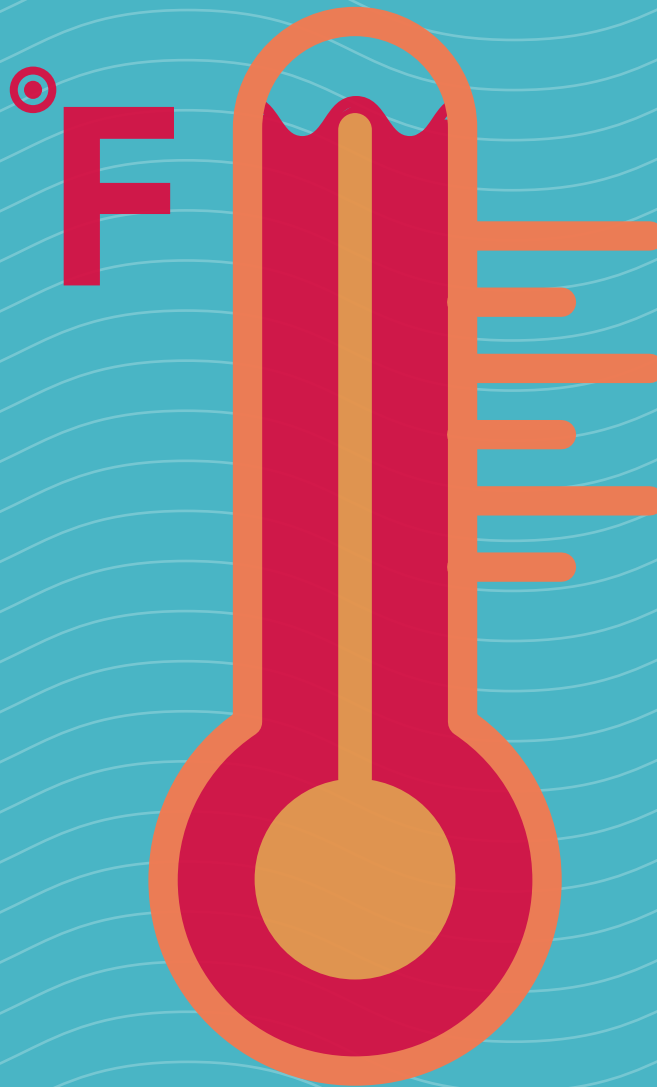


NEWSBRIEF

A publication of the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association



ABOUT NEWSBRIEF

Newsbrief is the flagship publication for the **Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association**, and serves as a robust repository for in-depth analyses of issues and events that are relevant to Virginia planners.

If you have an interesting topic or case study that you think would benefit APA Virginia Chapter members, please consider contributing to the Newsbrief by submitting a request to have your article published. Contact Newsbrief@APA-Virginia.com for all inquiries.

Visit virginia.planning.org for general information. Find us on **LinkedIn** at www.linkedin.com/company/virginia-chapter, **Facebook** at www.facebook.com/APA-Virginia; **Twitter** [@APA_Virginia](https://twitter.com/APA_Virginia); **Instagram** [@APA_Virginia](https://www.instagram.com/APA_Virginia); and the **APA Virginia YouTube channel**.

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NEWS FROM THE BOARD

By Andrew Hopewell

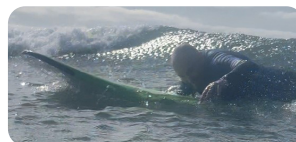
I am not sure how you feel, but I cannot believe that it's July already and our [annual conference](#) is just around the corner! Although the year is flying by, we are making the most of it as we strive to provide you with the services and support you deserve. To that end, I want to update you all on the changes we are working on related to the harassment that was brought to light earlier this year.

First off, I wish to thank all of the members who provided feedback on the draft bylaw language that was circulated at the end of March. I am working with fellow Board members **Tammy Holt** [VP Inclusion], **Brian Wegener** [Chapter Secretary], **Tevya Griffin** [Chair – Planning Directors Group], and **Lorna Parkins** [FAICP Chair] to incorporate that feedback into the final language. This language will be [or potentially has been by the time you receive this] distributed for consideration of a bylaw amendment vote at the annual Chapter meeting to be held at the [conference in Roanoke \[July 16-19\]](#). The key change that we are proposing is introducing Member Advocate positions independent of the Chapter Board. These Advocates are intended to serve as a resource for members who may have experienced any sort of issue at an APA Virginia Chapter event. They are not there to adjudicate the issue, but to provide information and guidance to the member on their options. They may serve as a conduit in bringing issues to the attention of the Board when appropriate. While it is our sincere hope that the need for these services will be very limited, we have been acutely reminded of the need for a safe environment for our members to be able to share their stories and to be advised of their options.

The second item I would like to share with the Chapter is that the Board has identified a harassment training and are in the process of coordinating the attendance of the entire Board in advance of our [gathering in Roanoke](#). As we move forward, we are committed to make this an integral part of the Board's retreat and work plan development during each two-year Board cycle.

Finally, in addition to the vote on the bylaws at the [conference](#), there will also be opportunities for members to discuss with myself, or other members of the Board, questions or concerns they may have about the direction the Chapter is headed regarding the handling of misbehavior related to the Chapter and its events. We have also invited **Karen Wolf**, FAICP, the current President of the American Institute of Certified Planners, to lead our Ethics Case of the Year discussion and share a little on the work taking place within APA nationally on this important topic.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have about the Chapter at president@apavirginia.com. We're very excited to see everyone again in Roanoke and are looking forward to the chance to come together in an open and welcoming environment to celebrate the great planning taking place across the Commonwealth as well as connect with friends and colleagues we haven't see for a while!



About the Author:

Andrew Hopewell, AICP, is the Town of Culpeper's Director of Planning & Community Development. He is currently the Chapter President and has served in various roles on the Board since 2017. He recently enjoyed his first surfing experience off the west coast of Ireland, after neglecting to take opportunities while growing up in various surfing meccas around the world!



VOLUNTEERISM

AT VA APA By Shubha Punase

I've been a member of the Virginia Chapter of the **American Planning Association (VA APA)** for almost a decade and have been serving the chapter in a variety of capacities as a volunteer so far. I've had the opportunity to serve as the Director of Northern Virginia Section and the State Delegate representing the chapter at the National Delegate Assembly as well. Both roles have helped me to support chapter's advocacy, professional development, equity, membership, and networking goals. As one of the State Delegates, I worked with my fellow delegates and chapter board to help shape three separate policy guides: Hazard Mitigation; Climate Change; and Equity in Zoning. As the Director of Northern Virginia Section, I worked with a team of fellow planning professionals to create a series of professional development and networking events remotely at the peak of the pandemic (2020-2021).

My request to all the fellow professionals is to participate in at least one volunteer role in your professional career to support the chapter efforts. I guarantee that this experience will be extremely rewarding with the opportunities it provides for knowledge exchange with professionals across the state, professional development, and building life-long professional connections along the way.

Planner's Advocacy Network:

Planners have the in-depth knowledge of current planning issues in our specific areas of work with the ability to foresee future challenges through data analytics and knowledge of the best practices to address those. Hence it is not only essential to have planners as essential partners in the decision-making process at all levels of governance (local, state, and federal

levels), it is also important for us to be on the table to have our priorities reflected in the policies. One such avenue to influence the decisions at the state and federal level is the Planner's Advocacy Network.

American Planning Association's 2023 Federal Priorities

After recent landmark legislation in infrastructure, housing, and climate, APA's 2023 Federal Priorities offer an opportunity for planners to push for new tools, funding, and program reforms that support our communities and can help us plan for a stronger future.

From the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to the Inflation Reduction Act, planners have been promised historic federal investment to advance their work at the local and regional levels. Now, Congress and the Administration must act to make that promise a reality.

*Strong federal action – including effective regulation and additional legislative advances – can ensure that investments in **climate action, infrastructure, and zoning reform** drive planning outcomes that make our communities and our country more prosperous, equitable, and resilient.*

Source: American Planning Association

The **Planner's Advocacy Network (PAN)** enables you to be part of the conversation at the state and national level to shape the top priorities for APA, share local stories that help gain support for the priority issues and the impact of state and national level decisions on your communities, and share potential solutions to these issues.

(continued on next page)

As many other fellow professionals, I had joined the PAN in my very first year of APA membership, almost a decade ago, but hardly understood the tools it provided and influence I could have through participation in advocacy efforts. It wasn't until I was appointed the State Director of PAN at the Virginia Chapter of the APA, that I understood its true potential. My goal is to help support the advocacy efforts at the national level, connect the priorities with local challenges and issues in Virginia, and create a coalition of planning professionals to share communication from local to national level. PAN is free to join for all APA members and offers a range of tools and opportunities to advocate for your communities at state and national level. It includes the following benefits (*Source: American Planning Association*):

- Influence federal and state policy outcomes
- Receive regular policy updates coming out of Washington and state capitals
- Meet with elected officials
- Get advocacy training tailored to meet Network needs
- Enjoy exclusive access to events at APA's [Policy and Advocacy Conference](#)

I look forward to your participation in our advocacy efforts. Please reach out to me for more information on how to participate in the advocacy efforts via email at pan@apavirginia.com.



About the Author:

I am Shubha Punase, AICP, LEED GA, your new State Director for the Planner's Advocacy Network (PAN), and a Non-Executive Member of the Board of Directors. I am a first-generation Asian American immigrant (from India), living in Northern Virginia for over a decade and half with my husband and ninth grade son. I am currently the Lead Park Planner at the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation.

I am passionate about serving the community through volunteerism and have been actively involved as a member of various professional organizations, taskforces and committees throughout the industry, state and nation, such as a State Delegate at the American Planning Association's (APA's) National Delegate Assembly, APA's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee member, past Director of VA APA's Northern Virginia Section, past member of the USGBC Montgomery County and Northern Virginia Organizing Committees, and past Co-Chair of the Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Organizing Committee at the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Advocate's Toolbox

Making an impact through advocacy can be daunting. As APA members, you have special access to this suite of tools needed to make a lasting impression on Capitol Hill, in state capitals, and beyond.

[Emailing Elected Officials](#)

Use this guide to send emails that convey a clear and timely message to elected officials.

[Scheduling a Visit](#)

Use this step-by-step guide to schedule a meeting with your elected officials in Washington or in the district office.

[Planning a Site Visit](#)

Use this check list to plan a site visit or tour for your elected officials.

[Sample Scheduling Request](#)

Use this template to request an in-person meeting with your elected official.

[Sample Thank You Note](#)

Use this template to write your own personalized thank yous to your elected officials.

APA VIRGINIA CHAPTER LEADERSHIP CLASS OF

2023 By Lorna Parkins

For the first time, APA Virginia offered a leadership class for mid-career professionals to provide guidance, networking, and a peer group to strengthen these planners' career advancement.

The goal of the class is to equip planners to successfully take on greater leadership roles and to be prepared for greater responsibility as future leaders of our profession and communities. The leadership class addresses core leadership capabilities and took place in Richmond on Saturday mornings once a month from January through June. The two-hour class sessions included interactive discussions and exercises, followed by a networking lunch. In addition to the six classes, the participants have developed personal leadership development plans and have connected with a mentor for either an interview or shadowing.

The class is based on a curriculum that was developed in recent years by the APA California Chapter. The APA Virginia class was planned and led by Chapter President Andrew Hopewell, AICP, CZA, and Lorna Parkins, FAICP Chair, with indispensable support from the Eldon James and Associates staff. The series of six classes addressed the following topics, led by volunteer instructors from among Virginia's most experienced planning professionals:

- **Leadership Fundamentals**, Andrew Hopewell, AICP, CZA, and Lorna Parkins, FAICP
- **Mindset**, Glenn Larson, FAICP and Kurt Christiansen, FAICP
- **Emotional Intelligence**, Earl Anderson, AICP and Vlad Gavrilovic, AICP
- **Negotiation**, Julie Pastor, FAICP and Martha Mason Semmes, FAICP
- **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**, Leon Hughes, AICP
- **Leadership Synthesis**, Andrew Hopewell, AICP, CZA, and Lorna Parkins, FAICP

The class members include the following planners from across Virginia:

- **Julie Chop**, Senior Principal Planner, City of Portsmouth
- **John Harbin**, Executive Director, Chesapeake Land Bank Authority
- **Jill Jefferson**, Town Planner, Woodstock
- **Tori Kanellopoulos**, Senior Planner, Albemarle County
- **Doug Krietemeyer**, Environmental Sustainability Planner, Arlington County
- **Wayne Leftwich**, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Roanoke
- **Jennifer Little**, Regional Planner, Rappahannock Rapidan Planning Development Council
- **Jon McCoy**, Long Range Planner, Botetourt County
- **Becca Sial**, Project Manager, Streetlight Data
- **Brian Swets**, Manager of Comprehensive & Strategic Planning, City of Portsmouth
- **Alisande Tombarge**, City Planner, City of Waynesboro

The APA Virginia Leadership Class of 2023 will be recognized at this year's annual conference in Roanoke, and hopefully will remain connected for years to come. This is the first of what will likely become an annual class of planners to graduate from this program, so if interested, please stay tuned for applications for the Class of 2024 in the fall!



About the Author:

Lorna Parkins, FAICP, is the Office Executive of Michael Baker International's Richmond, Virginia Office, she leads a transportation and planning team of about twenty staff. She serves as the

FAICP chair of the chapter board and will be shepherding our 2024 FAICP applicants through the nomination process very soon. She is also supporting the chapter President on the upcoming APA Virginia Chapter Leadership Program. You can find Lorna on LinkedIn.

UPCOMING EVENTS

See the list below for upcoming events, webinars, and lectures taught by APA members and urban professionals from around the world. Have an event you'd like to advertise here? Contact Newsbrief@APAVirginia.com for all inquiries.

- 2023 APA Virginia Annual Conference - July 16-19 at Hotel Roanoke

Roanoke, Virginia is calling out a warm mountain city welcome for the [2023 APA Virginia Annual Conference](#). The annual conference will take place at the historic Hotel Roanoke and begin on Sunday, July 16, with mobile tours and an evening reception to kick off four days of deep dives into this year's five-star planning points: **Collaboration, Economic Development, Housing, Infrastructure, and the Great Outdoors!**

The 2022 annual conference in Richmond explored Planning for Equity... in sessions from across Virginia and beyond, with an outstanding lineup including keynote speaker Zachary Mannheimer, who showed 3D printing for more affordable housing construction, and Eleanor Sharpe of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission, who shared lessons for civic pride and engagement in community planning. The 2023 conference builds on the chapter's development of education for forward-looking community leaders that build from historical legacies sensitive to broad social themes and unique local conditions.

On Monday morning, Roanoke City Council member Peter J. Volosin, AICP and City Manager Bob Cowell, ICMA-CM, AICP, CNU-A will welcome attendees speaking from their own experience as planners and community leaders. Councilmember Volosin is an at-large member, with priorities focused on environmental concerns and affordable housing. City Manager Cowell has a background grounded in the planning profession before transitioning to leadership-focused roles. His priorities are equity, organizational transformation, and collective responses to community issues. After the welcoming remarks from fellow planners, keynote speaker Dr. Jenny Schuetz, a native Virginian and author of [Fixer Upper: How to Repair America's Broken Housing Systems](#), will share lessons for zoning reform, economics, and other topics fundamental to housing affordability. Monday's agenda continues with the annual chapter meeting luncheon and proposed bylaws vote, breakout sessions, mobile tours, a Planning Commissioner training session, and Monday receptions.

Learning by observing is a key planning strength. Conference sessions related to the five-star planning points will take place in engaging sessions at the Hotel Roanoke and at mobile session locations in the City of Roanoke and areas around Roanoke and Botetourt counties. Attendees will also see the best of planning in Virginia on Tuesday when the 2023 APA Virginia Awards Ceremony and Awards Luncheon showcase the best projects across the Commonwealth.

Opportunities to interact with speakers and other participants are a special focus of the 2023 conference. At the deep dives, mobile tours, quick takes, and breakout sessions, we invite you to come and take part!

Thank you to our sponsors including Virginia Housing, the City of Roanoke, Tyler Technologies, VHB, and many others....

[Registration for the annual conference](#) opened April 15, and early bird rates continue until July 6. Visit <http://www.apavirginia.com> to register and find out details on speakers, mobile tours and opportunities to experience **Five Points to Build a Sustainable Community for All!**