

# A path forward for NNECAPA and the state planning associations



American Planning Association  
**Northern New England Chapter**

*Making Great Communities Happen*



*Maine Association of Planners*  
*dedicated to enhancing the practice of community planning*

This brochure is designed to provide more information regarding the proposed NNECAPA and state planning associations reorganization.

## Where we are today



NNECAPA and the state planning associations have no formal relationship. We operate in our own silos. We share the same basic commitments: to advancing sound professional planning, to fostering vibrant and sustainable communities, to training, mentoring, and challenging professional planners, to advocating and lobbying for planners and the planning profession, and to providing a forum for the discussion of issues of importance to planners. But we do all of this largely independent of each other. Sure, the NNECAPA Executive Committee includes representatives from all of the state planning associations, and we do work cooperatively to host the annual NNECAPA Conference and to promote planning campaigns. But for the most part, we are on our own.

We have managed this way for years. But we have only managed and not excelled in the manner that we all recognize is achievable. Our volunteers are stretched too thin. Our resources are limited and not leveraged well. Virtually every volunteer, for NNECAPA and the state planner associations, has reached a point and thought "There must be a better way!"

## Where we would like to go



Under a reorganization, the state planning associations would be made **Sections** under NNECAPA. For the first time, the sections and NNECAPA would enjoy a formal and truly collaborative relationship with the sections operating quasi-independently under the chapter. Core administrative functions would be shared by NNECAPA and the state sections. This includes maintaining membership information, collecting membership dues, and other core administrative support. This paid-for administrative support will also cover the cost of helping organize a single event for each state section every year. These are often thankless but vital tasks that require large amounts of volunteer time. It makes little sense to replicate these efforts for every single organization.

Members will now pay a single membership rate to cover the cost of both their NNECAPA and state section memberships. Members will enjoy better, more streamlined services and volunteers will be provided more time to focus on the issues that matter most to our members. We have listened to you, debated the changes at our annual conferences, made revisions, and believe this path represents the best path forward.

# The compelling benefits of reorganization



## Less volunteer burnout

*Because volunteers are people too*

Volunteers are the backbone of NNECAPA, NHPA, VPA, and MAP. Without them, the organizations would not exist and the profession would be lesser for it. The benefit of merging some operations is that many administrative functions will be consolidated. Our volunteers will be less burdened with minor, thankless tasks that can drain resources and take hours and hours of time. Our volunteers will be able to focus on the projects that matter most to our membership.



## Cost savings

*Because saving money is literally the only thing everybody agrees on*

All of the state associations have experienced periods of financial hardship and none of the associations are flush with cash. Merging some operations between NNECAPA and the associations will help realize measurable cost savings. For example, instead of four different liability insurance policies and four different computer programs to maintain membership records, the sections will now rely on one. The Sections will be freed up to spend on more impactful investments.



## Combined Memberships

*The answer to the age old question 'What if I'm not a NNECAPA member today?'*

One of the benefits of moving to the Section model is that all current members of each association will become members of NNECAPA in addition to their appropriate state section. NNECAPA membership will provide you with access to premier professional development opportunities, regional planning information sharing and newsletter and access to the annual conference



## More collaboration

*A lack of communication kills all good relationships.*

NNECAPA and the state associations exist because we recognize the value of collaboration and partnerships in advancing our profession. But currently we don't fully leverage the value of our combined experience and areas of expertise. The reorganization will eliminate areas of overlap so that volunteers can fully collaborate on the issues that matter most to our members.



## Better Associations Sections!

*Reach for the stars!! But don't do it on a rocket, that's dangerous.*

The overarching goal of the reorganization is to provide a better service for our members. NNECAPA and the state association members have been discussing ways to achieve this for years. We are confident that this proposed reorganization best achieves that. The Sections will **maintain their independence**, but enjoy more streamlined operations. NNECAPA will enjoy a stronger relationship with the state sections and a more collaborative environment for all involved.



# The path forward



- Spring 2018:** State associations vote on MOU at conferences
- July 2018:** All parties have agreed on and signed the MOU
- October 25, 2018:** Vote on new bylaws at NNECAPA Conference
- Nov. 2018-Feb. 2019:** State associations vote on new bylaws
- Jan. 2019-Oct. 2019:** New NNECAPA bylaws effective October 1, 2019
- December 2019:** New memberships and dues are activated
- January 2020:** All Section bylaws effective January 1, 2020

## Membership Dues Information

Under reorganization, members will only be required to pay one set of annual dues which will cover both the cost of NNECAPA and state section memberships.

<b>Current dues</b>	<b>NHPA</b>	<b>VPA</b>	<b>MAP</b>	<b>NNECAPA</b>
Regular	\$65	\$50	\$50	\$45—\$104
Retired/Student	\$20	\$25	\$25	\$22.50/\$0
Organization	\$285	\$200	n/a	n/a

<b>Proposed dues</b>	<b>NNECAPA &amp; NHPA, VPA, MAP *</b>	
Regular	<b>\$80</b>	
Retired/Student	<b>\$25</b>	
Organization	<b>\$300</b>	

\* - Under reorganization, members will pay a single set of dues to cover their state section and NNECAPA memberships.