

Parting Comments Word From Our President

By Mary Alice Evans

Aloha Hawaii Chapter Members!

As I reach the end of my two-year term as your chapter president (June 30), I want to say mahalo for some great experiences and to some hard working people!

The 2009 HCPO Conference brought together some brave and brilliant planners to pull-off a successful event in the worst economic crisis since 1929. Our partners, the Hawaii Geographic Information Coordinating Council and the Hawaii State Office of Planning, created a theme, *Resilient Communities*, which combined environmental and economic issues for planners. We were especially fortunate that Ruby Edwards, with the Office of Planning, chaired the Program Committee. Another fortunate piece of luck was the involvement of Royce Jones, the Hawaii ESRI representative and HIGICC board member. DURP students provided needed people-power under the director of Scott Glenn, DURP Student Liaison. Kristen Sohn helped get sponsors for the event. And, holding the check book and marshalling the troops -- oops, volunteers -- was Mary Lou Kobayashi, my boss at the Office of Planning.

Thanks to assistance from the chapter, I was able to attend the National APA Fall Leadership Conference in Washington, DC, in September 2010 and the National Conference in Boston in April 2011. In Boston, a National Planning Excellence Award for Innovation in Sustaining Places was given to the North Shore Plan: Pa'ala'a to Kapaeloa, created by Kamehameha Schools and their planning consultant, Group 70. As you recall, this plan won a chapter award at our annual meeting at the Plaza Club in July 2010. The Hawaii contingent at the conference was very proud of the winners!

The Executive Committee (our chapter governing body) has worked very hard these last two years. We have been extremely lucky to have program co-chairs, Hilarie Alomar, Rachel Shaak, Martha Spengler and Stephanie Roberts. This is a challenging assignment and they have done an excellent job! Our Treasurers, Rachel Adams and Allen Kam, deserve our gratitude (and more) for volunteering to keep the chapter in good standing with National APA and the IRS.

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Our chapter Secretaries, Stephanie Roberts and Robyn Loudermilk, turned into the Email Communicators-in-Chief. This job is central to our internet-enabled information transformation. The other part of the information dissemination function is our newsletter which has been moved online. Remember the old days of newsletter mailing parties? Mike Murphy and Jeff Merz, our Newsletter Editors, have taken the chapter into the internet age.

Speaking of our website, Mark Tawara, at Belt Collins, served as the chapter webmaster for at least five years. We were so lucky! And when the time came for an update, Vice President Steve Lettau stepped in and created a brand new website which is easy to navigate and beautiful to view. Steve has also organized the annual Chapter Planning Awards, a highlight of HCPO conferences and our annual meeting.

One third of our members have been accepted into AICP, demonstrating their advanced planning skills. Helping members pass the AICP exam is chapter Professional Development Officer, Professor Peter Flachsbart, who in addition to teaching at DURP, volunteers his time to hold exam cram sessions every year. AICP members have supported the chapter's efforts to offer AICP certification maintenance credits every month in Honolulu and at workshops and conferences. Leading this initiative are AICP Co-chairs, Peter Flachsbart and Paul Luerson. There's a lot of work behind the scenes to make these credits available in Hawaii.

Thanks to Kimi Yuen, the chapter was able to award two scholarships this year to DURP students at World Town Planning Day in November. Lee Sichter and Cheryl Soon held workshops on revisions to Chapter 341 and 343 to inform the Legislature about planners' views on Hawaii's environmental disclosure laws. And finally, I want to thank Immediate Past President and Hawaii's newest Fellow, Ralph Portmore, for his good and practical advice over the last two years.

Please remember to vote in our chapter elections this month!

And on behalf of the newsletter committee, thank you Mary Alice for your commitment, professionalism and efforts to the planning profession in Hawaii – Jeff Merz