

# APA Ohio

Ohio Chapter of the American Planning Association

## Annual Report FY 2019

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019



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 2018 (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019) will be put to vote for approval by the APA Ohio Board of Trustees at their December 13, 2019 meeting.

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### *Did you know?*

- APA Ohio has just shy of 1,200 national and Ohio-only members
- We hosted 31 webcasts through the Planning Webcast Series in 2018, with over 14,000 people from across the country logging on to listen
- Four (4) APA Ohio Sections hosted planning and zoning workshops, and all five (5) Sections coordinated dozens of events throughout the report period.
- The APA Ohio website ([www.ohioplanning.org](http://www.ohioplanning.org)) is updated at least once a day with calendar events, planning news, notifications and jobs. The weekly APA Ohio eNEWS highlights the weeks’ worth of web updates in one concise email.



## President's Report

I'm pleased to introduce this report to our members for Fiscal Year 2019:

APA Ohio is a State Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA). We are a non-profit association of planners, citizens, and allied professionals with a mission to improve quality of life for all Ohioans.

The Chapter is governed by a 24-member Board of Trustees, and it is organized geographically into five sections centered on Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, and Toledo. On the Board, sixteen (16) Trustees are elected by the membership, six (6) are appointed by the Sections, and three (3) by universities. Executive Director Christine Dersi Davis, AICP oversees all aspects of Chapter administration, finances, and communications.

### *Strategic Plan and Annual Work Plan:*

APA Ohio's Strategic Plan is the roadmap for achieving our mission of advancing the art, science, and profession of good planning. The current Strategic Plan was last revised in 2011, and it has guided many successful chapter initiatives and projects both internal and external. One example is our award-winning social media campaign to increase public awareness and support of planning, #BecauseWePlan.

The Board of Trustees is currently working on a new and up-to-date plan. This effort is being led by Rachel Ray, AICP, the Board's Vice-President and President-Elect. Rachel's knowledge, work ethic, and leadership have been crucial to success of this project.

At a more granular level, the Board adopts a work plan every year, which helps us manage the organization and budget the Chapter's funds effectively, work with our five geographical Sections, and in general provide a high level of service and value to our members.

### *Highlights from 2019:*

- We hosted a successful Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana (OKI) Regional Planning Conference in Cincinnati, with record-breaking attendance for an OKI conference.
- The Board of Trustees expanded to 24 members through the addition three trustees appointed from Ohio's accredited university planning programs (UC, OSU and CSU).
- Updated Chapter Bylaws were approved by a vote of the membership in September 2018.
- The inaugural *Great Places in Ohio* recognized Ashtabula Harbor, Wade Oval at University Circle in Cleveland, Downtown Delaware, and Wildwood Metropark in Toledo.
- With some regret, the Board determined that the Akron Section was not meeting performance standards and voted to merge it with the Cleveland Section.
- Planning and Zoning Workshops were held in Dayton, Columbus, Toledo (Northwest Ohio), Cleveland, and Warren (Northeast Ohio).
- The Chapter's website was refreshed, with improved graphics, navigation, and content.

The pages that follow give a complete overview of the Chapter's activities, finances and the services provided to APA Ohio members in FY 2019. As you review this report, I hope it gets you thinking about joining a committee, volunteering for a P&Z workshop, or supporting your local Section.

Sincerely,

*Christopher A Anderson*

Chris Anderson, AICP  
APA Ohio President



## Executive Director’s Report

I am pleased to report APA Ohio has had another successful year as an organization! As always, it is my pleasure to work daily with APA Ohio Board’s twenty-four (24) board members, eight (8) board committees, and five (5) 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 & Organizational Administration
- APA Ohio Website
- The Ohio Planner’s News
- Outreach (Social Media & Email Communication)
- Board & Committee Meetings
- Finance & Investments
- Organization Development
- Sponsor/Advertiser Development
- Membership Development
- Conference Coordination
- Networking & Section Support

Some of the larger initiatives 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!

### ***Team Work Makes the Dream Work***

Thanks mostly to our President Elect, Rachel Ray, AICP, we’ve been “strategically” working through a strategic plan update. No avenue has been left untrekked. We utilized the *Lean Six Sigma* method to get us started, which relies on a collaborative team effort to complete assessments and plan for implement.

### ***The Ohio Planner’s News***

The Communications Committee regularly discusses ways in which we can better communicate to our membership. *The Ohio Planner’s News* has been, for many years, one of our tangible member benefits and ways in which we get our message out; a way for our members to learn about planning efforts all around Ohio. The last few years has seen a large decrease in newsletter article submissions, which is the meat of each quarterly issue. Because of this decline, I have asked (and even assigned) our local sections to be responsible for submitting articles. Our 2020 goal will be to re-assess the purpose of *The Ohio Planner’s News* and to determine how best to relay the information our membership desires to hear about. Be sure to check out our quarterly newsletters (and submit an article) at [www.ohioplanning.org/newsletter](http://www.ohioplanning.org/newsletter)!

### ***APA Ohio Website***

As our members are spread geographically throughout the state, our website is the primary method of communication and outreach. The website is updated *at least* once a day with calendar events, news items, workshop information and registration, job postings, and much more. Take some time to peruse all that APA Ohio has to offer online at [www.ohioplanning.org](http://www.ohioplanning.org).

### ***Let’s Be Social***

We made a commitment to increase our presence on social media. A large thanks is due to At Large Board Member Ann Klavora, AICP for helping with this initiative. If you have not already liked or followed us, please do!

### ***Planning Webcast Series***

2019 marked the eleventh year of the Planning Webcast Series. The Series offers over thirty (30) webcasts per year and has almost fifty (50) sponsoring APA Chapters and Divisions. The Consortium is currently run by myself as session moderator and coordinator. Sessions are offered most Friday afternoons and are worth 1.5 CM credits each. 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 of your APA Ohio

membership, visit [www.ohioplanning.org/planningwebcast](http://www.ohioplanning.org/planningwebcast).

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](mailto:info@ohioplanning.org).

Best,

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read "CDD".

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 and the 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 last Board Elections took place between July 29 and September 1, 2018. The next election year is 2020.

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 2019 Executive Officers:

**President: Chris Anderson, AICP**  
Community Development Director  
City of Forest Park

**President Elect: Rachel Ray, AICP**  
Economic Development Administrator  
City of Dublin

**Treasurer: Paul Logue, AICP**  
Planner  
City of Athens

**Professional Development Officer:  
Eric Anderson, AICP**  
**Cincinnati Section Director**  
Community Planner  
KZF Design

**Past President: Kimberly Lieber, AICP**  
Planning & Development Director  
City of North Olmsted

### FY 2019 At-Large Trustees:

**Christopher Auffrey**  
Associate Professor  
University of Cincinnati DAAP

**Joyce Braverman**  
Planning Director  
City of Shaker Heights

**Tom Breidenstein, AICP**  
Counsel  
Stites & Harbison, PLLC

**Kimberly Burton, AICP**  
**The Ohio State University Representative**  
Associate Professor of Practice  
Knowlton School

**Tim Davis**  
**Miami Valley Section Director**  
Planning & Zoning Manager  
City of Troy

**Patrick Etchie, AICP**  
**Northwest Section Director**  
Chief Planner  
Mannik & Smith Group

**Amanda Golden**  
**Central Ohio Director**  
Managing Principal  
Designing Local

**Thomas Hilde**  
**Cleveland State University Representative**  
Managing Principal  
Designing Local

**Leah Hollstein**  
**University of Cincinnati Representative**  
Assistant Professor  
DAAP

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

**Martin Kim, AICP**  
Director of Regional Planning  
Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission

**Todd Kinskey, AICP**  
Director  
City of Dayton

**Ann Klavora, AICP**  
Principal Planner  
City of Shaker Heights

**Anthony Lococo**  
Development Project Manager  
KBK Enterprises

**Beth Nagy**  
Assistant College Lecturer  
CSU Levin College of Urban Affairs

**Chris Ronayne, AICP**  
President  
University Circle, Inc.

**Matthew Schmidt, AICP**  
**Cleveland Section Director**  
Green Infrastructure Program Manager  
Trust for Public Land

**Kelly Soccco**  
Deputy Director of Public Service  
City of Columbus

**Megha Sinha, AICP**  
Senior Associate  
NBBJ



# Financial Report

Paul Logue, 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 2019.

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## APA OH Account Balances - As of 6/30/2019

prepared by P. Logue 8/27/2019

All Key Bank accounts as of 3/30/2017

<b>Bank Accounts</b>	<b>4th Qtr 6/30/18 Balance</b>	<b>1st Qtr 9/30/18 Balance</b>	<b>2nd Qtr 12/31/18 Balance</b>	<b>3rd Qtr 3/31/19 Balance</b>	<b>4th Qtr 6/30/19 Balance</b>
<i>Checking</i>					
<b>Chapter Checking</b> Opened 11/19/2014	\$100,825	\$155,638	\$100,498	\$73,186	\$73,019
<b>Webcast Checking</b> Opened 11/12/2013	\$23,787	\$24,462	\$23,902	\$24,678	\$27,102
<b>Conference Checking</b> Opened 5/2/2017 - Opening Balance: \$2,000	\$4,673	\$35,748	\$31,209	\$977	\$5,880
<i>Savings</i>					
<b>Emergency Reserve</b> Opened 3/16/2017 - Opening Balance: \$9,772.18	\$8,869	\$8,869	\$8,870	\$8,870	\$7,751
<b>Scholarship Fund</b> Opened 3/16/2017 - Opening Balance: \$19,230.98	\$28,191	\$28,192	\$26,944	\$33,195	\$31,947
<b>Investment</b> Opened 3/30/2017 - Opening Balance: \$30,000	\$30,418	\$30,281	\$29,801	\$31,203	\$31,193
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$196,763</b>	<b>\$283,190</b>	<b>\$221,223</b>	<b>\$172,109</b>	<b>\$176,891</b>





## Great Places in Ohio Awards



We announced a new awards program in May 2018—Great Places in Ohio. The biennial awards program honors outstanding physical spaces throughout the state that planners have created and nurtured through careful planning and unbridled imagination. Because we plan, great places exist all across Ohio. Award nominations will be solicited and announced in even-numbered years. APA Ohio presented four awards at the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana (OKI) Regional Planning Conference in Cincinnati on October 3, 2018. APA Ohio President Kimberly Lieber, AICP, noted *“The inaugural Great Places Awards Program is meant not only to recognize and celebrate the important work of Ohio planners but also to raise awareness among residents, community stakeholders and state and local officials regarding the transformative power of planning.”*

Thirteen (13) award nominations representing areas statewide were submitted across three categories: Commercial Districts, Public Spaces and Residential Neighborhoods. The eight-member Awards Committee of APA Ohio reviewed and evaluated the nominations based on the following criteria: character and personality of the place; uniqueness of the place; special history; how the space is used; and planning initiative. Four awards were presented:

- Downtown Delaware, Delaware
- Bridge Street, Ashtabula
- Wade Oval, University Circle, Cleveland
- Wildwood Metropark, Toledo



### **2020 Goals:**

- Generate more interest in the awards program
- Celebrate people and projects throughout the year rather than only at the State Conference



## 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.

**Chair:** Katherine Keough-Jurs, AICP

### Planners in the Spotlight

Two of the membership committee’s tasks over the last year focused on member recognition. To share more information about planners doing interesting things around the state, the committee is producing a regular member spotlight feature that is included in each edition of the *Ohio Planners News*. The committee also put together the framework for a certificate program to recognize long standing APA Ohio members. This launch of this program will be coordinated with the 2019 state planning conference. Another committee objective has been to develop relationships with allied organizations to share information of upcoming programs and to spark cross-collaboration between our like organizations. A small number of organizations were targeted for initial outreach, with the goal being to nurture meaningful and long-lasting relationships with these groups.

### 2020 Goals

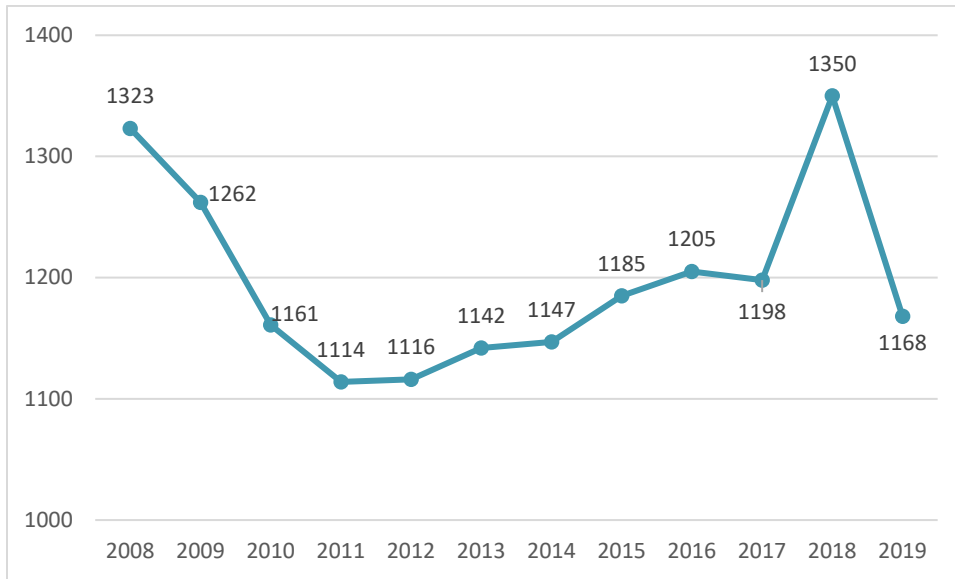
- Over the next year, the committee will continue to work on establishing partnerships with allied organizations. These may be formalized through an MOU to identify expectations for both groups. If successful, this approach can be repeated and expanded with other organizations.
- A second goal is to work with Sections to identify and share best practices for connecting with students and new members. The committee recognizes that APA’s recent student membership programs have resulted in a huge increase in student members. We need to more actively plan for this substantial member segment.

### Membership Trends

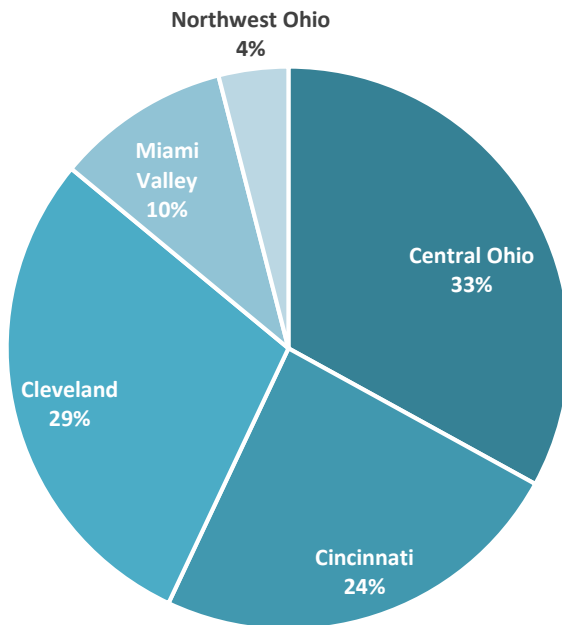
Overall membership has increased quite dramatically in May 2018 due to a new program through APA National that offers free student memberships. Student membership did drop slightly after the initial jump. Ohio-only memberships also dropped which generally happens on years that the statewide planning conference does not occur.

Date	National	Ohio Only	Total
June 2017	878	90	968
June 2018	1,259	91	1,350
June 2019	1,090	78	1,168

## APA Ohio Membership



## 2019 APA Ohio Membership by Section



## Looking Ahead

The committee has established several milestones 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.



## Education and 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.

**Professional Development Officer + Education Committee Chair:** Eric Anderson, 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.

### Professional Development

#### 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](http://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 twenty-one (21) APA Ohio members who passed the exam during the November 2018 and May 2019 exam periods (listed below). Of regular members taking the exam, 43% passed. Of the AICP Candidate Examinees, 50% passed.

#### Nov 2018 Exam

Ashton Saber	
Ben McKeeman	
Jon-Paul d'Aversa	
Lance Dasher	
Michael Mears	(AICP Candidate)
Vasilias Yakumithis	(AICP Candidate)
Sally Sharrow	(AICP Candidate)
Michael Outrich	(AICP Candidate)
Cameron Roberts	(AICP Candidate)
Nicholas Sisco	(AICP Candidate)

#### May 2019 Exam

Gabriela Elizondo	
Sean Hare	
Jeffrey Weimer	
Lawrence Rastatter	
Ryan Bush	
Jennifer Howdyshell	
Daniella Beltran	
Lisa Russell	
Eliza Clarke Thrush	
Andrew Neutzling	(AICP Candidate)
Gregory Sanders	(AICP Candidate)

#### 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.

### Education Committee

#### 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. The Consortium currently includes 37 Chapters (of 47 total), 16 Divisions (of 21 total) and 2 communities 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.



# planning webcast series

Sponsored by APA Chapters & Divisions

	2016	2017	2018	*2019
<b>Webcasts</b>	35	30	31	32
<b>Participants</b>	13,100	11,250	14,600	n/a
<b>CM Credits Available</b>	54	45	46.5	48

\*Total scheduled for 2019 (Jan 1 – Dec 31)

## Planning and Zoning Workshops

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.

Key events included annual planning and zoning workshops in:

- **Central Ohio**, May 2019 – The Central Ohio Section of the Ohio APA hosted their annual Planning and Zoning Workshop on May 17 at The Exchange at Bridge Park in Dublin, Ohio. Boasting over 125 attendees, the workshop kicked off with an annual Pecha Kucha showcasing 6 speakers’ work from around Central Ohio. The workshop welcomed Allison Circle, Chief Customer Experience Officer with Columbus Metropolitan Libraries. A post workshop happy hour was held at Pins Mechanicals.
- **Cleveland**, July 2019 – The Cleveland Section of the American Planning Association held their fourth annual We Plan CLE in June, a week-long series of public events held at various venues around Cleveland. Everyone contributes to places that matter. We Plan CLE is an annual event, open to all, designed to foster discussion and innovation. A week-long series of events focuses on a different theme each year to encourage collaboration, discussion and great ideas. Past themes have included “repurpose,” “act” and “equity!”
- **Miami Valley**, December 2018 – The Miami Valley Section hosted the 31st Annual Miami Valley Planning and Zoning Workshop on Friday, December 7, 2018, at the David H. Ponitz Center – Sinclair Community College in Dayton, OH. The Workshop featured a dynamic program of outstanding speakers from across the planning spectrum.
- **Northwest Ohio**, November 2018 – The Northwest Ohio Section held its annual Planning & Zoning Workshop on Friday November 16th in Toledo, Ohio. Topics at the workshop included Transportation Planning; Urban Design Charrette; Zoning Panel Discussion; Comprehensive Planning & Economic Development; Housing Needs/Issues Panel Discussion; Creative Funding & Financing in a “New Normal” Small City (Sandusky, OH); Preservation Planning, Placemaking, & Funding; Toledo Metroparks Planning & Initiatives; Water Quality Planning & Best Practices; and Craft Beer & Economic Development.

### ***OKI Regional Planning Conference***

2018 OKI Regional Planning Conference. APA Ohio and the APA Cincinnati Section welcomed more than 450 planners to the sold-out regional planning conference, held at the beautiful Hilton Netherlands Plaza in downtown Cincinnati on October 3-5, 2018.

Cincinnati's Mayor John Cranley and Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber's Mary Stagaman kicked-off the conference. A total of 50 education sessions were held over the three-day conference, including a professional development workshop and planning commissioner training. Receptions at 16-bit Bar+Arcade and the Rhinegeist Brewery were great opportunities to connect with friends and colleagues. Jon Sanchez, former Navy SEAL, inspired all of us speaking about the power of service.

Special thanks to the entire conference host committee consisting of planners throughout Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana for helping organize such a successful conference!

### ***2020 Goals***

- Host a successful statewide conference in Cleveland on October 2-4.
- Transition to the 2020 OKI Conference to be held fall 2020 in Louisville KY.



## 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 2019, the Legislative Committee and APA Ohio Board continued to ramp up its legislative and advocacy efforts to keep our members informed about important state and national issues and to promote the profession of planning.

### ***Our accomplishments last year include:***

- Began preparation for the first update of the Policy Platform. This and other legislative advocacy efforts will be discussed at the State Conference in Cleveland in October
- Issued special bulletins to our members regarding legislation that may impact planners
- Activated APA National's action alert program to indicate APA-Ohio's support for the new transportation bill
- As part of the Chapter Board's strategic planning initiative, the Legislative Committee conducted a SWOT analysis to help inform our future activities.
- Actively encouraged members to join the Planners Advocacy Network
- Served on the APA Chapter President Council's Policy and Advocacy Committee
- Added one new member to the Legislative Committee

### ***2020 Goals:***

- Have a Chapter Board adopt an updated version of the Policy Uniform
- Add at least two new members to the Legislative Committee

## Governance Committee

*The Governance Committee reviews the APA Ohio Code of Regulations and make any suggested modifications to the Board for consideration. The Committee is also responsible for the development of any guides, governance plans, or written policies as it applies to the operations of the Chapter including, but not limited to, financial policies for the Sections, rules for meetings, or orientation materials for new Board members.*

**Chair:** Rachel Ray, AICP

### ***Board Member Elections & Bylaws Amendment:***

In 2018, the Governance Committee managed the biannual APA Ohio Board member elections, along with a comprehensive update to the Chapter's bylaws.

### ***Board Member Elections:***

APA now requires that all Chapters and Divisions participate in a consolidated election process, synchronized with APA's national election schedule and process. This was the first election in which APA administered the election process on behalf of APA Ohio, with many lessons learned along the way. With one full election cycle under the new process complete, the Governance Committee prepared an APA Ohio Chapter Election Procedures Manual earlier this year with recommendations and lessons learned for both candidates and Board members to ensure the process runs smoothly during the next election cycle in 2020.

Once again, congratulations to the new and incumbent Board members on their election and continued service to APA Ohio!

*Professional Planners:* Katherine Keough-Jurs, Paul Logue, Martin Kim, Ann Klavora, Joyce Braverman, and Kim Lieber

*Citizen Planners:* Tom Breidenstein and Anthony Lococo

***Bylaws Update:***

The Chapter Bylaws amendments were approved with 95% of the vote in the 2018 election. Here is a summary of the key amendments:

- Creating new Board of Trustees positions for representatives of accredited university planning programs. These representatives are modeled after the Section representative positions on the Board and are intended to serve as liaisons between APA Ohio and the universities to assist with student membership recruitment, aligning planning programs and practice, and continuing education and professional development opportunities
- Eliminating the Secretary Officer role and introducing the Professional Development Officer as an elected role on the Executive Committee. Many of the Secretary functions described in the bylaws are currently performed by the Executive Director, while the Professional Development Officer will serve an important part of implementing the Chapter's Strategic Plan by providing assistance to the membership in gaining membership in AICP and assisting in the continuing education of all Chapter members
- Addressing the role of the APA Ohio Executive Director, which is currently a contracted role, including oversight and administration by the APA Ohio Chapter President
- Updating the APA Ohio Chapter Committees to reflect how the functions of each committee have evolved since the committee descriptions were drafted and to ensure their functions are aligned with the Chapter's Strategic Plan
- Eliminating obsolete membership categories (group memberships and honorary life memberships)
- Minor amendments to the election process to reflect new procedures administered by APA
- Adding new Sections, including whistleblower and conflict of interest policies as recommended by the Ohio Attorney General's office for nonprofit organizations

***2020 Goals:***

- Work to incorporate more diversity into the APA Ohio Board
- Explore Board leadership succession planning strategies.

## **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.*

***Chair:*** Ann Klavora, AICP

***Preparing a Communications Game Plan:***

- The Communications Committee is responsible for soliciting newsworthy items from the membership and production of the Chapter newsletter on a regular basis to the membership. The Communications Committee is also responsible for overseeing and updating the chapter's website activities in conjunction with staff. In FY 2019, the Communications Committee met several times in person and by phone conference to discuss our responsibilities and prioritize actions. The Committee focused on four issues:



- *Create a Social Media Summary* — we compiled information about all APA Ohio social media accounts to support the Communications Plan. This enables our Executive Director to distribute information in a timely fashion and allows board members to participate effectively in social media. You can find, follow, post and interact with us on:

**Facebook:** <http://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*

**Instagram:** follow us at **apaohioplanning**, tag **#apaohioplanning** and **#becauseweplan**  
**Twitter:** **@APAOhio**, tag **#becauseweplan**

- *Support the Website Refresh* — the APA Ohio website refresh was completed in early 2019. The updated platform looks much more contemporary and allows for easier access to information. We also worked with our Executive Director to implement a conference module, which provides an app-like portal to annual conference and workshop information.
- *Support the Ohio Planners News* — four (4) quarterly issues of the newsletter were distributed via email during FY 2019; all issues are accessible to members on the website. Also, to maintain the effort of providing succinct and applicable information to members, a section-specific APA Ohio eNEWS is emailed every Wednesday to all APA Ohio members.
- *Prepare New Marketing Materials* — we worked with our Executive Director to create some exiting new materials/content that will launch at the 2019 State Planning Conference in Cleveland.

**2020 Goals:**

- Complete/implement a chapter communications plan
- Improve social media communications



## 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 2019 for each section are summarized below.

### **Central Ohio Section**

**Director:** Amanda Golden

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CentralOhioAPA>

#### **Events:**

- **P&Z Workshop:** May 17, 2019 – The Central Ohio Section of the Ohio APA hosted their annual Planning and Zoning Workshop at The Exchange at Bridge Park in Dublin. Boasting over 125 attendees, the workshop kicked off with an annual Pecha Kucha showcasing 6 speakers work from around Central Ohio. The workshop welcomed Allison Circle, Chief Customer Experience Officer with Columbus Metropolitan Libraries. A post workshop happy hour was held at Pins Mechanicals.
- **Strong Women Strong Places:** February 6, 2019 – In association with CRPSA, the Strong Women Strong Places was held at the Ohio Union and had a sold-out crowd of 150 participants. The panel focused on women planners at various stages in their career for a conversation on how gender has shaped their professional experiences. The event explored ways to strengthen equity and the impact of gender in the work of creating safe, vibrant, and healthy places; as well as provide opportunities for collaboration and mentorship among women who plan.
- Central Ohio APA partners with the local design community quarterly for networking happy hours around the City and the region.

#### **Partnerships:**

- The Central Ohio Section partners with The Ohio State University's City and Regional Planning Student Association (CRPSA) and with the local design community to host events. In addition, Central Ohio APA has partnered with Transit Columbus on several events over the course of the year.

#### **2020 Goals:**

- Host more educational events
- Create a scholarship fund for planning students

## Cincinnati Section

**Director:** Eric Anderson, AICP

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/APACincinnati>

Twitter: @APA\_Cincinnati

### Events:

- *University of Cincinnati New Graduate Student Welcome Happy Hour:* August 23, 2019 – APA Cincinnati and the University of Cincinnati School of Planning welcomed new classes of Master of Community Planning (MCP) and Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) candidates. APA Cincinnati joined forces with the Ohio Chapter of the American Society for Landscape Architects (OCASLA) and met up at The St. Clair to welcome them to Cincinnati and introduce them to APA and OCASLA at a special joint Happy Hour.
- *World Town Planning Day:* November 8 and 9, 2018 – This year, APA Cincinnati Section held two days' worth of WTPD celebrations. APA Cincinnati Section and City of Oxford hosted a design charrette focusing on the South Elm Street Neighborhood for World Town Planning Day on November 8. The City of Oxford provided a brief introduction, a site walk, divide into groups such as economics, architecture and environment, then provided an architect-assisted final sketch that will be sent out to all registered attendees. The community and the property owners can then use the sketch for a conceptual build-out plan. APA Cincinnati Section and Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission worked with the City of North College Hill to explore placemaking and planning for those with physical challenges, specifically the blind community. As in the past, UC and Miami students will be paired with professional planners in a charrette process.
- *Professional Development Workshop: Storytelling:* March 7, 2019 – We hosted more than 20 attendees at our first professional development education event at Deerfield Township. Emily Crow, AICP of McBride Dale Clarion shared her experiences working on more than 40 long-range planning projects preparing user-friendly documents and presenting complex findings to general audiences.
- *Professional Development Workshop: Time Management and Productivity Skills:* June 11, 2019 – Like most of us, you probably face unproductive or unnecessary meetings, a mountain of work on your desk and a never-ending wave of voicemails and emails. We will discuss strategies to manage this workload and maintain your sanity.

### Partnerships:

- *Holiday Party:* December 7, 2018 – Partnering with APA KY Region 4, the Cincinnati Section kicked off the holiday season and say goodbye to 2018 on December 7 at Hotel Covington in Covington, KY.

### Initiative:

- *OKI Regional Planning Forum:* February 22, 2019 – More than 60 people attended the February Regional Planning Forum, continue the affordable housing discussion by highlighting those who are striving to provide affordable housing in the region.
- *OKI Regional Planning Forum:* May 18, 2019 – This event featured a walking tour of downtown Hamilton, Ohio.

## Cleveland Section

**Director:** Matthew Schmidt, AICP

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/APACleveland](http://www.facebook.com/groups/APACleveland)

Twitter: @APA\_CLE tag #WePlanCLE

The Cleveland Section is focused on expanding its outreach to a wider geography and broader array of members through a merger with the Akron Section to create one Northeast Ohio planning organization.

### **Events:**

- *Two P&Z Workshops:* November 2, 2018 – Cleveland P&Z Workshop in Mayfield Village. The event was sold out with over 400 attendees. The workshop offered twelve sessions covering a wide variety of topics. AICP CM credits offered. June 14, 2019 – Northeast Ohio P&Z Workshop in Youngstown. This workshop is geared toward the northeastern most counties in the state, with most topics on rural and small-town issues.
- *We Crooked River Tour + Happy Hour:* September 13th, 2018 - Cleveland Metroparks Historical Interpreter Doug Kusak provided a guided boat tour about the Cuyahoga River, bridges, area geography, watersheds, trails and industry.
- *What's Up With Pop Ups?:* February 21st, 2019 – Six presenters from a cross section of cities and organizations presented their pop-up projects which utilized the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency's (NOACA) Street Supplies program at Goldhorn Brewery. The presenters told their stories, triumphs, and hurdles they experienced.
- *Design Cruise Line:* May 31st, 2019 – APA Cleveland members joined AIA Cleveland members on a happy hour social aboard the Goodtime III. This is an annual event which provides an opportunity to socialize and network, in addition to experiencing the breathtaking views along the Cuyahoga River and Lake Erie.
- *We Plan CLE 2019 Water:* July 21-26, 2019 – We Plan CLE 2019 is being planned to provide a forum to re-examine our connection with water, celebrate what it gives us, and introduce dialogue envisioning a sustainable water future. The week includes Jane's Walks, Storyteller Night about the past, present and future of the Cleveland Lakefront and our keynote speaker, President and CEO of Smart Growth America, Calvin Gladney, at The City Club of Cleveland.

### **Partnerships:**

- *Model Codes for Water Quality Workshop:* November 7, 2018 – In partnership with the Chagrin River Watershed Partners, APA members were offered an opportunity to learn about how to adopt a model riparian setback and water quality codes into their communities. Attendees representing cities across northeast Ohio's Lake Erie watershed attended.
- *Joint Association Mixer with AIA Cleveland:* October 19, 2018 – APA Cleveland partnered with AIA Cleveland to host a joint association happy hour for APA, AIA, ASLA, and AIID members at Southern Tier Brewing Company in Downtown Cleveland.
- *CSU APA 2nd Annual Shuffleboard Fundraiser:* March 29, 2019 – The Cleveland Section assisted in the promotion of the CSU APA Student chapter's annual fundraiser at Forest City Shuffleboard in Ohio City to raise money for student chapter programming and scholarships to offset travel costs for the APA National Conference attendees.

### **#becauseweplan:**

- Two Northeast Ohio projects were awarded Great Places in Ohio designations at the 2018 OKI conference in Cincinnati. Cleveland's Wade Oval in the University Circle neighborhood and Ashtabula's Bridge Street commercial district were honored. Each demonstrated a commitment to long-term planning and community engagement leading to vibrant public spaces to achieve this designation.

### **Initiative:**

- *Ice Cream Social:* September 5th, 2018 – The annual back-to-school meet and greet for Cleveland State University and Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative students at Mitchell's Ice Cream featured guest speaker Jason Russell, Neighborhood General Manager of the Van Aken District. The casual networking event was attended by nearly 40 students and professional planners.
- The APA Cleveland Planning Student Award is presented annually to an outstanding Cleveland

State University student nominated by his/her CSU professors. The 2019 award was presented May 10 to David Baas. The recognition includes a \$1,500 cash award.

- The APA Cleveland Section was able to provide awards to ten Cleveland State University APA students attending the 2019 APA National Conference in San Francisco. The awards paid for the cost of conference registration.

#### **2020 Goals:**

- Host a successful APA OH State Planning Conference to celebrate 100 years of professional planning organizations in Ohio communities
- Continue to expand member outreach and activities across the Cleveland Section's expanded geography

### **Miami Valley Section**

**Director:** *Tim Davis*

#### **Events:**

- **P&Z Workshop:** December 7, 2018 – The Miami Valley Section of the Ohio APA held the 32nd annual Miami Valley Planning & Zoning Workshop on December 7. The event was an all-day workshop held in the David H. Ponitz Center at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, OH. The workshop had 30.25 credits certified by APA for the approximately 400 in attendance. The American Institute of Architects partnered for the workshop and was eligible for AIA credits.
- Supported the Miami Valley Communication Council Training for Public Officials. This three-day event involved experts speaking on topics such as how to run a meeting, how to make ethical decisions, how to read and interpret site plans, and how to apply code language in decision-making.

#### **Partnerships:**

- Sponsored the Bike Miami Valley's 2018 Miami Valley Cycling Summit which aims to use the power of cycling to drive economic development in communities both large and small throughout the region.
- Partnered with US Green Building Council (USGBC) of Southwest Ohio on a series of networking events known as Joint Associations Mixers (JAM's) to collaborate with related organizations that are committed to designing healthy and prosperous community environments that improve the quality of life.

#### **2020 Goals:**

- Continue to provide professional development while increasing educational opportunities for members, local jurisdictions, elected officials, and various local planning boards.
- Grow the annual Planning & Zoning Workshop

### **Northwest Ohio Section**

**Director:** *Patrick Etchie, AICP*

The Northwest Ohio Section held or participated in several events in FY2019. Our local section strives to offer productive dialogue with fellow planners and peer professions to provide guidance & educational opportunities for professional and community planners in our region.

#### **Events:**

- *P&Z Workshop*: November 16, 2018 – The Annual Planning & Zoning Workshop was held on Friday November 16 at the Radisson Hotel at the University of Toledo Health Science Campus in Toledo, Ohio. There were around 85 in attendance at the event. The keynote presentation at lunch was the topic of Creative Funding & Financing in a 'New Normal' Small City presented by the city of Sandusky. The workshop offered both urban and rural topic tracks that CM credits were available.
- A free keynote speaker dinner event was held on Thursday March 21, 2019 at The Mannik & Smith Group's Conference Center located in Maumee, Ohio. The event featured keynote speaker Rick Stein, AICP whom spoke about changes in transportation and technology and how it will impact land uses, neighborhood designs, zoning, workforce and employers. Two CM credits were provided to the nearly 20 people in attendance.
- The Northwest Ohio Section partnered with the Toledo-Lucas County Sustainability Commission and the USGBC Ohio NW Regional Team to host a luncheon on Active Transportation. The luncheon was held on May 9, 2019 in Toledo, Ohio and attendees received one CM credit.
- Various workshop committee and social meetings were held throughout the year to plan for events and to provide an opportunity to socialize and network with planners and peer professions throughout NW Ohio.

***Partnerships:***

- The Northwest Ohio Section was a sponsor of the NORED (Northwest Ohio Regional Economic Development) Annual Meeting held on Thursday March 21, 2019. The event highlighted economic development and planning successes and strategies in NW Ohio. The event was held at the Pinnacle in Maumee, Ohio.
- We partnered with the Toledo-Lucas County Sustainability Commission & USGBC Ohio NW Regional Team on an Active Transportation luncheon held May 9, 2019.

***Initiative:***

- The Northwest Ohio Section has been reaching out more to local Universities and Colleges to encourage students to attend or participate in our events.

***2020 Goals:***

- Hold a successful P&Z Workshop and increase attendance at the event
- Participate in more peer events by sponsoring or partnering

