



GPA Fall Conference

Annual Membership Meeting

1. Call to Order – Allison Stewart-Harris
2. Treasurer's Report – Sidney Douse
3. Board Nominations and Elections – Kristen Wescott
4. GPA Evolution Update – Allison Stewart-Harris
5. Adjourn



Treasurer's Report

TREASURER'S REPORT

GPA 2026 Budget		2026 Budget	2025 Actuals -Q2/July 2026
Revenue			
Sponsorships		\$ 15,000	\$ 41,765
Program Services		\$ 170,600	\$ 47,934
Membership Dues		\$ 46,000	\$ 21,112
Totals		\$ 231,600	\$ 110,811
Expenditures			
Professional fees and Financial Services		\$ (51,000)	\$ (27,089)
Awards & Recognitions		\$ (1,000)	\$ (311)
Programs		\$ (166,245)	\$ (61,126)
Board related expenses		\$ (12,500)	\$ (1,165)
Totals		\$ (230,745)	\$ (89,691)
Excess Revenue (Expense)		\$ 855	\$ 21,121

TREASURER'S REPORT

Georgia Chapter of the American Planning Association

Statement of Cash Flows

January 1 - July 6, 2026

	JAN - MAR, 2026	APR - JUN, 2026	JUL 1-6, 2026	TOTAL
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Net Income	-19,249.16	40,373.88		\$21,124.72
Adjustments to reconcile Net Income to Net Cash provided by operations:	639.34	-189.34		\$450.00
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ -18,609.82	\$40,184.54	\$0.00	\$21,574.72
NET CASH INCREASE FOR PERIOD	\$ -18,609.82	\$40,184.54	\$0.00	\$21,574.72

Fall 2026 Finance Committee Items

- Statewide Mailbox
- Digital Record Keeping
- Update Financial Policy
- Administrative Policy - Cloud Storage, Access & Organization



GPA Board Nominations + Elections

2026 GPA Nominations and Elections

- **Seven positions open for nominations/elections**
- **Nominations Committee:**
 - Richard Osborne, AICP, District 1 Director
 - Tate Wilson, AICP, District 3 Director
 - Bridget Lidy, AICP District 9 Director
 - Kristen Wescott, AICP, Past-President, Chair
- **Nominations:** March-May, 2026
- **Elections:** August 5 – September 4, 2026
- **144 Ballots Cast from GPA Members**
- **Board Terms begin January 1, 2027**

Welcome New Georgia Chapter Board Members!

President-Elect (4-year term)



Erin L. Thoresen, AICP

AICP Directors-At-Large



Jessica Guinn, AICP



John Thompson, AICP

Welcome New Georgia Chapter Board Members!

District 2 Director



Lara M. Parker

District 4 Director



Amanda Jensen, AICP, CFM

District 6 Director



Carla Delaney, MPA, AICP

District 8 Director



Alexandra Arzayus

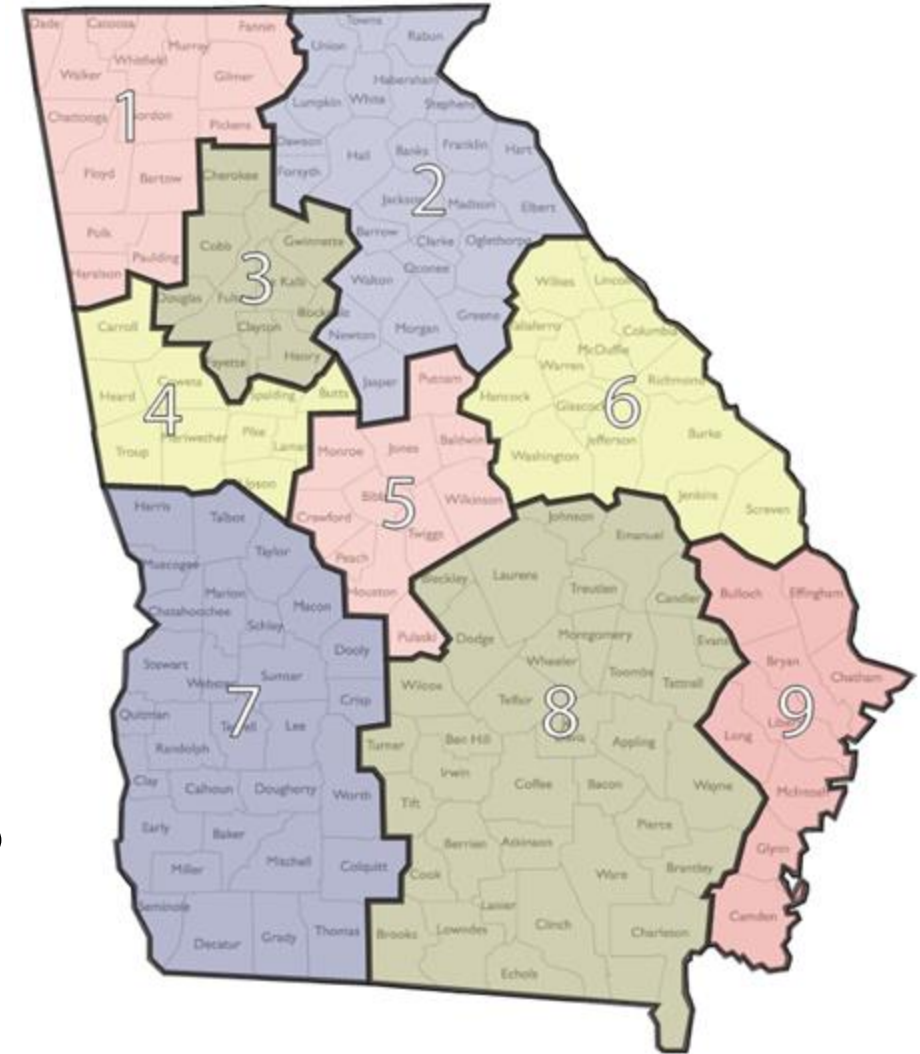
THANK YOU!!!!

2026 Board Nominees

- Gregory L. Brown, President-Elect
- Elena Oertel, AICP, AICP Director-at-Large
- Dana Spayde, AICP, AICP Director-at-Large

2026 Outgoing Board Members

- Past-President: Kristen Wescott, AICP
- AICP Director-at-Large: Rebecca Keefer, AICP
- AICP Director-at-Large: Lauren Leary, AICP
- District 8 Director: Amy Martin, AICP





3. GPA Evolution Update

Since we last talked in Duluth about GPA's future...

1 We took in the feedback from our initial survey at the Spring conference

2 Held our annual board retreat in July, with a focus on the main challenges facing planners in Georgia today

3 Convened the GPA Evolution Task Force, which has met three times to discuss:

- What's working well?
- What's not?
- What are the needs of planners now?

Today we have some proposed ideas to share!

Our Task: Update GPA as an organization to better meet the needs of today's planners in Georgia

We understand there's a need to:

- 1 Expand our programming beyond traditional conferences
- 2 Facilitate more conversations, relationships, and sense of belonging amongst planners
- 3 Support our increasingly diverse membership, particularly young/new planners
- 4 Provide more technical support
- 5 Collaborate more with professionals in adjacent fields
- 6 Increase our capacity as an organization

Currently for conferences we....

- Do two traditional conferences/year
 - 1-day spring conference in Atlanta region
 - 2.5-day fall conference outside Atlanta
- Sessions are mostly from crowd-sourced proposals
- Varied number and quality of mobile sessions
- Occasional/light theming

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Proposed shift/ideas....

- Do **one really good conferences/year**
 - 2.5-day fall conference with a 0.5 day deep-dive symposiums on specific topics
- Sessions will be a mix of:
 - **Curated**/actively solicited sessions that address member interests
 - Keep some crowd-sourced
 - Prioritize **diversity of session formats**
- More creative, high-quality mobile sessions
- Stronger themes and **keynote** speaker(s)

1 Expand our programming beyond traditional conferences

Currently for programming beyond conferences we....

- Kinda don't...
- The two conferences are a huge lift, so beyond them things are:
 - Mostly ad hoc
 - Have no clear process for committees and districts to host events

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Proposed shift/ideas ...

- Host **3-4 virtual lunch-and-learn CM sessions** (free to GPA members, fee for non-members)
- Advocacy day
- Provide GPA committees and districts with an annual budget for events + planning support
- Plan an annual **“field trip”** – a mobile workshop independent of the conference
- Co-plan events with neighboring chapters
- Provide more **informal opportunities to network** and connect
 - Happy Hours and lunches
 - Weekend events (family-friendly get-togethers)

Currently we....

- Have some topical committees that are largely autonomous, with varying levels of engagement

Facilitate more conversations, relationships, and sense of belonging amongst planners

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Proposed shift/ideas

- Create more clear/firm opportunities for **committee members to contribute** meaningfully
- Target at least 1/3 of conference sessions to be truly interactive
- Start a “**coffee connect**” program that matches planners for informal 1-on-1 meet-ups
- Establish and facilitate **communities of practice** – small groups that share a specific topical interest or geography and meet semi-regularly
- Explore ways to pivot from one-way communications with membership to **two-way/forums**

Currently we....

- Don't even acknowledge new members
- Have a strong mentorship program (hybrid of mentorship and leadership training)
- Have the Emerging Planners Group
- Have higher education representation on our Board (GaTech and UGA), but coordination and engagement varies year to year
- Student sessions and volunteer opportunities at conferences, participation varies

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Proposed shift/ideas

- Proactive **outreach to new members** – personalized welcome emails and quarterly virtual orientations
- Expand the mentorship program with **a two-day leadership kickoff** session
- Improve coordination with universities:
 - Add **more higher ed programs** at other Georgia institutions
 - Facilitate meaningful collaborations with programs and students (studios, guest lectures)
 - **Clearer pipeline for participating** in student sessions and volunteering at conference
- Offer more/larger **scholarships** to attend conference and participate in mentorship program

4 Provide more technical support

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Proposed shift/ideas

- Expand our **webpage to be a technical resource** – not just a place for organizational information
 - Library of Georgia plans
 - Model codes
 - RFP reference library
 - Technical reports and “topic vaults”
- Consider a **pro bono planning services and/or low-cost training program** for small communities
- Maintain a **robust calendar of free/low-cost virtual training events/CM** opportunities from multiple providers

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- Share events from other organizations when asked
- Approve CM credits from other organizations when asked (and they're reasonable)

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Proposed shift/ideas ...

- Target ¼ of **conference sessions** to be led by non-planners
- Partner with other organizations to **advocate** at the Capitol for mutually beneficial initiatives
- Create **GPA Board position(s)** specifically to liaise with allied fields like landscape architecture, architecture, engineering, water, etc.
- **Co-sponsor events** with other organizations proactively
- Be the “keeper” of a **Georgia-wide event calendar** of all allied organizations and pertinent events

6 Increase our capacity as an organization

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- Have multiple board positions with no clear job/function
- Have very low rates of volunteerism among members
- Have a handful of contractors for specific tasks

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Proposed shift/ideas

- A lot more volunteering: what would spur you to get more involved?
- **Revamp the board structure** to remove vague positions and add positions with clearer purpose
 - Have clear guidelines/expectations for every position
- Revise the **dues structure** to increase revenue,
 - ...But improve access to membership for people in the public sector and non-profits
- **Hire a part-time chapter administrator** to lead the charge on implement these changes and create additional revenue opportunities (grants, etc)

To put it simply....

We cannot do these proposed changes without more resources.

Tell me more about this increased dues thing....

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Proposed shift/ideas...

- Charge 35% of APA dues
- Students are still free!

Expand GPA-Only Membership

- Modest increase to \$75 for individuals
- \$95 for small non-profits (fewer than 10 employees) or small jurisdictions (cities fewer than 20,000 residents, counties fewer than 50,000 residents) that covers up to five people
 - Additional people added at \$15/person

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88% of Georgia cities/towns qualify!

72% of Georgia counties qualify!



We are asking for a formal vote from membership in November (date TBD):

Option 1:

Keep things as is:

Same dues, basically the same programs and services (2027 will be the last two-conference year regardless!)

Option 2:

Make a change:

Increase dues,
expand/improve
programs and services

What now?

1. Take the survey

2. Read our prospectus (October)

3. Vote in November



Adjourn!