



Northwest Section – Autumn 2017 Board Report

Overarching Goals and Objectives for 2017 Work Plan

- a. Grow Northwest Section membership
 - i. Outreach to WWU and students; City and County jurisdictions; Consultants; Nonprofits
 - ii. Work with WWU Planning Club to create Student Mentor Program;
 - iii. Advocate for APA Washington Scholarship and possibly NW Section Student Scholarship
- b. Survey Northwest Section membership 1x year to ensure that Board is adding value to members.
 - i. Continue to coordinate with Commerce representative
 - ii. Continue to provide interesting speakers and AICP CM credits at Planner's Forums
 - iii. Broaden the geographic reach of Planner's Forums by hosting them in a wide array of communities accessible to members throughout the Section
- c. Update Northwest Section web page <http://www.washington-apa.org/northwest-section> at least 1x quarter, or more often, as needed.
- d. Convene Board of Directors 1x quarter in advance of Planner's Forums, or more often, as needed.
 - i. Maintain all elected and appointed positions on the Northwest Section Board of Directors.
 - ii. Identify potential candidates for elected positions in 2018

The Northwest Section of APA Washington <http://www.washington-apa.org/northwest-section> has had a busy year with the following activities:

- January 18, 2017 – Winter Planner's Forum in Sedro-Woolley with 25 attendees.
- April 18, 2017 - Spring Planner's Forum in Ferndale with 45 individual attendees; Proposed NW Section bylaw amendments approved by vote of NW Section members at Forum; NW Section Board appoints Meredith Penny, Island County as new Communications Coordinator
- April 2017 - NW Section President Comeau and NW Section Secretary Lutz file for re-election to serve second (and final) terms of office in 2018-2019. In 2018, NW Section will need to elect a President-Elect, a Vice President, and a Treasurer so we'll be recruiting members soon.
- April - July 2017 – NW Section worked with WWU Foundation Office staff to explore possibilities for both scholarships and a fund-raising effort by WWU Planning alumni;
- January - September – Monthly Chapter-Section Integration (CSI) coordination with APA Washington Vice President and other Sections.
- August – September – President Comeau working with WWU Huxley College and Commerce on preparations for Autumn Planner's Forum on WWU campus
- October 18, 2017 Autumn Planner's Forum on WWU campus (agenda attached)

Work with Western Washington University (WWU)

NW Section President Chris Comeau and Vice President Derek Koellmann have both been engaged in dialogue and meeting with various WWU Departments, staff, and students to further the NW Section's efforts to build a stronger relationship between APA Washington and WWU. Chris Comeau has met with the Dean of Huxley School of the Environment, Planning program faculty, adjunct instructors, and students to discuss the both APA Washington's and the Northwest Section's goals, difficulties communicating and gaining commitment from WWU faculty and students, and efforts to create APA-sponsored scholarships for students in WWU's nationally accredited Planning program.

Derek Koellmann met with Angie Vandenhaak of the WWU Foundation to discuss the potential for providing a private or a WWU-run scholarship and associated fund-raising opportunities. Topics of discussion included scholarship amounts, selection criteria, grant timing, potential recipients, and a review of associated scholarship forms and paperwork. Additional discussions occurred around student memberships in APA, outreach to planning faculty, and other opportunities to connect the Northwest Chapter more strongly with WWU. The Northwest Chapter Board will be advocating for scholarship equity between UW, EWU, and WWU from APA Washington when discussion regarding the 2018 APA Washington budget occurs this autumn.

2017 Northwest Section Member Survey

In early 2016, then Northwest Section Communication Coordinator Beckye Frey administered a short Survey Monkey poll of Section members asking what they felt the Section should be using the Section budget to support.

From September 1 through September 22, Communications Coordinator Meredith Penny has been administering a slightly longer Survey Monkey poll of Section members reminding them of their preferences in 2016 and asking how they would like to see the Section budget used to add value to their APA membership.

Reminders to participate have been sent out each Monday and the results of the survey will be tallied and examined immediately following the September 22 close of the survey. Results of the survey will be reported to Northwest Section members at the October 18, 2017 Autumn Planner's Forum at WWU.

AICP CM Credit Opportunities for Northwest Section Members

In the 2016 member survey, Northwest Section members clearly expressed a preference for more opportunities to earn AICP CM credits and the Northwest Section Board of Directors has been working to provide more opportunities. Each quarterly Planner's Forum typically offers AICP members the chance to earn 4 or 5 CM credits, which should allow accrual of the 32 credits needed per 2-year cycle. In addition to that, in 2016-2017, the Northwest Section has partnered with the [Whatcom Council of Governments \(WCOG\)](#) in subscribing to **APA's AICP webinar series** and plans to do so again for the 2017-2018 AICP webinar series, but it is unclear if this service will be offered by AICP in 2017-2018.

Northwest Section 2017 AICP Candidates



Congratulations to **Lethal Coe, AICP-CTP**, a transportation planner with the Whatcom Council of Governments (WCOG) who obtained his advanced Certified Transportation Planner (CTP) credential this past May. No other Northwest Section members earned AICP credentials in 2017.

Northwest Section Board of Directors 2017-2018

Northwest Section President Chris Comeau and Northwest Section Secretary Samya Lutz have been re-elected to serve second (and final) terms of office in 2018-2019. In 2018, NW Section will need to elect a President-Elect, a Vice President, and a Treasurer so the Northwest Section Board will be recruiting members to run for office in 2018 in the near future. Please step up to serve your profession!

Executive Officers

- Chris Comeau, AICP-CTP, President [Bellingham Public Works Engineering]
- Derek Koellmann, AICP-CEP, Vice President [Anchor QEA Environmental Consulting]
- Samya Lutz, AICP, Secretary [Bellingham Community Development]
- Brandon Black, Treasurer [Skagit County Planning & Development]

Appointed Representatives

- Jackie Lynch, AICP-CEP, Professional Development Coordinator [Bellingham Planning]
- Meredith Penny, Communications Coordinator [Island County Planning]
- Vacant, Education Representative [WWU Planning Faculty and/or Student]
- Vacant, Legislative Liaison

Department of Commerce Regional Assistance Representative

The [Washington State Department of Commerce](http://www.commerce.wa.gov) supports the Northwest Section of APA Washington with a Regional Assistant to help the Section President coordinate speakers, agendas, venues, and logistical needs for the quarterly Planner's Forums. **Ms. Valerie Smith** (360) 725-3062 or Valerie.smith@commerce.wa.gov is our Commerce Regional Assistant.

Autumn Planner's Forum, WWU campus, Bellingham, WA - October 18, 2017

The Northwest Section is hosting the Autumn 2017 Planners Forum on the campus of Western Washington University (WWU) in the Viking Union Building, Room VU 565 A/B/C at 516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98230.

Parking will be free for attendees in the Garden Street parking lot below the Viking Union Building. Morning and afternoon presentations will be offered (see below) and members can earn 5.0 AICP CM credits, including 1.5 Ethics CM credits. Lunch will be on your own at a variety of restaurant locations on the WWU campus. Please come join us at WWU in October!

Outline of Framework for Autumn NW Section Planner's Forum at WWU

Wednesday, October 18, 2017; 9:00am – 4:00pm

9:00am – Valerie Smith, Department of Commerce

9:30am – **“APA NW: Working for You”** - Chris Comeau, President & Derek Koellmann, Vice President

(30 minutes; 0.5 CM credits)

10:00am – **“The State of Planning in Washington”** - Rick Sepler, AICP, APA Washington President

(60 minutes; 1.0 CM credits)

11:00am – **“Growth Management in Washington”** Joe Tovar, FAICP, The Ruckelshaus Center

(60 minutes; 1.0 CM credits)

12:00pm – 1 hour lunch on campus with a variety of food options and restaurants

1:00 pm – **“WWU Planning Program”** Steve Hollenhorst, Ph.D., Dean, Huxley School of the Environment

(60 minutes; 1.0 CM credits)

2:00pm – **“AICP”** Jackie Lynch, AICP-CEP, APA NW Section Professional Development Coordinator

(30 minutes; 0.5 CM credits)

2:30pm – **“Ethics Case Study”** Michael Davalio, AICP, Project Manager, CREA Affiliates

(90 minutes; 1.5 CM credits)

4:00pm – Wrap-up and Adjourn

5.0 AICP CM credits available to attendees