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# Capital News

NATIONAL CAPITAL CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION

## NCAC-APA Awards Gala a Success!

On World Town Planning Day (November 8, 2007), NCAC-APA held its biennial Awards Gala in the Map Room of the National Music Center at the Historic Carnegie Library in downtown Washington, DC. The event was also a celebration of the National Capital Area Chapter’s 60th Anniversary. The 100+ attendees enjoyed an evening of fabulous food, networking, music, and the awards program. Thanks to all of the volunteers and sponsors that made this event happen. And congratulations once again to all of our winners! We’ve posted pictures of the November Awards Gala photos on the chapter website.

## 2007 NCAC-APA Award Winners

### Outstanding Award for a Plan

DC Office of Planning, Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: District Elements

### Distinction in Community Outreach

Montgomery County Planning Department, M-NCPPC, Woodmont Triangle Sector Plan

### Outstanding Award for Project Design

City of Alexandria, VA, Station at Potomac Yard

### Outstanding Award for an Implemented Project

City of Rockville, MD, City of Rockville Town Square

### Outstanding Award for an Implemented Program/Tool

Jointly awarded to MWCOG for the Transportation and Land-Use Connections Program and Toole Design Group/M-NCPPC for the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Pedestrian Access and Mobility Study

### Current Topic Award for Sustainability

The District of Columbia Green Building Act of 2006

### Outstanding Award for a Special Community Initiative

Gateway Arts District, Prince George’s County, MD

### Benjamin Banneker Award for Outstanding Social Commitment

Washington Parks and People

### Distinguished Leadership Award for an Elected Official

Linda Cropp, Former Chair, DC Council

### Sherwin Greene Leadership Award for a Student Planner

Tiffany Williams, University of Maryland



*Pictured: Gala Attendees*

## We’ve got a new look!

The National Capital Area Chapter of the American Planning Association is pleased to announce that we’ve updated our website at <http://www.ncac-apa.org>. Our new and improved website includes information about the chapter, as well as listings of planning-related events and jobs in the Washington, DC area. Events and jobs are updated frequently so visit the site often! If you would like us to post an event or job on our site, please email the appropriate information to [events@ncac-apa.org](mailto:events@ncac-apa.org) or [jobs@ncac-apa.org](mailto:jobs@ncac-apa.org).

The chapter website is going to become an increasingly prominent element of our chapter’s outreach and communication strategy. For example, we plan to move to an online-only version of our newsletter, which will be distributed via the chapter listserv and posted on our website. We are investigating opportunities to hold the chapter’s Fall 2008 Board of Directors election in an online voting format through the chapter website.

The AICP Commission’s Certification Maintenance (CM) program, requiring AICP members to engage in continuing education in order to maintain their certification, will make our local chapter’s website an even more important resource for our members. The Chapter’s website is being updated to include information related to CM training opportunities in the region.

## President's Column

The entire Board joins me in thanking Art Chambers for his service to the Chapter. I first met Art during the intense planning for the APA National conference in Washington, when he was co-chair of the local committee. Since then, he has served on the Chapter Board as Treasurer and then as President. Art has the distinction of having been a chapter president in three different states, and he brought a wealth of knowledge, humor and dedication to his work here. We wish him the best of luck in his new career out in Kansas.

In the meantime, I'll be stepping in as acting President, and appreciate the support I've already received from the Board and chapter members in learning the ropes.

Here are some highlights of recent chapter activities, as well as new projects the Board is working on.

I'd like to welcome Katherine Kelly, recently appointed as the Chapter's Professional Development Officer to the Board until the fall elections. Katherine currently works as the Capital Projects and Planning Manager at the Golden Triangle Business Improvement District. She joins the Board as the new student representative. Mike Lancaster joins the Board as the new student representative. Mike is a second year graduate student at the University of Maryland.

It was great to see so many chapter members attending the national conference in Las Vegas. The leadership meetings were very focused on addressing the numerous issues that have been raised over the last year in certificate maintenance (CM). One of the primary concerns raised was that cost and process issues may be keeping course providers from certifying classes, thereby limiting options and possibly skewing training decisions for AICP members. Our Board supported CM when it was under discussion last year, and we continue to believe that it will provide meaning and value to the AICP designation.

We have continued to share our concerns and ideas with national APA representatives, including provider registration requirements for chapters and universities with accredited planning programs, and credits provided for distance learning courses. There was a progress made in addressing many of the concerns about CM at the national conference, and I hope that as CM moves forward the often-painful learning curve issues will diminish. The impact of CM was apparent at the conference, as session attendance was high and people waited in line to have their credits "scanned in." Our Board will be working on CM-credited events this fall, particularly to meet ethics requirements.

I'd like to thank Lee Schoenecker and Judy Daniel for their work as chapter representatives to the delegate assembly at the conference. The assembly was working this year on the national APA policy related to climate change, and the discussions were, predictably, hot.

We were pleased to recognize a number of people and organizations that are conducting innovative, exciting planning throughout the region at our gala event. Pulling an event like this together required help from lots of people, working on everything from the awards panel to program design. Thanks to all of you for a fun and celebratory evening – and particularly Malaika Abernathy, Katie Men-carini, Heather Whitlow and Carol Truppi.

Our new chapter website was up and running starting on the same day as the gala. It looks great! Kudos to Daniel Goodman for his hard work in getting the website re-vamped and keeping it updated.

We had over 30 chapter members taking the AICP exam this spring. Because the Board is committed to supporting the development of professional planners in our chapter, we covered the costs of study guides and a live web-based test prep course.

We're going to be doing more outreach by the web, and our newsletter will be going fully electronic this year.

Regards,

Julia Koster, AICP  
Acting Chapter President



*Pictured: Historic Carnegie Library, Site of November Gala, Washington, DC*

## New AICP Members

Congratulations to chapter members that recently passed the AICP Exam in November 2007. Our newest AICP members are:

- Supriya Chewle
- Eric Feldman
- Jessica Juriga
- Stephanie McVey
- Amanda Pereira
- Marshall Rood
- Ronald Wilson

## Election News

Elections for the National Capital Area Chapter Board are coming up in August. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact Carol Truppi at (202) 661-5316. It's a great opportunity to meet other planners in the region and get involved in local planning issues.

All of the Board positions will be on the ballot this year. The responsibilities of each of the positions are listed at our chapter website, at [www.http://www.ncac-apa.org](http://www.ncac-apa.org). They include:

- President
- Professional Development Officer
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Vice-president of Communications
- Five At-large Board Members.

In addition, the Board is considering establishing new positions, described in more detail below in the by-law announcements. These include a President-elect and a Professional Development Officer – elect. Other chapters have or are considering these positions, which are useful in ensuring continuity and allowing people to learn about the responsibilities of the position prior to taking them on.

## Bylaw Amendments Announcement

In preparing for the upcoming elections, the Board has been taking a look at the composition of the Board in light of the changing needs of the Chapter and new requirements. Several changes to the By-laws are proposed that are intended to address these needs, with the three major changes summarized below.

Two new board members would be elected; a President Elect and a Professional Development Officer (PDO) Elect. We are proposing to create these to provide continuity, and to assist in meeting the increasing requirements of these two positions. Individuals elected to the President-Elect position would serve a cumulative term of five years: Two as the President Elect, two as the President and one as the Past President. Individuals elected to the PDO position would serve a four year term, two as the PDO-elect and two as the PDO. All other board positions would continue to serve two-year terms. Further, a new officer, the Vice-President for Diversity and Community Outreach will be added.

Finally, we are striking the role of Vice-president for Legislation, and are proposing to integrate legislative review into the activities of our at-large board members.

Your comments on these by-law amendments are welcome over the next 30 days, until September 20, 2008 and should be sent by email to [newsletter@ncac-apa.org](mailto:newsletter@ncac-apa.org). In anticipation of these changes, recruitment for the upcoming election will seek candidates for these positions.

## Key Changes to the By-Laws

### Executive Board Composition

The Executive Board (or “Board”) consists of eight officers, five at-large Directors, a Student Representative, and the immediate Past President. The officers of the Chapter are the President, the President-elect, the Vice-President for Professional Development (PDO), the Professional Development Officer-elect, the Vice-President for Chapter Communications, the Vice President for Diversity and Community Outreach, ~~the Vice President for Legislation~~, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

### Section 3.3 Term of Office (New Section)

To promote continuity, Board members elected to the positions of President-elect and Vice-President for Professional Development-elect will assume the two year Board positions of President and Vice-President for Professional Development, The term of Office for all other Board members is two years, beginning on August 1 and ending July 31, in even-numbered years. Officers appointed to fill a vacancy during a term shall serve for the remainder of that term.

### Duties of the Board Members

#### President-elect (New Section)

Duties of this position include: (1) presiding at meetings of the Chapter and Board in the absence of the President; (2) in the event that the President resigns, assuming the position of President; and (3) assisting the President in fulfilling the responsibilities of that position, and other duties as directed by the President and the Board.

#### Vice President of Professional Development-elect (New Section)

Duties of this position include: (1) assisting the Vice President of Professional Development in fulfilling the responsibilities of this position, and other duties as directed by the President and the Board; and (2) in the event that the Vice-President of Professional Development resigns, assuming the position of Vice President of Professional Development.

#### Vice President for Diversity and Community Outreach (New Section)

The duties of this position include: (1) develop goals and a work program to promote diversity and community outreach in Board and Chapter activities; (2) work with planning and planning-related organizations in communities throughout the Chapter Area to broaden the relevance and contribution of the planning profession to all local efforts to achieve social, economic, quality of life and quality of access goals consistent with the purposes and mission of APA and AICP; (3) help recruit more minority students into the planning profession; (4) create and improve planning education programs at secondary and university educational institutions, particularly but not only Historically Black Colleges and Universities, in the Chapter Area; and (4) contribute to and participate in related cross-professional programs and initiatives.

## Capital News

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### EDITORIAL INFORMATION

Articles, announcements, letters, and advertising from readers are welcome. Material should be submitted via email, in an MS Word or rich text format. The submittal must include a name and telephone number. Materials submitted may be edited to conform to space or other requirements.

Submit the newsletter material to Alan Hachey at alan.hachey@hdrinc.com

### ADDRESS CHANGES

Send address changes to APA, Member Services Coordinator, 122 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 1600, Chicago, Illinois 60603; fax (312) 431-9985; or visit [www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org)

Send email addresses or corrections to Alan Hachey at alan.hachey@hdrinc.com

### ADVERTISING

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