



ASPA Sacramento

*Sacramento Chapter of the
American Society for Public Administration*

Summer 2022, FY 2022-23, Issue No. 1

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
HELP, PARTICIPATION,
AND SUPPORT
IN 2021-22!**

Seraephina Tarriela
2021-22 President

and

**2021-22 Officers and
Executive Council**

The new 2022-23 ASPA Sacramento Officers and Council are hard at work planning numerous events for the upcoming year. We are pleased to announce that first up will be a Fall Reception hosted by our friends at University of the Pacific/McGeorge School of Law. Check our website at www.sacramento-aspa.info for date and time when available. See you soon with more details about our schedule for 2022-23.

Recap of May Awards Dinner

The ASPA Sacramento 2022 Awards Program was a return to our dinner format and a critical success. Some of the positive feedback:

“The dinner was really fun and interesting.”

“Congratulations on an event well done.”

“One of the nicest dinners for ASPA.”

“It was a great event.”

This was our 40th annual awards program, and our first dinner since 2019. The pandemic forced us to cancel the 2020 and 2021 dinners, although we still chose award recipients for both years. So, it was only fitting that an event that celebrated four decades of excellence would feature the total package: a lovely venue, deserving recipients, thoughtful speeches, and plenty of colleague interaction. Our location was the Sterling Hotel, which ably hosted over 130 ASPA members, friends, and guests.

ASPA Sacramento President Seraephina Tarriela and Awards Chair Lisa Beutler welcomed everyone. Seraephina shared an overview of our

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ASPA Sacramento thanks our sponsors:

USC Price School in Sacramento

**California State University,
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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:** Jeffrey Mrizek, **Vice President:** Juliet Lee, **Immediate Past President:** Seraephina Tarriela, **Treasurer:** JaConya Merchant-Jones, **Secretary:** Richard Hill. **Executive Council:** Sergio Aguilar, Sara Amin, Ryan Arba, Lisa Beutler, Zachary Kihm, Meghan McKelvey, Eli Owen, Silvia L. Rodriguez, Megan Sabbath, and Seraephina Tarriela. **Members Emeritus:** Chester A. Newland and Geoffrey T. McLennan.

Notes from the Editor

Warm Summer Greetings from ASPA Sacramento! We took a little time off after our terrific (but exhausting) annual dinner. But we are back with new leadership, ambitious plans, and an invitation to join us. The latest:

-Much appreciation to everyone who came out for the ASPA Sacramento awards program. An event like this requires considerable "behind the scenes" effort to 1) choose the recipients, 2) coordinate with the recipients and their guests, 3) publicize the event, and 4) plan the evening. Big kudos to Lisa, Brandon, Sergio, Juliet, JaConya, Eli, Seraephina, and Jeffrey for their hard work. Hopefully, the write-up and photos convey some of the fun and magic of May 2nd.

-As we bring down the curtain on 2021-22, we want to thank several people and organizations, and welcome some new folks. Specifically:

Organizers: In addition to the dinner, we managed to host three other events despite the ongoing pandemic. Thanks to our friends at University of the Pacific/McGeorge for putting on the Fall Reception. Also, a few of us came up with a nice holiday get-together at Flatstick Pub. Lastly, Silvia Rodriguez and Jeffrey Mrizek were two of the planners for the "women in IT" zoom session that we co-hosted with the Innovative Pathways to Public Service group.

Sponsors: The following supporters have sustained our chapter for many years: USC Price School in Sacramento, University of the Pacific/McGeorge, and CSUS Sacramento.

Officers and Council: A rousing thank you to the 2021-22 folks, especially Seraephina, Jeanelle, Brandon, and Sergio (our treasurer for many years). Glad some of you are staying around in other roles. Regarding 2022-23, thanks to Jeffrey, JaConya, and Juliet for stepping into officer positions, thanks to the names at the right for continuing to serve, and welcome back to Eli Owen.

See You Soon

Richard

2022-23 ASPA Sacramento Officers and Councilmembers

Chapter President

Jeffrey Mrizek
Global Urban Nomads

Vice President

Juliet Lee
University of Southern California

Treasurer

JaConya Merchant-Jones
CA County Superintendents Educational Services As.

Secretary

Richard Hill
State of California (retired)

Executive Council

Sergio Aguilar, CA Department of Finance
Sara Amin, CA Department of Justice
Ryan Arba, ICF
Lisa Beutler, Stantec
Zachary Kihm, CA Department of Social Services
Meghan McKelvey, League of California Cities
Eli Owen, Cal OES
Silvia L. Rodriguez, CA Dept. of Corrections & Rehab.
Megan Sabbath, CA Department of Finance
Seraephina Tarriela, AGC of California

Members Emeritus

Chester A. Newland
Geoffrey T. McLennan

ASPA Sacramento Mission Statement

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

Recap of May Dinner

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chapter: we were founded in 1940, we have given awards since 1982 (seven this year), and, even with the ongoing pandemic, we managed to present four programs in fiscal year 2021-22. Lisa introduced two special guests: 2019-20 ASPA National President Paul Danczyk and ASPA Bay Area Chapter Vice President Richard Gregory Johnson III.

Next, ASPA Sacramento Executive Council-member Juliet Lee honored our 13 awardees for 2020 and 2021, several of whom were in the audience. Juliet added that nominations for 2023 are already open.

Then it was time for the main event. Lisa Buetler handled background and introductions for the seven awards:

Rising Star

Bryan King

Chief of Staff, CA State Senate

Bryan King: Thank you to ASPA. I am fortunate to work with great people. Most government work is **not** done in Washington, DC, it is done in Sacramento. Also, thanks to the Asian Pacific Islander Capitol Association for being an advocate for local students and young professionals.

Community Service

Staci Anderson

President and CEO, PRO Youth and Families

Staci Anderson: This award means so much for us non-profit folks. PRO is part of the Sacramento Youth & Family Collective (YFC) that brings together several youth organizations for partnerships and projects; a united effort to offer “one voice” for youth services. We have found paying jobs and learning opportunities for over 2,000 young people.

Grantland Johnson Intergovernmental Cooperation

DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Team

Lisa Beutler: This award recognizes important work across different levels of government.

Paul Gosselin, Department of Water Resources Deputy Director: The last two years have been difficult for all of us. The SGMA Team made its deadlines. We work with 25 local agencies, and we “live and breathe cooperation.” There is a great culture at DWR.

Chester A. Newland Academic Excellence

Dr. Mark Lubell

Program Chair, UC Davis Environmental Policy and Management

Mark Lubell: I am happy to accept this award in Chet Newland’s name. We strive to connect academia with the “real world.” When we “define and find a solution” we can achieve miracles.

President’s Award

Cal OES Governor’s Office of Emergency Services

Lisa Beutler and 2020-21 Chapter President Jeanelle Gottlob: The President’s Award is given periodically for special achievements. During recent disasters, Cal OES has consistently delivered “OES Miracles” in several areas, especially supplies and resources to affected communities.

Cal OES Director Mark Ghilarducci: It is fantastic to see so many friends here tonight. There are more and more disasters and emergencies every year. Our motto is “One Team, One Fight.” I am proud of our team, especially the logistics management staff. We are available 24/7 and “we are your security blanket.”

Ross Clayton Lifetime Distinguished Public Service

Elaine M. Howle

California State Auditor (retired)

Lisa Beutler: This award is given for a distinguished career – Elaine has been a messenger for positive change in state government.

Elaine Howle: Thanks so much for this award I am grateful for my career, I served three administrations. My advice is to always appreciate your hard-working staff. (Elaine then introduced several of her staffers in the audience).

Elizabeth Hill encouraged me and many others – “she broke the glass ceiling.” So, you should help others in their careers. Thank you to all the public servants in California. “Be proud of what you do!”

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Recap of May Dinner

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Elizabeth Hill Public Official of the Year

Ana J. Matosantos

Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

Governor Gavin Newsom (via video): Ana plays a pivotal role for the state, and she strives for fairness and equity. She is also a friend and mentor to others. Ana always sees “what needs to be addressed.” Her career includes valuable work with the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Board, an appointment by President Obama.

Ana J. Matosantos: We should all use our talents to make things better. – “live life with a code of ethics.” It is fitting that Cal OES is here tonight, Mark and I have “showed up for each other” and he calmly “lowers his voice when things get tense.” Also in the audience is Diane Cummins who helped me in my career. I am grateful for what I do every day – thank you to all my colleagues.

Because of Covid-19, Governor Newsom has re-focused to address the new issues. We are all hopeful that we will have a positive impact – it is a privilege to serve.

Lisa Beutler concluded the evening with a call for one more round of applause for the ASPA Sacramento 2021-22 award recipients. Many attendees stayed around for additional conversation and photo-taking. Next up: our 2022-23 awards process!



Mrizek Q and A (concluded from Page 5)

brilliant minds over the last twenty years. As a public educator, I have learned far more from my students than I have ever taught. There is a kind of magic that occurs when I see the curiosity of a learner unlocked, it really energizes me. It truly has been this passion which has led me to public service careers in talent, organizational, workforce and economic development. My teaching philosophy sums it up best and reflects my belief in service leadership: “To give of oneself in the venture of promoting and developing the growth of others.”



CHAPTER TRANSITIONS

We are both happy and sad to say farewell to some of our chapter stalwarts:

Jeanelle Gottlob was the 2020-21 ASPA Sacramento President, and she guided us through the challenges of running a non-profit organization during the pandemic. She is moving to Texas and promises to be an active ASPA member in that state.

Professor Sara McClellan has belonged to our Executive Council the last few years, and she was a vital link to CSU Sacramento. She and husband *Bryon Gustafson* (also an ASPA member) are relocating to Virginia this summer.

Q & A WITH JEFFREY MRIZEK

Jeffrey Mrizek is the 2022-23 ASPA Sacramento President. He is CEO of Global Urban Nomads, a community of leaders working for positive change. In addition, he is a professor at William Jessup University School of Professional Studies, teaching courses in leadership and management. Jeffrey holds an MBA from University of Phoenix and a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) from California State University, Sacramento.

When and why did you join ASPA?

As a state civil service supervisor at Franchise Tax Board is where I first learned of ASPA. In that role, I supported the departments' Our Promise, the statewide charitable giving campaign. That is where I first met Geoff McLennan and he introduced me to ASPA. In 2019, I attended my first Annual Award Ceremony. After emerging from the pandemic, I decided to get more involved and joined the ASPA Executive Council in 2021. At this time, I was the Dean of Workforce and Economic Development at the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, and we were very busy as the pandemic instigated the digital transformation of that agency. Having worked for a decade in State service, I knew that myself and many public service supervisors and managers were feeling the demands and sensing burn out from the challenges of transforming government to fully remote work. ASPA was a great way to stay connected and network while many of the in-person events were not being held.

What does ASPA offer a student or young professional?

ASPA is absolutely an amazing opportunity for students or young professionals to learn about the importance of public service in meeting the needs of citizens by delivering excellence in leading and stewarding the public good. Perhaps the greatest value ASPA offers is access to leadership at all levels across various departments and agencies; this network provides access to mentorship and insight to emerging opportunities that can support one's career development. By creating lasting friendships with like-minded civil servants at ASPA, students or young

professionals find an opportunity to serve, lead and inspire others to the great joy and privileges that public servants enjoy in their careers. Also, there are opportunities to receive scholarships, learn about educational pathways, and even secure internships or promotions from the opportunity to connect with the influential membership of ASPA. Fundamentally, ASPA is a great place to learn, practice and master service leadership with some of the best experienced and emerging state and local government leaders.

What are your goals for the chapter over the next year?

My goals for the ASPA Sacramento Chapter is to continue to support the deep passion and hard work of the many volunteer public service leaders who have led this organization before me. One specific goal is to strengthen our regional partnerships with the initiatives in our region focused on the recruitment and retention of the public sector leadership. This can be accomplished by strengthening and aligning relationships with regional efforts like Innovative Pathways to Public Service, NXTGOV, and the Institute for Local Government. By approaching our work in regional collective impact, ASPA is well-posed to support the needs of Public Sector Administrators in a very important workforce transition, Building Back Better. As both an experienced public sector administrator and community college professor, I seek to lead ASPA to invigorate our public career pathways to develop, attract and retain talent. By engaging our regional partners and institutions of higher education to support and strengthen our state and local government agencies in talent development. I am most excited by the forthcoming civil service apprenticeship models that ASPA can support in meeting Governor Newsom's call for 500,00 apprentices; this will be an amazing opportunity to both in-skill and up-skill our public service workforce.

If money were not an issue, what would be your dream job?

Truth be told, a SCUBA instructor. It is a personal passion of mine, I enjoy the adventure and exploration of the underwater world and it's the closest way to having the superpower of flying. Although I often joke that I would also do my job as a professor for free. Honestly, it is a pure joy to work with thousands of

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**SACRAMENTO AMERICAN
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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---

**ASPA Sacramento
P.O. Box 2937
Sacramento, CA 95812**

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