COLLECTIVE ACTION

By Patricia Nolan

"While we think and plan, we shouldn't let thinking and planning get in the way of or substitute for doing."

When I decided to be a planner, a colleague and mentor of mine shared this thought with me after I expressed dismay at the way planners allow a lack of political will to halt plans and projects specifically aimed at "eliminating the great inequalities of wealth and power," as the PN mission statement says. Planners usually forget that planning doesn't stop with a plan, a map or a memo. Planners can develop a process and support organizations that act as countervailing forces against entrenched political and bureaucratic interests to insure that those historically denied a voice are heard and taken seriously.

Planners Network is a group of planners that has come together to discuss, publish and meet about issues of equity and change in our political and economic systems. The fact that our membership is committed to this goal is heartening. However, sharing the same ideas and beliefs and just talking about them is not enough. In our mission statement, we say, "We advocate public responsibility for meeting these needs...." Exactly

FROM WHENCE AND WHITHER PN?

by Tom Angotti

In the last couple of issues, we asked PN members to give us their views on what Planners Network and progressive planners should be doing. We got a variety of answers, which are printed in this issue of PN. Patricia Nolan urges us to take on a PN action project. Dick Platkin wants PN to support activists and engage critical discussions about capitalism. Gwen Urey says we should keep on networking. Cathy Klump wants PN to do more to support progressive student planners and make planning education more action oriented. Peggy Dye proposes a discussion group and organizing in the New York area. John McCrory points out PN's limits, and suggests they can be transcended by reinvesting membership in PN with more authority and responsibility. We invite more ideas for future issues. Following is some background on PN's history, and my own ideas about where we should be going.

In the Beginning...

Those were heady times for us, in 1975 when PN was founded. The Vietnam War was over and the U.S. defeated. The last major anti-colonial struggles were being won in Africa. With détente between the U.S. and the Soviet Union there was optimism about an end to the Cold War and the prospects for socialism and planned economies. In Europe, the left was stronger than ever, and in Italy, where I lived at the time, the Italian Communist Party was on the verge of winning a majority.

On the domestic scene, Jim Crow was dead and affirmative action alive.

Community, women's and other grass roots movements were at their apex.

Community activists and planners celebrated the end of federal urban renewal, the main instrument for the wholesale displacement of low-income communities, particularly African-American communities.

In 1975, Chester Hartman typed a letter to about 300 planners and activists — people he knew and who had expressed interest, and members of the recently defunct Planners for Equal Opportunity (see PEO Reunion, p. 14). This was the first PN newsletter. (Chester, do you still use the same typewriter?)

Chester posed these questions to us: Should we create a new association of planners (and who are planners?), what kind of association should it be, and what should we call it? Possibilities ranged from a loose association of individuals to a structured
John Friedmann writes:


Leonie Sandercok is also editing a special issue of a new Italian journal to be called PLURIMOND: An International Journal of Human Settlements. The issue, which will be out early next year, is the result of a workshop held in Perugia, Italy in June of this year on “insurgent plann- ing practices.” There will be case studies from Brazil, Canada, Australia, Israel, India, England, Italy, The Gambia, Indonesia, Taiwan and Korea. Theoretical contributions will be by David Harvey and John Friedmann. For more information, email Leonie at <106244.144@compuserve.com>. Leonie has resigned from her position as Chair of the Department of Landscape, Environment, and Planning at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and is now freelancing. We are thinking of returning to the U.S.

Some of my own recent writings include: “Claiming Rights: Citizenship and Democracy;” “The Problem of Representation;” “Of All of them should be of some interest to Networkers. You can obtain copies by writing to me at the same email as for Leonie above.

All the best, John Friedmann

Send your PN Update to today’s Tom; send your email. Membership Editor Dalila Hall <dhall@pratt.edu>, send a fax to her at (718) 658-3709, or write a postcard or letter and send it to our national office.

Welcome… new PLANNERS NETWORK members!

Oupa Nkomo sent this message via PNNet: I am currently employed as a Project Coordinator of Local Economic Development and Integrated Development Planning with PlaNet, an urban develop- ment NGO based in South Africa. Eighty percent of my work centers around research, development facilitation and strategic planning with the remainder spent on community building. I would like to network with planners all over the world on emerging research initiatives and approaches in the urban context. Furthermore, I wish to discuss issues to consider in capacity building for local government around local economic develop- ment and integrated planning. Also, I am interested in learning about any related initiatives, especially those dealing with community economic development and housing. Thank you, Oupa Nkomo, <oupa@planct.org.za> or Phone: 27 (11) 403-629.

A memo to: PNer Peter Meyer. Please send PN your current email address. After we ran your update in the May newsletter several members attempted to contact you to no avail. The printed address had a typo and after checking our database we discovered the address we have listed for you is also incorrect. Please send it to my attention at dhall@pratt.edu. Many thanks, and apologies for the misprint. I will print the correct address in our next newsletter.

Send your PN Update to today’s Tom; send your email. Membership Editor Dalila Hall <dhall@pratt.edu>, send a fax to her at (718) 658-3709, or write a postcard or letter and send it to our national office.

Work for a Decent Living

It is a critical time for work and workers in the United States. Most workers are putting in longer hours, at lower wages, in less stable jobs. Inequality by race and education are widening, and gender inequality persists as well. New, harsh work requirements and time limits push welfare recipients into dead-end jobs. Anti-immigrant policies intensify the sec- ond-class status of undocumented work- ers, and of all immigrants. At the same time, the U.S. labor movement is newly revitalized, and community-based cam- paigns such as those for living wage ord- nances have scored many successes. At this critical juncture, the June 1999 Planners Network forum will explore the connections and intersections between community and work. There are many such connections. Community and labor issues themselves can both be more effective if they collaborate, but too often different organizations attempt to circumvent or even work at cross-purposes. Successful community economic development depends on expanding and improving employment. This can encompass anything from commercial area development, to skill training, to living wage ordinances. Residential location, school quality, and transportation and communication options also affect what jobs are available to a given community. Environmental planning often confronts widely perceived tradeoffs between jobs and environmental protec- tion. Immigrant communi- ties, communities of color, rural areas, and single mothers all face particular- ly daunting labor market challenges. And the updil work needed to keep fami- lies and communities functioning is too often denied or ignored. The conference will be held at the University of Massachusetts in Lowell. Lowell, cradle of the U.S. indus- trial revolution, has a long history of labor struggles, and creative economic development initiatives. Lowell’s National Park showcases the textile indus- try of a century ago, with a focus on the work life. Recent Latin American and Southeast Asian migrations have changed the face of Lowell and neighboring com- munities, and a vital and diverse set of community organizations have sometimes collaborated with government officials and at other times struggled against them.

The University’s Lowell campus is home to innovative programs focus- ing on economic and social development and environmental stability. Other area educational institutions, including the College of Public and Community Service at the University of Massachusetts-Boston, known for its work in par- ticipatory planning, will be contributing to the conference, as will a variety of com- munity organizations and agencies in the Lowell and Boston areas.

The Massachusetts labor movement, which has actively pursued labor-commu- nity collaborations, will also take part. Lowell is within commuting distance of Boston by car or commuter rail.

Contact:

Chris Tilly, Department of Regional Economic and Social Development University of Massachusetts at Lowell
Phone (978) 934-2796; Fax (978) 934-4028 EMAIL: <chris_tilly@uml.edu>

The Privatization of Municipal Services

Privatization is notable for its consistent tenden- city to facilitate reduced wages for workers, to eliminate essential services, and to limit public participation in government decision making. A panel will look at the differing policy goals of privatization as they impact specific public ser- vices, including sanitation, municipal hospital care, and water. All Forums will be held at 4pm in the Pack- ing Building, corner of Broadway and Lafayette. Speakers and other details TBA. WEB: <www.plannersnetwork.org>

Send your PN Update to today’s Tom; send your email. Membership Editor Dalila Hall <dhall@pratt.edu>, send a fax to her at (718) 658-3709, or write a postcard or letter and send it to our national office.

Planners Network, June 1999, Lowell, Massachusetts

Planners Network Conference, June 1999, Lowell, Massachusetts

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN LABOR AND COMMUNITY

Working for a Decent Living
John Friedmann writes:


Both come highly praised. Also from our outpost in Melbourne, Mike Douglass and Jode Friedmann, eds., Cities for Citizens: Planning and the Rise of Civil Society in a Global Age (Wiley 1998). The contributors to this volume are: Peter Mansi, Paul Keil, Rebecca Abres, Francisco Sabatini, Leonie Sandercok, Bent Flyvbjerg, John Forestier, Janet Ahu-Lugoe, Michael Storper, as well as the editors.

Leonie Sandercok is also editing a special issue of a new Italian journal to be called PLURIMONDI: An International Journal of Human Settlements. The issue, which will be out early next year, is the result of a workshop held in Perugia, Italy in June of this year on “insurgent planning practices.” There will be case studies from Brazil, Canada, Australia, Israel, India, England, Italy, The Gambia, Indonesia, Taiwan, Thailand and Korea. Theoretical contributions are by David Harvey and John Friedmann. For more information, email Leonie at <106644.114compuserve.com>. Leonie has resigned from her position as Chair of the Department of Landscape, Environment, and Planning at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and is now freelancing. We are thinking of returning to the U.S.

Some of my own recent writings include: “Claiming Rights: Citizenship and Democracy, the Problem of Representation.” All of these should be of some interest to Networkers. You can obtain copies by writing to me at the same email as for Leonie above.

All the best, John Friedmann

Send your PN Update to today’s Tom Full, Membership Editor Dalila Hall <dhall@pratt.edu>, send a fax to her at (718) 636-3709, or write a postcard or letter and send it to our national office.

PLANNERS NETWORK
370 DeKalb Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11205

Welcome…
new PLANNERS NETWORK members!

Deni Adaniya, Greg Baer, Shane P. Holten, Edward Jepson, Karen Murray, Martha Matsusaka, Sharon Murray, Polly Nicholi, Noah Pond, Yulia Zilfingers.

Thank You
turning members!


Fall 98 New York Network Forum

October 16, 1998
Women and Community Development

What innovative approaches do women bring to the community development process? What constraints do they face? What should be the role for planners and professionals in this process? Panels will discuss these issues and more based on the specific initiatives they’re involved in.

November 13, 1998
The Privatization of Urban Policy: Conservative Think Tanks and Progressive Responses

In the last decade, eight- wing research institutes have exercised a disproportionate influence on national and local policies by advising funders and marketing of their ideas and ideology. Speakers will address the role of such think tanks in shaping and selling policy and will also discuss the formation of progressive alternatives.

December 4, 1998
The Privatization of Municipal Services

Privatization is notable for its consistent tendency to facilitate reduced wages for workers, to eliminate essential services, and to limit public participation in government decision making. A panel will look at the differing policy goals of privatization as they impact specific public services, including sanitation, municipal hospital care, and transportation. 

All Forums will be held at 4pm in the Pack Building, corner of Broadway and Lafayette. Speakers and other details TBD. WBB: <www.plannersnetwork.org>
We read about progressives in the early 20th century, but ignore opportunities for positive action in our own communities.

As Planners Network reevaluates its role in the planning profession, we should look to the needs of future progressive planners and work to enhance their educational experience. After five years of planning education at a top school in the field, I saw what is lacking in planning education and what PN can provide.

Changing Planning Education

I believe three changes need to be made in planning education. First, theory must be linked to practice. Secondly, students with practical experience must be taken seriously. Third, diverse communities must be part of the planning curriculum.

As planners Network reevaluates its role in the planning profession, we should look to the needs of future progressive planners and work to enhance their educational experience. After five years of planning education at a top school in the field, I saw what is lacking in planning education and what PN can provide.

We read about progressives in the early 20th century, but ignore opportunities for positive action in our own communities.

As Planners Network reevaluates its role in the planning profession, we should look to the needs of future progressive planners and work to enhance their educational experience. After five years of planning education at a top school in the field, I saw what is lacking in planning education and what PN can provide.

As planners Network reevaluates its role in the planning profession, we should look to the needs of future progressive planners and work to enhance their educational experience. After five years of planning education at a top school in the field, I saw what is lacking in planning education and what PN can provide.

As planners Network reevaluates its role in the planning profession, we should look to the needs of future progressive planners and work to enhance their educational experience. After five years of planning education at a top school in the field, I saw what is lacking in planning education and what PN can provide.

We read about progressives in the early 20th century, but ignore opportunities for positive action in our own communities.

As planners Network reevaluates its role in the planning profession, we should look to the needs of future progressive planners and work to enhance their educational experience. After five years of planning education at a top school in the field, I saw what is lacking in planning education and what PN can provide.

We read about progressives in the early 20th century, but ignore opportunities for positive action in our own communities.

As planners Network reevaluates its role in the planning profession, we should look to the needs of future progressive planners and work to enhance their educational experience. After five years of planning education at a top school in the field, I saw what is lacking in planning education and what PN can provide.

We read about progressives in the early 20th century, but ignore opportunities for positive action in our own communities.

As planners Network reevaluates its role in the planning profession, we should look to the needs of future progressive planners and work to enhance their educational experience. After five years of planning education at a top school in the field, I saw what is lacking in planning education and what PN can provide.

We read about progressives in the early 20th century, but ignore opportunities for positive action in our own communities.

As planners Network reevaluates its role in the planning profession, we should look to the needs of future progressive planners and work to enhance their educational experience. After five years of planning education at a top school in the field, I saw what is lacking in planning education and what PN can provide.

We read about progressives in the early 20th century, but ignore opportunities for positive action in our own communities.

As planners Network reevaluates its role in the planning profession, we should look to the needs of future progressive planners and work to enhance their educational experience. After five years of planning education at a top school in the field, I saw what is lacking in planning education and what PN can provide.

We read about progressives in the early 20th century, but ignore opportunities for positive action in our own communities.

As planners Network reevaluates its role in the planning profession, we should look to the needs of future progressive planners and work to enhance their educational experience. After five years of planning education at a top school in the field, I saw what is lacking in planning education and what PN can provide.

We read about progressives in the early 20th century, but ignore opportunities for positive action in our own communities.

As planners Network reevaluates its role in the planning profession, we should look to the needs of future progressive planners and work to enhance their educational experience. After five years of planning education at a top school in the field, I saw what is lacking in planning education and what PN can provide.

We read about progressives in the early 20th century, but ignore opportunities for positive action in our own communities.

As planners Network reevaluates its role in the planning profession, we should look to the needs of future progressive planners and work to enhance their educational experience. After five years of planning education at a top school in the field, I saw what is lacking in planning education and what PN can provide.

We read about progressives in the early 20th century, but ignore opportunities for positive action in our own communities.

As planners Network reevaluates its role in the planning profession, we should look to the needs of future progressive planners and work to enhance their educational experience. After five years of planning education at a top school in the field, I saw what is lacking in planning education and what PN can provide.

We read about progressives in the early 20th century, but ignore opportunities for positive action in our own communities.

As planners Network reevaluates its role in the planning profession, we should look to the needs of future progressive planners and work to enhance their educational experience. After five years of planning education at a top school in the field, I saw what is lacking in planning education and what PN can provide.

We read about progressives in the early 20th century, but ignore opportunities for positive action in our own communities.

As planners Network reevaluates its role in the planning profession, we should look to the needs of future progressive planners and work to enhance their educational experience. After five years of planning education at a top school in the field, I saw what is lacking in planning education and what PN can provide.

We read about progressives in the early 20th century, but ignore opportunities for positive action in our own communities.

As planners Network reevaluates its role in the planning profession, we should look to the needs of future progressive planners and work to enhance their educational experience. After five years of planning education at a top school in the field, I saw what is lacking in planning education and what PN can provide.

We read about progressives in the early 20th century, but ignore opportunities for positive action in our own communities.

As planners Network reevaluates its role in the planning profession, we should look to the needs of future progressive planners and work to enhance their educational experience. After five years of planning education at a top school in the field, I saw what is lacking in planning education and what PN can provide.
ADVOCATE FOR PROGRESSIVE PLANNING EDUCATION

By Cathy Klump

Most planners stumble into planning en route to their perceived destiny as lawyers, doctors, English professors, and business people. For a number of reasons, the career aspiration of a more mainstream job gets excused, and in its place comes a profession or lifestyle that is intertwined in every aspect of daily life. A portion of these professional planners call themselves “progressives”—a title that we typically associate with pushing the envelope past traditional planning and working to elevate the quality of life. Those of us who call ourselves progressives are haunted by the words of Saul Alinsky, Paulo Friere, and Paul Davidoff, who seem to call us home to act rather than sit, and to voice rather than plan silently.

As an aspiring accountant in my freshman year of college, my eyes were on the prize of big business, the reality of large tax incentives, and the desire for a nine to five power-suited day. I was to be the math whiz of the family who made money doing the work of powerful corporate men. But life was about to change. For many students like me, college is a time when progressive planners are born. Unfortunately many planning students who focus on equity, empowerment, advocacy, and sustainability find that they are quite alone in the sea of land use and traditional planning curricula.

As Planners Network reevaluates its role in the planning profession, we should look to the needs of future progressive planners and work to enhance their educational experience. After five years of planning education at a top school in the field, I saw what is lacking in planning education and what PN could provide.

Changing Planning Education

I believe three changes need to be made in planning education. First, theory must be linked to practice. Secondly, students with practical experience must be taken seriously. Third, diverse communities must be part of the planning curriculum. Theoretical study must be linked to real-world practice. Many times I and other students lament how we cram a hundred pages of theory into a week and ignore the practical implications of that theory. For example, we read about the effects of segregation on urban areas and yet ignore the results in our local communities.

Secondly, real-world practice by students must be taken seriously by the academic administration. How better to learn than by doing? Planning is a fortunate discipline. We have all the tools of planning knowledge right outside our doors. Some colleagues and I have gone outside of the academic setting to take second jobs working for local non-profit groups, municipalities, and volunteer organizations. Often the work is more enlightening, more fulfilling, and has a greater impact than sitting in a classroom learning about other people’s research in their field. We read about progressives in the early 20th century, but ignore opportunities for positive action in our own communities. Too many planning students graduate without ever facilitating a community meeting, conducting negotiations with a private entity or feeling the tug at their heartstrings when what is just and progressive fails.

Finally, planning educators must include diverse communities in their planning curricula. Educators must make local and diverse community residents and issues the main focus of planning education. If the traditional goal of planning education is to equip students with the theoretical knowledge, technical tools and the ability to function in real-world planning dilemmas, then I feel it is partially failing. As Planners Network looks into the future and questions its mission, activities, and usefulness, students in progressive planning have a challenge for PN.

Students Challenge PN

Students aspiring to be progressive advocates for the underrepresented, the ailing environment, and the tarnished urban landscape need a more powerful voice. PN should advocate for progressive students and push for a comprehensive planning education that addresses the existing failures. These are some of the things that PN can do:

- Recruit a faculty member from all planning schools in the country to be a spokesperson for PN in their college and community. This faculty member would spread the word about PN, its mission, and how it can benefit progressive planners. Many students may be unaware of the wonderful outlet planners have for positive planning through the network of PN members.
- Lobby the Planning Accreditation Board to establish a required set of courses in progressive social planning. Possible required course topics include race and planning, sustainable development, empowerment planning, and planning in a culturally diverse society. These topics ultimately affect all planners and should be part of the required curriculum.
- Develop a mentorship program between PN members and planning students. A mentor might in some cases be the student’s sole link to progressive planning job openings, research opportunities, and national conferences and training sessions. Mentors and students could be matched by area of interest and geographic location.
- Create a larger voice within APA and ACSP on behalf of students who go beyond traditional land use planning. PN members could arrange for students to have more opportunities to learn about progressive planning issues and to display their work at both conferences and through monthly publications.

Advocating on behalf of progressive planning students is right for the future of PN. Current planning students are the future policy makers, activists, municipal officials, government representatives, and lawyers. They need to be given the opportunity to grow as progressive planners and lead the world in a left direction.

Cathy Klump is a graduate planning student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and works with the East St. Louis Action Research Project.

We read about progressives in the early 20th century, but ignore opportunities for positive action in our own communities.

PLANNERS NETWORK #131

DISCUSS AND ORGANIZE

by Peggy Dye

Since the 1980s, I have used my background in city planning to write as a journalist and to do community organizing and even to do war correspondence. With privatization, New York City feels like a social war zone. I ask how can planners contribute to change the setup? I mean, how to end wealth at one end of the city that gains from misery at the other end? Stop the Disney Mouse in Times Square making out like a rat off the drudgery of underpaid Haitian workers, for example.

I’d like to revisit the history of planning and of cities through Planners Network’s eyes. I would also like to explore with others our visions for the future city of the 21st century—both what we feel is possible and what we’d like as an ideal. Several of us are starting a book discussion group as a first step. Look for the time and place in forthcoming announcements.

Pick your subversive texts. I’m pushing for The Sex of Architecture (ed. by Diana Agrest). I also have one element of my ideal vision for 21st Century New York City: a city with a 21-hour workweek and guaranteed minimum income covering necessities. Impossible? You never know until you try to tell people in your community what planning is about. That brings me to the last step. To change the city my experience tells me you have to organize with others. Most people know zippo about planning. So educating the public on what selling air rights means, to daily life — is as important as planners networking with each other.

Peggy Dye is a writer in New York City.

KEEP NETWORKING

by Gwen Urey

Planners Network was in the vanguard by conceiving of itself as a “network” in 1975. We have evolved technologically, holding ourselves together through old newsletter technology and the new pn-net and Web page. As these vehicles and our conferences reflect, a network has been not only a way for members to communicate and relate to each other, but also a way to create links between progressive planning and other progressive movements and organizations.

Whither PN? Forward, of course, and always in a progressive direction. As a network, PN links planners whose eyes may be set forward even though they may be focused on diverse goals. Our more diffident question, I think, has always been “how?” How can momentum in a forward and progressive direction be created and sensed by a whole network of people, some of whom will, at any given moment, feel that their own specific goals are more remote than ever? How can momentum be sustained and accelerated?

I have missed opportunities to sustain and accelerate the momentum, and these relate primarily to “how” I use PN. I think my biggest oversight has been that I use PN as a way to connect progressive students with progressive planners, but I should also use it to connect students who do not necessarily think of themselves as progressive with progressive planners. The “how” for me will also include a new effort to interact as an educator with PN members in Southern California.

Gwen Urey <gurey@caponoma.edu> is a PN Steering Committee member.

4 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1998
NOLAN < continued from first page

how have we been advocates, and how should we be advocates in the future? And for whom?

If Planners Network is going to be a sustaining organization working for social change, we are going to have to start collectively "doing." Individually, we may affect change and public responsibility in our respective communities. In what sort of ways can we bring those talents and energies together to affect a larger change in the United States and, possibly, globally?

I propose several ways we can encourage more "doing" as an organization. First of all, I think someone from each region needs to commit to organizing local PN chapters. I volunteer to organize the Chicago region members. Ken Reardon has led a Champaign-Urbana chapter for the past several years. Tom Angotti and others have supported the New York chapter. If we are serious about taking action on issues that extend beyond our own cities and towns, then we will have to organize local chapters which can be mobilized for action. Local chapters can recruit members to PN, host workshops and public forums, lobby for legislation, offer pro bono services to non-profit and community organizations, write articles for the newsletter, mentor new planners, raise funds, and promote citizen participation and community education in local planning efforts. At least once a year, PN should mobilize the local chapters to take action on an issue of national or international importance. We have done some work at national planning conferences like the APA and ACSP by organizing panels and receptions, and these events have attracted new members, reunited old members and friends and introduced new ways of thinking about planning. Yet, we have not done enough to rouse our members to act collectively on issues that reach beyond our backyards.

We need to let local residents know which officials are responsible for their communities becoming so dilapidated...

We need to let local residents know which officials are responsible for their communities becoming so dilapidated.

The Planners Network Web Site has been redesigned, revised and updated! The newsletter is now available online, from the September/October 1997 issue (#125) to the present. You'll also find working papers, case studies, and information about PN's history and chapter events. If you'd like to put information, documents, or links on the PN web site, contact webmaster Winton Pittoff «wpi@change.org». PLANNERS NETWORK #131
SUPPORT ACTIVISTS, QUESTION CAPITALISM

By Dick Platkin

First, PN should be a source of analy-
sis and technical resources for community
struggles, especially those involving pub-
lic budgets. For the past generation public
investment in most urban programs has
shrunk. This trend was already obvious in
the 1970s and has since gotten steadily
worse. This is clearly bad news for most
communities. But there is also some good
news. These cutbacks have spawned puck-
ets of organized resistance, in local com-
unities and at work places. Sometimes this
resistance is minimized by purely
individual actions or symbolic protests,
but enough slips through to inspire us and
frazzle those with something to lose.
These struggles need assistance, and
we should be thinking of our experience.
Whether these movements need informa-
tion, analysis, or help in organizing,
PNers should offer help, especially when
communities make demands on local of-
cials. We need to let local activists know
who has authority among the dozens
of agencies and depart-
ments in charge of munic-
ipal programs such as capi-
tal projects, litter and graf-
fiti abatement, garbage pick-up, building
code enforcement, pollution control, pro-
ject permits, and pot holes. We need to let
local residents know who official
responsible for their communities
becoming so dilapidated.
We need to let local residents
know which officials are
responsible for their communities
becoming so dilapidated.

NOLAN
continued from first page
how we have been advocates, and how
should we be advocates in the future? And
for whom?
If Planners Network is going to be a
sustaining organization working for social
change, we are going to have to start col-
llectively doing. Individually, we may
affect change and public responsibility in
our respective communities. In what sort
of ways can we bring those talents and
energies together to affect a larger change
in the United States and, possibly, global-
ly?
I propose several ways we can encourage
more "doing" as an orga-
nizing. First of all, I
think someone from each
region needs to commit to
organizing local PN chap-
ters. I volunteer to
organize the Chicago-
region members. Ken
Reardon has led a
Champaign-Urbana chap-
ter for the past several
years. Tom Angotti and others have sup-
ported the New York chapter. If we are
serious about taking action on issues that
reach beyond our own cities and towns,
then we will have to organize local chaps-
ters which can be mobilized for action.
Local chapters can recruit members to
PN, host workshops and public forums,
lobby for legislation, offer pro bono ser-
tices to non-profit and community organi-
izations, write articles for the newsletter,
mentor new planners, raise funds, and
promote citizen participation and commu-
ity education in local planning efforts.
At least once a year, PN should mobi-
lize the local chapters to take action on
an issue of national or international impor-
tance. We have done some work at na-
ationwide conferences like the APA and
ACSIP by organizing panels and recep-
tions, and these events have attracted new
members, reunited old members and
friends and introduced new ways of think-
ing about planning. Yet, we have not done
effort. Can we encourage our members to ac-
ceptively on issues that
reach beyond our back-
cards. Has PN ever par-
ticipated in a protest or
demonstration? Have we
ever issued a formal pol-
icy statement to the public
(beyond our newsletter)?
This is a crisis on a
national importance as
to how the majority of
people relate to planning

[Editors note: On several
cases in PN’s history, the
organization has
advocated beyond the
newsletter, but these
occasions have been few.] Can PN
directly serve the public in any way, espe-
cially communities with limited
resources?
If PN wants to increase its level of public
involvement and community orga-
izing, we will need strong leadership
from the steering committee. Without a
paid staff for the organization, the steering
committee is responsible not only for
developing PN’s agenda and vision but
also for carrying them out. If we stick
with this model, then it may be wise to
elect only steering committee members
who are also local chapter organizers if
we are serious about moving towards
action and a broader membership.
In the short term, PN should establish
an award or recognition for those efforts
that promote equity planning. In some
way we should celebrate the efforts of our
members since they are often dismissed
by the mainstream. In this way, those
people and organizations committed to
equity planning can be recognized for
their outstanding efforts in a way that the
traditional planning organization honor
traditional planning practices.
Although the PN newsletter is a great
resource for groups and individuals to get
the word out on the work they do, I think
PN needs to draw more attention to exam-
pling progressive planning ideas and prac-
tices through an annual recognition cele-
bration or award.
Look again at the words of my mentor.
After reading this issue of PN will we let
something get in the way of our collective
doing? Or will we take all of the ideas
and turn them into something that in a
year from now we can say made a differ-
ence and not only "promoted," but also
produced "fundamental change in our
political and economic systems?"
YOU GOTTA REPRESENT
Dispersing Authority to Dispersed Members

By John McCroy

When we pause to consider what purpose Planners Network can usefully serve in the coming years, I think we must begin by recognizing the limits of a national organization such as ours. We must understand what PN can and cannot do.

Planners Network is a national, even international, association of volunteer members. Monetary and material contributions from members manage to fund a newsletter, web site, listers, and other participant-staff people. PN has no paid full-time staff or officers. If the membership were to grow, say, to around 4,000, it might permit PN to employ two full-time staff people, but most of their time would be occupied by the administrative work required to sustain this growth. Without a major patron, the structural situation of PN is unlikely to change in any fundamental way.

In this issue and throughout PN’s history, members have shown no shortage of ideas about what PN should do. But, recognizing our limits, what is a network of volunteer members capable of doing effectively?

The obvious answers are in our present and recent past. The annual conferences and the newsletter have proven vital forums for sharing information and ideas. Our web site and listers are valuable complements to these activities, even if we haven’t utilized their maximum potential. Despite PN’s relatively small size, our efforts to articulate our unique visions and goals continue similar efforts by much larger organizations (like the American Planning Association) that lack any strong vision.

As for what PN can’t do, we must recognize PN cannot organize. With no full-time staff, PN lacks the ability to consistently support organizing. I find it doubtable we could mount a vigorous letter-writing campaign or petition drive. It would also be difficult to coordinate the writing of reports, position papers, or op-ed pieces, much less to collect the writing. PNers are already doing this purpose of amplifying our message to a larger audience.

We must empower our members with the authority to actively serve as representatives of PN in their local communities. If PN is to prosper and grow as an organization, it is essential that the structure of our organization match our vision. We seek to promote the equitable distribution of resources, power, and opportunity. As Dick Platkin implies elsewhere in this issue, we must encourage and de-concentrate authority and control. PN must do the same. We must empower ourselves to do this actively serve as representatives of PN in their local communities.

Such efforts in the past have been only sporadic and occurred when one or several members stepped up to the plate. Ultimately, however, major initiatives like these prove beyond our ability to sustain; there is only so much we can do. We are certainly many PNers have had to decide between contributing time to these efforts with PN or working on more immediate local issues.

Nevertheless, the work our members do in their local communities is perhaps the more powerful, but quieter, contribution PN has made. I believe this work is the key to PN’s future.

The 7th Generation
continued from first page

organization, with the possibility of a journal. We discussed whether to call our- selves "left," "radical," or "socialist," whether we should be "planners" or "urbanists" or something else; whether we should be small and homogenous or large and broad. In the following years, what evolved was a network of loosely-defined planners, with a minimal organizational structure—a steering committee and some informal local groups. Interest in developing a journal never got very far, though a major publication came out of one of PN’s national conferences.

PN Today

As PN approaches the 25-year mark, the differences in the political climate since the time of its founding are stark. Global capitalism has gained new strength and invaded everywhere. Neo-colonialism, economic dependence and inequality are universal and is officially the last version of the oldest concept of the wealthy and powerful.

There are many viable progressive movements around. Progressives are clustered in unions, community, environmental, human rights and other organizations, including PN. They are more diverse and, in some ways, more mature, even if they are more scattered and have lost some of their militancy. If PN and progressive planners are going to be effective as advocates of social justice, we need to strengthen our ties with these movements — as we did with the civil rights and anti-war movements in the past.

PN’s membership and leadership is more diverse today in terms of race, gender and geography. Members work in local, state and federal government, as well as non-profit and private sectors. They are engaged politically on issues of race, gender, and class in a wide array of communities and organizations especially vulnerable to corporate predators.

Pretty dismal, no? Maybe we should give up PN and start a business? We could make a fortune marketing gated communities for the socially responsible. Yet, if we stand back a bit from the moment and look at ourselves in historical perspective, it’s not so bad. We are now living in but the latest cycle of globalization—a process that began at least 500 years ago. As with previous cycles of globalization, the outcome is neither predesigned nor inevitable. Throughout the history of capital, organized political action by labor has fundamentally shaped the world we live in for the better. In the last century alone, working class and anti-colonial revolutions, grassroots movements, and radical politics have made history through reform and revolution. I don’t believe the fairy tale says today’s conservative ruling circles and the economic system they champion are eternal. History tells us there is no such thing as an end to history, and the idea that nothing will change is officially the last version of the oldest concept of the wealthy and powerful.

8 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1998

PLANNERS NETWORK #131
Dispersing Authority to Dispersed Members

By John McCrory

When we pause to consider what purpose Planners Network can usefully serve in the coming years, I think we must begin by recognizing the limits of a national organization such as ours. We must understand what PN can and cannot do.

Planners Network is a national, even international, association of volunteer members. Monetary and material contributions from members manage to fund a newsletter, web site, listserv, and one part-time staffperson. PN has no paid full-time staff or officers. If the membership were to grow, say, to around 4,000, it might permit PN to employ two full-time staff people, but most of their time would be occupied by the administrative work required to sustain this growth. Without a major patron, the structural situation of PN is unlikely to change in any fundamental way.

In this issue and throughout PN’s history, members have shown no shortage of ideas about what PN should do. But, recognizing our limits, what is a network of volunteer members capable of doing effectively?

The obvious answers are in our present and recent past. The annual conferences and the newsletter have proved vital forums for sharing information and ideas. Our web site and listserv are valuable complements to these activities, even if we haven’t utilized their maximum potential. Despite PN’s relatively small size, our efforts to articulate our unique visions and goals outline similar efforts by much larger organizations (like the American Planning Association) that lack any strong vision.

As for what PN can’t do, we must recognize PN cannot organize. With no full-time staff, PN lacks the ability to consistently support organizing. I find it doubtful we could mount a vigorous letter-writing campaign or petition drive. It would also be difficult to coordinate the writing of reports, position papers, or op-ed pieces, much less to collect the writing PNers are already doing with the purpose of amplifying our message to a larger audience.

Such efforts have in the past been sporadic and occurred when one or several members stepped up to the plate. Ultimately, however, major initiatives like these prove beyond our ability to sustain; there is only so much volunteers can do.

I am certain many PNers have had to decide between contributing time to volunteer efforts with PN or working on more immediate local issues.

Nevertheless, the work our members do in their local communities is perhaps the more powerful, but quieter, contribution PN has made. I believe this work is the key to PN’s future.

If PN is to prosper and grow as an organization, it is essential that the structure of our organization match our vision. We seek to promote the equitable distribution of resources, power, and opportunity. As Dick Plattik implies elsewhere in this issue, doing so requires diffusing and de-concentrating authority and control. PN must do the same. We must empower our members with the authority to actively serve as representatives of PN in their local communities. In fact, this authority is there for the taking; it only needs to be encouraged.

When we work on specific issues facing our communities as local citizens or as representatives of a local organization, when appropriate, we can perform this work under the PN banner as well. Each of us is a potential messenger, able to articulate the shared values and commitment PN stands for. My first step is that I am stating my affiliation with Planners Network when I publish articles and attend public meetings.

By becoming more vigorous representatives of PN, we can also connect to the other members in our area so that more local chapters emerge and existing local chapters are re-energized. On the local level, PNers can organize.

To support members’ authority, PN needs to continue to strengthen its publications, online and in-print. This can only happen if we alter our conception of what membership means. We must see that the authority conferred by membership also gives each one of us the responsibility of reporting back to other members about the work we do in our local communities. As Chester Hartman and subsequent newsletter editors have continually appealed, more members need to be “member-contributors,” not just “member-readers.”

PNers around the world are fighting the good fight on the broadest range of issues imaginable. Among PNers there is surely a great diversity of opinions and perspectives concerning the best strategies for achieving fundamental change. Yet I suspect we all share the same touchstone in our vision of a fairer, more equitable world. This is no small thing. It sets us against the accumulating and concentrating purpose of pure capitalism, yet it also connects us to the dream most people share.

If individual members assume authority for representing PN in the work they do locally, and if they share the news of this work with other members by contributing to the newsletter, web site and listserv, our organization can overcome the obstacles inherent in being a widely dispersed network of volunteer members. It will also make it possible for PN to effectively pursue the strategies suggested by the other contributors to this issue.

We must change our conceptions of the structure of authority in our organization and the meaning of membership. When our ideas and visions interact with a broader audience of planners, activists, and citizens, they will be enriched with nuance and texture that can only make them more relevant, and more powerful.

John McCrory is a student at Pratt Institute’s Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment. In addition to handling the production of the Planners Network newsletter, he maintains a web site, Peace, that features articles on planning, politics, policy, and poetry. Surf to: <http://pratt.edu/~jmccrory/pauze/>

The 7th Generation

continued from first page

organization, with the possibility of a journal. We discussed whether to call our left, "radical," or "socialist," whether we should be "planners" or "urbanists" or something else; whether we should be small and homogenous or large and broad. In the following years, what evolved was a network of loosely-defined planners, with a minimal organizational structure -- a steering committee and some informal local groups. Interest in developing a journal never got very far, though a major publication came out of one of PN's national conferences.

PN Today

As PN approaches the 25-year mark, the differences in the political climate since the time of its founding are stark. Global capitalism has gained new strength and invaded everywhere. Neo-colonialism, economic dependence and inequality are universal and officially the simplest version of the ancient conflict of the wealthy and powerful.

There are many viable progressive movements around. Progressives are clustered in unions, community, environmental, human rights and other organizations, including PN. They are more diverse and, in some ways, more mature, even if they are more scattered and have lost some of their militancy. If PN and progressive planners are going to be effective as advocates of social justice, we need to strengthen our ties with these movements — as we did with the civil rights and anti-war movements in the past.

PN’s membership and leadership is more diverse today in terms of race, gender and geography. Members work in local, state and federal government, and the non-profit and private sectors. They are engaged politically on issues of race, gender, and class in a wide array of com-

see 7th GENERATION page 10 >
issues facing progressive planning. In principle, I agree with Patricia Nolan and Dick Platkin that PN needs to be more action-oriented. But I remember hearing this cry in PN many times. Why hasn’t it been heeded? It has been hard for PN to focus on joint action because of the localistic nature of the planning issues we’re involved in, our geographic spread, the diversity of issues, and a reluctance to build PN as an alternative institution. Our leadership is also short on representatives with experience in national advocacy. I think there are two clear areas in which PN can play a more active role:

The environmental justice movement has focused both on the environmental and community movements on questions of racial and economic equality. The environmental movement has been concerned with more than just pollution and its impacts. It deals with all aspects of the quality of life issues, often through the unequal distribution of environmental hazards. It goes to the heart of urban planning. PN can help link progressive environmental and community movements with planners committed to social and economic justice. If PN can focus on labor and environmental justice, and begin to take a more active role in each area, our network will grow, and we will better fulfill our objective of promoting "fundamental change in our political and economic systems."

Tom Angotti is Editor of Planners Network.

RESOURCES

EVENTS

October 15-17, 1995: Revitalization of Cities International Conference in Louisville, KY. The conference is sponsored by RDLEP, and DOE and will feature four tracks of interest to those in the Smart Growth Network: 1) environmental justice, 2) affordable housing that focuses on conservation of energy and crime reduction, 3) sustainable development that creates business opportunities in low-income neighborhoods, and 4) innovative architecture and planning. The conference will feature Louisville as a case study and include six and a half streams. More info: <www.uofl.edu/events/revitalization>

October 22-24, 1995: Global Meetings on Community Development in Quebec, Canada. This international conference will present a wide range of local development and community economic development initiatives from around the world, which will address diverse needs, interests, and communities. For more info and an online registration form go to <www.cncl.org> or call (514) 328-2081; E-MAIL: <cmr@cmr.uqac.ca>

November 6-8, 1995: The McAloney Institute will hold its 9th National Women and Housing Conference in Houston, the conference will highlight strategies and informative training sessions. For more info contact the McAloney Institute, 8300 Colaville Road, Suite 310, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

November 12, 1995: Grassroots International’s 15th Anniversary Celebration. This year’s pilgrimage, G.I. has supported democratic change in the Third World through partnerships with community-based groups dedicated to justice. For more info contact G.I. at 179 Boylston Street, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02116. (617) 536-1000, FAX: (617) 536-5535 1995grass@grassrootsg.org.

November 20, 1995: Seacoast of Florida’s 200th Anniversary. Training program to help the skills of community development practitioners. The conference is sponsored by the Coalition for Nonprofit Housing Development. Contact (212) 45-0992

November 20-21, 1995: Just Food’s Fifth Annual Conference in New York City. This year’s conference focuses on people actively working on agriculture and food systems and food education, and mobilization of the politics around local food systems issues. For more info contact Kim Luyster at Just Food (212) 68-8314, ext. 10.

June 23-26, 1996: Rails-to-Trails Conservancy’s Second International Trails and Greenways Conference in Vancouver, B.C. Approximately 1,000 trail and greenway experts and advocates will come together to share ideas, new methodologies and tools, and experiences, a proposal for presentation. Contact Susan Delehay (212) 94-5193, E-MAIL: <susan@trail.org>

MISCELLANEOUS

Community Information Exchange has launched its new electronic information service "Community Information Development Online," to provide info about affordable housing, economic development, and community revitalization programs on the internet. A fine free service at the <www.cominfoexchange.com>

The Green Guerrillas is promoting a Self-Guided Walking Tour of the Gardens of the Lower East Side in New York City that will take you to approximately 20 gardens. Contact Green Guerrillas at (212) 874-6214 or <www.greenguerrillas.org>

PUBLICATIONS

Greenaroo Economic Organizing (GEO) Newsletter co-founder and director Susan Hartman and Sept(Oct) 95 on Worker Ownership and Relationship Development U.S. Contact Dollar and Sense (617) 728-8411 or <www.gpacz.org/dollarsense> Contact at GEO: 1-800-628-7080

Mobility of the Regional is a weekly newsletter of the Tri-State Transportation Campaign. It includes news related to anti-spray, anti-transit, bike and pedestrian issues in the New York Metropolitan area. People interested in receiving the publication can contact (212) 208-7437, <fjoer@infomine.com> or <www.infomine.com>

Building Community: Exploring the Role of Social Capital and Local Government, published by the Program for Community Problem Solving. This working paper draws on case studies, scholarly articles, and community experiences to explain theoretical aspects of social capital and their practical applications by local government. Contact at C.S. (202) 795-2901 or <c.pcp.org>

The Impact of Public Capital Markets on Urban Real Estate, a discussion paper by Clement Desmarais. The paper explores the role of public capital markets in playing in the provision and development of commercial real estate available. Available through The Brookings Institution at (202) 797-4379 or <zab@brookings.edu>

Hunger for Justice: Grassroots International at 1995. A retrospective report on GEI’s and their international partners’ work with community-based groups dedicated to justice and community. Contact GEI at 37

10 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1995

Resources + PLANNERS NETWORK #131

Community, environmental and rights organizations. A significant section of professionals in the mainstream American Planning Association are by all measures progressive planners. Many of them read PN and attend our events. Students at campuses across the country seek out PN as an alternative, especially where PN is brought into classrooms by professors.

PN’s membership has fluctuated between 700 and 1,000 over the last decade. We now have 700 members in 37 states and 16 countries. Last year’s organization was incorporated as a non-profit organization and instituted by-laws. The Steering Committee is now elected for two-year terms. In recent years, with the exception of this year, PN has held successful annual conferences. Since 1975, the most consistent and continuous part of PN life has been the newsletter, which evolved from a 6-page letter to a 16- to 20-page publication including articles on current issues, PN member updates, and information on publications, conferences and jobs.

Whither PN and Progressive Planning?

I agree with Gwen Uey who that networking, through our publication and conferences, is the strongest strength of PN, and if we do nothing else we should maintain PN. And network’s networking would be even stronger if there were more active local PN chapters. And more joint action. Networking isn’t enough. It doesn’t maximize our ability to address major
RESOURCES

EVENTS

October 15-17, 1998: Revitalization of Cities International Conference in Louisville, KY. The conference is sponsored by RURAL and will feature four tracks of interest to those in the Smart Growth Network: 1) environmental justice, 2) affordable housing, which focuses on conservation of energy and crime prevention, 3) sustainable development, which creates business opportunities in low-income neighborhoods, and 4) innovative architecture and planning. The conference will feature Louisville as a case study and include two hands-on sessions. More detailed info is available at <www.louisville.edu/egovn/conference>.

August 4, 1998

Dear Friend,

This is the first mailing of a new communications network plan for the North Carolina Office of Community Development. At the first level, the idea simply is to promote the idea that North Carolina is a place where people work together to share ideas and experiences, discuss their work and lives, develop unique ideas and strategies, and develop unique identity and mutual support. What might develop into a large network in time. Furthermore, I believe that people all over the world are interested in learning about their contributions to this very important effort.

November 6-8, 1998: The McAuley Institute will hold the 6th National Women and Housing Conference in Louisville, KY. The conference will highlight strategic successes and innovative training processes. More info can be obtained through the McAuley Institute, 3830 Calverlie Road, Suite 310, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

November 12, 1998: Grassroots International's 15th Anniversary Celebration: Since its founding in 1983, Grassroots has supported democratic change in the Third World through partnerships with community-based organizations in over 137 countries. For more info, contact Grassroots at 731-768-1095, 413-534-5525 or <grassroots@mass.org>.

November 20, 1998: Sources of Funding for Special Needs Housing. A 2nd Annual Conference to help support the social work community develop the Next Generation of Nonprofit Housing Development. Contact (202) 458-0922.

March 25-29, 1999: The Second Portland Conference on Community Development will be held at Ohio University in Athens, OH. The conference will focus on community development in urban, suburban, and rural settings. For more info, contact <www.cdcnet.org>.

May 3-5, 1999: The President's Council for Sustainable Development has announced a National Town Meeting for Sustainable America to be held in Detroit, MI, and at points across the country. If you or your organization would like to link up and become part of this event, contact (202) 698-1296, NCR.<www.sustainableamerica.org>.


The Green Guerrilla is promoting a Self-Guided Walking Tour of the Gardens of the Lower East Side in New York City. The tour will take you to approximately 20 gardens. Contact Green Guerrillas at (212) 642-5842 or <www.greenguerrillas.org>.

MISCELLANEOUS

Community Information Exchange has launched a new online directory service called "Community Development Online," to provide info about affordable housing, economic development, and community revitalization programs on the Internet. For more info, contact <www.idealn.org>.

PUBLICATIONS

Guanche Economic Organizing (GEO) Newsletter coordinating group will be starting publication in Sept/Oct (1998) on Worker Ownership and Workplace Democracy. Address: 1225 U.S. Contact Dollar and Silver (<617) 368-8411) or <www.gzc.org>.

Replies to "Ask the Expert" are available at <www.idealn.org>.

Community Building: Exploring the Role of Social Capital and Local Government, published by The Program for Community Problem Solving. This working paper draws on case studies, scholarly articles, and community experiences to explain theoretical and practical aspects of social capital. The book is $10. (202) 783-2901 or <www.snap.org>.

The Impact of Public Capital Markets on Urban Real Estate, a discussion paper by Clement Diamond. The paper explores the role that public capital markets play in financing the ownership and development of commercial real estate. Available through the Brookings Institution at (202) 797-4319 or <zinn@brook.org>.

June 23-26, 1999: Rail-to-Trail Conservancy's Second International Trails and Greenways Conference in Bowling Green, KY. Approximately 1,000 trail and greenway experts and advocates will come together to share ideas, discuss new constituencies and build new partnerships. More info is available at <www.snap.org>.

Witcher and Pinney. The focus of this upcoming symposium is the role of community planning in helping to bring about a more just and equitable distribution of environmental burdens. It goes to the heart of urban planning. Pinney can help link progressive environmental and community movements with planners committed to social and economic justice.

If Pinney focuses on labor and environmental justice, and begin to take a more active role in each area, our network will grow, and we will better fulfill our objective of promoting "fundamental change in our political and economic systems."

Labor and environmental justice. Both are the focus of recent upsurges in organizing. Both areas are crucial to issues of race, economic justice, and gender justice. Both are critical to progressive urban planning.

Organized labor is beginning to work up to the issues of urban environment and inequality, though progressives in labor have been aware all along. With the deconcentration of the workplace, growth of part-time work, temp work, and work at home, old distinctions between workplace and residence are breaking down. Some unions are realizing they have to organize workers not only where they work but where they live. Pinney can help link labor and community issues and labor and community movements.

Planners have a special role to play when it comes to dispelling the old nostrum that jobs are necessarily at odds with the environment. The Plan99 Conference in Lowell is an excellent way to build ties with progressive labor, and make connections between community and workplace.

The environmental justice movement has focused both on the environmental and community movements on questions of racial and economic equality. The environmental justice movement is concerned with more than just pollution and its impacts. It deals with all aspects of the quality of life issues, including the unequal distribution of environmental hazards. It goes to the heart of urban planning. Pinney can help link progressive environmental and community movements with planners committed to social and economic justice.

If Pinney focuses on labor and environmental justice, and begin to take a more active role in each area, our network will grow, and we will better fulfill our objective of promoting "fundamental change in our political and economic systems."

March 25-29, 1999: The Second Portland Conference on Community Development will be held at Ohio University in Athens, OH. The conference will focus on community development in urban, suburban, and rural settings. For more info, contact <www.cdcnet.org>.

May 3-5, 1999: The President's Council for Sustainable Development has announced a National Town Meeting for Sustainable America to be held in Detroit, MI, and at points across the country. If you or your organization would like to link up and become part of this event, contact (202) 698-1296, NCR.<www.sustainableamerica.org>.

The Green Guerrilla is promoting a Self-Guided Walking Tour of the Gardens of the Lower East Side in New York City. The tour will take you to approximately 20 gardens. Contact Green Guerrillas at (212) 642-5842 or <www.greenguerrillas.org>.

The Green Guerrilla is promoting a Self-Guided Walking Tour of the Gardens of the Lower East Side in New York City. The tour will take you to approximately 20 gardens. Contact Green Guerrillas at (212) 642-5842 or <www.greenguerrillas.org>.

The Green Guerrilla is promoting a Self-Guided Walking Tour of the Gardens of the Lower East Side in New York City. The tour will take you to approximately 20 gardens. Contact Green Guerrillas at (212) 642-5842 or <www.greenguerrillas.org>.

The Green Guerrilla is promoting a Self-Guided Walking Tour of the Gardens of the Lower East Side in New York City. The tour will take you to approximately 20 gardens. Contact Green Guerrillas at (212) 642-5842 or <www.greenguerrillas.org>.

The Green Guerrilla is promoting a Self-Guided Walking Tour of the Gardens of the Lower East Side in New York City. The tour will take you to approximately 20 gardens. Contact Green Guerrillas at (212) 642-5842 or <www.greenguerrillas.org>.

The Green Guerrilla is promoting a Self-Guided Walking Tour of the Gardens of the Lower East Side in New York City. The tour will take you to approximately 20 gardens. Contact Green Guerrillas at (212) 642-5842 or <www.greenguerrillas.org>.

The Green Guerrilla is promoting a Self-Guided Walking Tour of the Gardens of the Lower East Side in New York City. The tour will take you to approximately 20 gardens. Contact Green Guerrillas at (212) 642-5842 or <www.greenguerrillas.org>.

The Green Guerrilla is promoting a Self-Guided Walking Tour of the Gardens of the Lower East Side in New York City. The tour will take you to approximately 20 gardens. Contact Green Guerrillas at (212) 642-5842 or <www.greenguerrillas.org>.

The Green Guerrilla is promoting a Self-Guided Walking Tour of the Gardens of the Lower East Side in New York City. The tour will take you to approximately 20 gardens. Contact Green Guerrillas at (212) 642-5842 or <www.greenguerrillas.org>.

The Green Guerrilla is promoting a Self-Guided Walking Tour of the Gardens of the Lower East Side in New York City. The tour will take you to approximately 20 gardens. Contact Green Guerrillas at (212) 642-5842 or <www.greenguerrillas.org>.
PEO ANNIVERSARY EVENTS AND REUNION

1999 will be the 35th anniversary of the birth of PEO’s Equal Opportunity (EO) program, spawned in the days of racial turmoil in the 60’s. PEO was created to give planning advocates a voice and support for their efforts to give minorities a fair shake in housing, urban renewal, and services. In pursuit of these goals, PEO confronted the two main professional planning organizations at that time, ASPA and AIP, at their conferences, tackled segregated housing projects in New York and elsewhere, and even fielded a slate for election to the AIP Board of Governors in 1969. The organization was disbanded in 1974, and was succeeded by Planners Network under the guidance of Chester Hartman.

There is a movement afoot to have a PEO reunion during 1999. The PEO Reunion Committee is discussing a program that might include a panel on PEO at the APA Conference in Seattle, a similar appearance at the Planners Network conference in Lowell, Mass., and a reunion program in New York City in the fall to be topped off with a fun cocktail hour and dinner.

Your Participation Wanted!

Future issues will cover energy politics, planning and race, immigration, labor, and other topics.

Deadline for the next issue is November 2, 1998.

Please submit articles, notes, updates, and resources typed and double-spaced. Feature articles of 500 to 1,500 words are always welcome. Submissions on disk or by email are greatly appreciated. All electronic submissions should be sent as ASCII text. Send your submissions, resources or job listings to the editors at <peo@pratt.edu> or the address given at left. All member updates and address changes should be directed to Dalla Hall, <dalla@pratt.edu>.

FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS, Planners Network has been a voice for progressive professionals and activists concerned with urban planning and social justice. PN’s 1,000 members receive this bimonthly magazine, network online with PN-NET, and take part in the annual conference. PN also gives progressive ideas a voice in the mainstream planning profession by organizing sessions at annual conferences of the American Planning Association and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning.

Held annually each spring since 1994, PN conferences combine speakers and workshops with exchanges involving local communities. Attendees engage in discussions that help inform political strategies at the local, national, and international levels. Recent conferences have been held in Washington, D.C., East St. Louis, IL, Brooklyn, NY, and Pomona, CA, and the 1999 conference is scheduled for June in Lowell, MA.

Whether face-to-face, in print, or over the internet, PNers are part of a network that shares progressive ideas and experiences. Join Planners Network and make a difference while sharing your ideas and enthusiasm with others!

Annual financial contributions are voluntary, but we need funds for operating expenses. The Steering Committee recommends the following amounts as minimums for Network members:

$15 for those with incomes under $25,000, students and unemployed
$25 for those earning between $25,000 and $50,000
$45 for those earning over $50,000
$30 for organizations and libraries

MAIL THIS FORM TO:

Planners Network
379 DeKalb Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11205

Your Last Issue?
The date on your mailing label indicates when your current membership expires — make sure to renew if this date is coming up soon! If it is already expired, we need to hear from you before May 1st or you won’t receive PN anymore. See the opposite page for contribution suggestions. Thanks for your continued support!

Mail this form to:

Planners Network
379 DeKalb Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11205

Name ________________________________
Organization ____________________________
Street ________________________________
City __________ State ______ Zip Code ______
Email ________________________________
Telephone ( ) __________________________ Fax ( ) __________________________

Notes: Your contribution is tax-deductible!

International members, please send a check in U.S. funds as we are unable to accept payment by credit cards or in other currency at this time.

Thanks!
PEO ANNIVERSARY EVENTS AND REUNION

1999 will be the 35th anniversary of the birth of Planners for Equal Opportunity (PEO), spawned in the days of racial turmoil in the 60s. PEO was created to give planning advocates a voice and support for their efforts to give minorities a fair shake in housing, urban renewal, and services. In pursuit of these goals, PEO confronted the two main professional planning organizations at that time, ASPO and AIP, at their conferences, tackled segregated housing projects in New York and elsewhere, and even faced a state for election to the AIP Board of Governors in 1969. The organization was disbanded in 1974, and was succeeded by Planners Network under the guidance of Chester Hartman.

There is a movement afoot to have a PEO Reunion during 1999. The PEO Reunion Committee is discussing a program that might include a panel on PEO at the APA Conference in Seattle, a similar appearance at the Planners Network conference in Lowell, Mass., and a reunion program in New York City in the fall to be held off with a fun cocktail hour and dinner. More word on plans is being firm up.

Reunion Committee members are: Mike Abelloff, Tom Angotti, Bob Bogen, Rob Bjarke, Marshall England, Jim Hamberger, Chester Hartman, Robert Heifetz, Leo E. Hillard, Jr., Lewis Libaka, T'ing Poi, Frances Piven, Yvonne Rubin, Alan Rabinowitsch, Harry Schwartz, Ronald Shiffman, David Stoloff and Walter Thabit.

Anyone interested in working on these events should contact Walter Thabit at 306 E. 11 St., #5C, New York, NY 10003-7461, (212) 477-3694 Fax:212-460-5980 Email: Walter@pnet.com.

FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS, Planners Network has been a voice for progressive professionals and activists concerned with urban planning and social justice. PNs 1,000 members receive this bimonthly magazine, network online with PN-NET, and take part in the annual conference. PNs also gives progressive ideas a voice in the mainstream planning profession by organizing sessions at annual conferences of the American Planning Association and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning.

Held annually each spring since 1994 PN conferences combine speakers and workshops with exchanges involving local communities. Attendees engage in discussions that help inform political strategies at the local, national, and international levels. Recent conferences have been held in Washington, D.C., East St. Louis, IL, Brooklyn, NY, and Pomona, CA, and the 1999 conference is scheduled for June in Lowell, MA.

Whether face-to-face, in print, or over the internet, PNs are part of a network that shares progressive ideas and experiences. Join Planners Network and make a difference while sharing your ideas and enthusiasm with others!

Annual financial contributions are voluntary, but we need funds for operating expenses. The Steering Committee recommends the following amounts as minimums for Network members:

$15 for those with incomes under $25,000, students and unemployed
$25 for those earning between $25,000 and $50,000
$45 for those earning over $50,000
$30 for organizations and libraries

Your Participation Wanted!

Future issues will cover energy politics, planning and race, immigration, labor, and other topics.

Deadline for the next issue is November 2, 1998.

Please submit articles, notes, updates, and resources typed and double-spaced. Feature articles of 500 to 1,500 words are always welcome. Submissions on disk or by email are greatly appreciated. All electronic submissions should be sent as ASCII text. Send your submissions, resources or job listings to the editors at <pnet@pratt.edu> or the address given at left. All member updates and address changes should be directed to Dallia Hall, <dhall@pratt.edu>.

YOUR LAST ISSUE?

The date on your mailing label indicates when your current membership expires - make sure to renew if this date is coming up soon! If it is already expired, we need to hear from you before May 1st or you won’t receive PN anymore. See the opposite page for contribution suggestions. Thanks for your continued support!
CONTENTS

WHITHER PLANNERS NETWORK?

1 THE SEVENTH GENERATION
   From Whence and Whither PN?
   by Tom Angotti

1 COLLECTIVE ACTION
   Doing More for Those With Less
   by Patricia Nolan

3 WORKING FOR A DECENT LIVING
   Bridging the Gap Between Labor and Community

4 ADVOCATE FOR PROGRESSIVE PLANNING EDUCATION
   by Cathy Klump

5 DISCUSS AND ORGANIZE
   by Peggy Dye

5 KEEP NETWORKING
   by Gwen Urey

6 SUPPORT ACTIVISTS, QUESTION CAPITALISM
   by Dick Platkin

8 YOU GOTTA REPRESENT
   Dispersing Authority to Dispersed Members
   By John McCrory

MOVING?

Please make sure to let PN know if your address changes. It saves us money and helps ensure you don’t miss an issue!