

ALASKA PLANNING JOURNAL



American Planning Association
Alaska Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Alaska Chapter of the American Planning Association

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Quote of the Quarter

"The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom."

- Isaac Asimov

Fairbanks is the place to be in 2011!

By Lauren Krueer

The Alaska APA Chapter is pleased to invite you to the 1st annual state planning conference! Come join us at the Westmark in Fairbanks, November 6 -8 for this historic event. You may be familiar with the annual planning commissioner training we hold in conjunction with the Alaska Municipal League Conference. This year, the Chapter has decided to expand the event to include a conference designed to meet the needs of new and seasoned planning commissioners as well as help further the education of platting officials, developers, surveyors, engineers, architects, and of course...planners! Why travel south when you can get relevant and applicable planning edu-

cation right in our home state?

Please help us make the conference an event to be remembered by bringing your expertise and knowledge. The conference planning committee is currently seeking session proposals. The call for session proposals and application form are included in this newsletter. In addition to traditional sessions, the conference will offer exciting keynote speakers, interactive trainings, and mobile workshops.

Online conference registration will open August 1st. Credit cards payments will be accepted. Additional information about the conference will be posted on the Chapter website and Facebook page. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the conference planning committee at: akapaconference@googlemail.com. Hope to see you in Fairbanks!



<http://www.newworldalaska.com/ebxe/156>

President's Message: Let spring be a time of revitalization!

Well the days are getting longer and the ice has melted off the streets. If you're like me you're probably anxious for Spring and warmer weather. Hopefully, some of you were able to take a Spring trip to Boston for the National APA conference. The conference is always a great learning opportunity and a good opportunity to get together with other planners from Alaska that you don't see on a regular basis.



Maryellen Tuttell, AICP
AK Chapter President

We recently held our Chapter elections and we have a great Board for this year. You may remember that last year we reorganized the Chapter regions, and increased the size of the board. I feel this has been a great success in that we now have much more participation from

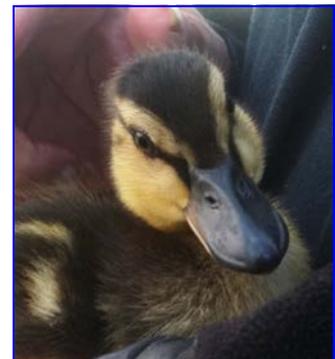
people across the state on the board and we've got folks that I know are going to make a big difference in the Chapter in the near future.

If you couldn't make it to Juneau for our November Planning Commissioners Training, start planning for the 2011 planning session that will be held in Fairbanks in conjunction with the Alaska Municipal League conference. We have a team poring over the evaluations we received from the 2010 training and they are already working to incorporate suggestions and make the 2011 session even better. If you're interested in helping out on this, please feel free to give me (mtuttell@dowlhkm.com) or Charlene Stern (cstern@ruralcap.com) a call or e-mail and we'll get you on the committee.

One of the initiatives that we're working on this year is bringing the

Chapter into better conformance with the APA National's Minimum Chapter Performance Standards. Please see the supporting article on that in this newsletter. I feel that the Chapter is moving in the right direction, but we have a long way to go to get more people involved and to provide more to our members. Again, we would love to have volunteers to help the committee that is evaluating and working on a Chapter Improvement Plan based on the national standards.

Thanks to all of you for the hard and important work you do. I wish you all sunny days and warm weather as we move into Spring.



Signs of spring.

Chapter Minimum Performance Standards

The American Planning Association has put together a list of Chapter Minimum Performance Standards to guide chapters in providing services to their members. APA chapters range from very large organizations that have paid staff to small organizations that are completely run by volunteers (like the Alaska Chapter). In smaller chapters without paid staff, the level of service to

members can vary greatly from chapter to chapter and even from year to year within the same chapter.

The Alaska Chapter has put together a committee to work on improving chapter service to members. We are starting with the APA Chapter Minimum Performance Standards and will modify them as appropriate to best fit Alaska and Alaskan planners' needs.

APA's Chapter Minimum Performance Standards are listed below. You'll be hearing more about these over the next several months as we draft a chapter improvement plan. Please feel free to forward any thoughts or comments, or to volunteer to help us as we look for ways to implement improvements to the chapter.

Chapter Minimum Performance Criteria

1. Each chapter shall prepare and maintain a long-range plan of development and submit same to APA staff and the CPC Executive Committee every five years.
2. Mission Statement: Each chapter shall develop a mission statement, which defines the chapter's core function(s) or purpose(s) and submit to APA staff and the CPC Executive Committee.
3. Annual Work Plan: Each chapter shall prepare a Chapter Work Plan, which identifies specific quantifiable goals for the coming year(s), based on the mission statement. The Chapter Work Plan shall not exceed a four year span. This Work Plan can be a listing of goals and objectives, much of which correspond to these criteria. The work plan is to be submitted to APA staff and the CPC Executive Committee.
4. Each chapter must prepare and submit the financial report for the previous (or most recent) fiscal year to APA staff and the CPC Executive Committee annually. The report shall include the identification of all sources of income as well as expenditures.
5. Bylaws: Chapter shall operate under a current set of bylaws. Chapters shall review their bylaws no less than once every four years and update as needed. These bylaws shall be sent to APA staff and the CPC Executive Committee.
6. Each chapter must send its chapter president or proxy to at least one of the two leadership meetings held in any given calendar year.
7. Each chapter must hold a business meeting annually in person or via electronic communications.
8. At least three (3) times per year, each chapter shall publish and send to its members, the CPC Executive Committee and APA staff, a newsletter or comparable publication that focuses on current information and concerns relevant to its chapter. This publication may be in an electronic form.
9. Chapter publications shall be identified with the full name of the chapter as "a Chapter of the American Planning Association," and with the uniform logotype of the Association.
10. Each chapter shall provide and maintain a current list of all elected chapter officers to APA staff.

AICP Certification Maintenance



Laurie Cummings, AICP
Professional Development Officer

CM credits

Are you looking for free and low cost opportunities to obtain your CM credits? Some of your options include:

Free & Low Cost Training Opportunities

Monthly Webcasts

Several chapters are working together to host a series of monthly webcasts that are eligible for CM credit. The webcasts are available at no cost to APA members but you must pre-register. For more information on the webcast series or to register, please visit <http://www.utah-apa.org/webcasts>

Upcoming sessions include:

- New Tools for Public Participation: Possibilities and Pitfalls
- Using GIS to Improve Planning Decisions
- Secrets to Improve Consultant-Client Relations

APA Audio Conferences

If you are in Anchorage, another easy way to get CM credit is to attend the

APA audio conference sponsored by the Municipality of Anchorage. The MOA has purchased the series and generously allows all planners in the area to attend the sessions.

For more information on the audio conferences, please contact Angela Chambers at chamber-sac@ci.anchorage.ak.us.

Free APA Sponsored Events

APA has several opportunities for free CM credits available through distance education. These include Tuesdays at APA, Planning for Healthy Places with Health Impact Assessments and Symposium: 1909-2109: Sustaining the Lasting Value of American Planning. For more information, please visit <http://www.planning.org/cm/>

[free/index.htm](http://www.planning.org/cm/)

Planning Institute of Colorado

The Planning Institute of Colorado is offering online continuing education courses. Each class is \$20. For more information, please visit <http://www.vaned.com/planners/>

Also, don't forget to record your credits in your CM log. Credits are available for attending a registered training session, speaking/instructing at a registered training, and authoring an article. You can also self-report up to 8 credit hours for attending or speaking/instructing at a non registered activity provided it meets CM criteria and is approved by APA staff.

Want to connect with other Alaskan Planners?

Find us on Facebook, to learn about planning related activities going on around the state and to interact with your fellow Alaskan planners. To find our page, you can search within Facebook or follow the link on our home page (www.alaskaplanning.org).



rams5280.colostate.edu

Call for session proposals: Deadline July 1, 2011

The Alaska Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) announces a call for session proposals for the 2011 Alaska Planning Conference, to be held November 6-8, 2011 at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Who Should Submit a Session Proposal?

Anyone is welcome to submit a session proposal, regardless of whether or not they are a member of the Alaska APA Chapter. If you have a particular expertise, or have recently completed a planning initiative that others may be interested in, we encourage you to submit a session proposal.

What Benefits Do Speakers Get?

Speakers build their resumes by demonstrating their expertise and contributions to the profession. If you are an American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) member, you may receive additional Certificate Maintenance (CM) credits for speaking at a CM-approved event. Speakers will also be offered a reduced conference registration fee on either full-conference or one-day registration. And,

of course, speakers receive the glow of accomplishment when the session has successfully concluded.

What Format Should My Session Take?

Speakers are encouraged to consider a variety of program formats including moderated discussion, workshops, panel discussions and case studies in addition to the more traditional presentations and lectures. Most sessions will be 90 minutes in length; however a limited number of 60 minutes sessions are included. Both 90 and 60 minutes sessions should plan for at least 15 to 20 minutes of Q & A at the end of each session. We encourage organizers to consider the number of speakers carefully.

What Topics Are of Special Interest?

Session proposals on any topic are welcome. Speakers are encouraged to demonstrate the topics applicability to planning in Alaska. Suggested topics include:

- Plating
- Tribal Planning
- Rural Communities
- Wetlands
- Flooding
- Sustainability
- Public Involvement
- Economic Develop-

ment

- Transportation
- Climate Change
- Comprehensive Planning
- Other.....

How Are Sessions Selected?

The Conference Committee will review proposals based upon the following criteria: quality of the session proposal; contribution to the mission of the Alaska APA Chapter; applicability and relevance in Alaska, content of program goals and outcomes; program delivery style; and creativity.

How Do I Submit a Conference Session Proposal?

All proposals must be submitted using the attached form. All required fields must be completed. Incomplete proposals may be rejected at the Conference Committee's discretion. Please attach additional information as needed. Proposals should be submitted electronically to akapaconference@googlemail.com.

Session Proposals Must Be Received by Friday, July 1st. Selections will be announced on July 15th.

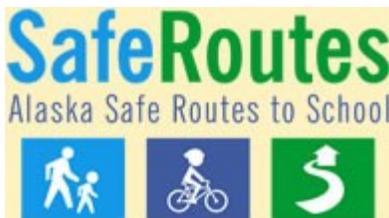
For More Information About the Call for Session Proposals.

*If you have questions, please contact Lauren Krueger, Alaska APA Vice President, at **907-315-6164** or **907-745-9855**.*

Interior Planning News

Patrick Cotter, GISP

FMATS Non-motorized Transportation Plan - The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) kicked off the FMATS non-motorized transportation plan (NMTP) in March 2011. The plan will be the first non-motorized plan for the Fairbanks area, and follows the recently completed Metropolitan Transportation Plan.



FMATS Area Safe Routes to School - The SRTS project, started in fall 2010, is gearing up for spring bike rodeos at

Fairbanks and North Pole area schools. The project's strategic task force met in late January, and identified potential events that would benefit from the Safe Routes program and opportunities for agencies to share resources. Ultimately, the plan will culminate in a fall 2011 Walk or Bike to School event in the Fairbanks area.

Fairbanks International Airport Master Plan - The FAI master plan, slated to begin in April 2011, will begin the process of updating a 20-year planning document for the airport.

The project also includes development of an Electronic Airport Layout Plan (eALP). The eALP component is one of only 21 such projects in the nation, launched under the FAA's Airports GIS pilot program. The AGIS program seeks to standardize and streamline the data collection process at airports throughout the nation and organize the data into one web-based program. Chena Hot Springs Block Master Plan - The Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) is currently developing a master plan for Borough property adjacent to Chena Hot Springs Resort in response to the resort's offer to purchase the land. The FNSB is interested in identifying the most financially feasible alternative for the development and transfer of all or portions of the property, while protecting existing public uses and improving public access to and within the Block. The final plan is expected at the end of August 2011.

FNSB Air Quality - In June 2010, the FNSB Assembly adopted Ordinance 2010-28. In addition to prohibiting certain wood-burning devices, this ordinance also created a nuisance standard that could impose fines on residents producing large quantities

of smoke that crossed onto neighboring property. In October 2010, FNSB voters responded to the Ordinance by approving the Home Heating Protection Act, thereby prohibiting the FNSB from banning, prohibiting or fining residents for the use of home heating devices. In December 2010, the FNSB Assembly amended the original ordinance to reflect the outcome of the ballot initiative. The Borough continues a voluntary air quality program that allows residents within the non-attainment area to trade-in non-compliant wood-burning devices. The ADEC has issued two Nuisance Abatement Orders (NAOs) this winter for outdoor wood boilers. The NAOs do not levy fines immediately, but rather permit the ADEC to fine the offender if the NAO is subsequently violated.

Stampede Recreation Area - Two bills to create a state recreation area in the Denali Borough were introduced in the legislature in January - Senate Bill 60 and House Bill 113. The proposed 128 square mile area is located west of Healy along the Stampede Road corridor.

Community Planning and The Natural Step Framework: New Focus, New Solutions and Now APA CM Credits!

The Natural Step Network USA is now a Certification Maintenance Provider for the American Planners Association.

The Natural Step Network USA is now a Certification Maintenance Provider for the American Planners Association. In an effort to provide planning professionals with access to the powerful TNS Framework for incorporating sustainability into their work, we will be offering courses aimed at planners, municipal staff and planning commission members. In 2011, these

courses will be offered in Oregon, Wisconsin, and on the web.

The Natural Step Network and our international affiliates have been guiding the process of community transformation toward strategic sustainability for over 20 years. Communities throughout North America are using The Natural Step Framework in their comprehensive planning, zoning code development, TIF requirements

and community engagements. Benefits of using the Framework in the planning process include:

- Grounded in scientific principles
- Provides an operational definition of sustainability
- Offers concrete steps that activate and drive the innovation re-

quired for success

- Universal and scalable
- Concepts non-proprietary
- Forms the basis of the APA's Sustainability Policy

Keep up on future sustainability courses for planners at our [Solutions for Community Planning](#) page.



WESTERN PLANNER-APA
4 CORNERS CONFERENCE

PLANNING MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

La Fonda On the Plaza • Santa Fe, NM
September 11-14, 2011

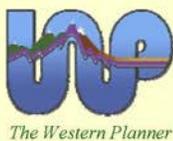
The Western Planner, APA New Mexico, APA Colorado, and APA Utah invite you up to old Santa Fe, New Mexico, September 11-14, for the 2011 Western Planner-APA Four Corners Conference.

We say “up” in Santa Fe because the capitol city of New Mexico is over 7,000-foot above sea level. Planners attending this “elevated” conference will certainly enjoy the warm days and cool evenings of late summer in the “Land of Enchantment.” Santa Fe celebrated its 400th anniversary in 2010, and is the oldest capital city in North America and the oldest European community west of the Mississippi.

The Conference theme is **“Planning Makes the Difference.”** The conference will feature 36 concurrent panels and provide ample CM credits, including law and ethics. Most of the sessions will be led by professionals from western states—those most familiar with planning trends and issues west of the 100th meridian. A separate Planning Commissioners’ Training Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, September 10, and a Planners’ Advocacy Workshop is posted for Sunday, September 11. Some great mobile workshops will be offered, including a bicycle tour, as well as walking tours of nearby historic districts to learn about “Santa Fe Style.”

The conference **registration rate is \$250 until June 1** and \$295 through July 31. After that, the registration cost is still just \$350. The room rate at La Fonda is \$119 a night, and those staying pay just \$5 a day for parking. Call 1-800-523-5002 and reference NMAPA/Western Planner to reserve this special rate (limited number of rooms), or go to www.lafondasantafe.com to make reservations.

The Santa Fe Conference will provide many opportunities to socialize and network with Western Planners as there will be several special events. This will be a walking-friendly conference, and most events will be easy to attend on foot. Plan to join a conference that considers the old, contemplates the present, and looks to the future in a city where all three times seem to abide. The Conference Registration Form will soon be on the Western Planner website www.westernplanner.org. **For more information contact Dan Pava at dpava@lanl.gov or 505-667-7360.**



Rural Alaska Planning News

Duane Dvorak, Associate Planner in Kodiak, Alaska

First, I'd like to say thanks to the outgoing V.P. of the rural region, Doreen Lampe at the North-Slope Borough. As vice-president of the rural region she was great at keeping rural planners informed with her e-mails to the membership. In particular, I appreciate her taking the time to encourage participation in the APA Alaska Chapter. More than anyone else I credit her with my election to this position and I hope to carry on the tradition that Doreen has started regarding the pro-

fessional development of planners in the rural region and encouraging greater participation by rural planners in the statewide association.

As the incoming vice-president of the rural region of Alaska APA, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and also make myself available to any chapter members in the rural region.

Originally I was a product of Washington State who migrated to the Alaska in August of 1984 after obtaining my BA in planning at Eastern Washington University. After considering my career options in Anchorage for nearly a year after moving north, I obtained my first municipal experience in 1985 as the city clerk for Whittier Alaska. Whittier is a coastal community located along Passage Canal at the western edge of Prince William Sound.

It was during this first municipal job in Alaska that I was exposed to the challenges that many planners in Alaska may face, which is the need to wear many different hats in a smaller, isolated, rural communities. My job description in Whittier as the City Clerk

was reflective of the fact that a small town of only about 250 people really didn't need the services of a full time planner. As the city clerk however, in addition to supporting the city council and city administration, my other duties included support for the planning commission, coastal management, reviewing subdivisions, assessing personal property tax, acting building official, and occasionally acting city manager. While it may have been difficult to deal with such a wide variety of duties at the time, those experiences helped me to appreciate more than anything the need for these services in small rural communities, where a full complement of specialized staff is not an easy thing to attain.

All told, I've been an Alaskan planner continuously now for the past 26 years working in Whittier, Kodiak, Wasilla, Anchorage and then back to Kodiak. During that time I've tried to stay involved with the statewide association but I always seemed to be on the outside looking in. Perhaps now will be an opportunity to give something back to the profession that has been so good to me over the years.

The APA Divisions Council and associated Divisions invite you to a very special event:

Local Foods Role in Economic Recovery

Ken Meter of Crossroads Research Center, a national expert on community food systems, will be the keynote speaker at dinner at Vloro on Sunday, April 10, 2011 during the National Conference. Join us for an evening of conversation, camaraderie, and comestibles focused on food systems. Vloro has developed a menu of locally sourced food choices with some excellent wines to highlight the evening. Look for this ticketed event in the conference program as "Local Foods Dinner" when you register. We hope to see you in Boston!

www.planning.org/conference



American Planning Association
Making Great Communities Happen

APA Alaska Board Member Profiles

Submitted by Charlene Stern

The Alaska Chapter of APA has recently undergone a reorganization of the board to provide for greater input from all over the state, as well as to facilitate decision making by having more members on the board. The following provides an introduction to all the Chapter's officers, except **President Maryellen Tuttell** who wrote the article on page 2.

Vice President, Lauren Krueer is a Planner II with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the current Vice President of the Alaska Chapter of the American Planning Association. As VP Lauren has worked to help grow the chapter including working with the national organization of APA, creating and maintaining the chapter's Facebook page and helping to produce this year's planning commissioner training. Lauren is a graduate of Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan with a B.A. in Public Administration with an emphasis in city and regional planning. While pursuing her Bachelor's degree, Lauren had the opportunity to study European Economics and Baltic business Relations at Helia Polytechnic in Porvoo, Finland. In 2003 Lauren began working in the area of downtown revitalization and urban renewal with the firm Blue Bridge

Ventures in Grand Rapids, Mi. In 2005 she became the Economic Development Specialist for the City of Hastings, located in Barry County, Michigan. While in Hastings, Lauren managed the city's industrial incubator, helping to create 25 new jobs within the local economy and managed more than \$2.5 million in grant funding. Since joining the borough in 2006, Lauren has helped to write and implement the Mandatory Land Use Permit, the Multi-family Development Design Standards and is one of the project managers for the Borough's Zoning Code Re-write. Last year Lauren was a presenter at the 2010 National APA Conference and proud recipient of two Aurora Awards from the Alaska Chapter of Public Relations and a NACO Achievement Award.

Professional Development Officer, Laurie Cummings, AICP is a planner with HDR, Alaska in Anchorage. She holds a bachelors degree in Geography from Simon Fraser University and a masters degree in Urban Planning from Texas A&M University. Laurie has served on the Alaska Chapter Board as the Professional Development Officer for the last several years and has also been instrumental in the Chapter's efforts to establish a user-friendly website. Laurie also coordinates with planners interested in testing for AICP certification and

coordinates training opportunities with the National Association for certification related to the AICP Certification Maintenance program.

Planning Commissioner Representative: John Czarnecki served on the City of Soldotna's Planning and Zoning Commission since 2005, and currently is the chairman. He has been employed for the last 12 years as a Kenai Peninsula Borough Planner at the Kenai River Center. John was previously employed by the University of Wisconsin Extension as a Resource Agent where he worked on natural resource, and community and economic development issues. He has a masters in urban planning from the UW-Milwaukee Bachelors in natural resource management from the UW-Stevens Point.

Secretary/Treasurer, Charlene Stern, MCRP, was born and raised in Interior Alaska. Originally from Arctic Village, Charlene is an enrolled member of the Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government. She holds a bachelors degree in American Cultural Studies from Western Washington University and a masters degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of New Mexico. Charlene is currently pursuing a PhD in Indigenous Studies from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She has

5+ years experience with planning and development in rural Alaska and is currently employed as the Rural Planning Coordinator for the Rural Alaska Community Action Program. Charlene has served as Secretary/Treasurer for the Alaska Planning Chapter since 2010.

Rural Region Vice President, Duane Dvorak is a planner from Kodiak, Alaska where he has been with the Kodiak Island Borough for nearly 17 years. In addition, Duane has more than 27 years of Alaska planning experience having worked in several other Alaskan communities such as Whittier, Wasilla and Anchorage. Originally from Washington State, Duane obtained his BA degree in Urban & Regional Planning from Eastern Washington University in 1983. A year later, in 1984, he migrated north to Alaska. His areas of greatest experience lie in zoning administration, subdivision review, board and commission support.

Joseph Welliver, Mat-Su Region Vice President, is a Planner II with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from Arizona State University with a Bachelor's of Science in Urban and Regional Planning. While pursuing his bachelor's degree, Joseph was involved in the analysis of current public

APA Alaska Board Member Profiles, cont.

rent public housing policies and recommended a framework for building initiatives and funding methods for the redevelopment of Maryvale, Arizona. After graduating, Joseph began working as a Planner for the City of Mesa, Arizona. His work experience involved processing a variety of entitlement applications, including General Plan Amendments, Rezoning, Site Plan Review, Subdivision Technical Review, and Design Review processes. He has worked with residential, commercial and industrial development applications. Since joining the Matanuska Susitna Borough in 2009, Joseph has drafted a comprehensive Lake Management Plan and has been active in updating the MSB Public Facilities Plan and Port Master Plan. He also staffs the Borough's School Site Selection Committee. His support of this committee included the drafting of school site selection evaluation criteria and a scoring mechanism to evaluate, score, and compare land parcels for future school sites. In November of 2010, Joseph became a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). Joseph lives in Palmer with his wife, Debbie and their three children, Gianna, Andréa, and Mario. Joseph enjoys hiking, camping, playing hockey, and coaching his daughter's youth hockey team.

Denali Borough/
FNSB Region
Vice President,
Patrick Cotter is a Transportation Planner and GIS Specialist with PDC Inc. Engineers in Fairbanks. Patrick has lived in the Fairbanks North Star Borough since 1998 when he came to Alaska to attend the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in Geographic Information Science through the Penn State World Campus. Alaska poses unique and exciting challenges for Planners; climate change, vast natural resources, immense distances, and diverse stakeholders. Patrick's philosophy on planning includes balancing the changes of development with community sustainability. Patrick is an active member of the community, serving on the Fairbanks North Star Borough's Trails Advisory Commission, organizing the Northern Alaska Spatial Data Users Group, and volunteering for the Alaska Bird Observatory. He is also a member of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association. Previous employment includes: Area Planner and GIS Coordinator with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Northern Region; Outdoor Recreation Planner with the US Bureau of Land Management Northern Field Office; and Research Technician with the University of Alaska Geophysical Institute. When not traveling around Alaska for his job, Patrick can be found

enjoying the trails close to home with his wife, Adia, and their two-year-old son Torrin.

Anchorage Region
Vice President,
Sally Russell Cox, is a planner with the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA). Her professional focus has been coastal and community planning, collaborative processes, and the facilitation of public involvement in community development. Since coming to DCRA in 2003, she's worked on a number of planning issues and programs, including the Alaska Coastal Management Program, Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act section 14(c)3 planning, and the state's first Coastal Impact Assistance Program. She's provided planning commission training and other planning assistance to many rural communities, and developed training materials on local government planning and land management.

Sally considers her "labor of love" to be the work she's done with the village of Newtok for the village's relocation effort. She's coordinated the Newtok Planning Group, an interagency planning group assisting the village relocation, for the past five years. She says that it has been tremendously rewarding to work with this wonderful community and

actually see progress in the development of a new village.

Sally presently manages three DCRA programs: the Alaska Climate Change Impact Mitigation Program which provides planning assistance and funding to communities impacted by erosion, thawing permafrost, flooding and other climate change-related phenomena; the Community Coastal Impact Assistance Program which provides technical assistance and funding to local governments, non-profits and post-secondary educational institutions for projects that result in a benefit to Alaska's coastal environment; and the Alaska Cooperating Technical Partners Program, a FEMA-funded program that integrates flood hazard mapping, risk assessment tools and mitigation planning into a single effort known as Risk MAP (Mapping, Assessment, Planning).

Sally has reinstated the Anchorage Area Brown Bag Speaker Sessions, which are being held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Atwood building in downtown Anchorage. So far, speakers have included Vic Fischer on his amazing experiences as the first planner in Alaska, Dwayne Adams and Joni Wilms on Complete Streets and Urban Design and Gary Hennigh, who presented "Planning in Rural Alaska – Does it Happen?" Anne Brooks will speak on Public Participation on June 21st. If you live in the Anchorage area or happen to be visiting Anchorage on the third Tues-

day of the month, stop by and join us during the lunch hour.

Kenai Region Vice President, **Stephanie McQueen** graduated from Cornell University with a bachelor's degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering, and a Master's of Engineering degree in Civil Infrastructure Systems. After finishing up her Master's degree, Stephanie was offered a Fulbright Scholarship to conduct PhD research in Istanbul, Turkey. Her research focused on the economics of natural disaster mitigation, and how to incorporate non-monetary costs (such as added stress to vulnerable populations displaced by disasters) into traditional cost-benefit analyses.

In 2007, Stephanie left academia and returned to Alaska (where she was born and raised) and accepted a position in the Planning Department at DOWL HKM in Anchorage. The following year, she her family relocated to the City of Soldotna where she became the city's first, 'City Planner.'

The City recently finished a re-write of their comprehensive plan, and Stephanie intends to spend the next several years implementing recommendations from this exciting document. She plans on testing to become AICP certified in the upcoming year.

Barbara Sheinberg, Southeast Region Vice President, is

the firm owner and principal at Sheinberg Associates and a AICP-certified planner. Barbara has 26 years of experience specializing in community and land use planning; analysis of municipal boundary changes; and facilitation of community meetings and public involvement. Working with diverse groups, communities and stakeholders, Barbara has successfully helped organize, facilitate and report on dozens of strategic meetings with 5 to 100+ participants. As a city planner, she has completed projects ranging from assessing the feasibility of municipal boundary changes; preparing coastal, master and comprehensive plans; work on zoning codes; analysis of transportation, tourism and recreation issues; to preparing environmental assessments. As a senior facilitator, Barbara facilitates meetings of Federal, State and local government agencies; assists organizations with strategic planning retreats and plans; facilitates policy and technical round tables; and conducts varied

public involvement programs tailored to the project and community's needs. Services include process design and convening, developing agendas, preparing meeting and presentation materials, facilitation of consensus-based processes, and preparation of summary reports. Barbara is known for clear thinking and analysis, and helping clients build consensus and reduce conflict through a well-guided meetings and planning processes. Her collaborative approach creates widespread support for project results. Sheinberg Associates has enjoyed long-term relationships with many clients who return for help with new challenging projects.

As Sally Cox said, "It's a pleasure to serve on the Alaska Chapter Board of Directors with so many talented, dedicated and hard-working planners!"

APA AK

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Lauren Kreuer, VP

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From the Editor

I talked to a friend in California last night. In the middle of the conversation, I realized something seemed different—she sounded happy! I hadn't really thought about it, but it had been a long time since she had sounded upbeat.

I asked her what was new and she told me she was working from home now. No more 45-minute-each-way Los Angeles commute. No more tiny office with no windows. Her stress level had gone down, and it showed. Now she can eat whatever she wants to for lunch without having to worry

cheerful—my friend's bright attitude is rubbing off on him!

What is stressing you out?

Can you make small changes that will leave you feeling happier? Maybe turn your desk to face the window. Maybe take a walk at lunchtime. Maybe you, too, could work from home even one day a week. By taking care of yourself, you are better equipped to take care of the needs of those who come to you for help and answers.

Our attitudes effect those around us for good or ill. Let's try to be a positive catalyst in our communities.

Happy shiny Alaska summer days to you!

~ Suzanne ~



about the lack of refrigerator or microwave in the office. She's gained back an hour and a half of former drive time. Even her boss who comes to drop off or pick up work is more