



COMMITTEE UPDATES

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

In 2023 the Membership Committee seeks to continue the work of broadening and diversifying our chapter’s membership. This year we also want to engage with more existing members in the chapter to strengthen our support network for those doing planning work in wild and wonderful West Virginia. To this end, we are working on creating new member welcome packets that introduce new chapter members to resources and planning in the state. We also plan to schedule a few informal regional meet-ups throughout the year. Keep your eyes out for an event near you!

Professional Development Update

In November 2022, the Professional Development Committee drafted a questionnaire asking members for their input on the development of citizen planner modules. A special thanks to everyone who participated in the survey. With your input, the Committee has decided to start working on modules that address the following topic areas in 2023:

- The purpose and role of the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals
- Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law
- Comprehensive Plans
- Subdivision and Zoning Ordinances
- Ethics

WEBINAR OPPORTUNITY

Mid Atlantic Planning Collaborative Webinar Series: **Land Use Law Update**

Description: This session discusses recent significant court cases that impact land use planners. Given the geographic diversity of the audience, the presentation focuses on federal court cases and significant court cases that impact planning practice across the region and the country. “Hot topics” to be covered include legal issues arising from telecommunications, regulatory takings, short-term rentals, agritourism, and First Amendment issues.

When: February 21st from 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Speakers:

- **Jesse J. Richardson Jr.**, Professor of Law and Lead Land Use Attorney, WVU College of Law
- **Jared B. Anderson**, AICP, Land Use Attorney, WVU College of Law

To register for the webinar, please click [here](#). This webinar also counts toward CM credit for the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).



COMMITTEE UPDATES (from Page 1)

Each module is being developed to not exceed 30 minutes.

In addition to being made available on the Chapter's website, the Committee is discussing ways to disseminate the information to Citizen Planners across the Mountain State.

This year the Committee is also going to collaborate with the Membership Committee to provide planners with information on local, regional, and national opportunities for training and education. In doing so, we would love to know how Members currently brush up on their skills or obtain Certification Maintenance credits for AICP-certified planners. Please email any comments or suggestions to ryeager@morgantownwv.gov by Thursday, March 2nd. Stay tuned for more exciting information and be sure to check out the website in the coming weeks and months ahead.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that Patricia Usher is the new Chair of the Professional Development Committee. Patricia is the Zoning Officer and Floodplain Administrator for the City of Huntington. Patricia has a passion for planning and engaging others in the process. Thanks for taking on this leadership role Patricia – it is greatly appreciated.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Legislative Committee (LC) has met several times over the past few months. As the LC has been working diligently on modifications to WV 8A language to add clarity, improve logic and timelines in a few instances, and, for those jurisdictions planning with the aid of staff, add a modicum of flexibility specifically designed to take advantage of that staff's abilities.

In the process of offering suggested changes to the legislation, it was noted that WV APA needs to do some work in order to clarify the internal process for feedback and endorsement, which the LC will undertake after this legislative session.

Furthermore, though the process can improve and will in the future, the proposed changes had undergone significant review and was already accepted into the WV legislator's process. Thus, though WV APA will improve our ability to get all feedback prior to submission in the future, it was recognized that the legislators had already made changes*, and that we should allow them to move forward with the legislation.

It was decided that WV APA should avoid 'pulling our support' at this time – or we risk having legislators not trust WV APA in the future. It should be noted that legislator will always alter legislation during the legislative process, and WV APA will not be able to avoid that. Working constructively with legislators is the best way to start the process of mutual education, and it should lead to increased work together in the future.

COMMITTEE UPDATES (from Page 2)

The Chapter held a Special Call meeting on February 16th at 2 p.m. to discuss the proposed legislative changes to WV 8A. After review, the eighteen members present voted unanimously to endorse said changes. A special thanks to everyone who joined the call and all the members who worked on the legislation update itself. Many thanks.

*Basically, they embraced the key issues causing planning departments problems: timelines, some definitions, and increasing some flexibility to make it easier to get citizens to participate on commissions - e.g. Planning Commission, BZA, Subdivision Appeals). The legislators simply omitted the more complex aspect of the proposed changes (e.g. sitework, broadband, plan definition, etc.). This does not preclude our including those in the future.

MARCH COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Legislative Committee

- March 3rd and 17th: 11:30 am – 12 pm
- Virtual (Zoom) Meeting
- <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85387322999&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw07veWa6rElJtlk33u968N>
- The Committee is meeting twice monthly during the legislative session.

Professional Development Committee

- March 7, 2023: 1 pm – 1:30 pm
- Virtual (Zoom) Meeting
- <https://zoom.us/j/99635804662?pwd=Vm9VUElTZ3czOWp1cy9LSklCdjZiQT09>

Membership Committee

- March 16th: 11:30 am – 12 pm
- Virtual (Zoom) Meeting
- <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83575319929?pwd=YlZlTGpEMEcrc1ZvTXZleVNGeUZjQT09>

NPC23 All In!	NPC23 Online
Philadelphia April 1-4 Online April 26-28	Online April 26-28
NPC23 All In	NPC23 Online
Registration Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- In-person sessions- In-person networking events- Opening and closing keynotes- Exhibit Hall- Access to the full NPC23 Online event	Registration Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Live online sessions- Live virtual networking events
Members: \$785	Members: \$350
Life/Retired Members: \$135	Life/Retired Members: \$75
Students: \$135	Students: \$75
Non-members: \$1,225	Non-members: \$400

Note, the above graphics were taken from the national planning conference website.

For more information about the National Planning Conference 2023, please visit:
<https://www.planning.org/conference/>