Annual Conference—Kansas City, Missouri (2017)

2016-2017

As my second year as vice chair is coming to a close, I have been impressed by the amount of partnerships and involvement ASFPM has on many fronts. I had the pleasure of going to Washington, D.C. this past February on behalf of ASFPM. It was wonderful to experience the level of respect many members of Congress have for ASFPM’s expertise and vision. This does not happen overnight and is a testament to the hard work of ASFPM from the executive office down to individual members.

The primary responsibility of the vice chair, in addition to serving on the board, is to interact with the policy committee co-chairs, mainly through a committee co-chair retreat and bi-monthly calls. Our committees are grouped into four pods, each with a pod facilitator who helps with communicating between all the committees that should be involved with a particular issue or topic.

The most recent committee retreat was held Aug. 16-18, 2016, in Madison, Wisconsin. It was a very productive time and great ideas were discussed. We got briefed on many issues of concern, participated in many lively discussions, all while leaving time to work at the committee and pod levels on updating committee work plans. Great discussions were had on a number of topics, including but not limited to, NFIP 2017 reform, Increase Cost of Compliance, private flood insurance, dams and mapping guidelines and standards.

The policy committees work hard every year to provide information in many formats that are useful to ASFPM membership. During the year, co-chairs hold conference calls with their committee members. These calls provide a wealth of knowledge to all participants. This year we have seen a resurgence in the Floodplain Regulations Committee. Also, many committees are working jointly to provide information that crosses between committees. For example, the Mitigation and the Nonstructural Floodproofing Committees have been working together on the National Flood Mitigation and Floodproofing Workshop being held Aug. 14-17, 2017 in Iselin, New Jersey.

As one can see, the committee level is where a major portion of ASFPM work is done. Many members are not familiar with our committees or how to get involved. If a member has a particular interest or passion for a topic, then get involved with a committee. Check out the committee pages on ASFPM’s website, or the How to Volunteer Page. You can also participate in conference calls, volunteer to assist with a committee and submit suggestions for agenda topics for calls.
As we start our transition to the next year, we’ll be welcoming a few new board members and new leadership on a couple of our committees. I’d like to thank our co-chairs who have or are stepping down: Leslie Durham of the Mapping and Engineering Standards Committee, Brian Eber of the Stormwater Management Committee, Warren Campbell of the Higher Education Committee and Deb Mills of the Flood Mitigation Committee. All have contributed greatly to ASFPM, as co-chairs and members.

It has been my honor to serve as vice chair this past year. I truly appreciate the hard work of all of the volunteers and staff.