

**MEMBER ADVOCATES – WHAT IS  
PROPOSED AND HOW CAN WE BEST  
SUPPORT THEM?**

APA Virginia

Roanoke, 2023

## MEMBER ADVOCATES – WHAT IS PROPOSED – WHO ARE THEY?

- There are three Member Advocate positions proposed
- Members of the American Planning Association in good standing
- One must identify as a woman
- One must identify as a person of color
- Should have at least five years of professional experience
- AICP members preferred

## MEMBER ADVOCATES – WHAT IS PROPOSED – WHAT ARE THEIR TERMS?

- Terms are for three years
- Terms are to be staggered to ensure consistency year over year
- Initial elections shall be for terms of three, two and one year with the candidate receiving the most votes earning the longest term, the second most votes the two-year term and the third most votes the one year term, provided that the eligibility requirements of one candidate identifying as a woman and one as a person of color are met

## MEMBER ADVOCATES – WHAT IS PROPOSED – WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

- APA members in good standing
- Candidates must self-nominate themselves during the election process
- Member Advocates are elected by the Chapter membership
- Elections are held on an annual basis to fill the expired term as well as any vacant positions
- Vacancies may be temporarily filled by an appointment of the remaining Member Advocates until the position may be filled through an election

## MEMBER ADVOCATES – WHAT IS PROPOSED – WHAT DO THEY DO?

- Advocates serve as a resource to APA Virginia Chapter members who may be experiencing a difficulty with the APA Virginia Chapter or at a Chapter sponsored event
- Advocates do not adjudicate events
- Protect anonymity of member
- May request to present to President, Executive Committee or Chapter Board
- Maintains independence from Chapter Board
- Retains records of interactions with members for future Advocates

## MEMBER ADVOCATES – HOW CAN WE BEST SUPPORT THEM?

- First program of its kind within APA
- Wording allows collaboration with other Chapters to expand the Advocate pool
- Provision of [advocates@apavirginia.com](mailto:advocates@apavirginia.com) email address
- Provision of secure Google Drive space for storage of interactions
- Annual budget for training?
- Importance of maintaining independence from the Chapter Board

## MEMBER ADVOCATES – HOW CAN WE BEST SUPPORT THEM?

- What else can the Chapter provide to support Member Advocates?

**THANK YOU!**

Please do not hesitate to contact me at  
[president@apavirginia.com](mailto:president@apavirginia.com) with any additional ideas,  
suggestions, concerns or questions.