

DELAWARE PLANNER



American Planning Association
Delaware Chapter
Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Delaware Chapter of the American Planning Association

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- **Debbie Pfeil**



Mike Fortner

Contact any of the executive committee members and notify us with your interest in local or national membership, submission of articles or ideas, planning announcements, training and education, local APA involvement, or other planning related concerns and topics. With the 2018 Regional Conference next October, we are always looking for volunteer assistance.

REMEMBER our Local Web Site at www.delawareapa.org; National APA: www.planning.org

TO BE INCLUDED ON OUR MAIL CHIMP COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM for e-mail announcements, happenings, training/education workshops, outreach, or job postings, please contact Michael Hahn, AICP (michaelc.hahn@state.de.us). We only send an announcement “blast” out to our members approximately 2 times a month, or as needed. Contact us should others be interested in receiving information, too.

WHAT IS PLANNING? – Excerpts taken from APA National Web Site

“Planning” provides a vision for the community today and what we want our community to be in the future. The goal of planning is to maximize the health, safety, and economic well-being for all residents. This involves thinking about how we can move around our community, the businesses and attractions in our community, where we want to live, and opportunities for recreation. Most of all, planning helps create communities of lasting value.

While architects often focus on a single building, a planner's job is to work with residents and elected officials to guide the layout of an entire community or region. Planners take a broad viewpoint and look at how the pieces of a community — buildings, roads, and parks — fit together like pieces of a puzzle. Planners then make recommendations on how the community should proceed. One of the greatest challenges for planners is to imagine what can and should happen to a community: how it should grow and change, and what it should offer residents 10, 15, or even 20 years into the future. By being involved in National APA or your local membership, learn how planners are helping communities around the country today.

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HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE?

Planning is successful when it is inclusive and reflects the comprehensive values of the entire community. How can you get involved? Becoming a planner is one option.

Another option is to provide your input to help guide your community forward. Often planners will hold open houses or community sessions to gather resident input, ask questions and help prioritize community initiatives. Keep an eye on your planning department's website or even Facebook page for updates and notices.

If you'd like to take an even more active role, you can consider volunteering to serve on your community's planning commission.

PLANNING COMMISSION

The planning commission is often composed of residents, either elected or appointed, that review and make recommendations on land use policies, development proposals, and long-range plans. Professional planning experience is not required to serve as a planning commissioner.

MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT

When you join the American Planning Association (APA), you join thousands of planners, officials, educators, students, and others who have made a personal commitment to making great communities happen. Membership in the APA community also includes many tangible benefits, such as:

- Accessing a national network of land use professionals willing to share information and knowledge on a range of issues;
- Research assistance through the Planning Advisory Service;
- A subscription to the well-respected *Planning* magazine.

DELAWARE APA CHAPTER

Every full APA member is automatically enrolled in APA Delaware. "Chapter Only Membership" is a second membership option for those who would like to be a part of APA, but do not require the benefits of national membership. Though you would miss out on the national publications and the discounts associated with the national membership you would still have access to one of the most active chapters in the country. For instance, in partnership with the Maryland Chapter, a Regional Planning Conference is held every two years. Past locations have included: Annapolis, Dover, Columbia, Rehoboth Beach and Wilmington. APA Delaware also hosts periodic webcasts to inform members about emerging topics, an annual dinner to recognize local best practices and maintains a website (www.delawareapa.org) with information about local job listings.

Throughout the year, members share their experiences with colleagues, expand their network, keep up-to-date on local and regional issues, and broaden their perspective beyond the office, commission, community, or campus.

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Congratulations **Betsy Caufield** from Kent County Planning. This past September, she attended an Advocacy Day/Conference in Washington D.C. Here is Betsy with Senator Carper. She also met with Senator Coon's office as well as with Congresswoman Lisa Blunt-Rochester. Her summary report is attached to brief us.



Congratulations to all 2017
Planning Award Recipients.

Information attachments follow for Memberships, Call For Papers and Speakers for 2018 Regional Conference held in Rehoboth, Conference Logo Contest, and other Events and Happenings