



ASPA Sacramento

Sacramento Chapter of the
American Society for Public Administration

Spring 2022, FY 2021-22, Issue No. 2

ASPA Sacramento Presents:

2021-22 Annual Awards Dinner

When: Monday, May 2, 2022
5:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Where: Sterling Hotel
1300 H Street
Sacramento

Parking: City Lot plus street parking

Our 40th annual awards program, honoring:

Ana J. Matosantos

Elizabeth Hill Public Official of the Year

Staci Anderson

Community Service

**Department of Water Resources –
Sustainable Groundwater Management
Program**

Grantland Johnson Intergovernmental
Cooperation

Dr. Mark Lubell

Chester A. Newland Academic Excellence

Elaine M. Howle

Ross Clayton Lifetime Distinguished Public
Service

Bryan King

Rising Star

Cal OES

President's Award

2021-22 Annual Awards Dinner Monday, May 2, 2022

Since 1982, ASPA Sacramento has honored outstanding local individuals, organizations, and programs for “advancing the art, science, teaching, and practice of public and non-profit administration.” At our 40th annual dinner, we will present seven awards: for leadership and proficiency in state government, for providing programs and activities to local youth, for implementation of a water program across many governmental levels, for research and instruction on environmental issues, for 40 years of non-partisan reporting on state programs, for a promising career in public policy, and for expertise and assistance during recent disasters.

Join your colleagues for an enriching evening that pays tribute to local success stories in public administration, education, and non-profit.

Reservations:

Go to [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com): “ASPA Sacramento's 40th Annual Awards Dinner”

Questions and Information:

www.sacramento-aspa.info

ASPA Sacramento thanks our sponsors:

USC Price School in Sacramento

**California State University,
Sacramento**

**University of the Pacific, McGeorge
School of Law**

ASPA Sacramento is the official newsletter for the Sacramento Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration. The mission of ASPA is “advancing excellence in public service.” **President:** Seraephina Tarriela, **Vice President:** Brandon Fore, **Immediate Past President:** Jeanelle Gottlob, **Treasurer:** Sergio Aguilar, **Secretary:** Richard Hill. **Executive Council:** Afsoon Aflaki, Sara Amin, Ryan Arba, Lisa Beutler, Zachary Kihm, Juliet Lee, Sara McClellan, Meghan McKelvey, JaConya Merchant Jones, Jeffrey Mrizek, Catalina Munoz, Katie Ramsey, Silvia Rodriguez, Megan Sabbath, Divya Sim, Randi Kay Stephens, and Waringa Waitiki. **Members Emeritus:** Chester A. Newland and Geoff McLennan.

Notes from the Editor

An enthusiastic hello from ASPA Sacramento! Here is an update on our many activities as we race to the finish line of 2021-22:

-Thanks to those of you who “zoomed” for our March program on Women in IT. Professor Jeffrey Mrizek organized a knowledgeable panel who spoke about the need for more women in this industry and also shared some basic career tips. See our write-up on Page 3.

-Several ASPA Sacramento members just returned from the ASPA National Conference in Jacksonville, Florida. The consensus is that it was a successful “return to form” after a couple years without a conference. Page 5 conveys the reactions of our attendees.

-Spring is the season for starting a “changing of the guard” at ASPA Sacramento. If you want to become part of our governing body, we urge you to run for a position on the 2022-23 Officers and Executive Council, which will take office on July 1st. More details are on Page 5.

-Over the years, National ASPA has presented numerous webinar programs, usually involving professional development sessions or book discussions. As an FYI, you should know that over 160 hours of these programs have been archived. Go to aspanet.org/webinararchives.

.-May 2nd is the date and Sterling Hotel is the place for our 40th Annual Awards Dinner. This issue highlights everything you want to know about the event: date, time, place, recipients, and reservations. Regarding the recipients, the Awards Panel received and reviewed many nominations. The result (after much debate) is a terrific roster of outstanding individuals, programs, and organizations. Regarding the dinner, you really should attend and share in the joy of public service. May 2nd will be an uplifting evening of conversation, refreshments, food, speeches, and tributes. Join us!

See You May 2nd

Richard

2021-22 ASPA Sacramento Leadership

Chapter President

Seraephina Tarriela
Nyman Turkish PC

Vice President

Brandon Fore
CA Department of Water Resources

Immediate Past President

Jeanelle Gottlob
City of Sacramento

Treasurer

Sergio Aguilar
CA Department of Finance

Secretary

Richard Hill
State of California (retired)

Executive Council

Afsoon Aflaki, City of Sacramento
Sara Amin, CA Department of Justice
Ryan Arba, ICF
Lisa Beutler, Stantec
Zachary Kihm, LSS of Northern California
Juliet Lee, University of Southern California
Sara McClellan, CSU Sacramento
Meghan McKelvey, League of California Cities
JaConya Merchant Jones, CA County Superintendents
Jeffrey Mrizek, CA Community Colleges Chancellor's
Catalina Munoz, Franchise Tax Board
Katie Ramsey, CalHealthCares Program
Silvia Rodriguez, CA Dept. of Corrections and Rehab..
Megan Sabbath, CA Department of Finance
Divya Sim, CA Dept. of Housing and Community Dvlp.
Randi Kay Stephens, City of Rancho Cordova
Waringa Waitiki, State of California

Members Emeritus

Chester A. Newland and Geoff McLennan

ASPA Sacramento Mission Statement

- Provide a forum for enlightening Sacramento Area citizens on public administration issues.
- Recognize outstanding local achievement in public service.
- Advance diversity, opportunity, and professional excellence in public administration.
- Promote local research in public administration issues, focused on public-private partnerships, interdisciplinary approaches, and appropriate use of technology.
- Create partnerships with other professional associations.

WOMEN IN IT PROGRAM NOTES

ASPA Sacramento's March program delivered information and resources about a timely issue: the underrepresentation of women in information technology. Our lunchtime virtual event was co-hosted by Innovative Pathways to Public Service, a non-profit focused on the workforce of the future.

Professor and ASPA Councilmember Jeffrey Mrizek moderated the program. He thanked Juliet Lee for handling the "Zoom mechanics," offered an overview of ASPA, and introduced the panel:

-*Cruz Nieto*, Project Management Office Chief, CalEPA

-*Laura Cummings*, Cyber Security Engineer, SMUD

-*Cris Rojas*, Deputy Director, Department of Motor Vehicles

-*Brandon Littlejohn*, Statewide Recruitment Coordinator, CalHR

Professor Mrizek asked the first three panelists about their career journey:

Cruz Nieto transitioned from program management to IT two decades ago. Since then, she has held various IT positions at several state agencies. She remarked that IT "spans many disciplines," and is "not all technical things."

Laura Cummings entered IT three and one-half years ago from the publishing industry. She has an IT degree and observed that she loves the continuous change in IT. She advised those in IT positions to "keep asking questions" and document answers to give to the next person.

Cris Rojas oversees IT functions and she cautioned that "you don't have to be a pure technician" to work in IT. Currently, there are more and more IT positions but fewer candidates. Women can and should be the difference maker for this shortage.

The second question concerned the importance of diversity in an IT workplace:

Cruz Nieto stressed that you need a diverse view for your product and your customers – "one size does not fit all." Laura Cummings affirmed that a

"diverse staff works better" and everyone should "embrace your unique skill sets." Laura serves as a mentor and she declared, "The door is wide open for women in IT." Cris Rojas concurred and commented that "diversity in development groups makes better products."

Brandon Littlejohn gave an overview of employment with the State of California, especially IT employment. The state system includes:

- 150 departments
- excellent benefits
- 200,000 employees, and
- 90,000 employees in the Sacramento area.

Regarding IT positions with the state, Brandon cited several dynamics:

- Many IT staffers are middle-aged (young people needed!)
- Cybersecurity people wanted
- IT apprentice opportunities exist, and
- IT vacancies can be found in most agencies.

Next was a short video from CalPERS about how to take job exams and then how to apply.

The very full one-hour concluded with a short q and a featuring additional comments and tips:

- More women than men left the workplace during the pandemic. Remote work can bring them back and maybe help achieve a work/life balance.
- "It shouldn't matter to a manager whether you're remote or in the office."
- If you are taking your first IT position, sometimes it is beneficial to begin in a support unit – you can learn the jargon and sign up for training.
- Take advantage of on-line training and education.
- Decide on the skill sets you need in your career and focus on them.

Professor Mrizek summed up with the comment: "We want to bring more people into this industry." In addition, he mentioned that a five-page "Women in IT Resource Guide" is available for those who want more information.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE NOTES

“Back from the Pandemic” might have been the unofficial slogan for the 2022 ASPA National Conference, the first in-person one in two years. The five-day event was filled with speakers, panels, awards, receptions, and exhibits. Our host city was Jacksonville, Florida, and our location was the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville. The basics:

- “Democracy Under Threat – The Future of Equality in a Post-Covid World” was the theme
- seven tracks were offered (equity, service, policy, finance, structures, governance, and comparative government)
- more than 140 panels
- over 30 awards were given, and
- attendees came from around the world.

ASPA Sacramento played a part in the festivities. Here are notes about our support, participation, and observations:

Local Support

- Paul Danczyk was an Honorary Co-Chair and a contributor to Founders’ Fellows
- USC Sol Price School was a conference sponsor

Favorite Panels, Speakers, Breakfasts, Luncheons

- Mary Ellen Guy spoke at the Nesta Gallas Award about the need for recognizing emotions and the humanness of organizations
- Juliet Lee moderated and Chester Newland was a discussant at the panel “Populist Loss of Discipline of Constitutional Democracy: Rights Without Responsibilities,” which discussed constitutional democracy in the U.S. and globally
- Section for Women in Public Administration (SWPA) Breakfast
- Gloria Hobson Norden Equity Luncheon
- Paul Danczyk conducted a popular dialogue plenary session on good government
- “The Flexible Workplace” panel that discussed telework and work-life interface
- “The Many Faces of Collaboration” panel examined numerous types of collaboration
- “Human Resources Management in Public Administration: Recruitment and Retention”
- “The Face of Contracting Out in the 21st Century: Sustainability, Equity and Efficiency”
- “Personnel Retirement, Resignation and Mitigating the Effects on Crisis on Performance”

Enjoyable Welcome Reception

The Hyatt Regency River Deck provided an outdoor 180-degree view of the Jacksonville area. Attendees enjoyed drinks, refreshments, games, and plenty of networking.

Other Worthwhile Receptions and Networking Events

- Brigham Young Ice Cream Social and Founders’ Fellows Reception (“the perfect ending of the conference in recognizing the 2021 and 2022 fellows”)
- Journal of Social Equity and Public Administration (JSEPA) Reception
- USC’s International Public Policy and Management Program (IPPAM) co-sponsored a dinner reception for students and foreign attendees

Deserving Awardees

- Alikhan Baimenov and the United Nations Astana Civil Service Lab received the “ASPA Award for International Leadership”
- Blue Woolridge received the “Gloria Hodson Nordin Social Equity Award” and he spoke about the “Three Es” of public service and how we should expand them: economy, effectiveness, efficiency, engagement, and equity
- Mary Ellen Guy received the “Nesta Gallas Award for Exemplary Professionalism in Public Service” and she talked about how Gallas influenced her own career
- Diane M. Disney received the “Donald C. Stone Service to ASPA Award”
- The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Port Authority of New York and New Jersey received the “Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Exemplary Practice Award”

Students & New Professionals Summit

This all-day annual event focused on topics important to people entering, or studying to enter, public service: cover letters, resumes, job searches, interviews, and “marketing yourself.”

Comments on the Experience

- “The riverwalk was amazing...and dolphins could be seen making their way along the St. Johns River.”
- “Overall, the 2022 conference was highly successful.”
- “It was fantastic to be able to reconnect with colleagues and meet new friends.”
- “Jacksonville felt a lot like Sacramento, a small downtown with lots of independent shops, restaurants, and lots of street art. I enjoyed walking along the river front and ate some delicious hush puppies at a sandwich shop.”

ASPA SACRAMENTO 2022-23 ELECTION NEW LEADERS WELCOME!

July is always transition time for ASPA Sacramento. We will hold an election soon for the 2022-23 Officers and Council. On the ballot will be:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary, and
- Five-Six Council positions.

The officers will all serve one-year, the Council slots are two-year.

If you ever wanted to become more involved with ASPA, now would be a great time. We welcome folks from all across the public service discipline: state government, county government, city government, PA professors, PA students, non-profits, and the consultants who work with them.

As part of our leadership, you will:

- Meet your colleagues
- Plan chapter events, and
- Help with our many activities (awards, scholarships, mentorships, dinners).

With the pandemic hopefully behind us, 2022-23 should be a productive year for ASPA Sacramento. If interested, send an email to:

Chapter President Seraephina Tarriela
seraephina@gmail.com

√ **By COB Friday April 29, 2022**

2021-22 AWARD RECIPIENTS QUICK BIOS

Ana J. Matosantos is Cabinet Secretary for the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom. She has two decades of fiscal expertise and legislative consulting.

Staci Anderson is President and CEO of PRO Youth and Families (PRO). PRO partners with local schools, organizations, and governments to offer uplifting activities to youth.

The Department of Water Resources Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Team has worked with cities, counties, special districts, and water entities to develop a statewide framework that protects California's groundwater over the long term.

Dr. Mark Lubell is Program Chair, Advisor and Professor for the UC Davis Environmental Policy and Management Program, which trains science and engineering students on policy matters.

Elaine M. Howle was California State Auditor for 20 years, and she led the Bureau of State Audits. She was the longest serving State Auditor in history and was appointed by three governors.

Bryan King is Chief of Staff for the California State Senate. He has also served the Senate as a Legislative Director, Consultant, Legislative Aide, and Senate Fellow.

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) has played crucial roles in recent disasters such as COVID 19 and numerous fires. Cal OES has consistently and quickly delivered resources to affected California communities.

For much more information on these awardees, please attend our dinner on May 2nd.

**SACRAMENTO AMERICAN
SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION**

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**For Information About
ASPA Sacramento:**

Check out the chapter website at
www.sacramento-aspa.info

OR

Write us at our address---

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