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ASPA Luncheon

Friday, April 4, 2008
12:00 Noon

Auditorium of the State Office Building
(north of the State Capitol Building)

Utah's Roads & Rail: The Next Ten Years

J. Stuart Adams, Transportation Commission Chair
Carlos Braceras, UDOT Deputy Director
Ralph Jackson, UTA Deputy Chief

Utah has experienced tremendous growth the past five years adding additional strain to an already overwhelmed transportation system. Come enjoy an invigorating discussion about what lies ahead for rail and transportation projects throughout the state for the next ten years and beyond. Transportation Commission Chair Stuart Adams, UDOT Deputy Director Carlos Braceras and UTA Deputy Chief Ralph Jackson will talk about the big projects as well as how all three entities work together in financing and solving Utah's complex transportation issues.

Please make your reservations early. The luncheon will be catered. Reservations or cancellations must be received no later than Tuesday, April 1st. No shows will be billed. Limited parking is available—please carpool or ride public transportation where possible.

The cost of the luncheon is \$12.00 for ASPA members, \$15.00 for nonmembers and \$6.00 for students. Cash or checks accepted.

Please call the Center for Public Policy and Administration, University of Utah, at 581-6493 or e-mail jrandall@cppa.utah.edu for reservations.

ASPA Legislative Wrap-up

Sandy Peck

League of Women Voters

Four legislators came to the March ASPA luncheon to review what happened this legislative session:

Senator Karen Mayne (D) District 5
Representative Kory Holdaway (R) District 34
Representative Christine Johnson (D) District 25
Representative Paul Neuenschwander (R) District 20

We asked them to address three questions:

- What significant policies were accomplished?
- What business was left unfinished to be addressed in interim committee meetings?
- What issues and interests won and lost?

Representative Kory Holdaway began by describing an alarming “tremendous shift” in legislative policy, the creation during the last week of the session of two omnibus bills that bundled together several education bills (in Senate Bill 2) and tax bills (in House Bill 239). He raised several concerns:

- Some programs had already been voted down earlier in the session.
- Legislators are less able to react to the wishes of their constituents if they have to vote for programs they don’t support in order to pass programs they do support.
- Bypassing committee hearings eliminates valuable information sharing among legislators and the public.

Representative Holdaway picked as winners: (1) public education funding and (2) health care reform bills recognizing that small businesses are being hurt and many remain uninsured under our current health care system.

Representative Christine Johnson echoed Representative Holdaway’s concerns about omnibus bills. She listed as winners (1) education, (2) the environment, and (3) women’s reproductive rights. Two of her environmental bills passed; one protects water quality by prohibiting the sale of dishwashing detergents with 0.5% or more phosphorus. The other bill appropriates \$100,000 from the Uniform School Fund, which can be used to match federal grants for clean school bus purchases or retrofits. It also requires new policy guidelines to reduce school bus idling.

Legislation to require public information about the effects and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases was approved, and this year no bills were proposed to restrict access to judges by pregnant victims of assault seeking to terminate their pregnancies.

For **Senator Karen Mayne**, who “holds dear” the rights of workers and consumers, winners were payday lending consumers who will benefit from new regulation of that industry, and mobile home owners. Those owners will have nine months instead of 90 days notice to move,

will be protected from rent increases in the meantime, and be informed of zoning changes that affect them. Senator Mayne was concerned that privatization efforts will harm needed government services and was pleased that amendments to the illegal immigration bill will protect taxi drivers and renters.

Representative Paul Neuenschwander offered insights into the work of legislators. In the 35 working days of the session, he cast 650 votes, including more than 100 in committee. Of the 1100 bills that were pre-filed, 436 passed.

He noted that Utah makes the third best state budget effort in the country—but after paying for transportation, education and health care, little discretionary money remains. Health and human services programs make up the second largest share of the budget, next to education, but the needs are overwhelming. There are 1800 on waiting lists for services and 300,000 are uninsured. He speculated that the \$16 billion needed to fund transportation might come, in part, from raising the fuel tax. Representative Neuenschwander praised the integrity of legislators and named the people of Utah as one of the biggest winners in the session.

The legislative panel graciously answered questions from the audience about how they could weigh in on the topics of developers and incorporation of towns, health care reform plans, conflicts of interest, and the omnibus education and tax bills. The panel urged constituents to call, email, go to the legislative website, ask the governor to use his veto power, participate in task force deliberations and encourage the press to shine a light on what's happening.

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Public Service Recognition Week May 5-11, 2008

WHAT IS PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK? It is a once-a-year opportunity to honor public employees at all levels of government—federal, state, and local—for the services they provide to improve our lives every day.

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Seeking Nominations for Annual ASPA Service Awards

Each year the Utah Chapter of ASPA requests nominations for several service awards. These awards will be presented at the **Annual ASPA Awards Luncheon on May 9th**. The ASPA Council would appreciate it if you would take a few moments and consider who you might nominate. The nomination form is included at the end of this newsletter; also included is a list of recent recipients. **Nominations are due by April 18th**.

COUNCIL CORNER

Gloria Wheeler
Brigham Young University
ASPA Council Member

Giving: An Essential Part of Being Human

In October 2007, MPA students at Brigham Young University were privileged to hear a lecture given by Arthur C. Brooks, a professor of public administration in The Maxwell School at Syracuse University. Professor Brooks directs the school's Nonprofit Studies Program, and has studied extensively the issue of giving in the United States. He is the author of *Who Really Cares* (Basic Books, 2006), a book that discusses charitable giving in America. His findings are relevant and important to each of us as human beings, and should resonate with people who spend their lives in public or nonprofit service. The rest of this Council Corner article draws from Professor Brooks' lecture, his book, and the article for the Romney Institute's newsletter written by Catherine Cooper.

In his lecture and his book, Professor Brooks talked about the extent of American charitable giving, and the statistics are impressive. In 2006, 75 per cent of Americans made charitable contributions totaling about \$295 billion. In fact, according to Brooks, American charitable giving exceeded the entire gross domestic product of such European countries as Sweden, Norway, or Denmark. Charitable giving in the United States typically amounts to between 1.5 and 2 per cent of our gross domestic product, and families who make charitable contributions typically give about 3.5 per cent of their household income. In addition to these impressive dollar amounts, many people donate time. (Most of the time donors are also financial donors.) About 50 per cent of American families donate their time to charitable causes. Of the time donations, about 40 per cent go to religious organizations, about 30 per cent to youth-related causes, and the rest to various poverty, health, political, and miscellaneous causes.

But of more interest to Brooks than the amounts of money and time that are donated to charity is his finding about what giving does for the donors and for our society's well-being. Professor Brooks analyzed numerous studies about who gives and why they give. He found that people who give are happier, have less stress in their lives, and are wealthier than those who don't give. Is this surprising? Some people would say no, because they would assert that those who have wealth should be happier and have less stress than those who are struggling with poverty. The astounding result of the studies is that the kind of mindset and family cultural values that lead a person to feel committed to giving time and/or money are the mindset and cultural values that lead people to live successful, happy lives. In other words, charitable giving is not a result of wealth, but, like wealth, is a result of being the kind of person who is charitable. Being the right kind of person results in one's feeling the need to be charitable and also results in one's ability to be successful (although not necessarily wealthy) in life. Among the studies Brooks either performed or analyzed were those that showed that the working poor were more than seven times as likely to donate to charities as were those with similar incomes who were primarily dependent on government income assistance programs. Many successful entrepreneurs claim that charitable giving is a secret to their success—they gave before they were successful, not only after they became successful. Brooks found that, "...charity is not just a by-product of

income or wealth—it is not primarily a financial phenomenon at all. Charity is a unique and transcendent human virtue that thrives on human love. Charity is a natural family value.” (*Who Really Cares*, p.98.)

Brooks asserted that it is imperative to the well being of our society, as well as the individuals in our society, for us to understand that caring, whether through money or time donations, should be an important part of people’s lives. He reached four policy conclusions:

1. Any program designed to help the poor to be successful needs a component that allows the poor to help others—they need an opportunity to give so they can participate in the virtuous cycle themselves.
2. Because of the positive impact charitable giving makes on the country’s economy, governments need to allow individuals to give and to not assume the major responsibility for taking care of individual citizens. It is the role of private citizens to take primary responsibility for caring for one another. Doing so benefits the giver and the receiver.
3. Modeling giving is necessary to influence individuals to become givers.
4. The single best self-help strategy is to serve others.

As we think about our own lives and the way we serve in our careers, our communities, our neighborhoods, our churches, and our families, we should rejoice in the opportunity to give, both of our time and our money. According to Brooks, charitable giving of either or both is a great way to benefit ourselves personally and is a great boon to our society. If you want to feel really human, learn to give of yourself.

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Interested in serving on the ASPA Council?

We are looking for a few good individuals who would like to get involved with the Utah Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA). A **Council Membership Application** form is included below.

ASPA ANNUAL SERVICE AWARDS

I would like to nominate the following individual, board, or commission for an ASPA service award.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____
City State Zip Code

Name of Nominator: _____ Phone Number: _____

The award I think the individual, board, or commission would be eligible for is the:

- Senator Arthur V. Watkins Distinguished Service Award for an Elected Official, which honors elected officials who, through exceptional commitment, skill and integrity, served the public with special distinction.
- Dr. G. Homer Durham Distinguished Service Award for an Appointed Official, which honors appointed officials who have served the public with honor and integrity.
- Dr. F. Ted Hebert Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Contributions to Public Administration, which honors individuals that have made significant contributions to public administration through academia or as a public citizen.
- Boards and Commissions Award of Excellence, for a board or commission whose members have exhibited community service, work to support the common good, are proactive in decision-making, and facilitate public participation in governmental processes.

Reason for nominating this person or organization:

Nominations should be sent to:

Utah Chapter ASPA
University of Utah
260 S Central Campus Dr Rm 214
Salt Lake City, UT 84112-9154
Fax: 801-585-5489

RECENT ANNUAL ASPA AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Senator Arthur V. Watkins Distinguished Service Award for an Elected Office

2003-2004 Judy Ann Buffmire, Utah House of Representatives
2004-2005 Janice Auger, Mayor of Taylorsville
2005-2006 Patrice Arent, Utah State Senate
2006-2007 Peter Corroon, Mayor of Salt Lake County

The G. Homer Durham Distinguished Service Award for an Appointed Official

2003-2004 Robin Arnold-Williams, Utah Department of Human Services
2004-2005 Palmer DePaulis, Utah State Tax Commission
2005-2006 Francine Giani, Utah Department of Commerce
2006-2007 Joyce Sewell, Utah Labor Commission

F. Ted Hebert Award for Outstanding Service in Public Administration

2003-2004 Robert J. Parsons, Romney Institute of Public Management, BYU
2004-2005 Gloria Wheeler, Romney Institute of Public Management, BYU
2005-2006 J. Steven Ott, College of Social & Behavioral Science, University of Utah
2006-2007 Richard Walker, Utah Department of Community and Culture

Board and Commission Award of Excellence

2003-2004 Wasatch Front Regional Council
2005-2006 South Davis Metro Fire Agency
2006-2007 Salt Lake City Planning Commission

ASPA COUNCIL – UTAH CHAPTER

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American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) – Utah Chapter Council Membership Application Form

Advancing excellence in public service . . .

PURPOSE: The Utah Chapter of ASPA is organized to advance the science, processes and art of public administration and to advance the quality of opportunity of all persons through public administration.

Contact Information

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

How long have you been a member of ASPA? _____

Experience in Public Administration (check any that apply)

- Federal government
- State government
- Local government
- Municipal government
- Academic institution
- Nonprofit organization
- Student
- Other _____

Area of Interest (check top two)

- Ethics Conference
- Career Fair
- Newsletter
- Other _____
- Monthly Trainings & Luncheon
- Membership Recruitment
- Web Resource Development

Please provide a short statement of what you would like to accomplish or contribute as a member of the ASPA Council.

I would like to share my experience and expertise by participating on the ASPA-Utah Chapter Council. If selected, I agree to fulfill a two-year term and to support the activities.

Signature _____

Date _____

Please return form to Utah Chapter ASPA, 260 S Central Campus Drive, Room 214 Salt Lake City, UT 84112-9154 – or email to jrandall@cpga.utah.edu