

December, 2016

Issue No. 21

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## News from your APA President

We've all heard the phrase: "Life turns on a dime." Well, recently I have personally experienced such an event. A small group of us were riding motorcycles back from Seattle, Washington, to San Antonio. On the seventh day of a planned ten day ride, as we were riding through the Navaho Nation in Arizona, one of my friends, Kenny, hit a cow. Livestock roam openly through the area and we were, in hindsight, traveling too fast for the conditions.

Kenny's bike hit the cow, killing it, and he was very lucky to have survived. He was airlifted to Flagstaff, where they performed surgery to repair his torn aorta. Getting him from the middle of the Navaho Nation to the Level One trauma center in Flagstaff took four and a half hours. During this time the blood clotted in his aorta and his organs below his heart were all damaged, including his spine. Kenny, as of today (Oct. 17), remains in critical condition, on a ventilator and with numerous other life threatening conditions. It's a fact that when Kenny recovers, he will be in a wheelchair. Maybe for the rest of his life; nobody knows at this time.

What I do professionally - being a RAS and ADA Specialist - does not usually directly affect me, other than providing an income. But it will from now on, because Kenny, who is one of my closest friends, will be a wheelchair user. So now it's personal. And so I want to sincerely thank all of you for the work that you do. We do make a difference, and it matters to millions of people out there the work that we do, and that we do it thoroughly and professionally. Kenny has a very long road ahead of him, but to the best of my ability, I want to make sure that the built environment will not be any more of an obstacle than absolutely necessary.

[Peter Grojean](#), 2016 APA President

## Accessing the Future

I had the privilege to preview our President Peter Grojean's final comments for this newsletter

## [contact us.](#)

### **Welcome These New APA Members!**

Click on the member's name to view his or her profile in our Member Directory.

Kevin Atchison  
*Midland, TX*

### **Have ADA, FHA, TAS or other Technical Questions?**

It is easy to ask via the APA member-only Forum!

- \*Just log in and access your member profile.
- \*Under the Forums heading select Forum Memberships.
- \*Choose the forums and threads that interest you.
- \*You may opt-in for any or all discussions.

Sign up for Job Opportunities and Member News!

\*Even if you have previously joined the Forum, and "opted in for all discussions", you must go back to your preferences and opt in for any new discussions.

Don't forget that we also have FAQs for members only!  
Walter Qualls, Chair Technical Standards

### **Builders, Architects, City Planners, etc. - Do you need to Hire an Accessibility Specialist?**

Looking for a specialist to help with planning your building designs and/or inspections? If so, we have the expertise you need on our website. Check Hire A Specialist for a complete directory by expertise, name or location.

### **APA Needs You!**

It is never too late to help an APA committee - either as a member or doing a special

as president. As a fellow motorcycle rider, I can relate to his experience. I was personally involved in an accident days before high school graduation when I hit a dog that charged me. Fortunately, I was on a much smaller bike and a much slower speed. I, and to my knowledge the dog, both survived without serious injury. My prayers are with his friend for a full recovery. Any one of us can experience a life altering issue at any time that could leave us with some type of disability. I have a niece that has been deaf since birth and am amazed at what she can do and what she has done with her life including getting a masters' degree. Yet, I still see the challenges she faces as a deaf person. What we do today as Registered Accessibility Specialists will help ensure access for not only those with disabilities today, but those that will have disabilities in the future.

Peter and I have been working with the legal team since last December to amend the rules and procedures that impact our business. We have recently had the opportunity to review and comment on an early draft of the new proposed rules and procedures that TDLR shared with us. By the time of publishing this newsletter, we will have attended the advisory board meeting in Austin on November the 7th where the new proposed rules and procedures will be discussed prior to publication in the Texas Register. You will hear more about this at the annual meeting in January.

I look forward to serving you as the President in 2017. See you in Austin!!!

Carroll Pruitt, APA President Elect

### **APA Annual Conference & Expo!**

The APA Annual Conference & Expo will be held February 1-3, 2017, at the Marriott North, in Round Rock, TX, near Austin.

See the schedule of presentations here and register now for the Annual Conference & Expo!

The Austin Marriott North is also open for discounted room reservations.

Kim Goss and Jim Terry, Education & Events Chair

### **Donate Items for the Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship Silent Auction**

We honor Jim Boyce with this scholarship by providing financial assistance to college students of design and architecture who demonstrate a keen interest in accessibility.

one-time task. Members may see Committee minutes [here](#). Contact anyone below to discuss how you can help:

#### Communications

- [Mark Morley](#)

#### Education & Events

- [Kim Goss](#) and [Jim Terry](#)

Jim Boyce Scholarship

- [Jimmy Bell](#)

#### Legislative & Legal

- [Peter Grojean](#) and [Carroll](#)

[Pruitt](#)

#### Membership & Marketing

- [Jessica Hamm](#)

#### Technical Standards

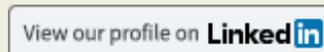
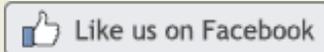
- [Walter Qualls](#)

## Your Scholarship Program - A chance to give back

Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship was established by the Accessibility Professionals Association (APA), to honor and recognize our friend and colleague, Jim Boyce. [Click here](#) for applications, donations to Silent Auction and general donations.

[Jimmy Bell](#), 2015 JBMS Chair

### [Our Website](#)



Join Our Mailing List!

[Sign up for membership today!](#)

If you have any articles for our next Newsletter please submit your articles to [ninapaquette@gmail.com](mailto:ninapaquette@gmail.com)

Items for auction can be of any nature. For example:

- Restaurant, Gas and Retail coupons
- Tools such as digital levels and pressure gauges
- Software or handbooks for inspections, reviews, and tracking projects
- Use of vacation homes, boats, air tickets, etc.
- Weekend getaways, concert tickets or other fun activities

Please take advantage of this opportunity to give back to your professional community by completing the donation form. Auction items such as gift cards, certificates, etc. should be mailed in advance to the APA address in the blue box to the right. Large items can be brought directly to the conference.

[Auction item form here!](#)

Email your completed form to:

Denise Pullen

For more information you can contact Denise or

[Nina Paquette](#)

## Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship Applications Now Available for Students

The Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship was established by the Accessibility Professionals Association (APA), to honor and recognize our friend and colleague Jim Boyce. Jim was formerly a Plan Review Manager with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) and was one of the drafters of the Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS), in 1994. When Jim retired from TDLR, he became a Registered Accessibility Specialist (RAS) and was among the Charter Members of APA. The success of APA is in large part due to Jim's leadership in its earlier years. Due to the nature of this memorial the scholarship is only available to college students in Texas.

[Find the application here.](#) The entry deadline is March 31, 2017.

## APA is looking for Texas Member volunteers to visit legislators

Next year's APA meeting will take place during the session of the Texas Legislature. The Legal & Legislative committee is looking for volunteers to visit their respective legislators to let them know that we are available to answer their questions about accessibility concerns if they arise during the session. To participate in the committee task force, please let us know by responding

## APA

### Board of Directors

Meet your **2016 Board of Directors**. Members may see all Board minutes [here](#).

[Peter Grojean](#) - President  
[Carroll Pruitt](#) - President-Elect  
[Tom Ellis](#) - Secretary  
[Jack McClellan](#) - Treasurer  
[Jimmy Bell](#) - Board Member  
[Sharon Massey](#) - Board Member  
[Ken Otten](#) - Board Member

### Vision Statement

A national Association of professionals with knowledge and expertise in pursuit of compliance with accessibility regulations related to the built and physical environment.

### APA Mission

- Support membership needs and organizational growth
- Enhance professional development including specialized and advanced certifications.
- Actively promote the services provided by our members.
- Hold our members to a high standard of professionalism and ethics.
- Facilitate consistency in the application of accessibility regulations
- Present a unified voice in our industry
- Actively participate in the development, interpretation and adoption of accessibility regulations.
- Promote the value of certified accessibility specialists and consultants.

[CLICK HERE FOR PAST ANNUAL REPORTS](#)

\* The APA Newsletter is provided to share general accessibility information and other resources that may be of interest to our members and constituents. While the APA

to [executivedirector@accessibilityprofessionals.org](mailto:executivedirector@accessibilityprofessionals.org).

[Carroll Pruitt](#), APA President Elect

### Re-writing the Texas RAS Procedures

APA Texas Members, your Legislative and Legal Committee is working on rewriting the Texas RAS Procedures or, if new procedures are proposed soon by TDLR, working with TDLR/AB and responding to the proposed changes. If you are interested in working with the committee on this effort, please let us know. Or, if you have specific concerns or recommended changes you can submit those to us for consideration.

Please submit concerns or recommended changes for review by the task force via the email below. You may also participate in the committee task force by contacting us at [executivedirector@accessibilityprofessionals.org](mailto:executivedirector@accessibilityprofessionals.org)

[Peter Grojean](#),  
APA President

### APA Newsletter now accepting advertisers!

Notice our new ad in the left side column by [Elegant Insights Braille Creations](#). If you know a vendor who might be interested in a similar ad have them contact [ninapaquette@gmail.com](mailto:ninapaquette@gmail.com). This ad is just \$50 per issue in our 2016 pilot year.

[Mark Morley](#), Communications Chair

### How to Increase your business? Update your Profile!

If you have not yet done so, I encourage everyone to take a few minutes to update your membership profile. You will notice a new selection, "Interest" has been added. Here you will be able to specify your areas of specialty, industry, service area, and other areas which will allow your professional accomplishments to stand out. This will provide more detailed information to individuals searching to "Hire a Professional" or search the "Member Directory." So please take the time to update your information. It will be well worth your while!

**NOTE: Interested parties looking to hire a Specialist, will NOT be able to find you unless you have updated all your "interests".**

#### Process to update your Profile:

- \* Login
- \* Click on your name in the top right corner
- \* Click on Profile
- \* Click on Interest Tab

Newsletter is published by the Accessibility Professionals Association, it is not intended to draw legal conclusions nor does it substitute for the advice of an attorney. The APA Newsletter does not speak for and does not represent the U.S. Department of Justice interpretation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) nor the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations (TDLR) interpretation of the 2012 Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS).

Additionally, we provide space for advertisers but we do not claim any knowledge of or approval of advertisers products or services.

## Featured Article



Include strong call-to action links to drive traffic and increase the likelihood of converting browsers into buyers. This promotion is optional. You can simply delete all default text and the promotion will disappear.

What action, if any, do you want your members to take? Add a "Find out more" link to additional information that you may have hosted on your website.

## Featured Article



Include strong call-to action links to drive traffic and increase the likelihood of converting browsers into buyers. This promotion is optional. You can simply delete all default text and the promotion will disappear.

- \* Check all items that apply to your services
- \* Hit the save button
- \* Do a few sample searches under the Membership Directory tab and see if your Profile comes up as you would expect it to.

Jessica Hamm, Chair Membership & Marketing Committee

**Your APA 2017 Member Logo will be available for your use on business materials on January 1, 2017, or when you renew in 2017.**

**APA is now a Preferred Provider for ICC - as well as AIA and TDLR!**



## Proofers Wanted!

The Communications Committee is seeking proofreaders for the APA newsletter and other APA communications. If you are knowledgeable, talented, and interested in grammar, spelling, sentence structure, etc., please contact Nina Paquette or Communications Chair, Mark Morley. Thank you for your consideration.

What action, if any, do you want your members to take? Add a "Find out more" link to additional information that you may have hosted on your website.