

South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association
presents the
SCAPA 2025 Annual Report



President's Message

Planning is a profession built on collaboration, and SCAPA's strength is our people. In 2025, we continued to grow as a chapter and deepen the ways we support members, through professional development, shared leadership, and service to communities across the state.

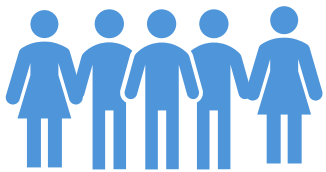
Thank you to every volunteer, committee member, sponsor, and partner who helped move this work forward. With your energy and expertise, we will continue to expand opportunity, strengthen our networks, and champion the value of planning in South Carolina.

Even more great things to come in 2026!



Shea Farrar, President

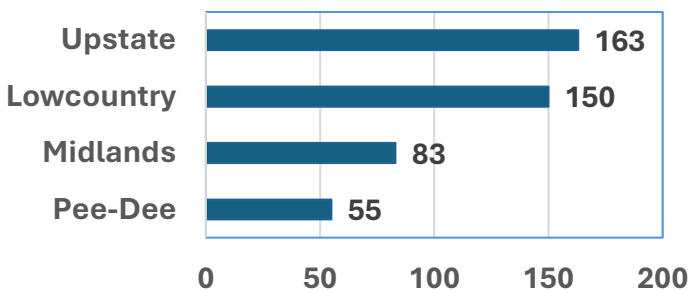
Membership Growth



2024 = 486 Members
2025 = 518 Members

New Members = +5.8%

Regional Distribution



Membership Type

FAICP = 9 members (1.7%)

AICP = 260 members (50.5%)

Non-AICP = 208 members (40.4%)

Student = 38 members (7.4%)

Committee and Program Updates

Financial

Completed a transition to a nonprofit-focused banking partner and high-yield savings structure, increasing monthly interest earnings. Membership approved a modest dues increase to strengthen long-term financial sustainability and support future investments such as website upgrades.

Programs & Events

The chapter delivered a successful Spring Conference in Florence and partnered with APA-NC on a large Joint Fall Conference in Charlotte. Leadership advanced planning and staffing support needs for the next conference cycle, including 2026 Spring Conference preparations in Summerville.

Student & Emerging Planner

SCAPA supported student engagement and conference participation, including attendance and lodging support discussions for student representatives. Leadership identified volunteer and liaison roles to strengthen coordination with student and emerging planner communities.

FAICP

Leadership continued work to rebuild the chapter nomination process and support pipeline for FAICP candidates. Budget capacity was identified to support up to two nominations, with additional work focused on guidance for future cycles.

SCAPA would like to honor Susan Britt, FAICP and John Gaber, PhD, FAICP for their recent inductions into the APA College of Fellows. Congratulations to Susan and John!

Continuing Education

Total Credits Available to Members = 90+

Total AICP Exam Sessions = 11

Participants = 500

Committee and Program Updates, cont.

Membership

SCAPA membership grew from 486 in 2024 to 514 in 2025 (+28 members, +5.8%). Leadership advanced member pathways and outreach strategies to support retention and advancement into full APA membership.

Professional Development

SCAPA supported high-value educational programming through conference sessions and professional learning opportunities for members. Conference sessions offered 90+ CM/CE credits, reaching 500 member participants, and the chapter hosted 11 AICP exam prep classes supporting 20 participants.

Communications

Communications work centered on website transition strategy, standardizing chapter communications, and evaluating tools such as Google Workspace. SCAPA is relaunching Palmetto Planner and strengthening communications channels, including sponsor-supported communications and social media presence.

Awards (off-cycle)

2025 was an off-cycle year for SCAPA's biennial awards program. Leadership used the year to prepare for the next awards cycle and maintain momentum for 2026 awards.

CPAT Community Planning Assistance Team

The Westminster CPAT effort progressed toward completion in 2025 and remains a promising model for future SCAPA technical assistance work. Committee updates focused on scheduling, volunteer participation, and next-step implementation support.

Governance / Nominating

The Executive Committee advanced governance priorities including committee appointments, volunteer plan implementation, chapter administrator onboarding, and preparation for future elections and bylaws-related actions. Governance efforts supported continuity planning and clearer role alignment.

Legislative & Policy

Leadership strengthened a regular legislative coordination rhythm focused on tracking state and national issues and sharing timely updates with members. The chapter maintained a neutral stance on formal legislative endorsements.

SCAPA Guiding Documents

- [Chapter Bylaws](#)
- [Strategic Plan](#)
- [Development Plan](#)
- [Work-Plan](#)
- [Budget](#)

2025 Executive Committee & Representatives

President			
Shea Farrar			
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Senior Planning Project Manager			
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Immediate Past President & APA Representative to SC Planning Education Advisory Committee			
Stephanie Monroe Tillerson, AICP			
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Secretary-Treasurer			
Dylan Gehring, AICP			
Planner/Designer Plusurbia			
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	Director-at-Large	Professional Development Ofc.	Clemson University Rep.
	Meagan Staton	Amy T. Southerland, AICP	John Gaber, PhD, FAICP
	Subdivision Administrator	Tourism and Special Events	Professor & Chair Director,
	Greenville County	Manager City of Charleston	Department of City & Regional
	Mstaton@greenvillecounty.org	Department of Livability & Tourism	Planning Clemson University
	Director-at-Large	southerlanda@charleston-sc.gov	jgaber@clemson.edu
	Andrew Babb, PE, AICP	Communications Officer	Clemson Planning Student Organization (PSO)
	Transportation Project Manager	April Williams	Lennon Murphy
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	Andrew.babb@bolton-menk.com	Lancaster County	Clemson University
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	Ashley Nichols	Emerging Planners Group	Melinda Lucka Kelly
	Community Planner	Lindsey McCoy	Attorney at Law and Urban Studies
	Shaw Air Force Base	Senior Planner II - Grants,	Director Finkel Law Firm and
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