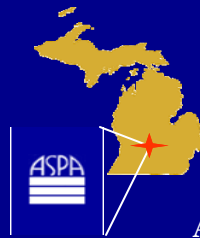


Michigan Capital
Area Chapter of The
American Society for
Public Administration

Mid-Michigan's Voice for
Public Service
Since 1951



PA Forum

A Journal of the Michigan Capital Area Chapter of ASPA

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Reflections on MiCAP

By George Orban

In this second edition of PA Forum, it seems appropriate to make some reflections on the Michigan Capital Area Chapter (MiCAP) which was chartered in May 1951 and continues a 56-year tradition of service to the public sector in Michigan's Capital City.

The primary function of the early years was presenting regular meetings on relevant topics. Highlighting the year was an annual banquet and award ceremony at the Kellogg Center. Although the annual banquet and award was discontinued in the 1960s, Chapter meetings continued and today these meetings serve as a mainstay of MiCAP and our tradition of dialogue. There have been MiCAP newsletters several times over the years, but considering the amount of work required to assemble, edit and distribute paper copies, newsletters existed only when a dedicated volunteer was willing to spend the time and do the work. Advances in desktop publishing software and e-mail technology makes this job so much easier today!

MiCAP assisted the Detroit Metro Chapter in hosting an ASPA national conference in Cobo Hall around 1980. Among other activities, our Chapter organized and staffed the job exchange. Wayne State University generously loaned us a copier, which the Cobo Hall electrician had to come and personally plug in and then unplug... Up until the early 1990s, our Region hosted an annual regional conference every fall, and there were two joint conferences with the Southeast Region (SECOPA), one in Louisville and one in Lexington. There were many outstanding conferences: Milwaukee, Chicago, Indianapolis, Columbus, Toledo and Cleveland to name a few. Our Chapter members were always very involved in these regional conferences, often assisting in the planning as well as presenters or moderators.

MiCAP's greatest glory came in 1990, when we hosted the regional conference. The event was held in East Lansing at what was then the Holiday Inn, now the Marriott. Highlights were the appearances and addresses by the ASPA national President, Senate Majority Leader and Gubernatorial Candidate John Engler, and then Lansing Mayor Terry McKane.

Another activity that was not organized by MiCAP, but closely related, was the Public Management Institute, founded by the late Lynn Croxford. This was a one-day state-wide conference, mostly held at the Holiday Inn West, bringing together practitioners, academicians and students throughout Michigan, and often bringing in speakers from out of state.

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Join MiCAP Today!

Member benefits include:

- Networking with, and learning from, mid-Michigan's public service leaders
- Invitations to seminars and workshops
- Enhance your professional development through your relationship with a professional association
- Future opportunities to apply for mini-grants to support public service research

Go to:

www.aspanet.org
for a membership application!

"Jerry...had long ago demonstrated his passion for public service."

Reflections... continued from page 1

MiCAP members were on the Board of the Institute, and frequent presenters and moderators.

The Chapter award was revived in the mid-1980s, originally with one award, and the event was held for a number of years at the late Jim's Tiffany Restaurant. This event grew in size and importance quickly over the years, and soon became an evening banquet. A number of venues were used, including the Radisson, the Marriott, and the Michigan Athletic Club, before the event settled at the Kellogg Center. Eventually, three awards were given, one each for state government, local government and academic areas. A distinguished service award was also presented, which was later renamed the Frank J. Kelley Distinguished Service Award, with Michigan's "Eternal General" as the first recipient.

MiCAP is also honored to have three of its members serve on the ASPA National Council: Larry Beckon (our senior and only life member), the late Lynn Croxford, and Don Weatherspoon. The author recalls sharing a room with Larry Beckon at the joint regional conference in Louisville, and as Larry was on the National Council at the time, we got a beautiful hotel room overlooking the Ohio River (that was also the place where the so-called ASPA "armadillo" lapel pin was introduced).

While we treasure old memories and accomplishments, we look forward to working with all of our members to create new and greater achievements by MiCAP, as well as establishing new traditions.

Michigan Loses "Mr. Capitol"

By Kerry Chartkoff

On Friday, September 14, 2007, Michigan lost a great public servant and long-time member of ASPA. Since 1989--almost twenty years--Jerry Lawler served as the Executive Director of the Michigan Capitol Committee, the bipartisan legislative-executive body which oversaw the restoration of the Michigan State Capitol and today oversees its preservation and use. Until a few months before his death, Jerry was the first and only person to ever hold this position.

After more than 100 years of hard use, the Capitol was a mess. Neglected and crowded, it groaned under the weight of 50,000 square feet of overfloors. Once-vivid walls and ceilings were smothered in layers of dirty overpaint and acoustical tiles. For years the debate had not been whether to save the 1879 structure, but when to tear it down. That would change in 1989 when Jerry was tapped to lead a massive and challenging restoration of the historic structure. The goal was not only to return the building to all its former dignity and beauty, but also to prepare it for another century of use as the seat of Michigan state government.

Continued on page 3.

“Mr. Capitol” ... continued from page 2

Jerry was the perfect person for the job. In twenty years of working for the legislature in a nonpartisan role, he had long ago demonstrated his passion for public service. That, coupled with great integrity, a true genius for organization, tireless energy, an unshakeable belief in democratic principles, and an irreverent sense of humor, had already propelled him to the office of Associate Director of the Legislative Service Bureau. Jerry’s work to save the Capitol would prove to be the culmination of a long and successful career.

The restoration was completed in 1992 to national acclaim. Today, the Michigan State Capitol is not only one of Michigan’s greatest treasures, it is literally a national treasure—a National Historic Landmark—a source of inspiration and pride and one of the most visited statehouses in America. Jerry was largely responsible for the success of its transformation. After the restoration, Jerry laid the foundation for procedures and policies which will guide those managing the Capitol for decades to come.

A little over a year ago, Jerry was diagnosed with neuroendocrine cancer in a rare and deadly form. Jerry fought this disease with the same courage and humor he brought to any challenge. Knowing he was terminal, he endured painful drug trials in the hope of helping others. He never stopped pursuing his love of history: when he died he was working on the definitive history of the Capitol City and the man after whom it was named, John Lansing. Jerry, who was 64 at the time of his death, leaves behind his beloved wife of twenty years, Connie, as well as three stepchildren and eight grandchildren, the joys of his life.

CMU’s Kathy Wilbur Honored

By The Newsroom at Central Michigan University

The outstanding professional and charitable achievements of one Central Michigan University administrator have landed her a spot in the Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame.

Kathy Wilbur, CMU’s vice president of government relations and public affairs, was inducted into the Hall of Fame on October 17, 2007 at a dinner and ceremony at the Kellogg Hotel and Convention Center in East Lansing.



“To say that I am honored and amazed is an understatement,” Wilbur said. “I was very surprised but very pleased to have my work and contributions recognized. The Hall of Fame is a highly regarded institution in this state, and I am honored to be inducted.”

In her position, which she has held since July 2002, Wilbur acts as a liaison between the CMU administration and the Michigan government. Among other duties, she is responsible for working with the legislature to improve CMU funding, inviting state government leaders to visit CMU and identifying areas of the state budget that could impact CMU programs.

Wilbur also currently serves as the vice president and director of corporate contributions for the Women’s Caring Program, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing childcare and financial assistance to families in need.

Continued on page 4.

Meet & Greet

Look for our upcoming event to meet your chapter board members and learn more about the benefits of membership.

January 2008
(date pending)

Lansing
Community
College's
University
Center

"...we seek to share and to highlight the fine work of all of our colleagues in higher education and in government, and to foster collaborations to aid the growth of these sectors into the future."

Wilbur... continued from page 3

Prior to her time at CMU, she served in state government, becoming the first and only woman to serve as director of three different state departments: the Department of Licensing and Regulation, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of Consumer and Industry Services.

Wilbur also was elected to the Michigan State University Board of Trustees, serving for six years. From 1983 to 1990, she worked as chief of staff to Senator William Sederburg, former chairman of the Senate Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

"My work at CMU brings full circle a journey that started in the state Senate, working on higher education issues and serving on the MSU Board," said Wilbur. "CMU has provided me with the opportunity to come back to my higher education roots, something I passionately believe in and support."

The Michigan Women's Hall of Fame was established in 1983 by the Michigan Women's Studies Association and has since inducted more than 200 women for their outstanding achievements. For more information about the Hall of Fame and its honorees, visit <http://hall.michiganwomenshalloffame.org>.

MiCAP Represented at Blanchard Event

By MiCAP Board

Secretary/Treasurer George Orban represented MiCAP at a gala celebration on October 5 in honor of the 25th anniversary of the election of James J. Blanchard as Governor of Michigan. The Michigan Political History Society, of which George is a member, hosted this event. Proceeds from the event were dedicated to establishing the Governor James J. Blanchard Living Library of Michigan Political History. This Living Library, through video interviews of key figures will archive Michigan's political history in the second half of the 20th Century forward for future generations.

The event, held at the Lansing Country Club, drew a large attendance of political luminaries that will probably never gather together in one place again. Bob Bowman, State Treasurer under Governor Blanchard, served as the emcee for the evening. Speakers were Suzanne Brook; Bill Liebold, Greg Morris and Ron Thayer; Elizabeth P Howe; Shelby Solomon; Rev. Dr. Michael C. Murphy; and Dennis Archer. Finishing off the evening were comments by Gov. Blanchard.

Meet MiCAP’s President

By MiCAP Board

Veronica Wilkerson Johnson, Director of The University of Michigan Lansing Service Center since its inception in January of 1993, has had a long history of service to the State of Michigan and its residents. From her roots with Michigan's library system to her current work with the University and her candidacy for the East Lansing School Board and appointment by the East Lansing Mayor and Council in December 1995 to serve on the city's Planning Commission, her efforts in both professional and volunteer capacities have improved the quality of life for many individuals across the State.



As chapter president, Ms. Johnson understands the importance of public service and recognizes that many voices have come together over the years of Michigan's great history to make a lasting difference. “In this organization we seek to share and to highlight the fine work of all of our colleagues in higher education and in government, and to foster collaborations to aid the growth of these sectors into the future.” Ms. Johnson adds, “We who serve on the ASPA MiCAP Board seek to inspire the efforts of public policy students and professionals alike. We hope that you will join with us in the aim of making a brighter future for our state, our nation and our world!”

Ms. Johnson holds a Master of Arts degree in Information from The University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from Wayne State University. In her current role as Director of The University of Michigan Lansing Service Center, Ms. Johnson is improving dialogue between the University's myriad departments and State government and business and local community leaders.

A more complete biography of Ms. Johnson, and other MiCAP board members, will be published soon on our Chapter’s Web site, currently under development.

Call for Papers and Articles

Topics: A broad selection of topics are welcome including common disciplines like governance, strategic planning, leadership, administration and service, public policy, non-profit management, technology, human resources, outsourcing, and case studies.

Authors: Practitioners, theorists, students, consultants, and so on. You don’t need to be a member of the MiCAP Chapter of ASPA (although we encourage you to join) in order to have your paper or article considered for publication. If you are a student, or recent graduate, publication of your article enhances your professional development and resume.

Submission: Citations must follow academically accepted formats (i.e. APA, Chicago, and Harvard styles). Send your articles, in Word or Adobe formats, to gorban@voyager.net

Publishing Schedule:

November 2007	May 2008
January 2008	July 2008
March 2008	September 2008



**Mid-Michigan's
Voice for Public
Service
Since 1951**

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MiCAP Mission Statement

- Advances the art, science, teaching, and practice of public and non-profit administration.
- Promotes the value of joining and elevating the public service profession.
- Builds bridges among all who pursue public purposes.
- Provides networking and professional development opportunities to those committed to public service values.
- Achieves innovative solutions to the challenge of governance.

Contact Us:

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Upcoming Events & Opportunities

November 14, 2007: MiCAP Chapter Board Meeting
Noon—1:00 p.m. The University of Michigan—Lansing Service Center
101 S. Washington Square, 7th Floor
Lansing, Michigan
**** All Members are Welcome! ****

January 2008 (date pending) “Meet and Greet” your MiCAP Board Members
University Center
Lansing Community College

February 7, 2008: Career Fair
Western Michigan University
Bernhard Center
broncojobs@wmich.edu

February 19, 2008: West Michigan Careerfest
Grand Valley State University
(616) 331-3311

March 7—11, 2008: ASPA’s 69th Annual Conference
Dallas, Texas
www.aspanet.org

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