

# Adams County Association of Township Officials

**Coleen Reamer, President**  
**Alicia Birkhead, Treasurer**

**Sandy Spence, Vice President**  
**Diane Groft, Secretary**

## Minutes of the May 30, 2012 Spring Conference

The Adams County Association of Township Officials (ACATO) met on Wednesday, May 30, 2012, at 7:00 PM at the Adams County Emergency Services Building, Greenamyre Lane, Gettysburg, PA. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct the Association's Spring Conference. Coleen Reamer, Assn. president opened the conference and welcomed the 13 townships' representatives in attendance. There were 21 total participants for the evening.

All attendees were welcomed to the conference, refreshments were served prior to the meeting.

Commissioners Report – Coleen invited the Commissioners to comment on any topics of interest. Randy Phiel and Marty Qually were in attendance and spoke briefly about the need to streamline the County Operations.

Coleen gave brief highlights of the State Township Conference held earlier this month at Hershey:

- Fantastic attendance from across the state of PA
- Volunteer Fire Company discussion and workshop concerning funding strategies
- Act 13 panel discussion concerning Marcellus Shale
- Prevailing Wage ceiling still being discussed aggressively for action
- There were 300 newly elected supervisors from across the state in attendance and recognized
- Reminder to review the June issue of the PSATS magazine for more in depth coverage of the conference

Gift basket for PSATS State Conference from Adams County was nicely arranged and given to a lucky recipient with a good representation of County items.

Coleen introduced the first speaker for the evening: Judy Chambers, Economic & Community Educator, Penn State Extension Adams County. Topic: Conflict Resolution – how to resolve divisive issues. Judy's power point presentation was an abridged version of understanding and managing conflict. She pointed out that conflict can be healthy and natural, resolving conflict can be challenging and rewarding for both sides. There were interactive activities for the audience and we all were left with new ideas and thoughts to take back to our offices, home, community interactions, and beyond.

Coleen introduced the second speaker for the evening: Nick Colona, Executive Director and Senior Planner, Adams County Office of Planning and Development. Topic: Adams County Broadband Initiative & the effect on your municipality's future growth. Nick pointed out the importance and necessity to facilitate high speed access in all communities within the county. Technology needs to be seen as an asset to strengthen communities in all areas of our lives – Agriculture, industrial, medical, education, small business, residential, non-profits, etc. The connectivity of all walks of life is essential; however, broadband needs to be affordable to all, this is a challenge. Partnerships will be necessary, accessibility a must. Our county planning office will be undertaking initiatives to strengthen this vision.

Coleen gave a brief introduction of the Association officers present.

Request to members for a volunteer on the Resolutions committee – we need a chair

Reminder -- Secretaries Luncheon scheduled for June 20 - Judy Chambers will be moderator.

Input welcome and requested concerning the current format for the Spring conference—new ideas, comments, please feel free to voice.

Further reminders: July 25, 2012 deadline for Stormwater Ordinance adoption in all municipalities  
November 14, 2012 Fall Conference for Adams County Association of Township Officials.

Suggestions welcome for training opportunities.

Thank you to Alicia Birckhead for her past commitment, time and efforts to the Association in the Treasurer position.

Welcome Donna Dixon as newly appointed Treasurer for the Association.

April 5 Audit report reviewed; balance as of April 5 \$8,243.71 – Thank you Audit committee for completion of 2011 finances of Association.

Award of two prizes for attendance tonight to Diane Groft, Mt. Pleasant Twp. and Paul Bart, Reading Twp.

Legislative update reviewed.

With no further business at this time, adjournment of conference at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Groft, Secretary