



# THE LEADER

*A Quarterly Newsletter for Members of the Empire State Capital Area Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration*

## From the Chapter President

Dear ASPA Member:

Welcome to the first edition of *The Leader*, the Empire State Capital Area Chapter's new quarterly newsletter.

As the Empire State Capital Area Chapter (ESCAC) of the American Society of Public Administration (ASPA) embarks on its 64<sup>th</sup> year, I ask you to consider renewing your *commitment* to your Chapter in more ways than renewing your annual *membership* to the Society. Your ASPA Chapter *needs* you! Please consider serving as a member of the Chapter Council or as part of the Chapter's several standing committees. The health and vitality of the Empire State Capital Area Chapter resides in the willingness of its members to engage in Chapter leadership, planning, and activities.

Worth special recognition are two individuals who have given a great deal to the Chapter over the past several years. **Richard Rose** recently concluded his term as Chapter President. Richard was instrumental in nurturing the on-going relationship ASPA enjoys with the State Academy for Public Administration in co-sponsoring the *Essentials in Public Administration* program, now in its seventh year. **Dan Steen**, long-time ESCAC Treasurer, has stepped down after serving the Chapter in this very important capacity since 2001. On behalf of the Chapter, THANK YOU Richard and Dan for your service to ASPA.

With *your* help, ESCAC will have a banner 2006-07 program year. Please consider serving your Chapter today.

Sincerely,

Michael N. Christakis, Ph.D.  
President

## ESCAC Presents Smith and Hughes Awards; Howard and Dawes Honored

ALBANY, NY – The Empire State Capital Area Chapter (ESCAC) of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), the nation's most respected society representing all forums in the public service arena, is pleased to announce that **William F. Howard**, Acting Chief of Staff to Governor George Pataki, has been selected as this year's recipient of the Alfred E. Smith Award and **Dr. Sharon Dawes**, Director for the Center for Technology in Government at the University at Albany, has been selected as the recipient of the Charles Evans Hughes Award.

Mr. Howard and Dr. Dawes were presented their awards at the annual ASPA Awards Luncheon on Monday, May 22, 2006 at the Empire State Plaza. This year the luncheon was held in conjunction with the Fiscal Symposium co-sponsored by the State Academy of Public Administration (SAPA) and the Empire State Capital Area Chapter (ESCAC) of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA). More detailed information can be found on page 2 of *The Leader*.

## Consider Serving *YOUR* ASPA Chapter **TODAY!**

The ESCAC Constitution calls for eight (8) members to compose the Chapter Council exclusive of the President, President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, and Immediate Past President.

The 2006-07 ESCAC Officers are: **Michael Christakis** (President), VACANT (President-Elect), **Joshua Hewitt** (Treasurer), **Greg Monte** (Secretary), **Richard Rose** (Past President), **Wallace Davis**, **David Liebschutz** and **Larri Fish** (Council Members).

There are **SIX vacancies** on the Chapter Council. Please consider serving a two-year term on *your* ASPA Chapter's governing board. E-mail Chapter President Michael Christakis if interested at [mchristakis@uamail.albany.edu](mailto:mchristakis@uamail.albany.edu).

## **William Howard Awarded Alfred E. Smith Award**

ALBANY, NY – This year's Alfred E. Smith Award was presented to **William F. Howard**, Acting Chief of Staff to Governor George Pataki. Howard has also served as First Deputy Secretary to the Governor assisting in the day-to-day operations of state government. Howard's responsibilities include labor, civil service and military issues, and general governmental administration.

During the days following the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, Mr. Howard helped coordinate the State's response efforts and was awarded the Defense of Liberty Medal for his efforts. In the wake of the attacks, Howard directed and coordinated the State's homeland security efforts, bringing the agencies of New York State government together and helping establish a State Homeland Security Team regarded as one of the finest in the country.

Mr. Howard possessed a number of accomplishments prior to September 2001 having served as a key advisor to Governor Pataki on labor, pension and public employee issues, and serving as Assistant Director of State Operations until 1999. More recently, Mr. Howard has been instrumental in coordinating the State's response effort to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma including New York State's National Guard personnel and equipment to assist in rescue.



*ESCAC President Mike Christakis presents the 2006 Charles Evans Hughes Award to Dr. Sharon Dawes.*



*ESCAC President Mike Christakis (right) and nominator George Sinnott (left) present the 2006 Alfred E. Smith Award to William F. Howard (center).*

## **Sharon Dawes Awarded Charles Evans Hughes Award**

ALBANY, NY – This year's Charles Evans Hughes Award was presented to **Dr. Sharon Dawes**. More than a decade ago, Dawes became the first Director of the then-new Center for Technology in Government (CTG) at the University at Albany. Over the past thirteen years the Center for Technology in Government has engaged in 29 partnership projects that have helped to improve the services and operations of state, local, and federal government agencies.

Under Dawes' leadership, the Center has collaborated with nearly 100 government agencies, 42 private companies, and 14 academic institutions and research organizations. Additionally, the Center has developed and evaluated 12 prototype systems that answered critical policy, management, organizational, and technology questions. In 1997, Dawes won *Governing Magazine's* Public Official of the Year for building a culture of collaboration and cooperation among New York State's "sprawling information management structure."

In 2004, *Government Technology* named Dawes a "Top 25 Doer, Dreamer and Driver." In addition to her responsibilities as Director of CTG, Dawes is an Associate Professor of Public Administration and Policy at the University at Albany and a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration.

## **Straussman Appointed Dean of Nelson A. Rockefeller College**

ALBANY, NY – **Jeffrey D. Straussman** has been appointed the next dean of the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy. Straussman, currently associate dean of the Maxwell School and chair of public administration at Syracuse University, will replace Dean Frank Thompson. Straussman was appointed after a national search and will assume the post on July 1, 2006.

Straussman, a life-long resident of New York, completed his master's degree at Hunter College and earned a doctorate in political science from the City University of New York in 1975. He taught at Michigan State University before joining the Syracuse faculty in 1979. At Syracuse, he served as chair of the Department of Public Administration as well as associate dean, among other roles. He was recognized for superior teaching in 1999, when he became the Maxwell Professor of Teaching Excellence.

"I am already impressed by the quality and dedication of the faculty and staff of Rockefeller College," Straussman said, "and, together, we will further enhance the reputation of the College as one of the nation's top institutions dedicated to both the study and practice of political science, public affairs and public policy."

Straussman's extensive record of research includes five books and numerous articles on public management, government budgeting and finance, and political economy, focusing on the United States and on governance in other nations. In 1992 he was a Fulbright Scholar at the Budapest University of Economic Sciences, where he taught public management and policy analysis and assisted Hungarian faculty in developing a public affairs department. Straussman has also taught and consulted in Macedonia, Israel, Venezuela, the Czech Republic, the Peoples' Republic of China, Bulgaria, Malaysia, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. He has published on the political economy of transition, including articles translated into Hungarian, Russian, and Ukrainian.

### **Have you updated/renewed your ASPA Membership?**

*Don't let your ASPA membership lapse. Renew and update your member information on-line at:*

[www.aspanet.org](http://www.aspanet.org)



*Incoming Dean of Rockefeller College Jeffrey D. Straussman.*

### **Special Thanks**

The difficult task of reviewing, ranking and selecting the recipients of the 2006 ESCAC-ASPA Awards resided with the members of the Awards Committee.

Without their service, the selection of our very deserving recipients would not have been possible.

Thanks to the members of the 2006 Awards Committee: **Michael N. Christakis** (Chair), **Wallace C. Davis**, **Joshua Hewitt**, **Alice Roberson**, **Dixon Southworth** and **William Tyrrell** for their work.

### **Chapter Financial Snapshot**

*Submitted by Joshua Hewitt  
ESCAC Treasurer*

**April 2006** financial statement for the ESCAC-ASPA, as of Monday, May 7, 2006:

APRIL '06 REVENUES	=	\$1,803.53
APRIL '06 EXPENSES	=	\$2,585.15
Revenues over expenses	=	(781.62)

**May 2006** financial statement for the ESCAC-ASPA, as of Monday, June 12, 2006:

MAY '06 REVENUES	=	\$8,147.70
MAY '06 EXPENSES	=	\$3,971.91
Revenues over expenses	=	\$4,175.79

**TOTAL FUND BALANCE = \$15,587.13**

If you have any questions, please contact Josh Hewitt at [jhewitt@uamail.albany.edu](mailto:jhewitt@uamail.albany.edu).



## New Benefits and Discounts for ASPA Members

### Publications

**ASPA Members Can Save \$30 on Annual Subscription to *Public Integrity*.** The journal of ASPA's Ethics Section is now available to all ASPA members! Member Price is \$40 U.S., \$50 International. Order from: [skyrizis@mesharpe.com](mailto:skyrizis@mesharpe.com), or Sorina Kyriazis, M.E. Sharpe, Inc., 80 Business Park Drive, Armonk, NY 10504.

**ASPA Members Can Save \$16 on Annual Subscription to *The Public Manager*.** The quarterly for practitioners interested in effective performance in the public sector is available to members at a reduced price. Member Price: \$19. Order from: The Bureaucrat, Inc., 12007 Titian Way, Potomac, MD 20854.

### Services

**ASPA Members Can Save 10% When Registering Their Organization for Grants Locator.** ASPA is bringing Grants Locator, a web-based research and notification system of federal, select state, and foundation grants, to all ASPA members. Grants Locator enables local governments to quickly, efficiently, and cost-effectively find and evaluate grants to fund projects in the community - an important need during these difficult budget times. ASPA members will be able to subscribe on behalf of their cities, counties, special districts, school districts, and non-profits at a 10% discount.

To register for Grants Locator, please contact Graham Forman at (877) 232-4847 or [graham@ecivis.com](mailto:graham@ecivis.com).

### ESCAC Member-Counter

Each quarter, *The Leader* will track the Chapter's growth (or decline).

Members as of <b>April 30, 2006</b>	=	88
Members as of <b>June 13, 2006</b>	=	91
Net Difference	=	+3

## ASPA's "CODE OF ETHICS" Sections I and II

In 1981 ASPA's National Council adopted a set of moral principles. Three years later in 1984, the Council approved a *Code of Ethics* for ASPA members. In 1994 the Code was revised.

The *Code* includes five guiding principles and can be found on the ASPA web site and on the back inside cover of the *Public Administration Review* (PAR). In this edition of *The Leader*, we focus on the first two principles – serving the public interest and respecting the Constitution and the law. In the fall issue, we will visit the remaining three principles.

**I. Serve the Public Interest.** Serve the public, beyond serving oneself. ASPA members are committed to:

1. Exercise discretionary authority to promote the public interest.
2. Oppose all forms of discrimination and harassment, and promote affirmative action.
3. Recognize and support the public's right to know the public's business.
4. Involve citizens in policy decision-making.
5. Exercise compassion, benevolence, fairness and optimism.
6. Respond to the public in ways that are complete, clear, and easy to understand.
7. Assist citizens in their dealings with government.
8. Be prepared to make decisions that may not be popular.

**II. Respect the Constitution and the Law.** Respect, support, and study government constitutions and laws that define responsibilities of public agencies, employees, and all citizens. ASPA members are committed to:

1. Understand and apply legislation and regulations relevant to their professional role.
2. Work to improve and change laws and policies that are counterproductive or obsolete.
3. Eliminate unlawful discrimination.
4. Prevent all forms of mismanagement of public funds by establishing and maintaining strong fiscal and management controls, and by supporting audits and investigative activities.
5. Respect and protect privileged information.
6. Encourage and facilitate legitimate dissent activities in government and protect the whistleblowing rights of public employees.
7. Promote constitutional principles of equality, fairness, representativeness, responsiveness and due process in protecting citizens' rights.