



Planningram

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Ramblings from the President

We have been working on an NDPA web site for several months now and it is with pleasure that I can now officially announce its unveiling – www.NDPlanning.org. Everyone should have received a short email or postcard informing you about the NDPA web site a couple of weeks ago. We were so excited about this new service to our members that we decided not to wait for the *Planningram*.

The web site is still under construction in a few places and we are open to suggestions for additional information to be included that would be beneficial to our members. Take a few minutes to browse through the site. We tried to make navigating through the site as easy as possible. The first section has information about NDPA – the Board, benefits and the mission and history of NDPA. For those that have missed some of the past planningrams (or just enjoy reading history) we have included an archive section going back to 1999.

The section on links is an area in which we could definitely use some more input. The same could be said of the section on events. If there are events that our members should be aware of please let us know and we can add them to the site. The Members Only site contains the current membership roster, and the current planningram, Library resources available to members, as well as the NDPA bylaws.

I hope that I have piqued your interest in the web site enough to look at it. After you have looked at it, we are open to feedback on this important service to our members. I look forward to seeing everyone in Fargo for the NDPA annual conference on November 5th and 6th.

Stephen E. Miller

From the Secretary/Treasurer

I'm writing this from a totally new position – literally! After 10 years with the Division of Community Services, I took an opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge as the housing director for the Affordable Housing Developers, Inc, a CHDO (that stands for *community housing development organization* for the acronym-impaired). So instead of being ensconced in the beautiful new Century



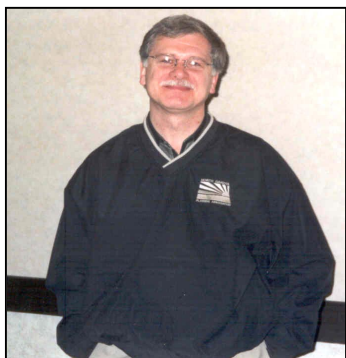
Center at the north end of Bismarck, my office is at the south end of the city, with a great view of Airport Road! Please make a note of my new phone number and email address from the sidebar on this newsletter.

As housing director for a month, my appreciation and involvement in planning already has deepened. I look forward to the education potential through NDPA and the collaboration possibilities with the members. Don't be surprised if I call for information and assistance from a different perspective!

The executive board approved a budget for 2003 (better late than never!). This budget includes funding for partial expenses for 2 people to attend the Western Planner conference in Las Vegas (August 5-8, 2003). Stephen Miller is planning to attend, which leaves one slot open. If you are thinking about attending this conference, please call or email me right away. The registration information is in the Western Planner magazine, and I noted that the deadline for early bird registrations is July 11th. The block of rooms is held until July 6, 2003.

Our website is up and running – see the related article for more details. Be sure to let us know how we can improve it! And plan to attend our November conference in Fargo. I, for one, am looking forward to learning about avoiding zoning pitfalls!

Barb Owens, Secretary/Treasurer



NDPA Windshirts!

NDPA has black microfiber windshirts with the logo on the front. Larry Weil was gracious enough to model his new shirt. These come in small, medium, large, X-large and XX-large, and will be \$40 for members, \$50 for non-members. If you're interested, contact Barb Owens at 328-2386.

Upcoming events:

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| August 5-8, 2003 | Western Planner Conference in Las Vegas |
| November 5-6, 2003 | NDPA annual Conference
Doublewood Inn, Fargo |