

*New Jersey Association of Planning &
Zoning Administrators*

NJAPZA Fall 2014 Newsletter



Frank Vuoso, President
Michael Proietti, Vice President
Elaine Petrillo, Corresponding Secretary
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FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING AND ZONING ADMINISTRATORS

Dear NJAPZA member:

It's hard to believe it is that time of year already; our Annual Luncheon & Education Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 19, 2014** during the fast approaching New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference. Our annual luncheon has a long tradition of being a memorable event for those in attendance and this year promises to meet or exceed our reputation for providing great camaraderie, education and a delicious lunch.

We are pleased to announce that for the educational portion of the luncheon is Nelson Johnson honorable judge and author of "Boardwalk Empire." We are honored that he has agreed to join us at this pivotal time in Atlantic City's history.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our luncheon, which promises to be both enjoyable and informative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Vuoso'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Frank Vuoso
President, NJAPZA



SPOTLIGHT on Welcome *New* Executive Director Jackie Zelinka!

The NJAPZA is thrilled to welcome Ms. Jacquelyn Rae Zelinka (known to all as “Jackie”) as the new and first ever Executive Director! The membership amended the by-laws in 2013 to permit the appointment of an Executive Director. Since agreeing to serve in this position, Ms. Zelinka has already created and issued a survey to the membership that received a 46% response rate! Subsequently she also drafted a Strategic Plan and conducted a Visioning Session for the Board of Directors, which was also a success. The organization is fortunate to have her as Executive Director!



Ms. Zelinka with President Frank Vuoso

Executive Director Duties

General duties of the Executive Director include internal support and assisting the volunteer Board and Committee Chairs with their duties; develop programs and activities that promote the Association statewide among relevant audiences, including the membership, potential members, municipal officials, legislators, and the general public; work with the Board and Rutgers-CGS to develop a strategy in pursuit of legislation mandating a certification requirement for board secretaries, land use administrators and zoning officials in NJ; and seek out partnership opportunities with other statewide planning/zoning organizations, including NJAPA.

Ms. Zelinka’s Biography

Jackie devoted her career to public service, working at the Center for Government Services at Rutgers from 1984 until 2012, when she retired as Assistant Director. During her tenure she was responsible for the management of continuing education courses and conferences for uniform construction code officials and municipal tax assessors. She developed and managed the Center’s programs for public housing and redevelopment officials as well as municipal planning/zoning administrators and zoning officials. She also worked with the Council on Affordable Housing to develop and implement a training program for municipal housing liaisons and administrative agents.

From 1993-2012 she was the editor of the *New Jersey Legislative District Data Book*, which the Center publishes annually. Prior to her employment at the Center, Ms. Zelinka was the municipal planner for Miamisburg, OH, and served as a VISTA volunteer in Kansas City, Kansas. Ms. Zelinka holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bradley University and an MCRP degree from Rutgers. She held a New Jersey planning license and AICP certification from 1990 to 2011.

Her public service activities have included membership on the board of directors of Preservation New Jersey from 1991-1997 and the Zoning Board of Adjustment for the City of Rahway from 1994-2001. She was a member of the NJAPA Professional Development Committee from 1992-1996 and served as the Chapter’s Professional Development Officer for two years. She also served as the secretary to the Bloustein School Alumni Association in 1995-1996.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER - 2014 Annual Luncheon



NELSON JOHNSON, *Esq.*

Nelson Johnson, American lawyer and author, is best known for his *New York Times* bestseller, [*Boardwalk Empire: The Birth, High Times and Corruption of Atlantic City*](#). His family's presence in Atlantic County predates the founding of Atlantic City and is a lifelong resident of Hammonton, New Jersey. He practiced law for 30 years and was active in Atlantic City and Atlantic County politics through much of that period. He is currently a judge.

As attorney for the Atlantic City Planning Board at the time of the approvals for many of the casinos, Johnson was inspired first to make sense of Atlantic City and later to write an objective political history. The interviews, research, and writing involved in preparing *Boardwalk Empire* span nearly two decades.

Johnson's follow-up to *Boardwalk Empire* is *The Northside: African Americans and the Creation of Atlantic City*, coming November 2010 from Plexus Publishing, Inc. His third book, published by Rutgers University Press, is *Battleground New Jersey: Vanderbilt, Hague and Their Fight for Justice*, and is about Jersey City Mayor [Frank Hague](#) and [Arthur T. Vanderbilt](#), first Chief Justice of New Jersey's modern Supreme Court.^[1]

Sources:

<http://www.boardwalkempire.com/about-nelson-johnson/>; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nelson_Johnson

Join us for a

**Free Educational Seminar for NJAPZA Members - "Getting it Right!"
December 12, 2014 - Ocean Township**

REGISTRATION DEADLINE DECEMBER 7, 2014

NJAPZA members are invited to attend a free half-day seminar on December 12. Speakers featured include: Michele Donato, Esq.; Regina Kinney, Administrative Officer in Evesham Twp.; and Bart Petrillo, Zoning Officer, Bay Head will discuss **"Getting It Right."** The panel will focus on three topics: completeness reviews, court as the last step in the zoning enforcement process, and how to handle board litigation.



The seminar will be held at the **Ocean Township Fire Department in Ocean County**. Seating is limited to 75, and walk-ins will not be accepted. The reservation deadline is **December 7**, and on-line registration is possible using the interactive form currently available at www.njapza.org.

The Center for Government Services at Rutgers has approved the session for 3 hours of continuing education credit toward the renewal of board secretary, land use administrator and zoning official certificates.

Membership survey response a success!



Thanks to over *100 members* that completed an on-line survey posted on the NJAPZA website between September 3 and October 10, 2014, the Executive Committee and Board of Directors have received valuable information about its members and input on the future direction of the organization. Thank you to all who responded!

The survey results indicate that 73% of the respondents are either moderately or extremely satisfied with current membership benefits. But, they also show that most members would like to see new activities such as webinars and informal networking events.

Two open-ended questions asked how membership services could be improved and what new services should be offered. A wide variety of suggestions were made, including an on-line blog where members could get advice on work-related issues, more free educational opportunities and improvements to the NJAPZA website that would make it a better resource. Detailed survey results and the complete 2015 strategic plan are available at www.njapza.org.

The Board of Directors has listened and has used the results to develop a strategic plan that incorporates specific objectives to be accomplished during 2015.

Looking back....

Spring Conference 2014 - Record attendance!



Attendance at the 2014 annual NJAPZA conference was held on Friday June 13 at the Imperia Somerset hit an all time high! 246 people attended this year. Additionally, the format was changed to allow for a longer morning session, with Lou Rago, Esq. as the featured speaker delivering his always entertaining recap of land use case law in New Jersey.

Rick Fernandez gave an overview of affordable housing and the status of regulations for the “Third Round.”

The break out sessions were held in the afternoon and covered “Cutting Edge Issues,” OPRA, office practices and a general Q&A called “Everything You Wanted to Know (but were afraid to ask).”

The conference sessions count toward continuing education hours for Zoning Officers and Board secretaries who hold the Rutgers certificates.

The Education Committee is starting to work on the conference for next year. The venue will change for 2015! Stay tuned...

