

APA Ohio

Ohio Chapter of the American Planning Association

Annual Report FY 2017

July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017



American Planning Association
Ohio Chapter
Making Great Communities Happen

The First Statewide Association of Citizens &
Planners



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This report of the Chapter’s activities during FY 2017 (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017) was approved by the APA Ohio Board of Trustees at their September 28, 2017 meeting.

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Did you know?

- APA Ohio was recognized by APA’s Chapter Presidents Council as a recipient of the Karen B. Smith Chapter Award for Outstanding Outreach to the Community.
- The APA Ohio Listserv was reinstated in 2016 in response to member demand. To subscribe/unsubscribe, visit www.ohioplanning.org/listserv.
- Cincinnati’s Findlay Market was added to the list of APA Great Places in America in 2016.
- APA Ohio offered/facilitated over 250 hours of AICP CM credits.
- You can like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/APAOhio.
- You can follow us on Twitter at **#BecauseWePlan**.
- Many sections have their own Facebook and Twitter pages to provide timely information.
- Ten planners passed the AICP exam in FY2017.



President's Report

I am pleased to provide this report of the Chapter's activities during FY 2017 (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017).

APA Ohio is a statewide, non-profit association of planners, citizens and allied professionals committed to promoting a comprehensive approach to planning for communities in the State to improve quality of life for all Ohioans. APA Ohio is a state chapter of the American Planning Association (APA).

APA Ohio operates under the leadership of a volunteer Board of Trustees according to an adopted set of Bylaws. Administrative operations are managed by Christine Dersi Davis, AICP, the Chapter's Executive Director since 2011. We thank Chris for her exceptional service, including office and organizational administration, fiscal management, website administration, newsletter publication, board meeting management, conference coordination and section support.

The Board's activities are guided by an adopted Strategic Plan which serves as our roadmap to achieving the APA Ohio mission – advancing the art, science and profession of good planning, physical, economic and social and to create vibrant communities that offer better choices for where and how people work and live. Our objectives fall under the four main categories of **Inform**, **Advocate**, **Promote** and **Serve**.

In the last fiscal year our activities involved ongoing efforts to promote planning. Because We Plan was instrumental in increasing public awareness and support of planning among the public and members of related professions. We thank you, our members, for sharing your successes and helping us to tell the planning story. Because of your hard work, APA Ohio was recognized by APA's Chapter Presidents Council as a recipient of the Karen B. Smith Chapter Award for Outstanding Outreach to the Community.

Our Chapter also created a valuable new coalition with public health officials through the Planners4Health initiative. A task force was established through a \$45,000 grant to explore the relationship between planning and public health in Ohio and how that relationship could create stronger, healthier communities.

Board efforts have more recently shifted to building capacity so that the Chapter may take a stronger advocacy role in legislative and policy issues. Our spring board retreat was entirely focused on policy and advocacy, as we brought in state and national experts to help us better understand how to influence the legislative process and lay the groundwork for our Chapter's next steps.

On the following pages, you will see a complete overview of the Chapter's activities and finances as well as services provided to APA Ohio members over the last fiscal year. As we look ahead to the next fiscal year, we have many exciting things on the horizon including the state planning conference in Athens, preparing to host the 2018 OKI regional conference in Cincinnati, the roll out of our Chapter's legislative platform, and new partnership opportunities with our public health colleagues. I encourage you to explore these opportunities and other ways you can get more involved in Chapter activities or in your local section.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Lieber, AICP
APA Ohio President



Executive Director’s Report

It has been another successful year here at APA Ohio! As always, it is my pleasure to work daily with APA Ohio Board’s twenty-two (22) board members, eleven (11) board committees, and six (6) Sections.

As staff person to APA Ohio, it is my primary directive to support the above entities and, more specifically, to manage the following:

- Office and Organizational Administration
- APA Ohio Website
- *The Ohio Planner’s News*
- Outreach (social media and email communication)
- Board and Committee Meetings
- Finance and Investments
- Organization Development
- Sponsor/Advertiser Development
- Membership Development
- Conference Coordination
- Networking and Section Support

Some of the larger initiatives that we’ve been working on at the ground level here at APA Ohio are below. I urge you to contact me at any time should you want more information, or if you would like to get involved!

APA Ohio Website

As our members are spread geographically throughout the state, our website is the primary method of communication and outreach with members. The website is updated at least once a day with calendar events, news items, workshop information and registration, job postings, and much more. We’ve recently added financial budgets, tax returns, board books and more to keep our organization fluid and our members involved in board and organization decisions and status. Take some time to peruse all that APA Ohio has to offer online at www.ohioplanning.org.

Because We Plan

In Fall 2015, APA Ohio was awarded the Chapter President’s Council (CPC) 2017 Karen B. Smith Chapter Award for Outstanding Service to the Community grant to further goals of the **#becauseweplan** initiative. The purpose of the grant is to:

- Produce a marketing video highlighting the **#becauseweplan** initiative.
- Over the long term, to promote the value of smart and responsible planning as a means of encouraging better statewide planning policies (first and foremost to advocate for ‘comprehensive plan’ to be defined in the Ohio Revised Code).

The marketing video was unveiled in October 2016, during National Community Planning Month, and has been continually utilized to getting our message out to the masses! I urge you to visit www.ohioplanning.org/becauseweplan to view the video if you haven’t seen it already.

Advocacy

The APA Ohio Legislative Committee has been busy developing a platform for APA Ohio. They’ve been keeping a close eye of various pieces of legislation that affect our jobs as planners. To help support your knowledge of issues at the state and federal level, we’ve charged up the legislative webpage and began sending legislative advocacy alerts to your inbox. Visit www.ohioplanning.org/advocacy for more info and visit the Legislative Committee report in this document for details on various initiatives.

Social Media

We've upped our game! You may have noticed an increased presence of APA Ohio on the Facebook and Twitter social media platforms. It is our goal to post at least three (3) times a week to keep our members interested, engaged, and in the know. If you have already liked or followed us, please do!

Planning Webcast Series

In 2017, the Planning Webcast Series entered into its ninth (9) year! The Series offers over thirty (30) webcasts per year and has almost fifty (50) sponsoring APA Chapters and Divisions. 2016 broke a record by providing webcasts to over 13,000 planners! The Series is run by myself as moderator of sessions, and Northern New England APA Professional Development Officer Benjamin Frost, AICP as session coordinator. Sessions are offered most Friday afternoons and are worth 1.5 CM credits. When applicable, Law and Ethics credits are available. We're always looking for great webcasts, so if you're interested in speaking please reach out. To learn more and receive free access as a benefit to your APA Ohio membership, visit www.ohioplanning.org/planningwebcast.

Investing in our Organization

In February 2016, the APA Ohio Board approved an investment strategy that APA Ohio Treasurer Rachel Ray, AICP and I researched. The idea is to invest organization "rainy day funds" in a strategic combination of conservative stocks, bonds, and mutual funds in order to help grow our pot of funds. The investment account was finally opened at the beginning of 2017, and we are seeing the strategy pay off already! For more information on our financial status and outlook, visit www.ohioplanning.org/ataglance.

I look forward to working with the initiatives in progress and those in the future. Again, feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at info@ohioplanning.org.

Best,



Christine Dersi Davis, AICP
Executive Director



APA Ohio Board of Trustees

The Board is composed of 16 at-large members elected from the general membership plus the 6 Section Directors or their designated representatives. At least four of the at-large trustees shall not be professional planners, but individuals interested in furthering the goals and objectives of APA Ohio. All board members volunteer their time. Elections for the Board of Trustees are held every other year; terms are for two years. The next Board elections will take place between July 29 and September 1, 2018.

APA Ohio has been well-served by its Board. We would like to thank all the past board members who have created and maintained a great organization.

FY 2017 Executive Committee

President: Kimberly Lieber, AICP
City of North Olmsted

President Elect: Christopher Anderson, AICP
City of Forest Park

Treasurer: Rachel Ray, AICP
City of Dublin

Secretary: Nancy Reger, AICP
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Past President: Todd Kinskey, AICP
Hamilton County Planning & Development

FY 2017 At-Large Trustees

Eric Anderson, AICP
KZF Design

Christopher Auffrey
University of Cincinnati

Joyce Braverman
City of Shaker Heights

Kelly Brooker Scocco
City of Columbus

Tim Davis
Miami Valley Section Director
City of Troy

Jerry Egan
Akron Section Director
Egan Consult LLC

Patrick Etchie, AICP
Northwest Section Director
Mannik & Smith Group

Kyle Ezell, AICP
Professional Development Officer
OSU Knowlton School of Architecture

Amanda Golden
Designing Local

Dan Kennedy
Citizen Planner

Katherine Keough-Jurs, AICP
Cincinnati Section Director
City of Cincinnati

Ann Klavora, AICP
City of Shaker Heights

Paul Logue, AICP
City of Athens

Beth Nagy
CSU Levin College of Urban Affairs

Chris Ronayne, AICP
University Circle, Inc.

Jason Russell, AICP
RMS Investments

Matthew Schmidt, AICP
Cleveland Section Representative
Trust for Public Land



Financial Report

Rachel Ray, AICP, Treasurer

As a non-profit organization, APA Ohio relies on two primary sources for operating income—Chapter dues and conference income. The following is a summary of the Chapter's primary income and expenses for FY 2017:

Dues Income		Dues-Related APA Expenses	
Income		Expenses	
111	APA National Membership	312	Chapter Presidents Council Fee
113	Single - Chapter Only	313	APA 3% Credit Card Fee
114	Retired/Student - Chapter Only	314	APA Per-Member Record Fee
		419	CM Chapter Expenses
TOTAL	\$45,517.44		\$4,118.48
NET INCOME/APA REBATE		\$41,398.96	

Pass-Thru/Related Income and Expenses							
Corresponding Expense Code		Income		Expenses		Corresponding Income Code	
412	134	State-Regional Conf. Seed Money Repayment	\$0.00	411	Conference Expenses	\$722.76	131
413	135	State-Regional Conf. Sponsorship Pass-Thru	\$2,300.00	416	PD Workshop Expenses	\$0.00	132
415	136	Conference Reception Funds (Pass-Thru)	\$0.00	412	Conference Seed Money	\$0.00	134
613	148	Plan 4 Health Grants	\$112,500.00	413	Conference Registration/Sponsorship Pass-Thru	\$0.00	135
614	149	Planners4Health Grant	\$45,000.00	415	National/Regional Conference Support	\$0.00	136
351	151	AICP Review Revenue (last used Oct. 2008)	\$0.00	351	AICP Review Prep (fka PD) (last used Sep. 2010)	\$0.00	151
429	152	CM Payments (from Sections)	\$950.00	429	CM Charges for Section Events	\$950.00	152
711	211	Akron	\$35.00	613 Plan 4 Health Grant Disbursements	\$109,500.00		148
712	212	Cincinnati	\$10,561.00	614 Planners4Health Grant Disbursements	\$15,707.86		149
713	213	Cleveland	\$44,900.00	711	Akron	\$35.00	211
714	214	Columbus	\$12,035.00	712	Cincinnati (722 on Accounting Practices)	\$10,281.00	212
715	215	Miami Valley	\$17,145.00	713	Cleveland (723 on Accounting Practices)	\$40,130.00	213
716	216	NW Ohio	\$4,350.00	714	Columbus (724 on Accounting Practices)	\$11,955.00	214
210/710; 550	154	Online Registration Income	\$2,944.92	715	Miami Valley (725 on Accounting Practices)	\$17,120.00	215
				716	NW Ohio (726 on Accounting Practices)	\$4,350.00	216
Corresponding Expense Code		Webcast Income		Webcast Expenses		Corresponding Income Code	
561, 562	251	Webcast Participation Fees	\$7,900.00	561	Webcast Administrator Retainer (\$175/month)	\$2,100.00	251
				562	Webhosting Fee	\$885.20	251
				563	Other Webcast Expenses (Postage, Printing, etc.)	\$2,560.10	251
TOTAL PASS-THRU INCOME		\$260,620.92		TOTAL PASS-THRU EXPENSES		\$216,296.92	
NET PASS-THRU INCOME		\$44,324.00					

Other (Non-Dues) Income			
Corresponding Expense Code		Income	
	120	Advertising	\$4,060.92
411	131	State-Regional Conf. Revenue	\$5,531.13
416	132	Professional Development Workshops	\$0.00
	141	Interest	\$118.81
	143	Grants	\$11,416.67
	145	Miscellaneous	\$65.61
	146	Publications	\$0.00
	147	Sponsorship Donations (not used since before 2005)	\$0.00
	NET INCOME		\$21,193.14

Total Revenue (Including Dues Income) \$327,331.50

Other (Non-Dues) Expenses			
Expenses		Corresponding Income Code	
311	Leadership Meetings	\$2,362.92	
321	Contracted Services	\$41,800.00	
325	Special Projects ("Telephone" prior to 2005)	\$0.00	
326	Mileage (typically accounted under 328)	\$0.00	
327	Bank Fees	\$0.00	
328	Total Reimbursables	\$2,052.21	
330	Insurance, Legal, Accounting	\$3,011.00	
342	Communications	\$222.80	
343	Board Meeting Expenses	\$1,567.37	
352	Membership	\$0.00	
353	Legislative	\$0.00	
354	Awards	\$0.00	
355	Education & Programming (NON-WEBCAST)	\$506.44	
356	Executive	\$0.00	
357	Audit	\$0.00	
358	Media	\$0.00	
359	Nominating & Teller	\$463.10	
360	Other/Outreach	\$6,185.18	
415	National/Regional Conference Support	\$0.00	136
421	Akron Section Support	\$0.00	
422	Cincinnati Section Support	\$0.00	
423	Cleveland Section Support	\$0.00	
424	Central Ohio Section Support	\$0.00	
425	Miami Valley Section Support	\$0.00	
426	Northwest Ohio Section Support	\$0.00	
510	Newsletter	\$599.88	
521	Webmaster Expenses	\$3,214.77	
522	Other Web Expenses	\$0.00	
530	Other Miscellaneous Expenses	\$375.00	
550	Merchant Fees (Net of Pass-Thru Fees)	\$2,873.54	
611	Grants to Agencies/Programs	\$0.00	
612	Scholarship Awards to Individuals	\$0.00	
NET EXPENSES		\$65,234.21	
Total Expenses		\$285,649.61	

TOTAL REVENUE (Total Revenue - Total Expenses) \$41,681.89
 NET REVENUE (net APA Rebate + net income - net expenses) -\$2,642.11



APA National Awards

Karen B. Smith Chapter Award for Outstanding Service to the Community

APA Ohio was honored to receive the Karen B. Smith Chapter Award at the 2017 APA/AICP Annual Meeting and Leadership Honors program at the National Planning Conference in New York City. The purpose of the Karen B. Smith Chapter Award is to recognize programs or outreach efforts which serve the community, region, or state. These might include, for example, educational programs, a public policy initiative, community service, service to advisory or legislative groups, or more things that have improved the service the chapter provides to the public or enhanced the understanding or image of planning in the community at large.

In reviewing the nominations, the Chapter President's Council (CPC) Executive Committee applies the criteria of quality, relevance, originality, and significance of the program and its resourcefulness considering the size and resources of the chapter. Because the CPC Executive Committee is always looking for good models to share with other chapters, the transferability or lessons learned from a program are of interest. However, programs and achievements that are uniquely suited to one chapter will not be passed up.

AICP Outstanding Student Awards and Student Project Awards

APA honored 55 planning program graduates at the 2017 National Planning Conference. The AICP Outstanding Student Awards are awarded annually to recognize outstanding attainment in the study of planning by a student who is being graduated from an accredited program. Congratulations to the following award recipients from Ohio universities:

Cleveland State University

- *Joyce Pan Huang, Master's*

Ohio State University

- *Victoria Hollingsworth, Master's*
- *Mary Turner, Bachelor's*

University of Cincinnati

- *Samantha McLean, Master's*
- *Julia Jones, Bachelor's*

FAICP Honors / APA Ohio Awards

The Awards/FAICP Committee is responsible for running APA Ohio's biennial awards program that corresponds with the Chapter's State Conference. The committee is also responsible for identifying a list of potential Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners (FAICP) nominees.

Co-Chairs: *Joyce Braverman and Ann Klavora, AICP*

There were no awards in 2017, so it was a planning year...

The committee reviewed and updated the APA Ohio award categories/descriptions and added one new award: The Allor Planning Champion Award. This award recognizes a citizen or elected official for promoting planning. The committee reviewed the list of APA Ohio members eligible for FAICP. Short listed and recruited candidates and for potential recognition in 2018. Three members are currently preparing application packages.



To celebrate National Community Planning Month, APA announces its list of Great Places in America each October. These places — in communities large and small — celebrate stories of exemplary planning that have resulted in stronger, healthier, and more just communities.

Great Public Space 2016 | Findlay Market – Cincinnati OH

Findlay Market is Ohio's oldest and Cincinnati's last remaining municipal market. It's also a public gathering space that encourages community interaction across social and economic boundaries. The quality food and welcoming atmosphere create a regional attraction that draws regulars and visitors alike.



Cincinnati's Findlay Market joins other Great Places in America that are located in Ohio:

- Fifth Street, Dayton
- Hyde Park, Cincinnati
- West Side Market, Cleveland
- Shaker Boulevard, Cleveland/Shaker Heights/Beachwood
- German Village, Columbus
- Village of Mariemont, Mariemont

Learn more about Great Places in America at www.planning.org/greatplaces.

PLAN4Health

An American Planning Association Project

Background

Plan4Health is a three-year project designed to strengthen the connection between the planning and public health professions. It connects communities across the country, funding work at the intersection of planning and public health. Anchored by members of the American Planning Association (APA) and the American Public Health Association (APHA) and supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Plan4Health supports creative partnerships to build sustainable, cross-sector coalitions. These coalitions are made up of APA chapters, APHA affiliates, local non-profits, schools, parks and recreation departments, universities – and more! These coalitions are working to launch and to strengthen strategies for healthy planning.

Plan4Health Coalitions

As previously reported, over the past two years APA Ohio received funding for three projects in Ohio (Columbus, Summit County and Lake County). For more information on specific projects, visit plan4health.us.

Planners4Health

The *Planners4Health* initiative marks the three-year culmination of APA's \$9 million Plan4Health program. APA Ohio received a \$45,000 grant in this last phase. This six-month initiative which began in February 2017 will ensure planners and public health professionals have access to information and resources to help their communities more easily support and implement healthy living choices.

APA Ohio is using the grant funding to broadly share knowledge and resources on building coalitions with public health professionals and more strongly integrating public health into local and regional planning practices. The program serves both as an opportunity to disseminate lessons learned from previous coalition work, and a chance to sustain the health agenda within APA.

Purpose

To institutionalize the relationship between planning and health at the Chapter level.

- ↳ How can APA Ohio continue the momentum established at the national level?
- ↳ How can APA Ohio disseminate experiences and lessons learned from Cohorts One & Two to membership in an impactful way?

Deliverables

1. Assess health and planning in Ohio (completed)
2. Host a roundtable with key stakeholders (completed)
3. Develop a final summary of project findings (in progress)

APA Ohio Task Force

Project Manager/Planning Consultant
Christine Davis, AICP

Public Health Consultant
Scott Ulrich, AICP

PLAN4Health Cohort Representatives
Kristi Kato | Summit County
Scott Ulrich, AICP | City of Columbus
Dave Radachy | Lake County

APA Ohio Board Representatives
Chris Auffrey
Rachel Ray, AICP
Nancy Reger, AICP
Matt Schmidt, AICP
Kim Wenger, AICP

For more information, visit: <http://plan4health.us>. Click on the Coalitions tab for project-specific details.



Membership and Outreach

The Membership and Outreach Committee is responsible for developing activities to expand and serve the membership of the Chapter. The Committee shall be responsible for working with APA Ohio staff to develop and implement any policies or strategies related to outreach to the chapter's various constituents as outlined in the strategic plan. These responsibilities may include, but are not limited to, developing avenues for "telling the planning story" to members and non-members alike; develop additional methods of outreach to planners, planning officials, and allied organizations, and similar activities that may be identified in the strategic plan.

Co-Chairs: Kimberly Wenger, AICP & Amanda Golden

Membership Recognition

APA Ohio first distributed membership ribbons with name badges at the 2015 State Conference in Toledo. The goals were to both recognize existing members and to promote membership to other attendees. Sections were encouraged to implement this practice at their own local planning and zoning workshops. Since then, membership ribbons have been distributed at most workshops and conferences, with positive feedback from members.

New members continue to receive welcome letters thanking them for joining APA Ohio, letting them know which Section they belong to, and giving them a brief introduction to the organization and the general benefits available to them. Each new member also receives a #becauseweplan sticker with a brief explanation of the initiative.

Membership Recognition

Following a chapter dues increase, APA Ohio's Membership Committee was tasked with drafting a 2016 membership survey that would answer several key questions:

- Are APA Ohio members aware of the diversity of benefits and services available to them? Do members perceive they receive good value for the cost of dues? Which benefits and services are of the greatest value to members?
- What member benefits and services should be improved? What can we be doing better?

The APA Ohio board also gave sections an opportunity to include section-specific questions submitted by their leadership along with the general survey.

The survey was administered in July 2016. Results were compiled and were used by chapter officers and committees to set goals for the coming year. The survey measured satisfaction levels in areas such as member benefits, communications, continuing education, and advocacy.

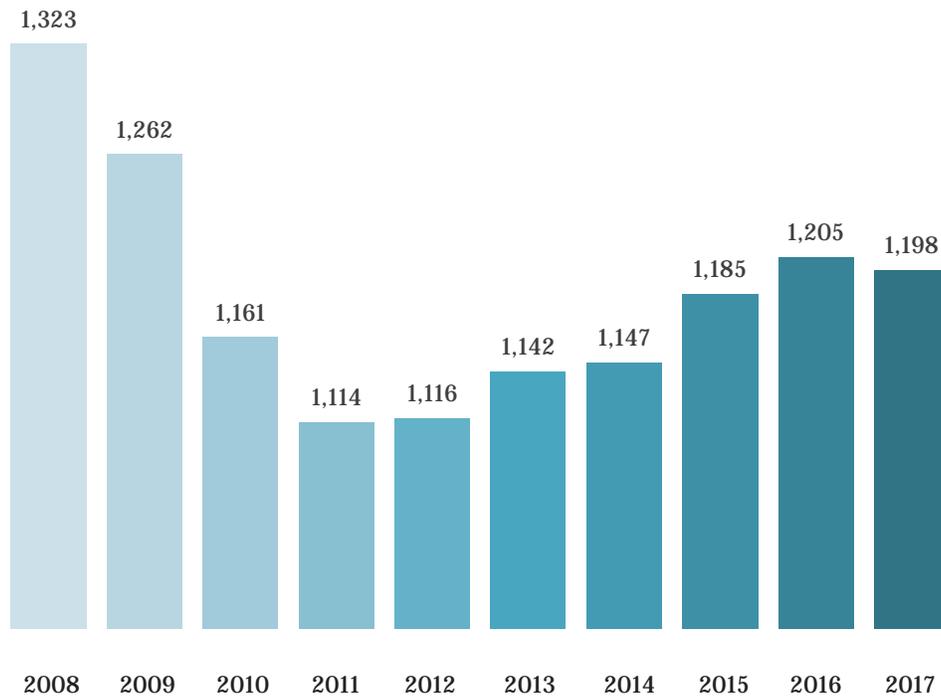
The survey responses were used to help set specific priorities for the board's 2017 policy and advocacy work to create a Chapter policy platform. The input is also being used to guide the update of the board's strategic plan.

Membership Trends

Overall membership has remained constant with seasonal peaks in the late fall and winter. While total membership decreased slightly across the reporting period, the number of Ohio-only members has steadily increased in absolute numbers and as a percentage of total chapter membership.

Date	National	Ohio Only	Total
September 2016	922	191	1,113
December 2016	961	192	1,153
February 2017	906	194	1,100
May 2017	929	202	1,131

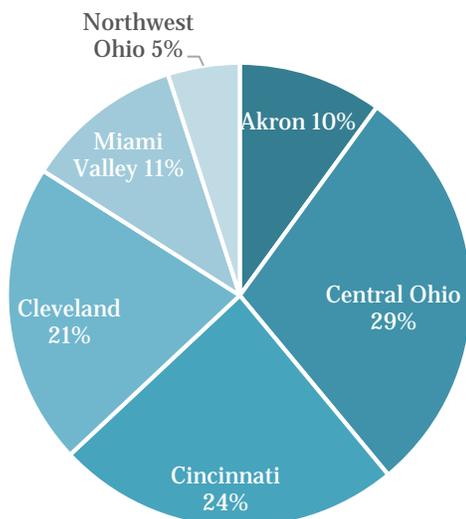
APA Ohio Membership



Section Membership

Date	Akron	Central	Cincinnati	Cleveland	Miami Valley	Northwest
September 2016	113	321	258	233	127	61
December 2016	115	334	265	242	128	69
February 2017	111	319	259	229	124	58
May 2017	114	328	266	235	128	60

2017 APA Ohio Membership by Section



Looking Ahead

The committee has several goals to reach over the coming year:

- Support membership mapping efforts to better understand where APA Ohio members live and work in the State and assist with advocacy efforts. This can also identify areas of low membership where greater education and outreach are needed.
- Spotlight an APA Ohio member in each edition of the Ohio Planners News
- Leverage APA's recent student and new member rates to increase Chapter membership.
- Establish a list of allied organizations to send notices of upcoming programs to – this to spark cross-collaboration between our like organizations.



Professional Development

The Education Committee is responsible for identifying appropriate educational programs that may be offered during workshops, conferences, webinars, or other forums. The committee also works with the Sections and the Conference Committee to identify emerging topics or issues that may need to be addressed during educational programming.

Education Committee Co-Chairs: Paul Logue, AICP & Kelly Brooker Scocco
Professional Development Officer: Kyle Ezell, AICP

The Chapter supports our members through a variety of professional development activities. APA Ohio provides general educational programs for all members and continuing education that qualifies for certification maintenance credits for AICP members.

Planning Webcast Series

Established in 2008, the Planning Webcast Series continues to grow each year. Reorganized in 2011, the Consortium is now officially managed by APA Ohio Executive Director Christine Dersi Davis, AICP, with assistance from the Northern New England Chapter Professional Development Officer Benjamin Frost, AICP. The Consortium currently includes 35 Chapters (of 47 total) and 13 Divisions (of 21 total) nationwide. Access to the monthly webcasts is free to APA Ohio members and is a great membership benefit. Each year, at least one webcast qualifies for Law and one webcast qualifies for Ethics certification maintenance (CM) credits. There are currently one of each available for Distance Education CM credits.



	2014	2015	2016	2017*
Webcasts	38	39	35	30
Participants	9,500	9,750	13,100	n/a
CM Credits Available	57	58.5	54	45

*Total scheduled for 2017 (Jan 1 – Dec 31)

Educational Events

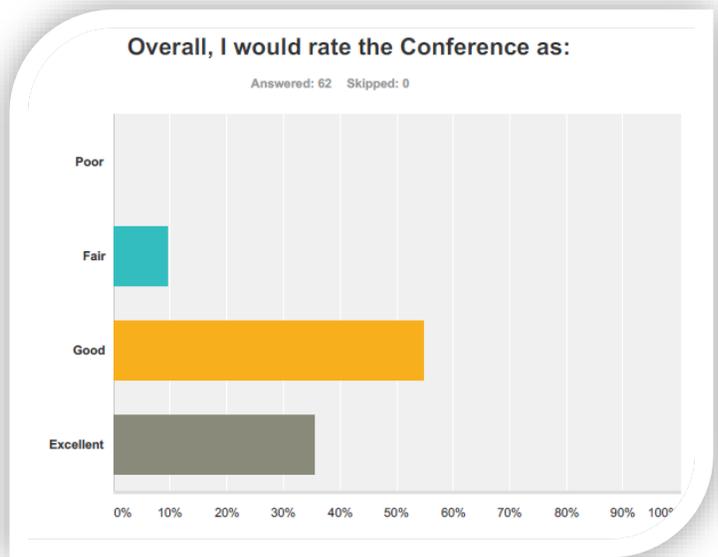
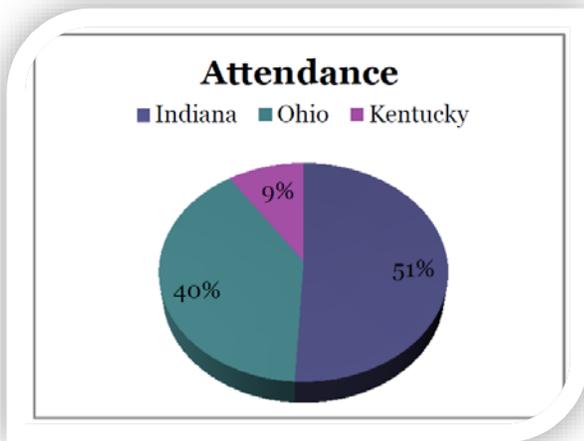
The Ohio Chapter and its Sections regularly organize education events for members across the state, including state and regional planning conferences, local Planning & Zoning Workshops and individual events. Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, the Chapter received CM credits for over 250 hours of instruction.

Key events included:

- OKI Regional Planning Conference (Indianapolis), October 2016
- World Town Planning Day Charette (Miami Township), November 2016
- 2017 International Trails Symposium (Dayton), May 2017
- Annual Planning & Zoning Workshops in:
 - Cincinnati, January 2017
 - Central Ohio, May 2017
 - Cleveland, November 2016
 - Miami Valley, December 2016
 - Northwest Ohio, November 2016
 - Northeast Ohio, June 2017

2016 Ohio Kentucky Indiana (OKI) Regional Planning Conference

The 2016 OKI Conference was hosted by the Indiana Chapter at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Indianapolis IN on October 5-7. The conference theme of Planning to Live | Living to Plan was illuminated by keynote speaker June Williamson, RA, LEED AP who is an Associate Professor of Architecture and urban design at the City College of New York, SUNY and author of *Designing Suburban Futures* and *Retrofitting Suburbia*.



AICP Exam

The Chapter provides resource materials to assist members in preparing for the AICP exam, including the Chapter Presidents Council Study Manual, an updated webpage of resources (www.ohioplanning.org/aicpexam), a yearly in-person study session at either the state conference or OKI conference, exam survey (see below), and provides reduced rate scholarships for exam applicants.

Congratulations to the following ten (10) APA Ohio members who passed the exam during the November 2016 and May 2017 exam periods:

Nov 2016 Exam		May 2017 Exam	
Wade Johnston	Rebekka Apardian	Gregory Orosz	Benjamin Levensger
John Gardocki	Maureen Austin	Susan Spiker	Sara Wenger
Emma Posillico		Shannon Fergus	

AICP Exam Survey

Beginning in 2013, APA Ohio has conducted a survey of Ohio members who have been approved to take the AICP exam. Once the testing period is opened, APA Ohio sends a survey invitation link to all those who have been approved to take the exam. Our hope is to develop a robust database of information on how much time and effort it takes to both apply for and study for the AICP exam, and advice on the best study materials and test taking tips.

To date, a total of 69 members have participated in the survey; the results are summarized below:

- *Pass Rate of Respondents*
Of the 69 respondents, 61 had taken the test and 56 passed. Of those that passed the exam, 9 had taken the exam previously.
- *Application Preparation*
On average, the respondents spent approximately 9.5 hours to prepare the application over a two-week period, though the median was 10 hours and the range was from as few as 2 hours to as many as 35 hours.
- *Test Preparation*
Of the 69 who took the exam and responded to the question of test preparation, the average number of hours spent studying was 65.5, with the median being 100 hours. There was quite a range of responses, with one person studying about 3 hours and another studying over 300 hours. Of the 61 people who responded about the period over which they studied, the average was about 11 weeks, with the median being 4 weeks.
- *Advice for Future Test Takers*
The survey provides respondents an opportunity to share their studying advice on what worked and didn't work for them. Not surprisingly, test takers have provided a wide range of tips to the open-ended question. Common suggestions include: start early; use common sense/practical knowledge; go beyond APA/AICP Review material; and don't rely on APA's Planning Prep website.

Advanced Specialty Certification

No members of APA Ohio received Advanced Specialty Certifications in the May 2017 period. Six (6) members did receive the certification in 2015 (previously reported). Advanced Specialty Certification enables AICP-credentialed planners to be recognized for their knowledge, experience, and leadership skills in specialized areas of planning. There are three certifications available – Certified Environmental Planner (CEP), Certified Transportation Planner (CTP), and Certified Urban Designer (CUD).



Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee monitors pending state legislation of interest to the Chapter and its members and participates in APA Legislative matters. The Legislative Committee is a forum for discussing legislative issues related to planning and zoning in Ohio and develops recommendations to the Board.

Chair: Todd Kinskey, AICP

During FY 2017, the Legislative Committee and the APA Ohio Board began substantive work to develop a more robust advocacy role for the Chapter.

- Held a day long retreat learning how to develop a strong advocacy program for the Chapter. Much of the retreat was led by a representative from APA National who discussed efforts in other Chapters as well as helped us formulate a plan for reaching out to members interested in getting more involved in advocacy efforts.
- We also heard from a local politician who helped us better understand how to effectively communicate with state legislators.
- Formulated a position statement on allowing oil and gas drilling in state parks and sent a letter to the President of the Ohio Senate.
- Issued a special bulletin to our members about Small Cell Wireless legislation. Actively encouraged members to join the Planners Advocacy Network.
- Served on the APA Chapter President Council's Policy and Advocacy Committee.
- Goals: 1. Finalize Legislative Framework document at the State Conference in Athens; 2. Formalize process to react to short-term legislative issues and threats.
- Challenges: The biggest challenge of the legislative group is keeping up with proposed legislation at the statehouse and correspondingly keeping our members up to date on such matters.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee is responsible for production of the Chapter newsletter and for overseeing and updating the chapter's website activities in conjunction with the Executive Director.

Co-chairs: Ann Klavora, AICP & Katherine Keough-Jurs, AICP

The Communications Committee works very closely with the Executive Director on all matters related to member communications and Board publications. Activities undertaken during FY 2017 are highlighted below.

- Four (4) quarterly issues of the Ohio Planner's News were distributed via email during the 2017 fiscal year, and all issues are accessible to members on the APA Ohio website. Back issues are also posted on the website.
- To maintain the effort of providing succinct and applicable information to members, a section-specific APA Ohio eNEWS is sent every Wednesday to all APA Ohio members.
- After several years of dormancy, the APA Ohio Listserv was reinstated in response to member demand. To subscribe/unsubscribe, visit www.ohioplanning.org/listserv. APA Ohio has become more active on social media, both at the statewide Chapter level and at the local Section level. This is a great way to find information about APA Ohio events and announcements. You can find, follow, post and interact with us on:
 - **Facebook**—like us at www.facebook.com/APAOhio. All members are welcome to post events and share articles or news. Many sections also have their own Facebook pages, including Cleveland, Cincinnati and Central Ohio.
 - **Twitter**—follow us at [#becauseweplan](https://twitter.com/becauseweplan)



APA Ohio Section Reports

The APA Ohio Chapter includes six sections organized geographically: Akron, Central Ohio, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Miami Valley and Northwest Ohio. Sections typically organize informal luncheons with speakers, and sponsor workshops and social functions to allow members to stay current on local planning issues. Each section is represented on the APA Ohio Board of Trustees. Section Directors are listed below; a complete list of the Executive Committees running each section is available on the website.

Accomplishments and events during FY 2017 for each section are summarized below.

Central Ohio Section

Director: *Amanda Golden*

- The Planning and Zoning Conference which took place on May 19, 2017 was a fantastic event that had over 175 attendees. Keynote speaker, Dr. Holly Debalko-Schoney revealed the importance of planning for those who are 65+ and how many of the accommodations needed for the aging population share similarities with young families.
- The Central Ohio Section co-sponsored the end of the year celebration for the MCRP Program at the Knowlton School. Presentations and awards were presented and the students hard work was elevated that evening.
- The Knowlton School Mentorship program and end of the year celebration.
- 2018 Goals: (1) Host more events; (2) Partner with KSA for engaging with students.
- Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/CentralohioAPA>



Wrapping up another successful Planning and Zoning Workshop

Cincinnati Section: Riding Red Bikes, Mastering Microbreweries and Gearing Up for 2018

Director: Katherine Keough-Jurs, AICP



Events

- *2017 David J. Allor Planning & Zoning Workshop* on Friday, March 31, the Cincinnati Section hosted the annual David J. Allor Planning & Zoning Workshop at the Anderson Center in Anderson Township. The educational portion of the day was followed by a happy hour on site. Once again, our event reached capacity at 200 people and was approved for CM credits. Our opening plenary session featured an engaging panel discussion with four speakers: Brad Wenstrup, U.S. Representative for Ohio's 2nd District; Denise Driehaus, Hamilton County Commissioner; Bill Seitz, Representative for the 30th District of the Ohio House of Representatives; and Joe Uecker, State Senator for Ohio's 14th District. Our panel was moderated by Liz Blume, Executive Director for the Community Building Institute at Xavier University. Our distinguished panel members each gave their perspective on current issues for local communities in the region. *Welcome New Students Happy Hour* with University of Cincinnati MCP Students, August 20, 2015. We welcomed new University of Cincinnati Master of Community Planning (MCP) students to Cincinnati with a short presentation about APA followed by a Happy Hour at Ladder 19 in Corryville.



- **Behind the Scene Streetcar Tour** Cincinnati's Streetcar has been a hotly debated topic since it was first proposed in 2007, but it opened to the public on September 9, 2016 to record-high ridership numbers. On Thursday, November 3, APA Cincinnati held a Behind the Scenes Tour of the Cincinnati Streetcar (now known as the Cincinnati Bell Connector), led by John Deatrick, AICP, Project Executive for the Cincinnati Streetcar and APA member,



Cincinnati Bell Connector

Chris Eilerman from the City of Cincinnati, and Paul Grether from SORTA. The event, which was approved for CM credits, began with a tour of the Maintenance and Operations Facility, located at Henry and Race Streets in Over-the-Rhine. That was followed by a full-loop ride on the streetcar, and ended with beverages at Rhinegeist Brewery, one of the many fine establishments on the streetcar line. Approximately 25 people attended.

- **Holiday Party:** On December 2, 2016, the Cincinnati Section partnered with Kentucky Region IV to kick off the holiday season and say goodbye to 2016 at Braxton Brewing, in Covington, KY. The party began 5:00 p.m. and lasted well into the evening. APA provides Hors D'oeuvres and there was a Cash Bar. 80 people attended.



- **Building Better Neighborhoods in the Internet Age:** On Wednesday, May 17, 2017 the Cincinnati Section presented a Brown Bag Lunch entitled "Hacked, Disrupted, and Put Back Together; Urbanism and the Smart City." Joe Nickol, AICP from MKSK shared how to proactively incorporate new technology into cities and create communities that are attractive places to live in the long term. The Brown Bag Lunch was co-sponsored by CNU Midwest and hosted at KZF Design in Downtown Cincinnati. About 25 people attended this CM Credit-approved event and shared in this interesting discussion.

- **Biking Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky:** On June 14, 2017, Tri-State Trails and the Cincinnati Section collaborated to offer a CM Credit-approved bike ride to showcase the Ohio and Kentucky riverfronts and learn about the history, progress and plans for various parks and trails. These included the Ohio River Trail, Cincinnati Riverfront Parks, the Oasis Trail, the Licking River Greenway and the Red Bike



(Cincinnati's bike share program) and its evolution over the last few years. We began our ride at the Red Bike Station at East Freedom Way and Walnut Street at The Banks (outside the National Underground Freedom Center) and rode along the riverfronts in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, ending at Pies & Pints for a happy hour. 20 people attended.

Partnerships

The Cincinnati Section strives to partner with other related professional organizations as often as possible. One way is through the Joint Area Mixers, a series of networking events sponsored by more than 25 allied professional organizations including both the Cincinnati and Miami Valley Sections. We also work with other organizations to sponsor educational events offered for CM credit, such as the Regional Trails Summit, held in August 2016 by local non-profits Green Umbrella and Tri-State Trails, and sponsored by APA Cincinnati. We also jointly sponsored with the CNU Midwest Chapter for their first event The New Neighborhood Brewery: Exploring the Economic Development, Placemaking, and Real Estate Impacts of Breweries in Neighborhood Business Districts, which was held on March 3, 2017 at the Woodward Theatre in Over-the-Rhine and attended by more than 50 people.

#BecauseWePlan

Findlay Market is one of America's Great Public Spaces. The Cincinnati Section was honored to have Cincinnati's Findlay Market, Ohio's oldest surviving municipal market, designated as one of APA's 2016 award recipients for Great Places in America: Public Spaces. Findlay Market was recognized at an official award ceremony on Friday, October 14, 2016, where music, food, and guest speakers contributed to make the award ceremony a festive event. Speakers at the award ceremony included Cincinnati Vice-Mayor David Mann, Cincinnati Department of City Planning Director Charles C. Graves III, Todd Kinskey, APA Ohio Chapter President, and Wendy Moeller, APA Board Member. The award was presented to Joe Hansbauer, President and CEO of Findlay Market. Diversity and community were the resonant themes of each speaker's presentation, underscoring Findlay Market's long history of serving the needs of its historic Over-the-Rhine neighborhood and bringing generations of Cincinnatians together to experience all the urban market must offer. Findlay Market has been intentionally preserved and revitalized over the last two decades and the revitalization of the Market and surrounding area is a key component of the City of Cincinnati's 2002 Over-the-Rhine Comprehensive Plan.



Initiatives

The Cincinnati Section has continued to build a stronger relationship with nearby Planning education programs, particularly with the University of Cincinnati's School of Planning in the College of Design, Art, Architecture, and Planning (DAAP) and Miami University's Urban Planning program in the Department of Geography. Each fall we welcome new students to DAAP and introduce them to the Cincinnati Planning community at a special Happy Hour (August 30, 2016). We also regularly collaborate with the Planning Graduate Student Association (PGSA) at UC to hold Job Search Panel Discussions with local planning professionals, followed by a one-on-one resume review by the panel members, providing the kind of guidance that isn't often found in class (November 14, 2016). APA Cincinnati also co-sponsored a symposium on Urban Influencers, (April 6, 2017) which was organized by UC's School of Planning students. The symposium presented some "outside of the box" work that is shaping our urban environment and bringing fresh perspectives from the fields of entrepreneurship, neighborhood empowerment, and education. We also collaborated with DAAP to host the Opening Reception for DAAPworks, the end-of-the-year academic displays created by graduating students (April 24, 2017). Finally, each year, we sponsor World Town Planning Day, a day of pro-bono planning work offered to a community in need of planning assistance. Last year's work in Cleves, Ohio, included local professionals and students from both UC and Miami University. (November 10, 2016).

2018 Goals

1. Increase coordination with local allied professional groups.
2. Put on an educational, fun, and successful OKI Regional Planning Conference in Fall 2018.

Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/APACincinnati

Twitter: [@APA_Cincinnati](https://twitter.com/APA_Cincinnati)

Cleveland Section: APA Cleveland Launches We Plan CLE

Director: Ann Klavora, AICP

- November 4, 2016 – Hilton Garden Inn, Mayfield Village 345 attendees from the public and private sectors. 16 sessions covered a variety of topics, including Planning Law, Economic Development and Autonomous Vehicles.
- October 12-13, 2016 – The inaugural *We Plan CLE* had a theme of REPURPOSE. Two events drew 300+ attendees. Janette Sadik-Khan was the keynote speaker at The City Club of Cleveland and Storyteller Night featured 10 pecha-kucha-style presentations on the REPURPOSE theme. *We Plan CLE* A week-long series of events focused on a different theme each year to encourage collaboration, discussion and great ideas. 2016 was the inaugural year.
- September 1, 2016 – Ice Cream Social @ Mitchell's Ice Cream where we welcomed CSU and CUDC students back to school at a casual meet & greet event. Tom McNair, Executive Director of Ohio City Inc. was the guest speaker.
- February 9, 2017 – Happy Hour @ Masthead Brewery was a casual meet-up with beer & pizza at a new downtown Cleveland brewery.
- April 25, 2017 – "A Day in the Life of a Planner." Professional planners participated in a moderated panel at CSU to introduce students to the various responsibilities of planners in the public and private sectors.
- 2018 Goals: (1) Expand We Plan CLE; (2) Increase member involvement

Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/APACleveland

Twitter: [@APA_CLE](https://twitter.com/APA_CLE); [#WePlanCLE](https://twitter.com/WePlanCLE)



Welcoming Masthead Brewery to Downtown Cleveland



We Plan 2016 Keynote Speaker Janette Sadik Kahn Tours Cleveland

Miami Valley Section

Director: *Tim Davis*

The Miami Valley Section continues to improve upon its objectives by providing professional development while increasing educational opportunities for its members, local jurisdictions, elected officials, and various local planning boards. From July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, our local section has been involved with various activities.

- Held the 30th annual Miami Valley Planning & Zoning Workshop on December 2, 2016. The event was an all-day workshop held in the David H. Ponitz Center at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, OH. The workshop had credits certified by APA for the approximately 350 in attendance. The American Institute of Architects partnered for the workshop and was eligible for AIA credits.
- Partnered with US Green Building Council (USGBC) Ohio, Southwest Region on a series of networking events to be known as Joint Associations Mixers (JAM's). JAM's are intended to collaborate with related organizations that are committed to designing healthy and prosperous community environments that improve the quality of life.
- Promoted and sponsored the 2017 Miami Valley Cycling Summit, held on May 5, 2017. The Miami Valley Cycling Summit, coordinated by Bike Miami Valley, aims to use the power of cycling to drive economic development in communities both large and small throughout the region. The keynote speaker was Aparna Dial, Deputy Director, City of Columbus.
- Sponsored the 2016 Miami Valley Community Problem Oriented Policing (MVCPOP) conference, which was held on September 10, 2016. This conference was designed to partner with citizens on emerging crime trends in our community. The community then builds partnerships between neighborhoods, police, city departments, and other government agencies to effectively erase one part of the triangle, getting rid of the problem.

Northwest Ohio Section

Director: *Patrick Etchie, AICP*

The NW Ohio Section of APA-OH continues to offer dialogue and guidance for professional and community planners in the NW Ohio region. In the period from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 our section leadership has conducted the following activities:

- *The Annual P&Z Workshop* was held on Friday November 18, 2016 at the Hensville facility at the Toledo Mudhens Stadium in downtown Toledo. The workshop had 75 attendees and the luncheon keynote presentation was on the future of Autonomous Vehicles and their impact to communities.
- *The P&Z Workshop Committee* held monthly meeting in June-October of 2016 to plan and coordinate for the annual workshop that took place on November 18, 2016. The committee then re-formed in March 2017 to begin planning for the annual P&Z Workshop that will take place in November 2017.
- *Several organization/social meetings* were held over the past year to gain member insight on needs for the annual P&Z Workshop and to share local/personal planning experiences.
- *The leadership of the NW Ohio Section* routinely actively participates in local and regional planning and community organizations. A key group for the region is the local MPO (named TMACOG) and the NW Ohio Section participates on committees and helps promote their planning functions and events.
- **Initiative:** The NW Ohio Section plans to hold one or two half-day brown bag lunch workshop topics that are of current interest by our members.
- **2018 Goals:** (1) Hold annual P&Z Workshop in November 2017; (2) Continue to engage members in organization/social meetings.