



STATE ACADEMY FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

**SAPA Board Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday August 5th, 2025**

**Hybrid Meeting**

**via Zoom**

**A. Attendance**

- o **Members Present:**
  - Daniel Cunningham
  - Brian Nussbaum
  - Geza Hrazdina
  - Molly Reilly
  - Mila Gasco Hernandez
  - Roslyn Watrobski
  - Aaron Schwartz
- o **Members Absent**
  - Henrik Westin
- o **Guests Present**
  - o Not Applicable

**B. Call to Order:**

- o 6:03pm

**C. Board Meeting Minutes and recap from (Previous Meeting)**

- o Hold will be placed on this item until the September Meeting.
- o **Action Item:** Aaron will resend the September minutes out after this evening's meeting and we will review in September.

**D. Membership: (Molly)**

- o **New Member Applicants:** No new members to consider
  - Inquiry related to whether there is a contact roster for awardees and latest Fellowship roster. Molly would like to invite them and ensure that they are able to be added to future events.

- **Action Item:** Aaron has access to the current and previous years listing and will send that to Molly.
  - Future awardees will be asked for their contact information so that SAPA can reach out to the awardees and make sure they are invited to future events.
- **Member Reinstatement Application: Not Applicable**

#### **E. Chair Update: (Dan)**

- We received a very nice acknowledgement from Comptroller Dinapoli for the Rockefeller award and for the SAPA membership certificate. Dan will scan and send around to everyone.
- Dan has received nice feedback around the May Awards event. Another great event will be scheduled for May 2026.
- Acknowledgement - SAPA has received an invitation to the Public Safety conference - all State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies - DCJS is putting on a conference for them on the Concourse and there will be representation from state and local law enforcement across NYS - this will be a great group to outreach to.
  - Brian share dates - Tuesday 9/16/2026.
- Dan will talk to Molly and Kara about an information table with accompanying giveaways - we may wish to develop a brochure.
- Molly put together framed tabletop QR codes that take people directly to the website - these can be mobilized again for this purpose.
  - Dan will schedule with Molly & Kara in case we want giveaways for the table.

#### **F. Treasurers Report**

- N/A

#### **G. Essentials Update**

- Training location is secured once again (Comptrollers office)
- Training rooms F & G on the 3rd Floor - Board members will be on the attendance roster for each session.
- It would be great if board members can attend occasionally and interact with participants.
- Dan will send a schedule of days and with what session is when so that we can be strategic.
- All of our presenters have signed on for our individual sessions.
- Paul Shatsoff has decided that he thinks its time for him to transition out, so Dan will be taking on the 2 cultures of administration presentation.

- o Servant leadership - unsure where they will be in May. They may be unavailable, but Geza has volunteered to take on that workshop.
- o 42 participants are signed up - there will be a few dropoffs prior to September.
- o New for this year - 11 people from the executive chamber - they got the call letter and have nominated 11 people to participate.
- o The cap is between 34-40.
- o Dan will get a list of participants, titles, and agencies to Kara to post to the website and socials for a welcome message.

#### **H. Programming Update (Mila)**

- o No updates - planning to meet later in August to kick off the year.
- o We had to cancel last week's event for membership due to weather.
- o Next session in August is supposed to be a SHARP skills presentation. All presenters are requesting that it be shifted to after Labor Day.
- o Molly will be attempting to schedule a social event, and coordinate with Mila.
- o Academic and Professional activities to be a part of the programming - everything comes together, but with unique categories for events.
- o Mentorship Mixers lend themselves to membership, and Sharp Skills is more of a program.
- o Service and holiday events that aren't academic will be distinguished. Mila and Molly will create a clear delineation between the events.
- o An effort will be made to maintain the clear branding that we have developed.
- o Recommendation to maintain the calendar that we have through December.
  - October note - we should schedule 2026 so that it can be divided up and posted to our social media and onto the website so that people can prepare.

#### **I. Collaborative Discussion**

- o Dan had reached out to Luis
- o Molly has moved to the Dormitory Authority (Congratulations), and received permission to participate once again.
- o Molly had requested that SAPA be allowed an opportunity to present at a conference for Parks prior to her departure from the organization.
  - Collaborations with DOT, Troopers, etc.
  - Conversation points
    - a. Workplace culture
    - b. More effective organizations
    - c. Etc.

- They are actively seeking a speaker. Dan sought potential participation from an ally at Rockefeller College.
- We may be able to speak for 30-60 minutes at conferences and share our message of effective public administration.
- There are service bureaus at all of the conferences.
  - a. There are also Not for Profits that participate as well.
  - b. It's a sizable affair held at the Desmond.
- Dan followed up with Luis for the potential of a 30 minute keynote.
  - a. Dan seeks any other individual from SUNY Albany who may be interested in presenting.
  - b. SAPA's participation may look like facilitating a speaker and/or hosting a table to introduce staff to get in front of people related to the benefits and scope of the organization to increase our impact.
- Mila has names to recommend:
  - a. If the conversation is around HR, Workplace Culture, etc - recommend Ellen Rubin who has already participated in several of our programs.
  - b. Additionally Dr. Edmond Stacey who is well known for these topics as well.
  - c. IT Technology, AI Issues - Dr. Raymond Garcia who is a SAPA Fellow who could do a fantastic job on these topics.
  - d. Mila has volunteered to reach out to Ellen Rubin and Dr. Stacey.
  - e. Molly will reach out to Mila with dates and further information.
  - f. Dan seconds Mila's recommendations.
  - g. Order of Operations - reach out to Ellen and then Dr. Stacey as a backup. Dr. Garcia will be great for another audience as PARKS isn't up to AI just yet.
- Sharp Skills Topic in 2026
  - a. Mila did the introduction to AI - we weren't calling it Sharp Skills yet, but we may wish to offer that for a topic in 2026?
  - b. Molly notes Jennifer Lorenz - Deputy CIO for ITS who plans to talk specifically about integration of AI into Human Management as a focus.
    - i. Jenn has opened her own business since departing ITS (Congratulations!)

## **J. Treasurer's Report: (Kara)**

- o The last conversation Dan had with Kara - we had about \$4300 cash on hand.
- o A member of the essentials program has requested an accommodation
- o From SAPA's perspective that would be considered a work related activity and the agency will pick up the cost of ASL interpreters for each session of the Essentials program.

**K. Communications Update: (Comms Board Members)**

**L. Secretary Update: (Aaron)**

**1. Proposal for SAPA Chapter Model**

**a. Questions**

- i. What would need to happen to maintain our 501c3 status with representation at the college?
- ii. Do we need to amend out by-laws to have multiple chapters with their own leadership structure
  1. This would include regional representation
- iii. Before we create formal chapters - we may wish to get ourselves into good working order first.
  1. Conducting outreach to the GSO's of Public admin programs across the state.
- iv. Running the civil service session - Brian has proposed this at SUNY Albany - particularly college students don't know how the civil service efforts work.
  1. Mentoring and Civil Service sessions may be the early steps prior to creating organizational chapters.
  2. Syracuse and Albany have been well represented within SAPA, Binghamton and Marist should be due to their connections to State Police and other areas.
  3. We may wish to focus on informal approaches at first through Graduate Student Organizations initially.
- v. U Albany outreach was very positive - their President joined SAPA.
  1. We can have more conversation about this after the Board has a chance to look at the proposal more thoroughly.
- vi. The proposal to offer the Civil Service presentations first may be helpful.

1. Brian has volunteered to collaborate with Aaron on outreach to Binghamton if it is approved.
- vii. **Future Agenda's and other supplementary materials will be included as attachments on meeting notices.**
  1. **Aaron expresses his appreciation for everyone's patience as he learns his role!**

**M. Schedule of Upcoming Meetings**

o **Next Board Meetings:**

- Tuesday September 2nd, 2025 - 6pm
- September 3rd Ros will be doing the Essentials Class, everyone should stop by if they can from 5:30 - 7:00pm if possible!

**N. Adjourn Formal Meeting Time:**

- o Mila motions
- o Seconded by Ros

**O. Meeting is Adjourned at 6:41pm**