

WESTERN CENTRAL CHAPTER *Review*

a publication of the Western Central Chapter of the
American Planning Association

APA

Aging, Livable Communities & Economic Demands

by Ramona Mullahey

Member - Divisions Council/Chapter Presidents Council Task Force on Collaboration
Divisions Council Initiative on Aging & Livable Communities

The U.S. is undergoing a demographic transformation. On January 1, 2011, the very first Baby Boomers born between January 1, 1946 and December 31, 1964, turned 65. Further, the Pew Research Center has projected that about 10,000 people “will cross that threshold” every day over the next 19 years. By 2030, the 65 and older population will have grown to 18 percent. By 2050, 20 percent of Americans will be 65 or older, an increase of 120 percent from 40 million to over 88 million.

As today’s population live longer, the cost of healthcare rises, dramatically increasing demands on entitlement programs such as social security and Medicare. Those two factors are going to make it incredibly challenging to address the needs of retiring Baby Boomers, especially as many of them have no intention of ceding their independence and their youthful perspective towards life.

This means that the 79 million baby boomers, about 26 percent of this

country’s population, will be redefining what it means to be older. Boomers will work longer and demand that community infrastructure be more responsive to their needs as those who “age in place.” This will further increase economic demands on communities, not to mention the Federal Government through various transportation programs. Older adults require access to services, a range of housing types and transportation options for active living in the community. According to AARP [<http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/ppi/liv-com/aging-in-place--2011-full.pdf>], unsupportive community design, unaffordable and inaccessible housing, and a lack of access to needed services are barriers to the desire of older adults to live in their own homes and to thrive in their communities.

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APA

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WCC Executive Board

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Newsletter Information

This newsletter is published by the Western Central Chapter of the American Planning Association. Circulation is to the APA members of the Western Central Chapter (WCC). The WCC Executive Committee welcomes submissions of original articles, editorial letters, and any other information of interest to both professional and citizen planners. Submissions should be made to the newsletter editor:

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President's Message

by Ken Markert, AICP

“Numbers aside, our members are generally the most qualified and dedicated planning professionals in our four-state region.”

As a member of the Western Central Chapter of APA, you are represented by a chapter board, made up of members who volunteer their time, energy, and resources to advance planning in our four-state region. (The members of the board are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.) Here are some of the things the board accomplished in 2012:

Newsletter – We are taking a new approach with the Chapter Newsletter. We have shifted from a twice yearly newsletter to the new format of a more concise newsletter published every two months.

This is the second issue in the new format. Now you will receive news and information in a more frequent and timely way. The Chapter is fortunate to have Cheyenne planner Meagan McColloch as our newsletter editor.

Western Planner Conference – The chapter financially supported the Western Planner Conference put on by the Montana Association of Planners in Billings last August. Whenever the WP Conference is held in one of our four states, the Chapter increases WP funding support.

I attended and saw some exceptional sessions. The venue worked well and Billings was a great setting for the conference. The awards ceremony was fun, as was the softball game. The plenary sessions were all fantastic. Congratulations to Wyeth Friday, AICP, the MAP conference committee and Western Planner for putting on one of the best conferences in a while.

Webinar – Every year the Chapter arranges a training webinar, one of the many free webinars through Utah

APA. Our sessions qualify for Certification Maintenance credits. This is one way we try to support AICP among our members.

We were really pleased that Roger Millar, PE, AICP of Smart Growth America was available to present this year's webinar. The session was about how to more effectively communicate the virtues of sound planning in the face of the new conspiracy-theory opposition.

If you missed it, you should see the video or as a PowerPoint presentation at <http://www.utah-apa.org/webcast-archive> (hint: search the page for the program title, *Planning in Dangerous Times*—it is hard to find otherwise).

Finances – 2012 Chapter finances are one of those good news-bad news stories. The good news is that we finished the year in the black for the first time in four years, with a meager \$455 surplus. Previously, our deficits have averaged \$2,000 with an average of \$9,600 in total spending.

We wouldn't be in the black if we had not received a \$700 APA travel assistance grant—the grant helps the Chapter send me to leadership meetings in Los Angeles and Washington DC this year. Attending helps the chapter understand what is going on at APA national and lets our voice be heard.

The bad budget news is that we saved money because some of our planned initiatives didn't happen. We had \$1,000 allocated for AICP training and \$500 for scholarships, most of which went unspent. We are intent on doing more in these areas in 2013. You probably know that APA requires
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its members to be members of the local chapter. The chapters assess dues (\$25) which APA adds to your APA bill. Beginning in 2010, APA began charging chapters a fee that effectively claims 18 percent (\$1,300) of our chapter dues. Our chapter had not run deficits prior to the fee.

The Chapter board is considering raising the dues, and we will seek your input on this question.

Membership – It has been a tough few years for public sector employment across the country. Many APA chapters have seen significant declines in membership. We presently have 298 members, net loss of 5 members, for the year.

Forty-five percent of our members are AICP or FAICP. (We only have three FAICP members -- Joanne Garnett, Ben Orsbon, and Sumner Sharpe).

Of all our members, 41% work for city or town while another 21% work for a county. 7% of members work at other levels of government. The rest are consultants (18%), academics (3%), private non-profits (3%) or unaffiliated (6%).

Early in 2013, the Chapter Board will be seeking your input on the Chapter's performance and future directions ... Consider becoming more involved in your professional association in 2013.

Numbers aside, our members are generally the most qualified and dedicated planning professionals in our four-state region.

Going forward in 2013, the Chapter board will look to advance these initiatives:

Chapter PDO and state PDOs – Our Chapter's long-time Professional Development Officer, Pepper McClenahan, AICP, ended her great run this summer. She has worked hard to promote AICP membership and other professional development opportunities during a time when Certification Maintenance has become important for AICP members. One of Pepper's parting recommendations is that we establish state PDOs to coordinate with the Chapter PDO. The Chapter Board will be looking at making that happen in 2013.

Young Planners Program – In 2009, APA established a Young Planners program. The idea is to provide younger APA members (under 35) with guidance, resources and [continued on page 6]

JOB CORNER Looking for a job?

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

City of Bozeman, MT

\$90,340 - \$99,275

For a complete job description, please visit the Prothman Company at <http://www.prothman.com/> and click on "Current Searches." Apply by January 27, 2013 (first review, open until filled). To apply, please visit Prothman at <http://www.prothman.com/> and click on "Submit Your Application" and follow the directions provided. Application materials will only be accepted electronically via the website. For questions, please call 206-368-0050.

Several online planning job listings are free to search. Here are just a few:

American Planning Association: <http://www.planning.org/jobs/search/>

Planetizen: <http://www.planetizen.com/jobs>

USA.gov: [http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Work for the Government.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Work%20for%20the%20Government.shtml)

Montana Association of Planners: <http://www.montanaplanners.org/jobs.htm>

If interested in posting a job listing on the WCC website, please contact the website editor, Allyson Brekke at abrekke@bozeman.net. The job must be located within one of the WCC states.



Member News and WCC Events

Welcome Back, John Shepard!

John C. Shepard, AICP, a former Western Central APA member, is back in the Chapter with a new position as Senior Planner with Laramie County Planning and Development in Cheyenne. Most recently with the Southwest Regional Development Commission in Minnesota, John previously worked in North Dakota, Montana, Colorado, and New Mexico. He will be rebooting Laramie County's Comprehensive Plan update.

Call for Webcasts

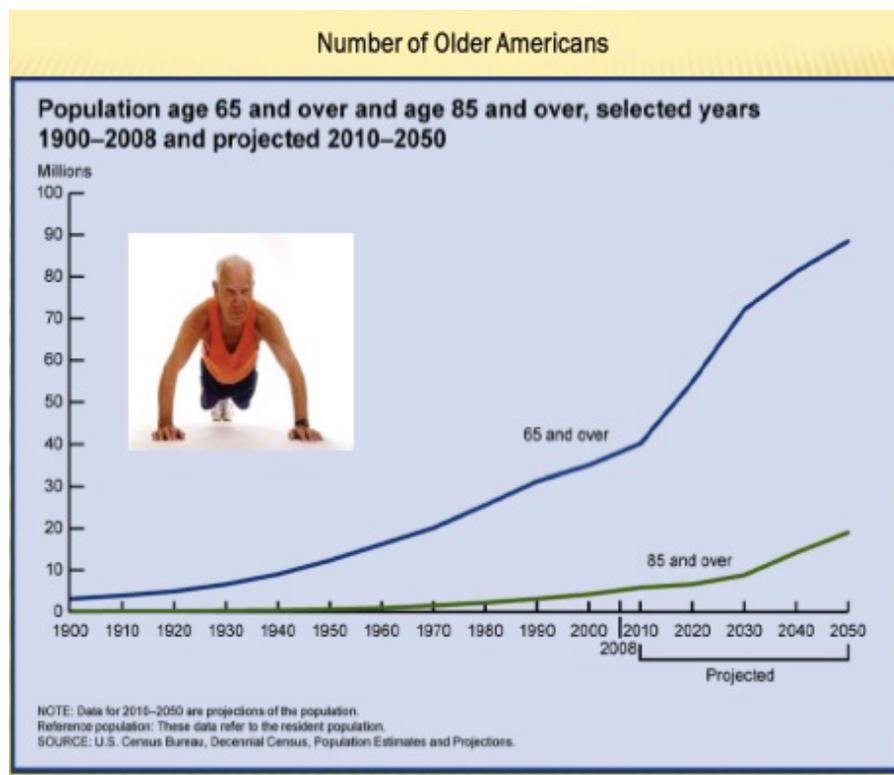
APA Western Central Chapter is a member of the Planning Webcast Series, a co-op comprised of APA Chapters and Divisions that provides cost-free webcasts to a national audience. The Series is currently soliciting topics for the 2013 calendar year. The Chapter has reserved March 15th, 2013 for our webcast. If you—or your organization—have a topic that would be of interest to a national audience, please contact Ken Markert, Chapter President, at markert@mmiplanning.com.

Upcoming Conferences

National Planning Conference
April 13 – 17, 2013
Chicago, Illinois

National Main Street Conference
April 14 – 16, 2013
New Orleans, Louisiana

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Progress is being made in more than 300 age-friendly/livable community initiatives underway nationwide based on age-friendly models from organizations such as the World Health Organization, AARP and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Innovative partnerships are forming among government agencies, businesses, social service providers, aging experts, and grassroots advocacy groups to brainstorm how to make their city or town age-friendly. Further, the lifetime associations and connections rooted in place can be pivotal to successful aging. However, making cities more age-friendly can be daunting. Most experts agree that many communities have not planned for the aging boomers. Fiscal constraints are pushing some communities to cut spending on critically needed programs and services.

The APA Aging of America Initiative provides an extraordinary opportunity for planners. Join the conversation. Visit the APA Aging and Livable Communities Initiative online at: <http://www.planning.org/leadership/divisions/initiatives/aging/index.htm>. Also, contact the DC/CPC Task Force or Noel Comeaux (noel.comeaux@dot.gov) to get involved with this and other division initiatives.

Further, Ramona Mullahey is Past-Chair of the Private Practice Division. For more information on this and the other 20 divisions, please go to <http://www.planning.org/divisions/>. Division membership is a great way to participate in APA as well as to network with planners involved in your area of expertise and to network nationally and internationally.

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professional development opportunities so that they can excel individually and lead collectively in the field of planning. The Chapter Board intends to get an energetic program going in our Chapter.

2013 Webinar – Our next webinar is scheduled for March 15, 2013. We have completed the background work to set up the webinar. We are taking proposals through January.

The 1.5-hour webinars can feature planning techniques, case studies or any topic that would appeal to a national audience. I encourage you to contact me with your

webinar proposal.

Membership Survey – Early in 2013, the Chapter Board will be seeking your input on the Chapter's performance and future directions. The survey will also ask how you would like to become more involved in the Chapter. Consider becoming more involved in your professional association in 2013.

If you knew at the outset that this is my annual report, I fear you might not have read it. Hopefully you have learned something pertinent about your chapter.

State Updates

South Dakota State Update

by Dave Mingo, AICP

The South Dakota Planner's Association (SDPA) held its annual conference in Lead, SD on October 23rd – 25th. The conference was highlighted by discussions on flood-plain management, developing a defensible decision making process, sign codes and environmental planning. As with many conference experiences, the networking opportunities at the SDPA conference proved to be of great value. Like others in attendance, I showed up with my list of hot topics and take every sidebar opportunity to inquire how others in the business are dealing with similar issues.

Yankton was selected as the site of the 2013 SDPA Conference. With a couple of hosting bids on the table for consideration, the SDPA membership choose Yankton as the site for the annual conference in 2013. The conference will be held October 22nd – 25th, 2013, and the preliminary agenda includes discussions on planning ethics, land use law and access management. In addition, Yankton provides conference attendees the opportunity to learn about the early days of the Dakota Territory, the paddlewheel riverboat's brief but important role in settling the area and one of the last sections of the Missouri River that looks the same as it did when Lewis and Clark journeyed west.

Montana State Update

by Jeff Bollman, AICP

2012 Western Planner Conference: The 2012 Western Planner Conference was held this past August in Billings and was a success! Special thanks to Wyeth Friday and the rest of the conference committee for putting on a great event.

MAP Legislative Committee: The legislative session starts in January, and the MAP Legislative Committee has been active in preparing for the start of the session. The MAP Board recently hired a new lobbyist and is reviewing bill drafts that have been submitted prior to the start of the session. Needless to say, once the session starts there will be a flurry of activity. Stay current on legislative happenings at the MAP web site www.montanaplanners.org.