

KANSAS PLANNING



American Planning Association
Kansas Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Kansas Chapter of the American Planning Association

In this issue:

President's Message
Keynote Address
PDO Update
State of Finances
Membership Sale

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Gold



Silver



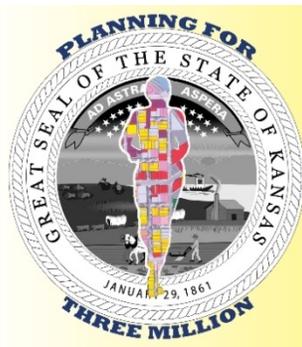
Bronze

September 2014

President's Message

Lisa Koch, AICP

Hello Kansas Planners! This issue of the newsletter will focus mostly on our forthcoming conference, which is one week away! There is so much to look forward to with this conference - we have great sessions lined up, a fantastic social event planned, and our first ever planning commissioner's program on the Friday afternoon of the conference! An important discussion next week will be our request to membership to increase chapter dues. Over the past two months, we have had articles in the newsletter about the past and present of chapter finances. In this newsletter, Vice President Chad Bunger will talk about our request to you and some of our thoughts about the future. We are hoping for a meaningful conversation about this request because we know that budgets are limited. Thank you so much for the consideration.



See you in a couple of
weeks at the Kansas
Planning Conference!

October 2 - 3, 2014
Hyatt Regency
Wichita

(Logo design: John Heiman, Kansas State University)

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2014 Executive Committee

President

Lisa Koch, AICP

kochls@pbworld.com

Vice President

Chad Bunger, AICP

bunger@cityofmhk.com

Past President

Sara Copeland, AICP

scopeland@nkc.org

Secretary

Stephanie Watts

stephanie@flinthillsregion.org

Treasurer

Erin Ollig, AICP

erin@shockeyconsulting.com

Professional Development Officer

Bonnie Johnson, PhD, AICP

bojojoh@ku.edu

At-Large Representatives

Erik Pollom, AICP

epollom@miamicountyks.org

John Schlegel, AICP

jschlegel@wichita.gov

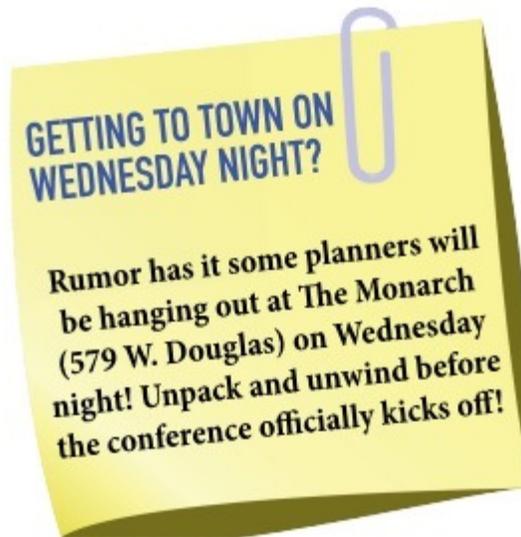
Huston Gibson, PhD

hgibson@k-state.edu

KC Metro Section

Representative

Ryan McKay, AICP



Luncheon - Keynote Address

Why Kansas is Sick, and Building the Plan to Make Kansas Well Again

We are pleased to have Steve Coen, President and CEO of the Kansas Health Foundation, joining us with a Keynote Address at the Kansas Planning Conference!

Can Kansas be the healthiest, most livable, most productive state in the nation? Kansas Health Foundation President and CEO Steve Coen will address how we compare across the country and what's happening in our own backyards. Planners are on the front line of building healthier communities and your work can make the difference in our ability to live full, healthy lives. Join us to learn why your leadership and determination are needed now more than ever.

Before coming to the Kansas Health Foundation, Steve Coen served as a legislative assistant to Sen. Bob Dole in Washington, D.C. and as state director of his four Kansas offices. In addition to his professional experiences, Coen served as chair of the Governor's Council on Fitness, and is a member of the Leadership Council of the Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition. Coen's idea to develop a physically-active, healthy lifestyle course for high school students earned him a national award from the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD). He also received the 21st Century

ryan.mckay@brrarch.com

Chapter Student
Representatives
James Hatler (KU)
jameshatler@gmail.com

Everett Haynes (KSU)
edhaynes@ksu.edu

Newsletter Editor
Jennifer Schwaller, CEP
Jennifer.Schwaller@hdrinc.com

Community Champion Award, given by the American Association of Family and Consumer Science to individuals who have made a significant contribution toward strengthening families.

CM Credits State Conference and AICP Exam Prep Bonnie J. Johnson, AICP Professional Development Officer

State Conference - CM Credits Approved!

Our conference sessions have all been accepted for AICP CM credits. All 34.75 credits were approved. If you are diligent, you can get 13 credits at this conference including all of your law and ethics credits! We divided the 1.5 credit marathon law session into two 0.75 sessions so getting the law credits won't be as grueling. But look for those 2 sessions so you don't miss getting all your law credits. The ethics session is still 1.5 credits or 1 hour and a half - we will do our best to make it interesting so the time flies by!

AICP Exam Prep - At the Conference & New Web Based System

If you have taken the exam and have some tips, advice, or recommendations for study materials, send them my way and I'll pass them along to future test takers at the Prep session at the conference. The Prep session is on Thursday, October 2nd from 4:00 to 5:00p.m. We will also have for sale the 2014-2015 Chapter Presidents Council Study Manual on CD for \$10.00.

AICP has revamped their website with new advice on preparing for the exam: <https://www.planning.org/certification/examprep/>

The new all web based AICP Exam Prep 3.0 launched on September 15th for an introductory price of \$195. The price goes up to \$249 after October 15th. The purchase gives you 3 years of access to this web based system. Here are some of the features:

- More than 50 multimedia lessons cover all AICP exam content.
- PowerPoint presentations and 12 hours of streaming video are packaged in 8-15 minute lessons that are easy to review and understand. Each lesson is followed by questions that reinforce learning.
- A pre-study assessment tool identifies topics that need the most study.
- The timed, 170-question practice exam simulates the exam-day experience.
- A customized glossary has up-to-date definitions of thousands of key planning terms.
- Users can participate in a dedicated online

student/faculty study forum.

Here is a demo of the system on YouTube: <http://youtu.be/-5MTLp307AU>

Contact me

If you have questions about applying for the AICP exam, taking the exam, or getting your CM credits, let me know. Email: bojojoh@ku.edu or 785-864-7147. Bonnie Johnson, PhD, AICP, Associate Professor, University of Kansas, Department of Urban Planning.

The State of APA-Kansas's Finances Chad Bunger, Vice President

Part 3 of a 3-part series

As part of a three-part series of articles, you previously heard from Sara Copeland, the Past President of the Executive Committee on the history of the Chapter and the past decisions that have framed our Chapter's finances. Erin Ollig, Chapter Treasurer, gave information on our current financial situation and the current offerings that APA Kansas provides its membership. I would like to share with you the research and discussions we have had about increasing the Chapter membership dues, the Executive Committee's recommendation and our plans moving forward.

As previously shared, the Chapter has been running at an annual budget deficit for the last several years. National APA has recommended, as a good fiscal management practice, to have a reserve fund that equals two years of the Chapter's operating budget. If we continue to run a budget deficit each year, this recommendation would obviously become problematic. Taking this into consideration, the Executive Committee set out to analyze our membership dues structure and other revenue sources to develop a plan of attack to become fiscally stable.

Over the past six months, a sub-group of the Executive Committee researched membership dues information from other state chapters. The research showed a wide variety of dues structures, with some chapters being similar to ours and others charging a percentage of the National APA member dues rate (i.e. 25% of a member's National APA membership price). A survey was also sent out last spring to gather feedback from you and your fellow members on the membership dues topic and budgetary concerns. The committee also evaluated our own chapter's dues and developed some budget scenarios based on the possibilities that were researched. Following this research and thoughtful discussion, the Executive Committee unanimously agreed to recommend a \$20 increase in the general member annual dues. This will increase the general member dues from \$25 a year to \$45 a year. The Executive Committee will be making the

recommendation for the dues increase at the Annual Meeting on Friday, October 3rd for a vote of the membership.

This decision was not made lightly and the Executive Committee had deep and thoughtful discussion on whether we believed our membership had a value of \$45 a year. The Committee's consensus was "yes," but we understand that we can improve. We think we have offered great services to you, many of them which are free. The newsletter, for instance, is packed with information about what is going on around the state and on a national level. Jennifer Schwaller and other volunteer contributors do a fantastic job of putting the newsletter together at no cost to you. This year we had a Spring Symposium at the University of Kansas to showcase the University's efforts in sustainability. Next spring, Kansas State University will have the opportunity to showcase their efforts for a green and sustainable campus. I anticipate that the spring event will continue to highlight the great efforts of sustainability going on all over Kansas. The other big event that the Executive Committee puts on, with the help of local volunteers, is the annual state conference. I am always excited for the annual conference to learn what is going on in Kansas, learn new stuff about planning and meet old and new planning friends. I can't think of a better conference with a better value than ours. Each year, an AICP member can walk away with over half of their CM credits without having to leave the state! I hope to see you in Wichita for another great conference!

With all of that said, the Executive Committee knows that we can provide better value for your membership. This does not go without its challenges though. I think if you live east of Topeka, because of the geography and concentration of planners, you cannot get a better bang for your buck in membership offerings. The Kansas City Metro Section does an outstanding job of hosting events throughout the year. One goal of the Executive Committee is to do a better job of advertising these events state-wide, with the hope that someone from western Kansas that is making a weekend trip into Kansas City might be able to attend one of these events. The challenge is how to provide a similar level of membership to planners in Western Kansas. There are great planning things happening outside of the KC Metro area, unfortunately because of distances and number of members, it is tough to meet as often. One approach to address this issue is to do more partnering with peer membership organizations, such as the Kansas Chapter of The American Institute of Architects, Kansas Association of Planning and Zoning Officials and Prairie Gateway Chapter of The American Society of Landscape Architects. The hope through these partnerships is to cast a wider net of offerings to our members and the membership of our partners. On that same note, the Executive Committee is going to make a concerted effort to offer more CM credits through these partnerships. Lastly, the Executive Committee is going to begin researching ways to use technology to close the distance between planners by offering webinars and live streams of planning events.

We hope you find your current membership in APA Kansas of great

value and will continue your membership in the future as we expand our offerings. Again, the Executive Committee will be making the recommendation for the dues increase to \$45 a year at the Annual Meeting on Friday, October 3rd. We would appreciate any comments you have. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your President, Lisa Koch; Chapter Treasurer, Erin Ollig; or me. Thank you for your continued support of APA Kansas. Sincerely Chad Bunger, Vice-President.

APA Membership Sale!

Think about all you get from APA and the Kansas Chapter: *Planning*, high-quality professional education, social and networking events, discounts on national and chapter conferences, and more.

Don't your nonmember friends, coworkers, and colleagues in related fields deserve those benefits, too? APA has a deal for them! APA is recruiting new members and offering a sweet 25 percent discount on national and chapter dues to individuals who join by September 30. (Sorry, students and officials do not qualify for this offer.)

Tell your friends that joining APA online - and saving 25 percent - is fast and convenient. Send prospective members a link to planning.org/joinapa. Tell them not to wait - **this great deal ends on September 30!**



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