

# News and Views

**A Publication of the Illinois Association of  
Public Procurement Officials, Inc.**

**Chapter of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, Inc.**



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Winter 2007**

**By Larry Widmer, CPPB**

Happy New Year!

It is that time of year where thoughts of the annual ritual of making New

Year's Resolutions are set in motion. Some people state that New Year's Resolutions are a waste of time, however, I recommend that you set one or two reachable goals that are practical. Begin by setting aside a few moments out of your busy schedules to think about what new things you want to do. Divide up larger tasks into smaller more attainable segments, involve others to help keep an eye on your progress, be prepared to work hard, be accountable, and committed and most importantly – do not quit!

If you find that after a while you have given up, STOP – do not look at yourself as a failure, get back on the right path, focus and promise yourself that you are starting over again. In the end, a new chapter in your life will be formed by initiating good behavioral traits, living up to your potential and by and large, contributing to society in a constructive manner.

Good luck with your resolutions this year!

***Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be - Abraham Lincoln***

## **WHAT WILL YOU DO IN RECOGNITION OF PURCHASING MONTH?**

*NIGP.org*

### **Intro to Purchasing Month - 101**

You are a member of an elite group of professionals that have made a difference in governmental efficiency and effectiveness. So make sure to take time this March to celebrate your accomplishments and contributions during National Purchasing Month.

NIGP works year-round to not only provide services that help you to move forward professionally, but also to promote public procurement. This is important so government officials, students and the public can understand the value of what the profession contributes. We've come a long way in the past 60 years to increase professionalism and ethics in the whole purchasing process. We've seen certification become the norm and have introduced accreditation to further public trust. We have partnered with organizations to provide research and development, and we are constantly reviewing new products, benefits and services to enhance our offerings. But in March, it is your efforts that bring attention to the Procurement profession.

**So get ready to celebrate *Purchasing Month* during the month of March!** This is your month to get noticed for all your hard work. Your efforts to get the word out on how critical your professional services are to your agency helps not only to promote you, but your profession. Let's get the public and your co-workers aware of what public purchasing is all about!

The events and activities we produce during the month accomplish the goal to promote the importance of the profession. Please take this opportunity to plan and implement activities in your area. Plan events that involve your whole department, agency and community. Partner with

other agencies or pool your resources with a chapter event. Be creative in finding sponsors to help offset costs.

Members can obtain information, sample documents and activity resources at the NIGP Web site. Below are just a few ideas to get the brainstorming started in your department or local NIGP Chapter.

***Get involved and plan for some fun and important activities:***

- ▶ Encourage your county, township, city, etc., to proclaim March as ***Purchasing Month***.
- ▶ If you already have obtained a proclamation, try and see if you can get it renewed/announced again.
- ▶ Try making a presentation in your community colleges or universities on Purchasing as a profession.
- ▶ Send a press release to your local press on all the activities happening in your area.
- ▶ Partner with other agencies, or your chapter to generate a public event. See if you can find sponsors to offset costs.
- ▶ Make sure your agency knows that March is ***Purchasing Month*** by announcing it at your staff meetings; sending a notice of events to your HR office and to your boss.
- ▶ Generate a fundraising activity for a local charity or scholarship fund that lets the public know who you are and why you care.
- ▶ Hold events in your department every week. They can be as simple as having a “P” day where you have popcorn and purchasing bingo in the afternoon, a pizza party, and Peach or Pistachio ice-cream to something more complex like a scavenger hunt.

***ENHANCING MEDIA COVERAGE DURING PURCHASING MONTH***  
**Purchasing Month – 101**

*NIGP.org*

Purchasing Month provides a great opportunity to gain media exposure, as the media are always looking for new story ideas. Here are some ideas to help you receive media coverage:

Develop a press list by compiling all the local media contacts and prepare news releases about purchasing month. Be sure to title the page as a press release and underneath it say “For Immediate Release”. Also cover all the “W’s” – Where, When, Why and What. Mail your information approximately 45 days prior to the event and follow up with either another reminder mailing or phone call. Don’t forget that if you are doing a community service activity, that you can receive free coverage through a Public Service Announcement (PSA). PSAs should be identified as such and FCC rules require all media stations (radio and t.v.) to provide time for this form of advertising. However competition is keen, and you should provide plenty of advanced notice to ensure getting your event in the que. If you are looking to place information in a magazine, they generally require even more time. You should contact their production department to obtain a submission deadline schedule. With all correspondence, make sure to include contact information for any follow up they may require.

Remember that the underlying theme for all your activities is the promotion and recognition of the field of Public Purchasing. Your media contacts may not be familiar with procurement, so be prepared to provide information, fact sheets, brochures, etc. that illustrates how procurement is important to taxpayers, local businesses, industry and government.

***You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today - Abraham Lincoln***

### IAPPO BUYER/MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Please start thinking about the IAPPO "Buyer/Manager of the Year" Awards, which are given to the winners at the Spring Conference. Nomination forms are emailed to the members in February. Remember, everyone has an opportunity to nominate your peers for outstanding achievements in Public Procurement. Be a part of the process and nominate a fellow IAPPO member for their achievements in 2006.

### NEW MILEAGE RATES FOR 2007

*Excerpt from IRS.gov/newsroom/article*

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has issued its 2007 optional standard mileage rates (begins January 1, 2007) used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving expenses. The standard mileage rates for the use of a car (including vans, pickups or panel trucks) are:

- 48.5 cents per mile for business miles driven
- 20 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes; and
- 14 cents per mile driven in service to a charitable organization.

### IAPPO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Chapter President must receive applications for IAPPO scholarships before 5 p.m. on the last business day in March 2007. These documents can be viewed and downloaded from the IAPPO website at: [www.iappo.org](http://www.iappo.org).

**Legislative Committee Review by Larry Widmer, CPPB & Rick Hughes, CPA JD, Co-Chairs**  
(Articles Submitted by Patti Huth)

*Legislative Bulletin 2006-02 – Page 3*  
**Contracts**

### Illinois Appellate Courts

Keefe-Shea Joint Venture v. City of Evanston, No. 1-04-3180 (1st District December 27, 2005.)

### Overview:

Plaintiff's complaint for a preliminary injunction seeking to enjoin the city from proceeding on a public contract was properly dismissed because plaintiff's complaint was moot when the city properly terminated the project in question.

### Summary:

The plaintiff filed a complaint for a preliminary injunction against the city seeking to enjoin it from proceeding on a public contract to construct a relief storm sewer project and compelling the city to award the contract to the plaintiff. The plaintiff argued that DiPaolo, the company that was awarded the contract, failed to follow the requirements for obtaining a waiver of the minority and/or women-owned businesses (MBE/WBE) 15% utilization goal when it provided copies of the solicitation letters to only 14, rather than 15, MBE/WBE's as required. Thus, the plaintiff further argued, that it suffered an irreparable harm and there was no adequate remedy at law if it was not awarded the contract. The circuit court denied the plaintiff's motion for a preliminary injunction because it found that the plaintiff failed to present any evidence as to irreparable harm and inadequate remedy at law even though it found that the plaintiff presented a prima-facie case as to whether DiPaolo followed the MBE/WBE requirements. The appellate court reversed and sent the case back to trial court holding that the plaintiff was entitled to preliminary injunction because DiPaolo did not comply with the MBE/WBE requirements. As a result of the extended litigation, the city terminated the contract with DiPaolo and the trial court permitted the city to take bids on and to complete the emergency sewer work necessary to the public health and safety. Because the plaintiff's request for relief was now moot, the trial court denied all of plaintiff's subsequent motions and entered summary judgment for the city. The plaintiff appealed. The appellate court affirmed the trial court's decision finding that plaintiff's complaint was moot because the city properly terminated the contract and the relevant phase of the project.

*Ninety-nine percent of the failures come from people who have the habit of making excuses – George Washington*

*Legislative Bulletin 2006-04 – Pages 7 & 8*

## **Standing Contracts**

### **Illinois Appellate Courts**

Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 502 V. Department of Professional Regulation, Second District No. 2-05-0079 (January 31, 2006).

#### **Overview:**

The plaintiff is a political subdivision subject to the proposal provisions of the Local Government Professional Services Selection Act because the Public Community College Act defines a community college as a “unit of local government.” The Local Government Professional Services Selection Act does not expressly prohibit political subdivisions from issuing initial requests for proposals that ask interested architects, engineers, and land surveyors for information about their fees because it allows political subdivisions to consider budgetary issues before selecting a firm for negotiation. The plaintiff had standing to continue this litigation because an actual controversy existed as a result of defendant’s prior threats of prosecution that interfered with the plaintiff’s acquisition of desired information.

**Summary:** The College of DuPage published requests for proposals for architectural, design management, and construction management services to assist in various construction projects to be completed over the next several years. In its request, the college asked for fee and cost information. Defendants notified the college explaining that asking for fee and cost information from architectural, engineering, and land surveying firms was in violation of the Local Government Professional Services Selection Act (Local Government Selection Act). Defendants additionally issued a subpoena to be the plaintiffs seeking information on the firms that submitted proposals. Defendants subsequently notified and threatened to prosecute such interested firms if they provided fee and cost information.

Plaintiff commenced this action seeking declaration that the College of DuPage is a “political subdivision” subject to the Local Government Selection Act, and this Act does not expressly prohibit political subdivisions from issuing initial requests for proposals that ask interested architects, engineers, and land surveyors for information about their fees. Defendants moved to dismiss on the

grounds that (1) regardless of whether the College is a “political subdivision” under the Local Government Selection Act or a “state agency” subject to the Architectural, Engineering, and Land Surveying Qualifications Based Selection Act (Qualifications Based Selection Act), it may not request fee information in its initial request for proposals; and (2) there was no standing or an actual controversy because it quashed the subpoena, and agreed to not litigate the matter further. The trial court accepted both grounds finding that the Qualifications Based Selection Act applied to the college and precluded it from requesting fee information in its initial request for proposals, and that there was no viable controversy. Thus, trial court dismissed the complaint and the plaintiff appealed.

On appeal, the appellate court examined whether the plaintiff had standing to continue this action, and whether the college was prohibited from seeking fee and cost information in its initial request for proposals from architectural, engineering, and land surveying firms. The appellate court determined that the plaintiff did have standing to continue this action because an actual controversy existed. Although the department stated that it will no longer threaten to prosecute design professionals who provide the requested fee information, the complaint essentially alleged that the earlier threats had a chilling effect which directly interfered with plaintiff’s ability to obtain the desired information. The appellate court further determined that the college was entitled to request fee and cost information in its initial request for proposals because the plaintiff is a “political subdivision” under the Local Government Selection Act. The appellate court based its conclusion on its review of the Public Community College Act which defines a community college district as a “unit of local government.” In addition, the Local Government Selection Act allows units of local government to consider budgetary issues before selecting a firm for negotiation. Therefore, the appellate court reversed the decision of the trial court.

*Morals were too essential to the happiness of man, to be risked on the uncertain combinations of the head. Nature laid their foundation, therefore, in sentiment, not in science - Thomas Jefferson*

**2006 Governor's Home Town Awards**  
(A Section of the Article Submitted by Patti Huth)

*Excerpts From November 2006/Illinois Municipal Review/Pages 17-23*

**(IAPPO News and Views Pages 5 through 10)**

The hard work and dedication of thousands of volunteers across Illinois whose efforts have greatly improved the communities in which they live were acknowledged last month at the 25th annual Governor's Home Town Awards in Springfield. Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Director Jack Lavin, who represented Governor Blagojevich, was joined by a host of other state and local leaders to recognize their outstanding achievements and to present one winner with the celebrated Governor's Cup award.

"Illinois is filled with dedicated people who are committed to strengthening their communities and undertaking projects and initiatives that make a real difference in the lives of others. The Home Town Awards are an opportunity for us to say thank you to the hardworking people across our state that contribute to improving the quality of life in their communities in very meaningful ways. As we strive to make Illinois a better place to live and work, it is efforts such as these that will keep our state moving forward," Gov. Blagojevich said.

Forty-six projects were honored this year. Volunteer judges reviewed and ranked applications based on local need, volunteer participation, project continuity and results. After an initial review that narrowed the applications to a maximum of twelve in each population category, the judges visited those communities and then selected one project from each population category to compete for the coveted Governor's Cup - a traveling silver trophy presented to the community whose efforts were deemed most representative of the spirit of Illinois volunteerism.

While each community was grouped into a corresponding population category, each Home Town award winner also was assigned a broad project category. Project categories include Parks & Recreation, Veteran's Involvement, Youth Involvement, Senior Citizen Involvement and Clean-up/Beautification, among others. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) administers the Governor's Home Town Awards Program.

"By taking leadership roles in their communities, and getting involved in the projects that matter most to their families, neighbors and friends, these volunteers are building stronger, more vibrant communities that are in a better position to attract investment, support growth, create new jobs and encourage innovation," DCEO Director Jack Lavin said.

The 2006 Governor's Cup winner is **Champaign County's Center for Women in Transition**. The center recently added a third home, which will allow them to serve more families and expand the educational components of their program. The center provides a valuable and much needed service to women and their children in the community who are without homes and the necessary support to get ahead in life. Successful program participants are able to work through the program, learn valuable life skills and obtain full-time employment and permanent housing. Roughly 70 percent of the center's residents successfully complete the program. With the dedication of committed volunteers, women and their children are getting the help they need to succeed.

Each of the award winning communities receive a road sign and plaque recognizing its efforts, and the Governor's Cup winner receives a unique road sign that proclaims its status as the overall winner.

*A list of "tops" in category winners/Illinois municipalities are as follows.*

**PROJECT CATEGORY: UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, COMMUNITY ORG.**

**CATEGORY I - COMMUNITIES WITH POPULATIONS UP TO 2,000**

**CLEAN UP/BEAUTIFICATION: 1st Place - GOVERNOR'S CUP FINALIST - Village of Elwood, Children's Garden Project - ABC Garden** - Building on a successful volunteer community project that was established in 1997, the Children's Garden Project has proven to be a wonderful example of an ongoing, recognized feature in the community. Made up of a number of specialty gardens, the Children's Garden is a focal point of the community. The renovation of one of the project's original gardens, the ABC Garden, has once again demonstrated the strength of community volunteerism in Elwood. The renovation of this

garden would not have been possible without the donation of time and money from this dedicated group.

**GENERAL: 1st Place - Village of Equality, Equality Salt Days** – The Village of Equality has experienced a number of changes in the past two decades. From the 1987 consolidation of its schools with three others in Gallatin County to the phasing out of its coal mines in the early 1990s and the departure of many young people in search of jobs, the Village of Equality felt they were losing its community identity. In early 2005, a group of 30 volunteers convened to revive the community's identity by working to bring back its Salt Days festival, which hadn't been held for nearly 13 years. The event was held in August 2005 and was a tremendous success. Thanks to a network of committed individuals and organizations, this event has not only led to a number of additional community projects, but has also sparked a renewed commitment to community revitalization in the Village of Equality.

**PARKS & RECREATION: 1st Place - Village of Scales Mound, Scales Mound Recreation Association** – Twenty-five years ago, the Village of Scales Mound was without a recreation association or ball parks for the community. Thanks to a group of committed residents and community members, the Scales Mound Recreation Association was founded. It continues to expand its offerings entirely through the donations of time and money from a large group of community volunteers and Association members. Scales Mound now has a recreational park where community members can enjoy sporting events, annual fish fries and more.

## **CATEGORY II - COMMUNITIES WITH POPULATIONS BETWEEN 2,001 – 5,000**

### **CLEAN UP/BEAUTIFICATION:**

**1st Place - Village of Gilberts, Village of Gilberts Earth Day Clean Up** – This event was inspired by a local resident's concern with trash that had built up in her subdivision during the winter. The resident approached the Village Board with the idea of an organized clean up effort for the subdivision. This idea cascaded into a Village-wide event, which was scheduled to coincide with Earth Day. The Village donated all of the necessary equipment and supplies and 20 residents volunteered to participate in the event. This event brought members of the community together for a common goal. As a result

of its success, the Village Board plans to continue the tradition with an annual event that will serve to increase the spirit of volunteerism, as well as pride in the community.

**GENERAL: 1st Place - City of Aledo, Aledo Sesquicentennial** – The seed for an Aledo Sesquicentennial celebration was planted in 2003 when members of the Aledo Area Chamber of Commerce and Aledo Main Street realized the milestone was approaching. It was agreed that a weekend event that coincided with both a home football game and the Aledo Main Street's Antique Days event would be a great way to celebrate the town for its past and its present. As a result of countless community volunteers and organizations over a two-year period, the September 2005 event was a resounding success. Many of the improvements that were undertaken in preparation for the Sesquicentennial celebration remain in the community and will be a lasting reminder of what a community can accomplish together.

**PARKS & RECREATION: 1st Place - City of Aledo, Aledo Central Band Shell** – The small town of Aledo is host to several festivals and events throughout the year and utilizes its central park for many of these functions. Entertainment for these events has traditionally taken place on a portable stage. However, with the establishment of an Aledo Community Band in 2001, there was a need for something more permanent for the community. Thanks to the generosity of many local residents and organizations over a nearly four-year period, the dream of creating a permanent band shell structure for Aledo's central park became a reality in 2005.

**YOUTH INVOLVEMENT: 1st Place – GOVERNOR'S CUP FINALIST - City of Nokomis, Nokomis Park Renovation** – This project sought to reconstruct the city's historical pagoda, which was constructed at the Fred B. Johnson Park in 1888 and subsequently torn down in 1957 due to disrepair. The idea grew out of desire to bring back a sense of pride for the community and to recreate a community meeting place as it was in the early 1900s. The project would not have been possible without the support of many local volunteers and organizations. This project has also led to other projects that have enhanced the beauty of the park.

### **CATEGORY III - COMMUNITIES WITH POPULATIONS BETWEEN 5,001 AND 10,000**

**CLEAN UP/BEAUTIFICATION: 1st Place - City of Waterloo, Downtown Waterloo Beautification Project** – While this project began as a simple beautification project for downtown Waterloo, it quickly took on a more significant purpose. Downtown Waterloo, the county seat for Monroe County, has a rich history. This project was an opportunity for the community to come together to restore and preserve the ages. Thanks to all of the dedicated volunteers, their donations, and the generosity of the city, county, and members of the community, this project was able to light the town square with antique-style streetlamps, provide benches along the Memorial Walk, and restore a historic fountain that had been inoperative on the courthouse lawn for many years.

**GENERAL: 2nd Place - Village of Stone Park, Stone Park Public Safety Department** – The Village of Stone Park created the Stone Park Public Safety Department in an effort to strengthen the Village's ability to respond to public safety concerns. This diverse group of volunteers offers their time and expertise to help the community. The Public Safety Officers receive training in a variety of areas that are useful to the police, fire, and public works departments, and they serve to augment existing public safety agencies. The Department currently has 26 volunteers that have donated approximately 5,000 hours over the past year.

**PARKS & RECREATION: 1st Place - City of Waterloo, Monroe County Veteran's Memorial** – The seed for the Monroe County Veteran's Memorial project was planted after a local teacher, interested in introducing her students to the significance of Veteran's Day, had to plan a field trip to another community to view a memorial. The idea resurfaced at a Waterloo Park District Board meeting where it began to take hold. Goals set to cover the cost of constructing the memorial were quickly met and exceeded through the dedication and support of community volunteers. The Veteran's Memorial has potential to grow in the future and an ongoing paver project has been established to allow for the purchase of granite engraved paver bricks to honor and recognized veterans.

**SENIOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT: 1st Place - City of Mascoutah, Mascoutah Historical Society** – For many years, the Mascoutah Historical Society

utilized various small spaces to display historical artifacts, without a home for a museum. All of this changed when a local business owner offered them a 19th Century building as a gift. The Mascoutah Historical Society received the title to the building in June of 2003 and immediately began its long campaign to renovate and restore the old building in preparation for the new museum.

**VETERANS INVOLVEMENT: 1st Place - City of Princeton, Flags of Freedom** – The Flags of Freedom project was born from the desire of two local veterans to pay tribute to those serving in the armed forces, both past, present and future. The idea was to create a display consisting of a large United States flag in each of the four quadrants of the intersection of Interstate 80 and Illinois Route 26 – the gateway to the City of Princeton. With the help of a dedicated group of volunteers, the project quickly gained momentum and became a reality on September 10, 2005, when the Flags of Freedom dedication ceremony was held, during the Princeton Homestead Festival, in front of an audience of 3,000. Nearly 250 volunteers banded together to make this highly-praised and respected project a reality.

### **CATEGORY IV - COMMUNITIES WITH POPULATIONS BETWEEN 10,001 AND 17,000**

**CLEAN UP/BEAUTIFICATION: 1st Place - City of Pontiac, Pontiac Storm Sewer Project** – The purpose of the Pontiac Storm Sewer Project was to heighten the public's awareness of a growing environmental problem – non-point source pollution. For the past seven years, students from the Pontiac Junior and Senior high schools, along with their teachers, parents, and other community volunteers, have taken to the streets to stencil warnings on local storm sewer drains. These warnings educate the residents of Pontiac about the connection between humans, their actions and the pollution of their local rivers and streams.

**GENERAL: 2nd Place - Village of Richton Park, Community Cable TV Committee & Richton Park Presents All About Us!** – In a world where media far too often highlights negative events, a small group of volunteers decided it was time to shift the focus and start recognizing the everyday positive happenings in their community. The first step of this project was the formation of the Community Cable TV Committee in 2003. Since then, the Committee has worked together to produce

a monthly cable television show that promotes and helps educate residents and viewers from outside the Village about the people, places and things in and about Richton Park. The project has successfully created 34 monthly shows, which have generated exposure for the Village, its residents and the business community.

**PARKS & RECREATION: 1st Place - City of Centralia, Centralia Skate Park** – This project was undertaken in an effort to provide Centralia’s youth with an appropriate venue for skateboarding. While skateboarding has often been associated with juvenile crimes like vandalism and fighting, many youth enjoy this serious and creative sport and have not had the appropriate place to show their creativity and energy. Thanks to the support of the city council and the dedication of numerous volunteers, Centralia’s youth now have a skate park, which will not only help keep kids out of trouble by providing them with a place where they can hone their skating skills, but will also give them a sense of pride and accomplishment.

**SENIOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT: 1st Place - City of Taylorville, Senior Citizens of Christian County** – The Senior Citizens of Christian County has been around for more than 25 years. It was established in response to a large and growing senior citizen population in the county. The goal of this organization is to allow seniors to “age-inplace” and reduce the need for restrictive care. Thanks to the longstanding dedication and effort of its volunteers, the group has continued its success and is now providing more than 200,000 contact service and program units to Christian County seniors each year. More than 850 individuals volunteer with the group each year, which has allowed for the creation of new services and the continuation of existing services that enhance and enrich the lives of seniors in Christian County.

**VETERANS INVOLVEMENT: 1st Place - City of Pontiac, Livingston County War Museum and Education Center** – The Livingston County War Museum and Education Center was born from the need to honor American veterans and provide a “living history” museum to display military keepsakes. The City of Pontiac generously provided the necessary space in the Old City Hall building where the museum now serves as home to the hundreds of donated and loaned military artifacts. This project would not have been possible without the dream of the late Dal Estes, a veteran and

Pontiac resident, and the dedication and support of the city, community and all of the project’s volunteers.

**YOUTH INVOLVEMENT: 1st Place - City of Washington, Veteran’s Memorial** – The need for this project was determined when a Washington Eagle Scout candidate noticed that his city was lacking a visible memorial to honor veterans. The creation of a veteran’s memorial became the focus of his Eagle Scout Project. As a result of the dedication and hard work of this Eagle Scout candidate and more than 100 community volunteers, the City of Washington is now home to a highly-visible veteran’s memorial, which includes an AH1 Cobra helicopter from Fort Drum, New York as its centerpiece. The memorial, located in Washington’s Lincoln Park, represents nearly three years of hard work and perseverance.

#### **CATEGORY V - COMMUNITIES WITH POPULATIONS BETWEEN 17,001 AND 22,000**

**GENERAL: 2nd Place - City of Macomb, Volunteer NOW: Macomb Area Volunteer Center** – Volunteer NOW is a project that was developed to improve inter-organization cooperation and communication among the many volunteer service organizations in order to facilitate, improve and promote volunteerism in the Macomb area. The project has proven to be a successful collaborative effort between the City of Macomb and Western Illinois University’s Volunteer Services office. As a result of this partnership, both groups are cooperating to better meet the needs of their communities and, in turn, their individual programs have been enhanced.

**PARKS & RECREATION: 1st Place - City of O’Fallon, The O’Fallon Rotary Nature Center** – This project was undertaken in response to the anticipated population growth of O’Fallon and the desire to plan appropriately for green space in the community. Prior to the construction of the O’Fallon Rotary Nature Center, the community did not have a natural habitat facility available. Thanks to the commitment of community volunteers and organizations and generous donations, this community dream became a reality in May of 2005.

## **CATEGORY VI - COMMUNITIES WITH POPULATIONS BETWEEN 22,001 AND 40,000**

**CLEAN UP/BEAUTIFICATION: 1st Place - City of Round Lake Beach, Round Lake Management Commission** – In response to learning about a coordinated national effort to encourage the formation of local voluntary lake cleanup partnerships, a group of volunteers banded together to establish the Round Lake Management Commission. The Commission was created as an intergovernmental agreement between three local villages who share a common watershed. Each year, during National River Clean Up Week, the Commission holds a lake clean up event where dedicated volunteers work together to clean up six miles of beach front parks, shoreline and channels of Round Lake.

**GENERAL: 1st Place - Village of Roselle, AIMS Mentor Program** – Adults Involved in Mentoring Students (AIMS) was created as an approach to providing adults, including seniors, with a meaningful way to serve the community. The school community was very open to the idea of establishing a mentoring program for their schools. AIMS mentors provide support for children in single parent families, encouragement for students who are shy, confidence-building activities for those who do not participate in after-school activities and simple social interaction for those children who just need someone to listen to them.

**PARKS & RECREATION: 1st Place - City of East Peoria, Eagle Landing Fine Art Festival & Sale** – When the City of East Peoria first opened its new RiverFront Park in December 2003, Illinois Art League officials saw an opportunity to provide exposure for the new park, while also improving the venue for its annual Eagle Landing Fine Art Festival and Sale, which had been held in a shopping center parking lot in Peoria for the previous 13 years. The event, the first of its kind for East Peoria, was a success thanks to the dedication of 80 volunteers and the generous contributions from the community. The festival not only provided exposure for the new park and various art media, but also included involving children in art through hands-on activities, attracting local and regional artists to the event, and ensuring that a variety of artwork would be available for display and purchase.

**VETERANS INVOLVEMENT: 1st Place - Village of Glendale Heights, Veterans Memorial Park** – Veterans Memorial Park began as a vision with the local VFW membership who desired a location to hold formal memorial ceremonies. This vision, together with the village's desire to provide an educational experience for community residents and visitors, became a reality in 2005 when the park officially opened on Memorial Day. The finished product is a well planned space, born of community vision that will provide Glendale Heights and surrounding communities with a place to congregate, to contemplate history, and to honor and remember.

**YOUTH INVOLVEMENT: 1st Place – GOVERNOR'S CUP FINALIST - Village of Lisle, Lisle Teens with Character** – This project was established out of a strong desire on the part of Lisle teens to form an organized teen service group for its community. Without a formal service group, Lisle teens didn't have a coordinated system through which they could link with volunteer opportunities in the community. After working to formally establish the group, its set the goals to make a difference, to demonstrate that youth are a vital part of a community with a lot to offer, to promote teen leadership roles in the community, and to help each member of the group reach their potential, discover their talents, and build character. The Lisle Teens with Character is the first group of its kind in Lisle and DuPage County.

**1st Place - City of Danville, AMBUCS Challenger Baseball** – The AMBUCS Challenger Baseball League is designed for children with developmental and/or physical disabilities. This project was undertaken after the Danville Chapter of AMBUCS had the opportunity to take a baseball team to participate in the C-U Kiwanis Challenger Baseball League in Urbana. The parents and children were so impressed with the program that they wanted to start a league of their own. In the summer of 2004, that dream came true. Since then, the program continues to grow offering more and more of Danville's youth with disabilities the opportunity to experience the excitement of playing baseball.

## **CATEGORY VII - COMMUNITIES WITH POPULATIONS BETWEEN 40,001 AND 100,000**

**VETERANS INVOLVEMENT: 1st Place - City of Des Plaines, Support Our Troops Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #2992** –This project developed from a desire to show support to the men and women serving in the armed forces. Volunteers from the VFW, the Knights of Columbus and other community organizations worked together on a number of “Support the Troops” events in the community. The VFW purchased phone cards to be sent to the troops overseas and initiated a coupon-clipping program. Coupons are sent each month to the troops for use at the commissaries. The group then initiated a letter-writing campaign through the local library. This success was followed by the adoption of a unit in Iraq, which quickly turned into a number of programs where donated goods were collected to send to the troops. All-in-all, 300 packages were shipped overseas to provide much-needed items to the troops. Items that were not able to be shipped were donated to local food pantries and taken to local veterans hospitals. As a result of a number of volunteers and their efforts, more than 2,000 pounds of personal care and food items were collected and shipped overseas, in addition to the many letters and coupons that were shared with the troops.

## **CATEGORY VIII - COMMUNITIES WITH POPULATIONS OVER 100,000**

**GENERAL: 2nd Place - City of Chicago, American Red Cross of Greater Chicago Team FireStoppers:** Team FireStoppers was started in an effort to reduce the incidence of residential fires, the single most prevalent disaster affecting the seven-county area served by the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago. Four communities on the south side of Chicago were identified as having relatively high numbers of fires in single-family homes and selected to participate in the program. Volunteers with the Team FireStoppers project worked with 400 families to create a fire evacuation plan and to discuss fire prevention and safety tips for the home. Participating community residents also received a number of educational and prevention related materials through the program. In addition, homes received a free comprehensive furnace inspection from a licensed HVAC contractor.

**PARKS & RECREATION: 1st Place - City of Peoria, Hook A Kid on Golf Program** – This program developed from an existing junior golf program through the Peoria Park District. “Hook A Kid on Golf” fit in so nicely with its existing program that the district decided to replace its old program and align with this national program to provide its youth with more opportunities. Part of this process involved partnering with the Peoria School District. As a result of this partnership and the dedication of volunteers, this program provides participants with the tools to play the game of golf, while also giving them tools to become better citizens. Beyond golf, the program incorporates presentations from local police officers, business owners, employees, and others volunteers that bring children in touch with other aspects of the community and help provide them with a foundation on which they can build their future.

IAPPO congratulates all the winners in Illinois!

*Hide not your talents, they for use were made.  
What's a sun-dial in the shade? - Benjamin Franklin*

**Ethics Corner – by Cathy Link, CPPB, County of McHenry**

### **What Would You Do????**

#### **Mr. Smith Goes to Washington**

*In desperate need of a tax break for his company, a CEO contemplates a questionable campaign contribution.*

**By Leon Panetta**

**Response by Paul Locatelli, S.J.**

John Smith, CEO of Dynamic Inc., is faced with a terrible political dilemma.

His corporation desperately needs a federal tax break that would allow him to write off a significant debt burden, which is undermining cash flow and access to new capital. Without the targeted tax break, the business is likely to go under.

Congressman Bill Bridge, chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, is powerful enough to include the needed tax break in a large tax bill going

through his committee. Bridge, however, is an infamous right wing conservative, who represents the political opposite of everything Smith believes in as a lifelong liberal Democrat.

Fortunately, Bridge is not familiar with Smith's political beliefs. The Washington lobbyist for Smith's corporation has met with Bridge, and they agreed that Bridge would include the needed tax break on the condition that Smith donate \$100,000 to the Bridge campaign fund.

Such a political contribution is beyond anything Smith has ever done and would certainly attract press attention in the next Bridge campaign fund report. Nevertheless, no other member of either party can deliver on the tax break except Bridge.

Tom Tully, the Democratic congressman representing Smith, has heard of the Bridge deal. Because both parties are locked in a struggle for control of the House, Tully tells Smith that such a large contribution could jeopardize Democratic hopes in November to beat Bridge, and he threatens to publicly reveal the agreed-upon political buy-off. Instead, Tully, a junior member of the Agriculture Committee, proposes that if Smith will just wait until he and the Democrats control the House, he will personally deliver Smith's tax break in the next Congress.

If Smith raises the money for Bridge, he saves his corporation but risks his reputation and beliefs, and becomes a target for legal and political investigations. If he refuses, the chances are good his business will fail, with the loss of 600 jobs.

Welcome to Washington, Mr. Smith!

*Leon Panetta, former White House chief of staff, presented this case for the Ethics Roundtable for Executives.*

### Response

*Responding to the case was Paul Locatelli, S.J., president of Santa Clara University, who made his remarks in the context of the Center's "Framework for Ethical Decision Making" (available on the Web at:*

[www.scu.edu/ethics/practicing/decision/framework.html](http://www.scu.edu/ethics/practicing/decision/framework.html)).

Even before we get to the ethics of this case, the transaction Smith is contemplating is illegal.

Whenever there is a quid pro quo link between a campaign contribution and a specific political action that is financially beneficial to the contributor, the solicitation and the donation constitute criminal behavior.

Whether Smith has to hold his nose on account of Bridge's reactionary politics is irrelevant. Essentially, he is being blackmailed for a contribution. His gift would appear on Bridge's campaign finance disclosure statement and would be easily linked to the tax break, proving an embarrassment to Smith, as well as deserved grounds for indictment and conviction.

But the law in this case is the "floor" for decision making; ethics is the "ceiling." What are the ethical issues at stake here? Determining the stakeholders in the case is critical to this analysis. Of course, Smith himself is one stakeholder, but his own interests do not absolve him from responsibility for the poor management decisions that have gotten his company into its current difficulties. He cannot ethically save his own skin through bribery.

Certainly, shareholders also have a stake in the decision, and Smith is right to consider them. But it may already be too late to serve shareholder interests, as both the previous poor management and the revelation of a campaign contribution to Bridge could adversely impact stock prices.

Smith also has responsibility to his employees, who will undoubtedly be hurt if his business goes under. In this case, however, responsibility to the workers is outweighed by a greater obligation to the public. We might think of this in terms of the common good of the entire community, not merely the rights of individuals or groups of individuals.

Members of the public in their role as taxpayers are left out of Smith's consideration though ultimately they will have to pay the bill for the tax break he is seeking. What moral obligation do taxpayers have to bail out his company? Unless it produces some goods or services that are necessary to the national interest, the company has no particular claim on public monies. At least if there is to be a bail-out à la Chrysler, such an action should be publicly debated, not slipped secretly into a large tax bill.

In addition, Smith has an obligation to the public to obey the laws of the land. Would he be willing to have anyone faced with his dilemma take the action he is contemplating? Probably not. That would lead

to chaos and the unraveling of the rule of law (or the lack of what we delicately call "transparency" when these deals happen in the developing world).

This deal clearly flunks the "sniff test": It would be hard for Smith to explain to his mother or someone else he respected. Shame is not the best motivation for ethical behavior, but it is at least a blinking red light at an intersection we know we shouldn't cross.

#### New IAPPO Web-site Update (IAPPO.org)

Balcom-Vitello has transferred the URL to a new server/host and is creating an updated website using existing content. The site is to include a secure (username/password) database, a form and jobs section and others as needed. The content is being modified/updated to include the quarterly newsletter, information on two annual conferences, and several training sessions. The IAPPO site will also be linked to NIGP, MAPP and other sites as requested.

#### Welcome New Member

IAPPO welcomes a new professional to the association:

Mr. Phil Cotter  
Assistant Director of Public Works  
Village of River Forest

#### Training Opportunities by Patti Huth, CPPO, Village of Lisle

NIGP classes have been scheduled for the first quarter of 2007. Registration forms can be downloaded from the IAPPO website:

Contract Administration - March 27-29, 2007, in Lisle, Illinois

CPPO Review - February 27-28, 2007, in Lisle, Illinois

CPPB Review - February 28, 2007, in Lisle, Illinois  
Contact:  
Patti Huth, CPPO, CPPB  
630.271.4134 (voice)  
[phuth@villageoflisle.org](mailto:phuth@villageoflisle.org)

## HOUSEKEEPING ISSUES

With the New Year, it's that time again for the annual mailing of IAPPO membership dues invoices. Please insure that your entity clearly states on the check what the payment is covering; membership dues, seminar, etc. Membership dues need to be paid in a timely manner in order to avoid being dropped from the membership rolls. We don't want to lose members but at the same time, membership benefits are for dues paying members only.

The following documents will be available soon to download from the IAPPO website at [www.iapponet.org](http://www.iapponet.org) under "Membership": membership invoice, membership data form and sample invoice.

Let's all give Darcie a break and make sure our membership dues are paid for 2007.

PLEASE update a **membership data form** if any of your information has changed. IAPPO continues to receive approximately 15-20 undeliverable email messages when requests for information are sent to the membership. There are approximately 325 IAPPO members with over 300 in the original membership email group, so the members have been split up into four different groups, according to regions. The updated form should be returned to Darcie Garza @ [darcie.garza@dupageco.org](mailto:darcie.garza@dupageco.org) in order to continue receiving membership information through the U.S. mail and by email.

#### Mark Your Calendars!

The IAPPO Spring 2007 Conference will be held on May 10 & 11, 2007 at the Chateau Hotel and Conference Center, 1601 Jumer Drive, Bloomington, Illinois. The guest room rates will be \$69.00 a night and are subject to State and City tax of 12 percent. Topics lined up so far will be Snow and Ice Control Methods, Electrical Deregulation, and "Green Purchasing". This even kicks off IAPPO's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Year. There will be many opportunities for educational training and networking as well as some "Anniversary Surprises." Please plan on attending.

IAPPO's Fall 2007 Conference will be held on October 10, 11 and 12, 2007, at the Holiday Inn Itasca, 860 Irving Park Road, Itasca, Illinois. The

guest room rates will be \$79 a night and are subject to taxes as well. IAPPO will have its first “Reverse Vendor Fair” at this time and a wonderful 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. We are also securing a special speaker for this conference.

So, mark you calendars, prepare your budgets, and we hope to see you and have you help us celebrate this milestone anniversary.

*And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years - Abraham Lincoln*

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