



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

American Planning Association Iowa Chapter



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APA IOWA LEADERSHIP

Board Officers

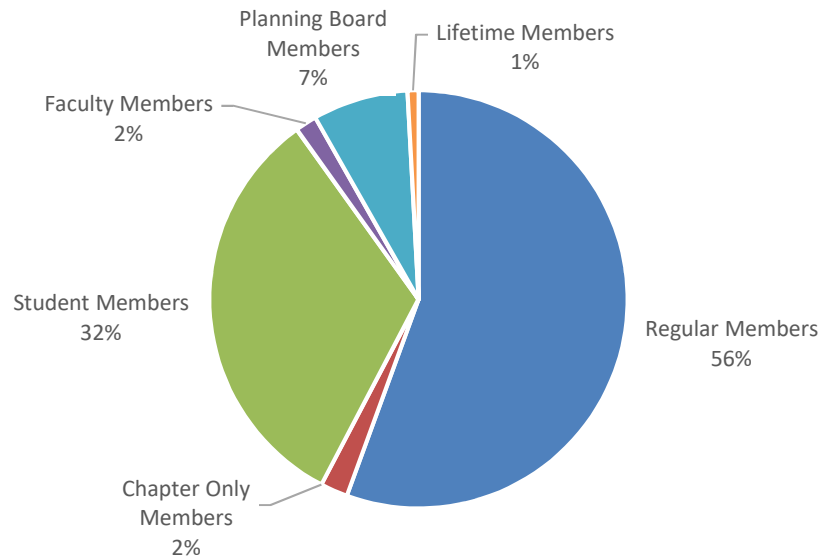
- President: Dylan Mullenix, AICP, Des Moines Area MPO
- Vice President: Madeline Sturms, AICP, City of Pleasant Hill
- Secretary: Tony Filippini, AICP, City of Ames
- Treasurer: Zach Young, AICP, Des Moines Area MPO
- Immediate Past President: J. Ben Champ, AICP, City of Pleasant Hill

Executive Board Members

- Professional Development Officer: David Wilwerding, AICP, City of Johnston
- Planning Board Member: Dave Tallman, Shive Hattery
- Advocacy & Outreach Co-Chair: Rose Brown, AICP, Bolton & Menk, Inc.
- Advocacy & Outreach Co-Chair: Melissa Tiedemann, AICP, Stanley Consultants
- Legislative Program Chair: Steven Van Steenhuyse, AICP, City of Mason City
- Chapter Development Co-Chair: Chris Janson, AICP, MSA Professional Services
- Chapter Development Co-Chair: Anne Russett, AICP, City of Iowa City
- Recognition & Awards Co-Chair: Charlie Cowell, AICP, RDG Planning & Design
- Recognition & Awards Co-Chair: Emily Bothell, AICP, City of Iowa City
- Communications Program Co-Chair: Seana Perkins, AICP, Polk County
- Communications Program Co-Chair: Liesl Voges, AICP, Iowa Arts Council
- Professional Development Chair: Chris Shires, AICP, Confluence
- At-Large Representative: Amber Lynch, AICP, City of Des Moines
- At-Large Representative: Jim Holz, AICP, MSA Professional Services
- At-Large Representative: Charlie Nichols, AICP, City of Cedar Rapids
- University Representative: Francis Owusu, Iowa State University
- University Representative: Charles Connerly, University of Iowa
- University of Iowa Graduate Student: Chanel Jelovchan
- Iowa State University Undergraduate Student: Bridge Williams
- Iowa State University Graduate Student: Sarah Runkel
- County Planning & Zoning Officials: Bret Vandelune, Polk County
- Iowa Floodplain and Stormwater Management Officials: Mark Land, Snyder & Associates

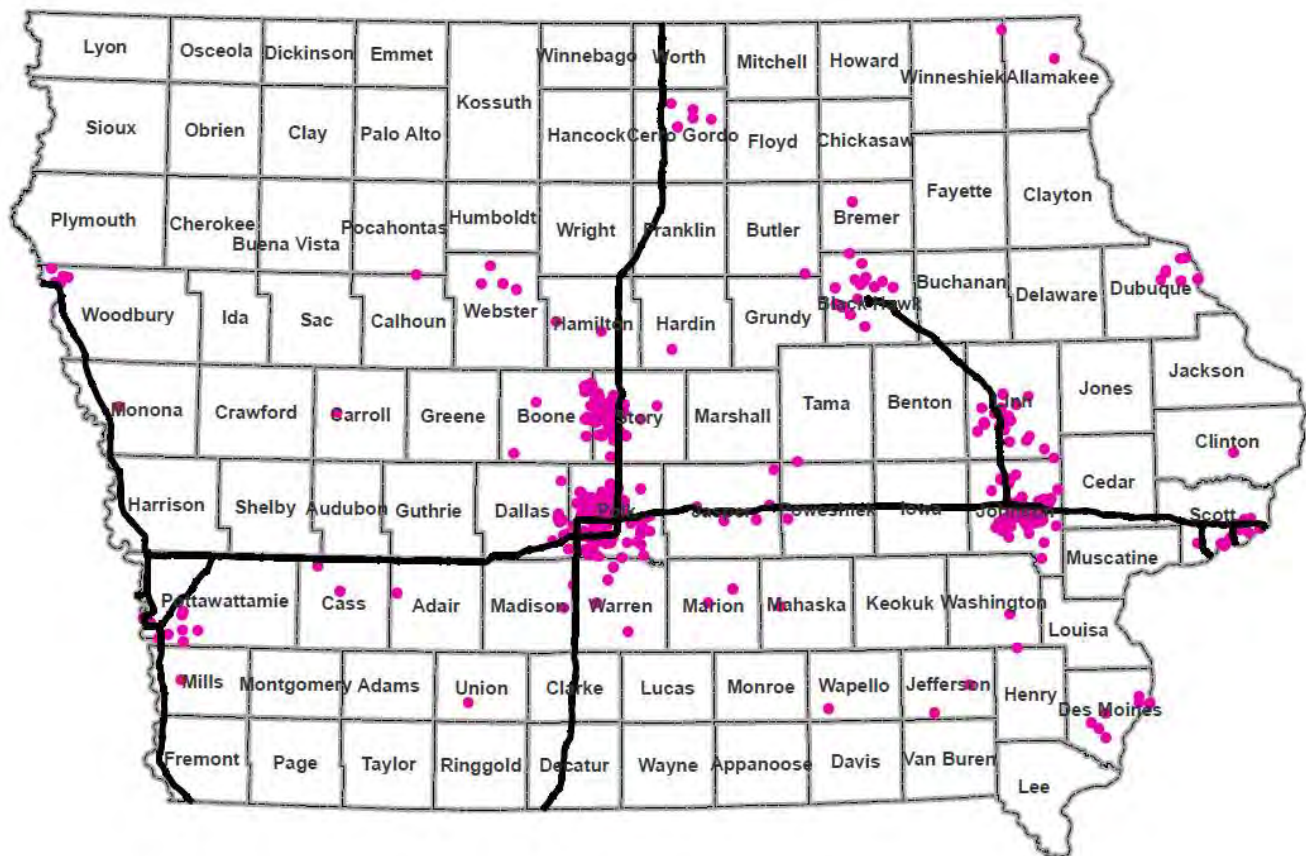
MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

Membership by Type



Membership Category	Number
Regular Members	264
Chapter Only Members	10
Student Members	154
Faculty Members	8
Planning Board Members	35
Lifetime Members	4
Total	475

Member Distribution



CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT

Board Retreat

The APA Iowa board held a retreat in August 2018 to begin work on its strategic plan. At the retreat, the board developed a mission statement for the organization.

APA Iowa's mission is to strengthen planning to create thriving communities. We do this through celebration, advocacy, relationships, and education of our members and communities.



Membership Survey

A membership survey was administered in October 2018. The survey received 105 responses, or approximately 20% of the membership. The survey indicated a strong degree of satisfaction with the services APA Iowa provides, yet also provided important feedback about how the chapter can improve in a number of areas.

Bylaws Amendment

In November 2018 the APA IA board amended its bylaws. These changes included adjusting the organization's fiscal year to a January-December year, updated meeting frequency requirements and attendance requirements for board members, and removed language related to the chapter election process that is no longer necessary. These amendments were then ratified by the APA IA membership by an online vote.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AICP Exam Results

In the May 2018 and November 2018 testing windows, 11 planners passed the AICP exam. Iowa's planners continue to excel when it comes to passing the AICP exam. In the May test, APA Iowa members taking the AICP had a 83% pass rate compared with a national pass rate of 68% and in November APA Iowa members had a 100% pass rate compared with a national rate of 66%.

New for 2018 was the AICP Candidate exam. In 2018 four APA Iowa members passed the exam. In the May test, 75% percent of APA Iowa members taking the test passed compared with 67% nationally. In November 50% of APA Iowa members passed compared with 58% nationally.

New AICP Members

- Tim Huey
- Aaron Detter
- Johnny Alcivar Zuniga
- Emily Zandt
- Stephen Miller
- Mitchell Brouse
- Iris Lehmann
- Nathan Mueller
- Alex Pfaltzgraff
- Anuprit Kaur Minhas



New AICP Candidate Members

- Clayton Ender
- Sarah Gardner
- Elliot Kilmowski
- Steven Stransky

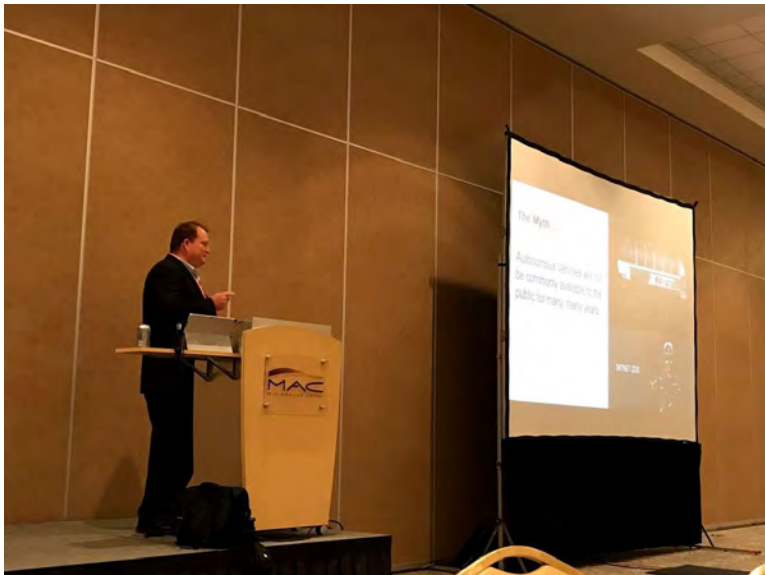
APA Iowa Annual Conference

APA Iowa held its annual chapter conference at the Mid-America in Council Bluffs from October 17-19th. Just over 200 attendees participated in the conference. 45 AICP CM credits were available at the conference.



Conference Planning Committee

- Rose Brown, Bolton & Menk, Inc.
- Madeline Sturms, City of Pleasant Hill
- Dylan Mullenix, Des Moines Area MPO
- Zach Young, Des Moines Area MPO
- Chris Shires, Confluence
- Ben Champ, City of Pleasant Hill
- Amber Lynch, City of Des Moines
- Chris Widmer, City of Pleasant Hill
- Alicia Freeze, Council Bluffs CVB
- Chris Meeks, City of Council Bluffs
- Chris Gibbons, City of Council Bluffs
- Charlie Cowell, RDG Planning & Design
- Emily Bothell, City of Iowa City
- David Wilwerding, City of Johnston



Fairfield/Vedic City Mobile Workshop

APA Iowa hosted a two-day mobile workshop of Fairfield and Maharishi Vedic City in August that was attended by 13 members.

Named “America’s Most Unusual Town” in 2011, Maharishi Vedic City was incorporated in 2001 as “Vedic City”, and a few months later was changed to “Maharishi Vedic City.” The entire city plan is based on Maharishi Sthapatya Veda, which was an ancient system of architecture and design, revived by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. There are 1,000 “experts” (i.e. pandits) who gather twice daily to practice Transcendental Meditation and Yogic Flying to promote peace and harmony in the world.



Fairfield, population 9,464 has an abundance of start-up companies and has been called “one of the state’s economic superstars.” It has received the Grassroots Rural Entrepreneurship Award, has been nicknamed “silicon valley,” and was featured in a 2012 episode of the TV show, *Oprah’s Next Chapter*. The city includes the \$6 million Fairfield Arts & Convention Center (FACC), built in 2007. In 2010, it was named one of six Iowa Great Places, and was also named by *Smithsonian* magazine as one of “The 20 Best Small Towns to Visit in 2013.”



AWARDS & RECOGNITION

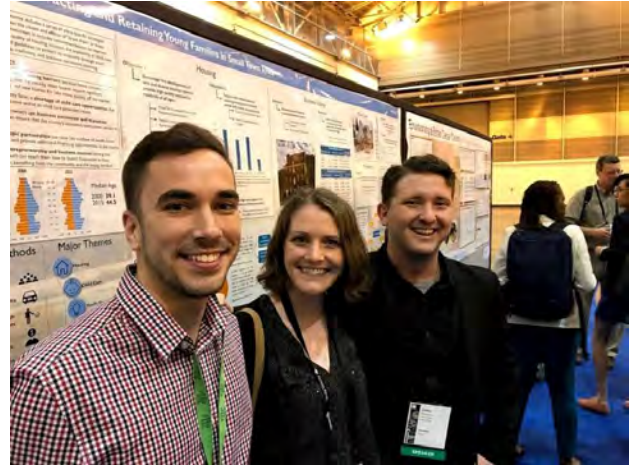
APA Iowa recognized several organizations and individuals at the 2018 APA Iowa Conference in Council Bluffs. Award winners included:

- Daniel Burnham Comprehensive Plan Award: Keokuk Comprehensive Plan – Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission
- Implementation Award: La Port City Downtown Revitalization Plan – City of La Port City and MSA Professional Services
- Best Practice Award: Transit Stop ADA Compliance Application – Iowa Department of Transportation
- Opportunity & Empowerment Award: The Sawyer Building – City of Council Bluffs, 712 Initiative, and J. Development
- Planning Pioneers Award: Metropolitan Area Planning Agency
- Public Outreach Award: Iowa Strategic Highway Safety Plan, 2019-2023 – Iowa Department of Transportation and Snyder & Associates
- Transportation Planning Award: Iowa in Motion 2045 – Iowa Department of Transportation
- Economic Development Planning Award: Spencer Riverfront Development Plan – City of Spencer and RDG Planning & Design
- Environmental Planning Award: Upper Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project – City of Dubuque
- Urban Design Award: Gray's Station Master Plan – City of Des Moines, RDG Planning & Design, Hubbell Realty Company, and Civil Design Advantage
- Exemplary Student Project: The Downtown Greenspace Plan – University of Iowa Students Ben Curtis, Parker Just, Varsha Borde, and Katie Gandhi



APA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

APA Iowa had a strong turnout at the APA National Conference held in New Orleans. Sixty-five APA Iowa members attended the conference, including twenty-eight students. APA Iowa partnered with Iowa State University and the University of Iowa to hold the All Iowa Reception, which was attended by approximately 60 people. Additionally, numerous student groups participated in the poster contest.



Iowa also was represented in the national awards. Rick Tollakson, CEO of Hubbell Realty and recipient of the APA Iowa 2017 Planning Advocate Award, received the National Planning Excellence Award for a Planning Advocate.



PARTNERSHIPS

Iowa Great Places

APA chapters are encouraged to have a state-level Great Places Program. Rather than create its own, APA Iowa has partnered with the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs to recognize the State's Great Places Program. APA Iowa will help promote the program and recognize Iowa Great Places designees. Additionally, APA Iowa will have a representative on the review committee that selects designees.



The Tomorrow Plan Speaker Series

The Tomorrow Plan Speaker Series hosts national thought-leaders who share ideas, insights, and inspiration with regional influencers to advance the sustainable development of Greater Des Moines. APA Iowa joined the speaker series board in 2018. In this role, APA Iowa has been able to get the free events approved for AICP CM credits.

Planning Healthy Iowa Communities

APA Iowa continues to be a proud supporter of Planning Healthy Iowa Communities, a collaborative effort led by APA Iowa and the Iowa Public Health Association with a grant from the APA Planners4Health initiative. PHIC works to bring together representatives from planning, public health, and environmental health to help identify ways these organizations can work to encourage more physical activity, healthier food choices, a more thoughtful built environment, and an enhance natural environment.



LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

State Advocacy

APA Iowa annually develops a state legislative agenda and engages in the Iowa legislative process when necessary. Periodic updates are made throughout the legislative session to APA Iowa members about planning-related legislation making its way through the legislature. When necessary, APA Iowa works to educate legislators on the potential planning-related impacts of pending legislation. APA Iowa also participates in Design Day on the Hill along with partner organizations such as the American Institute of Architects, American Association of Landscape Architects, and the Green Building Council.

Federal Advocacy

APA Iowa representatives also engage with peers on a national level regarding planning-related legislation. Each September, representatives travel to Washington, D.C., to participate in APA's Policy and Advocacy Conference. At the 2018 conference, Pleasant Hill mayor Sara Kurovski represented APA Iowa on a panel on how local elected officials can advocate for planning.



This trip also allows the APA Iowa to engage Iowa's congressional representatives about planning issues as part of an APA Planners Day on the Hill. APA Iowa's Legislative Chair, President, and Immediate Past President met with several members of Iowa's congressional delegation or their staffs to discuss national planning issues, such as affordable housing, and to apprise them of planning projects in Iowa.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2018

APA Iowa operates on a calendar year schedule, January to December. The following tables summarize APA Iowa's finances in 2018. As noted, APA Iowa's net income was \$3,709.85.

Program Revenues	Amount
Membership Dues	\$12,424.18
APA IA Conference Revenue	\$49,524.16
All Iowa Reception – University Share	\$1,200.00
Grants (FY 2017 carryover)	\$2,450.00
Miscellaneous	\$7.16
Interest Earned	\$5.17
Total Revenues	\$65,617.83

Program Expenses	Amount
2018 National Conference	\$104.35
Bank Charges	\$46.90
Dues & Subscriptions	\$95.00
APA IA Conference Expenses	\$44,411.97
Call to Action Grant Expenses	\$1,250.00
Meals	\$90.00
Miscellaneous Events	\$5,286.35
Office Supplies	\$210.00
Website Services	\$1,940.00
Software	\$240.00
Taxes and Licenses	\$850.00
Travel	\$5,676.35
Total Expenses	\$61,900.92



American Planning Association
Iowa Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen