

# GEORGIA PLANNER

Newsletter of the Georgia Planning Association, A Chapter of the American Planning Association

AUGUST 2003

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

# **Ballot Enclosed: GPA Election**

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Jerry Weitz, Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee

Ballot Enclosed: GPA
Election.....1

From the President...2

Registration Form.....3

GPA Program News..5

Ballot......Insert

This year's election is different from past elections for two reasons. First, many of the positions are contested. This is different from past practice, in that we are required by the bylaws only to run competitive races for the VP positions. The positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and district directors have not been made competitive in the recent past. The principle of the committee (Gary Cornell, Michael Tuller, Jackie Deibel, Shelley Stiebling, and Jerry Weitz) was to make every position competitive if interest existed. The Board consented to that principle in May.

One reason behind our seeking competitive races is to instill some spirit and energy. If someone has to compete for a position and they win your vote, it is likely they will work harder at the task upon being elected (and perhaps make good on some campaign promises!). The committee corresponded with more than 50 persons about the nominations process, and we openly invited nominations in the chapter newsletter.

Second, this ballot has the distinction of being the first to elect planning officials to fill two new board positions. We generally don't have very many cities that pay for membership in GPA for their planning commissioners, but we are pleased to report we have four planning board nominees for two positions.

Many considerations went into our nominations of members. We sought to provide choices and greater diversity on the board through the nominations process. There is nearly a balance of males and females nominated. There are three minorities, which is not a substantial number when we have

some 25 positions (including appointments) but other minority members were contacted about interest.

The committee was cognizant of employer affiliations. We sought representation from many sectors of employers while not becoming too imbalanced with regard to others. We felt we needed to provide balance or some reasonably proportional representation, and we think we have, with county, city, regional, state, business, and university members, in addition to planning officials.

Please take the time necessary to read the candidates' qualifications and position statements. And please vote for the candidates of your choice. Questions or comments about the nominations and elections process can be directed to me at Jerryweitz@aol.com.

Also in this issue...

### The GPA Fall Conference REGISTRATION FORM

This'll be a good one. And, HEY!
It's in Savannah!
Register soon, register often, but register before October 4 when the late fee kicks in!

For more information on the conference or the program sessions, contact York Phillips, AICP, at yphillips@glynncounty.org



# From the President...

Hat's off to the GPA Membership Committee, Chaired by Eve Brothers. Eve hosted the kick off meeting for this crucial committee in Hapeville on July 9 and bought lunch for us all in a local establishment. They need your help, so if you are interested in helping, call Eve at (404) 669-2122. Membership Committee has a big job to do and an important one. Here is their set of objectives:

- · Update and disseminate membership directory
- · Prepare membership brochure
- · Recruit new members
- · Provide a membership list organized by district to each district director
- Determine dropped members and contact them about maintaining membership
- · Use directories of city and county planning directors (DCA) to recruit members
- Establish membership recruitment performance targets for each district
- · Implement member service projects (shirts, pins, etc.)
- · Maintain membership statistics and report on attainment of performance benchmarks
- · Design and implement new member welcoming system
- · Prepare a list of new members for publication in newsletter

They are off and running on designing the membership brochure, contacting planners who have dropped their APA/GPA membership to try to get them to renew, and welcoming new members.

On this topic, let me welcome 25 new members who have joined in the past quarter:

On this	•	new members who have joined in the	past quarter.
•	Arla G. Bernstein, Ph.D.	, AICP	Atlanta, GA
•	James G. Cain	Cherokee County Plng & Zn Dept.	Canton, GA
	Greg Lock		Duluth, GA
•	Steve Young		Powder Springs, GA
•	Gene Newton		Powder Springs, GA
	Sammy Campbell		Lilburn, GA
•	Brett K. Caldwell, AICP	CDM	Atlanta, GA
•	Stacy R. Patton		Palmetto, GA
•	Amanda L. Askew		Atlanta, GA
•	Douglas R. Appler,	Atlanta Regional Commission	Atlanta, GA
•	Steven R. Randolph	Fed. Emergency Mgmt. Agency	Atlanta, GA
•	Mark T. Seastead	Burns & Mcdonnell	Atlanta, GA
•	Abhijit Saptarshi	Student	Atlanta, GA
•	Douglas Shanahan	Student	Atlanta, GA
•	Alexander S. Luten		Savannah, GA
•	Carolyn L. Stewart	Fulton County	Stone Mountain, GA
•	Michael Brown	Chatham County-Savannah MPC	Savannah, GA
•	Lacy A. Manigault		Savannah, GA
•	James E. Poteet		Pooler, GA
•	Robert L. Ray		Savannah, GA
•	Christopher Rainwater	City of Blakely	Blakely, GA
•	Bob Crane		Columbus, GA
	Karl Douglas		Columbus, GA
•	Patrick Ejike	DeKalb County Planning Dept	Decatur, GA
•	Mary Teter	Albany Dougherty Planning Comm	Albany, GA
•	Richard B. Mcleod	Student	Woodstock, GA
	Christine Laughlin	Gwinnett County	Lawrenceville, GA



# Georgia Planning Association Fall Conference

October 22 - 24, 2003 \* Marriott Riverfront - Savannah, Georgia

<u>Conference Registration</u> - Send one form for each registrant along with **registration fee** (check or purchase order) **made payable to GPA Fall 2003 Conference** - mail registration forms to:

GPA Fall 2003 Conference attn: Lee Sutton 715 Bay Street Brunswick, GA 31520-7910

Name:	Cned	CK II AICP: _
First Name or Nickname for Badge:		
Title:		
Agency or Firm:		
Mailing Address:		
City, State, ZIP:		
Phone:FAX:		
email address:		
Registration Fees:	<u>Fee</u>	Enclosed
Regular Registration - Postmarked Friday, October 3 or earlier	\$185	
ate Registration - Postmarked October 4 or After	\$205	
tudent Registration (attached certification from school)	\$55	
Note: Individual tickets will be available on site for the Thursday Luncheon and Rece	eption	
<b>Mobile Workshops (all are first come, first served):</b>		
• Historic Walking Tour A (10/22 Afternoon)	\$10	
Skidaway Research Center/Impacts of Shoreline Development (10/23 All Day)	\$25	
Ossabaw Island Tour (10/23 All Day)	\$25	
Statesboro GSU Campus Planning (10/23 All Day)  Grania Parts A. thair (10/23 Marrian)	\$25	
Georgia Ports Authority (10/23 Morning)	\$15	
<ul> <li>Historic Walking Tour A (10/23 Afternoon)</li> <li>Rebuilding Savannah's Traditional Inner-City Neighborhoods (10/23 Afternoon)</li> </ul>	\$10 \$15	
Reduinding Savainian's Traditional Innet-City Neighborhoods (10/23 Arternoon)     Hutchinson Island Development (10/24 Morning)	\$15 \$15	
<ul> <li>Savannah Development and Renewal Authority, Broughton Street and Martin Luther</li> </ul>		
Boulevard./Montgomery Street Corridor Revitalization (10/24 Morning)	\$15	
Fun Events:	410	
Savannah Ghost Tour (10/23 Evening after Reception - 90 minute walking tour)	\$20	
<b>2</b> Golf Tournament (10/24 Afternoon)	\$50	
Fishing Trip (10/24 Afternoon) - price TBA; please check if you would like informat		
Intal Fee Englosed		\$

<u>Hotel Reservations</u>: Rooms are \$145/night for single or double - call the hotel directly at (912) 233-7722 and mention the Georgia Planning Association conference.

For more information, contact York Phillips, AICP, at <a href="mailto:yphillips@glynncounty.org">yphillips@glynncounty.org</a>

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WORKING TO BETTER OUR COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT

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# **Georgia Chapter Welcomes New AICP Members**

The American Institute of Certified Planners announces that the ranks of professionally-certified planners within the Georgia Chapter could add 22 new members as a result of their experience and test scores in the examination concluded this past May. All that remains is payment of their fees and these Chapter members will attain the status of Member in Good Standing with the American Institute of Certified Planners. The Georgia Chapter extends a heartfelt congratulations to these people and sincere appreciation for the hard work and determination that led them to achieve this personal milestone in their professional careers.

The newest candidates for Chapter AICP status are:

Ms. Claudia Martin Bilotto Mrs. Shannon G. Kettering Mr. Brian J. Binzer Mr. Jonathan Lewis Mr. Brian Borden Ms. Sian Llewellyn Mr. Harold Buckley Ms. Rebekah Ann Morrison Mr. Stephen Cote Ms. Lisa M. Nicholas Ms. Elizabeth A. Drake Mrs. Mary O'Donnell Mr. Raymon F. Gibson Mr. Patrick M. Peters Ms. Marilyn P. Hall Mr. Clayton Preston

Mr. Andrew Charles Smith Mr. Alan Kendal Steinbeck Ms. Pamela Kay Thompson Ms. Erin C.K. Tilghman Mr. Runzhou Zhang

Mr. James D. Pugsley

# **American Farmland Trust Helps Communities Plan for Agriculture**

Planning for agriculture is as important as planning for development. It creates the framework for an economically and environmentally sustainable agricultural industry. An effective plan includes land use policies and programs to keep land available and affordable for farming, as well as economic development tools to make farming profitable. By incorporating both of these elements into a plan, communities can preserve their rural character, support farmers and protect an important natural resource.

American Farmland Trust (AFT) helps communities plan for agriculture. AFT is a private, non-profit organization that has 23 years of experience protecting land and working with land use planners, the agricultural community, government agencies, elected officials and others. AFT fills a special niche in the land protection movement, helping communities build support for the protection of working farm, ranch and forest land and create effective land protection strategies. Its team of experts includes more than 100 staff members with a wide range of professional and academic backgrounds - land use planners, farmers, ranchers, lawyers, policy experts, agricultural economists, appraisers and wildlife biologists.

AFT can help you prepare a plan for agriculture that includes:

- Land Use Policies and Programs: Purchase of development rights, transfer of development rights, agricultural districts, agricultural zoning, cluster zoning, right-to-farm, and tax relief.
- Economic Development Tools: Agritourism, direct marketing, branding of local products, value-added processing, and product diversification.
- Policy and program creation and implementation: Cost of Community Services studies, workshops, surveys and focus groups, agricultural industry profiles and mapping.

AFT has successfully worked across the country with communities and organizations including the state of Maine; the three-county Connecticut River Valley in Massachusetts; Saratoga County, New York; Pierce County, Washington; Lake County, Illinois; Teton Regional Land Trust in Idaho; and the Colorado Cattleman's Association.

For more information about how AFT can help your community plan for agriculture, please contact Jill Schwartz at 202-331-7300 x3011, or jschwartz@farmland.org, or visit AFT's website at www.farmland.org.

# **Board of Directors, 2003-2005 Candidate Statements**

# **Vice President for Programs**

(vote for one)

### Tom W. Sills, AICP

I am seeking your support to serve the Chapter as Vice President of Programs. I bring to the position my years of experience with GPA and active participation in the development of its conferences and other programs over those years. I have also been involved in establishing conferences and district lunches for other organizations and purposes within this state. My experience includes organizing and presenting sessions, securing keynote and topic speakers, and developing and reviewing conference arrangements. I would like to see our programs provide solid information in a format that provides maximum value for you and your clients in every corner of this state.

By way of introduction, I have nineteen years of experience as a practicing planner with nonprofit, regional and local planning bodies in Tennessee and Georgia. I now serve as the Planning Director of the Chattahoochee-Flint Regional Development Center, a regional agency that serves five counties in western Georgia and is located in Franklin, Georgia. My educational background includes a Masters degree in Planning and AICP certification. I feel that my background and previous role as the VP of Professional Development (a role that has been phased out under the new bylaws) gives me a solid perspective on the training needs of the GPA membership statewide. As a member of the GPA executive boards I have actively supported the provision of training within this state. I have worked with the other board members in scheduling most of the Chapter's workshops over the past five years. With my support, the Executive Board of GPA has authorized the use of chapter funds to support district GPA meetings in the various regions of the state.

It is my desire to continue and support these types of programs. With my job background and experience in developing professional training programs within the state, I feel that I am qualified to serve as the Vice President of Programs. I ask for your vote so that together we can continue to improve GPA's services and programs for its members statewide.

### Rob LeBeau, AICP

As Vice President for Programs, I will work for the improvement and continuing development of GPA and fairly represent its members. The focus of the VP for Programs position is to ensure that quality programs are offered to GPA members to increase learning, growth, and excellence as planning professionals and officials in Georgia. The cornerstone of these programs is the annual Fall Conference, in conjunction with the annual membership meeting, Spring Conference, and other special activities, such as planner's luncheons. My vision for these programs is as follows:

**Fall Conference.** This is the most important event held for the GPA membership. The Fall Conference should provide ample

opportunity to learn about the planning profession through classroom sessions, mobile workshops, discussions, and social activities. High quality speakers using interactive, multimedia presentations will be sought. I fully concur with the new directive to move the annual conference to different sites throughout the state and future meetings will be based on feedback from you, the GPA membership. There is no better way to learn about planning in other communities than to visit them first-hand!

**Membership Meeting.** An annual membership meeting is typically held during the Fall Conference. As VP for Programs, I will ensure that this meeting is one of the highlights of the conference, not just a footnote. This meeting is an opportunity for the membership to receive an update on the organization, meet the Directors, ask questions, and influence the direction of GPA.

**Spring Conference.** The last two years have featured a GPA Spring Conference with a focus on one or two specific topics. I propose continuing this two-day event to highlight timely topics and offer training on pertinent issues.

**Special Activities.** Other events, such as luncheons or workshops, may be coordinated or co-sponsored by GPA throughout the year. These events should be planned as warranted and as interest, time and budget allow. Regional events sponsored by GPA members and local organizations throughout the state will be encouraged.

**Feedback.** I will strive to receive and respond to as much feedback as possible from the membership. The best way to improve an event is to assess its effectiveness. The best way to meet an individual's needs is to ask him/her what they want. I will use surveys to gauge the success of the conferences and other events to seek input for future improvements. Events take a lot of time and effort and cannot be completed alone. Therefore, I will work closely with planning committees in all facets of these events. Volunteers are essential to successfully plan and staff the events.

I believe that my experience and desire to work for the GPA membership ideally suits me for the position of Vice President for Programs. I am an AICP planner and project manager with thirteen years of experience in government and private sector planning. Currently, I am a Principal Planner in the Land Use Division of the Atlanta Regional Commission. I have been a member of APA for over 10 years and actively involved in the Georgia and Florida chapters of APA during that time. Throughout my career and involvement with other organizations, I have coordinated or helped plan many events and activities (including the last two GPA Spring Conferences). I understand the importance of these events, the details required to make them happen, and the commitment required to be successful. I will strive to bring you quality programs that meet your needs. I also look forward to actively participating on the GPA Executive Committee and Board of Directors to enhance the reputation and membership of GPA. SCREVEN

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# Vice President for Chapter Services

(vote for one)

### Alexander C. Ikefuna

Community Planning Administrator, City of Savannah. Previously, Senior Planner, Southeast Georgia Regional Development Center, Waycross. MA, Urban Planning, University of Akron.

Commitment to GPA: I am pleased to run for re-election for another two-year term (2003-2005) as the GPA's Vice President for Chapter Services. I have been an active member of GPA for more than twelve years and have served on the Board as At-Large Director; as a judge on the GPA Awards Committee five times, and chaired the committee in 2000 and 2001; and as the Vice President for Chapter Services from 2001 - 2003. I am particularly proud of GPA as well as honored to be part of its numerous accomplishments and efforts to promote planning in Georgia.

**Position Statement:** In 2001, I promised that if elected, I would: work to improve services for GPA members, including ensuring the publication of a chapter membership roster; bringing a measure of stability to the publication of the newsletter and establishment of a website. Today GPA has a website that showcases chapter activities, a stable newsletter and a published bi-annual membership directory. Additionally, our membership has grown by 13% between 2001 and 2003; the growth is expected to continue with the current chapter only and outreach recruitment strategies. If re-elected, I would continue to work with the Board to expand and improve services for members, implement a Listserv system, support efforts to promote planning profession and membership diversity, and educate lawmakers and the general public about the benefits of good planning. I want the opportunity to continue to take a more active role in working for the progress of GPA. Finally, I bring a team spirit and reliability to the Board.

# Michelle M. Wright, AICP

CHAMBERS

Opelika

Thank you for this opportunity to run for Vice President of Chapter Services. I have been an APA and GPA member for close to 16 years. I have participated in many GPA functions, including setting up luncheons and speakers. I would be honored to serve the planners in Georgia. I have worked for several governments, and interacted with various state, federal and regional agencies throughout my career. I have the necessary time and skills to serve GPA well. If elected, I plan to be a very active member and to bring new ideas forth. Once again, I look forward to this opportunity.

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# Secretary

(vote for one)

### Tracy S. Dunnavant, AICP

As an active member of GPA, I appreciate the opportunity I have been given to run for the position of Secretary. Having reviewed the required duties, I believe that I possess the qualifications and enthusiasm needed to serve in this capacity. I currently have over thirteen years of planning related experience and presently hold the position of Community Development Director with the City of Carrollton. Part of my responsibilities includes serving as a liaison to the City's Planning Commission, Board of Development Appeals, and Historic Preservation Commission. As such, I take minutes, prepare agendas, assemble packets, and maintain official records for each of these entities. In my previous position with the City of Villa Rica, I performed similar duties for the Mayor and City Council and also acted as Secretary/Treasurer for the Downtown Development Authority. I have roughly fifty hours towards acquiring a City Clerk's certification through UGA's continuing education program and have taken courses in records management, ethics, and open meetings/records law.

In terms of education, I hold a Masters in Public Administration from Western Kentucky University. I became AICP certified in 1999 and have attended GPA conferences since becoming employed with the City of Carrollton in 1996. I currently serve on GPA's Urban Design Committee and also the Professional Development Committee. I would welcome the opportunity to further my involvement in GPA by becoming your Secretary. I see this position as a chance for me to give back to the organization, while continuing to learn more about GPA and its members.

### Flor Velarde, AICP

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Wrightsvill

I am currently a Principal Planner for the Bureau of Planning, Department of Planning and Community Development at the City of Atlanta. I am in charge of redevelopment, planning, implementation of plans and leading the City's Livable Centers initiatives. I have also worked as an Economic Development and Housing Planner and have been involved in current and long-range planning. I have been a professional planner in the private and public sector for almost 20 years. Prior to coming to Atlanta I was a planning consultant for the City of Seattle and have worked as a Land use and Economic Development Planner for the City of Lima-Peru. I received a Bachelor degree in Architecture and Urban Planning from Federico Villarreal University, Lima-Peru and a Master degree in City Planning from Georgia Institute of Technology. I also completed coursework on Land Use Law and Growth Management at the University of Washington.

I have been a member of APA for over 15 years. During this period I belonged to the Georgia Chapter and to the Washington State Chapter- Puget Sound Section. I was actively involved with GPA. I was a member of the Luncheons Committee in the late 1980s. GPA needs to increase its role in making the State a

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great place to live. I would like to contribute to this endeavor by serving as Secretary. The Chapter needs to expand availability to planners and others throughout the State for ongoing training opportunities, support and information on a wide range of issues and topics. I will work with the Board to produce a Strategic Plan to strengthen the organization and to increase membership participation and training. I will seek to do the following: Actively participate in the Spring 2004 Conference. Program and market more and smaller gatherings so more people can attend (an example could be Brownbag presentations). Improve support to AICP candidates by providing more training opportunities in their jurisdictions Research ideas from other APA chapters to identify income-producing programs. Promote sponsorship of events by private firms.

I am aware of the commitment involved in being an officer and would like to offer my time, energy, dedication and enthusiasm in addition to my education and experience. I find planning to be challenging and exciting that have long-term benefits for the communities. I look forward to being your next Georgia Chapter APA Secretary.

### Treasurer

(vote for one)

### Pat Chapman

Professional Experience: Currently Director of Planning & Development, Barrow County, GA. Consultant in private practice 1998 2003. Senior Project Manager, D. Garvey Corp. 1995 1998. Manager of Advance Planning, Gwinnett County GA 1986 1995. Senior Planner, Fulton County, GA 1975 1986.

**GPA Experience:** Treasurer since 1996, Planning Officials Development Officer, Director of Community Planning Institute, registration chair for past three fall conferences and southeast regional conference. Committee Chair for Student Support, APA National Planning Conference in Atlanta.

**Position Statement:** It has been my privilege to serve as the Chapter's Treasurer for the past eight years during which time I instituted an automated accounting system that allows for timely reporting regarding the chapter's financial position. I would be honored to continue serving the chapter as its Treasurer.

### Ellen Heath, AICP

Opelika

I have worked at EDAW for 17+ years (currently Principal/Vice President). In my role as planning studio leader I participate in and direct a wide variety of projects, including comprehensive planning, visioning, and environmental planning. Prior to EDAW, I worked for the National Park Service at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site for four years. I received a Masters of City Planning from Georgia Tech in 1982. I believe that my experience in both the public and private sectors allows me to understand the perspective of all kinds of planners.

I previously served two terms on GPA's Board of Directors (Secretary), and chaired the Elections Committee in 1997. In

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addition, I have served two terms as the Federal Planners' Division Secretary/Treasurer. In that position, I became familiar with APA financial procedures and reporting requirements.

I believe that it is important to support APA and GPA, and I am honored to be asked to run for office again. I pledge to fulfill faithfully the duties of Treasurer if elected. I understand that judicious and effective use of GPA funds is a serious responsibility of the Board of Directors. In addition, I will be an active member in other Board activities and do my best to represent the interests of all GPA members.

# **AICP Director**

(vote for two)

### **Eric Linton, AICP**

Since my initial involvement with GPA, I have worked diligently to improve the overall planning process. My primary focus has always been working within a community and trying to make a difference. From my five-year tenure in the City of Gainesville and Hall County, to my current Directorship in Douglas County, I always strive to assist the public any way possible. This "grass roots" approach has served my communities and career well.

I will continue to bring this same policy to the GPA Board. As the AICP At-Large Director, I will strive to bring a higher level of respect and professionalism to Georgia. Many of you know the level of professionalism I stand for. For those of you who do not, rest assured that I bring with me the highest ethical standards and a no-nonsense attitude. I look forward to the privilege and opportunity to represent Georgia's planning chapter.

# Mary Huffstetler, AICP

I am interested in continuing to serve on the GPA Board in the position of AICP Director At Large. I have a diverse background in environmental and transportation planning working with the Metropolitan Planning Organization and Regional Development Center in Augusta and two private consulting firms in Atlanta. I earned a Masters Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida State University and have over six years experience working in the planning profession. I earned my AICP certification in 2000.

I have been active in GPA for several years and am currently serving as AICP Director At Large and the Chair for the GPA Transportation Committee. I have been very supportive of all efforts to strengthen the AICP exam preparation offered by GPA and pledge to continue support for this invaluable service the organization must continue to offer to candidates seeking AICP certification. I also intend to continue to strengthen the involvement of transportation planners in GPA by increasing opportunities for participation. I am open to new ideas and suggestions and would be happy to discuss any issues GPA members would like to see strengthened in the future of the organization.

A Millen Sylvania HAMPTON

### Dan Basso, AICP

Biography: After some 20-years with the Internal Revenue Service, I went back to school in 1997 to earn my MCP at Georgia Tech and begin a career in planning. I am currently a Senior Planner with the Office of Coordinated Planning of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and currently serve on the Board of Directors of GPA. Most recently, I passed the written exam for membership in the American Institute of Certified Planners.

**Statement:** GPA should be more accessible to the membership by offering more opportunities for members to take part in GPA sponsored planning activities. I want the new Board to be proactive about identifying the interests of the membership and to be able to sponsor events or activities that will encourage participation and promote interaction among members. As Chair of the Student Services Subcommittee, I have proposed a program that will offer our regular members the opportunity the share their knowledge and expertise in planning with our student members. As part of a new Board, I will continue to promote activities that will encourage greater involvement with GPA by its members.

### Deborah A. Miness, AICP

I am an AICP-certified Planner with over 20 years of experience in planning at the local, regional and state levels. I got my start in planning at the Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) in 1982. Since that time, I have worked as a planning consultant for a variety of communities in Florida under that state's Growth Management Act, as a Senior Planner for Martin County, Florida, as a Regional Planner for the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, and as the Director of Comprehensive Planning for the Savannah-Chatham MPC. I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Armstrong State University of Savannah, and a Master of Public Administration from Florida Atlantic University (FAU), where my program specialized in environmental growth management.

I have been the Assistant Director of the Office of Coordinated Planning at Georgia Department of Community Affairs for three and a half years. I am in charge of the Coordinated Planning Program, which includes a variety of local, regional and intergovernmental planning functions, such as local comprehensive planning and environmental protection, countywide service delivery strategy requirements, Development of Regional Impact review, and RDC regional plans and contracts with DCA.

I came to this position with a goal to elevate the level and emphasis on planning in Georgia, having studied Georgia's "Growth Strategies" in the context of other state and regional growth management programs nationwide. This research was central to my work as Research Coordinator at Lincoln Institute of Land Policy in Cambridge, Massachusetts. During my six years at the Institute, I worked closely on research/publication projects with John M. DeGrove, then Director of the FAU/FIU Joint Center for Environmental and Urban Problems. I also did

research on local growth management systems, tools and techniques with Robert C. Einsweiler, then Lincoln's Director of Research.

I believe that both in the administration of our programs and in upgrading our minimum standards, DCA has made substantial progress toward improving the quality of planning in Georgia. Much more remains to be done, and one of my principal goals as a board member of GPA is to strengthen state planning programs and increase the visibility of planning in the realm of Georgia state politics. I have eagerly agreed to become a member of GPA's Legislative Committee, which I hope will continue to evolve into a vehicle for GPA to make its views better known to our state policymakers.

My other involvement in GPA has included chairing the Sessions subcommittee of the Annual 2003 Fall Conference Committee and chairing the Web Site subcommittee for Chapter Services. On behalf of DCA I was honored to accept a GPA Chapter Plan Implementation Award for 2002 for our Model Code for Alternatives to Conventional Zoning. Recently, I have been nominated for a seat in this year's Environmental Leadership Training program of the Governor's Environmental Advisory Council.

I have served in a non-voting capacity on the GPA Board since October 2002, as DCA Liaison. While I feel this is an important role, I am eager to become a voting member with more direct impact on decisions that affect our organization, and our state. For this reason I have accepted the nomination as an AICP Director.

# **Non-AICP Director**

(vote for three)

### Diana Wheeler

I have been the Community Development Director for the City of Alpharetta for the past ten years. Prior to this position, I held comparable positions in two, fast growing south Florida communities. In addition to twenty years in the planning "trenches", I hold a bachelors degree in architecture and master of architecture and urban design degree from Columbia University. I also served as the President of the South Florida Planning and Zoning Association.

Having worked primarily in high growth areas, most of my career has been focused around growth management issues, particularly in communities that are on the verge of becoming urbanized. I see this type of growth occurring throughout Georgia and understand the planning related issues that loom on our horizon. However, I also know the challenges that lie ahead of us: a fragmented state governmental structure, urban vs. rural issues, air quality and water supply, as well as some archaic aspects of Georgia law...just to name a few. I believe that opportunities will present themselves in the next few years that will allow GPA to make significant planning advances that will

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not only benefit our communities, but serve as models for others. Having served on the GPA Board for the past couple of years, I've had an opportunity to participate in some of the positive changes that have occurred in our organization. I would like the opportunity to continue to serve and help GPA get to the next level for its members and the planning profession.

### **Kathleen Field**

I am currently employed as the Community Development Director for the City of Roswell. Previously, I served in the following positions: Director of Planning for the Boston Housing Authority, Planning Director for the Travelers Aid Society of Rhode Island, Planning Director of Providence, RI, Policy Director for the Lt. Governor of RI, and Community Development Director of Newburyport, MA.

**Education:** Trinity College, Washington, DC, AB. George Washington University, MURP.

As a practicing planner for nearly thirty years, the opportunities presented to me to influence public policy and undertake projects affecting the public good have been truly prolific. From these experiences, I have learned first hand that planners, more than any other professionals, have a unique opportunity to impact a community's future growth. It is important, therefore, that organizations such as GPA take a lead role in assuring that its members remain informed on up-to-date and effective planning techniques. If elected, I want to make sure that all of the requisite tools for fostering good planning practices are available through the Chapter. Specifically, I will actively support two conferences per year as well as series of annual training seminars and workshops to assist us in fulfilling our respective planning responsibilities. Additionally, I feel that our local Planning Commissioners and members of other related Boards and Commissions need to be provided with high quality training programs. As a professional planning organization, I believe that GPA can most ably provide this training.

# Cheryl K. Contant

Professor and Director, City and Regional Planning Program, Georgia Tech.

Four years ago, I moved to Georgia to direct the City and Regional Planning Program at Georgia Tech. In the classroom, I have promoted the importance of professional organizations such as APA and GPA to our next generation of professional planners. I currently serve on the Planning Accreditation Board (one of three educators on the eight member board that accredits undergraduate and master's program in planning) and have been an APA member for over 20 years. I have been an active participant and speaker at GPA conferences. If elected, I would work hard: (1) to promote planning issues in Georgia through research, education, and legislation; (2) to advance professional development opportunities for Georgia's planners; and (3) to work with our sister organizations on issues and problems that cross disciplinary boundaries. It would indeed be an honor and privilege to participate on the GPA Board of Directors.

### **Eve Brothers**

Coordinator of Planning/Zoning/Building Inspections, City of Hapeville.

# **Director, District 1**

### Larry Vanden Bosch, AICP

Planning Director, North Georgia Regional Development Center.

# **Director, District 2**

### **Kip Padgett**

I believe planning to be an integral part of today's society and a necessary tool for the success of a county or municipal government. If elected Director of District 2, I will strive to raise awareness of the importance of planning. I will contact county, municipal, and regional planning agencies within my district quarterly to discuss issues they may have and discuss any assistance GPA may be to them as they perform their duties. I hold a Bachelors and Masters Degree and have been in planning for over ten years. I currently serve as the Director of Planning and Development for the City of Gainesville. I have also served as the Director of Planning for Dawson County and in Athens-Clarke County as a Planner and MPO Coordinator.

# **Director, District 3**

(vote for one)

### David C. Kirk, AICP

Employment: Since 1999, I have worked as an Associate in the Legislative and Administrative Law Practice Group of the Atlanta-based law firm Troutman Sanders LLP. I represent public and private sector clients on land use and planning issues ranging from annexation to zoning, and on other governmental and regulatory matters. My clients include local governments, neighborhood groups, community foundations, telecommunications companies, developers, private businesses, and individuals in the Atlanta region and throughout Georgia.

Prior to beginning my law career, I spent twelve years on the staff of the Atlanta Regional Commission in both the Land Use and Transportation Planning sections, most recently as Deputy Chief of Transportation Planning. While at ARC, I served as an Adjunct Professor in the City Planning Program at Georgia Tech for two years, and continue to serve as a guest lecturer at Georgia Tech, as well as at Georgia State University's College of Law. I also am on the faculty of the Atlanta Regional Commission's "Community Planning Academy," which provides ongoing training on Georgia planning and zoning issues to elected officials, planning commissioners, members of zoning boards of appeals, professional planners, and citizens.

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**Past GPA Service:** From 1989 - 1991, I served as President of GPA. Prior to that time, I held a wide variety of GPA leadership positions, including Vice-President and Chair of the Programs Committee. Following my service as GPA President, I served for two years as a Commissioner of AICP.

**Education:** I earned my Bachelor's degree from Duke University, a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School. I also studied town planning for a year at the Australian National University under the auspices of a Rotary Foundation International Fellowship.

Candidate Statement: I am honored to be nominated for the District 3 Director position, and to have the opportunity to once again serve my fellow planners as a member of the GPA Board. I know from past experience that the level of commitment of the members of the Board directly affects the quality of services GPA offers it members. I pledge to work closely with GPA's incoming President, and with all other Board members and committee chairs, to focus our energy and talent on strengthening GPA's ability to serve its members with high quality programs and services. Also, if elected to represent District 3, I will strive to represent the interests and concerns of planners in metropolitan Atlanta to the best of my ability. I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of my candidacy.

### Ken Suddreth

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Planning Director for the City of Duluth; Assistant Planning Director for Athens-Clarke County; Zoning Administrator for Athens-Clarke County; Planning Technician for Athens-Clarke County; Project Manager for City of Gainesville. Master degree in Public Administration UGA; BA in Urban Studies Furman University. Member of the 2002-03 Regional Development Plan Update Team coordinated through ARC; Graduate of Leadership Athens Program.

I have been in the planning field in various capacities from entry level to Director since 1977 in several communities of different sizes. During this time I have not only grown professionally but have watched the profession also grow. The increase diversity of the State and the continued growth of existing and new urban areas require us as planners to now develop tools that are specific to each geographic area of the State. As an organization we need to assist in finding solutions that fit within the uniqueness of a community or region. We need to find common threads between communities and regions where we can but we must also embrace the differences and plan accordingly. We should be willing to say that one size does not fit all and assist all of our organization's planners on how to recognize the local and regional differences so as to better interact with citizens, politicians, boards and commissions and the private sector. Our goal should be implementation and as such, we need to know when and how to lead. We as an organization have established the need for plans; now we must take it to the next level and truly assist our communities in implementing the plan.

# **Director, District 4**

(vote for one)

### **Paul Soudi**

In the late seventies, I received my masters degree from the School of Architecture of National University of Iran, which was a sister school to the School of Architecture in Florence, Italy. From 1985 to 1987, I entered an extensive planning training program in California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly). My working experience includes working with architectural firms, construction companies, land planning & consulting entities, City of Tehran, and California cities including Simi Valley and Hermosa Beach. Currently, I am the Community Development Director, directing planning & zoning activities within the City of Villa Rica, which might be the fastest growing city in the state.

My close involvement with Georgia Planning Association (GPA) started last year with my appointment as District 4 Director. I, also, became the first Chairman of the Urban Design Committee within GPA. My intention is to develop a program enabling planners, in both public and private sectors to prepare design element, which is a very effective tool for the physical development of communities. Urban Planning & Design is my passion, and I have invested three and half decades of education and working experience in it. I have an international perspective in planning, which enables me to contribute tremendously to Georgia's young planning life.

### Adam Hazell, AICP

Planning Director, McIntosh Trail Regional Development Center (Since 1996). Master's In City Planning, Ga. Tech. Certificate in Real Estate, Ga. State. Bachelor's of Science (Architecture) Ga. Tech. Certificate in Economics, Ga. Tech.

My interest in city and regional planning was developed watching metro Atlanta evolve since the 1970s and seeing how the area compared with other communities I'd visited. Since learning the art and science involved in land use management, I've become committed to helping communities be proactive in shaping their own future and participate in broader, regional systems. A common participant with GPA in the past, serving the association in an official capacity is a long-standing goal I am now prepared to fulfill. I consider it vital that we improve communication among planning professionals and officials within the state. I also believe that all levels of the public sector can become much more efficient and effective in land use management, and that many residents are now poised to better participate in the process. Georgia's next generation of comprehensive plans will be tremendous improvements over the first. Yet our objectives, expectations and challenges have also evolved, and planners must be more aware of legislative issues, social trends and new technology than ever before. Now we must ensure the planning process can follow through on these grand designs, and in any capacity I will help GPA do its part in supporting these efforts.

# **Director, District 5**

### Phil Clark

Change has come to GPA, and to date it has been great for the organization. The committee structure that has been formed has enabled members who were not active in the organization, or planners who have never considered being a member to find a home in GPA and become involved. The fall and spring conferences have become even better with the impact by the transportation, historic preservation, and urban design committees and the great session topics that have been developed by these committees. The addition of two planning officials to the GPA board will enable the organization to reach out to new segments of the "planning" population who are eager to have a home, but who are also seeking the help from GPA to better understand their role in the process. This will be a great challenge as well as an opportunity for GPA to meet this critical need.

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve District 5 over the last two years. Since the RDC of which I am currently employed serves the same area, I have had an opportunity to work with the many outstanding professionals that serve the city and county planning and zoning offices in our region. I also talk to them regularly about the needs and issues they face and how GPA can help them meet these challenges. They continuously mention the need for education for their planning and zoning commissioners and elected officials. This is one of my goals for the next two years. In the planning stages is an education workshop for planning officials and elected officials that will be held in our region in the early winter of 2004. It is hoped that this basic workshop will be held annually, and those who graduate from this basic workshop will take a more advance course or participate in a workshop that focuses on a specific topic or need.

Other goals that I have set for the next two years are to bring a GPA conference to the central Georgia region, and to actively reach out to the planning officials to become members of GPA. The former is also becoming a reality. The Spring 2004 conference will be held here in Macon on March 18-19. It will be a great event for both participants and their families since Macon will be celebrating the Cherry Blossom Festival during this time and there will be many activities for them to enjoy. To accomplish the latter goal planning official membership, through discussions with them individually at the workshops, encouragement from the city/county planning and zoning directors and distribution of materials obtained from the GPA membership committee it is hoped that many of these officials will decide to join GPA and take active part in the organization. Thank you again for your confidence and vote, and I look forward to serving District 5 again during the upcoming two years.

# **Director, District 6**

(vote for one)

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# Lori Sand, AICP

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My name is Lori Sand, I have been Planning Director for the

CSRA Regional Development Center for approximately four years. As a planner for the CSRA RDC I have the opportunity to be involved in all aspects of planning, including land use, comprehensive, transportation, environmental and greenspace, to name a few. One of the aspects of planning I have found to be most rewarding is planning programs involving youth. I have participated in several Box City projects with elementary schools, I have conducted visioning projects with high school students and have also worked on environmental planning education with children ranging from 4th grade to high school seniors. I am actively involved in most aspects of planning and look forward to actively representing my district on the GPA Board of Directors.

### Tim Young, AICP

**Employment:** Senior Planner, Columbia County Planning and Development Services, since 2001. City of McDonough, Community Development Director, 2000. Planner, Planner II, Senior Planner, Henry County, 1996-1999

**Education:** B.S. Finance (1988) and B.S Accounting, University of Tennessee School of Business. Completed coursework for Master of Science in Planning at the University of Tennessee School of Planning with 3.97 GPA.

**Past Work in GPA:** Director for the Atlanta section in 2000. Co-presented session on Henry County work with TND at the 1999 Regional Conference with Dan Camp, V.P. of Land Acquisition, Pathway Communities.

Statement: I would like to see land use become more urban in characteristic in order to reduce the dependency on automobiles, increase transit usage, and conserve agricultural and open land that may otherwise be consumed with low-density sprawl. My particular interest would be to work more in the redevelopment of older urban and suburban areas to create a more diverse and sustainable neighborhood. I would like to pursue more of the "basics" for planning in general and in the education of the requirements for urban living: what does it take to make a place urban and what items are necessary to make urban places successful. This would aid areas throughout Georgia in making (or building) urban places better.

# **Director, District 7**

### Patti Cullen

Wrightsvi

Executive Director Lower Chattahoochee Regional Development Center. Over twenty years experience in the planning profession. Education: Masters Degree in Community Planning, Auburn University, 1990; BS Degree in Home Economics Department of Consumer Affairs Major in Housing, Auburn University, 1981. Currently Director of District 7.

I am excited to be asked to continue to serve as a District Director on the Board of Directors of GPA. As Executive Director of a regional planning agency, I see the value of having an active professional organization with representation

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throughout the state. Professional planning practices and methods are needed in both urban and rural areas in order for our state to have sustainable, high quality growth. GPA provides a mechanism for all planners to come together and discuss the issues facing our state and region. As Director of District 7, I will continue to strive to represent professional planners and local governments in both the urban and rural areas of our district.

# **Director, District 8**

(vote for one)

### Paul Forgey, AICP

My background and area of specialization is in historic preservation. As I have progressed in my career from hands-on restoration to historic preservation planning and then on to general planning, it has become clear that planning involves all facets of society. Successful planning recognizes the interdependence of all these aspects, and from this, strives to build community.

I have been with the Southwest Georgia Regional Development Center since 1995; first as Regional Historic Preservation Planner and as Planning Director since 1998. I am currently District 8 Director for the Georgia Planning Association and serve on the Executive, Programs, Historic Preservation and Awards Committees. My participation in GPA is motivated by the desire to make Georgia a better place through planning. Historic preservation is an important component of Georgia's past and its future.

If reelected, I intend to continue working to incorporate historic preservation into the larger realm of planning through district events, annual conference sessions and the activities of the HP committee.

# Pamela Kay Thompson, AICP

I have been the County Planner of Lee County since October 2000 and have gained much experience through this position. I am the only planner for a rapidly growing rural county that has seen a 52% population increase since the 1990 Census. I have previously worked for the City of Powder Springs as well as the City of Roswell, both located in the metropolitan Atlanta area. My experience has allowed me to view the different challenges planners face in different communities ranging from the very large to the very rural.

I am from Lee County and have entered the planning profession in order to make my community a better place to live, work and play. I understand the citizens' point of view and the delicate balance between preserving the rural character that makes our district special, while allowing for quality growth and development.

My educational experience consists of a bachelor's degree from Mercer University and a Master of Public Administration degree from Georgia Southern. I have taken the Community Planning

Institute course along with the additional continuing educational courses offered through GPA and GAZA. I was recently eligible to take the AICP and received my AICP certification this year.

I have been a member of GPA since October 2000 and have learned the valuable role this organization plays in shaping the future of Georgia. I would like to take a more active part in this worthwhile association and feel that my skills and abilities will allow me to make a valuable contribution as district director.

If elected, I would like to educate the governmental units in this district about the many tools and resources available to allow them to plan their communities. Transitional areas require extensive education about the "benefits" of planning and how it can help and not over regulate an area. Many small communities do not have the benefit of a planner and are not aware of how the RDC and other organizations can help them achieve the goal of quality growth. Thank you for your consideration in electing me as District Director.

# **Director, District 9**

### Wayne Kilmark, AICP

Director of Planning and Codes, Ware County.

# **Director, District 10**

(vote for one)

# Leroy "Lee" Sutton

Employment: Pubic Service Representative/Urban Planner, University of Georgia, School of Marine Programs, Marine Extension Service, since 2002. Glynn County Community Development Department, Planner III, 1999-2002. County Government Department Head, Madison County, Georgia, 1998-1999.

**Education:** MBA classes at Brenau University beginning fall 2003. B.S. Business Administration, Emmanuel College, 1998. A.A. Marketing Management, Athens Area Technical Institute.

Intentions and Interests if Elected: Continue hosting the ESRI ArcView Coastal User Group meetings. Continue purchasing and sponsoring APA audio conferences in coastal Georgia. Continue hosting AICP study groups. Improve communications among all planners within the five major watersheds of coastal Georgia and other regional organizations. Advertise useful training/workshops in the coastal district to take advantage of evolving and adapting opportunities that are more than the sum of our parts, leveraging the talents and resources of a long list of federal, state, regional, local, and private organizations to the betterment of the coastal district. Create and provide a host site for a coastal district events calendar of upcoming land use management events. Host additional training opportunities such as time management skills, GIS and other training as requested by the coastal district and approved by the Board of Directors.

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Continue to promote organized training for Planning Commissions and Zoning Boards of Appeal. Other functions as directed by the Board of Directors and members of District 10.

### Thomas D. Wilson, AICP

In my present position, Director of Comprehensive Planning with the Chatham County Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission, I manage the agency's long range and environmental planning programs. I also serve as Project Director for the Tricentennial Plan, a program that will lead to the update of City and County comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances.

Prior to joining the MPC, I served as Planning Director in Beaufort County, South Carolina, the most rapidly growing county in the state during the 1990s. While with Beaufort County, I oversaw adoption of a new comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance. The comprehensive plan received a Merit Award at the 1999 national conference of the American Society of Landscape Architects. From 1989 to 1997, I served in the State University System as Assistant Director of the Joint Center for Environmental and Urban Problems at Florida International University in Miami. From 1984 to 1989, I was Assistant Planning Director for City of Key West.

My reason for running for District Director 10 is to provide experienced leadership, enhance communication among planners, and promote intergovernmental discussion on issues of local importance, such as comprehensive plan updates and zoning ordinance modernization. I believe that creating more channels for the exchange of information is vitally important to the region's future. While the Regional Development Center does an effective job of assisting individual units of government, the District Director can expand that role and create new opportunities for interaction among planners and their agencies.

Planners in the Atlanta region regularly learn from each other's experiences, but the relative isolation of planners in the coastal region makes it difficult to learn about colleagues' experiences. If elected, I will seek to reduce communication barriers by establishing small, topic area interest groups. Specialized groups are more likely to meet and remain in regular contact than general interest groups. The topic area groups can then communicate with the larger community through a listsery (such as a Yahoo group), which the District Director can host. This will not replace direct contact, but supplement it.

Another important role of the District Director is that of an advocate for the region. Legislation and policy decisions in Atlanta can have significant impacts locally. As District Director, I will monitor legislation, public policy, rule making, and grant availability for its local relevance and post the information on the listsery for general discussion.

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# **Planning Official**

(vote for two)

### Helen L. Stone

My qualifications include current Chair of the Chatham-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission and a great proponent of planning. I am also the past Chair of the Savannah Zoning Board of Appeals, member and President of the Chatham-Savannah Humane Society; Vice Chair of the Town Committee for the Colonial Dames. An avid horsewoman, I am the past Coastal Hunter Champion for the local Equestrian Circuit.

These experiences, when combined with a deep love and affection for her community, led me to accept an appointment to the Chatham-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission in November of 1996. I was elected Secretary to the Commission in 1997 and 1998; Vice Chair in 1999, and Chairman in 2000 to present. During my extended term as Chair of the Commission, I led a successful campaign to fund a much-needed revision of the local Zoning Ordinance, which is over 40 years old. Funding was secured from both the City of Savannah and Chatham County to develop a unified zoning ordinance that is tied to the comprehensive plan. I am a strong supporter of citizen participation process and have worked tirelessly to ensure that citizens are involved in planning and zoning issues that affect their neighborhoods. I regularly attend both National APA and GPA conferences. These impressive civic accomplishments and planning background make me an excellent candidate for the Planning Official position. I am proud and glad to be nominated for the position of Planning Official.

### Barbara Garrett

My name is Barbara Garrett and I live in Duluth, Georgia. I have been a member of our city's planning commission for about 18 months. I do volunteer work for the Fall Festival and the Gwinnett Hospital Foundation, so I am obviously interested in my community and fellow citizens.

My current job is as a Project Manager for Equant (a France Telecom company). I am responsible for our calling card program for employees and manage over 3000 cards. I am also responsible for the corporate videoconference service, which includes over 40 sites globally. I have learned so much about people from other cultures because of this job. I have also been an instructor of computer and software classes at local technical colleges for the past four years. I enjoy teaching people not to be afraid of computers and watching them make friends with their computers.

Although I am over 50, I just graduated from college about four years ago. I am a graduate of Oglethorpe University in Atlanta. My degree is in Business Administration with a minor in computer science. I graduated magna cum laude. I have collected a wide spectrum of skills over the years I have worked.

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I have been in Marketing, Advertising, Sales, Customer Service, Accounting and Information Systems. I have been trained to be a Certified Internet Webmaster. I enjoy using HTML to develop sites for charity organizations, but I do not use it in my job. I have supervised personnel in the past. I am very analytical and organized. As I currently work for a person in Germany and have global responsibilities and team memberships, I am also skilled at "virtual" teamwork. All of these skills should help to make me a valuable addition to the Board of GPA.

I attended the Zoning Administrator's meeting last year in Savannah and was fascinated by all I learned. I would someday like to work in a planning department of a small city or county. The more meetings I attend, the more I understand how complicated planning can be and how a decision made by 5-6 people can impact so many people. I am especially fascinated by all the legal aspects of planning and zoning. If elected, I would do my best to represent my city and all the planners in the state. I would look forward to all I could learn from this experience. Thank you for your consideration.

### Christi Trombetti, AICP

My name is Christi Trombetti and I am very interested in and appreciative of the potential opportunity to serve GPA as a Planning Commission member of the Board of Directors. I am currently serving on the Cobb County Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals. In addition to these positions, I am a member of the County's Open Space Community Ordinance Development Committee. Previously, I worked full time as a planner in local government for seven years where I was able to serve as a liaison for various Atlanta Regional Commission committees and initiatives.

With regard to GPA, I had the opportunity to serve on the Legislative Affairs Committee for 2002-2003 and would like to use a position on the Board of Directors to encourage GPA's continued efforts toward legislative reform of the Georgia Planning Act. In addition, one of my greatest concerns is the education of local officials and citizens to help ease the pains of growth and change experienced in many communities today and in the future. Further, continuing education for planners and

amending DCA requirements for intergovernmental coordination in planning and development are areas of interest that I would like to see discussed and addressed by GPA next year.

I really believe my experience and current positions will help me be an asset for the Board. Please feel free to contact me to discuss any of the above and thank you in advance for your support!

### **David Hancock**

I became interested in design at an early age when my father, an architect in Montgomery, Alabama, would take me with him to his office and as he inspected building sites. My mother worked at the Central Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission, and when I was in high school I worked a summer job there. I also was able to go on field trips around the state. I graduated from Auburn University with an Engineering degree in 1983, and for the next seven years worked as a programmer for a traffic engineering firm in Atlanta, GA. This gave me a valuable opportunity to learn the secrets of computerized traffic control, as I worked on systems for the City of Los Angeles, Denver, Toronto and Hartford, among others. By the early 1990s I had moved to Suwanee, Georgia and became involved in local government, even running for a spot on the Suwanee City Council. I am a member of the Suwanee Planning and Zoning Commission

During my time in Suwanee, I have learned more about planning and community development through my participation in many local projects, including serving three terms as President of my homeowner's association and member of the committee that developed "The Town Master Plan, A Comprehensive Plan to the Year 2020," presented to Suwanee in November of 2000. My position on the Suwanee Planning and Zoning Board keeps me intimately involved with various aspects of planning, including zoning issues, parks and recreation needs, open space land preservation, effective public transportation, traffic impact studies, traffic flow and traffic calming devices, architectural guidelines, and cemetery and historic site preservation. If elected, I plan to continue pursuit of these interests, and look forward to increasing my circle of contacts to be better able to effect changes for a better Georgia.

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Change of Address: The Georgia Chapter does not maintain address lists. All lists are maintained at the national office and are mailed to the local chapters each month. If you have moved, e-mail: addresschange@planning.org, go to Member Login at www.planning.org, or write to:

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*Membership Information:* If you are interested in joining GPA or the American Planning Association, contact the national headquarters at the address above or call (312) 431-9100.

*Submission:* The Georgia Planning Association welcomes articles, letters to the editor, photos of planning events or state happenings, calendar listings, job notices, planners on the move, etc. We are always interested in publishing items you think may be of interest to others throughout the state. Graphics are especially welcome. Articles may be edited for space. Articles printed in any issue of The Georgia Planner are not the expressed opinion of the Chapter.

*Deadline:* The deadline for the next issue is August 31, 2003. Send Items for the newsletter to:

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