



STATE ACADEMY FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

SAPA Board Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025, 5:30pm

Zoom Meeting: [Zoom Link](#)

A. Attendance

a. Members' Present:

- i. Dan Cunningham
- ii. Molly Reilly
- iii. Kara Langdon
- iv. Geza Hrazdina
- v. Aaron Schwartz
- vi. Luis Luna-Reyes
- vii. Roslyn Watrobski
- viii. Richard Rose
- ix. Brian Krist
- x. Anton Konev
- xi. Maribel Espinosa-Hernandez
- xii. Danielle Adams
- xiii. Fausto Franco

b. Members Absent

- i. Mila Gasco-Hernandez
- ii. Brian Nussbaum
- iii. Henrik N. Westin

B. Call to order:

- a. 5:38pm**

C. Approval of October Meeting Minutes:

- a. Roz Moves, Geza Seconds
- i. Minutes are approved.

B. Board Meeting Minutes and recap from 11-18-2025

1. Previous Meeting Agenda Failed to meet Quorum, so Agenda from previous meeting is attached instead.

2. Business transactions through email where 2 new members (Fellows) were added – this will be reflected in the minutes.
 1. They have been added and notified.
 2. SUNY Brockport will be added to the call for the Steigman Award for 2026

C. Chair Update: (Daniel)

1. Geza & Dan met to start planning for the 2026 excellence ceremony
 1. Date is May 21, 2026
 2. Board members are asked to attend if possible.
 3. Nominations call letter will be going out in January.
 1. Dates to keep in mind:
 1. Files and Documentation have been created.
 2. Location at the ETEC has been secured.
 3. Dan will request updated Agency Head listing from the Executive Chamber and an updated HR Directors list from OER.
 4. Call letters for nominations will go out by January 26th. Agencies will have until March 4th to submit nominations. Nomination review will begin on March 9th
 5. The Review Committee's Award recommendations will be reviewed and approved by the Board at the April 7 meeting. Award certificates will be printed by April 30th.
 6. Agencies approved for team awards with a significant number of participants will receive an Award Letter and single certificate and asked to provide copies of both to each participant and include a copy within their Personal History Folder.
 7. May 15th registration window will close.
 8. Keynote Recommendations for 2026 ceremony proposed for open discussion.
 1. Secretary of State is recommended.
 2. ODIM Director is also a suggested speaker.
 3. Any other recommendations?
 9. If you don't think there should be a keynote speaker, please let Geza know via email.
 10. This topic will be raised again at the next meeting.
 4. Dan reached out to Joan Sullivan who has agreed to serve as the head of the nomination committee.
 2. Dan was recently elected to the board of the Retired Public Employees Association – with the Board's approval, Dan will reach out to RPEA related to cross marketing programs and membership.
 1. Public employees at the state and local level – it wouldn't be a bad idea to reach out and create an informal relationship with RPEA,

- getting them information about the State Academy to hopefully draw some members.
2. Let SAPA members know about events happening in the Capital Region and around the state.
 1. Idea is endorsed by Geza
 2. Molly notes it's a great idea to help amplify our marketing
 3. Dan will reach out and see about getting SAPA information in front of their membership.
 3. Donations to Toys for Tots – Link was provided to all registrants – toys that you were going to bring, please access the link and drop off your donation at your nearest donation center.

D. Membership: (Molly)

1. **New Member Applicants:** No new applications since last month.
2. **Member Reinstatement Application:** No new member applications
3. We will be kicking off the letter campaign at the end of this month to invite all members of the legislature to join
4. Starting a social media campaign encouraging current members to renew their SAPA membership and encourage public employees to join SAPA.
5. Molly has successfully secured the talents of Heather Groll to help with that initiative. The assets have begun creation, and coordination with Kara has begun.
 1. 6-week campaign involving social media assets to gain people's attention and increase membership activity.
 2. A Membership application will be sent to Heather by Dan this evening, encouraging her to join.

E. Programming Update: (Mila)

1. Presentation regarding 2026 Program and Member Engagement Schedule.
 1. Presentation will be sent out with the Minutes.
 2. Professional Development: Sharp Skills Sessions
 1. Panel Discussions and Q/A about practical skills needed to advance professional performance no matter the sector or industry
 3. 2026 Topics
 1. January – Cybersecurity – Guest Speakers – Meghan Cook and Timothy Saxe – Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services Cyber Incident Response Team – Virtual Session
 2. September – Organizational Change (Guest Speakers TBC)
 4. Professional Development: Leaders Learn

1. Join us for a “book club” discussion led by experienced professionals and educators
2. 2026 book is The Fifth Risk by Michael Lewis
 1. February Part I – Tail Risk
5. Annual Excellence in Public Service Awards
 1. May 21, 2026
6. SAPA Networking Events
 1. Socialize and network with professionals across government and education, at all stages of their careers.
 1. Public music session in June
 2. August – joining one another at the Joe so that we can rally with our Tri-City Valey Cats for SAPA Night at the Ballgame
7. Service 360 – Opportunities to volunteer with community organizations
 1. Regional Foodbank
 2. Canal Clean Sweep
8. Become a member
 1. Encourage interested people to check out the website
9. Questions or discussions?
 1. Opened to the Floor

F. Essentials Update: (Dan)

1. The Essential Meeting will be held Wednesday December 3rd at the Comptroller’s Offices on 110 State Street.
 1. Politics and the Permanent Bureaucracy
 2. Program begins at 5:30pm
 3. Board members are listed on the Roster and are encouraged to join.
 4. Dr. Ellen Rubin from Rockefeller

G. Treasurer’s Report: (Kara)

1. We will end the year with \$3,300 in the account.
2. Membership drive is upcoming, which will allow us to hold our incredible events.

H. Communications Update:

1. Social media – 2025 we focused on showing information on events.
 1. 13,000 views on LinkedIn and additional views on Facebook.
 2. It will be exciting to see what we can do about that.
 3. Facebook isn’t as well used as it once was; we may wish to move to Instagram (perhaps TikTok as well? Eventually perhaps)

4. Dan will pass Kara the information for the current Essentials student Maribel for help establishing an Instagram for SAPA.
2. Website – information for events have been posted, we will look to refresh and highlight events as well to note social and professional development events.

I. Secretary Update: (Aaron)

1. Dan will be transitioning back-ups to Secretary moving forward to ensure that there is a secondary back-up who can help with logins, zooms, and other technical features moving forward.
2. Aaron can be reached at anytime at either his email address at Aschwartz@nysapa.org or by phone at 347-738-2426.

I. Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

- **Next Board Meetings:**

- Tuesday, January 6, 2026 – 6pm
- Tuesday, February 3, 2026 – 6pm

J. Meeting Adjourns:

1. 6:10pm