STATE ACADEMY FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

SAPA Board Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 6:00pm
Zoom Meeting

◊ **Attendance**

Members Present:

- Luis Luna-Reyes
- Aaron Schwartz
- Elijah Foulks
- Geza Hrazdina
- Michael Lalli
- Henrik Westin
- Dan Cunningham
- Aja Griffiths
- Roslyn Watrobski
- Mila Gasco-Hernandez
- Fausto Franco

◊ **Welcome and Introduction of New Board Members**

- Chair Dan Cunningham introduced and welcomed new board members, Elijah Foulks and Michael Lalli. Foulks comes from NYS government and Lalli from local government – Albany County.

- SAPA will be looking to advance its reach this year, including a local government program. Lalli will work with the chair on developing launching the program.

◊ **2026-2027 Board Meeting Schedule**

- **<u>Upcoming Meetings</u>**

  - Wednesday, October 14 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
  - Wednesday, November 11 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
  - Wednesday, December 9 at 6:00 p.m. - **Holiday Gathering and Toy Drive - Location to be announced**
  - Wednesday, January 13 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
  - Wednesday, February 10 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
  - Wednesday, March 10 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
  - Wednesday, April 7 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom - **SAPA Annual Business Meeting**
  - Wednesday, May 12 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom - **Board Officer and Board Vacancy Elections**
  - Wednesday, June 2 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

- Aja reviewed the board schedule and Dan emphasized the need for a quorum to vote on various matters.
- SAPA email addresses have been established for all board communications

◊ **Programming Updates**

- Essentials of Public Administration – Aaron provided and overview of this year's program and discussed the September session.
  - Successful first session except for some challenges with security; Leah Boggs at OSC is working to resolve.
  - Roslyn Watrobski presented and it went very well.
  - There are 36 participants from over a dozen organizations.
  - On 10/7/26 Henrik Westin will present. Aaron invited the board to attend an Essentials when available. Aaron will send correspondence to participants about extra for the 10/7.
  - Dan encouraged the board to attend a session to meet and interact with Essentials participants. 5:30-7pm

2026-27 Essentials Program Dates and Topics:

- September 2, 2026 -- Program Orientation and Brand YOU! - Roslyn Watrobski and Aaron Schwartz
- October 7, 2026 -- NYS Constitution - Henrik Westin
- November 4, 2026 -- Two Cultures of Administration -- Dan Cunningham
- December 2, 2026 -- Politics and The Permanent Bureaucracy -- Ellen Rubin

- January 6, 2027 -- Nature and Structure of State Government -- Richard Rose
- February 3, 2027 -- The Ethical Administrator -- Sorelle Brauth
- March 3, 2027 -- Diversity, Beyond Compliance-- Aaron Schwartz
- April 7, 2027 -- Navigating the Civil Service System -- Carlos Milan
- May 5, 2027 -- Servant Leadership -- Geza Hrazdina

- Local Government Essentials Program
  - Dan met with City of Albany and Albany County representatives on developing a Local Gov version of Essentials. Mike Lalli surveyed managers for topics.

    Proposed topics are:

    - Nature and Structure of Local Government
    - Intergovernmental Affairs
    - Servant Leadership
    - Labor Relations
    - Legislative Process
    - Navigating Civil Service

- Dan proposed a Spring 2027 launch of the Local Government Essentials program.
  - City and County teams have agreed on the development of the program.
  - Sorelle Brauth, Ellen Rubin, Keith Baker and Geza Hrazdina have all agreed to develop a session
  - Mike and Dan will bring the group together to review outlines and Dan will continue to update the Board
  - SAPA Board Members will be invited to attend these sessions
  - Mike has been working on Power Point
  - Dan will meet with NYSAC and will reach out to Mike

- Book Club – Brian Nussbaum was not present, but will be leading this program. He is considering "Rebooting Democracy" as the first book.

- Sharp Skills Trainings
  - Mila is planning a Leaders Learn session in October.
  - September Sharp - committee decided on Change Management
    - Speaker Gail Galusha is an expert on Artificial Intelligence; also is also knowledgeable about Change Management

- Leaders Learn Session –
  - State and Local Gov need to know more about AI. Center for Technology in Government discuss AI from a practical point of view.
  - Details, date and time are still to be determined; the session might be virtual but Mila is open to in person.

◊ Membership Update –
- Dan announced that two new members joined over the summer.A couple of new members over summer:
  - Charmain Daniels from the New York State Office of General Services, works in Special Events and Outreach.
  - Dr. Angela Lauria Gunnik – Project Manager 3 Office for Information Technology Services.
    - Both are member level; Board approval is not required

- Dan was contacted by a high school student, Dylan Mabee, who is interested in public admin and political science
  - Dylan cannot became a SAPA member because he is not a college student, however he has expressed interest in volunteering 5-10 hours per week.
  - Dan suggested assistance with social media and possibly room set up for SAPA events.

◊ Collaborative Discussion –
- Dan told the Board that Steven Rolandi, a 2026 recipient of a SAPA Public Service Excellence Award Winner, expressed interest in establishing a NYC SAPA presence.
  - He is the Metro NY Director of ASPA
    - Dr. Angela Lauria Gunnik works with Rolandi.
  - He is interested in collaborating with SAPA.
  - Dan likes the idea, as NYC is a significant footprint is NYS government.
  - NYC people have expressed interest in Essentials, but cannot because it is Albany-based
  - Dan thinks there could be an advantage, wanted to discuss with board before moving forward with other conversation
  - Ros thinks the conversation is worth having; interested in what it would yield, potentially a hybrid model—could be important to the future of the program
  - Aaron agreed, could be great and more flexible for parents to be able to attend from home

◊ Treasurer's Report – Aaron
- Aaron does not yet have access to the SAPA account. Aaron will work with former Treasure and Board member Kara Langdon to gain access.

- ◊ Communications Update –
    - Kara updated Sharp Skills and Center for Technology in Government series on social media.
    - Aaron put together a blurb on social media about essentials and participants.
    - This year's Essentials class should be added to the SAPA website.

- ◊ Secretary Update
    - Aja updated the group on the number of Sharp Skills Session Registrations. There were 27 at the time of the meeting.
    - Roslyn suggested Board member amplify Sharp Skills and other programs on LinkedIn and their other social media accounts to ensure maximum promotion
    - Dan will talk to Elijah and Mike about Board Sub-Committees.

- ◊ Adjourn Formal Meeting Time: 6:50