

# American Planning Association

## Western New York Section

### 2008-2009 Annual Report

2008 was a busy year for the Executive Committee of the WNY APA. The Section fulfilled its role to its members by providing numerous educational, professional and social activities. In addition, the Section advocated for several local planning initiatives.

Section activities included:

- We have been heavily involved in the AICP Certification Maintenance (CM) process. This involvement includes the continuing education of our members, holding AICP Audio/Web Conferences, contributing to the Upstate Chapter CM protocols discussions, offering CM credits for attending our Dinner Programs and development and assigning CM duties to the Section PDO by means of a bylaw revision.
- The section conducted eleven executive committee meetings, including one at the UB Department of Planning in March to show the Planning Students who we were and what we do.
- WNY APA hosted three 90-minute AICP Audio/Web conferences, “Mastering Density”, “Community Based Brownfield Redevelopment” and “2008 Planning Law Review”. With corporate sponsorship, the conferences were provided free to our members.
- Dinner programs remain our primary social opportunity in the Section. In 2008, the Section held Dinner Programs on the following topics: “Erie-Niagara Framework for Regional Growth”, “Architecture and Tourism – a Case Study” (Co-Sponsored with ASLA), “Frank Lloyd Wright’s Darwin Martin House”, The 2008 Section Awards Dinner and Annual Business Meeting and “Tour of Buffalo Inner Harbor Development”.
- Two basket raffles were held to raise money for the Michael J Krasner Memorial Scholarship Fund. These raffles raised around \$1,500.00.
- The WNY Section participated in two areas of advocacy. First, the Section Director sent a letter to the Erie County Legislature supporting a proposal for reviving the Regional Planning Board. Second, the Director sent letters to local newspapers, the Niagara Falls Common Council, and the Niagara Falls Mayor supporting the need for a Senior Planner in Niagara Falls – a position that some were trying to eliminate.
- The Section Executive Committee added the position of “UB Faculty Liaison”. This is a full time faculty member from the UB Department of Planning that is appointed by the Department Chair. The position was created to provide a strong and permanent tie between academic and professional planning in WNY.
- Due to the careful spending of the Executive Board, the Section ended the year with almost as much as we began the year.
- Our Newsletter, the Buffalo-Niagara Plan-Net”, is now distributed electronically, saving paper, postage and mailing time. This is estimated to save the Section over \$700 per year.
- The section sent letters to those members with no email address listed with instructions on how to update their profile. We now have only 3 members without email information.
- The Section website (wnyapa.com) continues to be updated and enhanced.

It has been my pleasure to serve as Director for 2008. I look forward to working with my Committee, Board and membership for 2009.

Richard Guarino, AICP

WNY APA Section Director