

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

American Planning Association Iowa Chapter



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APA IOWA LEADERSHIP

Board Officers (as of December 2020)

- President: Dylan Mullenix, AICP, Des Moines Area MPO
- Vice President: Madeline Sturms, AICP, City of Pleasant Hill
- Secretary: Bill Micheel, AICP, City of Cedar Rapids
- 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 2020)

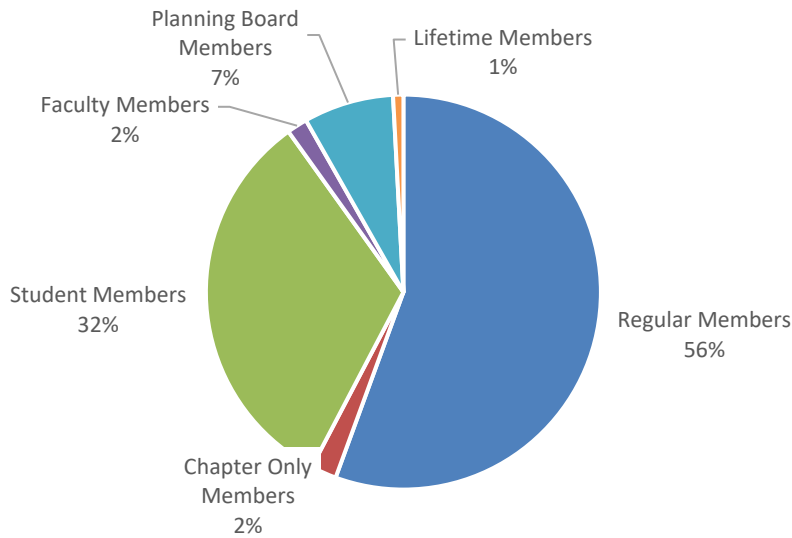
- Professional Development Officer: David Wilwerding, AICP, City of Johnston
- Planning Board Member: Trina Flack, City of Ankeny Plan & Zoning Commission
- Advocacy & Outreach Co-Chair: Rose Schroder, AICP, Bolton & Menk, Inc.
- Advocacy & Outreach Co-Chair: Melissa Tiedemann, AICP, Stanley Consultants
- 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: Chris Shires, AICP, Confluence
- Recognition & Awards Co-Chair: Emily Bothell, AICP, City of Iowa City
- Communications Program Co-Chair: Liesl Seabert, AICP, IEDA
- Professional Development Chair: Charlie Cowell, AICP, RDG Planning & Design
- At-Large Representative: Alexis Fleener, AICP, Southwest Iowa Planning Council
- 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: Ashlyn Daniels
- Iowa State University Graduate Student: Andre Lafontant
- County Planning & Zoning Officials: Bret Vandelune, Polk County
- Iowa Floodplain & Stormwater Management Officials: Mark Land, Snyder & Assoc.

Executive Board Members Whose Terms Expired in 2020

- Secretary: Tony Filipini, AICP, Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority
- Iowa State University Graduate Student: Sarah Runkel
- Iowa State University Undergraduate Student: Julia Hertaus

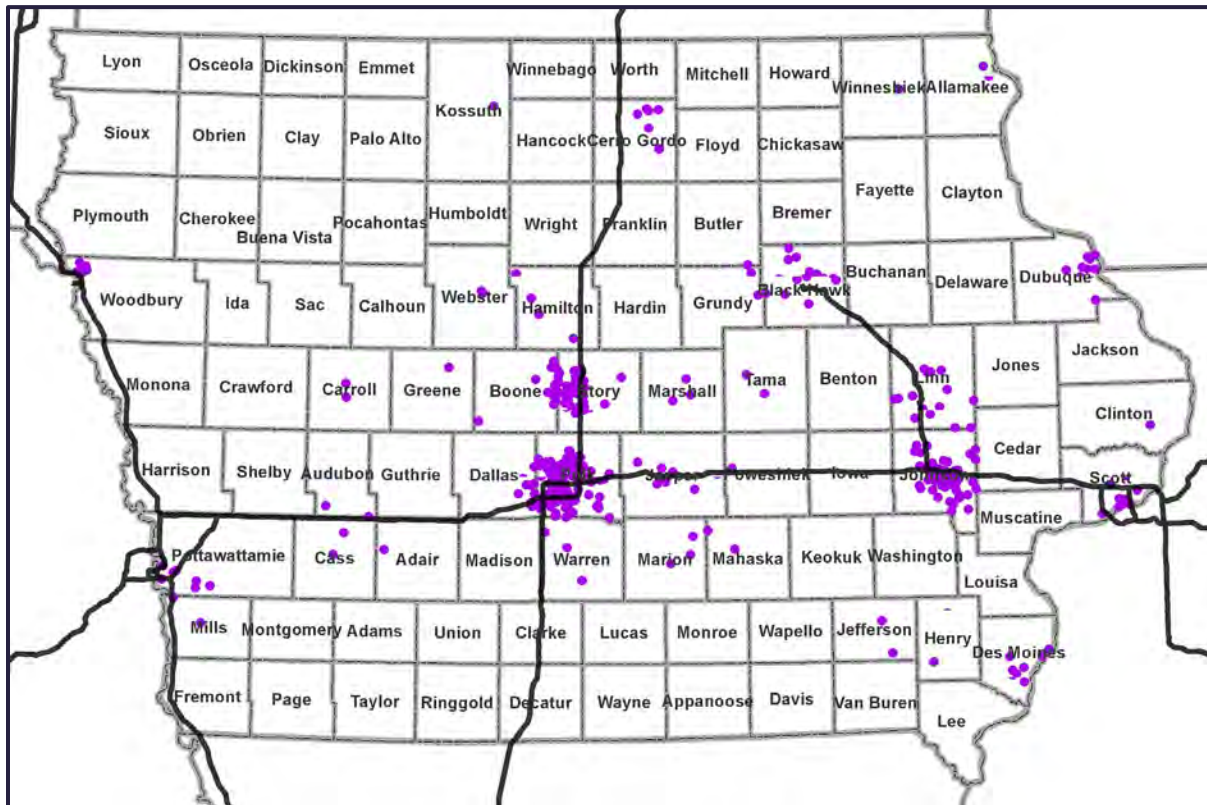
MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

Membership by Type



Membership Category	Number
Regular Members	257
Chapter Only Member	6
Student Members	93
Faculty Members	8
Planning Board Memb	23
Lifetime Members	7
Total	394

Member Distribution



Data as of December 2020

CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT

Administrative Support

2020 was the first year that APA Iowa had paid administrative support. 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 include financial management services, meeting management and event coordination, and advisory services to help carry out APA Iowa's policies.

2021 Work Plan

In November 2020 the APA Iowa board held a strategic planning session, facilitated by Terry Berkbuegler with Confluence, to help refine the 2021 work plan. Board members reflected on the work accomplished throughout 2020 and identified new priorities for 2021. Among the priorities for 2021 are supporting the chapter's new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee, engaging lobbyist services for legislative efforts, administering a membership survey, reviewing the organizational structure of the board, and refining events to allow for professional development and networking during COVID-19.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee

In August 2020, the APA Iowa chapter formed a new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee. While more focus on these topics had been an intent of the chapter for some time, the importance was reaffirmed by events during 2020 that renewed the focus around racial injustice. As planners, particularly those with AICP credentials, we have agreed to a code of ethics and professional conduct that includes the statement, "We shall seek social justice by working to expand choice and opportunity for all persons, recognizing a special responsibility to plan for the needs of the disadvantaged and to promote racial and economic integration. We shall urge the alteration of policies, institutions, and decisions that oppose such needs."

The subcommittee has met monthly since October. The committee has approximately 15 members, with V. Fixmer-Oraiz and Caleb Knutson serving as co-chairs.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AICP Exam Results

In the June/July 2020 and November 2020 testing windows, 9 planners passed the AICP exam; 5 through the traditional process and 4 through the AICP Candidate program

New AICP Members

- Nathan Thompson
- Shannon Gapp
- Stephen Troskey
- Raymon Heitner
- Amelia Shoенeman



New AICP Candidate Members

- Harrison Freund
- Victoria Halloran
- Francis Waisath
- Joseph Wilensky



CM Offerings

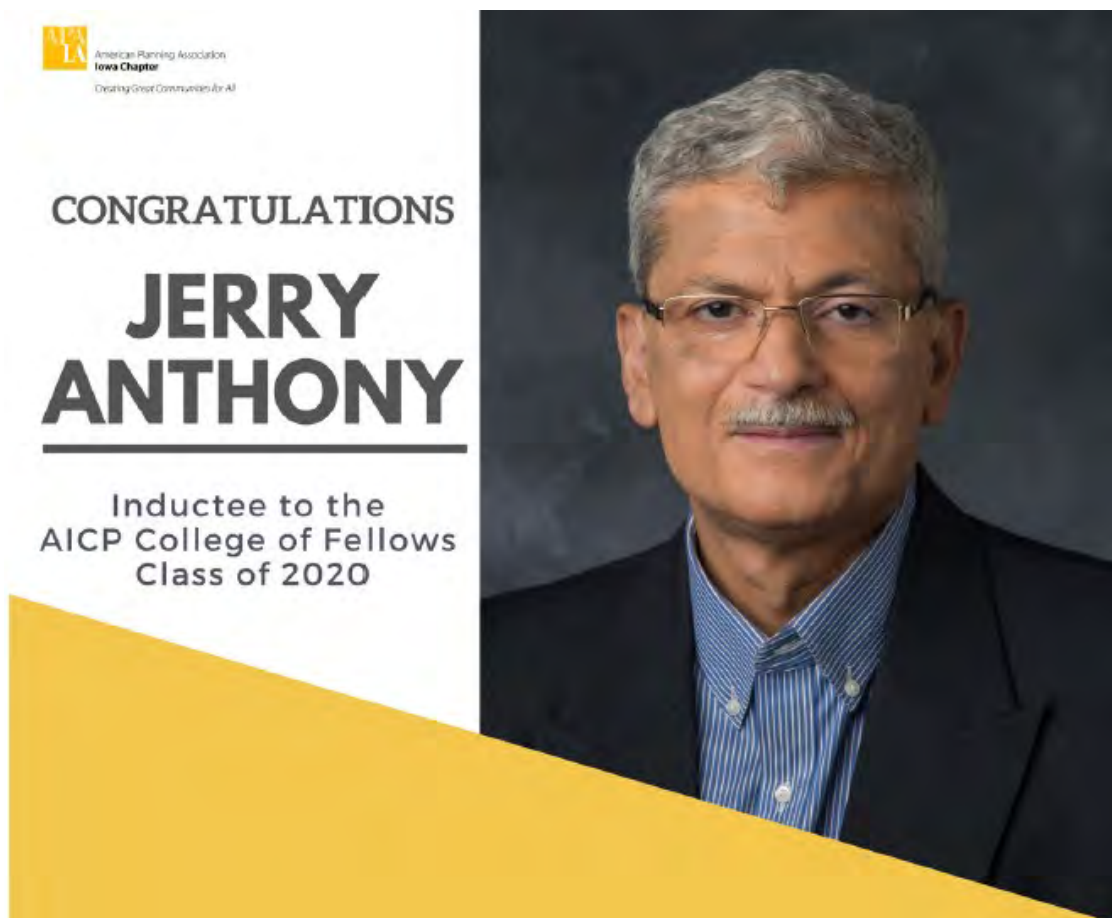
In 2020, APA Iowa offered 77 hours of CM opportunities to members, compared with 74.75 hours offered in 2019. Of these, 36 hours were offered directly by APA Iowa. Other were offered by partnerships with the Department of Cultural Affairs for the Preserve Iowa Conference (31.5 hours), the University of Iowa (6 hours), and the Tomorrow Plan Speaker Series (3.5 hours).

Jerry Anthony: Inductee to the AICP College of Fellows Class of 2020

In 2020, Professor Jerry Anthony of the School of Urban & Regional Planning at the University of Iowa was selected to be inducted to the AICP College of Fellows.

Induction to the AICP College of Fellows is the highest honor the American Institute of Certified Planners bestows upon a member. Fellows of AICP are nominated and selected by their peers to recognize and honor their outstanding contributions as a professional planner. All Fellows are long-time members of AICP and have achieved excellence in professional practice, teaching and mentoring, research, and community service and leadership.

Jerry has been an outstanding teacher at the University of Iowa's School of Urban & Regional Planning since he arrived nearly 20 years ago. An APA member who received his AICP in 1998, APA Iowa presented Jerry with the Excellence in Planning Education award in 2001, an honor so rare that it has not been awarded since.



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](#).

2020 APA National Conference and Upper Midwest Conference

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, both the APA National Conference and the Upper Midwest Conference were held virtual. While planners could not get together to network on-site, a silver lining was that both conferences saw increased participation due to the reduced costs and barriers of travel. Both also allowed for innovative approaches for holding virtual events.

The Upper Midwest Conference, which was to be held in Des Moines, was quickly transformed to a virtual conference. Typically the host chapter for the Upper Midwest Conference does most of the planning, and the other participating chapters still host their own chapter conference. In 2020, the Wisconsin and Minnesota chapters agreed to forgo hosting their own conferences and assisted Iowa with the planning and hosting of the virtual conference, resulting in a true Upper Midwest Conference. The conference had 579 total participants, with 177 from Iowa.



AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Each year, APA Iowa asks its members to nominate plans, projects, and individuals deserving recognition by the professional organization. Award nominees can be recognized in nineteen categories ranging from public outreach to distinguished leadership.

Based on an independent review by a jury of professional planners, nine nominees have been selected to receive APA-Iowa Awards in 2020. [Videos highlighting each awardee can be found online.](#)

Award: Advancing Diversity & Social Change

Awardee: City of Des Moines

Plan: LiveDSM

Award: Daniel Burnham Award For a Comprehensive Plan

Awardee: City of Indianola

Plan: Elevate Indianola Comprehensive Plan

Award: Distinguished Leadership Award for a Professional Planner

Awardee: Maggie Murry

Award: Economic Development Planning

Awardees: City of Bondurant

Plan: Regional Commercial Master Plan

Award: Exemplary Student Project

Awardees: Department of Community & Regional Planning at Iowa State University

Plan: Adel Downtown Plan 2020-2040

Award: Exemplary Student Project

Awardees: University of Iowa School of Planning & Public Affairs

Plan: Iowa City Automated Vehicles Adaptation & Equity Plan

Award: Implementation

Awardees: City of Fort Dodge

Plan: Des Moines River Dam Removals

Award: Transportation Planning

Awardees: City of Waukee

Plan: Waukee Street Design Guide

Award: Urban Design

Awardees: City of Muscatine

Plan: The Reconnecting Muscatine Project

PARTNERSHIPS

Planning on Tap Series & Professional Development Events

In 2020 APA Iowa embarked on holding monthly events that combined networking and professional development. These events, dubbed “Planning on Tap”, were to partner with APA’s Divisions to have facilitated discussions focused on a specific topic related to that division, hosted at a brewery or bar. Due to COVID, these events transitioned to Zoom, yet retained the same goal. Throughout 2020, APA Iowa held events focused on Small Town and Rural Planning, Economic Development, Energy and Natural Resources, Sustainable Communities, Hazard Mitigation, City Planning and Management, Arts and Culture, and Emerging Mobility. In addition to these events, APA Iowa partnered with other local organizations for similar events, including the Polk County Housing Trust Fund on the topic of Redlining, and the Women in Transportation Iowa Chapter on the topic of Transportation and Placemaking.

Planning Healthy Iowa Communities

APA Iowa partnered with Iowa Commission for Latino Affairs during the APA Upper Midwest Planning Conference to bring a panel of experts addressing affordable housing challenges for minorities and low-income populations.

The five panelists included Caleb Knutson as the moderator, Ted Grevstad-Nordbrock, Johnny Alcivar, Kendyl Larson, and Julie Winter. They discussed housing issues ranging from gentrification of Des Moines, lack of funding, rural-specific challenges, and natural disaster housing response.

Iowa Public Radio attended the session and provided an overview of the panel. The ultimate takeaway from the panelists was the message that to address the issue of displacement of minority populations and to offer more affordable housing options, government officials must “confront the issues head-on.” The panelists went on to say that in order to do that, communities must vote and encourage the state/federal government to invest more funding into neighborhood projects, as well as provide more incentives for developers to create affordable housing options.



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.

In February 2020, APA Iowa participated 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. Approximately 20 chapter members attended the event, which featured a professional development component led by APA Iowa Legislative Chair Steven Van Steenhuyse with special guest Rep. Andy McKeen of Anamosa that allowed Iowa planners to better understand the legislative process and learn about legislation that may impact planners.

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. Due to COVID, this conference was held virtually. A benefit of the virtual conference was that more APA Iowa members than usual were able to participate, including in the virtual Day on the Hill in which members were able to meet with members of Iowa's congressional delegation or their staffs to discuss national planning issues and to apprise them of planning projects in Iowa.



FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2020

APA Iowa operates on a calendar year schedule, January to December. The following tables summarize APA Iowa's finances in 2020. As noted, APA Iowa's net income was \$12,175.38, an amount that was significantly above the \$480 net income included in the 2020 budget. This was largely due COVID preventing travel to national meetings and conferences, as well as cost savings associated with holding the Upper Midwest Conference virtually.

Program Revenues	Amount
APA Membership Dues Rebate	\$13,587.23
APA IA Conference Revenue	\$18,998.54
All Iowa Reception – University Share	\$1,200.00
Interest Earned	\$13.75
Total Revenues	\$33,799.52

Program Expenses	Amount
Bank Charges	\$113.42
Upper Midwest Conference Expenses	\$8,101.38
Professional Fees	\$8,012.50
Insurance	\$390.00
Software	\$215.07
Office Supplies	\$24.10
Travel	\$1,341.57
Training/Continuing Education	825.00
Sponsorships – Expense	\$2,000.00
National Conference Expenses	\$533.10
Misc. Events	\$68.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$21,624.14



American Planning Association
Iowa Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All