Smart Growth Planning, admits that he is not a trained planner. His background in land use comes from five years on the planning board in Town of Amherst. He also served on the board of directors of the Partners for a Livable Western New York, a smart growth / new urbanist advocacy group based in Buffalo.

In addition to discerning shades of smart growth, Beyer outlined three priorities for his first year in the newly created post. These are:

- Understand smart growth definitions across the state.
- Draft a package of smart growth policy initiatives for Governor Spitzer.
- Ensure that state agencies become models of smart growth behavior.

Beyer also coordinates the governor's Smart Growth Cabinet, which consists of department heads and is committed to bringing state policies into line with Smart Growth principles. "I call them the smart growth dream team," he says.

Planning in New York will remain under local control, says Byer. He says the state will offer communities smart growth incentives and technical assistance. "Where we are welcome, we will help. Where we aren't, we won't."

Help Shape Planning in New York State

During his talk, Paul Beyer explained that one goal for his first year on the job is to put together a package of Smart Growth initiatives. He said that planners, on a regional basis, could help.

Planners in the Capital District section have decided to put together a short white paper of initiatives to recommend to Beyer. This paper will contain priorities for the region as

well as reasoning behind the importance of each one.

The planners will dedicate their March luncheon, to be held in Saratoga Springs, to a workshop where planners can work together to develop the initiatives. Capital District planners should keep an eye out for the date, time and location of the workshop.



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New kind of suburbanism strikes urban residential areas

Thousands of residents rode out the disinvestment in cities across the Midwest and Northeast. As their neighborhoods emptied out, these urban holdouts became pioneers of new suburbanism – the thinning of formerly dense neighborhoods. Daniel D’Oca studied this inner city phenomenon. D’Oca is a partner with Interboro Partners, a design firm based in Brooklyn and Dusseldorf, Germany. He presented his findings at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning conference in October 2007. The Upstate Planner’s George Homsy caught up with D’Oca at the conference.

Planning in a Page

UP: What is new suburbanism as you define it?

D: Homeowners who stuck it out in Detroit, through race riots and deindustrialization, are starting to spread out and take over parcels that other people have abandoned. We refer to these bigger lots as “blots.” New suburbanism refers to the cumulative effect of thousands of instances of blot making.

In other words if everyone keeps doing this, if property owners keep accumulating vacant lots next to their homes, then there is going to be many fewer lots in the city because you’ll have bigger lots. That’s new suburbanism because you’ll have a less dense city with larger, more irregularly shaped lots than the 3500-foot lot that is the basic building block of Detroit.

UP: How is this starting to look on the ground in Detroit?

D: You can see, for example, when someone fences off six



This Detroit homeowner originally had a 30-foot by 135-foot lot. He bought the vacant lot next door and built a fence around his land and a city-owned lot next door. The new suburban scale house now features a garage for a pickup truck, extra first floor bedroom and a backyard playset. (Photo: Interboro Partners)

lots with a 180-foot long fence. You see a wheelchair ramp that sticks out two lots to the side or a swimming pool or something like that. It’s little things that suggest that a vacant lot is affiliated with the house next door. Sometimes they have the same color fence, Sometimes they’ll paint all the rocks blue. You see all these unifying elements.

UP: How did you realize this was happening?

D: We were just driving around and said, hey, there is a lot of vacant land here. Look at how much of it seems to be affli-

See D’Orca, continued on page 7

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Cutting edge municipal deals in Chemung County

Shared Services, continued from page 1

Highway Services Board in March of 2007. The board, represented by seven town and village highway supervisors and public works commissioners, is exploring opportunities for sharing resources.

"The representatives on this Board have made a commitment to come together and perform a thorough review of everything we do in common, from snow plowing to the purchasing of equipment and supplies, and everything in between, and to look for areas where we can coordinate these services. Our goal is simple, to provide better services to the community in the most cost effective manner," said County Executive Tom Santulli.

Discussions have included single source purchasing, county-wide road construction, a countywide snow removal plan, centralized motor pool and a countywide engineering department. The ultimate goal is to develop a comprehensive road program resulting in a more efficient and cost effective service delivery system and the project has already resulted in even more cooperation among municipalities within the county.

Horseheads Supervisor Michael Edwards, added, "If there is a better way to provide services and save tax-payer dollars we owe it to our constituents to look at the possibilities. Agreeing to come together and have these conversations is the first step."

Recently, the City of Elmira joined the cooperative group. Last month, local officials at the county and city approved a shared agreement involving public works, information technology and tax collection. Under the measure, the City Director of Public Services, Andy Avery, PE, will also oversee the county's

public works department. The city's internet system administrator will work with the county giving Elmira access to more of the county's technical data. Also, the county will handle tax collections and delinquent tax actions for the city.

"The city and county have been working together for years, but this arrangement takes it to a whole new level. I'm very excited about the opportunity to maximize the efficiency of our employees and equipment while minimizing the size of our administration. It should be a great challenge and I think we're up to it," said Avery.

Elmira Mayor John Tonello added, "The highway agreement is the biggest shared service since 911 centralized emergency calling and dispatch over ten years ago. The important thing to remember is that we have a number of agreements, not just with the county, but with Southport, Elmira Heights and other agencies. We've evaluated each one to make sure that they stand on their own merits and we believe firmly that we can overcome any political differences as long as the financial aspects of these agreements make sense for everyone."

Previous shared service successes between Elmira and Chemung County include civil service, purchasing, emergency management, training, school resource officers, and youth recreation programs. In 2006, the City and County combined their purchasing departments and the county hopes additional municipalities will become part of this shared service. Other regional opportunities being explored include shared services for local

See Shared Services, continued on page 5



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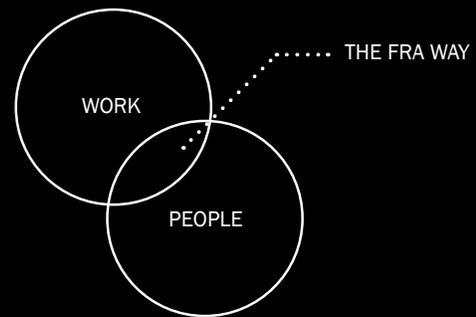
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Chemung County

Shared Services, continued from page 4

police agencies, fire services, and communication systems.

In addition to these regional initiatives, local communities are getting involved in their own partnerships. The Towns of Big Flats, Horseheads, Southport and the Village of Horseheads worked together to develop a consistent approach to vacant and/or blighted structures. The Towns of Big Flats and Horseheads have passed almost identical laws and are waiting for the other communities to form a regional Vacant Structures/Anti-Blight Commission to administer the law. Until that time, the individual town boards will serve as each town's commission. The Towns of Big Flats and Horseheads are also finalizing an agreement to merge their code offices under the leadership of Code Enforcement Officer Tom Skebey. Under the arrangement, the code enforcement officer will have authority to issue permits and conduct code enforcement in both communities.

Big Flats Town Supervisor Mary Ann Balland said, "Pooling resources is never a bad idea. We have two brand new code officers and we see this as an excellent way to enhance their development by providing a mentor with over 20 years of experience. As we integrate the offices, we'll also continue the work from the stormwater and vacant structure laws by revising our fee schedules and property maintenance codes to align with Horseheads codes so the same rules apply on both sides of the street."

There has been a lot of talk about shared services across the state this past year. The accomplishments, and sometimes setbacks, of Chemung County provide a road map to the consensus building necessary to achieve this kind of change. Growing pains are inevitable, but the fact these discussions have taken place and political leaders from both parties at the state, county and lo-

Family friendly survey

Researchers at Cornell University, in partnership with the American Planning Association, have put together a survey to measure the factors that go into a family friendly community. The survey seeks to measure how planners can support family friendly communities, especially families with children.

Family friendly communities are those where families enjoy housing at affordable prices, child care, parks to play in, pedestrian pathways, quality public schools, and safe neighborhoods, among many other potential features that promote family well-being.

Every planner completing the survey is entered into a drawing for prizes awarded by the APA:

- 1 Grand Prize: iPod Nano, valued at \$250
- 10 Runners Up: \$25 APA PlanningBooks.com Gift Certificate

A link to the online survey was distributed via APA's Interact. To have the link emailed to you or if you have any questions, contact Carrie Fesperman at the American Planning Association. Her email is cfesperman@planning.org.

cal levels are working together to implement these changes is a positive sign.

J. Justin Woods is the Director of Planning in Big Flats, New York. He founded and administers the New York Upstate Planners email list. To join the planning discussion on-line, email him at jwoods@bigflatsny.gov or follow the directions to subscribe to the Planners List at <http://www.nyupstateplanning.org/NYUpstatePlannersList.pdf>

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Canalway plan: “resounding proof” in strength of regional cooperation

Canalway, continued from page 1

“The ambitious Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Preservation and Management Plan is an innovative approach to preserving the cultural and historic treasures of yesterday’s working canal system as well as energizing and enhancing the strength of the communities it connects today and tomorrow,” said 2008 National Planning Awards Jury Chairperson Carol Rhea, AICP. “The plan provides a much needed model for others involved in the growing trend of heritage tourism and historic resources preservation.”

The size of the Corridor – 4,834 square miles across 23 counties, eight regional planning boards, and six New York State tourism regions – demanded a collaborative approach that pushed beyond previous planning efforts. Most significantly, the plan focused on cross-jurisdictional partnerships that bind the mutual interests of regional economic revitalization and heritage asset enhancement. The Canalway provides a common link that threads 234 communities together. The plan brings new clarity, vision, and energy to preserve and build upon the best of what the corridor offers.

Heritage as a Foundation

The Canalway’s nationally-significant heritage serves as the plan’s foundation, which covers six areas: preserving historic and cultural resources, conserving natural resources, promoting recreation, interpreting the stories of the Canalway, developing heritage tourism, and economic revitalization. Rather than a physical plan detailing infrastructure or building projects to be undertaken, the Canalway plan offers guidance to the commission and its partners in creating comprehensive regional policies and acting to achieve the corridor’s full potential.

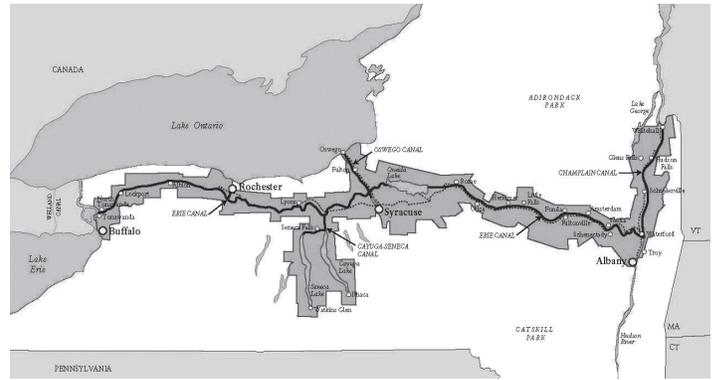
“This plan is resounding proof,” said Palmyra, New York, Mayor Vicky Daly, that “together we can do so much more than any of us can do alone.” Plan implementation is anticipated to leverage both new development and adaptive reuse of waterfronts, town centers, parks, and other locations that combine historic, natural, and recreational resources.

Next Steps

With plan in hand, Erie Canalway’s Commission and staff are already taking steps to implement its recommendations. Much of their work to date has been to implement “essential program ac-

What Upstate NY Planners Can Do to Support Heritage Development in the Erie Canalway

- Support the goals of Erie Canalway Plan. Contact Rosemary Button at rosemary_button@partner.nps.gov or call (518) 237-7000, ext. 207 for a copy.
- Include heritage development in comprehensive plans.
- Help public officials and the general public look at the big picture: how can historic, cultural, and natural assets and economic development become mutually supportive and sustaining?
- Support cross-border planning efforts within the corridor.
- Participate in Canalway projects and programs.
- Stay informed by signing up to receive Erie Canalway’s free quarterly electronic newsletter at www.eriecanalway.org.



The Canalway plan demanded a collaborative approach across 4,834 square miles encompassing 23 counties, eight regional planning boards, six state tourism regions and 234 communities.

tions” outlined in the plan, including hiring staff, establishing a fundraising foundation and formalizing partnerships.

The organization is also pressing ahead with many of the plan’s “enhanced” and “ideal” program actions. For instance, the commission has initiated a corridor-wide road signage program, launched a grants program and hosted a signature canal-wide event—the 2007 Grand Canal Journey of the Lois McClure, a replica 1862 canal schooner. The 1,000-mile voyage attracted more than 30,000 visitors and catalyzed events including concerts, lectures, and heritage festivals at 28 ports-of-call last summer.

Numerous projects are underway in 2008. The Erie Canalway is working with several communities to install interpretive signs, partnering with organizations to co-host heritage-themed and recreational events and working with state and municipal partners to preserve significant historic resources. The organization also will be conducting an economic impact analysis of heritage tourism and other heritage development activities within the Corridor. With so much to do, the plan is an essential guide for prioritizing projects and achieving program goals.

“The plan reflects the tremendous energy and enthusiasm demonstrated all along the Canalway Corridor to draw upon our past and bring forth the best of what we can be,” said Eric Mower, Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission Chairman. “We’re proud to accept the APA award on behalf of the many people who are working diligently with us to enhance and celebrate the Erie Canalway for all to use and enjoy.”

Jean Mackay serves as Director of Communications and Outreach for the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. Denny Johnson is Public Affairs Coordinator for the American Planning Association.

Editor’s Note

In 2006, the Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association recognized the National Heritage Corridor Preservation and Management Plan with the Outstanding Planning Award for a Regionally Based Plan. The award was given at the 2006 chapter conference in Auburn. Representatives involved with the Canalway Plan will receive their award at a luncheon ceremony April 30 during APA’s National Planning Conference. For a list of all 2008 National Planning Excellence, Achievement, and Leadership Award recipients, visit www.planning.org/awards/2008winners.htm.

Empty lots to blots to new suburbanism

D'Oca, continued from page 3

ated with the house next door. We just kept taking picture after picture after picture. And then when we got back to the office and started looking at the property records. We researched the history and realized that these properties have been bought by these adjacent homeowners.

UP: Is this something you studied in other places?

D: We looked at it in Philadelphia and there is not as much of it happening. One of the things we've been trying to figure out is why. Philadelphia has a different housing stock, we think that has something to do with it. In Detroit there is even less demand for these lots than in Philadelphia. There is something about the single family topology in Detroit that is congenial to blot making. It's easier to expand your house into a vacant lot - and there is just a lot more vacant land in Detroit.

UP: Is it because people really do like living in the suburbs or is it more they see an abandoned lot and if they don't do anything to get it, it'll fill up with tires and things like that?

D: I don't think that people really think about it. People don't say to themselves that they'd rather live in the suburbs. It's more that there is this vacant lot next door that no one is using and they have, you know, a mother in a wheelchair and they just put the wheelchair ramp into the adjacent lot. Where there is space, people will take it.

UP: Do you think it is going to be healthy for declining cities?

D: That's a good question. I don't really know that the implications will be. It could be a disaster. It could be that property values stay the same. The city council in Detroit was against the idea of a land bank to facilitate the sale of vacant lots because they thought that it would gentrify the city and displace people.

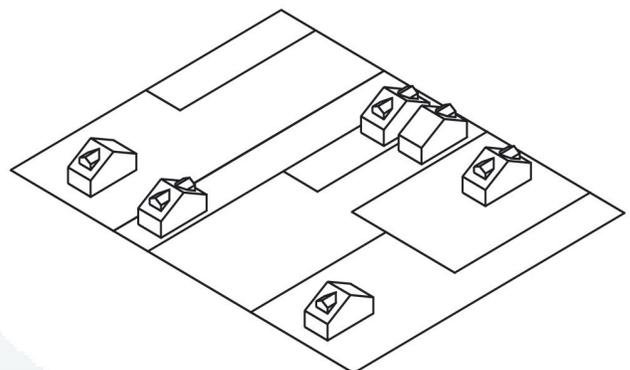
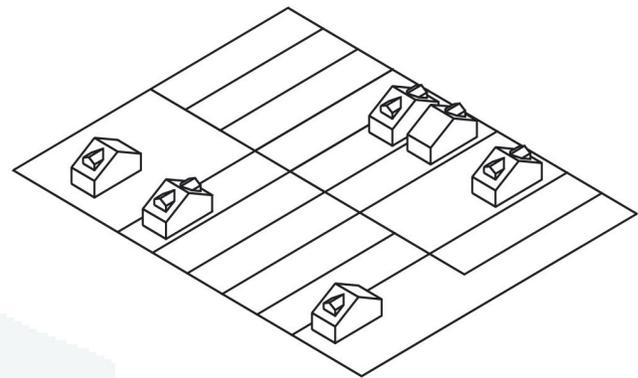
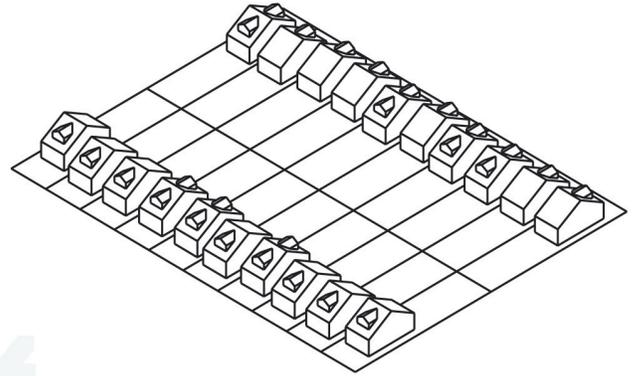
UP: What would be the positive about something like this?

D: Just look at how it has benefited individuals who re-oriented their homes, who have better lots, who have gardens, who have wheelchair ramps and who have done these amazing things with their house.

The larger effect for the city could be good. The 30 by 100 foot lot is not very well suited for so many things and we can imagine in a city where the DNA has changed, it's more likely that you're going to attract different kinds of investment, different people who want to build a home on a much larger lot.

UP: Does that tend to break down community, because as we spread out you can't walk by other people's houses, you're not keeping the eyes on the street?

D: It's possible. Again we have to rethink what community is and whether urbanity is synonymous with density. We have to think of a new kind of urbanity that is less dense. That's possible, but we don't know what that looks like yet. It's something that our generation has to think about; the fact that Detroit is not going to be a big dense city.



Over time (top to bottom) vacant lots in some dense Detroit neighborhoods get purchased by neighbors - creating suburbia within the city.

G: In places like upstate New York, what would you advise planners to be looking for in shrinking areas?

D: I would definitely encourage people to see if this is happening in these places. And I would also pay a lot of attention to Youngstown, Ohio which is basically interested in smart downsizing, what the New York Times called "creative shrinking." I think that there are very bold moves to accept shrinkage, to not always assume that planners have to deal with growth that sometimes there is downsizing, there is shrinkage, that we should not always be looking to boost our population.

President's Report

Michael Long AICP, RLA

This past year was another active year for the New York Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association. Our Chapter Executive Board is made up of volunteers. I want to thank each and everyone of them. Their tireless gift of time to our organization is commendable. Where else can you get someone several times a year to drive across the State of New York, or better yet from Canada to help make our organization better than it was before.

I represent the Chapter at the National APA as a member of the Chapter President's Council. There are 43 chapters across the United States, and we gather twice a year to discuss APA issues and receive training, etc. Last year, I attended the April meetings in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The biggest issue is the new certification maintenance requirement for AICP members. While everyone agrees that continuing education is good for professionals, the issue is how to efficiently deliver this to the general membership. APA requires the chapter to become registered (with a financial charge) to deliver these programs. Our chapter is developing various programs to meet this new requirement. The upshot is that more AICP members will want to attend the chapter conference. Remember to keep track of the sessions you attend.

This past year, Binghamton hosted the fall conference. As a walkable city, the committee did a great job getting us into the community to see what is going on. The "Binghamton Bucks" was a great way to encourage us to visit local restaurants and walk along the River Walk. This fall we will be in Rochester.

The Executive Committee is finalizing a description of duties for support staff. With certification maintenance requirements, it is unlikely that we could get everything done through volunteer efforts. We have been very cautious and have significant funds to support this new venture.

We have made much progress over the last few years and are always looking for volunteers to help. If there are things that we can do better, please let us know. Have the electronic messages been helpful? Check out our web site at www.nyupstateplanning.org.

Vice-President's Report

Judy Breselor AICP

The role of Vice President has been to support the Chapter President and work with other officers on the issues facing planners in Upstate New York. Having completed my first full year I realize that all of the volunteers working on the chapter board have worked diligently on so many issues that impact all of us. 2007 started off with new mandates for those serving on Planning and Zoning Boards; in 2006 legislation was passed requiring all members of those boards to complete a minimum of four hours of training per year and it became effective in January '07. This training is relatively easy to acquire and offered through many venues.

Following on the heels of planning and zoning board mandates, APA and the AICP Commission passed new requirements to receive continued training for all of its AICP members. I attended the Philadelphia conference in April 2007 and became aware of the new process, which requires members to gain CM credit in order to maintain their AICP membership. I participated in an extensive question and answer period in an effort to work with our PDO and chapter board to deliver the message to our membership.

Additionally, I served on national's Legislative Policy Committee and helped to deliver policy guides to our board for adoption at the conference. These guides are excellent references for our members and can be found on the APA national website. As the guides are developed they are delivered to our board for discussion, correction and anticipated adoption. Eve Holberg and Gary Palumbo represented the board and were instrumental in the adoption of the 2007 policy guides at the Philadelphia conference.

As the Chapter Vice President I sit on the board of the New York Planning Federation. I attended three board meetings last year and reported on the activities of our membership. We anticipate developing some joint programs in the future.

Each and every year the Chapter Vice President has the responsibility of developing the chapter planning awards given out at our annual conference. For several years Rocky Ferraro has chaired this program; I was fortunate that Rocky volunteered to continue his dedication to this program and both Rocky and myself served as co-chairs of this great program. The chapter fully supports all of the award winners as their plans are forwarded to national for anticipated recognition (please see the Treasurer's report for a full description of all the award winners).

Treasurer's Report

Rocky Ferraro AICP

The Chapter operated on a \$24,000 budget during 2007. Actual expenses totaled \$16,930.40 and revenue was \$22,966.64. The revenue includes \$370 in contributions for the Mike Krasner Scholarship fund which are restricted to the Scholarship fund. The major expenditures during 2007 included the Section Rebates (\$5,149), Chapter newsletter (\$4,653.68), the Mike Krasner Scholarship Award (\$1,500), expenses associated with attendance at the National APA Delegate assembly (\$1,000) and the submittal of the necessary Federal and State tax and audit forms (\$900).

The primary source of revenue was the AICP and APA Rebates from National totaling \$15,900.15, which is slightly more than the amount received in 2006. Other revenue sources included advertisements in the newsletter (\$3,300) and interest earnings (\$2,063.28). The Chapter share of the conference proceeds held in Binghamton amounted to \$128.21.

The Section rebates, based on the number of members by type, were distributed to the Sections for the following amounts: Capital District: \$1,694; Central NY: \$584; Genesee/Finger Lakes: \$711; Southern Tier: \$626; and Western NY: \$1,534.

Unaudited chapter assets at the end of 2007 included Cash in the Bank of \$47,162.19 and Receivables totaling \$128.21 which represents the conference proceeds due from the Southern Tier Section. There are no outstanding payables. The Fund Balance is \$47,290.40, of which \$6,712 is restricted and dedicated to the Mike Krasner Scholarship Fund. As a result of contributions and expenses during 2007, the Krasner Scholarship fund balance decreased from \$7,842 to \$6,712. A \$1,500 scholarship is awarded annually to a Graduate Planning student at SUNY-Buffalo in Mike's memory.

If anyone has any questions or would like a copy of the 2007 Budget and/or the 2007 Actual Revenues and Expenses, please contact me at rocky@cdrpc.org, or call (518) 453-0850.

Annual Reports

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Membership Officer's Report Eve Holberg AICP

Chapter Membership, December 31, 2007

During the first quarter of 2007 our chapter had 771 members. We ended the year with 15 fewer members. It is not unusual for our low quarters to be the first and last. During the second and third quarters of the year, our membership tends to spike. Much of this is due to the annual influx of students from our Planning Accreditation Board-accredited programs at Cornell University (Southern Tier section), SUNY Albany (Capital District) and the University at Buffalo (Western New York). We also have student members from SUNY College at Buffalo (Buff State) and SUNY ESF in Syracuse (Central New York Section) as well as others.

Three of our sections, Capital District, Western New York and Central New York have land borders with Canada (Genesee Finger Lakes shares a marine border with Ontario) and among these sections we have 53 Canadian members. Most (43) are in the Western New York section which includes the Greater Toronto Area. Capital District and Central New York have five Canadian members each.

Among the chapter's membership, roughly one-third maintain membership in the American Institute of Certified Planners. Central New York and Capital District each have more than 40% participation in AICP among members.

In order to retain as many memberships as possible, in the coming year – beginning with the first quarter of 2008 – we will be reaching out to members who have let their membership lapse to encourage them to renew and maintain their memberships in our organization. Your Chapter Board urges you to maintain your membership in APA and in the New York Upstate Chapter.

One of the comments we often get is that members are not hearing from their sections. This is almost always due to the fact that you moved or changed e-mail addresses and failed to update your on-line profile at plan-

Member Type	CD	CNY	GFL	SOTR	WNY	Out	Grand Total
Free Student (1 st year)	14	0	2	38	26	1	81
Lifetime	12	5	1	3	13	2	36
Nat. APA staff	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
New Planner	10	3	4	2	2	1	22
Planning Board	13	12	5	1	12	1	44
Regular	145	43	66	51	123	33	461
Retired	4	2	5	0	1	1	13
Student	28	6	7	16	37	3	97
Grand Total	226	71	90	111	214	44	756

Designation	CD	CNY	GFL	SOTR	WNY	Out	Grand Total
Regular member	130	40	55	86	149	27	487
AICP	96	30	35	24	65	16	266
FAICP	0	1	0	1	0	1	3
Grand Total	226	71	90	111	214	44	756

ning.org. We cannot complete this task for you. To log on to the secure membership area on planning.org, you will need your membership number. You can find it on your bill and also on your Planning magazine address label. If you have a membership issue that is not resolved by updating your membership profile or have a membership-related question, you can contact me at eholberg@pjscompany.com. I am happy to help if I can.

Member-at-Large's Report Gary Palumbo AICP

APA National Delegate Assembly

Eve Holberg (Membership Officer) and I represented the Chapter at the National Delegate Assembly held during the 2007 APA National Conference in Philadelphia. The Delegate Assembly is the annual APA meeting where APA policies are vetted and refined before adoption by the APA leadership. In 2007 a draft policy guide on Food System Planning was completed. In addition, the delegate assembly discussed a preliminary position paper on Global Warming; the policy guide will be completed at the 2008 conference.

Michael J. Krasner Memorial Scholarship

In 2007 the Chapter, through an ad hoc committee, awarded the fourth annual Michael J. Krasner Memorial Scholarship to a student completing the Urban and Regional Planning Program at the University of Buffalo. The 2007 recipient of the \$1,500 scholarship was Arlene Rodriguez, a native of Buffalo. Gary Palumbo, representing the Chapter Board, sits on the selection committee with Ken Swanekamp, Erie County Department of Environment and Planning and Jon Biss, University of Buffalo.

Michael J. Krasner Plaque Dedication

In 2007, the Member-at-Large coordinated the establishment of a plaque to identify and record the recipients of the Michael J. Krasner Memorial Scholarship. On August 24, 2007, I represented the Chapter Board as students, faculty and friends gathered at the University of Buffalo to dedicate the plaque. It is located in the entrance to Hayes Hall home to the Masters of Urban and Regional Planning program where Mike was an adjunct professor.

University of Buffalo, Planning Accreditation Board

Representing the Chapter Board, I participated in the Planning Accreditation Board's site visit and five-year review of the University at Buffalo's Urban and Regional Planning Program. I coordinated the preparation of a report to the PAB regarding how the APA Chapter and WNY Section interact with the UB planning program.

AICP Certification Maintenance

I sat on a Chapter Board sub-committee, which began investigating ways the Chapter Board and Sections can facilitate AICP members to gain access to credit bearing course work for the newly established Certification Maintenance program.

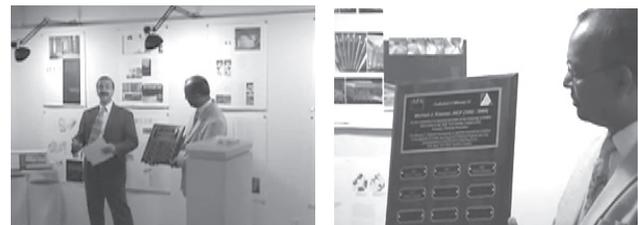
Canadian Representative's Report George McKibbin, MCIP, RPP

In the fall of 2003, I was appointed the Canadian representative on the Chapter Board in order to involve Canadian members in Upstate Chapter activities. The innovation was inspired by Mike Krasner, a graduate of the University of Toronto planning program. He had many friends in the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and the Canadian Institute of Planners.

Many Ontario planners are members of the American Planning Association and the American Institute of Certified Planners. This past year, of the 750 Upstate Chapter members, 64 were Canadian Chapter members. Of those Canadian members, 22 or one-third are AICP members. Of these AICP members, 12 or 18% of the Canadian membership are life members.

Our Canadian members are distributed among three Chapter sections. The Western New York Section includes 48 Canadians or about 20% of the 73 Section members. The Central New York Section includes eight Canadians (about 11% of the 73 Section members) while the Capitol District Section includes eight Canadians (3% of the 240 members).

The AICP Certification Maintenance programs offered by the Chapter and Sections will be especially important to Canadian members in the next two years. Throughout 2007, I have participated actively in all Board discussions, including discussions of those on continuing education programs to provide reasonable access so we can meet these important new requirements. I have also communicated with OPPI members using the Institute's e-newsletter to keep the Province of Ontario's planners informed.



Two stills from an online video of the August 2007 dedication of the Krasner Scholarship plaque at the University of Buffalo. The entire ceremony can be viewed at http://stream.buffalo.edu/sharedlarchitecture/Krasner_dedication.mov

Professional Development Officer's Report

Ellen Parker AICP

My first year as your Chapter Professional Development Officer (PDO) has been interesting. The main job of the PDO is to make sure that all APA planners maintain high professional standards. Specific elements of that role include encouraging members to become members in the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP); supporting and encouraging opportunities for continuing education, and serving as a reference for planning-related resources, such as study guides for the AICP examination. I am also a liaison between our chapter members and APA's national organization.

In 2007, this role took on a more prominent position, with the new "Certification Maintenance" (CM) policy passed at the national conference in April. Starting in January 2008, all AICP-certified planners must complete 32 credits of continuing education every two years in order to maintain their AICP credential. There has been a great deal of discussion and controversy about how this policy is being implemented and it is certainly not perfect. However, I think there is general agreement that upholding more consistent standards for continuing education benefits the professional development – and professional reputation—of our AICP-certified members and our chosen career. APA/AICP has promised to monitor its implementation and make adjustments to the program. I will continue to try to keep members informed on new policies and procedures.

All AICP planners are required to keep a personal on-line CM log of the credits you have earned. The website is www.planning.org/CM. This website has a description of the requirements, a list of upcoming CM opportunities and a link through to the web-based CM log. You are responsible for keeping track of your CM credits and for logging them on the website. Let me know if you need any assistance.

We have started outreach to a number of agencies, such as the New York Planning Federation and the NY Department of State, to encourage their participation. Also, the national APA organization is working on getting participation from organizations such as ULI and ITE. The Chapter is also exploring options through the Sections to try to make CM opportunities more accessible. Currently, the list of participating organizations is very limited, which we recognize is a major problem for our AICP members.

If you are aware of a program that you feel should be registered, please submit it to me or to APA/AICP. There is a link where such requests can be submitted on the CM website. Whether or not the provider follows through and registers, it is a good idea to make APA/AICP aware of the range of programs that planners use to further their professional development.

Director of Legislative Affairs Report

Mark Castiglione

As planners we are all advocates for wise land use decisions that result in a more sustainable future. Advancing the legislative priorities of the Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association is an extension of the work many of us do every day.

The APA provides its members with numerous resources to guide advocacy. The APA's Policy Guides provide a sound foundation that helps move toward an improved social and political environment in which planning can play its most effective role. The Policy Guides provide guidance for the Chapter as it develops its legislative priorities from year to year. For more information on the APA's Policy Guides see: www.planning.org/policyguides/

With the limited resources of the Chapter, it is challenging to advance its legislative priorities. To meet this challenge, I propose a two-pronged strategy. The first depends on leveraging existing resources of other organizations that have active advocacy campaigns and effectively advancing our priorities by tapping into the resources of these other organizations. Secondly, I hope to be able to communicate timely legislative issues to our membership so that we may collectively take action.

Goals for the upcoming year:

- Continue to be an advocate for sound planning and policy through the Upstate Chapter's seat of the NYS Commission on Rural Resources.
- Meet with key legislators to discuss the APA's legislative priorities.
- Petition for the Upstate APA to serve in an advisory capacity to the Governor's Smart Growth Cabinet.
- Increase the Upstate Chapter's network of policy advocates to leverage their resources and expertise on issues that serve to advance the legislative policy goals of the Upstate Chapter and the APA.
- Launch an effective legislative mechanism so that planners can be coordinated when important planning related bills come up for a vote.

Congratulations to the new AICP members

November 2006

- Crystal Buck, AICP, Southern Tier
- Jeremy Evans, AICP, Southern Tier
- Mark Grainer, AICP, Capital District
- George Homsy, AICP, Capital District
- Nadine Marrero, AICP, Western New York
- Sreekumar Nampoothiri, AICP, Capital District
- Jason Paananen, AICP, Western New York
- Jason Purvis, AICP, Capital District
- Darren Scott, AICP, Capital District
- William Zahm, AICP, Western New York

May 2007

- Wendy DaCosta, AICP, Western New York
- Joelle Guy, AICP, Western New York
- Marybeth Pettit, AICP, Capital District
- Christopher Round, AICP, Capital District

In May 2007, six planners sat for the AICP examination and four passed, a pass rate of 67% , which matched the national rate. In November 2006, an amazing 10 out of the 11 planners from Upstate New York passed - a 91% pass rate, compared to 66% nationally. The results for November 2007 are not yet available and we will recognize those planners next year.

For the next year, I hope to work with the New York Upstate Chapter Board to broaden the opportunities for AICP-certified planners to earn their required CM credits. Some of the concepts we are exploring include establishing a library of APA-approved training materials, working with the planning schools to provide programs and encouraging non-APA providers (such as state agencies) to become registered providers. We will also try to ensure that sessions at the annual Chapter conferences that are eligible for CM credits get approved in advance so you can plan your participation accordingly. Please also watch the planning.org website, as they are trying to expand the range of webcasts, podcasts and on-line programs that are available to make compliance with the CM requirements more accessible and affordable. Currently, most of the webcasts are available as CD's for purchase. The Tuesdays at APA lecture series is offering CM credits; these programs have traditionally been available as free downloads from the APA site.

Education Officer's Report

Kristen Hughes

The annual upstate chapter student/board planning meeting was held at Cornell University in November. It was hosted by the City and Regional Planning program in the College of Art, Architecture and Planning. Braving unusually frigid temperatures, more than 50 students, faculty and chapter board members toured the Collegetown neighborhood near the main campus. Following the tour, student teams presented reports on plans for the neighborhood to a jury of APA board members. The presentations were followed by a thorough dialogue on the challenges facing planners, developers, residents and the community at-large.

The event was followed by a regular APA chapter board meeting. Next year's meeting will be at Syracuse University.

County Planning Liaison Report

Mike Kayes

County Planning was active in 2007. After five years of development, County Planning was established as a Division of the National American Planning Association. The National Association of County Planners, an affiliate of the National Association of Counties, was the sponsor for its creation. The first annual meeting of the division will be at the 2008 Annual APA Conference in April. The Division will also be the sponsor of five sessions at the National Conference. Four of these sessions as well as the annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 29, which is being promoted as County Planning Day at the National Conference.

The National Association of County Planners will also hold their annual meeting on the same day at the annual conference. Among the highlights will be the annual presentation of the National County Planning Awards.

County Planning at the state level was also active. The New York State Association of County Planning Directors held four meetings during the year and have developed a website for the organization.

Secretary's Report

Jason Haremza

The secretary's position is a necessary but rather prosaic function of any organization. I've endeavored to keep the Chapter Board roster up to date, and with much appreciated assistance from Diane Carlton and Mark Castiglione, I've recorded and distributed the minutes of each of the Board meetings in 2007. As requested from time to time, I've also drafted correspondence and edited the Chapter Work Plan. I hope to continue these tasks, and any others requested of me, with efficiency and competence in 2008.

Public Relations Officer's Report

Diane Carlton, AICP

The major work of the Public Relations officer is assisting with the editing of the Upstate New York APA newsletter. In addition to this, writing articles for the newsletter and publicizing the results of the chapter's annual progress meeting constituted the other duties undertaken in 2007.

Webmaster's Report

Jean Waterbury

The Chapter provides up-to-date information through its website at www.nyupstateplanning.org. The Chapter's website has had almost 50,000 hits since its inception in December 2003. The number of hits on the website has been steadily increasing from about 30 hits a day in January 2006 to 45 hits in January 2007 and now to 58 in January 2008. The website is updated every week with new information on upcoming workshops and conferences across the state as well as around the country. Also updated on a regular basis is the list of job openings. Over 85 job openings were posted in 2007. Chapter members interested in adding information about a section activity, a planning related project, or an upcoming conference of general interest, should e-mail the webmaster at jean@tughill.org.

Southern Tier Section Report

Frank Evangelisti

The past year was a successful one for the Southern Tier Section. We once again hosted the Upstate Chapter's annual conference. The section chose Binghamton as the site of the conference, and we had three tracks: The Arts and Downtown Revitalization; Brownfields and Environmental Planning; and Heritage Areas, Heritage Corridors and Greenways. Hosting a conference is an incredible amount of work, and we were lucky to have a lot of dedicated volunteers. The conference organizing committee consisted of: Josh Brown, Gail Domin, Frank Evangelisti, Jeremy Evans, Joe Gaynor, Daria Golazeski, Elaine Jardine, Christine Klein, Marina Lane, Dean Morgan, Debbie Standinger, Julie Sweet, JenniferYonkoski, and Lora Zier.

We ended the year with over 100 members, one of our largest memberships in recent years. This is up from just over 70 members in 2003.

Now that conference is behind us, we look forward to setting up informative and interesting programs for 2008. Ideas for 2008 programs include tours of Seneca Place in Ithaca, the Gannett Site in Johnson City, which is one of the largest brownfield redevelopments in Upstate, and the high-tech RPM tree farm being developed in the Town of Dryden.



The Southern Tier hosted the 2007 conference which featured tours of Binghamton's revitalizing arts district. (Photo: George Homsey)

Genessee / Finger Lakes Section Report

Jason Haremza

The GFL Section's two main events in 2007 were the annual Dinner-Meeting-Election at Pane Vino restaurant in downtown Rochester in January, and a members' tour of the Mount Morris Dam on July 21. This fascinating guided tour took us on top of and inside the dam, which was completed in 1952. It remains the largest concrete dam east of the Mississippi River and has protected Rochester and other downstream communities, most notably after Hurricane Agnes in 1972, from the ravages of the Genesee River. Should you find yourself near Letchworth State Park, the "Grand Canyon of the East," a visit to the dam is recommended. More information can be found at: <http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/WhoWeAre/MMD/MMD.html>

2008 will be a big year for the GFL Section. We agreed to swap conference dates with Capital District, so GFL will be hosting the 2008 Upstate Chapter Conference in Henrietta and Canandaigua, October 8-10. Preparations are well under way for a great conference. In addition, the GFL Section is co-sponsoring the Larry Stid Memorial Lecture on May 13, 2008. This lecture will feature Rick Bernhardt, AICP, Director of Planning for Nashville-Davidson County, and is part of the Reshaping Rochester series of lectures on architecture, design, and planning, organized by the Rochester Regional Community Design Center. More information on this lecture and the entire lecture series can be found at www.rccdc.org.

Central New York Section Report

Scott Shannon

This past year has been primarily one of catching up after my returning from a little over a year working in Costa Rica. CNY Section has not really had any region specific activity other than some eager participation in the new e-mail list-serve that started up out of Cornell. That's probably provided more communication between interested APA members in our region than anything I've seen in the last half-dozen years. As a section, we're hoping to generate some interest on the part of students here at SUNY-ESF to participate in a design/planning charette sometime in the coming year, possibly in conjunction with next year's Upstate Conference. If anyone out there has a project that might lend itself to a quick student project like this, please let me know!

Capital District Section Report

Sandy Misiewicz

The Capital District Section was very busy in 2007. The Section sponsored six luncheon programs highlighted by Senator Betty Little's presentation in May on the Adirondack Community Housing Trust initiative in the North County. The Section also had several happy hours and an entertaining student mixer with planners' trivia (thanks to the Western NY Section for the idea). Also, CDPA supported the University at Albany GIS and World Town Planning Day event through the Geography and Planning Department, continued its support of the Paul Marr award for student excellence in planning and, with respect to Junior High School students, supported the Future Cities competition as part of National Engineers Week.

For professional development, the section co-sponsored two day long conferences: the Sustainable Development II Strategies for Growth in the Capital Region and the Annual Transportation and Planning Symposium. The Sustainable Development workshop focused on alternative growth visions for the Capital Region and allowed participants to assist in the development of recommendations and strategies for the region. The Annual Transportation and Planning Symposium was highlighted by the Designing Urban Thoroughfares for Walkable Communities session as well as keynote addresses by Transportation Commissioner Astrid Glynn and John Clarkson, Executive Director of the NYS Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness. Finally, the section hosted three APA audio conferences and began the CDPA Planning Resource Library which includes several APA training CD-ROMs for the use of Section members.

Much more is expected in 2008 as we kick off with two APA audio conferences and have tentatively scheduled Paul Beyer, Governor Spitzer's Special Assistant for the Environment, to discuss the Governors intentions to promote smart growth throughout New York State at our first luncheon program of the year.

Upstate Planner
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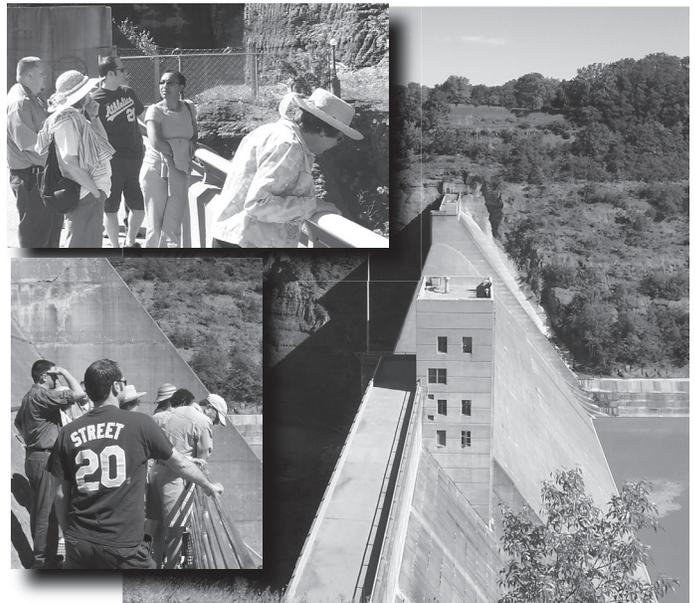
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- Cutting edge regional cooperation
- State Smart Growth leader speaks
- Annual reports

Upstate Planner



APA audio/web conferences are well-attended by Capital District Planners since the beginning of Certificate Maintenance requirements for AICP members. The section broadened its schedule of audio/web conferences in 2008 to support members. (Photo:George Homsy)



Among the activities in 2007 was a trip to the Mount Morris Dam, the largest concrete dam east of the Mississippi, for the planners of the Genesee / Finger Lakes Section. (Photos: Jason Haremza)

Save the Date
Upstate APA Chapter Conference
October 8 to 10
Henrietta and Canandaigua