

## 1) President

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Lou Baker, AICP

Greetings Honorable Planners,

I am an AICP planner, with a master's degree in City Planning from MIT. I have been practicing in the public/private sector as a planner, project manager, lobbyist, and general and electrical contractor for 29 years.

Serving as the APA-NM President is an opportunity to advocate for land use planning in New Mexico. As a certified planner I have a fiduciary responsibility to future generations.

As a Board member, the most effective contribution I can make is to help New Mexico planners excel by making myself available, coordinating post-pandemic trainings, encouraging fellow planners to achieve AICP and work closely with the NM Municipal League and New Mexico Association of Counties.

*If you plan for one year....plant rice.*

*If you plan for ten years....plant trees.*

*If you plan for a lifetime.....plant education.*

*---Confucius*

Thank you for your consideration and I'm grateful for your vote of confidence.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: joni m palmer, Ph.D.

I am running for President of the New Mexico Chapter of APA for 3 reasons:

1. To continue the work that John Valdez has done (e.g., grow and strengthen board and our membership participation; bring some projects that John started to fruition; collaborate with peer chapters in our region).
2. To work with John, as Past President, [and the rest of the Board] to bring new programs and growth to our membership (e.g., strengthen our relationship with UNM, NMSU, WNMU programs; recruit early career planners to join and actively participate in APA-NM; develop new programs and projects to increase participation, pride, and national presence).
3. To learn more about and better serve the New Mexico Planning community. There is a lot of amazing, challenging, and hopeful work that is happening in the planning community in our state: I'd like to grow awareness of our work and find ways to further develop interdisciplinary/inter-professional relationships across the state.

I received a Bachelor of Science in City & Regional Planning and Design & Environmental Analysis from Cornell University, a Master of Landscape Architecture at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and a Ph.D. in Human Geography from the University of Colorado-Boulder. Being an active member of

professional organizations is important to me, I am a member of the American Association of Geographers (specialty group member: cultural geography, landscape, water resources), American Planning Association (member of the Water Planning Network), American Society of Landscape Architects, and the Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences. Currently, I am a Project Director for the [Southwest Environmental Finance Center](#) at the Center for Water & the Environment, at UNM.

## 2) Vice President

VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Noah Berke, AICP

I have an extreme passion for planning in New Mexico. Over the past 16 years of working as a planner in New Mexico I have become increasingly aware of both the opportunities and challenges facing our state when it comes to planning for New Mexico. Planning for New Mexico requires a deep connection to, and understanding of, the histories, cultures and traditions which form our communities throughout the state. New Mexico planning also requires a thorough understanding of national and local planning efforts and trends in order to better prepare for our future. Our state and nation are rapidly changing, and it is of the utmost importance to take action as planners. As planners, we constantly find ourselves facing issues in our community and then are tasked with figuring out solutions.

As Vice President, I will work to help New Mexico plan for the future. I will focus on assisting APA-NM members access resources, from not only New Mexico, but also around the country, to help them plan for a better future. The focus should be on tradition, culture, preservation and sustainability. Our state is facing many issues that have to do with the changing world around us. As Planners, we need to find solutions for not only the present, but also for the future, while embracing the past. We need to focus on advancing access to early childhood education, affordable housing, harvesting entrepreneurship, and advancing existing communities.

Working for the City of Santa Fe was a great experience. We faced (and I have experience working on) many issues during my tenure at the City of Santa Fe. Some of these include: affordable housing issues, education issues, neighborhood preservation issues, and sustainability issues. My experience in these areas will help me to assist others. I have, and will continue to always come to the table with an open mind. I am passionate about communities and relationships as well as planning, overall.

I promise to always advocate for our state and our members with the interests of all, first in line. I will work to provide the resources and tools for our members to help them with all the issues facing their communities. There will never be an issue too big or too small that I will not assist with.

**VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE:** Dr. Kevin Maevers, AICP

Greeting friends and colleagues,

Although I have not been a resident of New Mexico for long (I relocated to Roswell from Southern California in January of 2021), I have adapted quickly and come to love the community, and the State that I now call home. Prior to my arrival in the City of Roswell, I served the California Chapter of the American Planning Association, Inland Empire Division, as Vice Director of Policy. During my tenure as Vice Director of Policy, I spent countless hours poring over legislation that affected our communities at the State, Regional, and Local levels. Many of these policies (housing, transportation, environmental and resource management, economic development, recreational cannabis, historic and cultural preservation, etc.) that I reviewed and implemented, are similar to those which New Mexico has faced and will continue to address for many years to come. The State of New Mexico sees continued growth and development, and moves toward a future that is bright with hope for social, environmental, and economic prosperity. It is for these reasons, and more, that I seek your vote for the office of Vice President of the New Mexico Chapter of the American Planning Association.

As Community Development Director for the City of Roswell, there are two principles that I dedicate myself to achieving every day.

- (1) Create value for our clients by applying my 40+ years of experience and education, combined with the latest and best planning and economic development principles to each project.
- (2) Achieve successful project outcomes by utilizing consistent and coherent communication techniques that allow all to be informed and provide elected

and appointed officials the information they need to make intelligent and thoughtful decisions based upon the benefits of the proposal.

To each client and to every project, I bring over 40 years of experience in multi-disciplined professional environments (community development, land use planning, economic development, affordable housing, civil engineering, land surveying, environmental assessment), combined with over a decade of public service and university-level teaching. These diverse experiences provide me with the ability to bring a unique (client/community-centric) focus, perspective, innovative processes, and creative thinking to my clients' most difficult and demanding projects. Over the course of my career, I have developed a commitment to finding workable solutions to the challenges that face our clients and communities. With a solid understanding of the housing, employment, and revitalization needs for each community, I work to develop a Strategy for Successful Program Implementation across all three pillars of Sustainability; Economic Viability & Resilience; Social Responsibility; and Environmental Stewardship.

In addition to my AICP Certification, which I have held since 2003, I hold the following education credentials:

- Doctor of Management in Organizational Leadership
- MBA in Sustainable Development
- Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership
- Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences (emphasis in Political Science, American History, Cultural Geography, and Social Science)

With a little over 10 years remaining in my career, it is my desire to serve the people of the State of New Mexico, and our profession through service, with the leadership system of the NMAPA. Our State is now poised to make great strides toward economic prosperity, but we must ensure that the growth that accompanies that prosperity is balanced against the incredible history, culture, and natural beauty that surrounds us all. Finding that balance will be difficult, but I believe I am well suited to the tasks that lay ahead. I respectfully ask for your vote for Vice President of the New Mexico Chapter of the American Planning Association.

### 3) Professional Development Officer

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER CANDIDATE: Margaret Ambrosino, AICP

Hello, friends and colleagues,

My name is Margaret Ambrosino, and I am pleased to submit my nomination for the Professional Development Officer of the New Mexico APA Chapter. For most of my career, I have served as a land development planner and advocate for affordable housing. I am also a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, serving in West Africa for over two years. After having witnessed the plight of the built environment in the developing world and a desire to improve conditions where dense urbanization occurs, I was inspired to study how we mitigate disasters, provide

shelter, and support public safety. All of this led me to planning upon my return to the states.

Since moving to New Mexico in 2008, I have been a member of our state chapter and have benefited directly from the high standard of leadership and professional development opportunities offered here, receiving my AICP certification in 2011. I have been fortunate to receive opportunities to mentor others, whether students or incoming professional planners, as well as networking and working with APA's Mentor Match program.

As our PDO, I will continue this commitment, as well as proactively identify and communicate opportunities for training and offer suggestions for expansion of the professional development program, through being responsive to membership ideas and requests as well as sharing best practices and ideas from counterparts in the region.

Thank you very much for your consideration and I look forward to serving if elected.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER CANDIDATE:** Jessica Lawlis,  
AICP

Drawing from over eight years of experience in both the public and private sectors, my career has focused on the creation of complex planning documents, ranging from comprehensive master plans to zoning code and technical manuals. As an Urban Planner for Dekker Perich Sabatini, I have had the opportunity to utilize my diverse background in planning, landscape architecture, and historic preservation

to collaborate on a variety of planning projects aimed to create resilient, livable communities.

I have had the pleasure of being involved on the New Mexico chapter of the APA Board for the last year and a half, as an at-large member. I am running for the Professional Development Officer position because I would love to work with the Board to create a more comprehensive professional development program that engages students and professionals alike. As the APA-NM Professional Development Officer, I would strive to develop a robust education curriculum program for those professionals seeking to obtain and maintain AICP certification, as well as more regular network and mentoring events that would offer the opportunity to develop industry knowledge and professional skills. My ultimate goal would be for APA-NM to be able to develop a program that would allow our membership to access the required annual amount of CM credits through accessible and convenient local chapter and cross-chapter events.

During my time as an at large board member, I had the opportunity to organize two free webinars on timely and relevant topics around the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and recreational cannabis regulations, both of which were eligible for CM credits.

If elected, I would utilize the experience gained in my last year on the board to reimagine the range of professional development offerings to provide engaging professional and networking trainings and events.

I would love to be given the opportunity to assist our members in collaborating and in advancing their careers!

#### 4) Treasurer

TREASURER CANDIDATE: Katrina Arndt, AICP

*Good day everyone* 😊

#### **About me – Germany – China - USA**

I am an urban planner for MRWM, an Albuquerque landscape architecture, and planning firm. I have worked in the private and public sectors for about 10ish years and love the work we as planners get to do.

A little bit about my background: I am originally from Germany and ended up in New Mexico in 2009 in the heat of the financial crisis. Before coming to the U.S. I worked in China for a magazine as an art director, and before that studying in German graphic design. And even before that, I did a couple of internships with newspapers and radio stations. When I arrived in the U.S, I worked for a non-profit doing watershed restoration work and the Obama campaign organization volunteers and running the Nob Hill Field office.

Planning has married all my passions: working with the community, developing strategies for greater resiliency, translating what we want into words and graphics

that make sense, and writing. But above all, I want to positively impact this planet and help our communities be better stewards of themselves and the environment.

I have also served on the Nob Hill Main Street Board and am currently serving on the Urban Land Institute Board. And, I am volunteering to help put together the APA NM conference in Albuquerque.

### **My Platform:**

**Spread the word** - As part of the board, I want to focus on connecting what we do as planners with the community, get them interested in planning, and give them a sense of what their role in the process is. In addition, I would like to reach out to schools and tell kids about what we do and what in the term they can do to help their communities to thrive. Outreach is so crucial in every project, but we tend only to reach a small fraction of the community. Therefore, building capacity early is essential, and teaching kids to become community stakeholders that are informed and know their role and power should be part of our job.

**Connect students with employers** – I would also like to focus on getting students practical experiments in planning and valuable knowledge of what planners do. Organizing happy hours and bringing in professionals to talk about what they do, what a day looks like, and what skills are required will help students decide when choosing a path forward. Also, connecting with UNM and developing an internship program to allow students to gain experience and connect to planners in the workforce. There are a lot of firms locally that often hire out-of-state planners; my focus will be to reverse this trend and invest in our local talent.

**Collaborate with other Organizations** – The planning field has many facets and overlaps other professions in countless areas. Collaboration with those can open our horizons and create new opportunities, new ways to think about challenges, and new partnerships. In addition, by working together, we can achieve better outcomes more efficiently. For example, NM ASLA, like APA-NM is a smaller chapter that could collaborate with us on the conference and other events. In addition to sharing workloads, we can learn from each other and help each other be better.

I would be very excited to join the APA New Mexico Board and hope you consider my nomination.