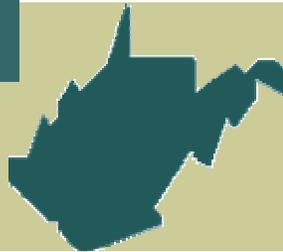


## WV PLANNER



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## Special points of interest:

- *Please be sure to fill out the WVPA Membership Survey found on Pages 5-6.*
- *Please check out the WVPA Officers list for 2004 found on Page 8.*
- *Please see the dues notice for 2004-2005 found on Page 9.*

## WVPA 2004 Conference at Stonewall Resort on Oct. 16-17

By Jim Wood, AICP  
WVPA Vice President

The West Virginia Planning Association is pleased to announce that the 2004 annual conference will be held at the fabulous Stonewall Resort and Conference Center in Roanoke, W.Va., October 16-17, 2004.

A weekend date was chosen to allow citizen planners and commission members to attend without missing work.

There will be numerous exciting conference sessions dealing with a wide range of subjects such as the new planning enabling law adopted by the legislature this year, urban design, board and commissioner training and planning for pedestrians and bicycles.

There will also be an awards ceremony honoring planning achievements across the state. For more information on the awards categories and submission requirements, contact Jim Wood, AICP, Planning Director of Morgantown at 304-284-7413 or email [cityplanner@morgantown.com](mailto:cityplanner@morgantown.com).

Stonewall Resort is a new facility that offers class-leading conference space, accommodations and recreational opportunities. Plus it is nearly centrally located in the state.



# STONEWALL RESORT

BENCHMARK  HOSPITALITY

Visit [www.stonewallresort.com](http://www.stonewallresort.com) to check out the venue. Time will be available during the weekend to play a round of golf on the amazing Arnold Palmer course, ranked as one of the top new public golf courses in the country.

The best news is that the association has decided to substantially subsidize the registration fee for conference goers. This means attendees will be able to get a night's stay at the resort, meals and conference registration fees for a paltry sum of around \$100 or so! Final prices will be announced in the conference brochure to be mailed out later.

Mark these dates on your calendar and plan to join us in October for this year's conference!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Christopher M. Fletcher, AICP, is the Planning Director for the Monongalia County Planning Commission.*

*His term as President of the WVPA runs through 2005.*

*His email is [President@wvplanning.com](mailto:President@wvplanning.com)*

Greetings! This is my first stab at the President's Message as your new chapter president. I hope everyone is enjoying our warm weather and looking forward to the remaining summer months.

I want to thank our Immediate Past President Perry Keller for his service during the past two years. He has done a tremendous job in ensuring our presence in Charleston and networking with key planning stakeholder groups across the state. Perry will continue to be active in the chapter as our Legislative Liaison.

As many of you know, Leff Moore of Teays Valley departed this life on April 20, 2004. He was an integral part our team that worked for the successful passage of the state's new planning enabling legislation during the 2004 session of the Legislature. Leff was a true champion of progressive planning and will be dearly missed. A tribute to Leff appears on our website ([www.wvplanning.com](http://www.wvplanning.com)). We have also renamed one of the chapter's annual awards – The Leff Moore Memorial Friend of Planning Award – to honor his leadership and commitment to planning and the association.

THE ANNUAL CHAPTER CONFERENCE IS ON!! Set your agendas, outlooks, palm pilots, day timers, etc., for the Stonewall Resort and Conference Center in Roanoke, W.Va., on October 16-17, 2004. Jim Wood, AICP, is coordinating this year's conference. Jim has promised to surpass the success we enjoyed in Morgantown in 2002. I encourage all of you to attend this conference. It is both an educational and fun experience that every professional and citizen planner should partake in. WARNING: It can become addictive and lead to more participation in WVPA.

Marjorie Ryan, AICP, is spearheading a new initiative for the WVPA to publish a guide to the state's new planning enabling law. The publication will provide brief interpretive narrative as well as a copy of the new law. We believe that this will prove to be an invaluable desk reference and tool for planners, agencies and firms across our great state. Our hope is to release it in time for our conference in October.

We have also included a membership survey in this edition. Please make every effort to participate. This is extremely important to the executive committee as we begin to develop ways to improve our services to you, assemble vital membership information and act on your suggestions.

As president, I hope to build on the efforts the executive committee has been working on over the past several years, including expanding membership, growing the services available to our members, improving information exchange through our revamped website and regular mailings, strengthening our strategic business plan and building on our legislative successes.

I look forward to serving as president over the next two years and encourage you to support the chapter by getting involved. The executive committee is staying busy on your behalf. We hope our efforts will continue to improve the West Virginia Planning Association (the state's chapter of the American Planning Association) and extend the ways it serves your needs as professional and citizen planners. We remain committed to advocating sound land use planning for and within the Mountain State.

See you in October at the Stonewall Resort!!

# Legislative Update 2004

By Perry Keller  
 WVPA Legislative Liaison

As most of you are aware, the hard work of the West Virginia Planning Association and many other partners – including the Coal Association, Charleston Renaissance, Committee of Responsible Land Use, Planning and Development from Jefferson County, Historic Preservation, League of Women Voters, Public Utilities, the Association of County Commissions, the state Chamber of Commerce, the West Virginia Development Office, the West Virginia Farm Bureau, the West Virginia Home Builders Association, the West Virginia Manufactured Housing Association, the West Virginia Manufacturers Association and the West Virginia Municipal League – has paid off.

The Legislature passed Senate Bill 454. Although not perfect, it is definitely an improvement to the 1957 state planning enabling legislation.

While the final law is somewhat similar to the original legislation proposed by the WVPA, there were many compromises

and concessions that were made during this process. Some of these areas will be revisited next year during the legislative session and several other unanticipated areas of concern will also surface during the legislation's first year.



Perry Keller

The West Virginia Planning Association encourages all professional and citizen planners, private and public entities and other affected groups to help with the monitoring of the new planning law so that any questions or concerns can be researched in advance of the legislative session to clarify the legislation. Active participation in the ongoing review of this legislation will be instrumental in ensuring that the planning for West Virginia's future will be tied to the state's success.

*The work to get the new state planning enabling legislation enacted did not go unnoticed nationally. A short article entitled, "Broad Coalition Wins New State Planning Law in West Virginia" appears in the July 2004 issue of Planning (Page 38).*

*The article quotes WVPA President Christopher Fletcher, AICP, and state Sen. Brooks McCabe, AICP, who was one of eight co-sponsors of bill.*



## Trails to Wellness Conference scheduled

A Trails to Wellness Conference is scheduled for September 15, 2004, in Beckley. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Tamarack Visitors' Center Conference Room.

Conference goals include the promotion of walkable communities throughout West Virginia, the clarification of the need for a

West Virginia State Trail Program and Coordinator, and the general promotion of health, wellness and economic development through trails.

Topics in the session range from public health, to creating partnerships, to designing trails, to combining diverse elements into a trail system.

Nominations for West Virginia Walkable Communities will also be taken during the conference.

For more information, contact the West Virginia Trails Coalition at [wvtc@wvtrails.org](mailto:wvtc@wvtrails.org) or P.O. Box 487, Nitro, WV 25143.

## Fletcher Represents West Virginia at 2004 APA National Conference

**By Christopher M. Fletcher, AICP  
WVPA President**

I had the fortunate opportunity to attend this year's APA National Conference in Washington, D.C., from April 24-28, 2004. For those of you who were unable to attend, it was an outstanding educational and networking event with more than 5,200 urban, rural, and regional planners, city and county officials and community leaders from across the country, including 15 from West Virginia.

For two days prior to the start of the conference, leadership meetings were held. This included the Chapter Presidents Council (CPC) of which I am a member. The CPC has been pushing for many years to get APA to recognize that they need to provide better services to the chapters and members. Based on the information exchanged during our several meetings, this appears to have been recognized, prioritized and initial progress made. I will be serving on the CPC's Planning Officials Advisory Committee/Chapter Support Task Force and will keep you posted.

I was also able to participate in the very informative National Delegate Assembly. The assembly meets each year to consider new policy guides. These policy guides help direct the efforts of APA's policy staff and chapters as they work with federal legislators and allied organizations. Two new policy guides will soon be under development including a policy guide on planning and homeland security and one on ballot box planning and zoning.

The conference officially kicked-off on Sunday morning with U.S. Representative Earl Blumenaur of Oregon delivering the opening keynote address. Rep. Blumenaur, a strong and effective voice for good planning, centered his comments on linkages between transportation and community planning. He also noted that planners "need to be more aggressive in dealing with the news media" and "to reach out to the many business interests who rely on you doing your job for today and the future." Sophisticated business leaders, he said, are likely to listen to what planners say because they are people "whose lives you are enriching financially" and who recognize the value of well-crafted planning initiatives.

During the conference, attendees had the opportunity to choose from numerous training sessions, mobile workshops and professional tracts covering topics including neighborhood planning, citizen advocacy, regional initiatives, transportation, GIS technologies, leadership, comprehensive planning, smart and sustainable growth, school facilities planning, infrastructure development, environmental protection, progressive zoning ordinance development, historical preservation, and much much more.

Next year's national conference will be held March 19-23, 2005, in San Francisco. Mark your calendars. In addition, please don't forget to keep an eye on WVPA website: [www.wvplanning.com](http://www.wvplanning.com). New announcements regarding the upcoming WVPA conference will be appearing with more frequency as the conference dates of October 16-17, 2004, approaches.



*Monongalia County Director of Planning and WVPA President Chris Fletcher, AICP, (right) with Chet Parsons, AICP, the Director of the Morgantown – Monongalia County Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization, enjoy the activities at the 2004 APA National Conference in Washington, D.C.*



## WEST VIRGINIA PLANNING ASSOCIATION 2004 SURVEY

Please take a few moments to complete the following survey. WVPA is working to update information about professional and citizen planners in the Mountain State and how our organization can better serve your needs. The results of the survey will be available in September and posted on our website at [www.wvplanning.com](http://www.wvplanning.com).

### QUESTIONS 1-3 REFER TO YOU, THE PERSON COMPLETING THIS SURVEY

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Affiliation (city/county/agency/commission/board/firm): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Are you (check all that apply):  
 A Professional Planner (work as a planner)  
 A Citizen Planner (serve on a planning commission, board of zoning appeals, or planning related committee)  
 An Elected Official  
 A Student (enrolled in a planning related field of study)  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_ (academic, architect, attorney, engineer, landscape architect, surveyor, etc.)
3. In what municipality/county/region do you perform the majority of your planning functions: \_\_\_\_\_

### IF YOU SERVE IN A PLANNING CAPACITY FOR A MUNICIPALITY OR COUNTY, PLEASE ANSWER 4-12. IF NOT, PLEASE PROCEED TO 13

4. Has a planning commission been created by ordinance or resolution?  Yes  No
5. If a planning commission has been created, has it adopted a set of by-laws?  Yes  No  N/A
6. Please check the following documents that have been adopted in your jurisdiction and provide the year in which they were adopted.
- Comprehensive Plan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subdivision Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zoning Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_  
 Floodplain Management Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_  
 Building Codes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Improvement Location Permit Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_  
 Stormwater Management Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Has a board of zoning appeals been created by ordinance or resolution?  Yes  No
8. If a board of zoning appeals has been created, has it adopted a set of by-laws?  Yes  No  N/A
9. Is there dedicated planning staff to administer and/or assist with planning and related activities?  Yes  No
- (Please Continue on Reverse Side — Page 6)**



## West Virginia Celebrates with APA

The American Planning Association marked its 25th anniversary on October 1, 2003. The APA came into being in 1978 when the American Institute of Planners and the American Society of Planning Officials consolidated into a single organization dedicated to the advancement of planning. The APA actually traces its roots all the way back to 1909 with the first National Conference on City Planning held in Washington, D.C.

During the past several months, the APA has celebrated its first quarter-century with special events, charter member reminiscences, "Top 25" lists, and more. The centerpiece of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was held during the 2004 National Planning Conference April 24-28, 2004,

in Washington, D.C. More information about the APA's past 25 years can be found on the web at: [www.planning.org/25anniversary](http://www.planning.org/25anniversary).

According to the APA, nearly one-third of its original 13,000 members still belong to the association. This includes seven West Virginians (listed on the right).

These members will be recognized at our upcoming chapter conference on October 16-17, 2004, at the Stonewall Resort. The West Virginia Planning Association would like to thank these members for their loyalty and contributions to the APA and the WVPA over the years and hope they will continue to be active members for years to come.

*The following is the list of 25-year members from West Virginia as posted on the APA website:*

- *Manuel Cartelle, AICP*
- *Charles MacQueen, AICP*
- *Brooks McCabe Jr., AICP*
- *John McGarrity, AICP*
- *George Potter*
- *Donald Reinke, AICP*
- *Robert Wirgau, AICP*

## Parkersburg Development Highlights

Parkersburg saw a number of its development plans coming together in 2003, with more work happening in 2004.

In downtown, major projects included:

- The new Intermodal Transit Center, a \$5.5 million project which provides a centrally-located 370-car parking facility and new hub for the transit system. In addition, the transit system is running two trolleys throughout the downtown area.

- The start of the new Bureau of Public Debt Building, an 80,000 square-foot office building. This is privately-owned and leased

to the federal government, so the city will receive tax benefits in addition to the new employment. There area also plans to expand the building by another 100,000 square-feet in the next two years, with total employment at around 400 people. Phase I is to be completed in September 2004.

- The completion of a new BB&T regional headquarters building, a \$3 million investment.

- A new Golden Corral restaurant that was completed the beginning of April.

- The start of construction on a new office building to

support Camden-Clark Memorial Hospital.

The city also learned that some other major projects received approval to start:

- Approval of a \$3 million grant for Riverfront Park.

- Approval from the state for Camden-Clark Memorial Hospital to proceed with its \$55 million expansion project.

- Approval from the state for St. Joseph's Hospital to proceed with its open-heart program. This will result in several million dollars worth of upgrades. The first open-heart operation took place there recently.



## WVPA Officers List for 2004

**President:** Christopher M. Fletcher, AICP  
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*Email:* [President@wvplanning.com](mailto:President@wvplanning.com)

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 Morgantown, WV 26505  
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*Email:* [Vicepresident@wvplanning.com](mailto:Vicepresident@wvplanning.com)

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*Phone:* 304-424-8558; *Fax:* 304-424-8464  
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*Email:* [Webmaster@wvplaning.com](mailto:Webmaster@wvplaning.com)

*The West Virginia Planning Association is still seeking representatives to the Executive Committee from many of the 11 Planning and Development Council Regions around the state. If you are interested in serving, please contact WVPA President Chris Fletcher, AICP, or Vice President Jim Wood, AICP.*

# WVPA Dues Notice for FY 2004-05

All current members and anyone interested in joining the West Virginia chapter of the American Planning Association must complete this form in order to be included in our membership directory. Dues are collected on a July 1 to June 30 fiscal year in an effort to make it more convenient for local governments that are on the same fiscal year.

**Renewing Membership**                       **New Membership**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address\* \_\_\_\_\_

Professional Certifications \_\_\_\_\_

Other Professional Organizations \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Level

- APA Member** ..... **Dues paid through APA**  
*(If you typically pay your WV Chapter dues to APA, check this option.)*
- Professional Planner** ..... **\$45/year**  
*(Any person employed in planning or a related field)*
- Citizen Planner** ..... **\$20/year**  
*(Any person serving on a planning commission, board of zoning appeals, or other board, as well as elected officials. If all Commission/Board members join, the cost is reduced to \$10/year/member.)*
- Student Member** ..... **\$5/year**  
*(Any student enrolled in a course of study in planning or a related field)*

*\*Please tell us if you would prefer to receive:*

- |                               |                          |     |                          |    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|----|
| News updates by e-mail alert? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No |
| Newsletter via e-mail?        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No |

*(If you've checked "yes" to either question, make sure you have provided your correct e-mail address above).*

*Make all checks payable to "WVPA" and mail with this completed form by August 15, 2004 to:*

West Virginia Planning Association (WVPA)

P.O. Box 2537

Morgantown, WV 26502-2537

**West Virginia  
Planning Association**

**A Chapter of the  
American Planning  
Association**

**Post Office Box 2537  
Morgantown, WV 26502-2537**

**Email: [wvpa@wvplanning.com](mailto:wvpa@wvplanning.com)  
Website: [www.wvplanning.com](http://www.wvplanning.com)**

*West Virginia ...  
Almost Heaven  
Keep Planning ...  
We'll Get There.*



The **West Virginia Planning Association (WVPA)** is the state chapter of the **American Planning Association (APA)**.

The organization is comprised of professional and citizen planners who work to support responsible planning throughout the state.

Membership is open to professional planners employed in planning or a related field, citizen planners who serve on planning commissions or boards of zoning appeals, student members who are enrolled in a course of study in planning or a related field and individuals interested in planning for their communities.

The mission of WVPA is to promote the science of planning among professionals and citizens, to provide technical assistance to West Virginia planning bodies, and to foster a greater degree of understanding and acceptance of planning in West Virginia.

For more information about the WVPA, visit our website:  
[www.wvplanning.com](http://www.wvplanning.com)

**West Virginia Planning Association  
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