
ASPA BUZZ

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ASPA Luncheon

Thursday, February 1, 2007

12:00 Noon

Utah State Center for the Blind
250 North 1950 West, Room 227, SLC

The Creation and Development of the World Trade Center Utah and its Impact on the Public Sector

Lew W. Cramer, President and CEO
World Trade Center Utah

What are the goals of World Trade Center Utah? Mr. Cramer will discuss how the Center will interact with agencies of government, particularly with economic development, by providing international opportunities for the citizens of Utah and by doing language and executive training for agencies making international connections.

Due to limited space, please make your reservations early. The luncheon will be catered. **Reservations or cancellations must be received no later than Monday, January 29. No shows will be billed.** Limited parking is available—please carpool where possible.

The cost of the luncheon is \$12.00 for ASPA members, students and *BUZZ* Supporters and \$15.00 for nonmembers.

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

ASPANNUAL LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW

By Arlene Zortman
Salt Lake County
ASPAN Council Member

The January 12th Legislative Preview was attended by approximately 75 ASPA members and colleagues. Dr. W. David Patton, Director of the Center for Public Policy & Administration at the University of Utah, moderated a panel of legislators consisting of Senator Patricia Jones (D), District 4, Minority Caucus Manager; Representative Ralph Becker (D), District 24, Minority Leader; and Representative Ron Bigelow (R), District 32, Co-chair of the Executive Appropriations Committee. Senator Curtis Bramble (R), Majority Leader was invited but was unable to attend due to illness.

Dr. Patton asked each of the panelists to respond to the following questions: 1) What are the most important issues the Legislature will consider this session; 2) What will be the most controversial issues this session; and 3) How will the Legislature utilize the additional available funds?

Representative Bigelow said he thought the most important and most controversial issues would be similar because of the surplus money available. When there is a lot of money there is a lot of controversy. Tax cuts/reduction will be an issue in this session of the Legislature; the spending cap will be a concern as it will not be as flexible as in the past. He sees transportation and education as the main issues for the 2007 session. Spending does not change a lot from year to year but the distribution of the funds is what changes. The money will be spread around but probably will remain close to funding levels of other years. It is important to meet the needs of the majority of the State. Representative Bigelow indicated that he is supportive of some kind of tax cut/reduction and also additional funding for education.

Representative Becker indicated that, at this time, there does not appear to be a lot of “moral” bills this year and he sensed that immigration may be an issue in this session. He thinks the biggest issue the Legislature will face this session will be the funding of education. There have been no changes with the rankings of education in Utah; currently the State is last in the country in per pupil spending. Our diverse population presents many challenges and every child needs to have the greatest opportunity to excel. The state is losing teachers due to inadequate salaries and class sizes are too large. There is a need to look at enhanced math skills, possible all-day Kindergarten in Title I schools, and more accountability of teachers. The education system needs to think in terms of K-16 or K-12+ because a high school education is no longer adequate to be productive in the work force.

Health and Human Services are not able to meet the basic needs and responsibilities of the vulnerable individuals within the state. A safety net is needed for people who are in desperate situations, dental and vision services for senior citizens and children’s health insurance. Taxes are a major source of funding for public services and the issue of tax cuts needs to be looked at with these issues in mind. With regard to the spending cap this year, it is important to take a good look at the exceptions to this spending cap.

Senator Pat Jones also mentioned that there may not be big changes in the spending levels but that the state is facing huge challenges with the school population growth, the aging population growth, the uninsured, Medicaid, and substance abuse which should be considered with more emphasis on prevention. It is important to attempt to keep the arts, music and physical education in the schools and at the same time teach some kind of financial literacy and savings not only to the children but also to the adults.

In Health and Human Services it is important to look at the earned income tax credit, insurance for all children, Medicaid, funding for drug courts, services to prevent substance abuse and services for people with disabilities. One of her main concerns/hopes for this session is that all members will be able to work together with civility and respect. Each legislator serves the same number of people and no one is more important than anyone else.

Some of the issues she is hearing from the general public include: public education funding, smaller class sizes at all grade levels, increased teacher salaries, lack of respect, mentoring teachers, career guidance, early childhood education and school vouchers.

The meeting was then open to the following questions from the audience:

- 1) *With regard to the tax reduction/tax structure, how is this being looked at?* It is important to leave the door open on tax cuts, look at all the ideas presented and have a better outcome for all citizens. The Legislature does not always know what is best for the local governments and it is time to look at the tax structure with this in mind.
- 2) *The math and language skill levels between high income and low income students has a large gap; how does the Legislature propose to deal with this inequity?* Money can go towards these issues but it is also important to decide where and how it will be used. There will be a proposal for additional teachers and with the changing world and diverse cultures in Utah it is important to change with it.
- 3) *How about taking some of the one-time money and putting it into capital projects?* That is a good way to spend one-time monies. The Governor is proposing that some of these funds be put into transportation. The role of a Legislator is to balance apples and oranges, roads versus children versus prisons, etc.
- 4) *The law was changed on eminent domain which greatly changed and undermined the policies of local government – how did this happen?* There are several proposals coming up during this session and it is imperative that people get involved and be more watchful of what is going on. All bills go through committees and there are hearings and it is important for people to become involved during this time.
- 5) *It appears that the Governor's economic issues are working at cross purposes with the spending gaps, please comment.* Everything that is done at the state level has a benefit and a deficit for someone somewhere. The spending cap and economic development are two different entities. Economic Development works to bring more jobs to the state; the spending cap limits the growth at government levels. The spending cap ties the hands of future legislators. The spending cap is in Health and Human Services and that is where the growth is developing.

COUNCIL CORNER

By Arlene Zortman
Salt Lake County
ASPA Council Member

PRESIDENT'S DAY

The month of February may only have 28 days and be the shortest month of the year but it does have significance. For instance, it is Black History Month, the birthdays of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln—which are celebrated on President's Day—and, of course, Valentine's Day. Oh yes, it is also the month before Women's History Month – you may want to keep that in mind.

I would like to discuss President's Day—what it is, when it is celebrated and who it honors. I can remember when Abraham Lincoln's birthday was celebrated on the 12th of February and George Washington's birthday was celebrated on the 22nd of February. However, with the passage of Public Law 90-363 in 1968, the celebration of Washington's birthday was changed to the third Monday of the month. Since it was so close to Lincoln's birthday, it soon became known as the Washington-Lincoln Day and most recently has been called President's Day. Some people consider President's Day a celebration for all the presidents, but I will just consider Washington and Lincoln.

George Washington, often referred as the Father of His Country, was born in 1732 in Westmoreland County, Virginia, and in his 20's he fought in the French and Indian War. He was first elected to the House of Burgesses (Virginia's Colonial Legislature) at the age of 26 and he and his family soon settled at Washington's family home, Mount Vernon. Washington served as Virginia's representative in the First and Second Continental Congress and, at the age of 43, was chosen to head the Continental Army. His army forced the British to surrender at Yorktown in 1781 and he returned to his home to live a private life in peace.

That was not to be. In 1787, Washington was elected to preside over the Constitutional Convention and within four months the Constitution of the United States was written. The following year, 1788, the Constitution was ratified and the first Electoral College unanimously elected George Washington as President of the United States. He took office on April 30, 1789, and served for two terms. The nation's first capital was in New York City where Washington was first inaugurated; the second was in Philadelphia. With his help the final site was chosen which bears his name, Washington, D.C. George Washington's presidency ended before the federal government moved to Washington, D.C. so he was never able to live in the permanent home of the nation's capital.

As the nation's first president, George Washington set many precedents, such as: seeking advice regularly from Cabinet members; the negotiation of treaties with other countries; the appointment of the first federal judges; the establishment of banking and currency services; and attending the inauguration of his successor. Washington's wife, Martha, set many presidential social customs. Following his two terms in office, he again settled at Mount Vernon. In 1799 Washington became ill and, within two days, he was dead. In his will, Washington arranged for all his slaves to be freed by the time of his wife's death.

Abraham Lincoln, often referred to as Honest Abe or the Great Liberator, was born in 1809 in Hardin County, Kentucky, but as a young boy his family moved to Illinois. He was elected to the Illinois Legislature at the age of 25 and during this time he taught himself law and opened a law office. Lincoln served in the U.S. House of Representatives for one term and was elected to the Presidency in 1860. His platform allowed slavery in the Southern states but outlawed it elsewhere and considered it treason for states to secede from the Union. Lincoln was inaugurated on March 4, 1861, at which time several Southern states developed plans to secede from the Union. The Civil War began on April 12, 1861, with the first shots fired on Fort Sumter, North Carolina. During this time period, 23 states remained in the Union and 11 states joined the Confederacy.

As President, Lincoln considered it his greatest responsibility to see the nation through the Civil War. Lincoln greatly grieved over the Civil War and the lives that were lost and by the time that the war ended with General Lee's surrender to General Grant at Appomattox, Virginia, more than 600,000 soldiers had died during this conflict. Lincoln's accomplishments included: a national banking system; establishment of the Department of Agriculture; standardized paper currency; the transcontinental railroad; the Homestead Act; the Emancipation Proclamation; and the 13th Amendment which ended slavery.

Lincoln worked hard on the Reconstruction of the United States and his plans were flexible and generous; however, he would never live to see these plans come to fruition. On the evening of April 14, 1865, Lincoln was shot while attending the theatre and died the following morning. This assassination cut short his second term as President of the United States.

These two Presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, have been honored with monuments dedicated to them in Washington, D.C. – the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. They have also been honored by appearing on Mount Rushmore in South Dakota. George Washington fought through the Revolutionary War and united this nation. Abraham Lincoln presided over a nation divided and brought us together again into one nation. These are the two gentlemen whose birthdays are celebrated in February on President's Day.

BEE A BUZZ SUPPORTER

For just a mere \$10.00 per year, you can become a BUZZ Supporter. This helps ASPA cover some of their costs as well as allowing you to attend ASPA events at the member rate (\$12.00 versus \$15.00). Checks should be sent to:

Utah Chapter ASPA
c/o University of Utah
Center for Public Policy & Administration
260 S Central Campus Dr Rm 214
Salt Lake City, UT 84112-9154

If you are not currently receiving the ASPA BUZZ directly, send your e-mail address to jrandall@cpga.utah.edu and you will be added to our mailing list.

To join the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), go to: www.aspanet.org

ANNOUNCING THE ANNUAL ASPA SERVICE AWARDS

Each year the Utah Chapter of ASPA requests nominations for several service awards. These awards are presented at the final luncheon of the program year (June). The ASPA Council would appreciate it if you would take a few moments and consider who you might nominate for the following awards. The nomination form is included below.

- **The Senator Arthur V. Watkins Distinguished Service Award** is given to an elected official who, through exceptional commitment, skill and integrity, served the public with special distinction.
- **The Dr. G. Homer Durham Distinguished Service Award** is presented to an appointed official who has served the public with honor and integrity.
- **The Dr. F. Ted Hebert Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Contributions to Public Administration**, honors individuals that have made significant contributions to public administration through academia or as a public citizen.
- **The Boards and Commissions Award of Excellence** is given to a board or commission, who has exhibited community service, works to support the common good, is proactive in decision-making, and facilitates public participation in governmental processes.

ANNOUNCING THE ASPA ANNUAL SERVICE AWARDS

ASPA SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

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