

NJAPZA NEWS



New Jersey Association of Planning & Zoning Administrators
www.njapza.org

NJAPZA Plans New Events and Changes for 2006

By Ilene Cutroneo, NJAPZA President

It was wonderful seeing all of you again at our Hospitality Suite and the Annual Luncheon and Education Meeting. Thanks again are extended to our Convention Chair, Kathy Dossena, for a wonderful job. For those of you who were in attendance, this year's program provided us with a unique way to handle customer service and, from what I observed, it was quite an enjoyable session. Remember to mark you calendars with this year's dates:

Friday, June 9 – Annual Spring Education Session on Current Issues in Planning & Zoning at Cook College

Tuesday, November 14 – Hospitality Suite from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Wednesday, November 15 – Annual Luncheon and Education Meeting

The start of 2006 has brought some changes to NJAPZA's Executive Board. Deb Rogers, our Treasurer and Membership Coordinator, regretfully announced that, due to personal reasons, she needed to step down from her responsibilities with NJAPZA. Her presence will be missed; however, we were fortunate to find two members willing to immediately step into these positions--- Dawn Hernandez from Old Bridge Township has been appointed by the Executive Board to fill the position of Treasurer until our meeting in November and Geniece Gary-Adams from West

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Brenda Schwartz, NJAPZA Founding Member, Dies

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Brenda Schwartz, Marlboro Township Planning Board Administrator, in September, 2005.

Brenda was a founding member of NJAPZA. She was also one of the first recipients of Planning & Zoning Board Secretary certification, which was awarded to her at the NJAPZA Annual Luncheon on November 21, 1996. On September 5, 1997, she received Planning & Zoning Administrator certification.

Brenda worked tirelessly for NJAPZA and served on

both the Convention Committee and the Education Committee for many years. She became a member of the Board of Directors when she was appointed Membership Coordinator in 1995, a position she held until June, 2000.

Our deepest sympathies and prayers are extended to Brenda's family, which includes her sister, Sarah Paris, who is the Marlboro Township Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer, and also an NJAPZA member. Brenda's dedication is commendable and she will be sadly missed by her peers.□

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Orange is our new Membership Coordinator. We are also saying goodbye to Kathy Dossena as Convention Chair and Cindy Phillips as Newsletter Editor (this is her last issue).

Please remember that our website, www.njapza.org, has the latest information regarding training, membership and matters of importance. We can also post employment opportunities for your municipality on our website. If you have a position available, send me an email with a copy of the text as an MS Word document attachment including the length of time you wish it to be posted. There is no charge for this service.

By now I'm sure you are aware of the educational requirements all Board members must meet to maintain their position on the Planning Board or Zoning Board of Adjustment. The Office of Smart Growth (OSG) has posted the draft regulations on

its website, www.state.nj.us/dca/osg. Please review these regulations with your members and governing bodies. Approved course providers will be posted on the OSG website, and we will maintain a link to this information as well.

Please be on the lookout for upcoming half-day sessions in different parts of the State this spring. One of the sessions we previously offered, "Certificates of Non-Conformity," was very well received and it is our intention to bring this to the Central or Northern regions in May. If you have any ideas for topics or speakers, please forward them to Adele Lewis, our Education Chair. Your ideas are always welcome. Currently, the Education Committee is working on the Annual Spring Education Session along with our Mentoring Program. 2006 looks to be a very exciting year and I look forward to seeing everyone at our June program.□

2006 NJAPZA Contacts

PRESIDENT	ILENE CUTRONEO PRINCETON TOWNSHIP (609) 924-5366	TREASURER	DAWN HERNANDEZ OLD BRIDGE TOWNSHIP (732) 721-5600, Ext. 2365	<u>REGIONAL DIRECTORS</u>	
PRESIDENT-ELECT	JOHN FUGGER MORRISTOWN TOWN (973) 644-4360	EDUCATION CHAIRMAN	ADELE LEWIS TOWNSHIP OF MAPLEWOOD (973) 762-8120, Ext. 3201	NORTHERN	GAIL MARIE STEWART (973) 857-4413
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	DAWN WOLFE LONG HILL TOWNSHIP (908) 647-8000, Ext. 218	MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR	GENIECE GARY-ADAMS WEST ORANGE TOWNSHIP (973) 325-4119	CENTRAL	DEBRA ROGERS PRINCETON TOWNSHIP (609) 321-1359
RECORDING SECRETARY	MICHAEL PROIETTI N. BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP (732) 247-0922, Ext. 440	PUBLIC RELATIONS	KALI TSIMBOUKIS CHATHAM TOWNSHIP (973) 635-3204	SOUTHERN	DIANE MORGAN BUENA VISTA TOWNSHIP (609) 697-2100

NJAPZA Launches Mentoring Program

By Adele Lewis, Education Committee Chair

We are pleased to announce that NJAPZA, in conjunction with the courses offered at Rutgers, will begin a Mentoring Program in the spring of 2006. The purpose of this program will be to offer new Board Secretaries, Board Administrators and Zoning Officers the support they need to become competent and confident professionals. The mission statement of NJAPZA is to educate, enhance and assist members. Mentoring will promote and further establish another resource for membership assistance.

There are benefits to the Mentor as well--- professional growth is stimulated in mentors as they reexamine their own practices and as they develop the competencies to share their expertise. The opportunity for mentors to pass along the knowledge and skills they have gained through experience can be extremely rewarding and fulfilling, with both the Mentor and the Mentee striving to achieve and maintain the highest level of professionalism. The Mentoring Program will serve a two-fold purpose: as a

"It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself."

Ralph Waldo Emerson



method to share knowledge and offer assistance as well as a means to encourage new members to become active in the association.

For this pilot program, our knowledgeable and experienced instructors have agreed to be our first group of Mentors. Beginning with the recipients of certificates issued in 2006, each newly certified Board Secretary, Zoning Officer and Land Use Administrator will also be assigned a Mentor. We hope this program will be well received and continue to grow. We encourage any member who is interested in being considered as a Mentor to contact any officer of NJAPZA for more information.

We welcome participation at all levels, whether it is through the Mentoring Program or one of the other committees. Thank you. □

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