



STATE ACADEMY FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

SAPA Board Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, January, 6th, 2026, 6:00pm

Zoom Meeting: [Zoom Link](#)

A. Attendance

o **Members Present:**

- Daniel Cunningham
- Brian Nussbaum
- Aaron Schwartz
- Kara Langdon
- Geza Hrazdina
- Molly Reilly
- Rozlyn Watrobski
- Henrik Weston

o **Members Absent**

- Fausto Franco – Family Obligation
- Luis Luna-Reyes – Faculty Candidate Dinner
- Mila Gasco Hernandez - Hawaii

o **Guests Present:**

- N/A

B. Call to order

- o 6:01pm

C. Board Meeting Minutes and recap from 12-2-2025 Meeting

o **Comments or changes?**

- **Motion to approve – Brian**
- **Seconded – Geza**
- **Approved**

D. Membership: Molly

- o **New Member Applicants:** No New Member Applications
- o **Member Reinstatement Application:** N/A

- o Letter writing campaign soliciting members of the legislature to join SAPA update.
 - Inquiries about membership dues which is encouraging – we will see that amongst their many busy meetings scheduled they will respond.
 - Outreach from staffers was encouraging
 - In a week, Molly will be doing a general blast to all of them instead of individually – encouraging follow up – Molly will work on a graphic for membership steps.
 - If we get to a point where we see that there is little or no activity from members of the legislature – would the board do a blanket approval for members of the legislature note that their public record suffices as their application and ask that they simply put in their dues for the application.
 - In the follow up planned, she could just say that.
 - Do we think it would be a good thing for Dan and Molly to meet with a couple of members about SAPA and outreach to get them on board and discuss with their colleagues? Molly will likely be unable to do so, but Dan and Geza may be able to as they are retired, and therefore not subject to.
 - Goal is to get 20% would be wonderful, but the more the better!
 - Assets will come out with a schedule that will be communicated with Kara to get those out and churning.

E. Chair Update:

- o 2026 Annual Excellence in Public Service Ceremony is scheduled for May 21, 2026 at ETEC on the SUNY Albany Campus.
- o Geza will be in charge of this year's awards ceremony.
- o Dan spoke with Sorelle who is the chair of the Rockefeller award committee – She had seen that we were talking about asking Secretary of State Mosely to be the keynote – she had looked at his bio and recommended that in addition to being a keynote speaker, that we award the Rockefeller award to the Secretary of State as well. This would require board approval, and this is being put forth as a proposal.
- o We will invite the secretary of state but may hold off on letting them know about award until closer to the date.
- o Call for nomination is going out on the 26th of January – update to the call letter have been made by Geza to be reviewed by Dan. Everything else is on track and we are looking good this year
- o Dan has already reached out to staff at State and they indicated that they were not scheduling that far out yet, and to circle back around in January. Dan has sent a reminder about this to find out if he is available.
- o Other suggestions to Geza in case we need an alternate.
- o Dan followed up with Chamber on contact list, and OER on additional lists.

- o Molly Recommends Tanya Webber – Chief Experience Officer for NYS – the mission that she has been advancing related to the delivery of services for Nyers and the mindset that service should be pleasing is important. She is also a great speaker!

F. Essentials Update:

- o January Session has been cancelled due to a issue for the presenter, so it will be rescheduled later on this term.

G. Programming Update

- o Sharp Skills Cybersecurity event will take place on Monday 1/12/2026 6:00 - 7:30pm on Zoom.
- o February shall be the first “book club” discussion on The Fifth Risk by Michael Lewis on the first part of the book “Tail Risk”
- o Review Dates for the Book Club
 - 2/11 – in-person
 - 3/18 – virtual
 - 4/18 – in-person
- o Information to get people to register for the virtual event on cybersecurity we are hosting DSHES to speak about and it will be an excellent virtual seminar. We will monitor the metrics on virtual and in person sessions to determine what is more likely to get people to leave their homes.
- o We are looking forward to Brian facilitating the book talks as we look to the months ahead
- o April – there will be the third session of the book talk, but the first of the Service 360 events – then we will have the awards ceremony with June and August for social events as well.
 - August – Tri-city valley cats – a fun night at the ballgame – budget together for the first 20 of our members to take part.
 - Ensure that there is nothing we have to leverage off the top.

H. Collaborative Discussion

- o Next month, Dan would like to discuss the outline for that annual meeting and information that we should have ready for that.
 - Increase in membership – we have added a number of new members for the next few years.
 - We will be in a good position to discuss the role with the legislature
 - Talk about the awards ceremony the following month – we have a slide deck from last year to use as the foundation for last year.
- o First Tuesday in April is contemporaneous with Spring break for Scheduling purposes.
- o We will look at adjusting that meeting off that date.
 - o Dr. Joseph Popcun has been brought on as a new member – Brian was on his dissertation committee – Exec Dep at DCJS – this is a big win for us, now that he has free time because he is not writing his dissertation – we should find ways to look him into board activity or whatever else we can do. He is super competent and hard-working.

- o We will discuss with Mila about doing a Sharp Skills or similar presentation in the fall on Dr. Popcun's research. September makes a lot of sense. Problem solving and executive decision making and being prudent properly will be great.
- o We may have some board roles opening up and Dan will discuss the possibility with him.

I. Treasurer's Report:

- o Annual Dues should be submitted; we don't have a due date – we can start sooner. We monitored it and saw how many people paid dues and Dan had kept sending reminders – he has his gentle way to encourage people through May of the year – as long as everyone pays by the end of June (the end of our fiscal year), we are in good shape.
- o Not much going on – two payments this month normal constant contact.
- o \$3200 dollars left in the account – we will be starting on dues to get that balance back up.
- o Website update will be made by Kara
- o Aaron to create spread sheet to note them in the constant contact if they don't pay, we want to be sure we leave them on the list.
- o There is the option to donate if they want to supply additional funds.

J. Communications Update:

- o Updates have been made on social media to advertise the January Sharp Skills event on Monday January 12, 2026 6:00 - 7:00pm. These advertisements include links to register for the event.
 - Board Members are encouraged to share these across social media.

K. Secretary Update:

- o Updated invitation for those on the SAPA mailing lists for the January Sharp Skills event will be going out on Monday 1-5-2026 at 12:00pm to remind those who have not yet registered but are interested to do so. A final reminder will go out on Friday 1-9-2026 at 12:00pm
- o Aaron will be conducting an audit of the mailing lists to remove the “bounce back” emails that are now defunct and creating a list of those to see if we can find updated contact for these individuals at our next meeting in February.
- o Aaron will add the SUNY Albany Program on Venezuela.
- o Dan suggests that we send board members a listing of the dates for the board meetings for the remainder of this year.
- o Put the remainder of the meetings from now through June when we end our year in the minutes
- o UAlbany announcement will be out to board members this evening.
- o Annual Meeting in April – Next Month – we will be having a discussion about that meeting – we did it last year virtually and it went well. We had a lot more people attending than had attended the year before when we tried in-person.

L. Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

o **Next Board Meetings:**

- Tuesday, February 3, 2026 - 6:00pm
- Tuesday, March 3, 2026 - 6:00pm – In-Person
- Tuesday April 7, 2026 – 6:00pm
- Tuesday May 5, 2026 – 6:00pm
- Tuesday May 21, 2026 – In-Person ETEC
- Tuesday June 2, 2026 – 6:00pm

M. Adjourn Formal Meeting Time:

- o **Motioned – Molly**
- o **Seconded – Brian**

N. Meeting Adjourned: 6:32pm