



Long Island Section

American Planning Association
New York Metro Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All



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LI SECTION OF THE METRO CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION (APA) AWARDS THREE SCHOLARSHIPS IN MEMORY OF PLANNER ARTHUR H. KUNZ AND HONORS 2020 SCHOLARSHIPS

Since 1995, the Long Island Section of the NY Metro Chapter of the APA has awarded scholarships to new professional planners and students for attendance at the annual National APA Conference in memory of Arthur H. Kunz, a well-respected Long Island planner who died at the age of 59 in 1993. Arthur was passionate about the planning field and universally viewed as enthusiastic, knowledgeable, nonpartisan, and a man of great integrity. Arthur attended as many of the national APA conferences as he could, and particularly valued the mobile workshops, where he could experience “planning in action” and sought to bring good planning ideas back to Long Island. Colleagues recall attending Arthur’s annual slideshows of his photographs taken during mobile workshops that he would share so that others could be inspired by and learn from his experiences.

The scholarship is awarded through a competitive process and provides \$1,500 for APA membership, conference registration, participation in at least one mobile workshop during the conference and a portion of expenses. Following in Arthur’s footsteps, each of the recipients is asked to present their own slideshow during the annual Arthur Kunz Memorial Scholarship Breakfast held each spring so that the audience can learn from their experiences.

This year, three scholarships have been awarded for attendance at the National APA Conference in Philadelphia in April. We are also pleased to announce that two of the recipients who received the scholarship in 2020, which was cancelled due to the shutdown, will also attend this year. 2023 recipients include:

- **Heather Trojanowski** is currently a Site Plan Reviewer for the Town of Riverhead Planning Department. Heather originally started her career with the Town in the Building Department, and made the move to the Planning Department last year. She is eager to learn as much as she can in

order to further her career and transition from a Site Plan Reviewer to Planner. Heather has lived in the Town of Riverhead all of her life and sees attendance at the APA Conference as an opportunity to meet land management professionals from across the country, attend mobile workshops related to planning and agriculture, and looks forward to bringing back the knowledge she gains to better her local community.

- **Kim Rondinella** is an Environmental Planner at VHB Engineering based in Hauppauge, NY. Kim is from Long Island and has seen how responsible planning is particularly important for environmentally sensitive coastal communities. Most recently, she began working on permitting efforts supporting the development of offshore wind renewable energy in New York and New Jersey. As an outcome of the National Conference, Kim would like to learn from experts and attend mobile workshops pertaining to renewable energy, wildlife conservation, and stakeholder engagement.
- **James McComb** works as a Planner at the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning's Division of Downtowns. As a Planner, he has combined his background in conservation planning with his love for vibrant downtowns, often using GIS to support efforts to create safe cycling and pedestrian routes across the County. He hopes to learn more about downtown revitalization, active transportation and sprawl repair at the conference.

And 2020 recipients include:

- **Sarah Sklar (formerly Singer)** grew up on Long Island and has worked throughout most of her career at Long Island based environmental planning firms. Today, Sarah is a Senior Environmental Planner at Matrix New World Engineering and became AICP certified in July 2022. Sarah lives in Farmingdale and is the Secretary for the Long Island Section of the NY Metro Chapter of the APA. She is particularly interested in attending mobile workshops regarding green infrastructure, hazard mitigation and resiliency. Sarah hopes to learn new ways to help communities on Long Island address the impacts of climate change through the various programs offered at the conference.
- **Jonathan Sokol** is currently a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Technician in the Highway Department at the Town of Brookhaven. Jonathan received his Bachelor of Science at Stony Brook University in Coastal Environmental Studies, and states that he is an environmentalist both in trade and in practice; he hopes to attend workshops and seminars regarding green infrastructure and innovative ways to accomplish long standing issues faced by being surrounded by water.

The Long Island Section is a section of the NY Metro Chapter of the American Planning Association. Our members are private and municipal planners, public officials, and concerned citizens that work or reside in Nassau or Suffolk Counties. In addition to awarding scholarships, the Long Island Section offers numerous educational and social opportunities for planners including workshops, panels, guest speakers, and joint meetings with other professional groups. We welcome new volunteers and members! For more information about our Section or to get involved, please visit www.apalongisland.org. For more information about the scholarship program, please contact Kathy Eiseman, LI Section Treasurer, at Keiseman@nelsonpoppevoorhis.com.