Introduction to the Issue

Lindsey M. McDougle – Rutgers University - Newark

This is the final issue of volume six. This is also the final issue that I will serve as editor-in-chief of JPNA.

Looking back, I can truly say that these past three and a half years have been both fulfilling and rewarding. As first co-editor-in-chief and then editor-in-chief, I was able to shepherd more than two hundred research articles through the peer review process; and, in doing so, I witnessed firsthand the growth that JPNA experienced in terms of not only the quantity of manuscript submissions, but also the quality of submissions. As a still relatively new(er) journal, this growth signifies that there was (and, perhaps still is) a need for additional publication outlets that allow for the dissemination of timely, relevant, and impactful scholarship concerning the affairs of public and nonprofit organizations.

You may be wondering what led to JPNA’s growth.

Surely, it can be in part attributed to the fact that JPNA is proudly open access. Open access publishing helps manuscripts reach broader audiences than subscription access journals (Davis, 2011). However, this growth is also largely attributed to a) the invaluable work that each of our associate editors, Mirae Kim, My Jung Jin, and Samuel Stone, did in ensuring that we recruited outstanding reviewers who provided submitting authors with critical, developmental, and substantive feedback on their work, and b) the innovative communication methods and channels that our social media editor, Sarah Larson, used to promote the journal.

Under my editorship, JPNA consistently provided valuable insights to our readership not only through our Research Articles but also through our Book Review and Current Issues in Practice sections. Our book review editor, Marcus Lam, and our current issues in practice editor, Marlene Walk, both worked tirelessly to ensure that in each issue we provided thorough reviews of contemporary texts and that we highlighted applied research about practical applications of public and nonprofit affairs principles.

In these last few months of my term, I have had several conversations with the incoming editor-in-chief, Deborah Carroll. From each of these conversations I have walked away more-and-more excited about what lies ahead for JPNA. Deborah has bold vision; and, her plans for the journal are innovative and intentional. Learning about these plans reminds me that this is the beauty of growth: when you look back, you can see how far you’ve come. Under Deborah’s leadership, I’m excited about what is in store for JPNA; and, I hope that you are too!

To conclude this final edition of volume six, we have four insightful Research Articles, a useful Current Issues in Practice piece, and a Book Review—all of which focus on various aspects of public and nonprofit affairs.

In the first Research Article, Clare FitzGerald (2020) tests established drivers of purposeful and political performance information use (PIU) by using survey data from 260 nonprofit

executives throughout the United States. Her results show that nonprofit executive PIU is
driven by different considerations than public manager PIU. Additionally, her results show
that leadership support of performance measurement is an important driver of purposeful and
political PIU, with organizational goal clarity and networking behavior also, specifically,
driving political PIU.

In the second Research Article, Valero and Jang (2020) examine the relationship between
transformational leadership and network performance in Continuum of Care homeless service
networks. They hypothesize that transformational leadership behaviors of network managers
contribute to the effective management of homeless service networks; and, they test this using
survey data from 237 respondents who lead federally funded Continuum of Care homeless
service networks.

In the third Research Article, Taylor, Faulk, Schaal (2020) revise and extend Leland and
Thurmaier’s City—County Consolidation (C3) model by synthesizing it with Johnson’s Theory
of Local Constitutional Change (LCC) and Hughes and Lee’s Evolutionary Consolidation
Model (ECM). The result, they find, is a more general model of local government consolidation.

Finally, in the last Research Article, Searing (2020) revisits traditional definitions of nonprofit
life and death to better reflect actual organizational operating status. Her findings show that
certain internal and external characteristics are more important in determining a nonprofit’s
operational status.

Our Current Issues in Practice piece, by McDonald and Larson (2020), focuses on a timely
subject. They explore the shock to sales and use tax revenue faced by local governments from
COVID—19. They then, estimate its impact on county fiscal health. The issue is completed with
a book review by Raymer (2020), who provides a review of Patricia G. Greene and Candida
G. Brush’s book A Research Agenda for Women and Entrepreneurship: Identity through
Aspirations, Behaviors, and Confidence.

References

Davis, P. M. (2011). Open access, readership, citations: A randomized controlled trial of
scientific journal publishing. The FASEB Journal, 25(7), 2129-2134.
executive performance information use. Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs, 6(3),
281-302. https://doi.org/10.20899/jpna.6.3.281-302
McDonald, B. D. & Larson, S. E. (2020). Implications of the Coronavirus on sales tax revenue
and local government fiscal health. Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs, 6(3), 377-
400. https://doi.org/10.20899/jpna.6.3.377-400
Ramers, L. H. (2020). A research agenda for women and entrepreneurship: Identity through
aspirations, behaviors and confidence by Patricia G. Greene and Candida G. Brush.
https://doi.org/10.20899/jpna. 6.3.401-403
https://doi.org/10.20899/jpna.6.3.354-376
Taylor, C. D., Faulk, D., & Schaal, P. (2020). The varieties of consolidation experience: A
synthesis and extension of local government consolidation models. Journal of Public
and Nonprofit Affairs, 6(3), 325-353. https://doi.org/10.20899/jpna.6.3.326-353
Valero, J. N., & Jang, H. S. (2020). The effect of transformational leadership on network
Nonprofit Affairs, 6(3), 303-325. https://doi.org/10.20899/jpna.6.3.303-325

280