

# NEWSBRIEF



American Planning Association  
Virginia Chapter

*Making Great Communities Happen*

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**Deadline**  
for spring issue is  
March 4, 2011.



Above: State Capitol Building, Richmond, VA. Photo by Doug Francis.

## 2011 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE— It's Complicated

By George Homewood, AICP  
Vice President for Legislative & Policy Affairs

The 2011 Sessions of the Virginia General Assembly (yes, that is plural: "Sessions") promise to be very complicated. To begin with, there will be a Special Session called to manage the redistricting that must occur before the November elections, the time when the holders of and hopefuls for all 140 seats in the General Assembly must face the electorate. The General Assembly has rejected various proposals over the past 2 years to redistrict in a non-partisan manner, so the traditional battles of the majority party attempting to district in a way that ensures its continuing majority while the minority party tries to hold on to as many districts as possible will be waged again. The State Senate and its slim Democratic majority may make for the more interesting political theater, but in any case Virginians will almost certainly see at least some rancor and

hyper-partisanship during the very compressed timeframe that will be available to accomplish redistricting. Under the federal Voting Rights Act, Virginia's districts and voting plans are still subject to review by the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. This must occur before implementation of the redistricting plan, so the amount of time between the release of the 2010 Census data, submission of a plan for review and approval and the holding of primaries in new districts will be very short.

Given that timeline, it is probably very good that the basic job of governing takes place beforehand – during the Regular Session that commences on 12 January 2011.

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Left: A view of Uptown Martinsville's post office on a snowy day. Photo by Scott Coleman.





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## President's Message By Jeryl Rose Phillips, AICP

### Greetings!

As we move to the year's end and the start of a new one, I look back on a number of Chapter accomplishments this past year and look forward to quite a few good things to come on the horizon.

First, I am pleased with the strides made by the new Board of Directors, as they have come together quickly to consider member input on a variety of issues and set new priorities for how to move through present and anticipated challenges. In this issue, you will read about what our membership thought during our 2010 Membership Survey regarding what has been working well and what needs some work. With analysis from both our most recent and current Membership Directors, it's clear that our members value this newsletter for its timely and relevant material, and for information about what the Chapter is doing. Also high on the list is support for the benefits derived from a continued and more focused effort on legislative and policy advocacy, both at the state and federal levels. Areas in need of more attention include building relationships with our academic and student members at our four university Planning programs and more programming at the regional level through our Sections. The Board's new work plan and first year budget set in motion a strategy for placing emphasis where you want to see it. Check it out on our website under the "About APA/Board" tab.

Second, as revenue constraints appear to be with us to stay for some time, the Board has reacted by repositioning the Chapter financially to better weather the ebbs and flows of membership and event attendance as they affect our program delivery. In the short term, the budget belt has been tightened through efforts seeking to eliminate inefficiencies in spending and maximizing non-traditional revenue sources such as grants, sponsorships and event partnership opportunities. In addition, a target reserve of one year's operating expenses has been set and a plan established to achieve that over time. This will ensure that our paid contractors, who provide services identified as particularly valuable to our members, can continue to provide such, uninterrupted, and that we can meet other contractual obligations on time. The Board also adopted a policy to establish contracting protocol to minimize our financial risk in future events contracts, and

an update to the Board/other Chapter leadership travel policy, based on survey results of other APA Chapters, is in the works. Our Chapter Administrator and Treasurer have carefully analyzed our projected cash flow situation and have counseled the Board on when we'll need to throttle back on program delivery and when it's okay to move full steam ahead through to the end of the fiscal year in September. This counsel is very welcomed. For all of these reasons, I feel much better about the Chapter's long-term financial sustainability. It is a topic heavy on the minds of APA leaders, and like us, Chapters all over are taking a hard look at how they conduct business to better position themselves for the future. I have been interacting with my counterparts regularly on this topic.

Third, we have successfully hosted two major professional development events, including a Chapter conference in the spring and a Regional Symposium in the fall, several smaller Section workshop and networking events, and have co-sponsored a CM webinar series and the APA's Regional and Intergovernmental Affairs Division's 7th Annual Roundtable, all of which have provided continuing education opportunities for our members at least or no cost. Looking ahead to 2011, our Chapter Conference is set for the summer at Wintergreen Resort and another regional symposium is being planned, this time on the Southside. These various efforts have taken—and will continue to take—a small army to pull off, involving our Chapter Administrator, Directors at the Board and Section levels, and a spirit of membership volunteerism from those who have stepped up and said they wanted to be more involved. And, I can't help but think that it is in part due to these efforts that our AICP exam passage rate and certification maintenance numbers continue to be impressive over time.

Fourth, the Planning Directors Section hosted four university workshops in partnership with our university Student Planning Organizations and their faculty. These workshops received very positive feedback from the students, faculty and Planning Directors who participated. This is something we hope to continue as our capacity allows in the coming years. Toward that end, we welcome **Wayne Cilimberg, AICP**, Albemarle County Planning Director, back to Board as Section Chair.

*Continued on next page*



## President (continued)

Wayne steps into the shoes of departing Chair **Jim Zook, AICP**, retiring Fairfax County Planning Director— thank you, Jim, we'll miss you! Along with this, new ideas for how to involve our student members in more meaningful ways in our Chapter programming have been brought to our attention via an engaged Student Representative from Virginia Tech's Northern Virginia campus. We appreciate Allison's enthusiasm and desire to leave a legacy in this regard.

Fifth, we have grown our communications media through social networking sites, which have gained in popularity among our members as a way to interact, aside from face-to-face events or the Chapter Listserve. Use of these sites will continue to be limited, however, due to workplace firewalls and for our own constraints in keeping them current with information feeds. Nonetheless, as I interact with other Chapter Presidents at APA Leadership meetings and through our own Listserve, I am exposed to new ways we can use technology and social networking tools to expand our programming and to enhance our service delivery in ways I had not before imagined.

Sixth, I would be remiss if I did not hold up in continued high esteem the relentless and productive efforts of our Legislative and Policy program and team on any number of fronts this past year, such that our Chapter is being asked to be a game player more and more by lawmakers—a position to which we have aspired and are prepared to respond. It, too, takes a small army and some front line folks on a sometimes daily basis to keep bringing us relevant opportunities and requests to respond to and advocacy and information we benefit from. We may not always serve all of the different interests or align with the positions of all of our members; but, I can assure you we will never fall short of taking positions when appropriate in complete accord with our adopted criteria for doing so, to ensure consistency of approach. I thank all who have given of their time toward these ends by helping to establish legislative and policy priorities, by representing the Chapter when we've been asked to provide an expert voice, and for maintaining a visible and credible presence in both Richmond and Washington.

With equal enthusiasm, I am delighted that three Virginia regions were the recipients of the first round of HUD's Regional Sustainability Planning Grants, funding for which our VP for Legislation & Policy and various members have gone to Washington or district offices to talk about the importance of with our representatives in Congress. That is indeed something to be proud of and now we must shine with our best efforts through these grant awards, for both the benefits those regions will gain from such collaborative planning and to enable more regions in Virginia to potentially receive this planning grant assistance in years to come, if long-term funding occurs through passage of the Livable Communities Act.

Lastly, our *Newsbrief* staff and designer have brought us another year of fantastic coverage of Chapter activities and

planning stories. I am grateful to the energy and creativity that our two new editors and the entirety of the *Newsbrief* staff bring to this, their first issue flying solo, and look forward to their work in the coming year.

I am so pleased to finish this year on this strong note on the many fronts mentioned and am renewed to stay hard at the task in 2011 to bring added value to your membership. As always, I welcome your ideas, comments and criticisms at anytime to help make our Chapter more valuable to you. I am especially thankful for the blessing of good employment, not only for myself, but also for those of you who have regained employment after being unexpectedly down on your luck this time last year. For those of you starting new jobs or just experiencing a change of pace from what you've been doing, the best of luck. However, many of our colleagues continue to struggle with the job market. Therefore, I would ask that you please keep them in mind as they search for something meaningful within our profession, and to lend them a helping hand as you are able along the way.

In closing, I'd like to call to your attention the efforts of two of our leaders who are stepping down or away from their service to the Chapter, and I have a few favors to ask. First, I extend my sincere gratitude for the several years of effort that **B. Leon Hughes, AICP**, Assistant Planning Director for Spotsylvania County, has put into the Chapter's Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Program and Committee. He was present at the creation of this initiative and Committee (ECDC) formation. Then, along with **Joseph L. Curtis, AICP**, he bravely stepped up to Co-Chair the ECDC and continue to bring about great programming and networking. His leadership and guidance will be missed by both the Board and other APA Chapters whom he has helped to get started on the same path. **We now begin the search for a new Co-Chair.** If you have a special interest in this topic and want to develop, or further develop, your leadership skills, here's your chance to shine and move us forward. A description of the ECDC Chair's Duties and Responsibilities may be found on the Board/Leadership page under the "About APA Virginia" tab on our website. Please contact either Joseph or myself to inquire further.

**Ryan M. Link, AICP**, has advised he is unable to commit as much time as he has in the past to maintaining our social networking sites and, so, we really need your help on this front to keep these sites valuable for our members. **I see this as a real opportunity for one of our Young Planners** (APA defines this as younger professionals 35 and under, so I guess I am old planner by that definition!), to burst onto the scene and make a difference, and perhaps even take us in some new directions. We welcome your talents, so give Liz Friel, AICP, VP for External Affairs, a holler if you're inclined to volunteer in this way.

Peace and Best Wishes in the New Year 2011!

—Jeryl Rose Phillips, AICP

## Legislative Update (continued)

While last Session was dominated by the need to adopt a biennial budget for the Commonwealth in very dark and challenging economic times, recent improvements in tax collections and the economy in general mean the General Assembly will not be faced with having to make more huge and draconian cuts to the state budget during this Session. Of course, that does not mean that the Commonwealth's fiscal picture is rosy, just that it appears to have bottomed out. Unfortunately, a number of the budget manipulations of the past several years have been one-time or one-year "fixes" so there will still be some fiscal pain this year.

The dominant theme in 2011 (and probably 2012 and 2013 as well) likely will be an effort by Governor McDonnell to permanently reduce the size and scope of government in the Commonwealth and to focus on what he believes should be the core services of state government. The Governor's Commission on Government Reform & Restructuring has released a 150-page report containing 133 recommendations. The suggestions range from the mundane (single social networking standard for state agencies and use flow charts for decision-making) to the significant (privatize ABC operations and more broadly adopt a 4-day workweek for state agencies). The report is available at [www.reform.virginia.gov](http://www.reform.virginia.gov) and is likely only the first installment. The recommendations that require legislation to implement almost certainly will be introduced as bills in the 2011 Session. ABC Privatization remains a high priority for the Governor in spite of the JLARC and other studies indicating that it may not make economic sense to the Commonwealth or its localities to divest a significant and continuing profit center. The Governor also created a number of other commissions and task forces (higher education, housing policy, jobs, etc.) which will also likely engender legislation in 2011. One of the more controversial elements may be a proposal to eliminate the machinery and tools and business, professional and occupational license (BPOL) taxes in the Commonwealth. Like the car tax, these are locally-set and locally-collected taxes, not state taxes. With any luck, elimination of these taxes by the General Assembly will include some sort of "hold harmless" funding stream back to localities, and, like the car tax, this funding will become another hole in the state budget.

On the land use front, two off-season discussions have led to the potential for legislation. The first is the Rural Enterprise Opportunities (REO) Task Force and the second is the Athey-Vogel Study Committee. The REO Task Force was established by the 2010 General Assembly to develop strategies that expand and promote economic opportunities for the agriculture industry throughout the Commonwealth. The Task Force developed three recommendations intended to have a positive impact on rural enterprise opportunities: streamline the process for



Senate Door. Photo by Holley St. Germain.

establishing Agricultural and Forestal Districts Act (Chapter 32, Title 15.2, Code of Virginia); adopt legislation modeled on the Agricultural Enterprise Act of 2005 with proposed additional provisions; and, encourage local governments to use the checklist "Is Your Community Planning for Agriculture?" (posted on the Chapter website) to help local leaders determine if their locality is supportive of both traditional agriculture and farm-based, value-added enterprise.

The Athey-Vogel Study Committee met once in the interim and listened to open comments for further revisions to the Urban Development Area statute. Although many groups (including the Chapter) asked that no further changes occur until the current law is fully implemented, two localities asked for consideration of some revisions. The Chair has decided to call together a group of stakeholders to determine if consensus can be reached on any of the changes suggested. If consensus can be reached the Chair will hold another meeting of the study committee to decide whether to introduce legislation.

The suggested changes include:

- expanding the definition of "commercial" to include manufacturing;
- excluding from "developable acres" resource protection areas and wetlands as well as lands adjacent to a military base designated as an overfly zone;
- lowering the density requirement for localities with populations over 130,000 to four single-family residences per acre (townhouses, apartments and condominium units will remain unchanged);
- allowing the use of population growth estimates provided by metropolitan planning organizations; delaying implementation until July 1, 2013.

Continued on next page

## Legislative Update (continued)

The Virginia Chapter's Legislative & Policy Committee met in late July and recommended a Legislative Agenda for 2011 to the Chapter Board of Directors. The Board carefully considered the proposed Agenda and, after making a few minor amendments, approved the Agenda in September. Since then, we have distributed the Chapter's Legislative Agenda to members of the Virginia General Assembly, VACo, VML and other allied organizations. During the Session, the Chapter's Legislative & Policy Committee will monitor the progress of legislation via the Chapter's Legislative web page and weekly conference calls. Chapter members can remain informed through the website (<http://eldonjamesassociates.com/client/vapa/>); we also try to e-mail breaking and important information to Chapter members via the Chapter Listserve and on an e-mail distribution list that Chapter members may be added

to by request. Soon after the Session adjourns, we will produce the first iteration of our Key Bills for Planners report; the final version will be completed soon after the Veto Session is completed and the Governor has taken his final actions on the legislation and budget amendments. In sum, 2011 promises to be a very busy year for the Virginia General Assembly and to be just as complicated as it is demanding.

**The 2011 Legislative Session  
convenes on January 12, 2011.**

Visit our website for information about the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association 2010-2011 Legislative Agenda.



## 2011 Legislative Agenda

### Athey-Vogel Study Committee Recommendations

#### Improvements to the Urban Development Area Statute

The Study Committee focused most of its attention during 2009 on improvements to the UDA Statute. The Assembly adopted a number of changes put forward by the Chair and Vice-Chair. The Chapter strongly urges that no further changes to the UDA statute be considered at this time. Localities need time to implement and get used to the current requirements. Consideration of further changes should be delayed until all involved have direct experience with implementation.

#### Impact Fees and Cash Proffers

Because the Study Committee has used 2009 to focus on improvements to the UDA Statute, little has been accomplished on developing Impact Fee legislation. The Chapter has supported the committee by bringing national experts to provide testimony on best practices nationally on Impact Fee programs.

The Chapter opposes any effort to establish state-mandated caps on development fees and proffers, including caps on water and sewer fees, review fees, and existing or prospective proffers; however, the Chapter would not oppose a requirement that fees be based on actual and anticipated costs in each locality and providing that the rational basis for such actual and anticipated costs be established by each locality by ordinance in setting the fees or proffers.

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## Legislative Agenda (continued)

**Infrastructure Issues****Planning & Investment in Local Capital Improvements**

The Chapter supports amending the current Capital Improvements Program statute to require that life-cycle cost be considered by the Planning Commission when developing the 5-year CIP.

**Conservation of Farm and Forest Land****Streamlining the Agricultural and Forestal Direct Statute**

The Chapter supports reforming the Ag/Forestal District Statute to streamline the process for establishing and managing the districts.

**Other Issues****Further Budget Reductions to Planning**

The Chapter opposes further budget reductions that impact the ability of the Commonwealth to plan and prepare for a future when we return to a more robust economy. Planning for infrastructure and community development must continue so that when funding is again available to implement the plans we can efficiently proceed because plans are up-to-date.

**Pedestrian Safety**

The Chapter supports legislation that will require vehicles of all types to stop when pedestrians are present in crosswalks provided that the legislation also requires pedestrians to exercise reasonable care in entering crosswalks.

**Encourage Universal Design and Visitability and Livable Communities**

The Chapter supports legislative and administrative actions to encourage the development and promotion of building standards to incorporate practices that are family-friendly, enhance "aging-in-place" and promote livability. Universal design practices and visitability are two approaches.

**Promoting Renewable Energy Production**

The Chapter supports community-level efforts to promote energy independence in ways consistent with local ordinances. We encourage the consideration of a statewide preemption of HOA restrictions on small energy generation for home owners. We also encourage protection of solar access for all property owners.




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**VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION**
**OUR MISSION:**

We promote planning as the foundation for effectively addressing the physical, economic and social changes taking place in Virginia. The Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA Virginia) is committed to increasing awareness about planning's many benefits, and enhancing its practice throughout the Commonwealth.

**WHO WE ARE:**

APA Virginia is over 1,500 practicing professionals from the public and private sector, as well as academics and students. The American Planning Association (APA) is a nonprofit public interest and research organization committed to urban, suburban, regional, and rural planning. APA and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), advance the art and science of planning to meet the needs of people and society.

**MAKING GREAT COMMUNITIES HAPPEN:**

APA Virginia will support state-level planning policies that make Virginia and its communities the best place to live, work and play. Sound planning offers a key to making Virginia the best place it can be for all Virginians. Every region requires planning that promotes good jobs in livable communities. Faster growing regions have the added need for planning that recognizes pressures that are unprecedented in Virginia's history. Good planning actively involves the people of a community in the process; it combines their input on what is "valuable" for a good community with the technical facts brought by professionals and scientists. Sound planning includes an understanding of the differences between technical and value judgments and blends both appropriately to recommend a direction that moves a community toward the best place it can be for its citizens.



# 2010 APA Virginia Membership Survey: Information To Help Us Help You

By Andrew V. Sorrell, AICP, CZA  
Membership Director



How well is APA Virginia doing in providing the support and services you need to help you succeed in your planning career? To find out the answer to this question and learn where improvement is needed, a Chapter membership survey was conducted in 2010. The survey consisted of thirteen substantive questions, three demographic questions and one open-ended question asking for comments on the Chapter's activities.

The 2010 survey was first distributed last May at the APA Virginia Annual Conference in Norfolk. To capture members who did not complete a survey at the conference, the Chapter contacted members by e-mail the third week of May. In total, 35% of the Chapter's 1,576 members responded to the survey with 93% (510 members) completing the survey online and 7% (40 members) completing the survey at the conference.

Demographically, 42% of the respondents were in the Northern Virginia section, 20% were from the Central section and 17% were from the Hampton Roads section. The remainder of the respondents were distributed fairly evenly around the state: 6% of respondents listed themselves from the Piedmont section, 5% from the Shenandoah Valley section, 4% from the Roanoke/New River Valley section, 3% from the Chesapeake section, 2% from the Southwest section and 1% from the Southside section.

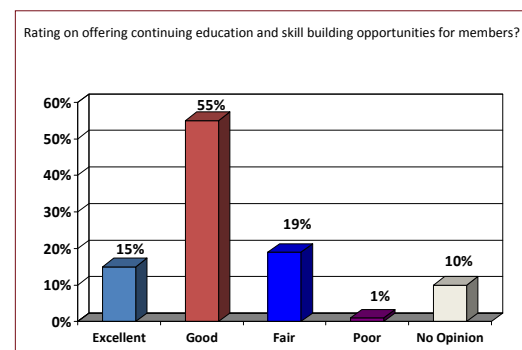
Public sector employees represented 66% of the respondents, 23% stated they were private sector employees, 4% indicated they were students, and 4% indicated they were retired. Around 3% of respondents indicated they were unemployed. AICP members were 63% of the respondents while the remaining 37% were not.

The Chapter's Board of Directors is grateful to those who took the time to respond to the survey and offer comments and suggestions. The high response rate was very helpful in determining the overall indications of the membership's opinions. Many of the comments and suggestions offered provided valuable information for the Board of Directors as they developed the 2010-2012 Board Work Plan which was adopted on July 27, 2010. Every two years, the Board develops a work plan to meet the goals and objectives of the Chapter Development Plan which was adopted in 2008.

In preparing the 2010-2012 Board Work Plan, the Board reviewed responses to the membership survey as well the activities and work accomplished over the last two years to determine areas that may need improvement. The feedback received from the membership survey was critical in determining how our Chapter can continue to improve the services we offer members.

The majority of the responses in the survey had common topics or themes, which are summarized below with a brief explanation of how the Chapter is addressing them in the 2010-2012 Board Work Plan.

## Availability of Continuing Education and Certification Maintenance (CM) Training



Over 75% of the respondents who indicated they had an opinion on the topic believe the Chapter is doing a **good or excellent**

job of providing continuing education and CM credit training opportunities for our membership.

Continued on next page

## Membership Survey (continued)

The availability of these training opportunities is supported by the “Help Planners Plan” objective in our 2008-2013 Chapter Development Plan. The Chapter makes a great effort to provide training opportunities for members. This support is reflected in the Board’s 2010-2012 Work Plan as follows:

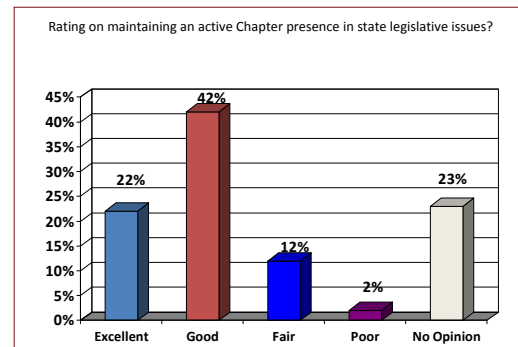
- Conducting a Chapter Conference for all members as a professional development and networking event. Choose a conference theme and solicit session proposals that are timely and relevant. Select session proposals that can be registered for CM credits. Offer Planning Law and Ethics Courses for CM credits.
- If resources are available, conduct a regional symposium to improve accessibility for professional development opportunities. Provide sessions that offer Certification Maintenance (CM) credits.
- Offer section events that offer professional development and networking opportunities. Register Section events for CM credit.
- Purchase annual APA CM Audio Conference Series and make available through the Chapter’s Lending Library.
- Underwrite all or a portion of APA Audio Conference Series purchases by regional planning agencies to enable participation by Chapter members at no cost.
- Register and pay the Annual Fee for Chapter and Section CM credit activities.
- Seek partnerships with allied organizations for professional development events.

## Chapter AICP Exam Support

Fifty-three percent of the respondents had no opinion on the Chapter’s support for AICP members. Of the remainder of the respondents, over 75% believe the Chapter is doing a **good or excellent** job of providing AICP support for members. Currently, 41% of Chapter members have the AICP designation. As with CM support, ensuring the availability of AICP exam support is part of the “Help Planners Plan” objective in the 2008-2013 Chapter Development Plan. The Chapter works hard to provide AICP exam support for members, as reflected in actions recommended in the Board’s 2010-2012 Work Plan:

- Promote and conduct an AICP exam preparation program, and provide support for exam candidates.
- Purchase exam preparation materials for sale to exam candidates.

## Legislative Program, Updates and Lobbying Efforts



A small number of respondents (22%) had no opinion on the question pertaining to the Chapter’s presence in state legislative

issues. A strong 83% of the respondents believe the Chapter is doing a **good or excellent** job of maintaining an active Chapter presence in state legislative issues. The Chapter’s increased presence and involvement with state legislative issues is a direct result of the Chapter’s Development Plan as is supported by the “Help Virginia Plan” objective in the 2008-2013 Chapter Development Plan. The Chapter has made significant advances in ensuring membership is kept current on state legislation as well as ensuring Virginia planners have a voice in Richmond. Actions regarding legislative issues in the 2010-2012 Work Plan include:

- Maintain an active Legislative & Policy Committee and solicit new interest. Conduct committee meetings and regular correspondence with committee members.
- Maintain and actively manage the Chapter’s contract with a legislative and policy consultant.
- Prepare and adopt an annual Legislative & Policy Agenda.
- Offer education, technical assistance, and expert testimony for study committees and key legislative committees. Conduct research on best practices and prepare white papers on important and timely issues. Where appropriate, adopt Chapter positions.
- Prepare and distribute to all Chapter members an annual report for the membership on General Assembly Actions affecting planning enabling authority in Virginia.
- Prepare and promote an annual update of Chapter publication, *Managing Growth and Development in Virginia: Tools Available to Localities*, to include all actions from the most recent General Assembly Session.

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## Membership Survey (continued)

- Seek perspectives and guidance from the Planning Directors Section on key legislative and policy issues.
- Build or strengthen relationships with allied organizations on matters of mutual legislative or policy interest. Coordinate positions with allied and related organizations to achieve a broader and unified voice.
- Recognize state legislators and administrators who have promoted sound planning in Virginia with an awards presentation.
- Seek involvement of student planners, university faculty, young planners, and planning directors in Annual Conference planning and Section events, Chapter newsletter production, and in general support of implementing the Chapter's Strategic Plan.
- Conduct University visits with Student Planning Organizations to talk about the benefits of involvement with APA, the Chapter and about the profession. Offer mentoring opportunities. Encourage Student Planning Organization involvement with APA Leadership and Chapter activities..
- Involve planning students and university faculty in Section activities. Creating Section-based "Campus Support Groups."

## Relationships with Allied Organizations and Student/Faculty Organizations

### *Allied Professional Organizations*

When asked how well the Chapter was performing in strengthening relationships with allied organizations, 41% expressed no opinion. Of those who responded, 86% believe the Chapter is only doing a **fair or good** job of reaching out to allied organizations on matters of mutual interest. Clearly, Chapter members would like to see APA Virginia do a better job of reaching out to other organizations. Improving our relationships with other organizations follows the "Make Planning and Planners Matter" objective in our 2008-2013 Chapter Development Plan. The Board's Work Plan addresses strengthening our connections with allied groups through the following:

- Conduct outreach to allied organizations (e.g. Rural Planning Caucus, Plan Virginia [formerly CPEAV], ASLA, AIA and ULI) to promote awareness about APA and the Chapter and seek partnerships in Chapter and Section events.
- Establish or strengthen partnerships with other allied organizations on matters of mutual interest and to grow membership.
- Purchase allied conference sponsorships.

### *Student and Faculty Organizations*

When asked how well the Chapter was performing in strengthening relationships with student and faculty organizations, 86% believe the Chapter is only doing a **fair or good** job of reaching out to students and faculty. The majority (68%) of respondents had no opinion. Chapter membership would like to see the Chapter do a better job of reaching out to planning students and their faculty at Virginia colleges and universities. About 12% of APA Virginia members describe themselves as students. Improving our relationship and connection with students and faculty follows the "Get Planners Involved" objective in our 2008-2013 Chapter Development Plan. The Board's 2010-2012 Work Plan addresses our connections with students and faculty as follows:

## Promoting Chapter Diversity

Less than half (43%) of the respondents had no opinion on the Chapter's efforts to promote ethnic and cultural diversity. Of those with an opinion on the topic, 73% believe the Chapter is doing a **good or excellent** job of promoting ethnic and cultural diversity. Promoting the Chapter's ethnic and cultural diversity supports the "Get Planners Involved" objective in our 2008-2013 Chapter Development Plan. This support is reflected in the 2010-2012 Work Plan through these strategies:

- Continue to demonstrate leadership in ethnic and cultural diversity and awareness by encouraging and promoting diversity within our profession in order to be more reflective of the communities we serve.
- Create Speaker's Forum to facilitate resolution of community planning issues that disproportionately affected minority populations.
- Encourage diversity in Chapter leadership.

### *Local and Regional Section Event Offerings*

About three quarters of respondents (74%) who had an opinion on the regional and/or local section events offered by the Chapter believe APA Virginia is doing only a **fair or good** job of providing such offerings. This sentiment was reiterated in comments received in the survey that often repeated that section events were held inconsistently or not at all. This is an issue that the Chapter Board is aware of and is working to improve. However, there is also an opportunity and a need for members to volunteer to help provide and organize more section events in their areas. Those interested in helping are encouraged to contact their section directors to find out how to be a part of organizing and hosting more section events in their areas. Improving local section event offerings is supported by both our "Get Planner Involved" objective and the

Continued on next page

## Membership Survey (continued)

“Help Planners Plan” objective in the 2008-2013 Chapter Development Plan. The Chapter wants to ensure section directors have the support and resources from the Board to host section activities. This support is reflected in the Board’s 2010-2012 Work Plan as follows:

- Support Section activities; require a minimum of one Section activity annually.
- Offer Section events that offer professional development and networking opportunities.
- Conduct a regional symposium to improve accessibility for professional development opportunities (if resources are available).
- Seek partnerships in Chapter and Section events with allied organizations to promote awareness of APA and the Chapter.

## Chapter Communications: Newsletter, Website & Social Media

### Newsletter

A strong 70% of respondents who had a preference on the format of how they received the quarterly Chapter newsletter, Newsbrief, stated their preference to receive it electronically. Accordingly, the Board recently made the decision to save funds and forgo a printed version and just distribute the newsletter electronically. This decision has resulted in a significant cost saving measure for the Chapter by reduced printing and mailing costs. In addition, it allows the articles to be more in-depth as more space is available in the electronic version of the newsletter.

Also, 82% of respondents who had an opinion believe the Chapter is doing **good or excellent** job in producing a newsletter that is timely, relevant and contains interesting information. Providing a quality Chapter newsletter is supported by the “Meet Membership Needs” objective in our 2008-2013 Chapter Development Plan. The Chapter and its volunteer Newsbrief editorial staff works hard to ensure members find value in the newsletter. The Work Plan includes the following actions to support the newsletter:

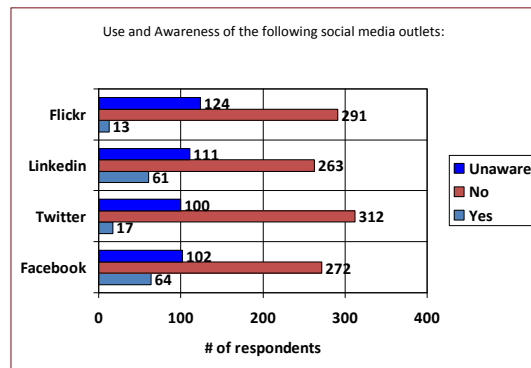
- Publish a Chapter newsletter in an electronic format quarterly with content informing members of planning news and issues in Virginia and nationally, Board activities, and member news.
- As resources allow, contract with professional graphic layout/design services for newsletter production so that newsletter editors can focus on content/editing.

### Website

Approximately 78% of respondents who had an opinion on the Chapter’s maintenance of its website believe the Chapter is doing a good or excellent job of maintaining a website that has timely information on planning news and events, member services and CM opportunities. Providing a current and well-maintained website is supported by the “Meet Membership Needs” objective in the 2008-2013 Chapter Development Plan. The 2010-2012 Work Plan includes provisions to maintain website with timely information and content updates as needed.

### Social Media

A limited number of respondents indicated that they use the new social media options recently developed by the Chapter. Only 15% of respondents indicated they used the Chapter’s Facebook website, while 14% indicated they used the Chapter’s LinkedIn website. Only 3% use the Chapter’s Flickr website and only 4% connect to the Chapter’s Twitter account. In all the social media outlets, approximately 25% indicated they were unaware that the Chapter used social media. To find out more about the Chapter’s social networking option, please visit our website: [www.apavirginia.org](http://www.apavirginia.org).



### Summary

The above results represent the feedback the Chapter Board of Directors received from the 2010 Membership Survey as well as noting the actions the Board will be taking (or is currently taking) to address the areas identified for improvement, such as the need for more section events and further outreach to other allied and student and faculty organizations. It is the goal of the Board of Directors to conduct a survey every other year to ensure that membership needs are being met. Look forward to the next survey in 2012.

To learn more about how APA Virginia works to add value to the Chapter, please visit the Chapter’s website at <http://apavirginia.org> to download a copy of the Chapter Development Plan and the 2010-2012 Board Work Plan, which includes action items to meet the objectives of the Chapter Development Plan. Those with any questions regarding membership or results of the survey may contact Andrew Sorrell at 804-492-3520 or by e-mail at: [asorrell@cumberlandcounty.virginia.gov](mailto:asorrell@cumberlandcounty.virginia.gov)

# Regional Sustainability Planning Gets a Boost in Virginia

By Claire Jones, AICP

In December 2009, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) received a total of \$150 million in funding for its Sustainable Communities Initiative, an effort designed to help integrate housing and transportation planning and improve land use and zoning decisions. The bulk of the funding went to the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program, which supports integrated planning efforts on a regional scale. This grant is part of the Obama Administration's Partnership for Sustainable Communities, which brings together HUD, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that all policies and programs consider housing, transportation, and environmental concerns. Three Virginia regions were among the 45 organizations to receive funding under the regional planning grant program nationwide.



**The New River Valley Planning District Commission** was awarded \$1 million to create a Regional Sustainability Plan, which will reflect a common vision developed through inclusive community visioning and engagement with traditionally marginalized populations.

Development of the plan will be guided by the New River Valley Sustainable Communities Consortium, whose members include seven local governments, several regional organizations, and Virginia Tech.



**The Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission** was awarded nearly \$1 million to develop the Charlottesville Region

Sustainability Implementation Plan. The plan will build on the region's 1998 Sustainability Accords and other efforts to produce a full regional implementation plan for the Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization area. Partners in the effort include the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, several regional organizations, and the University of Virginia, which is acting as a consulting partner.



**The Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission** received \$625,000 to fund the Roanoke Area Sustainability Initiative, an effort consisting of three phases of research and gap analysis, community and stakeholder outreach and engagement, and production and planning. The result of this effort will be a comprehensive economic, environmental and housing plan, to be known as the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development. The planning process will be led by the Roanoke Area Sustainability Consortium, which includes five local governments, the Council of Community Services, and Virginia Western Community College.

Under the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant, each of these regions will produce a sustainability plan over a three-year period. More information can be found on HUD's website, [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov), or by visiting the winning commissions' websites.

## Virginia Tech Students Consider the State of Technology in Virginia's Planning Profession

By Chris Chop, Master's Candidate  
Urban and Regional Planning, Virginia Tech

How effectively and creatively do we use technology in the planning process? Which Virginia counties, cities or towns operate the most comprehensive, user-friendly and attractive planning websites? In the fall of 2010, Dr. Tom Sanchez and nine graduate Urban and Regional Planning students at Virginia Tech studied these questions in a course designed to evaluate technology in the planning profession. After researching technological applications in

planning, the graduate class conducted an online survey centered on information and communications technologies (ICT) as they pertain to data collection, analysis, project management and presentation. They assessed the variety and frequency of uses and determined the levels of professional competency across a spectrum of technologies, ranging from GIS to Twitter.

Continued on next page





## State of Technology (continued)

The survey's responses identify the most commonly used technologies and illuminate the role of technology in information sharing and public participation.

Based on approximately 250 initial responses, several interesting trends have emerged. First, project websites and email alerts are the two most common mediums to present and share electronic information with the public. Somewhat surprisingly, only 25% of respondents utilize social media when sharing information with the public. However, about 75% of respondents reported having technology training available in their organization. This is very encouraging and further study could show how Virginia planners are preparing themselves for the future. The survey also illustrated that most planning activities relying on technology depend on internal capacity (instead of outside consultants), which reinforces the need for technology training and education.

In conjunction with the survey, the class evaluated each county, city and town planning website based on three key criteria: navigation/accessibility, content and design. When evaluated, the results of this assessment will be used to showcase some of Virginia's innovative planning-website practices.

The results of the survey are available online at: <http://techinplanning.blogspot.com>. We have enjoyed conducting the study and sincerely hope that the results will encourage planners to adapt creative technological applications to their professional practices. Thank you to all of the survey respondents. As promised to participants, it is now our pleasure to reveal the winner of the 3rd Generation iPod Touch: Congratulations to Brian Haluska, Neighborhood Planner for the City of Charlottesville!

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## APA Virginia Board Busy Prepping for 2011 and Beyond

By Ben Wales, AICP  
Secretary

In between carving pumpkins, carving turkeys, and wrapping presents, your APA Virginia Board of Directors continued to plan and prepare for 2011 and beyond. Here are some highlights from recent meetings...

- The 2011 annual conference will be held in Wintergreen from July 20th through 22nd. Be on the lookout for a call for sessions in January and early registration beginning in February.
- The 2010-2012 Work Plan has been prepared, and the Board has been busy setting the Chapter's 2011 budget to implement it. Your Treasurer, Joseph Curtis, has done a fine job leading the Board through this important process.
- This year's Regional Symposium, co-sponsored by the Shenandoah Section and the Town of Luray, was a huge success. With 120 attendees, the event was a sellout. The Southside Section has offered to host a regional symposium in Lynchburg in 2011.
- Based on membership input, the Board is looking to assist in the nomination of Chapter members who have achieved excellence in professional practice, teaching and mentoring, research, or community service and leadership for election to the AICP College of Fellows (FAICP). An advisory committee was appointed to review and expand the Chapter's existing FAICP Nomination Policy to cover the various forms of nomination support assistance that have been requested. The committee will also consider the merits of establishing a standing FAICP Nominations Committee to review such requests and give general consideration to the list of eligible candidates on a bi-annual basis. We have some incredible planners in Virginia who are worthy of election, and we need to ensure that the Chapter is providing adequate support for such pursuits.
- Look out for upcoming Section events on the Chapter website's "Events" page. Attendance at these events is a great way to meet and network with local planners and obtain CM credits.
- The Board is continuing to encourage more Section events throughout the Chapter. Guidelines have been prepared to assist our Section Directors in providing events. For more information on your Section please visit the "Sections" tab under "Member Resources" on our website or contact [vpsections@apavirginia.org](mailto:vpsections@apavirginia.org).
- The Board is looking into opportunities to co-host events and mini conferences with allied organizations in 2011. These might include the Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects, the Urban Land Institute, and the Rural Planning Caucus of Virginia. If you are also a member of one of these organizations and have a professional development partnership idea, please let us know.
- Up to the minute Virginia APA news is now available on our Twitter feed ([APA\\_Virginia](https://twitter.com/APA_Virginia)). Recent photos of Chapter events and photos from our Chapter's planners can be viewed on our Flickr page ([www.flickr.com/groups/apavirginia](http://www.flickr.com/groups/apavirginia)).
- If you're interested in seeing what other matters the Board is discussing, please visit the 'Leadership/Board' page of the Virginia APA website and follow the link to Board meeting agendas and minutes. Please contact Ben Wales at [secretary@apavirginia.org](mailto:secretary@apavirginia.org) with any questions.

# VAZO: Celebrating 20 Years of Mentoring and Communication through High Quality Programs

By Susan McCulloch and Amy Lohr

The Virginia Association of Zoning Officials (VAZO) celebrated its 20th Anniversary with a terrific conference in Virginia Beach. Are we allowed to make zoning fun? VAZO answered the question during its 20th Anniversary Celebration, "YES!"

## Conference Highlights

The first day included a tour of the Master Jet Base at Naval Air Station Oceana. Attendees were able to see the fighter jets that protect Americans and met with land use officers to discuss appropriate uses for the noise and crash zones around the base. The day concluded with a luau-themed Meet and Greet Celebration at the Resort Center.

The second day featured Kal Kassir, Chair of Virginia Beach's Bayfront Advisory Committee, who spoke about the beautiful and peaceful bay front and what the Committee is trying to do to preserve and improve the area.

The group then heard from Clay Dills, AIA, LEED AP, and Kim Edwards, Landscape Architect, from Dills Architects. They provided a review of their work on the Virginia Beach Public Schools Bus Maintenance Facility, a soon-to-be Platinum LEED Certified Site. Dills provided a detailed review of site, landscape and building plans for a LEED Platinum Certified industrial site. Participants were offered a tour of the facility to view the green development at work - pervious pavement, windmill electrical production, a rain water harvesting system which provides water for the building, the building's green roof, a rain garden storm water management facilities and other features.

Continued on next page

**Virginia  
Association  
of  
Zoning Officials  
Annual Fall Conference**

September 22, 23, & 24, 2010  
Virginia Beach Resort  
and Conference Center  
2800 Shore Drive,  
Virginia Beach



Left: (L to R) Michelle Lohr of Loudoun County and Melinda Artman of Arlington County have fun at the VAZO 20th Anniversary Celebration Luau. Photo by Amy Lohr, AICP, CZA - Planner, Zoning Administration, Loudoun County Dept. of Building & Development.



## VAZO: Celebrating 20 years (continued)

On a sunset cruise, participants saw the old development, new development, and redevelopment along the bay shoreline, as well as marine life that is making a comeback thanks to environmental conservation efforts. This tour, hosted by VAZO Region 8, provided the visual reality of why the preservation of the Chesapeake Bay is an environmental necessity.

Usually there is one winner for the Certified Zoning Official (CZO) of the Year, but due to the outstanding records of Betty Harris and Julia Evans (shown with presenter Keith Fairfax, VAZO President), two officials were honored in 2010. The Certified Zoning Official (CZA) of the Year was not present at the conference, but the winner was Douglas Miles of Prince George County.



Above: (L to R) Betty Harris, City of Virginia Beach; Keith Fairfax, VAZO President of Loudoun County and Julia Evans, City of Newport News. Photo by James A. Staranowicz, CZO, Environmental Zoning Technician, Stafford County Dept. of Public Works.



Above: (L to R) Lorene Payne, City of Manassas; Melinda Artman, Arlington County; Keith Fairfax, VAZO President of Loudoun County; Carolyn Quann, VAZO Vice-President of Spotsylvania County; Tim Davis, City of Suffolk; and Doug Morgan of Spotsylvania County played a fun scavenger hunt game with a musical chair twist during the 20th Anniversary Luau-themed Dinner. Photo by James A. Staranowicz, CZO, Environmental Zoning Technician, Stafford County Dept. of Public Works.



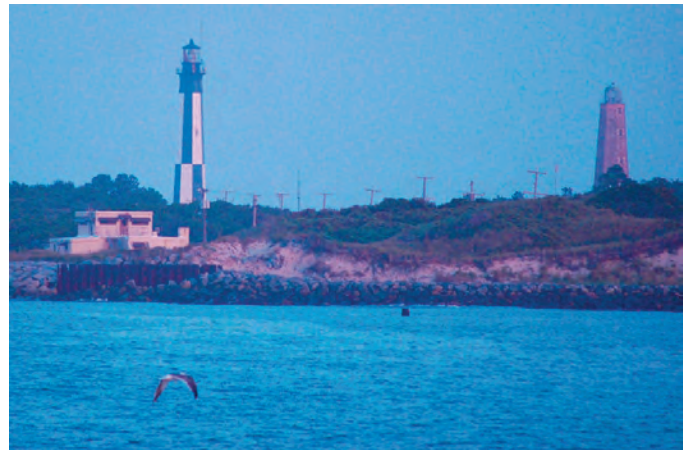
Above Left: VAZO conference participants tour the Virginia Beach Public Schools Bus Maintenance Facility and examine the green roof under construction first-hand. Photo by Amy Lohr, AICP, CZA - Planner, Zoning Administration, Loudoun County Dept. of Building & Development. Above Right: The Virginia Beach Public Schools Bus Maintenance Facility's wind turbines should help the facility achieve LEED Certification. Photo by Amy Lohr, AICP, CZA - Planner, Zoning Administration, Loudoun County Dept. of Building & Development.



## VAZO: Celebrating 20 years (continued)

Troy Tignor of Spotsylvania County was honored with the VAZO 2010 Service Award for his many years of outstanding service to VAZO.

Photo by Amy Lohr, AICP, CZA - Planner, Zoning Administration, Loudoun County Dept. of Building & Development.



Top Right: The group was able to see the pilots and mechanics work on the planes at Oceana.  
Bottom Right: The group saw the bayfront and Fort Story Lighthouse at Cape Henry during the Sunset Cruise.  
Photos by Tonya Rumley, City of Martinsville, Zoning Office.



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The APA Divisions Council and associated Divisions invite you to a very special event:

### Local Foods Role in Economic Recovery

Ken Meter of Crossroads Research Center, a national expert on community food systems, will be the keynote speaker at dinner at Vlora on Sunday, April 10, 2011 during the National Conference. Join us for an evening of conversation, camaraderie, and comestibles focused on food systems. Vlora has developed a menu of locally sourced food choices with some excellent wines to highlight the evening. Look for this ticketed event in the conference program as "Local Foods Dinner" when you register. We hope to see you in Boston!

<http://www.planning.org/conference/index.htm>



## AICP Update

By Glenn Larson, AICP  
AICP Professional Development Officer

### Do You Know When Your AICP Certification Maintenance (CM) Reporting Period Ends?

Most of us who have a few years of AICP membership under our belts are covered by the same January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2011 Certification Maintenance Program reporting period. Therefore, most AICP members are currently about half-way through their CM reporting period. There are exceptions, though. The reporting period for most AICP members who passed the exam in 2008 ends on December 31, 2010, as the CM reporting period for newly minted AICP members begins the January after they have officially been granted membership. The same period staggering goes for most of those who passed the AICP exam in 2010, with a reporting period that will run from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2012. The good news is that all AICP members, regardless of when their CM reporting period ends, have an extra four month grace period to compile their required 32 CM credits. Not sure when your AICP Certification Maintenance reporting period ends? Check your CM log at [www.planning.org/cm/log](http://www.planning.org/cm/log).

### AICP Advanced Specialty Certification (ASC) Exam Dates Announced

APA is now accepting applications for the first-ever Advanced Specialty Certification exams, to be administered next May. The new credentials will give AICP-certified planners who specialize in transportation or environmental planning the opportunity to demonstrate their expertise and leadership.



#### Important ASC Exam Dates:

- December 1, 2010 Application Window Opens
- March 30, 2011 Final Application Deadline
- April 25, 2011 Final Notification Deadline
- TBD Transfer/Cancellation Deadline
- May 9-23, 2011 Testing Window

For more information about ASC, go to [www.planning.org/asc/index.htm](http://www.planning.org/asc/index.htm).

### Get a Jump on Earning 2010-11 AICP CM Program Credits

See what the Virginia Chapter has listed regarding new free or low cost CM credit opportunities during the current 2010-11 reporting period. Check out the regularly updated AICP page at the APA Virginia Chapter website: <http://apavirginia.org/member-resources/aicp>.

If you have questions about AICP or want to be added to the Virginia Chapter's semi-monthly AICP exam or Certification Maintenance update e-mail lists, please contact Glenn at 804-748-1970 or [aicp@apavirginia.org](mailto:aicp@apavirginia.org).

# ECDC Anticipates New Opportunities

By Joseph Curtis, AICP  
ECDC Interim Chair

The Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee (ECDC) is excited about the new opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. First, we will have our own ECDC event at the annual conference at Wintergreen. We are in the process of selecting our guest speaker, but regardless of who it is, it will be a must-see event! Secondly, we are well on our way to setting up partnerships with colleges and universities within the Commonwealth, starting with Virginia Commonwealth University. John Accordino of VCU's planning department has reached out to APA Virginia and the ECDC to work on a continued partnership focusing on diversity in the planning profession. Finally, one of the founding members of the ECDC, B. Leon Hughes resigned as Co-Chair at the December APA Virginia Board Meeting. Hughes thanked the Board for the opportunity not only for him, but for the creation of the Committee. Founded by Irayda Ruiz, who is now on APA's national board, the Committee has become one of the most recognized achievements by APA Virginia, thanks to Leon's hard work. He leaves behind some big shoes to fill. Hughes will still participate as a general member of the ECDC, but current Co-Chair Joseph Curtis will serve as Interim Chair until the ECDC executive committee names a new ECDC Chair.



Above: Photo by Joseph Curtis.

Steiner's Justin Leyda and General Manager Raymond Tripp discussed the process of taking the Peninsula Town Center from plan to reality before treating attendees to a walking tour of the development. The tour featured retail spaces, residential units, community gathering areas and an on-site college campus. The tour also featured a gazebo being prepared for Santa's arrival, a lecture about the special snow-making machines to make the Town Square "snow" at discrete times of the day, and a look at large green roof used as a private gathering spot for residents. While touring a model

## Section Updates

### Hampton Roads Section

By Joseph Curtis, AICP

In one of the most ambitious section meetings ever put on by Hampton Roads, Section Directors Amy Jordan and Joseph Curtis hosted an informative and active event at the new Peninsula Town Center in Hampton. While participants feasted on hors d'oeuvres provided by a local eatery, speakers from the City of Hampton and Steiner + Associates discussed the collaborative efforts that went into transforming Hampton's aging Coliseum Mall into a lifestyle center consistent with the City's Master Plan. In fact, Senior City Planner Donald Whipple and Redevelopment Manager (and Section Director) Amy Jordan explained that it was even more than they expected.

apartment, Justin explained that Macy's, which was part of the old Coliseum Mall and the new Peninsula Town Center, had floor plans of the apartments in their computers as well as a catalog of all the furniture in the model unit. One could order furniture from Macy's that was sure to fit in a chosen unit or purchase an item that was seen in the model. Special thanks to Jo Jack's Café, Coliseum Central, the Hampton Planning Department and the Hampton Economic Development for a wonderful meeting.

### Northern Virginia Section

By Ben Wales, AICP

Members of the Northern Virginia Section gained first-hand insight into lifestyle centers at a section event held in November. Hosted by The Peterson Companies at its Fairfax Corner development, the session discussed the important components of a successful lifestyle center, including the right demographics, access and zoning flexibility. Lifestyle centers were described as an attractive pedestrian-oriented retail format typically with a mix of additional uses. The introduction to this type of mixed-use development

Continued on next page



## Section Updates (continued)

was perfectly illustrated by the Fairfax Corner center itself, which has become a popular destination despite challenges in the form of recent changes in consumer tastes, retailers' growth plans and financing constraints. Planned on a traditional street format, the center boasts attractive walkable streets and functional public spaces.

Look for more section events coming in early 2011, including "Planning for Bicycles" and "An Introduction to Green Roofs."

### "Planning for Bicycles" Preview

Bicycling as a mode for commuting and recreation has made great strides in recent years in the Washington metro area. Recently approved policies and implementation of innovative solutions to provide infrastructure for bicycles have helped promote this mode of transport. The new partnership between Arlington and Washington, D.C., has helped the region launch the largest bikeshare program in the country. Speakers will discuss the importance of various facets of transportation planning that help programs achieve success: policy development; implementation and infrastructure provision, and marketing and community outreach.

### "Introduction to Green Roofs" Preview

By now, most (and hopefully all) planners know that a green roof has nothing to do with a can of green paint and a brush! Whether they are being used to assist the management of storm water runoff, to help to achieve LEED certification or for other reasons, green roofs can provide a wide range of benefits. Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. (WSSI) has kindly agreed to provide a presentation on the different types of green roofs available along with their various benefits, implementation and maintenance requirements and associated costs. To allow attendees to get a first-hand view of an established facility, the presentation will include a tour of WSSI's own green roof. To receive email notifications for these and other upcoming Section events, please email Hillary or Annie at [vapanova@gmail.com](mailto:vapanova@gmail.com).



Above: November 18 section meeting. Photo by Joseph Curtis.



Photo courtesy of [hawksbillgreenway.org](http://hawksbillgreenway.org).

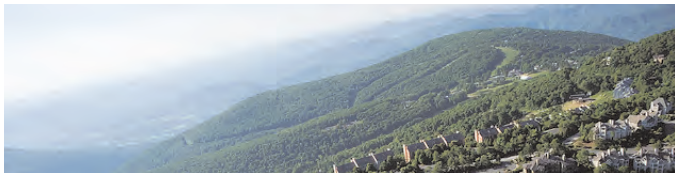
## Shenandoah Section

The Shenandoah Section, in coordination with APA Virginia, hosted the 2010 Fall Symposium on September 23 and 24 at the Mimslyn Inn in Luray. The theme of the symposium was "Prospects for Growth and Development in Emerging Rural Communities." The one-and-a-half day event featured a full-day presentation by Randall Arendt titled "Conservation Design and Commercial Corridors." Arendt provided both a lecture and a workshop on the use of the conservation subdivision design method he developed. After the presentation, participants were treated to a complimentary tour of Luray Caverns. The symposium also featured six individual sessions and a mobile workshop on the second day. Topics focused on issues impacting rural areas, including adoption of Urban Development Areas, expanding limited bus service and updating zoning ordinances. The mobile workshop offered a tour of the Town of Luray's trail system and a discussion of the use of Transportation Enhancement Grant funds and the public process that culminated in the prized network. The warm hospitality at the Mimslyn, the full day with leading planner Arendt, and the variety of tours and sessions offered were all well received by the capacity crowd of attendees from Virginia and Maryland. All credit goes to APA-VA Vice President for Sections Dan Painter, Section Director Brandon Davis, and Luray Town Planner Ligon Webb for organizing and hosting this wonderful symposium.

## Members on the Move

The King William County Board of Supervisors announced the appointment of **Trenton L. Funkhouser, AICP**, as the new County Administrator of King William County. He began work in King William on January 1, 2011. Funkhouser has served as Town Manager for West Point since February 2004, and previously served as Director of Planning in Westmoreland County for nearly seven years. Funkhouser has also held planning positions in Mathews County and the City of Williamsburg.

After over seven years of service, APA Virginia's Past President, **Denise Harris, AICP**, has traded in her one-block commute to Fauquier County government to become Director of the National Scenic Byway for the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership. She assumed her new position on December 1, 2010. The Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area/National Scenic Byway stretches from Gettysburg to Monticello and is recognized by the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Transportation for unparalleled cultural heritage and natural resources. Harris will be based in Waterford, Virginia.



## SAVE THE DATE!

APA Virginia's  
Annual Conference  
July 20-22  
2011

Wintergreen Resort  
[www.wintergreenresort.com](http://www.wintergreenresort.com)

The City of Evanston, Illinois named a Virginia planner, **Stephen K. Griffin, AICP**, as the new Director of Community and Economic Development. Griffin has been Director of Planning for Prince William County since 2002. Before that, he was Director of Planning in Spotsylvania County, Va., and Director of Community and Economic Affairs in Gulf Shores, Alabama. APA Virginia is sad to lose Griffin to Illinois, but we wish him well in his new position. Griffin started work in Evanston November 29, 2010.

**Jim McGowan**, Accomack County's Planning Director of more than five years, resigned effective December 31, 2010. McGowan was hired as a county planner in June 2005 and had worked for the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission for 15 years prior to that. During his time with the County, McGowan oversaw adoption of an updated comprehensive plan, the addition of several new districts to the zoning ordinance, and the approval of the Chesapeake/Atlantic Preservation Area Overlay District.

**Mike Crescenzo**, retired as Hanover County's Director of Planning on June 15, 2010. David Maloney, Deputy Director of Planning, has been appointed the County's Acting Planning Director.

### 2011 NEWSBRIEF SCHEDULE

Issue	Deadline for Articles to Editor	Distribution to Members
Spring	March 4	April 11
Summer	June 3	July 11
Fall	Sept 2	Oct 10



## Do you want to advertise in *NEWSBRIEF*?

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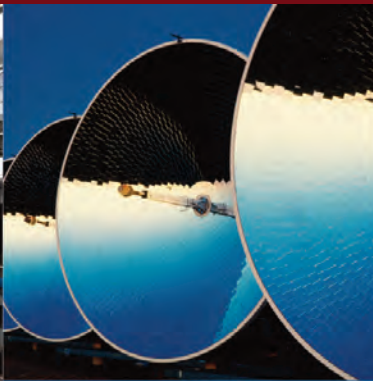
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### ADVANCED SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION (ASC) PROGRAM

Just as physicians need to demonstrate their expertise and knowledge within specialized fields of medicine, so too do planners in specialized fields of planning. This is what the ASC program does – provides the opportunity for AICP-certified planners to demonstrate expertise and leadership in their specialization, while grounded in the profession's comprehensive perspective and point of view. The following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) provide an overview of the ASC program.

**Find more information at [www.planning.org/asc](http://www.planning.org/asc).**





Photo by Helen Olney (winter woods, flickr.com)

## A Word from the Editors

### Greetings!

As we release the first Newsbrief of 2011, we would like to formally introduce ourselves. Our esteemed predecessor, Liz Via-Gossman, warned you about us and here we are to take over. Your new co-editors of *Newsbrief* are Susan McCulloch, Community Planner for the City of Martinsville, and Claire Jones, AICP, Principal Planner for the City of Suffolk. We hope you learn something new from this issue or more about something you already knew. We'll try to keep this publication timely and informative, as Liz left it to us. If you'd like to volunteer to help at *Newsbrief* as a reporter or with your photography skills, please email us at [newsbriefeditor@apavirginia.org](mailto:newsbriefeditor@apavirginia.org). We'd love to hear from you.

Speaking of Liz, as you all know, we will be attempting to fill her amazing shoes so please bear with us as we get acclimated. We'd like to thank Liz for all she's done for *Newsbrief*. Under her leadership, it grew to be an informative and professional publication that APA Virginia could be proud of, and she inspired us to want to help and be a part of it. We pledge to work hard to keep it the way you like it and to make Liz proud.

Happy Reading!

Susan and Claire

### Announcements

APA is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the Community Planning Assistance Team (CPAT) program. The CPAT is a place-based initiative designed to bring planning resources and opportunities to communities with a demonstrated need for assistance. APA Chapters and Divisions are encouraged to help spread the word about this opportunity to both communities and planning experts. Community applications will be accepted through February 22, 2011 for the first application window. The second will open in the summer 2011.

Visit the APA website for more information:  
[www.planning.org/communityassistance/teams](http://www.planning.org/communityassistance/teams).

You can find program FAQ's at:  
[www.planning.org/customerservice](http://www.planning.org/customerservice).



American Planning Association  
**Virginia Chapter**

*Making Great Communities Happen*

**2231 Oak Bay Lane  
Richmond, VA 23233**

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