



SPRING 2018

Metro New Orleans Section of APA LA

This weekend Louisiana Planners will be sitting up a little straighter, dusting off stacks of files that conceal hours of good work, and

showcasing progress.

As we welcome planners from around the Country and the globe, how we spend our time at the NPC18 will portray the FACE OF LOUISIANA PLANNING. Take advantage of opportunities to volunteer, collaborate, share recent successes or lessons learned, and expand your professional network in support of better communities in Louisiana. We support you!



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METRO membership highlight:

Gained 31 members from December '17 to February '18



APA NPC18 NEW ORLEANS
APA LA NEW ORLEANS & UNO
Crescent City Shapers Cohost

YOUNG PLANNER'S TRIVIA NIGHT

Monday, April 23, 2018
8:00 to 10:00PM
The Rusty Nail
1100 Constance St.
New Orleans, LA 70130

RAFFLE No. _____



FREE admission
trivia and door prizes!

- 1st Place: Dedicated bike rack of your choice in City limits!
- 2nd Place: \$50 beer tab
- 3rd Place: \$25 beer tab

Message from the Director, Alex G. Carter

Planning Director Updates & Membership Spotlight

Your Metro New Orleans Officers and I have been very busy this past month, and are excited to announce events planned in 2018, provide updates from your local Planning Directors, and spotlight one of our APA members in this Spring issue of Metro News!

Upcoming Events

Both APA and non-members are invited to attend the **Louisiana Chapter Reception at NPC18** on Sunday, April 22nd from 6:30 to 9:15pm. The event will feature an open bar, door prizes, a chance to win complementary registration at the October 2018 State Planning Conference, and provide attendees with the unique experience of watching the City's tricentennial commemorative fireworks display aboard the tall ship Oliver Hazard Perry (more info on P3).

During this event, members of the State's recently filled **Legislative Committee** will be announced and provided the opportunity to meet and greet APA chapter members at large.

The following night, Monday, April 23rd, the Crescent City Shapers and the Metro NO Section will partner with APA National to host the **Young Planners Social (YPS) and Planning Trivia Night at the Rusty Nail**. Don't miss this event — 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes will be awarded and the NPC18 volunteer and general raffles will take place!

In support of planning advocacy, Metro NO will be partnering with the State Chapter to support a **2018 Advocacy Training Lunch and Learn Series**. To play a direct role in revitalization efforts throughout the region, we will host another **Rebuild Together** event with the PRC in November. To support our young planners and refresh some of the Code writing skills of our more experienced planners in the field, we'll be hosting a **Code Drafting Workshop** in September. Along with these events, we'll spend some time supporting great projects highlighted in **Lunch and Learns** throughout the region and the State. Mark your calendars: **The State Planning Conference** will take place this year in Shreveport, LA from October 3rd to the 5th, and is themed "The Face of Planning."

I can't stress this enough: Even the smallest effort can make a big difference, but more often it's the complete commitment of a few that can carry major initiatives forward. In 2018, plan to become part of this initiative!



Local Officer Updates:

Recent appointments* include:

Ms. Whitney Hoffman-Sayal, AICP
Chapter Vice President

Ms. Evelyn Cade-Campo
Chapter Public Outreach and Advocacy Officer

Mr. Samuel Buckley
Metro New Orleans Membership Director

Ms. Jessica Williams
UNO Student Ambassador

Please join us in welcoming our new leaders and commending them for their willingness to volunteer their time and energy to APA LA and its mission!

*Membership elections for these positions will be held for the 2019-2020 term.

April APA LA Metro Section Officers Meeting 4/6/18



Planning Director Updates

We want to know what's going on!

To better understand local planning priorities, specifically how resources throughout the State are being utilized to improve communities in Louisiana, we asked Planning Directors in the Metro New Orleans area for updates. What did we want to know? The department's current focus and/or priorities, where they found themselves in terms of progress, their jurisdiction's population and the number of planners on staff (for context).

Here's how they responded:

What's happening in Slidell

*Eric Lundin, CFM
City Planner*

The City of Slidell continues to grow through a combination of build out of the 400 acre Fremaux Town Center and infill in some of our older neighborhoods. The northern half of the Fremaux Town Center is about 80% developed with a mix of retail, food, hotels, professional offices, a 296-unit multi-family complex, and a Tesla charging station. Development of the southern half has begun with the completion of Town Center Parkway and Ruth Garrett Way and the extension of sewer and water service to the area. Currently in planning are a hotel and possibly another multi-family housing complex. The City has also seen a renewal of residential construction, with most of the construction being infill in some of the City's older neighborhoods.

The City has over \$100 million in ongoing infrastructure projects funded by a combination of a bonds passed by the City's residents, the City's settlement with FEMA for Hurricane Katrina damage, the City's settlement from the BP oil spill, various grants, and our capital budget. Under construction is a marina at Heritage Park located on Bayou Bonfouca. The marina will allow boaters to berth overnight making it easy for them to attend our many festivals and to shop and dine in nearby Olde Towne Slidell. Also in construction are drainage and street improvements to the Bayou Pattassatt, Dellwood, and Vincent drainage basins. These projects will greatly increase the City's storm and flood water management capacity, repair and improve our streets, and improve our sidewalks to include making them ADA compliant. The City has budgeted and is currently

be complete. Planning is underway to extend the levee system north alongside the Norfolk-Southern rail line to complete the system. St. Tammany Parish is also constructing several large regional detention ponds that will assist in reducing the threat of flooding to the City.

The City is working with St Tammany Parish to extend the Tammany Trace into downtown Slidell then onward to the St. Tammany Parish Fishing Pier. St. Tammany Parish is in final stages of extending the Trace into Camp Salmen with construction slated to begin soon. The Parish and City both recently completed construction on their portions of a bicycle path that runs from Camp Salmen into the City along West Hall Av. Plans to complete the bicycle path down West Hall Ave then along Bayou Lane to Heritage park are in design and engineering and both the City and Parish have already set aside the required funding. Finally, the Parish and City are working together to define the route from Heritage Park to the St Tammany Parish Fishing pier.

Effective July 1st the City's local Historic Preservation District Commission will transition from an advisory to regulatory commission enabling it to better protect the City's historic resources. In preparation for this increased authority, the City recently completed a survey of its older buildings and designated 108 of them historic. The Preservation Commission is currently working on an application for one or more National Register Districts.

in the design and permitting phase for the construction of a new well east of I-10 to provide water to an under serviced but developing area.

The City is working with St. Tammany Parish to construct a levee across US Hwy 11 to connect two existing levee segments. Once connected, the southern boundary of the South Slidell Levee System will

Image credit (below): www.theadvocate.com



Image credit: www.trailink.com
Photo by: Lana Gramlich



Group Planning Board Membership Discounts

Agencies can pay \$115 and sign up an **unlimited number** of planning commissioners, zoning board members, or elected officials for \$65 each (\$60 for APA national dues and \$5 for APA chapter dues) as long as they do not earn their living in planning.



Blazing a Trail to a Healthy and Safer Future in St. Bernard

Deborah Fagan, AICP and Jason Stopa, Director of Community Development

Imagine a scenic jog along the Mississippi River or a bicycle ride through restored wetlands and marshes through New Orleans' most historic neighbor — St. Bernard Parish. Immediately downriver and only 15 minutes from the French Quarter, St. Bernard Parish is making trails and bikeways a keystone to its future.

2017 Population: 46,202
Planners on staff: 2.5

The department's current focus and/or priorities:

- ⇒ Create quality of life amenities
- ⇒ Chenier Nature Trail: A linear park that connects Torres Park to the 40 Arpent Trail — In design
- ⇒ Heights Park: A trailhead for the 40 Arpent Trail — In design & funded
- ⇒ Patricia Park: Conversion of a former recreational playground into a passive park — In design
- ⇒ Promote revitalization in Old Arabi and along the St. Claude corridor
- ⇒ Complete streetscape projects on St. Claude and near the Mississippi River — Design near completion & funded
- ⇒ Provide grant funding for our Fresh Food Retailer Initiative — Program near finalization
- ⇒ Promote new home construction through "Sold on St. Bernard"
- ⇒ Over 120 lots committed to builders (20% homes completed)



Bikeway under construction linking New Orleans to Battle of New Orleans site, Chalmette, LA

Where do you find yourself in terms of progress?

- ⇒ Adopted Complete Streets Policy
- ⇒ Adopted new community bikeway and pedestrian plan
- ⇒ Starting at 0 miles, constructed 3.25 miles of bikeways since 2014 with 5 miles currently under construction
- ⇒ 14 miles of trails in engineering and 25 miles planned for 2017—2018 construction
- ⇒ 4 major pedestrian projects funded that address highest priorities



View from future 40 Arpent Central Wetlands Trail

⇒ For more information: www.sbpj.net under "Public information, Bikeways and Trails"



Save the Date:
Annual State Planning Conference
Shreveport, LA
October 3-5, 2018

Coinciding with the Red River Arts Festival, this year's event will be held at Sam's Town Hotel on the riverfront and is themed: "The Face of Planning."



NPC18 APA Louisiana Chapter Reception

Tall Ship Oliver Hazard Perry (pictured above)

Sunday, April 22, 2018
6:30PM to 8:30PM

Board the tall ship Oliver Hazard Perry at the **NPC18 Louisiana Chapter Reception!** It will be docked at Woldenberg Park and groups will tour as capacity permits. Food and beverages will be offered land-side and all areas will have splendid views of the tricentennial celebration fireworks!

Purchase Tickets at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/apa-la-chapter-reception-tickets-43622802978>

In the Papers:

http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2017/12/rta_new_orleans_colleges.html

Check out the above link, where local Planner II, **Bobby Evans, AICP**, with AECOM, puts pen to paper in the opinion piece "New technology gives RTA a new chance to attract college riders."

METRO NEWS



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Around Town in Covington

Nahketah Bagby, Planning Director

Covington's Trailhead (pictured left) serves a multitude of functions, from supporting economic development initiatives, to serving as a termination point for their rails to trails projects, and supporting cultural and historical education via an interactive museum.

Daytime population: 10, 759

Planners on staff: One



The department's current focus and priorities:

- ⇒ Historic Resources Preservation — In Progress
- ⇒ Comprehensive Plan Update — Target Start Date 2019
- ⇒ Develop and implement MyPermitsNow System For Planning, Zoning and Historic District Case management and Occupation License and Alcoholic Permits — In Progress
- ⇒ Master Bike Plan and Complete Streets Policy

Where do you find yourself in terms of progress?

We see the Planning Department as being a part of a Team that is moving the City ahead in very good direction. Recently the City has received the following awards, recognitions and acknowledgements:

- ⇒ 2016 Cultural District Award – Culture Connection ... Louisiana Office of Cultural Development
- ⇒ LMA Community Achievement Awards for Economic Development and Community Development - 2011, 2012, 2013 ... Louisiana Municipal Association
- ⇒ GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting -2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 ... Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada
- ⇒ Cleanest City Contester District V! Category F Winner -2012, 2013, 2015...Louisiana Garden Club Federation

- ⇒ 2014 LWCC Safest 70- In recognition of Exemplary Dedication to Workplace Safety... Louisiana Workers Compensation Corporation
- ⇒ 2015 Great Places in Louisiana – Great Place Award Covington Historic District... American Planning Association of Louisiana
- ⇒ 2015 Best Place to Retire in Louisiana... Smart Asset
- ⇒ 2015 #1 Best Place Near New Orleans for Young Professionals... Movoto
- ⇒ 2015 Ten Most Beautiful Towns and Small Cities in Louisiana... The Culture Trip, LTD
- ⇒ Top Work Places -2015, 2016 ,2017... The Times-Picayune/NOLA.com & workplace Dynamics
- ⇒ 2017 Excellence in Law Enforcement Award... Metropolitan Crime Commission

Planning efforts completed:

- ⇒ 2012: Historic Preservation Fund CLG – Historic Preservation District Design Guidelines – Prepared by Thomason and Associates.
- ⇒ 2013: State of Louisiana DOTD - Safe Routes to School Program Gant For Pine View Middle School 1200 West 27 Ave. Covington, LA
- ⇒ 2014: City of Covington-North Jefferson Ave. North Jefferson Ave. Improvements Streetscape, Bicycle, Pedestrian and Beatification Master Plan. Prepared by Richard C. Lambert Consultants, LLC, Cashio Cochran, LLC and the New Orleans - Regional

- ⇒ 2015 Congestion Management: Traffic Circulation, Parking, and Safety Study for Downtown Covington (RPC Task MC-1.15, FY-15 UPWP) Prepared by Digital Engineering and Dana Brown Associates, ITS Regional, LLC and the New Orleans - Regional Planning Commission.
- ⇒ 2015 Historic Preservation Fund CLG -Old Covington Fire Station Feasibility Study WDG/ Architects Engineers
- ⇒ 2017 Historic Preservation Fund CLG – City of Covington Archeological Filed Survey Covington Cemetery #2 (Wilson Cemetery) Prepared by Joseph C. Yarbrough
- ⇒ 2017 - Bogue Falaya Park Master Plan - Prepared by Digital Engineering and Dana Brown Associates
- ⇒ 2017 Covington Traffic Calming and Connectivity Plan - Prepared by Center of Planning Excellence (CPEX).
- ⇒ 2017 - Bogue Falaya Park St. Tammany, LA Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places—Prepared by Emily Butler Tulane Master of Preservation Studies.
- ⇒ 2018 – Historical Resources Inventory Survey - Prepared by Cox McLain Environmental Consulting (CMEC)
- ⇒ 2018—Covington Bike Plan Master Plan Underway - Prepared by Digital Engineering and Dana Brown Associates and New Orleans - Regional Planning Commission.

Arts, History & Culture

Many of the historic homes have been turned into antique and craft shops, especially in the Lee Lane area.

Annual events include the Chef Soiree, Art at the Park, the Parish Fair, the Scarecrow Festival, Makin' Music, North Shore Weekend and the Three Rivers Art Festival.





News from National:

Impacted by 2017 disasters? Apply for Disaster Recovery Funds from the APA Foundation to assist with community recovery efforts.

Interested in sitting for the May 2018 Certification Exam? The deadline to register (Friday, April 27th, at 5pm (CT)) is approaching.

Find out more at www.planning.org



Annual crawfish boil 4/7/18



Member Spotlight: Eric Lundin, CFM

Education:

BA Tulane University
Masters in Military Science and Operational Planning, Marine Corps University
Masters in Urban and Regional Planning, University of New Orleans

APA Involvement:

Member APA

How Became Interested in Planning:

I lived on and off in Stafford County, Virginia for over twenty years. During this time, the County adopted development policies intended to change their focus from a rural county to being part of the Washington D.C. urban area. The resulting rapid growth resulted in traffic congestion, overcrowded schools, dried up wells, and a host of other problems. After about ten years of growth the County grew concerned with the unchecked development and began instituting policies to slow the growth and improve their infrastructure. At the time, I thought their actions were too little too late and that there must be a better way to go about it. When I retired from the Marine Corps I was looking around for a second career and came across the MURP web site describing the Planning profession. It seemed Planning done right might have forestalled some of Stafford County's problems. So I applied to the MURP program and was fortunate enough to get accepted.

Military and Urban Planning

In my last few years in the Marine Corps I had two assignments that dealt with urban/regional development—Chief of Plans for Coalition Task Force Horn of Africa in Djibouti and Chief of Plans for Multi National Force West in Al Anbar



Province, which is equivalent in size to the State of North Carolina. In these assignments, my planning team was responsible for planning transportation infrastructure, water and floodplain management, energy generation and distribution, census, waste management, and other urban projects in addition to our standard military operations. Based on these experiences I believe military and urban planning processes are similar:

- ⇒ Make sure you understand the task/problem you are solving,
- ⇒ Gather facts to ensure you understand the situation,
- ⇒ Identify the resources you have to work with,
- ⇒ Develop and analyze alternatives/options/courses of action,
- ⇒ Make a decision and implement,
- ⇒ Assess the results and adjust the plan as needed

What is the best part of working in Slidell

The best things about working in the Slidell is the range of planning activities I get to deal with on any given day -- land use, transportation, floodplain management and hazard mitigation, historic preservation, or any number of other planning issues. There are rarely routine or boring days.

JOIN CCS AND APA-METRO FOR AN ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT CRAWFISH BOIL FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, APRIL 7 • 12:00 PM • BUCKTOWN MARINA

This year's annual APA crawfish boil was unique in that we partnered with UNO's Crescent City Shapers to cohost at the Bucktown Marina. Boy were we worried about the rain! Alas—the weather turned out to be amazing and provided the perfect

environment for a hearty meal! To top it off, we had the highest turnout of all of our APA events!

Special Thanks to our BOILERS!

Paul Waidhas, AICP; Bruce Richards, AICP; Tim Jackson, FAICP; and Rob Johnson.

Y'all made 4 insanely delicious batches of crawfish! THANKS!



Metro New Orleans Section Officers:

- Director:** Alexandra Gelpi Carter, AICP
- Assistant Director:** Taylor Marcantel, AICP
- Treasurer:** René C. Pastorek
- Secretary:** Bridget Tydor
- Membership Coordinator:** Samuel Buckley
- UNO Student Ambassador:** Jessica Williams