

# SAPOR NEWSLETTER

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SUMMER ISSUE

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*Southern Association for Public Opinion Research*

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

SARAH COOK, PRESIDENT



Greetings SAPOR members! I hope this newsletter finds you refreshed after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. Though this holiday is about freedom (and fireworks), one cannot deny the association Independence Day has with food. On this day, Americans everywhere devoured hot dogs and hamburgers and likely a cake covered in strawberries and blueberries in the shape of the American flag. On October 9<sup>th</sup>, however, hot dogs will not be on the menu.

This year, in response to your 2013 conference survey responses and as part of a revamped SAPOR conference, we are offering an offsite dinner. This dinner will take place on Thursday night and will be located at **Gravy**, an Italian-American kitchen located within walking distance of the conference site. The Executive Chef at Gravy has been named one of the best chefs in America (<http://bestchefsamerica.com>) and is a proponent of farm-to-fork and made from scratch cooking. We ask that you RSVP for this event when you register for the conference so we know how much space we will need. SAPOR will be providing some appetizers for all to enjoy. To take a peek at the restaurant menu, you can go to [www.gravyraleigh.com](http://www.gravyraleigh.com). We are excited to spend an evening rekindling old connections and creating new ones over an exquisite meal.

As stated, Gravy is only two blocks away from the location of the 2014 SAPOR conference, the Cardinal Club. The Cardinal Club is located on the 28<sup>th</sup> floor (penthouse) of the Wells Fargo Capitol Center in downtown Raleigh. It is within walking distance of many great restaurants and attractions, as well as hotels. The club will be reopening in September after two months of renovations, just in time for the SAPOR Conference in October.

Information about abstract submission and additional details about our conference are available at the SAPOR website:

<http://www.southernassociationforpublicopinionresearch.org>. Should you have any

questions please do not hesitate to contact me or our Conference Chair, Christina Touarti, [ctouarti@rti.org](mailto:ctouarti@rti.org)

## **UPDATE ON 2014 CONFERENCE CHRISTINA TOUARTI, CONFERENCE CHAIR**



The Executive Council is very excited about this October's conference! In addition to the events you have come to expect for the annual SAPOR Conference, we have some different and exciting experiences for conference attendees this year. At this time we are pleased to announce we will be featuring two panel discussions.

Thursday will feature a keynote panel focusing on the state of southern social, political and cultural trends as they impact elections. Panelists from Elon University, William Peace University, American Insights, and Public Policy Polling will discuss their research and comment on this important topic. Our conference is taking place just weeks before the nationwide mid-term elections, so this is sure to be an intriguing event!

On Friday, an invited panel will focus on careers in public opinion research. Panelists include SAPOR and AAPOR members representing the government, academic, and commercial job sectors. This panel is sure to be of interest to our student and junior career members. We hope our more tenured members will also enjoy participating in the discussion generated by this panel.

In addition, we have already received a number of thought-provoking abstracts and submissions for the student paper competition. We have also lined up some additional opportunities to socialize. More details will be provided as the conference approaches. We hope to see you in the fall!

## **SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES CHRISTINA TOUARTI, CONFERENCE CHAIR**

We are asking that all participants and members of SAPOR encourage their company, university, or organization to support the SAPOR organization that means so much to all of us. As you know, our annual conference is an event that brings people together for mutual support, education, and inspiration. The SAPOR conference offers an opportunity

to collaborate with research and public opinion professionals from academia, government, and private sectors.

In order to continue to make our conference a rewarding experience for researchers and students in the region, we are reaching out to all of our participants, members, and colleagues to seek sponsorships for the 2014 SAPOR conference. In appreciation for your organization's contribution, we will be delighted to feature your organization's name and logo in our promotional materials, and will acknowledge the organization's assistance at all appropriate opportunities. If your organization is interested in sponsoring, please review our Marketing Prospectus on the website for sponsorship options. Donations of any amount will still be greatly appreciated. Below is a link to Marketing Prospectus on our website:

<http://southernassociationforpublicopinionresearch.org/docs/marketingprospectus2014.pdf>

## **CALL FOR SAPOR OFFICERS AND VOLUNTEERS**

### **CHRIS JEWETT, VICE-CONFERENCE CHAIR**



**Would you or someone you know be a valuable addition to the SAPOR 2015-2016 Executive Council or one of the SAPOR volunteer committees? If so nominate yourself or them!**

Serving on the Executive Council is a rewarding opportunity to contribute to the success of SAPOR. As with the conference, we welcome student participation in the committee as well.

The elections for the 2015-2016 officers will be held in October at the 2014 conference. SAPOR is currently seeking nominations for the following offices:

- **Vice-President (2016 President).** Over three years, the elected officer serves one year as Vice-President, then serves one year as President, and one year as Past President. As president, the elected officer is responsible for fulfilling the purpose of SAPOR, serving as Chairperson of the Executive Council, and serving as the official representative of SAPOR in its relations with other organizations and the public.
- **Conference Vice-Chair (2016 Conference Chair).** Over three years, the elected officer serves one year as Conference Vice-Chair, then serves one year as Conference Chair, and one year as Past Conference Chair. The Conference Chair will be responsible for arranging the annual conference in form and content. He/she shall seek approval of the Executive Council on conference plans.
- **Secretary.** The Secretary serves a two year term and sits on the SAPOR Executive Council. This elected officer will keep the minutes of all the proceedings and meetings of the Executive Council, will be responsible for submitting to the Executive Council an annual report of SAPOR activities, and will submit the Treasurer's annual financial

report to AAPOR in compliance with the recognition agreement. The Secretary will also be responsible for communicating with the Membership, and will serve as Chief Editor of the biannual newsletter.

SAPOR is also seeking volunteers for the following committees:

- **Graphic Design.** SAPOR is seeking assistance from individuals who have the skills and software to design printed materials (theme-related program book cover, signage, and nametags) for the annual conference.
- **Website Administration.** Website administrators are responsible for updating content on the SAPOR website throughout the year and ensuring that the website is portraying the correct message. They will be responsible for managing and reviewing website updates and suggesting new tools for use on the website by SAPOR users.
- **Event Operations.** Volunteers are needed to assist with event promotion and operations for the annual conference.

**Participation from volunteers is crucial to the continued success of SAPOR! If you are interested on serving on the SAPOR Volunteer committee please contact Christina Touarti ([ctouarti@rti.org](mailto:ctouarti@rti.org)).**

**Please send nominations for the Executive Council to Sarah Cook ([scook@rti.org](mailto:scook@rti.org)) by September 2, 2014.**

## **DISCLOSURE OF AAPOR USE OF SAPOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

SAPOR is an AAPOR affiliate; therefore we do share information on our membership with the parent organization. All SAPOR members may be contacted by AAPOR from time to time as part of AAPOR's membership drive efforts. If you do not wish to be contacted by AAPOR, please email SAPOR's secretary, Dave Bergeron ([dbergeron@rti.org](mailto:dbergeron@rti.org)) indicating that you wish to opt out of AAPOR emails.

## CONTACT SAPOR

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