

**APA California Chapter
Annual Report—2012**

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Brooke Peterson, AICP, Chapter President

It is my pleasure to present you with this inaugural issue of the APA California Annual Report, a new publication that will be distributed to APA California members to highlight events and activities that occurred during the past year in our Chapter. I am excited to begin my term as President and look forward to serving you in 2013 and 2014. Before we look forward, I would like to note a few accomplishments we achieved this year that highlight our commitment to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization's operations. Here is a brief summary of these accomplishments:

In January of 2012 the Board of Directors discussed how APA California can best serve our members and identified the need for a new Board position to focus on this issue. An update to the APA California Bylaws was adopted at the October Board meeting to amend the composition of the Board of Directors to include a new Vice President of Membership and Marketing for this effort. The duties of the new Vice President of Membership shall be to:

- *Develop programs to influence membership retention and expansion.*
- *Serve as a liaison to other strategic professional organizations.*
- *Work with sections to maintain and increase membership of sections.*
- *Develop marketing programs.*
- *Identify new self-funding member benefits and services.*
- *Coordinate activities of the Membership Inclusionary Director, University Liaison, and the Young Planners Coordinator.*
- *Assist the Vice President of Administration in preparation of the Annual Report.*
- *Coordinate with National APA on membership initiatives and other policy changes that affect membership.*
- *Perform any other duties assigned by the Chapter Board of Directors.*

In June the Board of Directors adopted a Standard Contracting Protocol for the purposes of establishing, reviewing, evaluating, and as applicable, re-bidding contracts. This protocol is intended to facilitate excellent performance and ensure that contractors are providing the highest quality and most cost-effective services. Contracts will be reviewed on a regular basis and standardized priority schedule. In addition, outside of the contract review process, an annual member satisfaction survey will be conducted to gather input from the membership regarding the quality of services and level of benefit the organization is providing. Survey results will be considered in the contract review evaluation as applicable.

The Board of Directors held its Annual Retreat in San Diego this January, focusing on identifying strategic initiatives for the next two years and designating an action plan to accomplish those initiatives. Our top initiatives will be to :

- *Increase the transparency of APA California's administration so that members better understand what the Board and staff are doing to maximize the effectiveness of the organization and best serve members.*
- *Focus on key initiatives while implementing new strategies to improve the efficiency and quality of APA California operations, programs, and services.*
- *Develop new communication opportunities between the Chapter and Sections, and Chapter, Sections, and members.*

Our core purpose in adopting these initiatives is to maximize the quality of services and value of membership to you, our members. We recognize that you look to APA California to serve as a clearinghouse for professional development opportunities and to communicate and provide relevant information regarding what is happening within APA, across the planning profession, in our communities, and beyond. **You** are why the organization exists and we strive to reflect that in all we do. We hope you will stay engaged in what is happening throughout the coming year and invite you to partner with us as we endeavor to advance the value and quality of planning in California and our local communities.



The annual elections were held this fall and APA California is pleased to welcome its newest officers to the Board:

- **Kurt Christensen**
Vice President for Conferences
- **David Snow**
Vice President for Policy and Legislation
- **Betsy McCullough**
Vice President for Professional Development
- **Marc Yeber**
Commission and Board Representative

This election cycle, we were fortunate to have a competitive and talented slate of candidates. APA California depends heavily on its volunteer leaders and we are grateful for those who are so giving of their time and so deeply committed to advancing our planning profession.



Kevin Keller, AICP, Chapter President 2011-12

Looking back over the past two years, I wanted to list some of the highlights of APA California's accomplishments and thank our members for their incredible service, volunteerism, and passion for the profession.



National APA Representation: As a member of the Chapter Presidents Council, I represented APA California at the two annual APA National Board meetings in 2011, and 2012. During this time, the Chapter President's Council voted to endorse a consolidated elections cycle and ballot in which it would be possible to vote concurrently for national and state board posts to streamline the election process in future years. California also voted in support of increased online professional development opportunities and a phased transition from CD-ROM resources to online streamed content.

State Conferences: APA California hosted two excellent state conferences in 2011 and 2012. Our 2011 Santa Barbara conference re-invigorated our conference format with smartphone apps and online session submittals that were resounding successes. Our 2012 Rancho Mirage conference continued this excellence and delivered outstanding content, networking, and professional development opportunities, which is further outlined in this report. We look forward to seeing you in Visalia for our 2013 Conference.

National Conference: In 2012, APA California took center stage and hosted the National APA Conference. Nearly 5000 land use professionals from around the country visited Los Angeles in April to participate in the conference. The City last hosted the event in 1986, and there was much to experience from more than 25 years of challenge and progress since then. The conference provided a forum to showcase much of the work California has taken to move towards revitalizing neighborhoods and urban centers, including showcasing the significant reinvestment and transformation of Los Angeles' downtown area. The conference was an overwhelming success and showcased the excellence in planning happening throughout the Golden State. APA's Conference Host Committee volunteers organized excellent sessions, mobile workshops, and orientation tours that set a new bar for future National Conferences.



Weathering the Economic Storm: As an organization, APA California has emerged in a stronger financial position after these past two years. The effects of the economic downturn affected our organization, with a 59% drop in revenue from 2008 to 2012. The Executive Board carefully reduced spending by 39%, and launched membership retention efforts. A dues increase of \$20, the first in seven years, was also adopted by the Board to continue to fund core services. Overall, chapter membership has increased from 5,154 members in mid-2012 when these actions were approved by the board. As of January 1, 2013, membership has continued to grow to over 5,400 members. APA California has a solid foundation for future organizational excellence. Our greatest assets continue to be our members, our volunteer spirit, and an unwavering drive to position our organization to be a leader in land use.



APA California Staff

Sande George, Executive Director & Lobbyist
Tom Stefan, Director of Administration
Lauren de Valencia y Sanchez, Executive Assistant/Lobbyist
Francine Farrell, Association and Accounting Services
Laura Murphy, Association and Certification Maintenance Services
Dorina Blythe, Newsletter Production

Marco A. Martinez, Attorney, Best, Best & Krieger, LLC
Marsha Bastian, Professional Liability Insurance, Heffman Insurance Brokers
Dick Lemon, Insurance Agent, McClatchy Insurance
Sadna Samaranayake, Website Management, InSiteLogic, Inc.
Lynne C. Bynder, Conference Coordinator, Meetings Xceptional

2012 Executive Board Members



Kevin Keller, AICP
Chapter President



Brooke Peterson, AICP
Chapter President-Elect



Virginia Viado
Vice President-Administration



David Snow, AICP
Vice President-Policy and Legislation



Hing Wong, AICP
Vice President-Public Information



Janna Minsk, AICP
Vice President-Conferences



Juan Borrelli, AICP
Vice President-Professional Development



Marc Yeber
Commission and Board Representative



Cindy Ma
Student Representative



Linda F. Tatum, AICP
California Planning Foundation President

2012 Appointed Officers and Affiliate Organization Representatives

AICP Coordinator: **Glenn Lajoie, AICP**

FAICP Coordinator: **Carol D. Barrett, FAICP**

Program Directors

Northern California: **Andrea J. Ouse, AICP**

Southern California: **Al Zelinka, FAICP, CMSM**

Chapter Historians

Northern California: **J. Laurence Mintier, FAICP**

Southern California: **Steven A. Preston, FAICP**

Marketing Director: **Derek R. Hull**

Membership Inclusion Directors

Northern California: **Connie Galambos Malloy**

Southern California: **Anna M. Vidal**

State Awards Coordinators

Northern California: **Andrea J. Ouse, AICP**

Southern California: **Danny Castro**

CalPlanner Coordinator: **Jason Su**

University Liaison: **David Salazar, AICP**

Young Planners Coordinator: **Ted Holzem**

National Policy & Legislations Representative: **Christopher Koontz**

California Planning Roundtable (CPR) President: **Al Zelinka, FAICP**

Planners Emeritus Network (PEN) President: **George Osner, AICP**



Contact information for APA California staff,
Executive Boardmembers, Appointed Officers
and Affiliate Organization Representatives can
be found on our website at :

<http://apacalifornia.com/>

2013 Executive Board Members

Elected Officers:

Brooke Peterson, AICP, Chapter President

Kevin Keller, AICP, Chapter Past-President

Virginia Viado, Vice President-Administration

David Snow, AICP, Vice President-Policy and Legislation

Hing Wong, AICP, Vice President-Public Information

Kurt Christiansen, AICP, Vice President-Conferences

Betsy McCullough, AICP, Vice President-Professional Development

William Hoose, AICP, Vice President-Membership and Marketing

Marc Yeber, Commission and Board Representative

Vacant, Student Representative

Carol Barrett, FAICP, California Planning Foundation President *(not pictured)*



2013 Appointed Officers and Affiliate Organization Representatives

AICP Coordinator: **Carey Fernandes, AICP**

FAICP Coordinator: **Robert Leiter, FAICP**

AICP Exam Workshops Program Coordinator: **Kimberly Brosseau, AICP**

Chapter Historians

Northern California: **J. Laurence Mintier, FAICP**

Southern California: **Steven A. Preston, FAICP**

Membership Inclusion Directors

Northern California: **Miroo Desai, AICP**

Southern California: **Anna M. Vidal**

State Awards Coordinators

Northern California: **Andrea J. Ouse, AICP**

Southern California: **Danny Castro**

CalPlanner Coordinator: **Jason Su**

University Liaison: **David Salazar, AICP**

Young Planners Coordinator: **Ted Holzem**

National Policy & Legislations Representative: **Christopher Koontz**

California Planning Roundtable (CPR) President: **T. Keith Gurnee**

Planners Emeritus Network (PEN) President: **Stanley R. Hoffman, FAICP**



Region VI Representatives



American Planning Association



*W. Paul Farmer, FAICP
APA Executive Director*



*Mitchell Silver, AICP
APA National President*

William R. Anderson, FAICP, Former Region VI Representative and APA National President-Elect



Bill Anderson focuses on inner cities, community planning and regional planning. He headed up San Diego's oldest planning advocacy group and chaired San Diego's Planning Commission, helping formulate the "City of Villages" strategy. Anderson served as Director of San Diego's City Planning & Community Investment Department between 2006 and 2011, where he oversaw planning, economic development, urban form, and facilities financing. He was inducted into the AICP College of Fellows in 2006.

Jeanette Dinwiddie-Moore, FAICP, Region VI Representative



Jeanette Dinwiddie-Moore is Principal for Dinwiddie and Associates. She has over thirty years of planning experience, has worked on a variety of planning projects and has been a consultant to utility companies for over 20 years providing assistance with land use planning, permitting/entitlements, and environmental assessments. She has been a strong advocate for diversity and inclusion in the planning profession, diligently working to advance diversity in California and nationally.

Lance Schulte, AICP, AICP Commissioner



Lance Schulte has 19 years of experience as a planner in both the public and private sectors in positions ranging from assistant planner to economic development administrator. In the public realm, he has worked as a city, special district, and university planner.

Sean Noonan, Student Representative



Sean Noonan is a student at Cal Poly Pomona studying Urban and Regional Planning. He was elected to serve as the Region VI Student Representative for 2012. The position is currently vacant for the 2013 term.

APA 2012 National Planning Conference Reimagine L.A.



The American Planning Association's National Conference was hosted by the APA California Chapter's Los Angeles Section (APA LA), and was held April 14 through April 17, 2012 at the Los Angeles Convention Center and the J.W. Marriott at LA Live.

The National Conference had not been hosted by Los Angeles since 1986. Clearly Los Angeles and the surrounding area have gone through a metamorphosis over the last 26 years. The Los Angeles Chapter was naturally very excited to have the opportunity to share their City with planning professionals from across the country, and showcase the planning and development achievements throughout the region and the resources they have to offer.



Conference Co-Chairs

Kurt Christiansen, AICP; Marissa Aho, AICP; Ann McIntosh, AICP; and Vince Bertoni, AICP



APA 2012 National Planning Conference Highlights

In addition to a terrific professional conference, the Los Angeles Chapter was able to showcase the region through more than 50 Mobile Workshops, including highlighting smart planning initiatives throughout various Los Angeles communities via walking tours, bicycling tours, public transportation.....and even a few boats!

APA LA was also able to showcase various Los Angeles neighborhoods on two Orientation Tours: one traveled down the 'Great Boulevards' of the City with a break at the Pacific Ocean and another explored the "Hills and Valleys" with a break at the Griffith Observatory. A series of Local Host Committee events were held revealing the nightlife Los Angeles is known for. Events included a Special Film Night showing of Paramount's Classic "Chinatown" with the LA Conservancy at the historic Orpheum Theater, a special "Opening Night" celebration at Union Station, a Young Planner's Group/Student Reception at 7th Street's Seven Grand, the Museum of Neon Arts' Neon Bus Tours, and an evening at the Disney Concert Hall featuring the works of Schubert.

The California Chapter was represented in APA National's Annual Planning Awards through the following projects:

- ◆ AICP Planning Students Project Award, Applied Research Category: **Urban Strategies in Historic Beijing, California State Polytechnic University Pomona** (in collaboration with North China University of Technology)
- ◆ National Planning Excellence Award for Implementation: **Contra Costa Centre Transit Village**
- ◆ National Planning Landmark Award: **The Bennett Plan of the City of Pasadena (1925)**
- ◆ National Planning Achievement Award for a Hard-Won Victory: **Candlestick Point-Hunters Point Shipyard Phase II EIR**



California Chapter Membership Information

2012:

The APA California Chapter includes a total of 5,437 members as of December 5, 2012, which is an increase from the end of 2011. Breakdown of our membership by Section (including the number of AICP, Student, and Chapter-only members) is shown on the following chart:

Member Type	<i>LOCAL SECTION</i>								TOTAL CHAPTER
	Central	Central Coast	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Northern	Orange	Sacramento	San Diego	
Regular APA	72	126	65	471	565	181	139	170	1,789
APA/AICP	88	128	189	333	683	184	215	261	2,081
Government/ Planning Board	15	12	52	74	50	21	22	18	264
APA/Student	7	134	54	562	227	122	18	69	1,196
Chapter Only	3	8	13	13	22	9	26	16	110
Totals	185	408	373	1,453	1,547	517	420	534	5,437

Comparison of Past Years— Membership has fluctuated in the past years, decreasing since 2008 through 2011:

Member Type	2008	2009	2010	2011
Regular APA	2,640	2,198	2,066	1,786
APA/AICP	2,211	2,200	2,047	2,050
Government/ Planning Board	368	374	283	252
APA/Student	1,147	1,035	1,052	1,013
Chapter Only	168	165	132	140
TOTALS	6,534	5,972	5,580	5,241



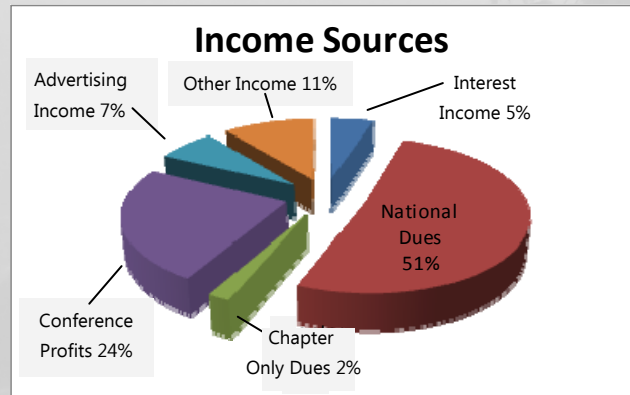
Administration

Virginia Viado, Vice President

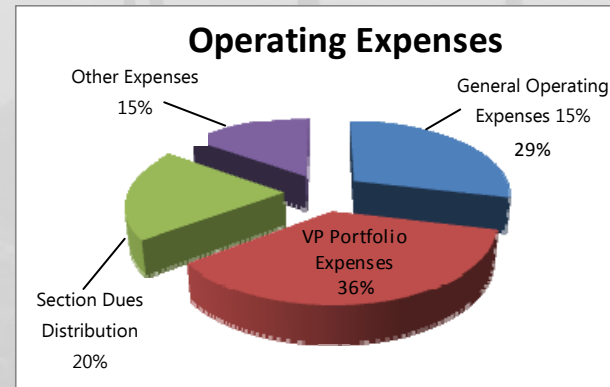
The Vice President for Administration is responsible for maintaining the general funds and accounts of the Chapter. This is done mainly with the assistance of the management firm comprised of APA California administrative staff and contractors, including Stefan/George Associates, ATEGO Resources, New Horizon and other support contract staff. The Vice President for Administration also functions as Chairperson of the Chapter's awards program and coordinates the Chapter's membership activities, regularly evaluates and updates the Chapter Financial Policies, conducts long range forecasting and programming in cooperation with the management firm, coordinates and oversees the distribution of membership subvention funds and applicable reporting procedures of the Chapter's local Sections, and coordinates financial and administrative activities with the Chapter's Director of Administration.

2012 Budget

The Board of Directors adopted a draft budget at its meeting held during the 2011 APA California Chapter Conference in Santa Barbara, with amendments adopted in January 2012 during the Board's annual retreat held in Sacramento. A working budget of \$496,770 was adopted, with anticipated income of \$445,430 coming from sources including 2011 Conference profits, membership dues from National APA and other revenue sources such as AICP publications and advertisements. Shortage in revenue has prompted the Board to withdraw funds from its Reserves Account to maintain operations. Actual budget breakdown for 2012 is shown below:



INCOME	
Interest	\$ 27,476
National Dues	\$ 280,594
Chapter Only Dues	\$ 10,400
Conference Profits	\$ 131,557
Advertising Income	\$ 38,087
Other	\$ 59,345
TOTAL	\$ 547,460



General Operating Expenses (inc. Staff)	\$ 158,595
President	\$ 6,183
VP Policy & Legislation	\$ 86,040
VP Administration	\$ 10,540
VP Public Information	\$ 96,342
VP Conferences	\$ 930
VP Professional Dev.	\$ 522
Other Expenses	\$ 84,166
Section Dues Distribution	\$ 110,813
TOTAL	\$ 554,131

Chapter operating expenses include distribution of membership dues to each of the eight local Sections, payments to administrative staff, Board meetings and retreats, and general office-related expenses. Board portfolio expenses include travel and meeting-related costs, as well operating expenditures for member service programs managed under each VP. VP Policy & Legislation programs include Legislative Review and Lobbying; VP Public Information program includes Website maintenance and CalPlanner production; VP Administration programs include State Awards and Membership/Marketing.

2013 Budget

The Board of Directors met during the 2012 Conference in Rancho Mirage and adopted a draft working budget of \$522,556, with anticipated income from membership dues, 2012 Conference profits, and other sources totaling approximately \$500,752.

For detailed information about past and current Chapter budgets, including line-item breakdowns, please visit the APA California website at <http://apacalifornia.com/>

Administration—Programs

Membership Inclusion: Co-Directors: Connie Galambos-Malloy (North) and Anna Vidal (South)

The 2012 Diversity Summit held at the State Conference provided relevant data, case studies, and resources for California planners on how to translate the Census 2010 data into everyday planning projects, programs, and policies. The Summit featured APA National President Mitchell Silver as the opening speaker, setting the national demographic context and the keynote speaker was by Dr. Leobardo Estrada, PhD, Associate Professor of Urban Planning at the UCLA School of Public Affairs, Department of Urban Planning. The Summit focused on California's unique planning and policy landscape. Membership Inclusion Directors from across the state have been engaging in monthly conference calls to share best practices from their respective sections, and collaborated on planning the 2012 Diversity Summit.

Young Planners Group (YPG): Coordinator: Ted Holzem

In 2007, APA National appointed the Young Planners Group Task Force (YPG), in order to address the growing needs of young planners within the APA as well as provide a forum for young planners to be a resource to the organization. The YPG has defined young planners as planning professional under the age of 35. There is a need to reach out to the next generation of planners as a service to these members, in order to sustain the organization, to provide services to a changing professional demographic, and to cultivate the next generation of leaders. APA California also recognized this as a resource and instituted a YPG at the State level, appointing a Statewide Coordinator to work on YPG programs for the California Chapter, as well as coordinate with the local Sections to assist with events and programs at the local level.

State Awards Program: Co-Directors: Andrea Ouse, AICP (North) and Danny Castro (South)

The APA California Awards Program encourages quality in planning and increases the public's awareness of the planning profession by recognizing outstanding achievement in the planning field. The program honors innovative plans and projects, distinguished APA members, lay contributors to planning and achievements of local APA California Sections. Awards are presented annually at the APA California Conference in two categories: Awards of Excellence and Awards of Merit. Additionally, Scholastic Awards are given to students by the California Planning Foundation, a nonprofit, tax-deductible arm of APA California, and Historic Planning Landmark Awards are given to historical projects.

Membership and Marketing: Coordinator: Derek Hull, AICP

The Membership and Marketing Director develops programs to influence membership retention and expansion, coordinates with National APA on membership initiatives, works with local Sections to increase membership of underrepresented groups, develops marketing programs and identifies new self-funding member benefits/services.



2012 APA California Awards Categories and Winners:

Award of Excellence, Planning Achievement - Advocacy/Social Change/Diversity Planning Award: Villages at Cabrillo— Century Villages at Cabrillo; Century Housing; City of Long Beach; The Planning Center | DC&E

Award of Excellence, Planning Achievement - Hard Won Victory Award: Thousand Oaks Boulevard Specific Plan—City of Thousand Oaks; Thousand Oaks Boulevard Association

Award of Merit, Planning Achievement - Academic Award: Leveraging Lawrence Berkeley National Lab's Second Campus for Regional Economic Development
University of California, Berkeley, Department of City & Regional Planning, Sustainable Economic Development Studio – Fall 2011

Award of Excellence, Focused Issue Planning Award: Ontario International Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan—City of Ontario Planning Department; Mead & Hunt, Inc.; Ontario Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan Technical Advisory Committee

Award of Excellence, Planning Project Award: Rock Springs Road and Richland Road Safe Routes to School Improvements—City of San Marcos; RBF Consulting, A Company of Michael Baker Corporation

Award of Merit, Innovation in Green Community Planning Award: Sacramento Climate Action Plan—City of Sacramento; Ascent; Mintier Harnish

Award of Excellence, Innovation in Green Community Planning Award: Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy for San Diego Bay—ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability

Award of Merit, Planning Implementation Award for a Small Jurisdiction: City of Newman Downtown Revitalization—City of Newman; RRM Design Group

Award of Excellence, Best Practices Award: TransNet Environmental Mitigation Program—San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)

Award of Excellence, Section Activity Award: The PLAN Sac Valley Mentor Program
Sacramento Valley Section; Board in Association with the Young Planners Group; PLAN Sac Valley Advisory Committee

Award of Excellence, Distinguished Leadership Award for a Professional Planner: James L. Mulvihill, PhD., AICP

Award of Excellence, Distinguished Service Award: Paul Wack, AICP

Award of Excellence, Distinguished Leadership Award for an Organization: Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI)

Award of Excellence, Distinguished Leadership Award for a Planning Department: Santa Monica Bike Action Plan—City of Santa Monica

Award of Excellence, Planning Landmark Award: California Coastal Protection Program—California Coastal Commission

Award of Merit, Grassroots Initiative Award: South Bay Bicycle Master Plan
Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition; Alta Planning + Design; South Bay Bicycle Coalition

Award of Excellence, Grassroots Initiative Award: City of Cathedral City's ECD Kids & Community Program—City of Cathedral City; S.C.R.A.P. Gallery

Award of Excellence, Comprehensive Planning Award for a Small Jurisdiction: City of Redwood City General Plan—City of Redwood City; Hogle-Ireland, Inc.

Award of Merit, Comprehensive Planning Award for a Small Jurisdiction: San Marcos General Plan Update—City of San Marcos; AECOM

Award of Excellence, Comprehensive Planning Award for a Large Jurisdiction: Envision San Jose 2040 General Plan—Envision San Jose 2040 General Plan Update Team; City of San Jose, Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement; David J. Powers and Associates



Policy and Legislation

David Snow, AICP, Vice President



APA California's legislative advocacy program had a very successful year in 2012. The successes in 2012 were made possible by the involvement of APA California members who volunteered for the legislative review team, and who wrote letters and provided analysis and suggested amendments on many of the proposed bills and measures. This participation is key to our successful efforts to prevent the most problematic measures from moving forward, and winning amendments to make the other bills consistent with APA California's legislative policies.

2012 Highlights:

Building Permit VMT Bill Dropped: APA California strongly opposed AB 1627, which was an attempt to mandate portions of SB 375 at the local level by requiring that cities and counties address VMT reduction at the building permit stage. The bill would have required projects to meet VMT reductions or the building permits would have been required to be denied. Both residential and commercial building permits were included in this requirement. The sponsors decided early in the session that it did not have the votes to pass this measure.

APA CA/AEP ECAT CEQA Streamlining Efforts On-going: A number of CEQA measures were introduced in 2012, however, none of them moved forward, and instead efforts will be redoubled in 2013 for "meaningful reform." Although the APA/AEP ECAT proposal did not gain traction to move forward in 2012, the great work done positioned the group to be integral in the ongoing discussions of legislative proposals in 2013. The dedication to this issue, and the ongoing work even when progress seemed elusive, has kept APA California at the table during the conversations, and hopefully will position the organization as go to experts and practitioners who seek to fix problems.

Assembly Bill 904 – Statewide Parking Standards – Dropped for 2012: Assembly Bill 904 proposed to set statewide minimum parking standards for projects well-served by existing or planned transit. As proposed, the bill would have restricted the ability of local agencies to require parking in excess of those statewide minimum standards, unless the agency adopted an "opt-out" ordinance by making specific findings. APA California, from a policy perspective, supports reduced parking requirements near active transit stations. When presented with AB 904 late in the legislative session, APA California developed a preliminary position of oppose unless amended. This preliminary position was developed after receiving input from members and taking into account discussions with the APA California Legislative Review Committee. In an effort to gain additional input, an e-mail was broadly distributed to APA California members, stating our preliminary position and seeking member feedback. And feedback we received - both pro and con! In sum, there is no shortage of strong opinions on these issues! The existence of these numerous viewpoints, and the healthy dialogue that has resulted, has reinforced the overwhelming consensus that parking reform is warranted, while at the same time reinforcing that any reform must be clearly drafted so that planning practitioners responsible for implementing the laws understand what is required and expected, and that do not introduce unnecessary risks in an entitlement process. APA California will continue working with the author's office and the Infill Builders to revise the bill with the goal of arriving at a bill that APA California could support in 2013. The diversity of opinion on this bill is indicative of an engaged and active membership, and we are glad this issue has generated such a vibrant conversation!

Healthy Food General Plan Element Proposal: APA California opposed AB 1897, which would have required a new healthy food element in the general plan with requirements beyond the control of cities and counties. APA California does support local healthy food and other sustainable planning strategies, but did not agree that a new detailed, mandated general plan element was the right way to achieve those goals.

Policy and Legislation



2012 Highlights (continued):

Other hot bills and topics that APA California addressed and dealt with in 2012 included:

Budget Deficit Issues

Dismantling Redevelopment and New Options for Economic Development Tools, including:

- AB 1585 – Redevelopment Next Steps/Successor Agencies/Housing (Speaker Perez)
- AB 2144 – Revitalization Financing Districts (Speaker Perez)
- SB 654 – Redevelopment Next Steps (Pro Tem Steinberg)
- SB 986 – Redevelopment Bond Proceeds (Dutton)
- SB 1151 – Long Range Asset Management Plans (Pro Tem Steinberg)
- SB 1156 – Community Development and Housing Joint Powers Authority (Pro Tem Steinberg)
- SB 1335 – Redevelopment Brownfield Sites (Pavely)

Flood and Fire Planning:

- SB 1241 – Planning for State Responsibility Areas and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in Safety Element (Kehoe)
- SB 1278 – Levees (Wolk)

Housing:

HCD Budget Cuts and Streamlined Housing Element Review: In the budget last year, HCD lost a number of housing element review staff to budget cuts. This year, the Governor's office has asked HCD to develop options for streamlining the housing element review process given that reduced staff, which HCD is currently working through. In the mean time, HCD has requested in this year's budget process a number of additional review staff to review the larger than usual numbers of housing elements coming to them at the same time in the next few years due to the SB 375 syncing of the housing elements with the regional transportation plans. Progress was made on this with the involvement of APA.

- SB 1220 – Permanent source of affordable housing funding (DeSaulnier)

Permit/Project Approval Streamlining:

- AB 1549 – State and Local Expedited Permit Review (Gatto) AB 1801 – Fees on Renewable Energy Systems (Campos)
- SB 1222 – Solar Energy (Leno)

- Sidewalk Repairs:** AB 2231 – Sidewalk Repairs (Fuentes)

Amicus Committee Activities

The APA California Amicus committee filed a joinder to an amicus brief in support of SanDAG in a superior court challenge to the adoption of the Regional Transportation Plan on CEQA grounds. While amicus briefs are typically filed when cases are in the appellate courts, the importance of the issues in this case warranted participation at the trial court level. That said, the judge in that case opted not to consider any amicus briefs.

Special Thanks:

During 2012, many people dedicated time and energy to the successes of the Policy and Legislative Program, and the organization owes thanks to the following:

The members of the Legislative Review Team:

Barb Kautz and Pete Parkinson for their continued work on Housing Element issues.

Curtis Alling, Pete Parkinson, Terry Rivasplata, and Jim Moose for their continued work on the CEQA ECAT effort.

Sande George and Lauren De Valencia y Sanchez for their ongoing dedication and efforts in furtherance of APA California's legislative program and lobbying efforts.



Public Information

Hing Wong, AICP, Vice President



The Vice President for Public Information is responsible for coordinating the Cal Planner, a quarterly electronic newsletter sent to all APA California members, overseeing the Chapter's public information program, delivering general information to all Chapter members, and offering access to programs for our membership. In this position, I work closely with all statewide Board members in providing services to meet our membership's needs.

In 2012, the Cal Planner increased the number of articles in each issue. This enables us to help inform and educate our readers with current planning issues and to showcase planning projects throughout the state. With over 5,000 Chapter members, one new feature in each issue includes a page or two devoted specifically to one of the eight Sections. This helps us get to know the people and programs better in other parts of our great state.

We are pleased to announce the soon-to-be-released of our newly redesigned website that will commence during the first quarter 2013. It has been completely redesigned with a fresh new look and user-friendly navigation, updated with the latest information about the Chapter's events and services. One of our main goals was to build an accessible and simple-to-navigate website. The new design will allow the users to quickly find the contents thanks to its simple hierarchical structure. We hope that you will enjoy browsing our new website, finding more options and information each time, and that it will be yet another tool for enhancing your planning knowledge.

APA California has joined the Planning Webcast Series. Various APA chapters, APA divisions, and colleges/universities are members of this series. Each webcast is presented by a different chapter, division or college. There is one new webcast per week, usually Fridays starting at 10am. The one and one-half hour webcasts are free to all participants and are worth 1.5 CM credits each. They offer distance education credits, including law and ethics, at no charge to participants. Upcoming webcasts are posted at www.utah-apa.org/webcasts. Archived webcasts are posted at www.utah-apa.org/webcast-archive.



We look forward to providing you with services that will enrich your planning needs. Please contact us with suggestions and comments.



Conferences

Janna Minsk, AICP, Vice President



The VP of Conferences is responsible for coordinating the annual State conference and ensuring collaboration with the conference contractors, conference host committee and State Board. The goal is provide the membership with a conference which includes sessions, mobile workshops and topical keynotes which showcase current planning trends, networking opportunities and continuing maintenance credits for our AICP members. The annual conference is also APA California and the eight Sections main sources of revenue; therefore growing conference sponsorships and attendance is always a goal.

The program content of our conferences has evolved over time in response to membership suggestions. We listened and recently added to the conference a student free day with sessions geared towards student planners with a student scholarship awards luncheon and student poster display judged by the APA California Board. The conference also holds a Diversity Summit. To fulfill membership session expectations, the Board adopted the programming of a series of mandatory sessions including: APA California Chapter President Leadership reception, legislative update, planning commission sessions, AICP exam prep, CPF hosted sessions, CPR hosted sessions and a PEN sponsored session. These mandatory sessions provide various elected or appointed State Board members and affiliated groups (CPF, CPR and PEN) visibility at the conference. The selection of sessions is a collaborative effort between the conference host committee (CHC) and State, with the CHC selected 20% of the regular conference sessions.

Upcoming Conference locations:

- 2014 Hosted by the Orange Section:
September 13-16, Disneyland Hotel
- 2015 Hosted by the Northern Section
- 2016 Hosted by the Los Angeles Section

APA California recently adopted “sustainability” principals for conferences which have been instituted beginning last year with a smaller sized and content print program, introduction of the mobile app, permitting conference attendees to purchase a “carbon offset”, on line submittal of sessions and coordinating with conference facilities to use locally grown food for meals served and other facility related sustainability practices.



2012 Conference - Rancho Mirage



“Prepare, Plan, Preserve” was the theme of the 2012 APA California Conference hosted by the Inland Empire Section, October 21-24, 2012 at Rancho Las Palmas (Rancho Mirage, CA).

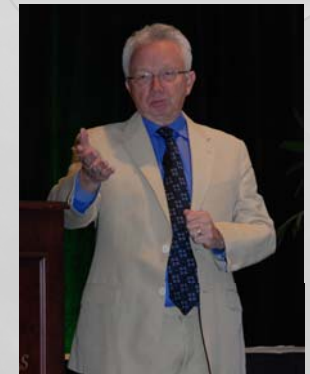
Once again, sessions and mobile workshops received pre-approved continuing maintenance credit to assist members with meeting the AICP continuing maintenance requirements. This was the first year, the conference offered MCLE credits for 12 sessions. Innovations continued such as the mobile App and smaller dimensioned print program; conference sponsorships also exceeded projections. The CPF auction brought in over \$31,000 to be used for student scholarships.



Conference Co-Chairs Les Johnson and Craig Ewing



APA National President, Mitchell Silver, AICP



Opening Keynote Speaker Richard J. Jackson

2013 Conference - Visalia



“Planning Under The Sun” is the theme of the 2013 APA California Conference hosted by the Central Section, October 6-9, 2013 at the Visalia Marriott and Visalia Convention Center. Co chairs of the 2013 event are Fred Brusuelas and Ben Kimball. The on-line submittal of “Call for Presentations” is open. The 2013 Conference Host Committee is excited to host the annual conference and show case the Central Valley to planners.



Professional Development

Juan Borrelli, AICP, Vice President



2012 Accomplishments:

FAICP Nomination Process Refinements and New FAICP Inductee Announcements

Throughout 2012, Carol Barrett continued to lead and implement College of Fellows of AICP (FAICP) nomination process refinements, conducted outreach to eligible members, and worked with Section Directors to appoint FAICP Liaison board positions (or subcommittees) comprised of local FAICP members in each Section, to assist with the 2014 nomination process. Juan Borrelli and Carol Barrett co-authored an article published in the Cal Planner (and posted on the Chapter website) announcing and congratulating California's five 2012 FAICP Inductees.

AICP Exam Preparation Trainings, Exam Reduced Fee Scholarships, New AICP and New AICP CEP/CTP Member Announcements

- Glenn Lajoie and Juan Borrelli, with assistance from Kim Brosseau, Jill Griffiths, Collette Morse, and George Osner, organized and facilitated the AICP Exam Preparation conference session entitled, Passing the AICP: Planning Jeopardy! for the 2012 APA California Conference.
- Northern, Sacramento Valley, and San Diego Section AICP Exam Coordinators also organized and facilitated AICP Exam Preparation Trainings for members in each of those Sections.
- Glenn Lajoie continued to lead discussions and coordination efforts with the Orange, Inland Empire, Los Angeles, and Central Coast Section PDOs and AICP Exam Coordinators to host a joint, annual AICP Exam Preparation Training for those Sections.
- Juan Borrelli and Glenn Lajoie, with web assistance from Laura Murphy, successfully facilitated the selection of 8 Chapter AICP Exam Reduced Fee Scholarship recipients and 11 Section-sponsored AICP Exam Reduced Fee Scholarship recipients for members applying for the May and November 2012 AICP Exams.
- Juan Borrelli, with web assistance from Laura Murphy, authored several articles published in the Cal Planner (and posted on the Chapter's website), announcing and congratulating California's planners who passed the November 2011 and May 2012 AICP Exams. Several Section PDOs also prepared similar articles published in Section newsletters and on Section websites announcing and congratulating planners who passed these AICP Exams.
- Juan Borrelli, with web assistance from Laura Murphy, authored an article published in the Cal Planner (and posted on the Chapter's website), announcing and congratulating California's Planners who earned their Advanced Specialty Certifications of AICP Certified Environmental Planner (CEP) or AICP Certified Transportation Planner (CTP).

Ethics and Law Trainings

- Carol Barrett, Juan Borrelli, Linda Tatum, Al Zelinka, and Hanson Hom organized and facilitated a CM-Ethics approved conference session entitled, When Business Friendly Happens to Planners: Meeting Job Expectations and the Code of Ethics for the 2012 APA California Conference.
- Several Section PDOs and Section Directors, with assistance from Carol Barrett and other professional planners, organized and facilitated CM-Ethics and CM-Law approved trainings within several individual Sections.



2012 Accomplishments (continued):

2012 State Planning Conference Program Selection

- Juan Borrelli and Al Zelinka assisted Janna Minsk and the Local Conference Steering Committee with the review and selection of conference sessions for the 2011 APA California Conference.
- Juan Borrelli also evaluated each of the submittals requesting CM-Ethics and CM-Law specific credits (as well as those that might potentially qualify for those specific CM credits but not submitted as such) prior to Laura Murphy uploading the conference session submittals onto National's CM dashboard, to help ensure a high-degree of success with the 2012 APA California conference's approved CM-Ethics and CM-Law sessions.

California Planning Foundation (CPF) and Chapter Historian Collaborations

- While serving in the dual board "liaison" role to the CPF, Juan Borrelli attended CPF Board Meetings; assisted CPF with fundraising efforts; promoted CPF; recognized and celebrated 2011-2012 CPF student scholarship award winners from the Northern Section at the Section's 2012 Awards Program; and actively assisted with the CPF Auction fundraising event during the 2012 APA California Conference.
- Juan Borrelli assisted Chapter Historians Steve Preston and Larry Mintier by serving as an awards juror for the Chapter's 2012 Planning Landmarks Award.

CD Lending Library Program and Chapter Website Updates

- Throughout 2012, Laura Murphy and Francine Farrell successfully maintained and facilitated the Chapter's CD Lending Library Program, including the posting and updating of all website information related to the CD Lending Library Program and the processing of all CD requests.
- Throughout 2012, Juan Borrelli maintained and updated the Chapter's Calendar of Events webpage, and collaborated with Laura Murphy to update and post timely information updates on the Chapter's Professional Development and AICP webpages.

Regular PDO Team Meetings, Outreach efforts, and Requests for Information

- Juan Borrelli facilitated 6 Professional Development Team conference call meetings (on January 25, March 28, May 23, July 18, September 19, and December 5) in 2012, and one in-person Professional Development Team meeting on October 23 (at the 2012 APA California Conference).
- Prior to the end of the April 30, 2012 CM grace period deadline, Juan Borrelli proactively outreached (via email blasts and web postings), and responded to numerous requests for information from Chapter members at risk of letting their AICP status lapse. Reinstatement process information was also proactively emailed (and posted on the Chapter website) to assist those members whose AICP status did lapse in 2012.
- Throughout 2012, Juan Borrelli and the many on the Professional Development Team actively responded to numerous phone and email requests for information concerning: logging CM credits; professional development training opportunities; event co-sponsorships; CD lending library; AICP exam prep trainings; AICP exam registration; AICP exam reduced fee scholarships; web information and web posting requests; and opportunities to attend low cost/no-cost CM-Ethics and CM-Law trainings.



Elected and Appointed Officials

Marc Yeber, Commission and Board Representative

It goes without stating, commission and board members are one of the vital links to community conservation and development as well as planning and related land-uses processes. These men and women from around the state are the voice to their respective communities making decisions that ultimately shape their residential neighborhoods and business districts. That is why the American Planning Association California Chapter continues to develop resources and programs specifically designed to meet the needs of commission and board members. From commission related news and events to educational sessions and materials, the Chapter has made reaching out to these members a priority. For instance, at the recent APA California Conference, commission and board members participated in sessions and activities designed to engage and inform. There was also a resource booth available to offer a broad range of materials and information not only from the California Chapter, but also the National APA.

However our work is far from complete. Our primary objective for channeling our efforts towards commission and board members is twofold. The first is to focus on providing a more meaningful membership experience to our existing members who are planning officials. This means seeking ways to more effectively reach out to these members to encourage engagement, participation and discussion with the larger planning community. It also means to employ strategies to better communicate the many resources and tools available. These are designed to assist decision-makers during the planning and entitlement process and further develop programs that address 21st Century challenges that are influenced by local politics and community advocacy. The second area of focus is to expand the membership among California planning officials. As it stands, planning officials make up less than 5% of the overall membership resulting in an uneven representation of the broader planning community. Such an imbalance prevents a more robust debate and innovative solutions to the policies and ideas that shape communities today throughout the state. An increased involvement by planning officials in APA will serve not only as a benefit to the general membership, but also provide a better synergy between those that draft planning policy and those who decide on it.

I hope commission and board members from around the state will continue to be involved and take advantage of the many resources at your fingertips so that the experience as a planning decision-maker can be further supported and enhanced. I look forward to the increased participation of our planning officials as we ALL – who are engaged in planning – forge ahead to shape the future of California.

Thank you.





Students

Cindy Ma, Student Representative

Greetings members! My name is Cindy Ma and I am your 2011-2012 Student Representative. During my time as your Student Representative, I tried my best to reflect the needs, concerns, and comments of my fellow planning colleagues. This section of the annual report will highlight what has been happening during my time as Student Representative with the APA California Chapter.

In the beginning of 2012 at the Board retreat, the Chapter set goals for the year; the following are the goals that were set for the Student Representative:

- Seek to understand what APA California means to planning students
- Strengthen the relationship between planning universities and colleges throughout the state
- Strengthen the relationship between planning universities and colleges with APA California

Although a year position is not a lot of time, I am happy to share the following accomplishments in achieving these goals:

Student Rep Survey:

During the spring of 2012, a Student Rep survey was sent to each university and college's APA student representatives asking several questions about their involvement with APA at their local section and the state level. Results from this survey indicated that while many student reps interacted frequently with their local sections, they did not at the state level. Additionally, student reps felt there could be better interaction and communication between universities and colleges and the state APA chapter as a whole.

The information collected from this survey helped to confirm existing impressions about the relationship between APA students and the APA California Chapter and will be used in the formulation of new programs (to be discussed below) that will help achieve the set goals mentioned above.

New APA Student Rep links program:

The new APA Student Rep links idea emerged from the realization that communication and interaction between universities and schools, and between students and the APA California Chapter can be improved. As aforementioned, this topic was mentioned in the survey administered earlier in the year.

Speaking to strengthening the relationship between planning universities and colleges and these entities with APA California overall, this program introduces concepts such as monthly student rep calls/check-ins, a meeting/mixer at the annual state conference, more collaboration with local YPG (Young Planners Group), and more multi-local sub-section and universities and colleges partnering events.



Students

APA CA 2012 Rancho Mirage Conference Student Poster Display:

A number of planning students throughout the State displayed their work at the recent State conference in Rancho Mirage. This year, the display was coordinated between the Conference Committee and the APA California Student Representative. In total 9 posters were chosen for the display, with 5 physically displayed during the event. The poster display showcased the current work of undergraduate and graduate students in planning and planning-related programs, covering topics ranging from transportation studies to affordable housing competitions to student owned mini-farms in a university setting. As hoped, this exhibit helped to foster new relationships between the planning students and planning professionals in attendance.

Thank you APA California Chapter and members. It was a great pleasure to serve as your Student Representative for 2011 to 2012!





Steve Preston, FAICP South

Larry Mintier, FAICP North

Chapter Historian

APA California has a proud history. The Chapter Historian program researches the history of planning in California as seen through the unique perspective of APA California planners, then uses that research to educate, illuminate, and inform the progress of the planning profession in California. Chapter Historian programs include the following:

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

- Ongoing Research
- 60th Anniversary History
- Planners of Color Project
- Planning History Video
- Oral Histories

COLLABORATIONS

- California Planning History Society (now a part of PEN)
- Planner Emeritus Network (PEN)
- Section Historians
- Los Angeles Region Planning History Group

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Planning Pioneer Awards
- Planning Landmark Awards
- Planner Emeritus Network Honors

ARCHIVES

- APA California Planning Archives at California State University Northridge

Archives Update:

In the summer of 2012, former long-time Chapter Historian Betty Croly's collection of archival materials was transmitted to California State University Northridge. The collection consisted of several boxes, some which were transferred to National APA for evaluation as part of National's Archives program. Several boxes of historical books and reports not suitable for the archive, which have been donated through Chapter member Vivian Kahn to the Berkeley Public Library and other local repositories. With the assistance of Chapter members Juan Borrelli, Brian Smith, Vivian Kahn, Janet Ruggiero, and George Osner, as well as Betty's family, the efforts to sort and store the materials was a great success. Pending Chapter Historical Records Project to be undertaken are as follows:

- 1) Updating the databases created for the 60th anniversary in 2008;
- 2) Establishing a binder of biographies of many of the state's historically important planners; and
- 3) Documenting past Planning Landmark nominations.

2012 Awards and Honors:

Under the direction of Larry Mintier, the Planning Landmarks and Planning Pioneers jury was convened. The Chapter recognized the California Coastal Commission and the Coastal Act (California Coastal Protection Program) for an award under the National Planning Landmarks program. The plan received a unanimous endorsement from the jury. The Coastal Protection Program has now been forwarded to National APA for the Planning Landmark Award.

The Chapter Historian Program is continuing to work on the following longer term goals:

- 1) Further strengthen the archives collection and our easy-reference collection of biographies and historical materials.
- 2) Strengthen our existing bonds with the Planners Emeritus Network (PEN).
- 3) Continue work on the Chapter history video, which has been delayed.
- 4) Arrange a visit to view the UC Berkeley archives where APA California's predecessor organization, the California Association of Planners, has records going back to the 1930s.





California Planning Foundation

Linda F. Tatum, AICP, President



CPF is a non-profit charitable corporation established to further the practice of planning in California. CPF achieves this goal by giving scholarships and awards to college students in financial need who have demonstrated academic excellence in planning programs throughout the State, and by conducting professional development workshops for planners.

2012 was a year of continued success for the CPF Scholarship Fund as we increased the level of student scholarship awards, had another record breaking auction at the APA California Conference in Rancho Mirage, and conducted a successful professional development workshop on cross-border planning in Tijuana, Mexico. As we plan CPF's 2013 activities, we look forward to continued success in raising funds for student scholarships and providing economical, timely, and relevant professional development workshops for the practicing planning professional.

Student Scholarships and Awards Luncheon

CPF scholarships are funded from an initial endowment from APA California and ongoing proceeds from the Frank Wein CPF Auction held during the APA California Conference. Proceeds from CPF's professional development workshops, Friends of CPF, and donations from local Sections, planning organizations, and individuals also support the scholarship fund.

In 2012 CPF awarded 52 scholarships and APA memberships totaling more than \$54,000 in the following categories:

Outstanding Student Award (4)

Diversity Award (1)

Section Scholarship Awards (19)

California Planning Roundtable (3)

Corporate/Named/Endowed (5)

Honorable Mentions (6)

Continuing Student Awards (9)

Graduating Student Merit Award (9)



2012 CPF Board

Linda F. Tatum, City of Inglewood

Hillary Nixon, San Jose State University

Phil Trom, SANDAG

Paul Wack, Cal Poly SLO

Alex Hinds, Sonoma State University

George Osner, Planning Consultant

Carol Barrett, City of Burbank

Darcy Kremin, URS Corporation

Juan Borrelli, City of San Jose

The student scholarships and awards were presented on the opening day of the 2012 APA California Conference in Rancho Mirage at the Rancho Las Palmas Resort. The APA California Board of Directors joined the CPF Board of Directors and other students attending the Student Day sessions were on hand for this event on Sunday.

CPF Frank Wein Scholarship Auction

The 2012 Frank Wein Scholarship Auction held at the 2012 APA California Conference in Rancho Mirage was a record breaking success! The auction generated more than \$33,000 breaking last year's record of \$31,000. All proceeds from the auction will be used to fund 2013 CPF Scholarships. This achievement would not have been possible without the generous support of APA California members, donors, volunteers, and Friends of CPF. Auction fundraising and fun is enhanced by the Section Challenge completion. Northern Section captured the plaque and bragging rights for 2012.



California Planning Foundation *(continued)*:

Professional Development Workshops

CPF annually sponsors a professional development workshop. Recent workshops have been walking tours organized around the themes of sustainability and APA Great Cities/Neighborhoods. 2012 Workshops included tours of Tijuana on the topic of bi-national planning, and Cavallo Point/Historic Sausalito on the topics of sustainable design, local food, and health. CPF workshops are eligible for CM Credits.

The newly appointed CPF President for 2013 is Carol Barrett, FAICP. For more information about CPF, or to donate to the CPF Scholarship Auction, please visit our website at: <http://www.californiaplanningfoundation.org>



California Planning Roundtable (CPR)

Al Zelinka, FAICP, President-2012

CPR is a creative, influential resource for informing and engaging planners, communities, policy-makers, and the public on solutions to cutting-edge policy issues. We inspire and foster leadership in the planning profession. Through our membership and projects, we showcase the diversity and potential of California's communities and opportunities to enhance their livability. The newly appointed CPR President for 2013 is T. Keith Gurnee.

Please visit the website at <http://www.cproundtable.org>



Planners Emeritus Network

George Osner, AICP, President-2012

The Planner Emeritus Network (PEN) is an auxiliary of and resource support group for the APA California Chapter, the California Planning Foundation, and the California Planning Historical Society. PEN represents a body of long-tenured members of APA who are available to provide to the Board and to other APA California groups substantial knowledge of the profession as it has matured in California, in particular. PEN members also are available to provide their personal insights, experiences and planning history when requested by the Board or other organizations, groups and individuals. The newly appointed PEN President for 2013 is Stanley R. Hoffman, FAICP.



APA California Local Sections

Sections serve to provide members with a tangible local expression of APA purposes and objectives and as a vehicle for maximum membership involvement in the affairs of the California Chapter. The Sections are organized to facilitate the accomplishment of the purposes of the California Chapter as described in the by-laws in all matters of interest and concern in the areas served by the Sections.



2013 Section Directors

Ralph Kachadourian, Central
Dave Ward, Central Coast
Aaron Pfannenstiel, AICP, Inland Empire
Marissa Aho, AICP, Los Angeles
Jeff Baker, AICP, Northern
Jennifer Lilley, AICP, Orange County
Tricia Stevens, AICP, Sacramento Valley
Greg Konar, AICP, San Diego



2012 Section Directors

Ralph Kachadourian, Central
Dave Ward, Central Coast
Leisa A. Lukes, RLA, Inland Empire
Marissa Aho, AICP, Los Angeles
Hanson Hom, AICP, Northern
Jennifer Lilley, AICP, Orange County
Julia Lave-Johnston, AICP, Sacramento Valley
Daniel K. Wery, AICP, San Diego

Central Section Highlights

The Central Section covers eleven counties in the central interior of California and represents a wide diversity of planning contexts, including urban, suburban, small town and rural areas. It is a networking and continuing education organization for professional planners in the Central Valley of California. Members in the Section, totaling over 100, work in private firms, as consultants, or in city/county government.

Please visit the Central Section website for more information:

<http://www.centralsection-apa-ca.org>

Section Membership Activities

We continue our sponsorship of the monthly speaking events coordinated by the Valley Futures Forums in Modesto. We appreciate the efforts of Cindy van Empel, AICP, for her oversight and management of this Forum and the program and presentations by noted professionals in such fields as planning, transportation, engineering and architecture/urban design in providing a “dynamic conversation on development issues in the San Joaquin Valley.”

On August 24-26, we held our 19th Sierra Retreat at Lake Sequoia, Camp YMCA, in the Sierra National Forest. The retreat provides planners, their families and fellow professionals an opportunity to relax and enjoy a beautiful mountain lake environment with fishing, boating, swimming and hiking while engaging in a professional development program with CM credits. Sequoia Lake is located 50 miles east of Fresno on Highway 180 at 5,000 feet just outside the entrance to Kings Canyon National Park. The lake covers 80 acres with a 2-mile trail circling the lake.

Professional development has been a centerpiece of the retreat since the beginning in 1991. This year’s program, Ethics in Planning, comprised of a panel discussion moderated by David Fey, AICP, who has a broad background in planning ethics and is as entertaining as he is knowledgeable. The topics included the AICP Code of Ethics, applying the Code in Practice, public vs. private planning, and putting the AICP Code to work. The emphasis of the program was on how everyday ethics guide and develop professionalism in the practice of planning. The program was eligible for 2.5 CM credits.

We have been actively meeting and participating in various joint events and social functions with the members of the Central Chapter of the Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP). We are looking to continue and build on our relationship with the AEP as many of their members are also APA members.



Central Coast Section Highlights

The Central Coast Section serves San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties and provides planning professionals, elected officials and community members with services, support and information to advance planning on the Central Coast of California and beyond. The Section has more than 400 members.

Please visit the Central Coast Section website for more information:

<http://www.centralcoastapa.org>



Section Membership Activities

Training

Our 2012 training sessions began in March with a presentation, EMERGING CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES UNDER SB375. The discussion was led by Mr. Bob Leiter, FAICP, who retired as Planning Director for SANDAG in 2009 and has since been providing assistance to SANDAG and other metropolitan areas as they develop their Sustainable Communities Strategy. Also in March, the Section completed our Professional Ethics session with Ms. Carol D. Barrett, FAICP in Santa Barbara and had nearly 50 attendees.

In April 2012 Central Coast APA presented a panel on how local communities are adjusting to the elimination of Redevelopment Agencies. Our May training focused on transportation session: WHAT DOES THE CURRENT FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION BILL MEAN FOR TRANSPORTATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND PLANNING IN VENTURA COUNTY? The presenter was Darren Kettle, Ventura County Transportation Commission. During the summer, we completed a second transportation related session with Public Transit in Ventura County--Who Needs It? The speaker, Cameron Yee, was a researcher of Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE).

Mixers

In 2011, Central Coast launched its MiMBY effort, Movies in My Backyard, as an innovative way to engage professionals in urban issues and planning. In 2012, the heart of this program remains in the Ventura subsection where monthly film screenings occur, all related to planning, design, sustainability, and civic engagement. The events are free, and all are welcome.

Citizens Planning Academy

The Central Coast conducted its first ever Planning Academy in 2010 for Ventura County. For 2012, the Academy moved north to San Luis Obispo County and includes public and private planners and related practitioners as key speakers. The Academy will provide an engaging opportunity for SLO County citizens to learn about community planning, public involvement, governmental organization, and other related land use and environmental issues. The sessions will be held on the following dates: October 4, 11, 18, and 25 and November 1, 8, 15. The level of effort to make this type of intensive training series is significant. The Board hopes to move the planning academy to the Santa Barbara Subsection in 2013-14.

Young Planners Group

Section Launch of the Young Planners Group! In April 2012, the Central Coast Section of the APA approved the development of a Young Planners Group to address the needs of the Central Coast's emerging professionals and students through professional, social, and networking events and activities.

Inland Empire Section Highlights

The Inland Empire Section covers Riverside and San Bernardino counties and has over 300 members representing the public, private, and academic sectors. San Bernardino is the largest county in California and Riverside is one of the fastest growing counties in the state.

Please visit the Inland Empire Section website for more information:

<http://www.ies-apa.org>

Section Membership Activities

- February 8: Integrating Health Policies into the General Plan (Riverside)
- February 23: Sustainable Communities Strategy Workshop (California Theater, San Bernardino)
- March 5: 4th Annual IES-APA/APWA Joint Luncheon: Dissolution of Redevelopment Agencies (Mission Hills , Rancho Mirage)
- April 16: Planned Whitewater Parkway Presentation (Coachella Valley)
- May 5: Joint IES-APA/CPR Event: Hike to Plan, Plan to Hike (Mt. Rubidoux Park, Riverside)
- May 10: Annual Awards Event (Historic Mitten Bldg., Redlands)
- August 29: Joint IES-APA/USGBC-IE Chapter Event: History of Air Quality in the Inland Empire (San Bernardino)
- October 16: Joint IES-APA/City of Riverside Event: Healthy City (Riverside)
- October 19-21: Historical Symposium: Looking Back on Local Stories of Social justice and Civil Liberties (Riverside Metropolitan Museum, Riverside)



On-going/Planned Activities

- Host Section for the 2012 APA California Chapter Conference at Rancho Las Palmas in Rancho Mirage, with a full Conference Committee that has exceeded expectations in sponsorships.
- 15 Awards presented at the Annual Awards Event in May, with three of these winners moving forward to win at the 2012 APA California Chapter Conference
- Bi-weekly Electronic Newsletter e-blasts
- Webmaster prepares ongoing updates to Section website
- Maintain a Facebook Page and a Linked-In Page
- Membership Chair updated “10 Reasons Why You Should be an IES-APA Member” and designed a second one specific to Planning Commissioners and continues to present at Planning Commission meetings within the Section
- Strengthening the relationship between IES-APA and Art VULUPS, and other professional organizations with joint events.
- Launching the Inland Empire Young Planners Group

Los Angeles Section Highlights

The Los Angeles Section is comprised of over 1,400 members in the Los Angeles area, and helps bring APA members together to share information and resources to make local communities stronger and healthier.

Please visit the Los Angeles Section website for more information: <http://www.la-apa.org>

Section Membership Activities

2012 National Planning Conference: April 14-17, 2012 the Los Angeles Section hosted the 2012 National Planning Conference for the first time since 1986! Nearly 5,000 attendees enjoyed days of sessions, mobile workshops, orientation tours, and networking events.

Wednesdays at the Mercado: The 2012 Wednesdays at the Mercado inaugural series highlighted the Planning Los Angeles book edited by David Slone and published by APA. The panel in March featured Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris and Sam Gennawey discussing Public and Open Space in Los Angeles including how to incorporate more open space in new development projects, the struggles with privatizing open space and the recent “Occupy LA” movement’s use of open space. The panel in May featured Dr. Marlon Boarnet, Dr. Lisa Schweitzer and Amanda Berman discussing Infrastructure and Mobility in Los Angeles. The panel in June featured Dr. David Sloane, Ken Bernstein and Elizabeth Currid-Halkett discussing Economic Development in Los Angeles.

Planning for Public Health: May 24, 2012 Kicked off another inaugural series focused on facilitating discussions addressing the ways in which planners and designers are working to solve the public health challenges afflicting our communities. The panel featured Bill Roschen, head of the City of Los Angeles’ Planning Commission, who discussed the development of a Public Health Element for LA’s General Plan Framework. Jean Armbruster, director of the County Public Health Department’s PLACE program, spoke about Project RENEW, and Susan Tae, Supervising Regional Planner with the LA County Department of Regional Planning spoke about the County’s Healthy Design Ordinance.

Joint Law/Ethics Training: September 22, 2012 – A joint Law/Ethics Course was held featuring an ethics session focused on public outreach by ethics guru, Carol Barrett, FAICP and a California Housing Element and CEQA Update by Diana Varat, Associate at Richards, Watson & Gershon (and APA LA Vice Director of Policy).

2012 APA LA Membership Survey: August/September – The LA Section conducted our first comprehensive online membership survey since 2006. Membership has continued to grow over the past few years and has almost returned to 2006 levels. The survey was intended to provide the Board with critical information that will influence when and where the board plans programs and what local services are provided and prioritized.



Northern Section Highlights

The Northern Section offers membership to city and regional planners and associated professionals that primarily live or work in the western Klamath and Pacific Coast Ranges regions of the state. The Section has over 1,500 members within their region, which includes the highly populated nine-county San Francisco Bay Area and extends approximately 500 miles from the Oregon border to south of Monterey Bay.

Please visit the Northern Section website for more information: <http://www.norcalapa.org>

Section Membership Activities

New Website Launched: After over six months of planning, the Northern Section launched a completely redesigned website in May 2012. The website was truly a collaborative effort that involved all Board members. The effort was capably led by Ronny Kraft, AICP, Section Webmaster with the technical assistance of our web designer Devin Dombrowski. A major change was that the platform for the site was upgraded to a WordPress content management system. This will allow for more content and timely posting of information and announcements. Specific pages have been assigned to Board members to regularly update and training was provided by the webmaster. While we are proud of our initial effort, it is only the beginning and we expect the site to further evolve and improve. We are exploring strategies for attracting more traffic to the site. Visit <http://norcalapa.org> to explore our new website.

Northern News: The much lauded Northern Section's newsletter is published 10 times a year and is distributed electronically to a large email list and is posted on the Section's website <http://norcalapa.org/about/northern-news/>. The newsletter continues to grow in size and content with feature articles and reoccurring columns. This newsletter represents the efforts of many contributors and is overseen by our dedicated Newsletter Editor Naphtali Knox, FAICP and Co-Editor Erik Balsley, AICP. Recent past issues of the newsletter are also available on the Section's website. Juan Borrelli, AICP, Section Historian, has also spent considerable time scanning and creating PDF files of older issues of Northern News dating back to the late 1960s; these issues are accessible on the Section Archives web page. We have three ways of notifying members and readers that Northern News is online: Constant Contact email, LinkedIn groups, and our APA California Northern Facebook page. Since March, we have been sending "special" emails to announce the Northern News. These emails are separate from the standard eNews sent every two weeks. Both Constant Contact and LinkedIn direct potential readers to two platforms: The PDF, which is hosted on our Northern Section website, and the virtual magazine hosted by issuu.com. The Facebook page directs readers to the virtual magazine on issuu.com.

AICP Exam Preparation Workshops: Through the dedicated efforts of Dr. Don Bradley, AICP, Northern Section AICP Director, we continue to host our Spring and Fall series of AICP Exam Preparation workshops at San José State University. The passage rate for participants has consistently exceeded 90 percent and the majority of California planners that passed the latest exam in May 2012 were from the Northern Section. Many Northern Section planners have volunteered their time to review exam topics at these all-day Saturday workshops.

Brazil Trip: The Northern Section is unique in that it has an International Director position on its board to address international planning issues. One of its popular activities has been to organize a planning oriented tour to a foreign country every two years. Past trips have included Cuba, China and India. This year a group tour to the economically bustling country of Brazil was organized. Approximately 20 planners toured Brazil from August 17 to September 1. The group started off in Sao Paulo and maintained an informative blog to post pictures, record their observations and express their thoughts on planning practices in Brazil as they travelled from city to city. You can view their blog at

http://norcalapabrazil.blogspot.com/?utm_source=eNews+August+20%2C+2012&utm_campaign=eNews&utm_medium=email



Orange County Section Highlights

The Orange Section includes over 500 professional planners in southern California representing the public, private and academic sectors. The Orange Section is a non-profit organization devoted to advance the science of physical, economic and social planning at the local, regional, state and national levels. The Orange Section officers a professional forum for co-workers, colleagues, and business associates to share knowledge, experiences and perspectives.

Please visit the Orange County Section website for more information: <http://www.oc-apa.org>

Section Membership Activities

Planner's Institute: Our joint event with the Planning Director's Association of Orange County was just held in October again at the Nixon Library. The event was sold out. The cost for more than 7 CM Credits was 95.00 and included breakfast and lunch. The day began with a look at "what great things are happening in our communities" with 32 of the 34 cities in our Section present, they shared projects they are proud of that represent the best of their community. Sessions included planning after redevelopment, creative economic development with examples from Anaheim, Aliso Viejo and Costa Mesa, ULI's RE-visioning Orange County was the keynote session talking about regional issues of housing, transportation and land use and a session on being e-smart. Our audience included City Council members, Planning Commissioners, public and private sector practitioners as well as academic and students members. OCAPA sponsored 10 student registrations for this event.

Monthly Events: The Section hosts a monthly lunch program covering CM credited topics that are relevant to our members. We have teamed up throughout the last several months to cross promote or co-host events with AEP, PDAOC, LAAPA, and San Diego APA to offer our members the broadest range of free and low cost CM credits possible. Over the last six months OCAPA has offered 16 CM credits locally and for free or low (less than 20.00 each) cost.

Fundraising/Golf Tournament: The Section co-hosted our annual golf tournament this year on August 9 at Pelican Hill golf course. Joining with ICC and PDAOC, OCAPA raised more than 2,000.00 for student scholarships, specially our Bob Goldin Scholarship program. These scholarships will be awarded in the Spring.

Students: OCAPA attended the welcome event for the new students in the UCI Master program. We spoke to students about the benefits of APA, encouraged their membership, given that it is free, shared the opportunity for this year's class to attend our State conference locally, and listened to the interests and questions of this class.

APA California Conference 2014: We have finalized and received approval for the location (Disneyland Hotel) to host the 2014 conference. Our co-chairs will be presented for the review and approval of the Board and we have met with interested members to begin forming our LHC. We had over 40 people attend our kick-off event and several others that are interested in serving but could not make the meeting. We have finalized the contract with the location and are working on ideas for our opening event.



Sacramento Valley Section Highlights

The Sacramento Valley Section works to provide value to their over 400 members through professional development and support; recognize and encourage planning excellence; engage other planning and design organizations to create a common voice in promoting high quality planning in the region; mentor future leaders; educate regional decision makers and the community at large about the importance of planning in our everyday lives.

Please visit the Sacramento Valley Section website for more information: <http://www.sacvalley-apa.org>

Section Membership Activities

Our goal is to provide at least 8 – 12 programs annually available to the general membership. In addition, we provide other specialty programs through the Young Planners Group and Professional Development activities. In the fall, we created a Programs Committee to better coordinate the activities of the various functions. The highlight of our Programs is the six month Speaker Series, in collaboration with our planning and design partners, including AIA, ULI, USGBC, AEP, OPR, SACOG and the Sacramento Tree Foundation. This year's theme was RE3: ReThink, ReDesign, ReEnergize - Creating a Thriving Community. Our 2012 Speaker Series focuses on both old and new tools and ideas and how to use them to successfully meet current needs for fostering healthy, economically viable, equitable and livable communities. In year five of the Sacramento Valley APA California Section's award winning professional development series, we and our partners explore how we can recommit ourselves to our professions and our communities and help create a better world. These programs are held monthly from June-November and each session provides two AICP CM Credits.

PLAN Sac Valley Mentoring Program: The PLAN (Planning + Leadership + Advancement + Networking) Sac Valley mentoring program completed its first year. The 9-month program matched 9 planners starting their career with 9 experienced planners for one-on-one and group activities designed for personal and professional growth and advancement. The PLAN program offered one group activity per month focusing on topics like planning in the public sector vs. the private sector, the future of the planning profession, mentee tips for their profession toolkit, and "hot" planning topics. The program also included volunteer activities to give back to the community. The PLAN mentoring program received the APA California Chapter 2012 Section Activity Award of Excellence.

Professional Development: *AICP Exam Preparation:* In February and September, the Section hosted informational sessions for members considering applying for and taking the AICP exam to become certified planners. We had a total of 10 attendees for the two sessions. The Section provides ongoing support to members preparing to take the AICP exam by providing or directing them to study materials, responding to questions regarding the AICP exam and application process and helping to organize study groups. *Certification Maintenance:* Provided opportunities for 29.25 CM credits to keep planners up to date on the latest trends, technologies, and best practices. *Recognition of National Planning Month:* On October 2nd, the City Council recognized National Planning Month – featuring remarks from a council member, City of Sacramento Planning Director (David Kwong), City Planning & Design Commission Chair (Phil Harvey), and APA Sac Valley Section Director (Tricia Stevens).

Planning Commissioners Training: The Section partnered with the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) to offer Planning Commissioner Training sessions, including the March 31, 2012, CEQA training in Chico.



San Diego Section Highlights

The San Diego Section boasts over 500 members and offers a number of activities directed to both new and experienced planners. The Section provides members an opportunity to expand their professional knowledge, meet peers, and get directly involved in the operation of the Section.

Please visit the San Diego Section website for more information: <http://www.sdapa.org>

Section Membership Activities

Website Redesign Committee: The website redesign committee consisting of Greg Konar, Nancy Graham, Alex Hempton, Eric Lardy, Asha Brier, Kim Bush, and Rene Yarmy guided the successful launch of our new website on April 5, 2012. Programming and design support was provided by Ty Smith of Digital Deluxe. The design met all of the committee's goals and objectives and provided an even richer set of features than originally anticipated.

Complete Streets Task Force: The San Diego Complete Streets Task Force (CSTF) was initiated jointly by SDAPA and WalkSanDiego to promote the implementation of Complete Streets by sharing best practices, encouraging dialogue, and recognizing innovative projects in the San Diego region. Task Force members include SDAPA members: Greg Konar (chair), Brooke Petersen, Asha Brier, and Dan Wery. Other members are from WalkSanDiego and local transportation consultants firms.

AICP Professional Development: After many years leading the AICP Exam Training programs, Stan Donn has passed the reigns to form SDAPA Newsletter Editor Asha Bleier. Asha has been assisting Stan and his committee for more than a year, and recently earned her own AICP this year.

SDAPA AICP Training Report - 2012: SDAPA has been offering AICP exam trainings since 2007. We offer a major training between February and April for those taking the May exam, and a Roundtable gathering in September for those interested in taking the exam in November. The Roundtable is intended to provide a recap of the May training and key information to help people focus their study efforts. Both events have people who have recently passed the exam share their insights, which greatly help participants with knowing what they may expect to see on the exam. The average number of participants has been 20-25 people for the May exam training. Approximately 11 people attended this year's training with most of the participants from San Diego and a couple coming down from Orange County/LA. In the past, up to 50% of the attendees were from the OC/LA area. At this time, the Orange County and LA APA sections do not offer exam prep trainings. Only Sacramento, Northern CA and San Diego sections offer trainings.

Programs & Workshops & Events: SDAPA conducted 2 Luncheons, 4 Workshops and 1 Tour (2012 Awards). A total of 24.5 AICP CM credits were offered for an average of only \$10 per credit (including food). In addition, SDAPA partnered with our collaborating organizations (ULI, C3, Walk San Diego, AEP and ITE) to provide another 15.25 CM credits. Several of SDAPA's past tours were resurrected for the 2012 New Partners for Smart Growth Conference in San Diego. Two of the tours each provided 3.5 CM credits. The 47 locally provided CM credits included 7.5 Law and 1.5 Ethics credits, exceeding our goal to provide enough programming credits annually meet the bi-annual AICP requirements.

Newsletter: The SDAPA Newsletter & Planning Journal has been incorporated as an integral element of the website as a more interactive/online feature.

