



YOUR CAREER, YOUR CHOICE: A LIFETIME OF OPTIONS IN STUDENT AFFAIRS

2004 OHIO COLLEGE PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION CAREERS IN STUDENT AFFAIRS CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 23, 2004
Ashland University, Convocation Center
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

OCPA News

The Careers in Student Affairs Conference is designed for undergraduate and graduate students who are aspiring to professional leadership positions within Student Affairs. The conference will include presentations by faculty, professional student affairs practitioners, undergraduate and graduate students, and is multidisciplinary, centering on concepts and issues in Student Affairs. Conference participants will have opportunities to:

- Network with Ohio Graduate School Representatives and Senior Student Affairs Officers
- Learn about the graduate admission/assistantship process
- Discover how to market your undergraduate leadership skills and experience
- Examine the various career tracks in Student Affairs
- Learn how to chart your course for a senior Student Affairs Position

The luncheon will feature Sue Caudill Heimann as our keynote speaker. Professional dedication to student learning and commitment to student success through a partnership of student affairs and academics will be the focus of her keynote. Sue will address the excitement, diverse opportunities, and promise of careers in Student Affairs.

Sue Caudill Heimann has served students at Ashland University for 25 years and is currently the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students. She is a past president of the Ohio College Personnel Association, Ohio Association of Student Personnel Administrators, and Ohio Association for Women in Education, and past director for American College Personnel Association's State and International Divisions. Her areas of experience include strategic management, assessment, student learning, servant leadership, and collaboration with students, staff, and faculty.

By Kimberly Ferguson

Program Proposals are DUE Friday, September 24, 2004. See page 5 for details.

OCPA Mission

The Ohio College Personnel Association is a comprehensive student affairs organization dedicated to providing quality professional development opportunities that enhance student learning, foster an appreciation of diversity, and encourage collaborative partnerships among student affairs professionals in Ohio.

OCPA Vision

OCPA will maintain a proactive leadership role as an inclusive organization committed to initiating, influencing, and addressing issues and trends in higher education that assist in enhancing student learning and development.

INSIDE OCPA NEWS

Careers in Student Affairs	1
President's Pen	2
Election Results	3
Election results cont.	4
Executive Roster	4
Legislative Information	5
Welcome Back	5
Proposal Details	5
OCPA/OASPA Conference	6
Updates...	7
Featured Job Listings	8
Transition Meeting Update	9

Fall 2004

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President's Pen

By: Amy Lahmers

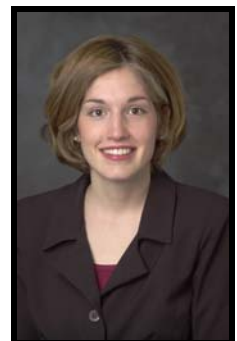


Greetings and welcome to a new year with the Ohio College Personnel Association (OCPA)! As I reflect on what to write in my first President's Pen, I want to let you know that I am honored to serve as President of OCPA. I have come to appreciate OCPA as a support network for ALL student affairs educators in Ohio. OCPA is an inclusive organization with the diversity of its membership, in a number of different ways, being a core strength. For example, several members of the Executive Council and myself come from academic advising/student services positions in academic departments. My involvement in OCPA on the Silver Anniversary Conference Planning Committee, as Government Relations Chair and now in the role of President, has provided me leadership opportunities that have helped me develop the skills and knowledge to better serve the students in the Department of Animal Sciences at Ohio State. I have truly enjoyed my interactions with OCPA members throughout the state and especially the time I have spent working with OCPA Executive Council members. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

This summer OCPA added new Executive Council members from across the state (see the list of contacts and the write-up on election results in this issue). Council members work in an array of functional areas including International Studies and Programs, Residence Life, Career Services, Multicultural Affairs, Student Leadership, Student Affairs, Admissions, and various academic departments. Thanks to outgoing Council members **Cindy Mako Robinson, Wiona Porath, Kate Police, Michelle Gaffney, Robin Gagnow, and Timeka Thomas Rashid**. All of you have contributed immensely to the growth and development of the OCPA. Congratulations to Council members, **Michelle Ocepek, Tracy Benner, Michelle Gaffney, and Eric Anderson**, who were recognized at the Summer Executive Council Transition Meeting by outgoing Past President, Cindy Mako Robinson, for their years of service to OCPA as recipients of OCPA service pins.

As we begin the start of a new academic year, I encourage you to consider the tremendous opportunity that we have in our roles as student affairs educators to impact the lives of students. Also, consider the following question: Who will serve students on college campuses in the years to come? OCPA will showcase Student Affairs as a career choice at the *Careers in Student Affairs Conference* scheduled for Saturday, October 23, 2004 at Ashland University. For detailed information, see: <http://www.ocpaonline.org/> All interested undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to attend. I can assure you that this event will be a dynamic program!

I encourage you to take advantage of the many professional development opportunities that OCPA offers and to GET INVOLVED. Watch for more details about upcoming professional development events. Best wishes for a successful start to the academic year.



Amy Lahmers
President, Ohio College Personnel Association, 2004-05

Student Services Coordinator
Department of Animal Sciences, The Ohio State University

INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING INFORMATION TO THE OCPA NEWSLETTER?
SUBMISSIONS, QUESTIONS, OR COMMENTS CAN BE ADDRESSED TO:
AMBER PREKLER
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
aprekler@kent.edu

OCPA Election Results

By: Amy Lahmers

The following individuals were recently elected to serve on the OCPA Executive Board. OCPA is fortunate to have outstanding leaders serving in these volunteer positions.

The Executive Council, composed of the elected Executive Board and other appointed positions, carries out its responsibilities under Association Bylaws approved by the membership. The Council establishes policies and procedures, formulates strategic plans, initiates and evaluates Association activities, programs and services, and is responsible for the Association's budget. The Executive Council meets five times a year.

It is with the input and help of our members that we can make the Ohio College Personnel Association an even better organization. We encourage anyone interested in assisting with OCPA activities to contact any Executive Council Member. For more information, visit: www.ocpaonline.org

Michelle Ocepek President Elect (3-year term):

Since joining OCPA in 1998, Michelle G. Ocepek has held the following positions within the organization: Graduate Student Member-At-Large 99-00, Professional Development Chair 00-01, and Membership Chair 01-Present. Michelle has done numerous presentations at OCPA events and has participated in planning committees for the annual Conference and the Support Staff Conference.

Michelle earned a BS in Social Work from Ashland University and an MA in College Student Personnel from Bowling Green State University. Currently working as the Associate Director in the Center for International Studies and Programs at Youngstown State University, she previously worked at Mount Union College as Director of International Student Affairs.

Serving the organization has been fulfilling to Michelle professionally as she has met and worked with many colleagues throughout the state and has learned from that involvement. The President-Elect, President, and Past-President cycle takes a dedicated person whose history in the organization will inform and enhance his/her ability to lead the organization. Michelle has been active within the organization for many years and believes that will benefit her as she embraces the challenge of serving in these positions. She will be responsive to member needs and will ensure that OCPA events and member services are reflective of current trends and issues. Working in an underrepresented area within the OCPA membership, Michelle recognizes the various constituencies within our organization and the need to engage these groups. Remaining an inclusive Student Affairs organization and continuing to offer cost-effective, quality services to our members should be a focus of the leadership within OCPA.

Tracy Benner Treasurer (2-year term):

I have been actively involved in OCPA for the past three years as Secretary (2001-2003) and most recently as the 2004 Annual Conference Chair. Prior to serving on the OCPA Executive Board, I was a Campus Liaison for three years from 1997-2000. I am excited to take on a new role with OCPA and therefore am putting forth my candidacy for the position of Treasurer. I will diligently serve the organization by maintaining accurate and complete financial records. I am currently the Assistant Director of Residence Life at Otterbein College.

Amanda Suniti Niskode' Member-at-Large Public (2-year term):

Hello! My name is Amanda Suniti Niskode' and I am very excited about the opportunity to serve in the Member-at-Large Public position!

I am originally from Cincinnati, and graduated as a proud Ohio State Buckeye with a degree in Journalism (PR). Then I moved out to the east coast to earn my College Student Personnel Master's degree at the University of Maryland, College Park.

I am currently working as a First-Year Adviser at Miami University in Oxford, OH. In this role, I serve as the Resident Director for the Leadership, Excellence, and Community Hall and also serve as the primary academic adviser for my residents. Next year I will also be the FYA in the Honors and Scholars Community.

As an emerging professional, I am looking for new ways to get involved, meet new people and learn a lot along the way. This position sounds like a great opportunity for me to accomplish these goals. I hope to utilize my PR experience to initiate contacts with new membership institutions and continue to build the relationships that are in place with current constituents. I am creative, task oriented, and organized, which I believe would help me be successful in this position.

If you have questions, please feel free to email me at niskodas@muohio.edu. Thank you for your consideration!!!

**Don't forget to renew your membership!
Did you know that OCPA is able
to accept Visa, MasterCard,
and American Express?**

Eric Anderson Member-at-Large Private (2-year term):

The role of the 4-Year Private Member-at-Large is critical for effectively sharing information with OCPA members, and with the larger student development community in Ohio. It has also been important in *gathering* information and opinions from our private institutions. I have relied on the assistance of fabulous Campus Liaisons at the 4-Year Private institutions to accomplish this. My goals are to recruit a Campus Liaison at every 4-Year Private institution in Ohio, and to continue to expand the ways in which the Liaisons are utilized in order to serve OCPA and its members more effectively.

Summary of involvement in OCPA

Executive Board, 4-Year Private Member at Large, July 2001 Present

Professional Development/Career Development Committee member, 1987-96

Career Development Chair, June 1990 June 1992

Coordinated workshops regarding mid-level professionals, career changes, and geographically targeted job search for graduate students

OCPA conference presenter

Presented 10 OCPA conference programs

Grant recipient

OCPA grant awarded for "Students' reasoning in job search ethics" research and presentation at OCPA 1992 spring conference

Nicole Ray Graduate Student-at-Large (1-year term):

I am interested in holding this position so that I can continue to learn about OCPA. I have been a member since January 2004 and have continued to research and discover more about the organization. After attending the OCPA conference in January and participating in my first graduate case study I realized that I wanted to volunteer and give my time to this organization. I thought the conference was a success and I learned about a variety of topics related to higher education while in attendance. My future goals for this position are to increase participation in the graduate case study and also connect graduate students throughout Ohio.

My vision for this position includes the graduate student member at large becoming a resource to all graduate students in Ohio who are involved in OCPA. The graduate student member at large should also be a contact person for all student members of OCPA. I would accomplish this vision by introducing myself to all graduate students in the state of Ohio. There are two ways to meet this accomplishment. One would be a letter of introduction, but continued contact could come from an Ohio newsletter. I think it is important for graduate students to have numerous resources that they can utilize.

The second item I would like to accomplish if I receive this position is to build a network of higher education pre-professionals. This could be accomplished by having a mixer or session at the OCPA conference that would allow graduate students and recent graduates to meet and discuss areas of higher education.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ROSTER 2004 - 2005

ELECTED POSITIONS

President
Amy Lahmers
The Ohio State University

President-Elect
Michelle Ocepek
Youngstown State University

Past President
John Berry
The Ohio State University
Newark/COTC

Secretary
Amy Greenland
The Ohio State University
Newark

Treasurer
Tracy Benner
Otterbein College

Member-at-Large Graduate
Nicole Ray
Kent State University

Member-at-Large 2-Year
Janet McDermott
Columbus State Community College

Member-at-Large 4-Year Public
Amanda Suniti Niskode'
Miami University

Member-at-Large 4-Year Private
Eric Anderson
Capital University

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Faculty Liaison
Dafina Stewart
Ohio University

Membership Team

Membership / Records
Angela Harris
Otterbein College

Volunteers
Donna Lamb
The Ohio State University

Historian
Paul Putman
Cleveland State University

Public Relations Team

Government Relations
Erica Lee
The Ohio State University

Newsletter Editor
Amber Prekler
Kent State University

Technology Chair
Janice J. Gerda
Kent State University

Diversity
Corey Posey
Capital University

Development
Dwayne Todd
Columbus College of Art and Design

Professional Development Team

Careers in Student Affairs
Conference Chair
Kimberly Ferguson
Capital University

Workshops
Michael Griest
Wittenberg University

Support Staff Conference
LuAnn Linson Coldwell
Northeastern Ohio Universities
College of Medicine

Support Staff Conference
Kristan Hausman
Denison University

Annual Conference
Kathy Morris
Wright State University

Awards
Holly Reynolds
Wittenberg University

More Legislative Information at your Fingertips...

Do you ever want to know more about legislative and legal issues affecting higher education and student affairs, but you just don't have time? The OCPA website (www.ocpaonline.org) has a convenient way to access links to excellent information about issues affecting the higher education community. Click the "What's New" tab and explore "ACPA's Government Relations site."

Some highlights include access to legislative developments in the Department of Education, Congress, the White House, FERPA Issues, and the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 and how those amendments impact student affairs professionals. Additional resources include legislative resources that include information on interacting with legislators, resources for information regarding how a bill becomes a law, and a glossary of helpful terms. The website also contains a variety of links to other helpful websites pertaining to issues regarding the law and higher education.

Keep yourself informed and check out the great information through the OCPA website at www.ocpaonline.org!

By Erica Lee



Welcome Back!
Best Wishes for an
Exciting Academic Year
from OCPA!

All faculty, professional student affairs practitioners, undergraduate and graduate students interested in presenting at the Careers in Student Affairs Conference should submit a program proposal that includes the following:

- PERSON SUBMITTING PROPOSAL (name, position/title, institution, address, e-mail, phone, fax)
- ADDITIONAL PRESENTERS (list of any additional program staff, providing same information as above)
- TITLE AND DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION (as you wish it to appear in program--program Description (25-30 words))
- CONFERENCE PROGRAM PROPOSAL ABSTRACT-- Describe the proposed program. The description should not exceed one type-written page. The abstract should include content to be presented and expected outcomes.
- APPROPRIATE AUDIENCE (undergraduate, graduate students, new professionals)
- TYPE OF PRESENTATION (1 hour or 2 hour workshop)
- AUDIO VISUAL EQUIPMENT NEEDS

For consideration, please submit your materials on or before **Friday, September 24, 2004 to:**

Kimberly M. Ferguson

Capital University
Office of Student Affairs
1 College and Main
Columbus, Ohio 43209
Phone: 614.236.6611
Fax: 614.236.6971
E-mail: kfergus2@capital.edu



Save the Date!



OCPA/OASPA Conference Learning Partnerships: Great Company and Conversations February 2 – 4, 2005

OCPA and OASPA have joined forces once again to sponsor and present "Ohio's Conference for Student Affairs" on February 2 - 4, 2005, at the Radisson Hotel Columbus - Worthington. The theme of " Learning Partnerships: Great Company and Conversations", will set the tone for the Wednesday through Friday conference which promises to offer an exciting and affordable professional development opportunity for graduate students, new and mid-level staff, senior student affairs officers, and faculty.

The Call for Programs has gone out to the membership, and individuals interested in submitting proposals can download the documents by visiting the OCPA webpage at www.ocpaonline.org. The deadline for submission is Tuesday, October 12th. Watch for more updates and information via email and our webpage!

www.ocpaonline.org
For all of your OCPA Questions!

Updates...

Interested in having your campus update featured in the OCPA News?
Contact Amber Prekler at aprekler@kent.edu

Ashland University

NEW PROGRAM:

The academic year 2004-2005 launches a new living learning center, the Servant Leadership House. Twenty-nine students will reside in this residential unit and be trained in the ten characteristics of servant leadership as it relates to the mission, vision, and core values of Ashland University.

The living learning environment at Ashland University was initiated by Nicole Dyer, Director of Community Service; Michele Sheets, Director of Residence Life; Aaron Wardle, Assistant Dean of Religious Life; Miles Larson, Residence Director-Servant Leadership House; and Vicky Wright, 2003-04 Graduate Student –Leadership Development; and will be coordinated by Nicole, Aaron, Miles, Nicole Fette, 2004-05 Graduate Student —Leadership Development, and Sue Heimann, Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students.

NEW STAFF:

Residence/Fraternity Directors:

Brooke Carlson Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity Director bcarlson@ashland.edu
Janel Crabiel Phi Delta Theta Fraternity Director jcrabiel@ashland.edu
Nicole Fette Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity Director nfette@ashland.edu
Jonathon Pate Kilhefner Hall Residence Director jpate@ashland.edu
Julie Roberts Amstutz Hall Residence Director jknapp@ashland.edu
Meredith Santschi Myers Hall Residence Director msantsch@ashland.edu
Devayani Wintrode Kem/Andrews Residence Director dwintr@ashland.edu

New Employees:

Amber Cook Nurse Practitioner, Student Health Center acook1@ashland.edu
Marcia Clark Dispatcher, Safety Services
Susan Jewell Assistant Director of Student Activities sjewell@ashland.edu
Meghan Zimmerman Counselor, Counseling Services mzimmerm@ashland.edu
Rebecca Schaaf Community Service Coordinator through Ohio Campus Compact-AmeriCorps VISTA Program rmyher@ashland.edu

In addition, the following employees had a title change in the division of Student Affairs since August 2003:

Nicole Dyer Director of Community Service (2003-04 Assistant Director, Student Activities/Coordinator, Leadership Development)
Deric "Miles" Larson Residence Director, Servant Leadership House (2003-2004 Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity Director)
Michele Sheets Director of Residence Life (2003-04 Director of Community Service)

Bluffton University

Bluffton University faculty, staff and friends gathered alongside community members of the Village of Bluffton on Monday, August 2, at 10 AM for the Bluffton University opening day ceremony.

A crowd of more than 200 assembled at the new entryway of Bluffton University to recognize the name change of Bluffton College to Bluffton University, which became official on August, 1, 2004.

The board of trustees decided to change the name from Bluffton College to University at their April 2003 meeting. Chairman of the board of trustees for Bluffton University, Morris Stutzman, spoke at the opening day about the decision of the board of trustees, "The change of name to Bluffton University is largely based upon a practical desire to communicate better what Bluffton has become and is today. Bluffton has changed considerably since its modest beginning over 100 years ago, and especially during the last decade. While undergraduate programs for traditional students remain at its core, non-traditional adult and graduate programs have been added. Students and faculty benefit from state-of-the-art academic facilities equipped with the latest technology. Enrollment has increased; and Bluffton has received national recognition for its programs. With the efforts of many, much has been achieved. The change of name to Bluffton University is intended to communicate this growth and achievement, to convey the breadth and depth of our educational programs and the quality of our facilities, and to signal that this institution is forward-looking and intent on creating a future that includes further innovation and growth."

Capital University

Wow, what a year for change! The Division of Student Affairs at Capital University has seen the addition of many new faces, as we have said goodbye to a few familiar ones as well. It is my pleasure to introduce you to the NEW Student Affairs Division staff that you will find at C.U.

Kimberly Ferguson, Associate Dean of Students and Director of Judicial Affairs
Todd Shaver, Director of Student Activities and the Campus Center
Kim Simpson, Community Collaboration Coordinator, Americorp VISTA
Scott Blevins, Leadership Development Coordinator, OSU Graduate Student
Donna Robinson, Secretary of Student Activities and Residence Life
Shane Carlin, Director of Residence Life
Kerrie Turney, Residence Hall Coordinator
Kelvin Lovelace, Residence Hall Coordinator
Jenni Gough, Career Counselor and Recruitment Coordinator, OSU Graduate Student

At our recent Division Retreat, it was exciting to blend new and old team members together, learning how we all work, and how we can all work together to carry on the mission of Capital University. Each department has many new and exciting goals, that as we all work together will make the Capital tagline "The Education you want, the attention you deserve." come to life. Here's to an exciting and prosperous year for the Division and for the students at Cap!

Kerrie Turney
Capital University Campus Liaison

Updates continued...

Hiram College

Betsy Bishop is joining after receiving her MA in College Student Personnel at Bowling Green State University and is the new Assistant Director of the Career Center. Jennifer O'Boyle is joining us from St. Aquinas College of New York and is the new RD for the Quad. Tim Cherney is joining us from John Carroll University in Cleveland and is the new RD for Booth/Centennial. Shukri Mohamed is joining us from St. Mary's University in Minnesota and is the new RD for Henry & Bowler and Jeff Moore is joining us from Plymouth State of New Hampshire and is the new RD for Miller & Whitcomb. Jenn Boyton Allen has been promoted to Assistant Director for Staff Development. Carol Bowlin is the new Administrative Assistant to the Vice President and Dean of Students. Cheryl Miller is the new Residential Education Administrative Assistant.

Interesting Information:

Hiram College is starting its pilot year of the Sophomore Program, funded by a grant from McGregor Fund. This program was designed to respond to the special student development needs of second year students (to clarify their identities, deepen relationships, and bring their career goals to focus). Another purpose of this program is to provide a critical bridge between first year skills development and the junior and senior years when we expect students to understand the power of their liberal arts education, and appreciate its relevance to their growth as scholars and citizens. During Labor Day weekend students and faculty/staff mentors will attend a retreat. The retreat will allow the students to gain a better understanding of where this program will fit into their lives as students at Hiram College. Reflection, Team Building, and Fun will be the highlights of the weekend. Following the retreat mentors will meet with their student groups several times a semester to encourage growth, reflection, and discussion of a common reading. For more information about the Sophomore Program please contact Kathryn Craig, Director of the Career Center, craigkm@hiram.edu, or Betsy Bishop, Assistant Director of the Career Center, bishop@hiram.edu.

Are you looking for a position in Ohio? Check out the OCPA Job listing page!

http://www.ocpaonline.org/Job_Postings/job_postings.html

If you would like a posting listed on our website (for FREE), please email the posting and the date it should be taken off the site, to Janice Gerda, OCPA Technology Chair at jgerda.kent.edu

Featured postings:

**Assistant Director, The Office of Career Services
Oberlin College**

**Second Year Coordinator
Housing, Residence Life, and Greek Life
Case Western Reserve University**

Are you interested in having your college or university positions featured in the quarterly newsletter?
Contact Amber Prekler at aprekler@kent.edu

Transition Meeting Update: What's new with OCPA?

On Friday, June 25th, the Executive Board met for their annual Transition Meeting at the Honors House on the campus of The Ohio State University in Columbus. In attendance were most of the current and new board members. To start the meeting, outgoing board members were thanked for their excellent service during their term including Cindy Mako Robinson (Past President), Timeka Rashid (Diversity Chair), Wiona Porath (Treasurer), Kate Police (Graduate Student Member-at-Large), Michelle Gaffney (Records) and Robin Gagnow (Historian). Mousepads, courtesy of President John Berry, were distributed to all current and outgoing Board members as a special thanks for the past year. On behalf of John Berry, Cindy Robinson passed on the gavel to Amy Lahmers to officially begin her term as President.

Amy began her presidential term by reviewing the past year of OCPA. Membership is approximately 360 members and the organization received a membership award from ACPA at this past spring's annual conference. The organization successfully hosted a variety of professional development activities including the Careers in Student Affairs workshop in the fall, the first-ever Diversity Workshop and the second combined annual conference with OASPA. Record attendance at events was a theme all year long. Special recognition was given to the newsletter and website for continuing to be outstanding and informative for members.

The Board reviewed expectations of board members including setting the annual calendar, operational procedures, upcoming professional development activities and discussed combining the Records and Membership chair positions into one. The outgoing chairs provided a new job description for the combined position and suggested the combination because they have found the use of technology and the need for both chairs to be in such close communication as major reasons for the position to be combined. The Board plans to have the history of OCPA updated and Robin Gagnow will visit a fall board meeting to accomplish this task.

Professional development and Board goals for the year were discussed. The Board divided into their functional work groups to discuss goals and plans for the upcoming year including providing ACPA with a new Affirmative Action plan, deciding a vision for the Technology/Webmaster position, utilizing the yearly budget, planning a spring workshop and deciding how to best involve those who are not yet involved in OCPA in the state.

New Business the Board discussed included updating some of the Bylaws with some clarifying of terms, position titles and meeting information. An organizational chart was also added. The Board discussed having a general meeting at the annual conference to renew this ability to share with the membership all the year's business in a more personal manner.

The meeting wrapped up with a quiz. Janice Gerda, Technology Chair, and Dafina Stewart, Faculty Member-at-Large, were awarded prizes for their astounding knowledge of ACPA history trivia. President Amy Lahmers adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

By Tracy R. Benner