Coming off of the Chapter’s second biggest conference on record (Norfolk 2015), APA Virginia returned to a familiar location at the Wintergreen resort, in Nelson County. A major challenge for this year’s Conference Committee was to bring new experiences that built on previous successes. With one of the most diverse and CM-rich programs in recent memory, the Chapter feels confident that it accomplished that goal. The heart of any successful conference is a strong program and the 2016 program attracted the largest audience in the history of APA Virginia’s Wintergreen conferences, with 350 attendees.

As in recent years, the conference started on Sunday, with mobile tours and an opening reception. The Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC) hosted a tour on its award winning “Fields of Gold” program. Attendees had the chance to explore local farms and sample homegrown products from the Valley. Virginia Tech’s Land Use Education Program (LUEP) held a leadership workshop that explored ways to revitalized a local village, Nelson County’s Lovingston. At the opening reception, the Chapter honored Mike Chandler for his years of service to planning, local government and education.
President’s Letter

As I write this, the polls are still open to vote for the 2017-18 Chapter officers. It is a very strong slate of candidates and I encourage all Chapter members to read the position statements and choose the members you believe will do the best job of leading the Chapter forward. As a reminder, for the first time, we will elect a President-Elect who will automatically succeed to a 2-year term as Chapter President after one year, then serve as Immediate-Past President for an additional year.

The 2016 edition of the annual Conference was among our best ever—the depth and breadth of sessions were the most ambitious we’ve tried plus our first UnConference sessions, great keynotes and plenaries, unique swag from our amazing sponsors, plentiful meals—3 full days of planning education, networking, and even some fun. Thanks go to the Conference Planning Committee for providing exceptional leadership and to our sponsors and exhibitors. The 2017 Conference will be in Roanoke and the theme centers on the future of cities. This is immensely appropriate as we very clearly need a new urban agenda in the Commonwealth. Mr. Jefferson distrusted cities and venerated the rural agrarian lifestyle; this bias is very clearly reflected in Virginia’s traditions and laws, but in the first quarter of the 21st Century, it is obvious that, like it or not, urban areas are where the people and jobs are. Virginia’s First Cities, after losing population in the aftermath of the Brown v. Board of Education decision and annexation moratorium are again for the most part growing. Their inner ring suburbs, once almost a monoculture, have become among the most economically, ethnically, and racially diverse localities in the Commonwealth. Cities and their immediate environs are very much our future—indeed some around the world argue that the city is the necessary building block to sustain human life on the planet. Thus, we have an urgent opportunity before us to design the urban areas of the future to ensure that they are economically, environmentally and socially beneficial to their residents—and, as planners, to ensure that the benefits accrue to ALL of their residents. But we need to conceive of how to do this in a time when division and differentiation seem to have become more important than collaboration and assimilation. So, plan to be in Roanoke with us next year as we explore these and other emerging issues in our profession.

I hope to see many of you at the 2016 APA Planning & Advocacy Conference (PAC) and/or Planners Day on the Hill. Even if you cannot attend the entire PAC, consider attending the Burnham Forum at the National Building Museum on Sunday 18 September or participating in the live webcast of the Conference. Again thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving you.

George
Thirty years of the Certified Planning Commissioner Program (CPC)

Our Opening Reception this year was a very happy occasion. In addition to sampling the local “wares” of Nelson County, we were happy to acknowledge the 30th anniversary year of the Certified Planning Commissioners’ program! Dr. Mike Chandler has dedicated much of his life to training public elected and appointed officials. His work has brought him national and state level awards. His service to Virginia is exceptional, having served as APA Virginia’s President and having sat on the APA National Board. Mike continues to live for planning! He will continue to serve as the Director of Education for the Land Use Education Program (LUEP), for the indefinite future.

We cheer him on as he continues to inform the discretion of hundreds of decision makers across the Commonwealth each year! If you’ve benefited from the CPC program, don’t miss your chance to say thank you and congratulations to Mike! In addition to raising our glasses to Mike, he was also commended by the Virginia General Assembly. You’ll note in reading the text of the citation the numerous positions and impacts that Dr. Chandler has had over the years. We are proud to know him, and work with him. During the reception, many of his peers offered praise with words like fair, statesman, and gentleman. For over 30-years Mike has prepared planning commissioners, board of zoning appeals members, board of supervisor members, and even mayors for their duties and responsibilities. Here’s to 30 more Mike! Thank you for all you have done, do, and what is to come.
Established in 2006, National Community Planning Month is celebrated each October as a way to highlight the role of planners and the importance of good planning in our communities. Across the country, communities celebrate planning through a variety of avenues including have a mayoral proclamation declaring October as community planning month; planning department open houses; community tours; or photo contests. Planning is essential for our communities to prosper and maintain balance and cohesiveness.

Each year, a theme is identified to help a community plan highlight an aspect or outcome of planning. The theme can be used to organize events and activities within the community. This year, the theme is civic engagement. The theme underscores the necessity of engaging the public, elected officials and key leaders in discussions that shape the future of our cities. Thoughtful, local planning cannot happen without meaningful civic engagement.

Planning can be summed up as comprehensive, community-focused and enhancing choices. While many people may not realize it, planning has a significant impact on their day-to-day life. From where they live, to how they commute, to the type of home they live in, planning plays a vital role in a person’s day. Planners consider what is best for the entire community – senior citizens, workers, children, disabled, business owners, and elected officials. How do they arrive at these community-wide decisions? Through conversations with residents and thoughtful outreach to community stakeholders. Planners work with professionals from different fields such as public health, recreation and engineering to make communities safer and healthier. Planning does not stop at a geographic border. Communities are served best when planners take a broader viewpoint, encompassing regional and statewide perspectives.

Planners do not just focus on where to locate (or site) a building, but also consider how that decision impacts the safety of the community, the existing character of the community, how it impacts the environmental resiliency, and if the decision encourages social and economic diversity.

In a public opinion poll from 2014, APA found that 67 percent of poll respondents believe community planning is important for economic recovery. More than 15,000 planners have earned their professional certification. Certified planners pledge to uphold high standards of practice, ethics and professional conduct, while keeping their skills sharp and up-to-date by pursuing advanced professional education.

National Community Planning Month is your chance to raise the visibility of planning, the planning profession, and to highlight the positive impact it has on your community.
Celebrate NCPM in Your Community!

This month, we’re joining with our planning colleagues from across the country to celebrate who planners are and the lasting value thoughtful planning has on communities of all sizes. This year’s theme is civic engagement, underscoring the necessity of engaging the public, elected officials, and key leaders in discussions that shape the future of our cities.

Use the resources in APA’s National Community Planning Month Resource HUB to share with your community, elected officials, and local media the positive impact planning has had on your community.

Have a planning success story you’d like APA to highlight during October? Send your stories and photos to us at ncpm@planning.org.

Learn more about National Community Planning Month at www.planning.org/ncpm.

Show Off Your Favorite Spot!

Over the course of National Community Planning Month, show off your favorite places brought to you through planning! Go to https://planning.org/ncpm/tools/ and download these signs. Take your picture in front of a place Brought to You by Planners or Brought to You through Planning and post it on Facebook or Twitter. Use the #PlanningMonth hashtag! Where are your Great Places?
YPG is celebrating National Community Planning Month (NCPM) by hosting a 60-second video essay contest! Show how planning is making a difference in your community and win a free registration to the 2017 APA Virginia conference!

Contest details:
- The prompt is: "How does planning add value to your community?" Get ideas by reading about this year's NCPM theme of "civic engagement" on the APA NCPM website.
- The contest is only open to members of APA Virginia.
- Submissions will be judged for creativity, quality, and adherence to the theme.
- Submissions will be accepted from Saturday, October 1st to Friday, October 21st. Winners will be announced on Monday, October 31st. Submissions should be sent to apavirginiaypg@gmail.com as a video file or a Youtube link.
- The first prize winner will receive a free conference registration to the APA Virginia 2017 Conference. We plan to show the top five videos at the conference.
- Group submissions will be accepted, but only one registration will be offered as a prize should a group entry win first place.

Questions?
Email apavirginiaypg@gmail.com.

Brand Yourself a Planner

Use this badge on all your social media to help us celebrate National Community Planning Month! Let all of your friends, family, colleagues and acquaintances know what Planning means to you!
Leadership in Action

There is often a gap between the good intentions embedded in well-crafted planning document and the ability of planning commissioners and staff to realize the vision. This LUEP hosted workshop enhanced the leadership capacity of attendees, focusing attention on concepts of "change management". Attendees worked collectively to identify ways of contributing their expertise to the Town of Lovingston. A "ready for change" diagnostic tool was used to help attendees self-evaluate their capacity for leading change.

With several local leadership from the Town of Lovingston in attendance, the workshop hosts provided an overview of resilient design principles. Differences were highlighted between resiliency planning and conventional vision-based design (i.e. what do we want to be when we grow up?). Leading change, as a set of skills, also differs from what we think of as conventional management. Leading change requires building a team of people that are able to openly work together toward shared objectives, and support the team by investing in their work and messaging. With respect to community development, resiliency is enhanced where elected officials encourage a diversity of businesses and institutions, provide for redundancy in support systems and infrastructure, celebrate those that demonstrate a capacity to adapt to changing conditions, and continually provides information that helps people understand how the work of residents has enhanced (or not) the resiliency of their community.

By way of example, the Village of Lovingston (founded in 1807) is the county seat of Nelson County and is situated between the steep slopes of Peebles Mountain and US 29. The village contains the Nelson County Courthouse, a small commercial district, and a small residential neighborhood. Devastation wrought by Hurricane Camille in 1969 greatly impacted the structures, infrastructure, and social and economic vitality of the village. Lovingston did not fully recover from this event. Although Lovingston has not experienced much of the emerging economic vitality associated with the Rockfish Valley area of Nelson County, there has been a recent uptick in commercial development and reinvestment in the village. There has also been a renewed interest among local stakeholders to focus public and private energy into downtown revitalization efforts.
A Special Thank You to Our Annual Sponsors!
Southside Symposium: Education and Placemaking as Revitalization (3 CM)

The Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association and the Virginia Downtown Development Association are teaming up to hold its inaugural Symposium: Education and Placemaking as Revitalization.

Come to Uptown Martinsville at the new state-of-the-art New College Institute (NCI) building. Network with your colleagues and share tales over your boxed lunches.

Then, learn from Dr. Leanna Blevins and other guests about their model to help guide local educational programs towards employment for the advanced manufacturing companies in Martinsville-Henry County.

Also, learn from David Hill of Hill Studio and Jennifer Doss from the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Association’s Office of Tourism how CDBGs transformed spaces to help them become community places in Martinsville and Henry County. The panel of speakers will then answer questions. A walking tour of NCI, Uptown and the Philip Dalton IDEA (Innovate. Design. Engineer. Accelerate) Center is planned afterwards.

Schedule:
11:30 registration
12:00 noon lunch/networking
1:00 speakers
3:15 tour of Uptown
4:30 Happy Hour

Registration is open online until October 11. Tickets are ~$22 for APA Virginia and VDDA Members and $30 for non-members. Tickets will be available on-site for ~$34 for all members.

AICP 3 CM Credits are available for the sessions and the walking tour of Uptown

Food: Boxed lunch provided. Please note on registration form special needs (vegan/vegetarian)

Call (276) 403-5156 for more information.

Parking is available in the lot located in the rear of the building on West Church Street
As the American Planning Association Virginia Chapter wraps up and reflects on the successes of the 2016 Conference, planning for the 2017 Conference in downtown Roanoke is already underway. The 2017 Conference theme is “FutureCity.” Technological and societal shifts are happening at a breakneck pace. Our upcoming conference will explore how planners are taking advantage of opportunities “the future” poses while mitigating the risks to the health, safety, and welfare of communities. Roanoke won’t just be a backdrop for the event. We will be getting out into this quickly evolving region and learning alongside its residents. How will we envision the communities of tomorrow to be resilient, innovative, and integrated? For 2017, we plan to provide a robust conference program with even more opportunities to get out into the Roanoke community, learn new skills, become better planners, and celebrate great planning in the Commonwealth. More information about the 2017 Conference will be provided to the Chapter membership and our partner organizations in late 2016. We look forward to seeing everyone in Roanoke in July 2017!

Interested in volunteering on the 2017 Conference Planning Committee? Contact M. Tyler Klein, AICP, Membership Director (membership.apavirginia@gmail.com).

Leadership (con’t.)

Attendees worked through several exercises to develop ideas on how to enhance Lovingston’s resiliency moving ahead into the future. Tim Padalino, Planning Director for Nelson County, collected the results of the CPAT’s work for incorporation into the village’s planning process. Attendees worked in small groups to define what resiliency meant in the context of Lovingston, what assets the village could work with, opportunities for mitigating risks to those assets through planning and project development. In the end, the local leaders in attendance we grateful for the assistance and agreed that more intensive leadership development for both local elected officials and community organizers was a smart next step towards enhancing the resiliency of the community.
A successful experiment

Often times when we think “conference” we think of sitting in a room listening to a lecture. That’s ok, I guess. This year’s APA Virginia conference tried something a bit new with attendees. This year we held three “UnConference” sessions. What’s an UnConference you ask? Well, an UnConference session is like a self-organizing session. It relies on participation by people who have a passion for the topics to be discussed. The collective wisdom of attendees is used to define the session, assess the points of discussion, and arrive at an end point(s) within the given time. UnConference sessions are great for helping to bridge between differing levels of experience and perspectives on a topic. An appointed convener has the responsibilities of taking notes and disseminating session results.

During the conference our attendees and conveners hosted sessions on “Suburban Revitalization”, “Current Policy Trends”, and “Workforce Housing”. A summary of the discussions and outcomes from the 60-minute dialogues can be found online (https://2016apavirginia.sched.org/type/UnConference). If you read through the summaries you’ll note that each session was revealing, rich in content, and spanned a diversity of perspectives. Attendees reported very positive feelings about these thought provoking sessions. That qualifies our experiment with these highly-interactive and somewhat lesser-structured sessions as a success! But why, you might ask, did we bother attempting UnConference sessions? Aside from our general interest in providing more interactive sessions (an oft repeated request of attendees).

In 2017 the APA Virginia annual conference will be hosted by the City of Roanoke. The theme will be Future City. With so many innovations happening across a variety of planning concepts (i.e. health systems, transportation, education, etc.), visioning and speculation are going to be on full display. Facilitative techniques that can gather and filter them through the collective intelligence of the APA Virginia membership will be useful. Since it appears that UnConference sessions were helpful in those respects in 2016, you can bet we’ll be expanding and building on the format for 2017’s conference.

We, as conference organizers, challenge ourselves to develop sessions that both benefit attendees by receiving instruction from their peers, and help the host community redress their community development needs. Our hope is that you are as excited by that prospect as we are.
Wintergreen (con’t)

On Monday, the main program kicked off. The annual General Assembly Plenary touched on hot planning issues, like the General Assembly’s new proffer legislation. Before lunch, attendees heard from Virginia Tech’s Christine Devine, who worked to examine the water crisis in Flint, Michigan. While many states away, the presentation warned of how the mistakes of Flint could be repeated in communities across the Country, including those in Virginia. The program also included new session formats, like afternoon workshops that grouped breakout sessions into groups that provided a more meaningful narrative. The Monday program ended with a cookout at Discovery Ridge, where attendees rode a zipline, socialized and played games.

Tuesday started with a presentation from James Drinan, the Executive Director of APA. Generra Peck, with McGuire Woods, presented the Holzhiemer Memorial Economic Plenary, reviewing the GO Virginia initiative and how it affects planners. The afternoon included additional sessions, including a new “unconference” format where attendees set the session topic and guided discussions. That evening, the Chapter held its annual awards program, honoring great professionals and planning efforts throughout Virginia. The event also honored new AICP fellows, for their years of service to the planning profession, followed by an FAICP reception.

On the last day of the conference, the program kept all attendees together, with three plenary presentations that would interest a broad range of planners. Earl Anderson held the annual ethics plenary, with the help of Glenn Larson and Denise Harris. From Richmond’s Federal Reserve, Shannon McKay presented on the economic and community development trends in Virginia. Luke Juday built on that discussion, with an overview of Virginia’s demographic trends.

The 2016 Conference Committee set a clear goal of having a diverse program that offered valuable training and education for all of the Chapter membership. This direction was partly defined by the membership, with the 2015 conference survey. We heard your feedback and included: more legislative sessions, workshops, bike and pedestrian training, economic development sessions, skill building clinics, a resume clinic, sessions on
2016 Awards: Recognizing Planning Efforts and Professionals across Virginia

At the Chapter’s Wintergreen Conference, APA Virginia celebrated great planning throughout the Commonwealth. The 2016 Awards Committee selected winners in four categories: Outstanding Plan, Public Outreach and Engagement, Outstanding Plan by a Nonprofit, and Outstanding Private Sector Award. The Chapter also honored university faculty, planning students and practitioners.

Planning Awards

The Eisenhower West Small Area Plan received the 2016 Outstanding Plan Award. The Plan guides the development of the 620-acre site over the next 25 years. This Plan also won the best “Sustainable Urban Design or Preservation Plan or Project” award from the American Planning Association.

Award, Arlington Community Facilities Study represents a joint effort by Arlington County and Arlington Public Schools to examine the necessary strategies to meet the community facility needs of Arlington County. A 23-member citizen committee, supported by a 250-member Resident Forum, worked with County and Public Schools staff to evaluate Arlington’s changing facility and resource needs.

For the Public Outreach and Engagement
2016 Awards: Recognizing Planning Efforts and Professionals across Virginia

Winner of the Outstanding Plan by a Non-profit Award, The Blue Ridge Heritage Education Center will serve as a “Gateway to the vibrant cultural landscape of Virginia’s Floyd and Patrick Counties.” The Master Plan (long version, short version) provides “a roadmap and compass to phase-in, build, and open the Blue Ridge Heritage Education Center for business by 2020.” Blue Ridge Heritage, Inc. is a volunteer board that promotes education and economic development through place-based programs related to the natural and cultural heritage of the Blue Ridge in Southwestern Virginia’s Bi-County area of Floyd and Patrick Counties.

For the Outstanding Private Sector Award, The Loudoun County Land Use Scenario Planning Study considers “alternative futures for a subset of the Dulles Metrorail Service Districts, and measure the impacts of those decisions to evaluate the trade-offs associated with competing scenarios.” The consultants produced a Summary Workbook as well as a Technical Appendix to address multiple scenarios for development of the Silver Line extension through Loudoun County. This Silver Line Scenario Planning Study is a project of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors that is being managed by the Loudoun County Department of Planning and Zoning. The study is being conducted by a multi-disciplinary consultant team led by Stantec Consulting. Other project team members include Rhodeside & Harwell, TischlerBise, W-ZHA, and Placeways.

Honoring Other Efforts and Individuals

The Chapter recognized another planning effort and several individuals. The Courthouse Sector Plan received an honorable mention. The plan serves as a guide for the development of Courthouse Square over the next 25 years. Outstanding students included: Mary Katherine Fisher and Ethan Strickler (University of Virginia), Justin Grenzebach and Daniel Dabroski (Virginia Commonwealth University), Amory Fischer, Nathan Domme and Shubha Punase, (Virginia Tech). The Chapter also honored university faculty, including Daphne Spain (UVA), James Smither (VCU) and Diane Zahm (Virginia Tech).
Job Opportunity in Lewes, DE

The City of Lewes is seeking its first Municipal Planning and Development Officer to support the City as it prospers while preserving its small-town, relaxed, and friendly culture. This presents an exceptional opportunity to start and shape the professional planning role for a historic coastal community. Like many coastal communities, Lewes is facing challenges from development, demographic shifts, and climate change. The Municipal Planning and Development Officer will help Lewes preserve and enhance its social, economic, cultural, and natural resources in the face of these and other challenges.

The Municipal Planning and Development Officer supports numerous groups, will report directly to the City Manager, and will work closely with the City’s building official and contract engineer. Lewes is governed by a Mayor and four-member City Council. The City has a general fund budget of about $5.57 million and 32 full-time, one part-time, and 23 seasonal employees. The Lewes Planning Commission (LPC) is a nine-member advisory board appointed by the Mayor and Council and has four ex-officio members. Requirements for this position are a bachelor’s degree in urban, land use, or municipal planning and a minimum of three years’ relevant experience as a planner for a city, town, county, or state entity. Preferred qualifications include an AICP, master’s degree, a broad range of skills, and experience with drafting regulations and transportation issues. Preferred qualifications are knowledge of FEMA programs and policies affecting seaside communities, experience in program and project development, and experience in identifying, developing, applying for, and administering grants.

The expected starting salary range is $60,000 to $65,000 depending on qualifications, with an excellent benefit package. The City pays 100% of employee health care premiums and 80% of dependent care. The City also pays a 10% contribution to a defined contribution retirement program that does not require a match.

Applications will be accepted electronically by The Novak Consulting Group and will be kept confidential. Applicants first complete a brief online form and then are prompted to provide one document (Word or PDF) that has a cover letter, resume with salary history, and a list of 3-5 professional references. Open until filled with first review of applications October 21, 2016.

Questions should be directed to Catherine Tuck Parrish at apply@thenovakconsultinggroup.com or 240-832-1778
Your Hour with APA Virginia

Your APA Virginia leadership continues to bring you valuable services that will make you a more effective planner and keep Virginia at the cutting edge of the profession. In an effort to continue the sharing of knowledge and building of skill-sets that proliferated at Wintergreen in July, APA Virginia, in cooperation with Berkley Group, has introduced a new webinar series, Your Hour with APA Virginia. This webinar series gives APA members direct access to experienced professionals with specialized knowledge bases. Every 4th Monday, APA Virginia brings a new and exciting topic to educate its members. This series began the Monday after the Wintergreen Conference with a “Review of the 2016 General Assembly with Emily Gibson, AICP and Eldon James.” As Vice President of Legislative Affairs, Emily brought a wealth of experience to the conversation; as a seasoned lobbyist, Eldon delivered an inside assessment of the most contentious issues facing planners today. Every year brings new legislation that directly effects how a planner does her job. Emily and Eldon help you make sense of it all.

In August, Andrew Williams, AICP and Shaina Shaffer, both with the Berkley Group, led a discussion called “Water, water everywhere. Especially stormwater! Is your locality in compliance? What is MS4 anyway?”

The Berkley Group team guided participants through the difficult, and often confusing, issues related to Virginia’s Stormwater Management Program. With a changing landscape in stormwater, Drew and Shaina helped participants keep their heads above water.

Most recently, CityScape consultants Anthony Lepore and Elizabeth Herington-Smith explored “Federal Regulatory Developments Impacting Wireless Infrastructure and Local Government.” These wireless telecommunications experts detailed the current federal regulations that impact local regulation of infrastructure siting and some best practices to handle applications from providers.

On October 24 the series continues with Milton Herd, FAICP with “The Principles of Effective Facilitation: Herding Cats 101.” This introductory course provides an overview of the key fundamental skills facilitators need in order to lead productive meetings as part of a public input, consensus building, or conflict resolution process. With more than 30 years of award-winning experience as a community planning consultant and facilitator, Mr. Herd has seen and dealt with a variety of challenges in group dynamics. Anyone who has ever led or would hope to lead a meeting will benefit from this discussion.

Over the course of the next year, APA Virginia and Berkley Group will bring you exciting and informative webinars to expand your skills and grow your knowledge base. Each webinar provides CM credits for your AICP maintenance and they are all free! Join us every 4th Monday at noon for Your Hour with APA Virginia, brought to you by The Berkley Group.
agri-tourism, food access, and discussions on how to implement innovative ideas. The Chapter’s partners, including Virginia Tech’s Land Use Education Program (LUEP) and Eldon James and Associates, helped to bring this direction into a reality.

APA Virginia’s conferences are only as good as its volunteers. A core group makes up the Conference Committee, but there is a larger team of members that make this annual event possible. The 2017 Conference will take place in Downtown Roanoke and we encourage you to volunteer your time to this fulfilling experience. Thank you to everyone who made Wintergreen 2016 a success and we hope to see you all in Roanoke for 2017.

**Wintergreen (con’t)**

The results of APA’s first Consolidated Election, which included Chapter Elections, are in. Congratulations to the following Board of Director members for the 2017-2019 term of office:

- **President-Elect:** Earl W. Anderson, AICP
- **VP Chapter Affairs:** Tyler Klein, AICP
- **VP External Affairs:** Will Cockrell, AICP
- **VP Sections:** Donald Whipple, AICP
- **VP Legislative & Policy Affairs:** Brandie Schaeffer
- **Treasurer:** Jason Espie, AICP
- **Secretary:** Emily Gibson
- **Membership Director:** James May, AICP
- **AICP PDO:** Andrew Hopewell, AICP

Chapter President, George M. Homewood, FAICP, will continue to serve out his term through December 2017, at which time the President-Elect, Earl Anderson, AICP, will become President. This is the first election cycle where the President-Elect position was introduced, which mirrors the Board of Directors model for APA National and that of many other APA Chapters. Moving to the President-Elect system, will enable the President-Elect to shadow the President and learn the workings of both the Chapter and APA National Chapter Presidents Council prior taking office January 2018. The President-Elect will be President then for 2 years, then the Immediate Past President for one year.

Thank you to all of our candidates who put forward their names and credentials to the membership for consideration of leadership.

**2017 APA VA Board**

**Fields of Gold—Community Garden**
Logging Your Conference CM Credits

Did you attend the 2016 APA Virginia Conference? This year’s conference had a record high number of available CM credits. Here is how you can record your CM credits:

Visit [https://www.planning.org/events/eventmulti/9102981/](https://www.planning.org/events/eventmulti/9102981/). This will take you directly into the conference page. Scroll down and find the session you attended and click the green “Add to My Log” button. If you have not logged in, do so now. After you log in, it will take you back to the session you selected. Your feedback is valuable in knowing how the session was and for planning future conference sessions so you are encouraged to rate and add comments for each session, but it is not required. Select the Agree check box for “Through my ethical obligations, as governed by the AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, I verify that I attended this program in full” and click the green “Submit” button. That’s it!

If you were a speaker, be sure to select the check box for “I was a speaker/instructor” and include your prep time into the overall CM credit total.

As always if you have any questions or need any help send Earl W. Anderson, AICP an email at pdo.apavirginia@gmail.com.

YPG On the Move

In July of 2016 the Blacksburg APA Young Planner’s Group hosted a historic walking tour of downtown Blacksburg. Blacksburg was established in 1798 and has since grown into the Commonwealth’s largest town. By being led through the historic “16 Squares” participants got a look into how the town has changed in the past two centuries to accommodate the growth of Virginia Tech and a growing economy.

The walk was led by Town Council member, John Bush and Hugh Campbell. Participants got a glimpse of the approaches that the Town of Blacksburg uses to encourage and accommodate Virginia Tech’s expansion, how quality of life for residents of diverse income levels is accommodated by the town, and stepped back into history examining how two families turned 38 acres of land into what we now know as one of Southwest Virginia’s most active economic centers.—written by Emma Buchanan
American Planning Association
Virginia Chapter
Making Great Communities Happen

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“Fields of Gold,” Augusta County
Photo by Donald Whipple

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