



WESTERN CENTRAL CHAPTER

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Western Central Chapter Survey

by Ramona Mattix, Immediate Past President

I'd like to thank all of you who took the time to respond to the survey we sent out to Western Central members. There was a 12 percent return rate, which is as you know, a statistically significant response. Although there were a few curmudgeons in the group, for the most part your responses were all thoughtful and helpful. Here's what the responses were:

1. Eighty-eight percent thought the Chapter newsletter was a valuable service.
2. Only 65 percent of the respondents felt that the Chapter should develop a web site and some of those who thought it was a good idea only thought so if it could be kept current and had good links to other sites.
3. Even fewer thought that the Western Planner conference was a good professional development opportunity (60 percent) but all those who did not had never attended the conference. Goes to show that we need to make a better effort to get planners to this conference. It's in Missoula, Montana this year on August 3rd through 6th. Here's the web link: <http://www.westernplanner.org/2004conf.htm>.
4. Just 59 percent of those responding said they would participate in a list serve sponsored by the Chapter. About 10 percent didn't know what one was. There are several that APA Divisions host, so check out the APA web site for your areas of interest. (For those who don't know, a list serve is an email transmission that goes out to all members of a list and they can read other's thoughts on a matter or respond if they choose.)
5. A whopping 71 percent of you said you'd like to see more information from individual state representatives in the newsletter. Take a look at the list of new Board members so you can note who represents you at the state level. Email them, write them, and let them know your concerns!
6. Only 1 person has used the on-line professional development opportunity on Ethics sponsored by the Chapter at Ohio State. Since the newsletter goes out to 400+ members, this is a telling bit of information about continuing education and professional development that we need to take back to the APA leadership.

Overwhelmingly what the respondents asked for from the Chapter is help with research, technical information, and contacts and information for specific issues. Many of you may not know that national APA has a service called the Planner's Advisory Service (PAS) and they will research nationwide for you to find examples of ordinances or regulations, or examples of how other communities have dealt with specific issues. It's a pricy service (\$725 a year last year) that many of you may not be able to afford or access. Perhaps the Chapter could purchase a membership and coordinate requests – it's worth looking into.

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NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

This newsletter is published by the Western Central Chapter of the American Planning Association. Circulation is to APA members of the Western Central Chapter (WCC). The WCC Board welcomes submission of original articles, editorial letters, and any other information of interest to both professional and citizen planners. Submissions should be made to the newsletter editor:

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2004 WCC Newsletter Schedule

Spring - March 5 (submittal deadline February 13)
Summer - June 4 (submittal deadline May 14)
Fall - September 3 (submittal deadline August 13)
Winter - December 3 (submittal deadline November 12)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

If your mailing address has changed, please contact the American Planning Association at the address below. You can also edit your information online at <https://www.planning.org/myprofile/>.

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President's Message

by Andrew C. Epple, AICP

First of all, thanks to Ramona Mattix for serving as WCC President for the past two years, and for representing our interests so well at the national APA level. She leaves office with the chapter in a strong financial position and with a solid organizational structure. She has also helped out tremendously with the transition to my term as president, for which I am particularly grateful.

The survey that many of us participated in this past fall (see page 1 of this newsletter) provides a good starting place for identifying new directions we need to take as an organization. Call, write, or email me or any of your state directors with any thoughts you have on how we can improve the delivery of services to our members.

I hope to see a good contingent of WCC members at the APA conference in Washington D.C. next month. Contact me if you plan to attend so we can all get together for some socializing and sharing of experiences. With a multitude of interesting and informative mobile workshops, Planners Day on the Hill, a "Small Town and Rural Planning Track," and dozens of other exciting activities and sessions, it will be a conference well-worth attending.

If your hometown is anything like Bozeman, you may be dealing with a new generation of elected and appointed officials who don't immediately recognize the benefits of community planning. In a mood that reflects our current national administration, many of our citizens view state and local government very negatively. But, as a colleague of mine wryly observed, many of these individuals "...are susceptible to education." I couldn't agree more, and so I encourage each of you to look for opportunities in our daily lives to educate our friends and neighbors and elected and appointed officials about the merits of our profession. Point to our successes and encourage citizen involvement. Offer to speak to service clubs, and put on training workshops for boards and commissions. And keep up the good work!

Upcoming Western Planner Conference to be Held in Missoula, Montana!

by Joanne Garnett, AICP, WCC Representative to Western Planner

Make a note on your calendar: August 3-6, 2004 will be the dates of the next annual Western Planner conference, and it will be held in Missoula, Montana at the Holiday Inn Parkside. The conference committee is hard at work on the agenda, which is shaping up very well around several tracks including dollars and cents, communication on the job, and technical information. The Montana Association of Planners (MAP) is the conference host, so we KNOW it will be a great time as well as highly informative!

There is one added aspect about this year's conference that makes it very special. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Western Planner Journal. Begun in Montana largely through the efforts of Stan Steadman, the journal has had four editors and many face lifts over the years. But the changes never affected the reason why the journal was created: to be a network for planners and planning officials throughout the West. The first WP conference was held in Bozeman. Our 10 year anniversary was held in Bozeman. And now our 25th anniversary will be in Missoula. It's fitting that we should celebrate in Montana, the birthplace of the WP.

Please plan to join us at the conference to take in the sessions and the festivities. Registration details will be in upcoming issues of the Western Planner. Contact Gavin Anderson at ganderson@bresnan.net or Jeff Bollman at BollmanJ@ci.billings.mt.us, conference co-chairs, for more information. See you in August!

New Salary Survey Commissioned

The American Planning Association and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners, have retained a survey research firm to conduct an electronic salary survey based on a random sampling of participants in the planning profession. We will use this information to set the industry standard for planners' salaries.

MemberSurvey.com, an independent research company, is surveying U.S. planning professionals early in 2004 to develop a profile of their professional activities and compensation. The replies of those who are contacted are vital for valid results.

Survey answers will be handled in strict confidence by MemberSurvey.com, and will be used only in tabulation with others. No respondent-identifiable or organization-identifiable information will be published in the report.

City Parks Forum Papers Show How to Create Healthier, Safer Communities

CHICAGO, IL — The City Parks Forum, a special initiative of the American Planning Association (APA), has published a second series of briefing papers that show mayors, city managers, planners and others how to use healthy parks to create safer neighborhoods, protect and enhance urban environments, improve learning among children, and improve public health.

“The benefits that urban parks provide to communities are like the compounding interest that accrues from a savings account,” said City Parks Forum Director Mary Eysenbach. “They just keep adding up. These briefing papers provide examples how cities across the country are using parks to help solve difficult urban issues.”

For example, the paper on using parks to create safer neighborhoods describes how Macon, Georgia, Mayor C. Jack Ellis led an effort that used the renovation of the Village Green park to help reduce crime in the adjoining neighborhood. Another paper describes how Atlanta, New York, and Philadelphia have used park resources to reduce the health impacts of air and water pollution.

Other briefing papers published by the City Parks Forum show how parks can be used to promote community revitalization,

enrich community engagement, and spur economic development.

APA launched The City Parks Forum in 1999 with two grants totaling \$2.55 million from the Wallace Foundation and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. The program has helped mayors and park officials in mid-sized cities across the country use urban parks to improve the quality of life in their communities. Other park resources available include technical reports, case studies, and proceedings from six forum-organized conferences involving mayors from 25 cities.

To view the briefing papers, visit: <https://www.planning.org/cpf/briefingpapers.htm>.

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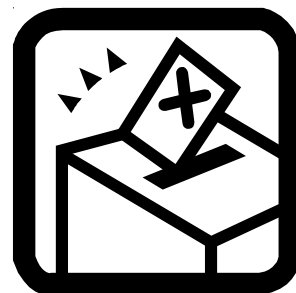
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APA/AICP Election 2004

At their meeting in September 2003, the APA Board of Directors and AICP Commission accepted the reports of their nominating committees for the 2004 election. The position statements for the candidates can be viewed at <https://www.planning.org/elections/>.

Ballots will be mailed to members in late February and must be returned by the end of March. The results of the election will be announced at the APA business meeting, to be held April 26, 2004, during the annual conference in Washington, D.C.

APA positions to be voted on are president-elect; two directors-at-large (one focused, for a minority member); and directors from regions II, III, and IV. AICP positions to be filled are president-elect (voted on by all APA members) and commissioners for regions II, III, and IV. Regional seats are voted on only by APA and AICP members in the region.



Planning Briefs

2003's Top 10 Planning Websites

So what are the top 10 planning websites you should check out? Rich Carson has provided us with his list for 2003. Rich is a planning director in the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area, manages APA's "Planning Publications List" on the Internet and is also the Internet editor for the "Urban Studies" category for the Looksmart directory. This Looksmart directory is used by LookSmart, MSN, Excite, Alta Vista, Time Warner and more than 370 Internet service providers and reaches 77 percent of all Internet users. You can reach Rich at richardcarson@qwest.net. His Top Ten list follows:

1. Smart City Radio (www.smartcityradio.com). The website for the National Public Radio show "Smart City."
2. Urbanicity (www.urbanicity.org). A new site, one of the most international planning websites. Their stated mission is to "explore aspects of urban management."
3. Planum (www.planum.net). This European website is billed as an "e-zine promoted by journals, associations of planners, academic and research institutes."
4. Cyburbia (www.cyburbia.org). The Internet's oldest portal site for urban planners and others interested in cities and the built environment.
5. Planetizen (www.planetizen.org). The premier website in terms of delivering current planning news.
6. About Planning (www.aboutplanning.org). An Internet clearinghouse for information about websites, publications, essays and news related to land use planning, growth management, comprehensive planning, smart growth and new urbanism.
7. American Planning Association (www.planning.org). The official website for APA.
8. Planning Report (www.ablinc.net). Primarily features interviews with people active in the world of land use planning. The folks interviewed are planners, politicians and developers.
9. Planners Web (www.plannersweb.com). Official website for the "Planning Commissioners Journal." Has a lot of great planning resource information.
10. Smart Growth America (www.smartgrowthamerica.com). A coalition of nearly 100 advocacy organizations that have a stake in how metropolitan expansion affects our environment, quality of life and economic sustainability.

Congratulations to Joanne Garnett!

Joanne Garnett, a longtime WCC member and former APA President, has been included in the American Institute of Certified Planner's 2004 class of Fellows of AICP (FAICP). She will be officially inducted into the College of Fellows on April 24, 2004 at the APA National Planning Conference in Washington, D.C. Look for more information about her achievement in the summer WCC Newsletters. Congratulations Joanne!

Western Planning Resources Meets in Missoula

by Joanne Garnett, AICP, WCC Representative to Western Planner

Mid-January found about a dozen members of the WPR Board, publishers of the Western Planner Journal, hunkered around a table at the Holiday Inn Parkside in Missoula, MT for the winter board meeting. The primary agenda items were the update of the WPR strategic plan and review of plans for this summer's annual WP conference in Missoula.

Janet Cornish, MAP Board member and planning consultant, led the WPR Board in the exercise to update our plan. The fact that the entire board is comprised by planners undoubtedly made it all the more difficult to do, somewhat similar to herding cats. But Janet was up to the task and handled it extremely well. We are grateful for her hard work, expert assembly of the final product, and generous assistance.

If you are interested in seeing the entire strategic plan, contact me at joanneg@wlcwyo.com and I'll send it to you. After reviewing our work, we identified a list of ideas and actions the board plans to accomplish in the next two years. They include:

- Build the List Serve and Tie to Web Page
- Target South Dakota and Arizona to become sustaining members and Idaho for maintaining ties
- Re-Establish Our Committee Structure
- Tell the Western Planner Story/Evaluate the feasibility of developing a central archive
- Solicit planning commission subscribers and develop journal articles of interest to Commissioners
- Assure WPR presence at state conferences
- Place WPR articles in state publications and vice versa
- 25th Anniversary Celebration as part of the 2004 conference
- Plan a session for the upcoming conference to focus on a discussion of our "12-state advantage"

Several of the items are already being handled, including the 25th anniversary celebration of the Journal in Missoula this August 3-6. The Journal now has 1,600 subscribers and continues to be a dependable resource for planners in the WCC region.

The Board also realizes that every state in WCC has its own state planning organization, and we have no interest in duplicating what these organizations or the Chapter provide. We plan to continue focusing on the Journal and our annual conference as a service to members of WCC and the state planning organizations. The Board also welcomes your ideas and suggestions about the Journal, and articles are always sought for features, planning commissioners, practitioners' toolbox, featured planners, and – as always – humor in the life of the planner! Contact me for more information about article submittals or with your suggestions.

2004 National Planning Conference

Washington, D.C — Our Nation's Capital and the seat of our democracy will host the APA National Planning Conference April 24-28, 2004. Pierre-Charles L'Enfant's 1791 plan for the city of Washington is one of the great landmarks in city planning, and still the plan against which all modern land use proposals for the capital are considered. Join 5,000 colleagues and experience the rich history, renowned symbols of patriotism, inspiring monuments, museums, neighborhoods, and much more — as APA celebrates its 25th anniversary. Take part in a conference rich with more than 200 sessions, 70-plus mobile workshops, Saturday workshops, and special events, all of which will give you an opportunity to explore Washington and the entire metropolitan area. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate community — Washington-style. For more conference information, visit <http://www.planning.org/2004conference/index.htm>.

May 2004 AICP Exam

The May AICP exam will be a first! The exam will be delivered in a computer based format and applicants can take the exam during a window from May 10-22. If you have been qualified to take the exam, remember that you must submit a registration form and fee by April 1, 2004. Registrations and fees received after that date will be processed for the November 8-20, 2004 test window.

There are a number of resources available on the APA website to help you in preparing for the exam.

- An overview of the exam and process for registration is at www.planning.org/certification/examinfo.html.
- An on-line tutorial is at www.planning.org/tutorial/index.htm
- FAQ about the computer based exam is at www.planning.org/certification/cbefaq.htm.

AICP offers a reduced registration fee to those who may have a financial hardship. This program was established to help planners who may defer or are unable to take the exam because of the high costs. Scholarship recipients pay \$55 exam registration fee instead of the regular fee of \$325. Anyone who believes they may qualify, please send me a brief note regarding your circumstances. One scholarship for the Western Central Chapter is available. For more information, contact Diane Kushlan, AICP at 208.433.9352.

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