

A Word from the President Gail Atwater

APA Hawaii Student Scholarship Fund (Knocked Out of the Park)

It's World Series time so you must excuse a nod to baseball. Following an appeal to the membership at our annual meeting and follow up via email, our members went way beyond our \$2,000 fundraising goal for the chapter student scholarship, contributing *very close to \$3,000 or more than 50% over our goal!* A sincere mahalo to all who contributed. There is truly strength in numbers. Come to World Town Planning Day in November and witness the awarding of two scholarships to deserving Hawaii residents who are students at DURP.

APA Consolidation Elections (Chapters in Trial Run 93% Satisfied)

APA National now has the infrastructure to conduct electronic chapter balloting and elections each January and will require chapters to get with the program no later than January 2016. Five chapters volunteered to test the new balloting and voting system recently and declared it "smooth" and "trouble-free". Since here in Hawaii successful chapter candidates take office each June 30, we are in for a change in election schedule. Chapter bylaws also will have to be changed to reflect the new election procedures and then approved by a majority of our chapter members. Stay tuned for more information about that.

Sound Bites from 2014 National Policy Conference, Washington, DC

Twice a year your APA Hawaii president meets with the other 46 APA chapter presidents to hear the latest from the mother ship and share concerns, ideas and best practices. This fall's Chapter Presidents Council meeting was focused on the promising results of the pilot consolidated elections (see item above). This was followed by a full-day National Policy Conference. Here are some of the more intriguing statements made by the dynamic speakers.

The Ins and Outs of Federal Transportation Funding (Message Out > In)

- The past year has been the single greatest environment for appropriations, the best in a decade. 2015 will not be like last year. A Republican Senate, if that comes to pass, will want contractive spending.
- Transportation's contribution to GDP is 10% of total.
- Congress has never cut transportation funding; members "could not face constituents". Funding has become a mix of Transportation Fund (aka gas tax) and General Fund monies. The gas tax is diminishing in value so to stay at the same level Congress will have to increase General Funds as a proportion of transportation spending.
- Public-private partnerships are a popular concept but are a *financing* rather than *funding* mechanism. The money has to be paid back. Participants in public-private partnerships need a revenue source to pay back the loan.

Climate Change (Get Going or Else)

- National climate change expense proposition: the cost of extreme weather events in 2012 was \$110 billion.
- A "Risky Business Report" was prepared by finance staff from the federal administration and Wall Street types to analyze the systemic risk of climate change. The estimated cost of inaction: each decade we wait to act the cost goes up 40%.