

SENIOR FELLOWS AND FRIENDS

Alert. Relaxed. Collegial.



Recap of 1/28/26 conversation with Brian Levine, Founder and Executive Director, FormerGov

Dear Senior Fellows and Friends,

Last year was very difficult for government employees and contractors, many of whom were abruptly separated from employment without cause as a consequence of the current administration's downsizing activity in its first year. Probationary employees and settled mid-career employees were especially affected. Everyone I talk with knows at least one person who is still unemployed. Against that backdrop, on December 11th, the American Society for Public Administration hosted a webinar featuring Brian Levine, the co-founder of FormerGov. I attended the webinar and made contact with Brian shortly thereafter, to see if we could make his solution more widely known.

FormerGov is primarily a public directory intended to increase the visibility and discoverability of one's prior government experience – brilliantly executed. Unlike LinkedIn, which is useful for other things, this directory facilitates search specifically for past federal (civilian & military), state, local, and tribal government experience that often is not denoted by one's title. By including on one's profile the roles, capabilities, and skills that were involved – in addition to other dimensions that make it easier to find people with specific kinds of experience – FormerGov helps those who need a way to be discovered.

If you need that kind of assistance, **you are invited to go to <https://formergov.com/> and use discount code FGFORMERS for a complimentary Standard 12 month membership.** Once you've set up your profile, Brian suggests adding its URL to the top of your resume.

Note that this is available to anyone with prior government experience. There is also a premium membership that I intend to sign up for soon, because the additional sections in the profile that it unlocks may increase my discoverability among other people with whom I'd enjoy doing future convening or creative work. If you go to <https://formergov.com/directory/brianlevine>, see the sections that begin below Languages.

FormerGov also hosts monthly virtual events and is making co-working space available every Tuesday at Eaton House in DC until July. Right now, that includes free workspace, workshops, mock interviews, and sometimes even free donuts. Brian showed us a group photo in the space – people looked pretty upbeat. I loved what he said about the vibe: “This is not the quiet car on Amtrak.” It strikes me as a remarkable instance of *showing up*, which is further borne out by Brian’s commitment to meet weekly with other groups convened by Civil Service Strong, a project of Democracy Forward Foundation.

One of the things that came up in conversation was the Skills Bank that Dan Slattery spearheaded during the final years of the Council for Excellence in Government, before the Excellence in Government Fellows Program was transferred to the Partnership for Public Service. We talked about what a great idea the Skills Bank was, as well as the considerable effort required to keep it going. Technological advances over the past 25 years, smart planning & development, and putting the onus on subscribers to keep their own profiles updated have contributed to this solution, whose continued evolution I’ll watch with interest.

Participant affiliations

American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)
ASPA National Capital Area Chapter
Charlestown, RI Town Council, Retired
Des Moines Area Community College
FEMA
FormerGov
U.S. Census Bureau
U.S. Department of Education
U.S. Department of Labor, Separated

People joined from Mandeville, LA, Colorado Springs, CO, Des Moines, IA, Wickford, RI, New Brunswick, NJ, and the DC/MD/VA Metro Area.

Each time, we begin with a round of introductions to warm up the space. Afterward, participants are sent a “who was in the room” message to facilitate ongoing connection. Please consider joining us in the future.

Sincerely,
Kitty Wooley

