



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

American Planning Association Iowa Chapter



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APA IOWA LEADERSHIP

Board Officers (as of December 2019)

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

Executive Board Members (as of December 2019)

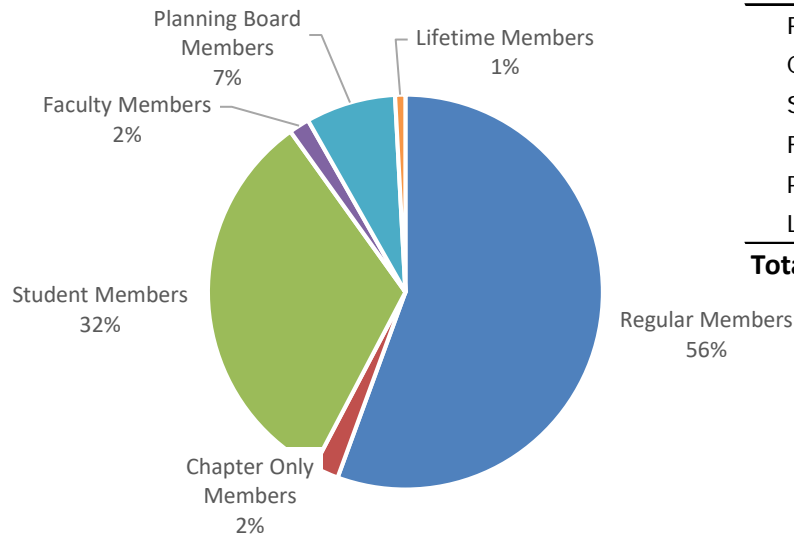
- Professional Development Officer: David Wilwerding, AICP, City of Johnston
- Planning Board Member: Trina Flack, City of Ankeny Plan & Zoning Commission
- Advocacy & Outreach Co-Chair: Rose Schroder, AICP, Bolton & Menk, Inc.
- Advocacy & Outreach Co-Chair: Melissa Tiedemann, AICP, Stanley Consultants
- 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: Liesl Seabert, AICP, IEDA
- 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: Leon Begay
- Iowa State University Undergraduate Student: Julia Hertaus
- Iowa State University Graduate Student: Sarah Runkel
- County Planning & Zoning Officials: Bret Vandelune, Polk County
- Iowa Floodplain & Stormwater Management Officials: Mark Land, Snyder & Assoc.

Executive Board Members Whose Terms Expired in 2019

- Planning Board Member: Dave Tallman, Shive Hattery
- Communications Program Co-Chair: Seana Perkins, AICP, Polk County
- At-Large Representative: Amber Lynch, AICP, City of Des Moines
- University of Iowa Graduate Student: Chanel Jelovchan
- Iowa State University Undergraduate Student: Bridget Williams

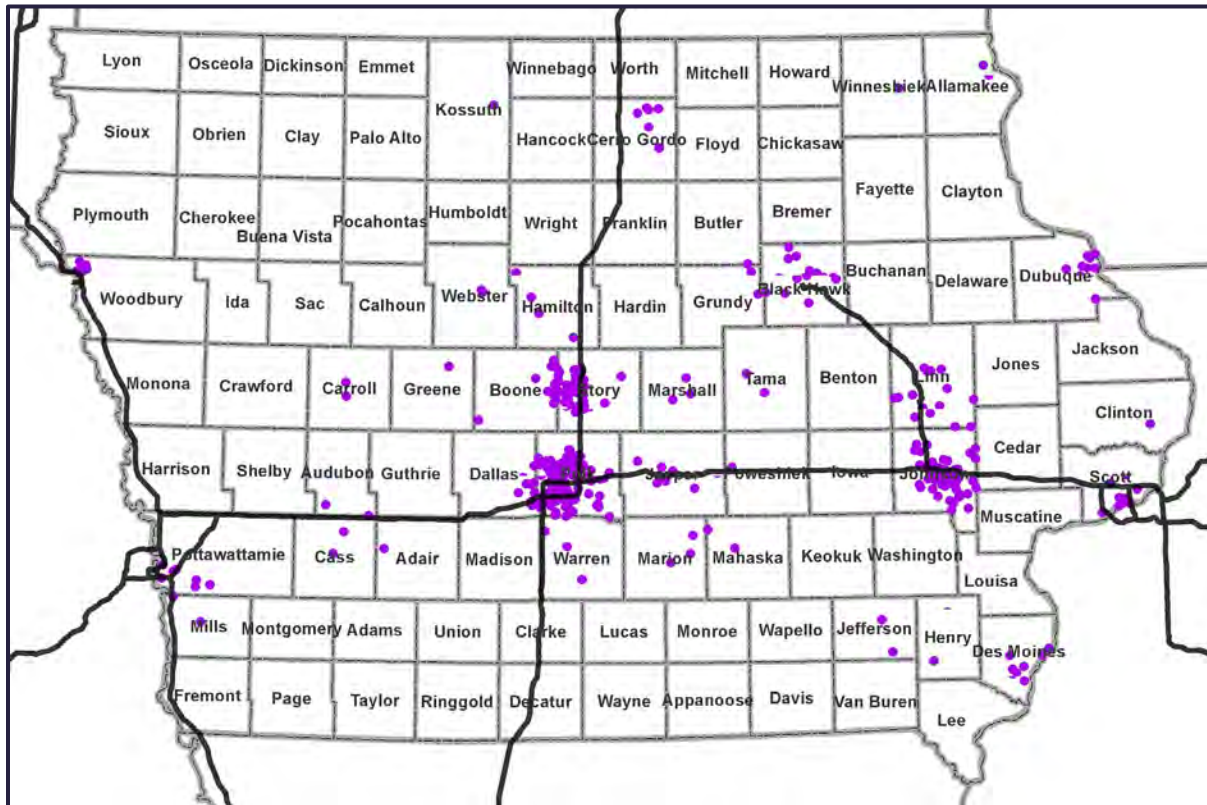
MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

Membership by Type



Membership Category	Number
Regular Members	271
Chapter Only Members	8
Student Members	111
Faculty Members	8
Planning Board Members	34
Lifetime Members	5
Total	437

Member Distribution



Data as of November 2019

CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT

Administrative Support

In September 2019 the APA Iowa board agreed to retain paid administrative support for the first time. The board retained the services of firm Sickels & Associates, an Indianola based company who will provide approximately 10 hours of assistance per month. These services will include financial management services, meeting management and event coordination, and advisory services to help carry out APA Iowa's policies.

2020 Work Plan

In November 2019 the APA Iowa board held a strategic planning session, facilitated by Terry Berkbuegler with Confluence, to help refine the 2020 work plan. Board members reflected on the work accomplished throughout 2019 and identified new priorities for 2020. Among the priorities for 2020 are increased engagement of students and young professional, hosting more professional development opportunities outside of central Iowa, and expanding the profile and influence of the chapter.

New Website

Over the last few years APA national has assisted chapters and divisions transition to a new, free website platform. In 2019, APA Iowa transitioned to this new platform, which was formally launched at the APA Iowa Annual Conference in October. The new website is easier to manage, has better integration with the materials offered by APA national and with APA member accounts, and provides more functionality such as the ability for members and their employers to post jobs directly to the site. The new website can be found at iowa.planning.org. Special thanks to Seana Perkins for working with APA to transition the chapter's website to the new platform.

Chapter Elections

APA Iowa held its biennial elections earlier in summer 2019 for board positions that will run from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021. Current office holder of President (Dylan Mullenix, Des Moines Area MPO), Vice President (Madeline Sturms, City of Pleasant Hill), and Treasurer (Zach Young, Des Moines Area MPO) were reelected for a second term. Bill Micheel, City of Cedar Rapids, was elected as the chapter's new Secretary and will replace Tony Filippini, Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority, who chose not to run again. Past President Ben Champ, City of Pleasant Hill, will continue in that role to round out APA Iowa's officers for 2020-2021.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AICP Exam Results

In the May 2019 and November 2019 testing windows, 12 planners passed the AICP exam; 6 through the traditional process and 6 through the AICP Candidate program. Iowa's planners continue to excel when it comes to passing the AICP exam. In the May test, APA Iowa members taking the AICP exam had a 100% pass rate for the traditional process compared (national pass rate of 63%) and a 66% pass rate for the AICP Candidate program (national pass rate of 56%). In November, APA Iowa members had a 33% pass rate (national rate of 62%) for the traditional process and an 80% pass rate (national rate of 55%) for the AICP Candidate program.

New AICP Members

- Vanessa Fixmer-Oraiz
- Laura Kessel
- Brandon Melton
- Maggie Murray
- Stephanie Schrader
- Christopher Widmer



New AICP Candidate Members

- Nicole Behrens
- Kellen Gorman
- Danielle Propst
- Luke McClanahan
- Jane Reasoner
- Zhi Chen



CM Offerings

In 2019, APA Iowa offered 74.75 hours of CM opportunities to members, compared with 63 hours offered in 2018. The majority of these (52.75 hours) were offered directly by APA Iowa. Other were offered by partnerships with the University of Iowa (8 hours), the Iowa Section of the Urban Land Institute (6 hours), the Tomorrow Plan Speaker Series (4.5 hours), the Bi-State Regional Planning Commission (3 hours), and the Iowa Environmental Council (1.5 hours).

CM Partnership Policy

APA Iowa is a registered CM Provider through the American Planning Association and provides this service so that AICP members have ability to receive CM credits throughout Iowa, including APA Iowa events and conferences. APA Iowa frequently partners with other groups and organizations to co-sponsor training events so those events can qualify for CM credits. To partner with other groups to offer CM credits, APA Iowa must follow the guidelines set forth in the [CM Provider Toolkit](#). To help ensure these guidelines are followed, in 2019 APA Iowa adopted a [CM Credit Approval Policy](#) to provide guidance for such situations.

APA National Conference

APA Iowa had a strong turnout at the APA National Conference held in San Francisco. Sixty-five APA Iowa members attended the conference, including sixteen students. APA Iowa partnered with Iowa State University and the University of Iowa to hold the All Iowa Reception, which was attended by approximately 50 people. Additionally, numerous student groups participated in the poster contest.



2019 APA Iowa Annual Conference

APA Iowa held its annual chapter conference in Iowa City from October 9-11th. Just over 250 attendees participated in the conference. 48 AICP CM credits were available at the conference. New APA CEO Joel Albizo was in attendance and was highly complementary of the chapter and the quality of the conference.



Left: APA CEO Joel Albizo addresses conference attendees during his keynote.

Below: Iowa City's Robert Miklo leads a mobile tour of downtown Iowa City.



Conference Planning Committee

- Madeline Sturms, City of Pleasant Hill
- Kent Ralston, MPO of Johnson County
- Emily Bothell, MPO of Johnson County
- Charlie Cowell, RDG Planning & Design
- Katherine Dostart, City of Des Moines
- Alexis Fleener, Southwest Iowa Planning Council
- Tracy Hightshoe, City of Iowa City
- Dylan Mullenix, Des Moines Area MPO
- Anne Russett, City of Iowa City
- Rose Schroder, Bolton & Menk, Inc.
- Liesl Seabert, Iowa Economic Development Authority
- Chris Shires, Confluence
- Danielle Sitzman, City of Iowa City
- Sarah Walz, City of Iowa City
- Chris Widmer, City of Pleasant Hill
- David Wilwerding, City of Johnston
- Zach Young, Des Moines Area MPO

2020 Upper Midwest APA Conference

Preparations have begun for the Iowa Chapter to host the 2020 Upper Midwest Conference which will be October 14-16, 2020, at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines. In 2019 APA Iowa worked to secure the venue and dates and to begin marketing the event.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

APA Iowa recognized several organizations and individuals at the 2019 APA Iowa Conference in Iowa City. Award winners included:

- Best Practice Award: ReZone Cedar Rapids – City of Cedar Rapids
- Environmental Planning Award: East and West Nishnabotna River Watershed Plan – East and West Nishnabotna River Watershed Management Coalition, JEP Consulting Group, and Golden Hills RC&D
- Implementation Award: Affordable Housing Action Plan – City of Iowa City
- Urban Design Award: The Square Streetscape Master Plan – City of Indianola and Bolton & Menk, Inc.
- Grassroots Initiative Award: Trails to a Wonderful Life – Rotary Club of Denson and Snyder & Associates, Inc.
- Transportation Planning Award: Bike Share System – City of Cedar Rapids
- Transportation Planning Award: Davenport GO – City of Davenport, RDG Planning & Design, and Alta Planning + Design
- Economic Development Planning Award: Dyersville Downtown Plan – City of Dyersville and RDG Planning & Design
- Student Poster Contest:
 - First Place: Megan Schott and Nate Bauer, University of Iowa – Block by Block Flood Recovery Study: The Nonprofit Response in Cedar Rapids, IA
 - Second Place: Tunazzina Binte Alam, University of Iowa – Determination of Prime Bus Stop Locations: A Case Study of Khulna City Corporation Area, Bangladesh
 - Third Place: Harrison Freund, University of Iowa – Understanding Heat Vulnerability in Iowa City: Identifying At-Risk Populations and Areas



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 helps promote the program and recognize Iowa Great Places designees. Additionally, APA Iowa has a representative on the review committee that selects designees.

In 2019, two new Great Places were recognized:

- City of Lake View
- Clive Greenbelt

The following projects received grant funding through Iowa Great Places in 2019:

- City of Maquoketa – Maquoketa Trails: Pathways for the Community, \$218,200
- City of Dubuque – Mathias Ham House Campus Restoration, \$285,762
- City of Decorah – Iconic Stone Structures, \$155,000
- Malvern Area Betterment Association – Malvern City Entrance Beautification, \$40,525
- City of Burlington – Downtown Riverfront Improvements, \$300,000



IOWA GREAT PLACES

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

PARTNERSHIPS



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. Planning Healthy Iowa Communities 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.

APA Iowa provides a scholarship through the Planning Healthy Iowa Communities collaborative to help connect public health representatives to the planning community. In 2019, Kelli Gerdes, the Health Promotions Manager for Cerro Gordo County Public Health Department and a member of the Iowa Public Health Association received this scholarship via an essay contest. The scholarship provided free registration and accommodations at the 2019 APA Iowa Conference in Iowa City.

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.

APA Iowa's Legislative and Policy Chair, Steven Van Steenhuyse of Mason City, leads the chapters legislative efforts. In December 2019, Steven attended a State Legislative Summit, organized by APA, in Richmond, VA. The summit brought together legislative liaisons from 28 chapters to learn from each other about best practices in legislative advocacy and to learn more about legislative issues anticipated in 2020. Steven's travel was provided in part by a grant from APA national.

Federal Advocacy

APA Iowa representatives also engage with peers on a national level regarding planning-related legislation. Each September, APA Iowa's President as well as the Legislative and Policy Chair travel to Washington, D.C., to participate in APA's Policy and Advocacy Conference. This trip also allows APA Iowa to engage Iowa's congressional representatives about planning issues as part of an APA Planners Day on the Hill. In 2019, Steven Van Steenhuyse, APA Iowa's Legislative and Policy Chair, 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 2019

APA Iowa operates on a calendar year schedule, January to December. The following tables summarize APA Iowa's finances in 2019. As noted, APA Iowa's net expenses were \$5,855.14 greater than its income. This was due to paying ahead some expenses, such as a deposit on the 2020 conference. The APA Iowa board also approved some unbudgeted expense, such as chapter administration. These expenses will ultimately save costs in future years.

Program Revenues	Amount
APA Membership Dues Rebate	\$12,711.18
APA IA Conference Revenue	\$52,650.05
Grants (FY 2018 carryover)	\$3,700.00
All Iowa Reception – University Share	\$1,200.00
Interest Earned	\$5.45
Other	\$168.14
Total Revenues	\$70,434.82

Program Expenses	Amount
Professional Fees	\$2,226.25
Insurance	\$390.00
Software	\$787.20
Equipment	\$137.78
Office Supplies	\$13.35
Travel	\$7,102.11
CM Dues/Subscriptions	\$2,508.00
Sponsorships – Expense	\$2,000.00
Grants – Expense	\$525.00
National Conference Expenses	\$1,895.71
Conference Expense	\$52,456.00
Lunch and Learns	\$44.45
Misc. Events	\$938.42
Unbudgeted Expenses	\$5,265.69
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$76,289.96



American Planning Association
Iowa Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All