



## Autumn has arrived .....

Our **Autumn Planner's Forum** will be held **October 20, 2016 in Bellingham** in conjunction with presentations by StrongTowns Founder Charles Marohn (*see attached flyer*). The Northwest Section of APA Washington is a co-sponsor of Mr. Marohn's visit, consistent with your preference for appropriate uses of our Northwest Section budget in our Spring 2016 survey of membership. The following week, on October 26, 27, and 28, Planners from all over the Pacific Northwest will convene at the [2016 APA Joint WA-OR Conference](#) in Portland, Oregon.

The Northwest Section Board has been making progress in 2016, but we had to cancel our summer 2016 Planner's Forum due to busy schedules, vacations, and the loss of our long-time Department of Commerce representative, Anthony Boscolo, who accepted a job with WSDOT. We now have a new Commerce representative, Ms. Valerie Smith. The Board's short-term priorities are to fill the appointed Board positions of **Legislative Liaison** and **Student Representative**, conduct another survey of our Northwest Section membership, continue to coordinate with WWU, and to continue to offer AICP Certification Maintenance credits.

Legislative Liaison: This position simply shares information gleaned from conversations with APA Washington Legislative Committee members about state legislative issues that may have an affect on Cities and Counties in our Northwest Section geography. It would be a real benefit to our Section if we could find someone to serve as a liaison for legislative issues as it would provide our Section membership with a complete picture of how legislation may affect our various jurisdictions.

Education Representative: This position needs to be filled by an actively enrolled WWU Planning student to help bridge the gap between working professionals and students seeking to become Planners. WWU has a Planning Club, which meets on a regular basis and this could prove to be the ideal forum by which to link Northwest Section and WWU activities and interests.

***If you are interested in serving the Northwest Section, please contact any elected Board member.***

**Continuing Coordination with WWU:** For the past two years, Section Vice-President Derek Koellmann and I have been working with Western Washington University's faculty on WWU's application to the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) and with WWU Huxley College of the Environment faculty to get them involved in APA Northwest Section work and activities. Our goals with WWU are to:

- Secure Northwest Section Board-appointed student and faculty representatives
  - Continue to work with WWU on PAB accreditation issues
  - Increase student APA membership and involvement in the Northwest Section work
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**AICP Certification Maintenance:** In 2017, the Northwest Section will continue to offer high-quality Planner's Forums with AICP certification maintenance credits available for a wide variety of presentation topics, including Law and Ethics. ***Please note that on October 20, 1.5 CM Ethics credits will be offered.*** The Board will continue to focus on developing Forum topics and themes that can help tie our diverse Section geography together, such as Affordable Housing, Environmental Regulations, Economic Development, Climate Change, etc.

**AICP Credentials:** The Board of Directors will also encourage Northwest Section members to seek AICP and advanced AICP credentials and we will acknowledge and celebrate the success of planners who pass the AICP and advanced certification exams each year. Bellingham Planner **Jackie Lynch** is our Professional Development Coordinator and she is very willing to help coordinate AICP study groups and help planners access AICP study materials. Jackie can be reached by telephone at (360) 778-8350 and by email at [jlynch@cob.org](mailto:jlynch@cob.org)

**Membership Survey:** In an effort to be as responsive as possible to the interest level of our Section membership, we are conducting simple Survey Monkey polls of our Northwest Section membership to ask what would motivate them to attend more often and to be more involved in Northwest Section organization or activities.

**Web Site Outreach:** Finally, we will continue to update and improve our Northwest Section web page on the APA Washington web site <http://www.washington-apa.org/northwest-section>. There are many possibilities to improve our education, outreach, and effectiveness as a Section, but the top priorities are to focus on posting link to the following resources:

- All jurisdictions (City, County, Tribal, Port, etc.) in Northwest Section geography
- APA Washington Speaker's Bureau resources
- University planning programs (WWU, etc.)
- Other planning activities and events in Northwest Section geographies (PAW Conference, etc.)
- Other allied organizations (PAW, ITE, AWC, Commerce, non-profit orgs, etc.)

We've got an excellent and enthusiastic Board of Directors, we have amazing growth potential, and I'm excited to continue to work with all of you to improve the Northwest Section in 2017!



***Chris Comeau, AICP-CTP  
Northwest Section President***