

ARKANSAS PLANNER



American Planning Association
Arkansas Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Planning Association

Bridges of All Kinds

Looking forward to the Spring APA conference in West Memphis, we find ourselves drawn backwards to the awful images of the damage caused by the earthquake in Haiti. It reminds us how fragile the urban environment that planners seek to influence is. It also reminds us of the importance of bridges, not only physical ones, but professional and humanitarian ones.

We deal with all those. The upcoming conference will offer us a wonderful opportunity to build upon our understanding of physical, social, and professional connections.

Fifty miles or so up the Mississippi River north of West Memphis, near the Arkansas city of Blytheville, rests the epicenter of the New Madrid fault. The last time this fault shifted with a force similar to that of the Haitian quake, the Mississippi appeared to run backwards for a time and cabins toppled as far away as Cincinnati, Ohio. Some experts tell us that the next time it happens, there won't be a bridge left standing across that river from St. Louis to New Orleans.



The Memphis-Arkansas Memorial Bridge carries approximately 50,000 cars across the Mississippi river each day. Photo courtesy of the Memphis/Shelby County Public Library

That thought should both sober us and remind us of a number of things:

- First, we serve an honorable profession. If we do our jobs well, the first moments and the ensuing weeks of a disaster should be mitigated to some degree.
- Second, it reminds us that those who would claim that government, including its required bureaucracy, is "the problem" do a disservice to their fellow human beings.
- And third, it reminds us that by constantly improving our understanding of both the natural and built environments, we as planners serve our neighbors well.

It is a sad but necessary task that we must learn from our tragedies. We form the best emergency teams possible and these teams spring into action instantly as a tornado ravages our community. Then we find that when trees and other structures disappear, the team members become disoriented and can't find their duty stations. So we learn and adjust. We may have well-functioning teams ready to assist local law enforcement only to find that the local police force may evaporate in the confusion of a catastrophe. Again, we learn and adjust.

The important theme is that good planners do learn and grow. That's what we intend to do in West Memphis, along with our colleagues from other states.

Won't you come join us?

Jim von Tungeln, AICP
Vice-President
Arkansas Chapter, American Planning Association

President's MESSAGE

by Dianne Morrison, AICP



HAPPY NEW YEAR! Wow, can you believe another decade is complete? It is hard to believe that the “Y2K” scare and all the fears of the year 2000 are already 10 years behind us. For planners, the last decade has brought about some changes; there are new stormwater regulations, a big push

for sustainable and “green” development and of course a whole lot less money. What will the next 10 years bring?

Please remember to mark your calendars for the spring conference in West Memphis on

March 4th and 5th. The conference topics include creating a scenic gateway into West Memphis, Memphis revitalization projects and development codes. We have applied for five CEUs. Remember, for those AICP members out there, that this year starts a new cycle for credits. We are also planning an evening trip to Beale Street for anyone interested in an evening of fun and great music.

The National APA conference is in New Orleans this year and I am excited about the chance to attend. I have never been to New Orleans, other than a short trip to Bourbon Street while at a conference in Baton Rouge while I was in college. I do not think that counts as really visiting New Orleans. Last year the conference was in Minneapolis, the head waters of the Mississippi River, and this year it is the delta. APA has shortened the conference in order to cut down on the expense for attendees. Hopefully, there will be several people attending from Arkansas again the year.

There is a planning commissioner training scheduled in West Memphis on March 3rd. If anyone has planning commissioners that have never attended or need a refresher now is the chance. The last training in West Memphis had the highest number of attendees ever at that time, fifty-five. Let's break that record this spring!

I look forward to seeing you in March.

Dianne

Who's WHO?

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Conference at a Glance

Thursday - March 4th

7:30 a.m.

Registration opens

9:00 a.m.

Welcome

9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Mission of the Memphis Regional Design Center

Chooch Pickard, Executive Director

10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m. - Noon

Implementing a "Unified Development Code"

Don Jones, Senior Planner with Memphis and Shelby County Office of Planning & Development

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Scenic Gateway to the City along the Great River Road

Rob Norcross, Principal, Looney Ricks Kiss

3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Break

3:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Informal discussion - special challenges and opportunities in your area

5:00 p.m.

Happy Hour

Friday - March 5th

9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

South Memphis Renaissance Collaborative Revitalization Project

Ken Reardon, PhD. University of Memphis

10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Break

10:30 a.m. - Noon

Chapter Business Meeting

Conference Speakers:

Charles "Chooch" Pickard, AIA - joined the Memphis Regional Design Center in February of 2009 as their first Executive Director/Chief Design Office. He is actively involved in the community wearing many hats and is currently the President of the AIA Memphis Chapter. Chooch is an alumnus of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where he received his B.S. in Architectural Studies as well as his Master of Architecture. Since 1995, when he first moved to Memphis, Chooch has worked for a number of firms, such as Architecture Incorporated, the Center City Commission, and TRO (formerly JMGR) before starting his own firm, CM Design. Renovating historic buildings is one of his passions. He is credited with recently renovating the Lincoln American Tower and Lowenstein Building.

John Donald (Don) Jones - has been with the Memphis and Shelby County Office of Planning and Development since 1984. For more than 14 years Don has been an active member of the Land Use Controls (Zoning and Subdivision) Staff and since 2005 serves as Public Liaison for the Unified Development Code.

Robert B. Norcross, AIA, LEED AP - Rob is the principal in charge of Commercial Architecture at Looney Ricks Kiss. He joined LRK in 1992 and became a principal in the firm in 1999. Prior to that, Rob managed a branch office for an architectural firm, where he had full responsibility for all projects developed in that office. His experience includes all aspects of project design and management for office/corporate, recreational, hospitality, retail, civic and cultural projects. He has proven himself repeatedly at managing multi-disciplined teams on large, complex projects with fast-track schedules. Through his extensive and diverse experience, Rob has a thorough knowledge of codes, accessibility issues, historic guidelines and sustainable strategies.

Rob was a member of the AIA-Memphis Board of Directors, serving as president in 1998. He also served on the AIA Tennessee Board of Directors from 1998-2001, was an Urban Art Board Member for four years, is a full member of ULI, was a founding member of the Memphis Regional Design Center, is NCARB certified and a LEED Accredited Professional.

Kenneth M. Reardon, PhD - has recently been appointed Professor and Director of the Graduate Program in City and Regional Planning in the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Memphis, where he is involved in research, teaching, and outreach activities in the areas of neighborhood planning, community development, and community/university partnerships.

Ken currently serves on the Editorial Boards of the Journal of Planning Literature and the Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning. He earned his BA in Sociology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1976, his Master of Urban Planning degree from Hunter College of the City University of New York in 1982, and his Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University in 1990. He completed a Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship in Public Policy and Minority Communities at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota in 1996.





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 American Planning Association
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Bridges of All Kinds

**Spring Conference of the Arkansas Chapter of APA
 Comfort Suites - West Memphis
 March 4th and 5th, 2010**

Registration before February 19th \$65.00
Registration after February 19th \$80.00

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

e-mail: _____

Return to:
Arkansas Chapter APA
P.O. Box 3641, Little Rock, AR 72203

Need more info:
 Contact Dianne Morrision at dmorrison@cityhs.net or
 Jean Dahms at bjean@metroplan.org

Lodging Information:

Rooms have been set aside for the APA Spring Conference at the recently opened Comfort Suites in West Memphis.
 \$89.00 for a single
 \$99.00 for a double

Rates are based on a two night stay, if only staying for one night the rate is \$99.00. These rates are good until **February 5, 2010**. After that they are based on availability.

- Amenities include:
- Indoor pool
 - Exercise room
 - Free deluxe continental breakfast
 - Free wireless internet

Call 870-733-9900 or 870-732-2477 for reservations.