

Planning and Women Division Summer 2016

[APA Planning and Women] Fiona Akins, Chair <fionaakins@gmail.com>

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Newsletter – Summer 2016 Edition

We're celebrating the achievements of the Planning and Women Division of the American Planning Association! From sessions in Phoenix to the Huffington Post, our members are making waves in the planning field.

Don't delay! Become a leader

Deadline June 21

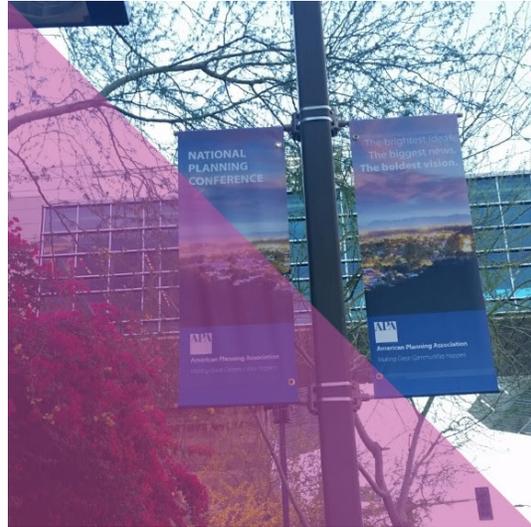
Consider nominating yourself for a position on the 2017 Executive Committee. Our Division needs your skills and talent as we support, network, advocate and learn together! This is an excellent opportunity to work with other talented women in the planning industry, and to increase your leadership skills. Check out the [Division Bylaws](#) for a description of each position and submit a bio and position statement to our [Elections Committee](#) by June 21.

Questions? Email our [Elections Committee](#).



P&W Division rocked it in Phoenix

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Dynamic Families



The Dynamic Families session had over 100 audience members who actively participated and asked challenging questions of the panelists, pictured left-to-right: Alice Walkup, Deirdre Pfeiffer, Michael Lafferty and Raymond Dubucki, Jr.

The first day of the conference, the Division sponsored the session "Dynamic Families: Planning for America's Changing Households," which was part of the conference's Planning for a more Dynamic Population track. This session featured three speakers, each focusing on a different aspect of the changing face of American family composition and how communities are working to address the needs of these households. Deirdre Pfeiffer, AICP, Assistant Professor in the School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning at Arizona State University, spoke first, providing a good background on demographic trends, explaining that America is trending towards aging, and living alone. She also described the ways in which people are legally and illegally modifying housing to meet their needs.

Next, attendees heard from Michael Lafferty, Manager of the Lafferty Companies, LLC, who is leading several major housing and mixed use developments in Phoenix. In particular, he spoke about the St. Ambrose project, which is a building with micro-units. Mike was very popular during the Q&A portion of the session, providing a real-world perspective on planners' parking and development cost questions. Finally, Raymond Dubicki, Jr. of Seattle, WA is currently a stay-at-home dad and previously worked as a planner and attorney. He shared his unique perspective on his interactions with the built environment and how land use decisions can have a significant impact on his life, in a very entertaining and enlightening presentation. All three speakers were well-received by the audience, with several attendees saying that it was the best session they had attended!

Sisterhood 2.0



The Sisterhood 2.0 session was very well attended with over 50 participants! The time included group discussions on salary negotiation, work/life balance and office politics. Panelists shared insights on each topic and there was also a lively Q&A.

In a testament to the pent up desire of

Lani Eggertsen-Goff, AICP brought

women planners to convene and discuss issues in their lives, workplaces, and careers, the Sisterhood 2.0 session was a full house, with over 80 women (and a couple of men supporters!) attending.

The session kicked off with a compelling panel of three bright and eager women who shared stories and advice. On the topic of navigating office politics, Margo Wheeler, FAICP encourages us to embrace the politics, understand the office dynamics, and use them to our advantage. One example provided was going out to lunch with the executive team or our managers and not to shy away from those critical one-on-ones because of fear of perception.

Corrin Wendell, AICP spoke on the topic of work/life balance. She states “Find what works for your family and situation and don’t be afraid to ask for what you want in terms of flexibility.” One break-out group suggested that learning to delegate and accept less than perfection were ways to free up more time.

compelling insight on salary negotiation. “Do your research and don’t be afraid to ask for what you deserve.” Many of the break-out groups had similar advice, but added to track your achievements/efforts throughout the year and to have confidence when negotiating.

One common theme throughout the session was the power of mentorship. Several groups summarized by saying “Find higher-level women (or even peers) as examples/mentors” and “women leadership networks.”

In summary, the feedback regarding the session was overwhelming positive. The need for women to learn from each other and to build their confidence through comradery and encouragement is critical to breaking through the pervasive glass ceiling in the planning profession.

Network and learn together!

We'll be sharing info about members of our Division and opportunities for learning with each edition. Know someone who needs a spotlight or have you heard about an upcoming event we should share? Email [Elisa Hamblin](#), Director of Communications.

Message from our Chair – Fiona Akins

I'm so pleased to see the growth and progress of our Division over the last year. Part of that has been the



creation of several new positions on our Executive Committee. Help us welcome the new officers! These talented and dedicated professionals have already jumped into their new roles. They come from all over the country and represent diverse backgrounds in Planning. Please join me in offering them a hearty welcome and thank you for their work.

- **Director of Communications** : [Elisa Hamblin](#), AICP. Elisa is a local government planner who specializes in visioning, policy development, community engagement and project management. She currently leads long range planning for the Town of Oro Valley in the Tucson, AZ metro area.
- **Director of Programs**: [Corrin Wendell](#), AICP. Corrin is a practicing planner with experience providing planning, architectural, and research services. Corrin currently serves as the City Planner for the City of North St. Paul, MN.
- **Director of Membership**: [AJ Fawver](#), AICP, CNU–A. AJ serves as the Administrator of Planning & Development Services for the City of San Angelo, TX. Recently she was reelected as secretary for the Texas APA’s Northwest Section. Connect with AJ via Twitter [@planning_guru](#).
- **Director of Chapter Engagement**: [Deborah L. Myerson](#), AICP. Deborah is an urban planning consultant with over 20 years of experience in housing, land use and transportation policy, community development, and urban revitalization. She also serves as chair of APA’s Private Practice Division.
- **Director of Student Engagement**: [Margo Wheeler](#), FAICP. Margo has provided dedicated and innovative planning leadership in numerous communities over the last 30 years, including Palm Springs, San Bernardino and Las Vegas. She currently teaches at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ.

Member Spotlight

One of the goals of the Division is to create greater connections between our members. So, in each newsletter we'll be highlighting a different member. Know a member we should feature? Email [Elisa Hamblin](#). Now, let's welcome Jennifer Thomas Gomez, AICP. She currently serves as Interim Assistant Director in the Development Services Department for the City of



Missouri City, Texas. Read below as Jennifer introduces herself!

I received my undergraduate degree in Sociology from Spelman College in Atlanta, GA and a Masters Degree in Urban Planning from the University of Kansas (KU). I began working in Missouri City, TX because of the [diversity of development tools the City had implemented](#) including its comprehensive plan, zoning ordinance and architectural design standards. Although these are typical land use tools that are used in the Planning field, Missouri City's use of such tools in an area just outside of Houston, TX was of interest to me. The City of Houston is widely known for its resistance to the implementation of such tools to control development.

Additionally, over the last several years, Missouri City has been recognized as being one of the most diverse communities in the country situated in the most diverse county in the world. I view my time in Missouri City as an important opportunity to [be part of planning for an area that may resemble what the world will look like in the next 20 years](#). The make up of the community provides the opportunity for us to learn to work with others who may differ from us racially, culturally, economically or in educational attainment but because we live in one community, this community, we must work together to formulate and move towards a collective future.

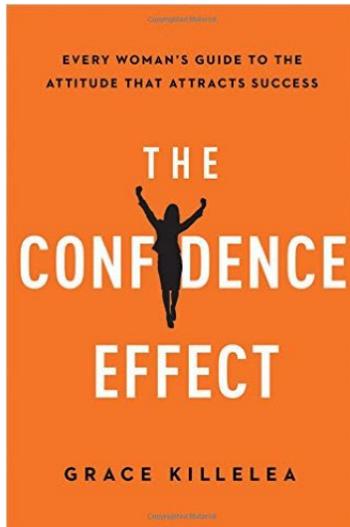
I've been working in various Planning capacities for Missouri City for the past 10 years. Through my time in Missouri City, I've had the opportunity to practice both current and long range planning, understanding the connection between both and how each influences the other.

I've been a member of the American Planning Association since 2005 and have participated with the various state chapters that I've been associated with in addition to serving time as the Secretary for the Planning and Black Community Division. I've known about the [Planning and Women Division](#) for a while and as a practicing female planner, I felt it was [an important connection to make](#).

Although there are many female planners by education and by practice, many of the areas that we conduct business in are still heavily male oriented. From the development community to building contractors and the construction industry, the professional traits, leadership ability and project successes are still largely attributed to men. I believe that this division [can advance women within the planning and development profession](#) through the continued [highlighting of the successes female planners are making](#) in communities around the world and by [providing a platform for female planners to share their experiences](#) with others.

We become stronger when we are connected to each other by knowing that we are not alone in our experiences, our opportunities for career advancement and for making a positive impact on our world.

P&W Division Book Club



It's not too late – you can still join our newly launched book club! Join us on LinkedIn as we discuss the [The Confidence Effect: Every Woman's Guide to the Attitude That Attracts Success](#), by Grace Killelea. It's simple! Go to our [group page](#), and click on "ask to join" (NOTE: you will need to be a LinkedIn member). After approval you'll be able to see all of our updates. Also follow Planning & Women on Twitter ([@APAPWD](#)) and [Facebook](#). We won't overwhelm your news feeds, but we will provide you with new content at least two–three times a week! Questions? Contact AJ Fawver (aj.fawver@cosatx.us) or Ronni Nimps (rnimps@morpc.org) via email or LinkedIn

Kudos to our members!

We've got a lot to celebrate as several of our members have earned high praise and recognition in the field!

- The American Planning Association has recognized two member of our Executive Committee as leaders in the APA.
 - Our Division Chair, [Fiona Akins, AICP](#) received the [2016 Division Chair's Award](#). Congrats Fiona!
 - Our Secretary, [Patrice Ruffin, AICP](#) received the [2016 Divisions Council Terry F. Holzheimer, FAICP, Leadership Award](#) which goes to a Divisions Council Executive Committee Member. Congrats Patrice!
- This year the Division also received the [2016 Divisions Council Achievement Award](#) for Contribution to the Planning Profession for the Planning through a Gender Lens: Inclusive Planning for Aging and Livable Communities project.

- Two of our Division-nominated members have been inducted in the 2016 class of Fellows of the AICP. Congrats to [Deborah Rosenthal, FAICP](#) of FitzGerald Yap Kreditor, LLP and [Margot Weaver Garcia, FAICP](#) who is retired from Virginia Commonwealth University!
- Our very own [Mildred Warner](#) was recently interviewed for a [Huffington Post article Cities Aren't Designed For Women. Here's Why They Should Be.](#) regarding her work on using a gender lens in city planning. Check out the article and the issue brief [The Need to Plan for Women.](#)

Do you know a woman in the planning profession that deserves a Kudos? Maybe she was mentioned in the news, recognized by her local chapter, or promoted to a new position. Let us know so we can share! Email [AJ Fawver](#), Director of Membership.

Make a difference today!

APA Seeks Experts for AICP Questions

The AICP Commission is seeking [experts on planning for women](#) from our Division to participate in drafting new AICP exam questions as part of the Commission's comprehensive update this year. The Committee is especially interested in updating the exam's relevance to today's planning: new and emerging issues, equity, and social justice. Our Division has been asked to suggest members who can contribute expertise on planning for women. This is an important opportunity for our Division to include awareness and best practice on issues relevant to and inclusive of women in the planning profession broadly.

- Work is to be completed during six weeks in late summer
- Participants are asked to produce 10–15 multiple-choice questions
- APA will provide one training webinar plus an question-writing manual
- Standard reference materials such as APA-produced documents—PAS Reports, JAPA, etc.— are provided to support the answer to each question
- Participants must be AICP planners and cannot be serving as Professional Development Officers
- Participants may claim CM credit for this pro bono planning service ([learn more about CM Pro Bono](#))
- Participants will work remotely

If you would like to participate, please email Chair [Fiona Akins](#) with contact details and one sentence describing your area of expertise in planning for women as it relates to the exam. (Refresh your memory of the AICP Exam outline on [APA's Exam page](#)).

Submissions are due by Monday, June 20th.



Ideas for NYC 2017

Have you been thinking ahead to next year and dreaming of that New York City skyline? What do you think the Division should share at our sessions? How can we make the event better for women? Send your ideas to [Corrin Wendell](#), Director of Programs. Session proposals are now also being accepted by [APA](#).

Volunteer

Can't commit to a leadership position but still want to help out? We're always looking for volunteers to work on newsletters, social media and the national conference. Email [Fiona Akins](#), Division Chair, to express your interest.



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