

**American Academy of Certified Public Managers®**  
**Virtual Town Hall Meeting**  
**November 2, 2020**

**Board Members Present:** Gregory Hyland, President; Bill Herman, Secretary; Debbie Smith, Treasurer; Dennis Martino, Past President; Becky Bryant, Director of Membership and Hope Obika Waobikeze, Director of Education

**Also Present:** Patty Morgan, Red Shoe Solutions

The President convened the Virtual Town Hall Meeting at 12:05 PM (EST) and welcomed the approximately 160 individuals attending the meeting. He noted the attendance exceeded the number allowed by Zoom, so the meeting was expanded to other formats as well to accommodate everyone.

**Welcome and Introduction of AACPM Board:**

Greg Hyland welcomed all attendees and encouraged their participation in today's meeting. He acknowledged what a difficult year 2020 has been for all walks of life due to the Covid-19 pandemic and he asked for a moment of silence in memory of those who died as a result of the pandemic, some of whom have been CPMs.

Greg then introduced the current AACPM Board members including Greg Hyland of Arizona, President; Bill Herman of New Hampshire, Secretary; Debbie Smith of Oklahoma, Treasurer; Dennis Martino of New Hampshire, Past President; Becky Bryant of Arkansas, Director of Membership, and Hope Obika Waobikeze of Texas, Director of Education.

**Treasurer's Overview – Debbie Smith, Treasurer:**

Debbie Smith noted the AACPM was originally founded in 1985 and was established as a national organization comprised of state or regional societies in terms of membership. In the passing years, it has evolved into a national organization comprised of individual members. For a quick view, she provided the following membership numbers:

2001 – 1,554  
2005 – 1,752 (peak year)  
2010 – 1,258  
2013 -- 326  
2016 -- Approximately 100 – 125

The Treasurer noted in 2013, the AACPM had a treasury of approximately \$65,000, with annual expenses of \$4,000 to \$5,000 per year. As membership decreases, so do the revenues coming into the AACPM in terms of membership dues. She reported in 2020, the AACPM treasury is approximately \$22,000.

Debbie Smith noted that for many, CPM is in our hearts and souls both professionally and personally. The AACPM is a means to continue that effort and development, and she stressed the AACPM Board truly want to hear from members today as to what their expectations are of the AACPM.

### **Membership Overview – Becky Bryant, Director of Membership:**

Becky Bryant reported that the current AACPM membership included 113 active members, two new members pending processing and 12 members whose memberships are pending renewal for a total of 127. She further noted the membership comes from 29 different states, the District of Columbia, the US Virgin Islands and one international member from India. Currently, Georgia with 19 members and Arkansas with 13 were the larger delegations among the States.

She reported that recently the AACPM Board had been approached by the North Carolina Society of Certified Public Managers® to see if they could re-establish a direct relation with the AACPM. Noting there are approximately six or seven active local CPM societies around the country, the AACPM is taking a serious look at how to potentially make this happen while also recognizing our individual members.

### **History of the AACPM – Becky Bryant, AACPM Past President:**

Becky Bryant presented a short history of the Certified Public Manager® program and of the AACPM spanning the time frame of 1972 through 2020. The CPM Program is managed through the National Certified Public Manager® Consortium, who establishes overall national standards for the CPM training programs and accredits entities in jurisdictions across the country to offer CPM training. The AACPM is an alumni organization intended to continue the CPM experience by maintaining an opportunity for CPMs to continue to network, while offering further professional development and recognition programs for its members.

The AACPM has remained a national organization with volunteer directors through most of its existence. Although in more recent years, the AACPM attempted to partner with the American Society of Public Administration (ASPA) for professional organization assistance, and more recently moved to working with Patty Morgan of Red Shoe Solutions, the Administrator for the NCPMC.

Becky Bryant stressed she felt the AACPM was at a crossroads and needed to hear from the membership to know what they wanted and expected from the AACPM.

### **Value of the CPM Program – General Membership Discussion:**

Greg Hyland indicated we have reached the part of the program where the AACPM Board wants to be quiet and listen to the AACPM members for their thoughts and ideas about where the AACPM should go from here.

Craig Odekirk of Utah: He always enjoyed attending the AACPM Conferences for both the professional development value, but also the networking and personal interaction with the

members during the event. He indicated once his term on the AACPM Board had ended, he generally never heard anything again from the organization until he recently began doing some research for his own education. He felt the best of the AACPM is the people, and he missed that interaction. He felt the members learned from each other and supported each other, and we needed to re-establish links among the membership again.

Julie Felice of Utah: She recalled first becoming aware and active in the AACPM under the leadership and mentorship of Craig Odekirk and she would agree with his sentiments. She noted she has since left the public sector to work in the private sector health care field, but felt a lot of her CPM training was applicable in both settings. Julie did feel in today's hectic world, we have a lot of "weary workers" who need some motivation to get into a CPM program to enhance their skills and professional development. In her own experience, the CPM Program and the AACPM was positive and productive, and encouraged the development of friendships. She said her CPM experience allowed her to grow and develop both professionally and personally.

Debbie Smith of Oklahoma: Debbie indicated one of the biggest advantages she personally experienced was the CPM experience helped her overcome being an introvert, which greatly benefited her professional career. She stressed that it has been her experience that the AACPM will never allow you to fail, noting she was not ready to lead when called upon to do so. But her fellow Board members and CPM members rallied to ensure she would not fail.

Dennis Martino of New Hampshire: He noted that not everyone gets to the AACPM on a straight line. In his case, Dennis was an instructor in the New Hampshire CPM Program before becoming active in the NH Association of Certified Public Managers®. And it was through the New Hampshire organization that he offered assistance to the AACPM, and he ultimately became the AACPM President.

Becky Bryant of Arkansas: As a past AACPM President, Becky wanted to specifically acknowledge and thank Loretta Tillery from the District of Columbia and Dennis Martino of New Hampshire for their pivotal assistance in sustaining and advancing the AACPM. At a time when the sitting AACPM President resigned shortly after becoming President, they were left to pick-up the pieces and chart a way forward. Becky indicated she personally has a real passion to help new CPMs, to promote the CPM Program and, where possible, to assist in the forming of a new local CPM society.

Susan Paddock of Wisconsin: The former Wisconsin CPM Program Director, Susan reported the University of Wisconsin has recently determined it was no longer interested in being affiliated with the CPM Program. So the Wisconsin Program is in the process of searching for a new home. She encouraged the AACPM to reach out to past CPMS in Wisconsin to encourage them to get involved. She said she knew many of the individuals attending the virtual meeting and know them to be hard working, intelligent and dedicated people. She felt it would be a boost to the Wisconsin CPM team to hear from the AACPM at this time.

Becky Bryant of Arkansas: Becky indicated it is important for communicating that the AACPM has current contact information for everyone. She also encouraged the CPM

Program Directors participating to let their students know the AACPM exists and invite them to take a look and see what the AACPM may have to offer.

William Clements of North Carolina: Bill reported he graduated from the North Carolina CPM Program in 1988 and was active in the North Carolina Society including serving as President in 1996. But then his activity lapsed as he spent time in Virginia, Georgia and Alabama. But he returned to North Carolina in rejoined the North Carolina Society in 2002. He noted he had attended the AACPM Conference in New Orleans in 1989, and was disappointed to see the AACPM has shrunk in size and activity. He would like to see it returned to its former self in terms of activity and structure.

With no further comments forthcoming, Greg Hyland stressed the AACPM Board truly wants to hear from membership on any thoughts or suggestions they may have. Greg provided the meeting with his cell phone number and encouraged members to reach out to him at any time.

### **Discussion of AACPM Elections:**

Dennis Martino indicated one way members could assist the AACPM is to run for office and help in the direction and governance of the organization. He indicated the 2020 elections would include four positions for election including President-elect, Secretary, Director of Communication and Director of Education. He reported a notice would be forthcoming about the filing period for elections that will run through November 30<sup>th</sup>, with an election to follow in December. The individuals elected to office would join the AACPM in January 2021. Dennis stressed that all are welcome and new members on the AACPM would be considered to be a positive thing.

### **Wilkinson Scholarship:**

Debbie Smith reported the AACPM offers annual a scholarship for continued education and professional development in the amount of \$750. The scholarship is known as the Wilkinson Scholarship, named after Fran Wilkinson. Debbie announced notice of the application period for the 2020 Wilkinson Scholarship will be posted on the AACPM web site and notices will be e-mailed to all members. The application deadline will be November 30<sup>th</sup>, with an award to be made in December 2020.

### **2020 Henning Award:**

Bill Herman reported the AACPM seeks to recognize an outstanding Certified Public Manager® with the presentation of the Henning Award, which is named after Kenneth Henning, considered to be the founder of the CPM Program. Information about the award and how to submit nominations will be posted on the AACPM web site, with notices being e-mailed to all AACPM members. It is planned to post the information in December for a planned Spring 2021 selection and presentation.

## **Closing Comments:**

To wrap up the meeting, Greg Hyland thanked everyone for attending and participating in the AACPM Virtual Town Hall Meeting. He encouraged individuals to think about getting more involved in the AACPM and help chart the course for the future. He felt this meeting was only the first of more to come in the future.

There being no further business to conduct, Greg Hyland adjourned the meeting at 1:15 PM (EST).

Respectfully submitted:

William G. Herman, CPM  
Secretary