



American Planning Association
Pennsylvania Chapter
Lehigh Valley-Berks Section

Monthly Newsletter

 September 2025

It's Almost Fall!

Hello planners:

Happy Labor Day to everyone! We hope you are taking time to relax and enjoy time away from the office today. As we all know, our profession originates from the great social reform work of the 19th and early 20th century, including advocating for safe working conditions and communities. While not directly a planning event, Labor Day still celebrates the great strides that our forefathers and foremothers took to improve the lives and communities across the United States. Planners also deserve a day off sometimes!

Getting back to work this month, we have several upcoming items of note. Section Council elections will take place next month, and [nominations for all positions are now open until October 1st.](#) On Thursday, September 11th, we will be holding our first [Conference Planning Committee meeting](#) at 11am, and our usual [Section Meeting](#) at 12 noon.

The registration for the APA Pennsylvania Annual Conference is now open! It runs October 12th to 14th at the Hilton Harrisburg. [Registration and hotel reservations are open now](#); act fast before time runs out! October 3rd is the last day to register.

And in short time, the Christmas City will be hosting the 2026 Annual Conference at Wind Creek Bethlehem! We will be looking for anyone interested in volunteering for the Conference Planning Committee, so please consider helping out!

If you have any questions, concerns, or anything you'd like to discuss, please feel free to reach out to me at craigbeavers24@gmail.com. Otherwise, I'll see you in our next newsletter!

Craig Beavers, AICP Candidate

Section Chair



 News and Announcements

Section Meetings

Our next meeting will be on [Thursday, September 11th at 12pm, hosted virtually on Microsoft Teams](#).

To add this meeting to your calendar, please download the calendar link here: [Calendar Invite](#)

[September Agenda](#)

We will not be meeting in October as it is the same time as the APA PA Conference. We will hold a meeting of Section Council

officers in November focused on administrative items only, but the meeting will be open to anyone interested. We will hold our Annual Holiday Meeting in December in lieu of a formal meeting, details TBD.

Section Council Elections

Nominations for Section Council election are now open! Please consider volunteering to serve our local section in planning for events, education, and the betterment of planning on our community!

Nominations are open from September 1st through October 1st. Anyone can submit a nomination for any of the positions up for election. Additional information about each position is available on the nomination form.

- **Section Chair**
- **Section Vice Chair**
- **Section Secretary**
- **Section Treasurer**
- **Section Council (Professional Planner) (Up to 3)**
- **Section Council (Planning Commissioner/Official) (Up to 2)**

Once all nominations are received, an official ballot will be released for 30 days between October 15th and November 15th. Winners will be announced shortly after.

To fill out a nomination, please click the link below:

[Nomination Form](#)

2026 APA PA Conference in Bethlehem

We are thrilled to share that we will be hosting the 2026 APA Pennsylvania State Conference right here in our Section! It will be held from Sunday, October 18th through Tuesday, October 20th at Wind Creek Bethlehem. Professional planners and planning volunteers from all over the commonwealth will be flocking to our region, and we hope you will be one of them!

To help plan this major event, we will be forming a Conference Planning Committee. This committee will help organize the selection of the theme, review keynote speakers, and help frame the overall coordination of the conference. Commitment involves a few meetings over the next year, and help in various subgroups like awards planning, social events planning, speaker selection, etc. Participants are also eligible for discounted registration rates to the conference. [Here is a document providing a more detailed outline of the responsibilities and timeline.](#)

Anyone can volunteer, whether you are an active section member, someone who just reads the minutes or newsletters, or even if you aren't a member or a planner! It takes a team to organize our conference and promote planning in the Lehigh Valley and Berks County, so we are looking for any and all help!

We will be holding a Conference Planning Committee meeting on Thursday, September 11th at 11:00 am on Microsoft Teams.

Everyone and anyone are welcome to attend, even non-members and non-planners. Please click here to add the meeting invite to your calendar: [Conference Planning Committee Meeting Invite](#)

If you are interested or would like more information, please click the link below:

[Click Here to Volunteer](#)

Upcoming Events

Our Section provides a calendar of CM events, local initiatives, and major planning meetings. Here are a few upcoming events of note:

- September 1 - Section Council Nominations Open
- September 11 - Conference Planning Committee
- September 11 - Section Meeting
- [September 19 - Planning Across Borders](#) (2 CM, 1 SR)
- [September 22 - Collaborative Stakeholder and Community Engagement in Transportation Planning](#) (1 CM, 1 Eq)

To view more events and CM webinars, click the button below.

[View More Events](#)

Employment Opportunities

Our Section highlights a variety of planning and planning related jobs in our area. Here are a few open positions:

- [Zoning Officer - South Whitehall Township](#)
- [Zoning Administrator - City of Reading](#)
- [Senior Community & Regional Planner - Lehigh Valley Planning Commission](#)

- [Community Planner – Hanover Engineering](#)

To view more job opportunities, click the button below.

[View More Jobs](#)

 **SHARE IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS**

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**Lehigh Valley/Berks Section,
APA PA**

Allentown, PA
United States of America



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