

APA and MAP

MAP is the Michigan Chapter of American Planning Association (APA), and is in fact one of the largest chapters in terms of both membership and budget. As a state chapter, MAP performs certain functions and has specific responsibilities, including producing a magazine, providing workshops and training for professionals and elected and appointed officials, attending national leadership meetings, and much more.

MAP's presence at the national level has increased significantly over the last year with the appointment of a new Chapter President's Council (CPC) representative. The CPC represents the chapter at national leadership meetings twice a year and serves as a liaison between APA (national) and our chapter.

APA launched two major initiatives in 2006 – 2007 that will impact our chapter: approving a mandatory continuing education program for certified (AICP) planners, Certification Maintenance (CM), and branding the Association. MAP tracked both initiatives closely. MAP collected comments from Michigan's professional planning community to forward to the AICP Commission on the CM program, and we are reviewing our professional development education programs to meet the new requirements. The APA branding project seeks to provide more visual consistency between national and its chapters.

Further advancing our national reputation, MAP's executive director presented a training session on chapter leadership development to the CPCs at the national conference in Philadelphia in April 2007, and participated on a panel with national experts and leaders from other states to highlight MAP's legislative successes. Both the executive director and MAP's CPC attended two days of leadership meetings.



American Planning Association

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MAP also played a key role in the reaccreditation process at both Eastern Michigan University and Wayne State University. Both colleges are accredited with APA, and are required to become recertified every 5 years. MAP coordinated chapter teams to review curriculum and faculty, meet with the APA reaccreditation teams, and provide insights and comments about the strengths and weaknesses of the planning programs at the universities.

Finally, MAP took the lead and coordinated a coalition of chapter administrators from across the country who now meet quarterly via conference call, and once at the national conference, to share resources and information to improve chapter activities.

MAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The MAP Board of Directors meets nine times per year at locations across the state. The MAP board operates under the John Carver model of Policy Governance, which creates a clear delineation between the role of the board and the role of the executive director and staff. In January 2007 the MAP board participated in a two-day training session on Policy Governance, and subsequently, over the course of spring 2007, initiated a program to more closely link the board with our membership. A survey was created by a board committee, sanctioned by the board, and was conducted during late summer 2007.

Under the Policy Governance model, the MAP Board is responsible for developing the policy that dictates the educational programs, magazine topics, and advocacy that are advanced by staff. This year, the board adopted policies for Historic and Cultural Resources and Schools and Local Government. These policies serve the organization as we seek to build alliances with other organizations, state agencies, and legislators who are empathetic with our positions.