

The Nebraska Planner

A joint publication of APA Nebraska and NPZA



January 2020



Newsletter Editors - Stephanie Rouse, AICP, srouse@rdgusa.com and Kurt Elder, kelder@lincoln.ne.gov, AICP, GISP

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

In 2019 the Nebraska chapter of the APA and the NPZA decided to join forces to put out a newsletter devoted to informing Nebraska planners and associated professionals. We intend to cover a wide range of planning related topics from zoning regulations to housing policy and everything in between. We have chosen a quarterly format in order to create a content rich and well put together newsletter that serves the membership of both groups. As such, we want to make sure the content is relevant to your everyday work. **Please let us know what you think of these first few editions.** Tell us what topics you want to read about in upcoming issues by completing the short survey below. You can also email srouse@rdgusa.com to provide feedback. We know you are bombarded with survey requests daily and appreciate your help in providing feedback to help make this newsletter relevant to you! Thank you for your membership in our organizations and your readership of this new joint newsletter.



[Link to Survey: https://arcg.is/Pbiui0](https://arcg.is/Pbiui0)

In this issue:

- Legislative Update - 1
- Awards - 2
- Conference - 4
- Presidents Update - 5
- APA Fall Workshop - 6
- AARP Challenge - 7
- Job Postings - 8
- Upcoming Events - 8
- Resources - 9

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Nebraska Legislature will convene on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, for the 2020 Legislative Session (the "Session"). The Session is the Second Session of the 106th Legislature, meaning that bills the Legislature did not adopt or indefinitely postpone carry over from last year. Additionally, on January 8 and during the first ten days of the Session, Senators will have the opportunity to introduce new bills. Typically, in the second session of a biennium, senators introduce between 500 and 600 new bills. Once the Legislature finishes introducing bills, the Legislature will refer the bills to Committees. The Committees will have the opportunity to hold hearings on the bills, amend the bills, and submit the bills to the entire Legislature for consideration. The session is 60 legislative days in length, meaning the Legislature will adjourn in mid April.

One bill to monitor is LB 731 ([view full text here](#)). This is a clean-up bill to remove a past deadline regarding a requirement for cities and counties to include an energy element in new or updated comprehensive plans by January 1, 2015.

We will monitor the bills during introduction and identify planning related bills that warrant particular attention. We will provide a detailed explanation of those planning related bills following the completion of bill introduction, around mid to late January.

We appreciate the continued support of Baird Holm in providing the Nebraska Chapter membership with information and analysis of relevant legislation.

AWARDS SEASON IS HERE

APA Nebraska Awards

Each March the Nebraska Chapter celebrates individuals, communities, and firms doing innovative and positive planning work. Our chapter provides awards in the following categories:

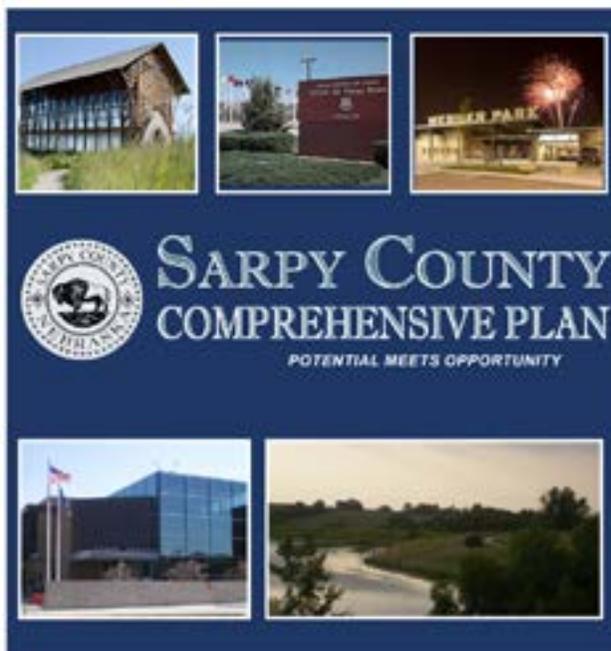
- » **Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan.** For a comprehensive or general plan that advances the science and art of planning. The award honors America's most famous planner, Daniel Burnham, for his contributions to the planning profession and to a greater awareness of the benefits of good planning.
- » **Best Practice.** This award is for a specific planning tool, practice, program, project, or process. This category emphasizes results and demonstrates how innovative and state-of-the-art planning methods and practices help to create communities of lasting value.
- » **Grassroots Initiative.** Honoring an initiative that illustrates how a neighborhood, community group or other local non-governmental entity utilized the planning process to address a specific need or issue within the community. Emphasis is placed on the success of planning in new or different settings, with total project budget (including staff, consultant, and direct expenses) not exceeding \$25,000.
- » **Implementation.** Recognizing an effort that demonstrates a significant achievement for an area—a single community or a region—in accomplishing positive changes as a result of planning. This award emphasizes long-term, measurable results.
- » **Public Outreach.** This award honors an individual, project, or program that uses information and education about the value of planning to create greater awareness among citizens or specific segments of the public. The award celebrates how planning improves a community's quality of life.
- » **Communications Initiative.** This award honors efforts to “tell the planning story” and increase awareness and understanding about the planning profession.
- » **Transportation Planning.** This award honors efforts to increase transportation choices for all populations, reducing dependence on private automobiles and helping to ease congestion and reducing climate change impacts.
- » **Environmental Planning.** This award honors efforts to create greener communities that reduce the impact of development on the natural environment and improve environmental quality.
- » **Urban Design.** This award honors efforts to create a sense of place, whether a street, public space, neighborhood, or campus effort.
- » **Innovation in Economic Planning and Development.** This award honors efforts to transform economies and stimulate economic development in communities of all sizes.
- » **Advancing Diversity and Social Change in Honor of Paul Davidoff.** This award honors an individual, project, group, or organization that promotes diversity and demonstrates a sustained commitment to advocacy by addressing the concerns of women and minorities through specific actions or contributions within the planning profession or through planning practice. The award honors the late APA member, Paul Davidoff, for his contributions to the planning profession.
- » **Charleston-Ptak Planning Advocate Award.** This award honors an individual or appointed or elected official who has advanced or promoted the cause of planning in the public arena. This award is named after Steve Charleston and David Ptak for their leadership and advocacy for good planning in Nebraska,

Continued on next page...

- » **Planning Firm.** Honors a planning firm that has produced distinguished work that continues to influence the professional practice of planning.
- » **Planning Agency.** This award honors the work of a public sector planning agency that has continually produced a program of exceptional work that has elevated awareness about planning.
- » **Emerging Planning and Design Firm.** This award honors a young planning and design firm that has helped elevate the planning profession and build public support for planning, and through its current work demonstrates the potential of having a continual influence on the planning profession for years to come.
- » **Alden Aust Distinguished Leadership Award for a Professional Planner.** Recognizes an individual's sustained contribution to the profession through distinguished practice, teaching, or writing. This award is named after Alden Aust former Planning Director at the City of Omaha and a former FAICP member for his leadership and professionalism in Nebraska.
- » **Wozniak-Selander Award for a Planning Pioneer.** Honoring pioneers of the profession who have made personal and direct innovations in American planning that have significantly and positively redirected planning practice, education, or theory with long-term results. This award is named after Richard Wozniak FAICP and Robert Selander for their leadership and pioneering attitudes toward planning in Nebraska.
- » **Great Places in Nebraska.** This award is to recognize and celebrate great urban and rural places of exemplary character, quality, and planning. These areas represent the gold standard in terms of having a true sense of place, culture and historic interest, community involvement and a vision for tomorrow. This award category is modeled on the National APA award category and may lead to nomination as a candidate for national recognition.

The deadline to apply is **February 7th, 2020**. For more information and to access the application form visit the chapter website at <https://nebraska.planning.org/community-outreach/chapter-awards/>. The award winners will be announced at the 2020 Annual Nebraska Planning Conference March 4-6th at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney.

Previous Winners



2018 Daniel Burnham Award



2017 Implementation Award



2018 Planning Agency Award

NPZA Awards

Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association recognizes outstanding individuals and communities that have contributed to the field of planning in Nebraska. Awards are considered for presentation at the annual meeting. Please consider making a nomination. Awards will be presented at the 2020 Nebraska Planning Conference March 4-6th at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, NE. NPZA award winners will be presented with a personalized awarded or certificate based on category and feature in the following Nebraska Planner Newsletter.

District Awards

- » Appointed Official Award (At least one from each district) Can include planning commissioners, board of adjustment members and other appointed officials including entire commissions or boards.
- » Elected Official Award (At least one from each district) Limited to elected officials or elected boards.
- » Professional Award (Professional planners or zoning administrators in the private or public sector) Recipient will be selected from each district.



Individual Awards

- » Mitsuo Kawamoto Excellence in Planning Award (Individual Only) preference is given to people that are or have been involved with NPZA
- » Carol Swayne Planning Commissioner Award (Individual Only) preference is given to people that are or have been involved with NPZA
- » Loretta Ludemann Achievement Award for Excellence in Planning by a Woman in the State of Nebraska (Individual Only) preference is given to women that are or have been involved with NPZA
- » President's Award of Special Recognition Selected by the President of NPZA for outstanding service to the organization and planning and zoning in the state.

Nomination Materials:

- » Nomination form must be completed and can be found at npza.org/awards/form. Information required includes the nominator information, nominee information, reasons for the nomination (up to 500 words summarizing the nomination) and local media contact information.
- » Nomination documentation include up to 5 photos of the nominee or projects they worked on. Please include high resolution photos. Letters of support and media coverage can also be used to document the nomination support.
- » Submit files to President@npza.org or click the link below or copy the following address into your web browser to place them into the NPZA Dropbox: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/2EyGXyr02IKUPWxz4YKr>
 - › Please label files clearly with the project name and document (e.g., Nominee Name, Project Name _ Photo1, Project Name _Letter1, etc.) before submitting.

Submissions can be emailed to Christopher Solberg, AICP at csolberg@cityoflavista.org. If you have questions about the nomination application process, contact Christopher Solberg at (402) 593-6400 or President@npza.org.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT: JANUARY 31, 2020 AT NOON (12:00 PM)

2020 NEBRASKA PLANNING CONFERENCE

March 4th-6th • Younes Conference Center • Kearney, NE

Mark your calendars for this years Nebraska Planning Conference March 4th through the 6th. We are excited to announce the following conference highlights:

- » Continuing education and training for planners, commissioners, zoning administrators, and attorneys
- » Opening reception, lunch keynote, and group social at Thunderhead Brewery
- » Competitively selected sessions and workshops
- » Speakers of regional and national significance

For more information or to register visit www.npza.org/conference.



AND STICK AROUND TO WATCH HALF A MILLION SANDHILL CRANES AS THEY MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE PLATTE RIVER!



Bill Kelly

Senior Producer, NET News; Director/Writer: And the Floods Came



Kurt Christiansen

APA President and Former Economic & Community Development Director Azusa, California



Joel Albizo

Chief Executive Officer, APA and AICP

SESSION TOPICS

- Affordable Housing
- Flood Recovery
- How to Prepare When Flooding is Imminent
- Planning for Resilience
- Senior Housing
- Stormwater Management
- Missing Middle Housing
- Trends in Livestock Production
- Partnering with Economic Development Districts
- Redeveloping the Golden Mile
- Better Parking Lots
- Accessory Dwelling Units
- Prairie Corridor on Haines (Lincoln)
- Building a Town Center
- Public Spaces that Work
- Wellhead Protection
- Planning for Early Childhood Development
- Downtown Lincoln
- Design Guidelines
- Planning for Solid Waste
- Small Cells
- UNL Student Session
- Historic Preservation
- Market Positioning: The First Step
- NE Development Law Update
- Findings of Fact
- Open Meetings Act
- Planning and Zoning Fundamentals
- Comprehensive Plans & Zoning
- Subdivisions
- Building Permits and Zoning Permits
- Ethics
- Legal Updates
- Permitting and Plan Review Process

FROM THE PRESIDENTS



This past October NPZA sponsored our annual Fall Workshop in Nebraska City, a regional training event that is geared towards land use decision makers from multiple levels of government. Each year, the NPZA Board strives to move this workshop around the state to make it available to those who cannot make it out to Kearney for the annual conference. Keep an eye out for it coming to the northwest in the fall of 2020.

Although 2019 was a tough year for many Nebraskans as Mother Nature provided for some trying times, members of NPZA and Nebraska APA can look forward to another great year of training and networking in 2020.

NPZA Board members have been working hard with the Nebraska APA on planning the 2020 Nebraska Planning Conference. This year's conference (March 4-6th) will once again be held in the Younes Conference Center in Kearney and will cover a wide range of topics for those interested in attending. This year we have special tracts on housing and emergency management. More information regarding the event can be found on our website (<http://www.npza.org>), including online registration, which will open in mid-January. Also, check out NPZA's Facebook and Twitter accounts for updates and pictures last year's conference.

The NPZA Board and I are excited about the upcoming conference and we look forward to seeing you there!

Christopher Solberg, AICP - NPZA President



Happy new year! As we start 2020, I like many of you take time to reflect back on 2019 and set resolutions for 2020. This applies to both my personal and professional lives.

Looking back on 2019, the year's biggest headlines were the devastating flooding events that occurred over the vast majority of the state. Unfortunately, there was the loss of human life and billions of dollars' worth of damage to structures, crops, animals, and infrastructure. Our role as planners seek to protect the public health, safety and general welfare. Thus, we have developed flood plain models, maps and regulations to guide our communities and limit the loss of life and damages to structures. Considering the unprecedented amount of flooding, I'm proud of our profession and the planners of this state for taking a critical role in enforcing the floodplain regulations. Without you, this could have been much worse.

Looking forward to 2020, we are hearing predictions of more flooding and extreme weather conditions. So, I encourage to keep with your zoning enforcement while we also tackle a housing crisis and the other planning issues that will arise.

I'm looking forward to seeing and talking with you at the Planning Conference March 4-6 in Kearney. If you have any questions for me, please feel free to email, call or text me at jray@jeo.com or 402-779-1070.

Jeff Ray, AICP - APA-NE Chapter President

APA NE FALL WORKSHOP

The APA Nebraska Fall Workshop was a great success. We had a great group of planners, designers, and housing professionals in attendance November 15th to discuss problems and solutions to the growing housing crunch we are seeing all across the state. The workshop began with a series of speakers from Nebraska AIA and Omaha by Design, discussing how design can be used to solve and improve housing. Examples from Omaha, a graduate project from the college of architecture, and other exemplary projects framed the discussion. Planners Derek Miller, AICP from the City of Omaha and Andrew Thierolf, AICP from the City of Lincoln discussed their respective communities approach to allowing accessory dwelling units. The final session before the lunch break was a presentation from Lauren Driscoll, ACIP on the variety of housing solutions cities can use from her experiences working in various communities including the City of Salina, Kansas most recently.

Following lunch, we dove right back into the workshop with a four person panel discussion on Missing Middle Housing. The center of the discussion was the Prairie Queen development in Papillion. All aspects of the development process were represented by the panelists which included Daniel Parolek, AIA (designer), Jerry Reimer (owner/developer), David Black (Mayor of Papillion), and Mark Stursma, AICP (Planning Director, City of Papillion). Following this discussion Bruce Fountain, President of the Chapter, gave a quick update on the chapter progress over this past year and the goals ahead for next year. The workshop wrapped up with a joint lecture with the College of Architecture Hyde lecture series by Daniel Parolek. Key lessons learned throughout the day include:

- » Good design can help shape and affect housing.
- » ADU's can be a touchy subject, so incremental steps may be necessary.
- » There is no one solution to fix the housing problem. It takes partnerships, data, and a variety of programs.
- » It takes cooperation among all departments and the developer to bring unique housing projects to the market.
- » Missing middle housing is single-family scale buildings that hold multiple units



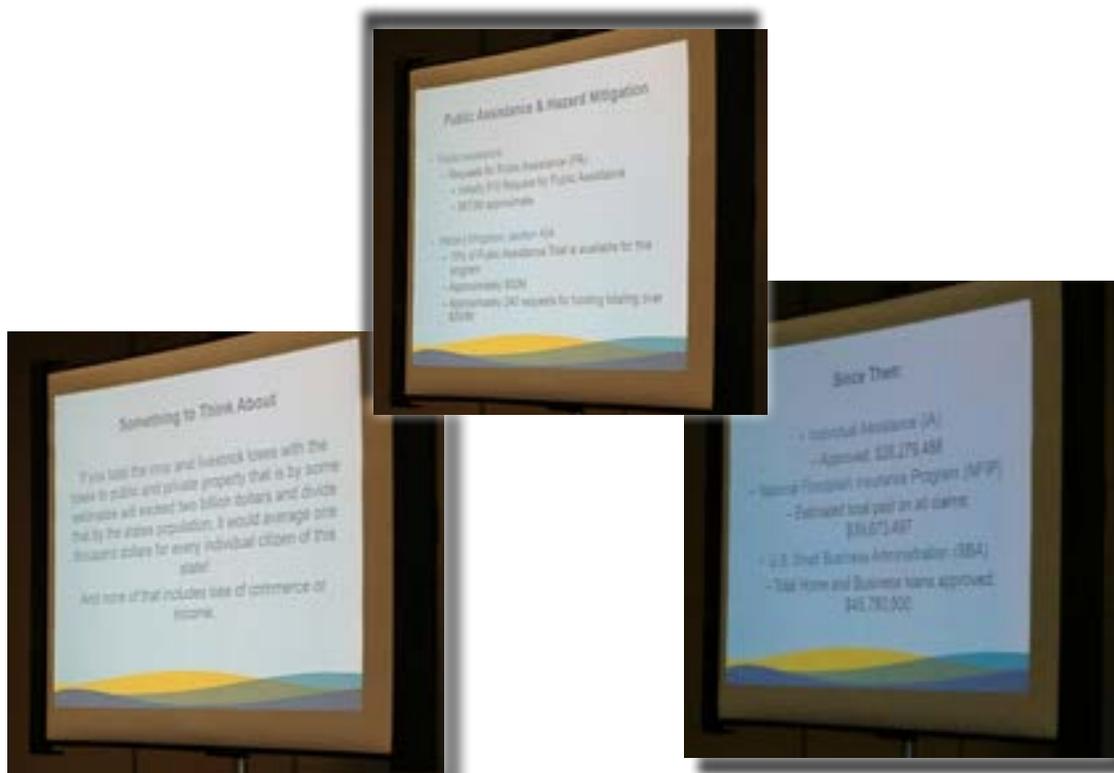
NPZA FALL WORKSHOP

NPZA held its annual Fall Workshop at the picturesque Kimmel Orchard in Nebraska City this past October. The event sparked good discussion and overall involvement over the variety of topics offered. This year's expanded format provided an additional track to give those attending more options regarding what sessions they wish to attend.

Day one provided an entire afternoon dedicated to Planning Fundamentals, lead by Harry Milligan and Chad Nabity, AICP. Perfect for those just starting out in the realm of planning and zoning. The opposite track included three sessions with Earl Imler from NEMA leading the way, discussing the 2019 disasters and the recovery efforts. This was followed by Kurt Mantonya with University of Nebraska Extension discussing the Community Asset Identification process. NPZA President Chris Solberg, AICP rounded out the afternoon with a presentation of redevelopment activities taking place in the City of La Vista.

Morning sessions on day two started with Nebraska Planning Conference veterans Keith Marvin, AICP and Chad Nabity, AICP talking about the Comprehensive Plan and its relationship to zoning. This was followed by the Garry Clark's energetic presentation on Small Town and Rural Economic Development. In the opposing track, Baird Holm Attorney David Levy gave a presentation on Findings of Fact, a fundamental discussion on this important part in the zoning decision making process. He then continued on with a session entitled, Ethics for Staff and Planning Commissioners. The day ended with a spirited discussion regarding small cells and the impact of state legislation on a community's ability to control their perforation within their city limits. Lash Chaffin from the Nebraska League of Municipalities led the discussion on this important subject to communities.

This annual event is moved throughout the state from year to year and continues to provide an excellent source of planning and zoning education for those who attend.



Nebraska Fall Planning Workshop 2019
Sponsored by the Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association

AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

By: Stephanie Rouse, AICP

AARP has been sponsoring the Community Challenge for three years now. Over 1,660 applicants submitted for the 2019 round of grants and a total of almost \$1.6 million was distributed to fund 159 projects. The program is intended to spur long-term progress through immediate and quick projects. Priority was given to projects that supported permanent physical improvements, temporary demonstrations that lead to long-term change, and new or innovative programming or services. Of the 159 projects awarded last year, two from Nebraska were selected—Grand Islands Railside Totem Project and Hastings walking trail enhancements. We spoke with a representative of Grow Grand Island s to get more details on the process and next steps.

Grow Grand Island, a non-profit that partners to cultivate bold ideas quality of life opportunities in the region, was accepted into the Livable Community network in December 2018. They applied for \$10,000 because as Tonja Brown of Grow GI put it “we felt it would be good for us to identify a project and apply for a grant to make a positive connection in the minds of our residents.” The project was already planned, but had yet to find funding. In addition to the \$10,000 they applied \$5,000 in cash contributions and in-kind services. Railside (designated a downtown business improvement district) designed a pedestrian wayfinding system with art and history as a key component. Four way totems at key locations included maps and short descriptions in both English and Spanish, along with links to more information via the web. Partners in the project include Grow Grand Island, Downtown Business Improvement District (Railside), Hall County Historical Society, and Pinnacle Bank 6.

The project was completed on November 14th and celebrated with a ribbon cutting on the following day. The system will be used by nearly 25,000 people in attendance at the dozen or so events that take place in the Railside each year. Grow GI is hoping to use the totems in community activities to support both exercise and learning local history. They hope to add more totems over time and enrich the web content further.

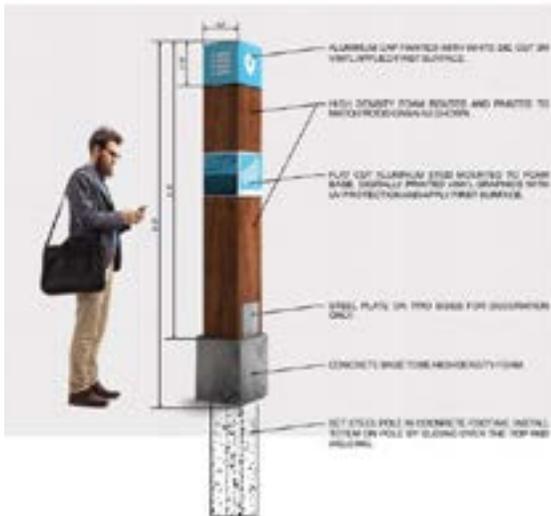


Image courtesy of arriverailside.com

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Job Postings

Building Official

Type: Full Time
Location: Papillion, NE
[Employer: Sarpy County](#)

Planner

Type: Full Time
Location: Papillion, NE
[Employer: Sarpy County](#)

AICP Deadlines

CM Recording Period Closes | January 1st
Early Bird Notification | January 31st
Final Notification | March 27th
Registration and Transfer De3adline | April 30th
Testing Window | May 11-23

For more job postings visit:

- » <https://npza.org/resources/careers>
- » www.iowa-apa.org/resources/job-postings
- » <https://www.lonm.org/classifieds/careers.html>

Upcoming Events

January 8, 2020 – Identifying Resilient Coastal Sites along the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Coasts CM | 1 [Link](#)

February 21, 2020 – Feminist Cities: Gender Mainstreaming and Substantive Equity CM | 1.5 Pending [Link](#)

February 28, 2020 – Sea Level Rise 101: How to Select and Use Sea Level Rise Data for Planning and Policy Decisions CM | 1.5 Pending [Link](#)

March 4-6, 2020 – **2020 Nebraska Planning Conference** <https://npza.org/conference/conference>

April 25-28, 2020 – 2020 National Planning Conference <https://planning.org/conference/>

CHECK OUT THE UPDATED APANE WEBSITE!

[HTTPS://NEBRASKA.PLANNING.ORG/](https://nebraska.planning.org/)



RESOURCES

APA NE Board Members

- Jeff Ray, AICP – President
- Bruce Fountain, AICP – Past President
- Stephanie Rouse, AICP – Vice President/
Professional Development Officer
- Troy Anderson, AICP – Treasurer
- Jesse Poore, AICP - Secretary
- Chris Solberg, AICP – NPZA Liaison
- Andrew Conzett, AIA – Allied Professionals Liaison
- Anthony Kohel – Student Planning
Association of Nebraska (SPAN) Liaison
- Gordon Scholz, AICP – UNL Planning Faculty Liaison

APA NE Subcommittees

- Legislative: David Levy, Baird Holm; Amy Haase, RDG
- Membership Recruitment & Appreciation: Paul Barnes, City
of Lincoln
- Emerging Planners Group: Kurt Elder, City of Lincoln; Cale
Brodersen, City of La Vista
- Social Events/Networking: Don Gross, Metropolitan Area
Planning Agency; Kaitlin Bolte, Confluence
- Conference/Workshop: Keith Marvin, Marvin Consulting;
Stacey Hageman, City of Lincoln; Jeff Ray, JEO; Bruce
Fountain, City of La Vista
- Mentorship/Student Outreach: Cale Brodersen; Gordon
Scholz, UNL Faculty liaison to the APA-NE Board; Bruce
Fountain
- Allied Professional Collaborations: Andrew Conzett
- Newsletter and Social Media – Stephanie Rouse, RDG
- Awards/Nominations – Jeff Ray, JEO

NPZA Board Members

- Chris Solberg, AICP – President
- Judy Clark, AICP – 1st Vice President
- Dan Giittinger – 2nd Vice President
- Chad Nability, AICP – Immediate Past President
- Char Carpenter – Recording Secretary
- Steve Charleston – Membership Sec/Treasurer
- Stacey Hageman – Conference Coordinator
- Jeff Ray, AICP – NE APA Liaison
- Gordon Scholz, AICP – UNL Liaison
- Dave Ptak – Legal Counsel

NPZA SUBCOMMITTEES

- Conference Committee – Keith Marvin, AICP
- Newsletter Committee – Kurt Elder, AICP, GISP
- Awards Committee – Christopher Solberg, AICP
- Zoning Administrator Certification Committee –
David Ptak
- Nebraska Planning Handbook Committee –
Vacant

Submit Your Content!

The NE Planner welcomes readers and associates to submit articles for publication within the newsletter. We are also happy to include RFP/RFQ's, new job postings, and upcoming events. Email srouse@rdgusa.com to be included in the next Newsletter.