



American Planning Association
Northeast Region

Making Great Communities Happen

JUNE 24 - 26

City Center - Saratoga Springs, New York

Call for Session Proposals

You can be a part of the **2015 American Planning Association Northeast Regional Conference** to be held in Saratoga Springs, New York. The Northeast Regional Conference is being organized by nine APA Chapters within APA's Region 1 and is expected to draw over 750 planners, government administrators and allied professionals - from Pittsburg, PA to Portland, ME and from Providence, RI to Peterborough, Canada. Titled **Getting Ahead of the Future**, this Conference represents a great opportunity to explore breaking trends and acquire the necessary skills required for the "future planner". For AICP planners, the conference is a great opportunity to explore "core competencies" and earn essential CM credits.

Getting Ahead of the Future involves anticipating new planning trends, emerging issues, and preparing for what is next. But what is next? How do we prepare for an uncertain economy, adapt to climate change or address new demographic realities? What is the role of the professional planner of the future and what skills will they need? How can planners engage and inspire our constituencies in preparing for what's next? The **Getting Ahead of the Future** conference will explore these questions and the necessary skills for the future planner including: specialized competencies, political savvy, leadership, collaboration, and written, oral and graphic communication.

Session Proposal Deadline: 5PM (EST) on *Friday, January 30, 2015*

Please submit proposals to aparegion1conference@gmail.com.

Notification of session acceptance or decline: **March 2015**

Proposal questions: Nancy Letendre at president@rhodeislandapa.org

CM questions: Arthur Buckley at abuckley4@rochester.rr.com

Call for Session Proposals - Required Information

Pathways

Proposals are solicited to address the following general topic areas, or “tracks”:

“The Now and Future Planner” - This track is about long-term and little known trends. Drawing on a wide range of forecasts - imagine how we as planners can be best prepared to plan our future communities. Introduce the future planner to predictions, forecasts and projections that may include a wide array of sources, from scientific modeling, visual arts and cultural economy to informed and educated flights of the imagination. Thought provoking sessions of 60, 75 or 90 minutes will be provided in this track.

“The Engaged Planner” - What skills do planners need in the future to engage the public in dealing with an increasingly complex political, social, economic, scientific, and technological landscape? What *new* skills do we need to develop? What *traditional* skills will continue to serve us well? Training sessions and skill development workshops of 90 minutes to 2.25 hours will be considered for this track.

“Trending Now”- While predicting the long terms trends is fraught with uncertainty, near term trends--technological, demographic and economic trends, housing choices and changes, city planning and design, and social and cultural challenges -- are easier to bring into focus. What are the short-term trends and how should we be preparing in the near term to address them? Topics of regional interest will be explored in this track of 75 or 90 minute sessions.

“Nuts and Bolts” Every planner must return to the fundamentals of land use law and ethics annually. Topics of regional interest such as resiliency, an aging demographic and smart growth are also today’s basic tools of the trade. The sessions in this track will address those topics that never go away in 60, 75 or 90 minutes.

Session Format

Session selection is highly competitive - we encourage creative sessions with hands-on learning. Experience with prior APA conferences has provided excellent feedback suggesting planners enjoy creative, hands-on, and skill-building workshops. While we encourage any format that helps to enhance knowledge and skills, we especially encourage formats other than traditional single speaker or panel presentations, such as: point/counterpoint debate; workshops with audience participation; round table; “talk show” style formats, and other innovative formats. Training sessions must be hands-on and interactive.

Session Proposal Contents

Please make certain your submittal is complete! Your proposal will be judged in large part on completeness upon submission. However, understanding that some changes are likely to occur in the few months leading to the conference, we are committed to working with you on refinements, minor amendments, and speaker changes. But please remember you will be judged on the quality and completeness of your initial submission.

All proposals must be submitted as Word 2007 or 2010 document unless otherwise noted. Proposals must follow the following outline:

- 1) Session or Workshop Title: A short and catchy title that accurately reflects the session focus.
- 2) Summary of Session: A short description of the session to be used in the conference program, not exceeding 50 words.
- 3) Proposal Narrative: A brief description of the session and relevance to conference topic. Identify the session's relevance to a specific conference track.
- 4) Planning-Related Objectives: A brief narrative explaining how the proposed session meets a specific planning-related training objective.
- 5) Contact Information: Each presenter's name, title, affiliation, professional credentials (i.e., AICP), phone number, e-mail address, etc. Please be complete. Identify one person as the lead contact.
- 6) Instructor Biographies: A short 100-word biography for each presenter, and one 4,000 **character** biography of one presenter for each session.
- 7) Format of Presentation: Indicate the presentation format (i.e., roundtable, debate, workshop, etc.) and appropriate length of session (i.e. 75 or 105 minutes).
- 8) Certification Maintenance (CM) Criteria: All proposals **must** address each of the nine (9) items listed on the CM Checklist found on page 5 of these instructions. Proponent must complete and affirm the attached statement which attests to session compliance with the CM criteria by either explaining your answer on the CM Checklist or incorporating your answers into your session **proposal narrative**. A narrative explanation may be given where CM credits are not sought. The CM Checklist may be submitted as a PDF once affirmed. Your session proposal will not be considered complete without this form.

Session Proposal Ranking Criteria

Sessions will be evaluated based on: proposal completeness; strength of topic; diversity, quality and relevant background of presenters; applicability of topic to the Northeast Region; consistency with conference theme and track; and creativity of both topic and format.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND FOR CONFERENCE UPDATES, PLEASE VISIT

<http://aparegion1.org/>

JUNE 24 - 26, 2015 SARATOGA -SPRINGS

2015 Northeast Regional Conference of the American Planning Association

Certification Maintenance (CM) Checklist

This information must be submitted with your session proposal to be considered for CM credit!

Please email Arthur Buckley, AICP, Host Chapter PDO,
with any CM questions at abuckley4@rochester.rr.com.

Submit this checklist with your Session Proposal **by January 30, 2015**. A PDF of the SIGNED CM Checklist will be accepted. You may add supplemental sheets for further elaboration.

CM Criteria	CM Compliance Checklist (yes / no and <u>describe</u>)
An instructor biography, including current professional title and notable achievements that indicate required level of expertise (no more than 4000 characters) have been provided in the session proposal	
The specific planning-related training objectives are contained in the session proposal	
The session proposal explains how the session is designed to teach subject matter appropriate in depth and scope and at a level beyond a planner with at least two years of professional planning experience	
The session proposal explains the relevant expertise of one or more of the session leaders. (An expert is a professional who has made a contribution to the profession through practice, teaching, research, or publications; completed works that proclaim individuality and mastery of the principles of planning taught; and whose work demonstrates outstanding quality and professionalism.)	
The session is non-promotional in nature. Materials used during the CM credit portion of the event must be solely for educational purposes.	
The session proposal identifies how the educational needs of a professional planner are fulfilled	
The session proposal identifies the session educational purpose or objective	
The session proposal identifies the learning methodology or format that will be used in the session and how it is appropriate to the activity's educational purpose or objectives	
Do the presenters use materials that do not include proprietary information?	
Only that portion of the activity meeting CM criteria can be registered for CM credit. Will this session provide instruction (including Q&A) 60, 75, 90 minutes or more, or can it be flexible for any of these time periods?	
➤ <u>I have read and understood the above, and agree that the event I am submitting meets these criteria:</u>	Signed: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____