Fiscally Constrained Cities Protect Public Services with Volunteers

Across the country, cities of all sizes are redefining how government works with its citizens. In this difficult financial climate, many cities are facing intractable budgetary issues and limited public support.– Stephanie Rozsa, Bonnie Mann

Civic Engagement the Key to Success in Community Building, Urban Revitalization and Our Future

Shifts in the traditional family structure, technological advancements and mobility have uprooted social connections in American neighborhoods, isolating community members from one another. We cannot emphasize enough how important it is to revitalize this engagement within communities.– Schnequa N. Diggs, Alexandru V. Roman

Veterans’ Service to Country, Service to Community

While voluntarily serving as AmeriCorps members in the Vet Corps, veterans continue their mission to their county through their civilian national service experience as they make a positive difference in communities across Washington State.– Mary Van Verst, Debbie Schuffenhauer

How Much Democracy Can You Take?

A fundamental lesson for meaningful participation is that citizens need actual decision making authority to overcome their costs of participating. That authority will only be meaningful if it includes control over resources. And there’s the rub. Participatory democracy is not an efficient decision making process. It can get quite “messy.”–David Swindell

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ASPA TIMES

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Economy, Jobs Top Public’s Policy Agenda

Washington, DC—The public’s policy agenda is again dominated by the economy and jobs with other major issues viewed as less important. Fully 87 percent say that strengthening the economy should be a top priority for the president and Congress and

See PUBLIC’S AGENDA, pg. 13

Rochester Transit System Goes from Deficit to Surplus

With No Bailouts or Fare Hikes, CEO Turns System Around

When Mark Aesch became CEO of the public transit system in Rochester, NY, in 2004, he faced a daunting challenge. The Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority (RGRTA) was facing a more than $27.7 million operating deficit, about 40 percent of its annual budget.

Aesch knew there’d be no bailout from higher levels of government. In fact he went out of his way to say he didn’t want one.

“The typical playbook in these situations is to raise fares, lay off workers and to retreat in the face of economic realities. But we threw out that playbook. We changed

See ROCHESTER TRANSIT, pg. 2

Admiral Thad Allen to speak at ASPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

see pg. 26 for more information.

Baltimore, MD • March 11-15, 2011
www.aspanet.org/2011conference

See ROCHEROSE TRANSIT, pg. 2
Condrey Elected ASPA VP

Steve Condrey to Assume Presidency of the Society in 2013

Christine McCrehin

Steve Condrey, recently appointed as chairman of the Federal Salary Council by President Obama, has been elected ASPA vice president and will become president of the Society in 2013. Condrey will officially assume the office of vice president at ASPA’s Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD, March 11-15, 2011.

At that time, Erik Bergrud, senior director, community and government relations for Park University, will become president replacing Meredith Newman, professor and director of the School of Public Administration at Florida International University, who will become immediate past president.

KuoTsai “Tom” Liou, a professor at the University of Central Florida, will become president-elect. Newly elected National Council members will also assume their seats at the conference (see list at left).

Condrey has served the society on local, national and international levels and has extensive experience in both a university setting and public administration practice.

After receiving the news of his election, Condrey agreed to take a few moments to tell PA TIMES readers a bit about the goals he has for his tenure as an ASPA officer.

How does it feel to be elected vice president of ASPA? I’m absolutely thrilled to be elected as ASPA VP. ASPA is an organizational

times article was relevant to both academic and practitioner audiences, with directly actionable advice for public managers; clearly written, and provided cutting-edge information.

When informed of her win, Mergel had this to say, “I am very honored to accept this award. Thank you again for recognizing the importance of this fascinating and growing area of public administration practice and research.”

Created in 2002, the PA TIMES Best Article Award is presented annually. In 2009, the award was renamed the H. George Frederickson PA TIMES Best Article Award, to honor former ASPA president and PA TIMES founding father H. George Frederickson.

The award will be presented during the Awards Ceremony at ASPA’s Annual Conference, March 11-15, in Baltimore, MD.

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