

March, 2017

Issue No. 22

## In This Issue

[Welcome New Members](#)

[Have Technical Questions?](#)

[Do You Want to Hire a  
Specialist?](#)

[APA Committees Need You](#)

[APA Scholarship Program](#)

[Your APA Board](#)

[Thank you to Annual  
Conference Sponsors](#)

[2017 Annual Conference  
Wrap-up](#)

[Thank you to JBMS Silent  
Auction Donors](#)

[JBMS Application Open](#)

[Join a Committee in 2017](#)

[Rewriting the Texas RAS  
Procedures](#)

[Advertise in the Newsletter!](#)

[Update your profile!](#)

[2017 APA Member Logo](#)

[APA now a Preferred Provider  
for ICC, AIA and TDLR!](#)

[Proofers Wanted!](#)

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here?  
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contact us.**

## Welcome These New APA Members!

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

Casey Anderson  
Decatur, TX

## From your APA President - Accessing the Future

2017 should be an exciting year for APA. We had a very successful annual meeting in Round Rock. Those of you who did not attend missed some of the best ADA and Fair Housing training that is provided anywhere. I want to personally thank Kim Goss and Jim Terry along with Shirley Knox and Nina Paquette. Keep this in mind for the 2018 annual meeting which will be back in Round Rock, TX. Our theme for the conference was Accessing the Future. I discussed this during my presentation to the members after being installed as your 2017 president. None of us know what the future holds, and we don't know what the future holds for APA. I can tell you that what we do today as accessibility specialist, architects, engineers, and interior designers can and will impact the built environment long after we have retired and passed on.

APA is slowly seeing the fruits of our efforts as we become a truly national organization. We now have several members from beyond the great State of Texas. Our board will be looking at ways to further increase our out of state membership at our Waco retreat in March.

Several of us will be attending the TDLR Architectural Barriers Advisory Board meeting on March 7 in Austin. APA approached TDLR in late 2015 to update the RAS procedures. We reviewed a preliminary draft in December and look forward to working with TDLR as the new procedures are updated and implemented. Be sure to contact the Legislative and Legal committee if you have concerns about the procedures. The Legislative and Legal Committee is also following several bills that would impact our RAS work. A link to these bills can be found on the TDLR website.

I look forward to the coming year and feel free to contact me, our board members or staff if we may be of assistance.

Carroll Pruitt, 2017 APA President

Gene H Boecker  
*St. Louis, MO*

Kristin Brennan  
*Houston, TX*

Chanel Carlascio  
*Vancouver, WA*

Jeff T. Cook  
*Houston, TX*

Trey Crook  
*Dallas, TX*

Bruce Elk  
*Houston, TX*

Ron L. Johnson  
*Montgomery, TX*

Russell J. Kendzior  
*Southlake, TX*

Reynario Leija  
*Boise, ID*

Trish A Long  
*Georgetown, TX*

James J Papia  
*Metairie, LA*

Megan R Quillen  
*McKinney, TX*

Elizabeth R Robertson  
*Tulsa, OK*

Mario A Salas  
*Laredo, TX*

Jennifer Shell  
*San Marcos, TX*

Meghan Simecek  
*Friendswood, TX*

Elizabeth Thompson  
*Missouri City, TX*

Lisa Valdivia  
*College Station, 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.

## **We want to thank the generous Sponsors and Exhibitors for their support for this year's APA Annual Conference & Expo**

See the [list](#) with descriptions, live web links and contact information at the end of this newsletter! You can also find this [list on our website](#).

## **APA Annual Conference Wrap-up and Upcoming Training Dates**

This year's Annual Conference was another great success. We provided over 28 hours of continuing education in a very productive three days. Sessions were conducted by nationally-renowned speakers such as Bill Hecker and Jim Terry (our own Education and Events Co-Chair). We offered three specific training tracks including a Standards Primer series, Accessible Housing workshop and the APA/ADA Specialist training. Twenty new candidates sat for the APA/ADA Specialist Examination following the required training. We brought back some of our more popular sessions like the round-table Tech Talk discussions, and, of course, our Pirate-themed Casino Night was a huge hit - aaaarrgh! If you attended the conference, please fill out the survey you recently received, and give us your thoughts and suggestions. Our committee is already planning for next year!

### **SAVE THESE UPCOMING TRAINING DATES!**

Schertz/San Antonio - May 12, 2017

Plano - August 18, 2017

Houston - October 20, 2017

2018 APA Annual Conference & Expo - January 31 - February 2, 2018 in Round Rock/Austin, TX

- Check out the recent 2017 APA Annual Meeting Program [here](#). The 2018 draft program will be available in November 2017.
- We welcome any Exhibitors or Sponsors who would like to increase their visibility at our APA Annual Conference & Expo. As an example, see our [last year's Exhibitor/Sponsor guidelines](#). We will be posting the Guidelines for 2018 in April.

2019 APA Annual Conference & Expo - January 30 - February 1, 2019 in Round Rock/Austin

\*APA is an approved ACTCP Provider, TDLR Provider (#1521), AIA/CES Provider (#G583), and ICC Preferred Provider (#1321). APA also awards an APA-ADA Specialist Designation and Accessibility Standards Primer completion certificate, when all criteria are met.

\*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 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

- [Kim Hooker](#)

### **Your Scholarship Program - A chance to give back**

Jim Boyce Memorial



From left: Tom Ellis, Jim Terry, Jack McClellan, Peter Grojean




APA Members enjoying Casino Night!

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](#)

 [Like us on Facebook](#)

[View our profile on LinkedIn](#)

[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)

### **APA Board of Directors**

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

[Carroll Pruitt](#) - President  
[Jack McClellan](#) - President-Elect  
[Tom Ellis](#) - Secretary  
[Clark Teel](#) - Treasurer  
[Jimmy Bell](#) - Board Member  
[Sharon Massey](#) - Board Member  
[Paul Glenn](#) - Board Member  
[Peter Grojean](#) - Past President

### **Vision Statement**

A national Association of professionals with knowledge and expertise in pursuit of compliance with accessibility



Kim Goss and Jimmy Bell

[Kim Goss](#) and [Jim Terry](#), Education & Events Chair

### **Thanks to our 2017 Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship Silent Auction Donors!**

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. Funding comes from member donations and the annual Silent Auction. This year's donors were:

- \* Austin Marriott North
- \* Jimmy Bell
- \* Corada
- \* Evan Terry Associates
- \* Thomas Fallon Photography
- \* Jennifer Gomez Photography
- \* Kim Goss
- \* Paul Klein
- \* Jack McClellan
- \* Walter Qualls
- \* John Torkelson

If you would like to make a monetary donation you can [donate online here](#) or donate an item for next year's auction by [filling out your form here](#) and emailing it to [Nina Paquette](#).

**Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship Applications Now Available for Students**

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 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.

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.

## Email a Chair to Join a Committee in 2017!

### APA Communication Committee:

Chair - [Mark Morley](#)

MEETING DATE = 2nd Wednesday at 9:30AM Central

The Communications committee is responsible for the quarterly APA newsletter and the oversight of all APA communication tools. Acting as gatekeeper, we support APA committees with communications and use volunteer proofers to review all internal and external written material published or sent out on behalf of the Association.

### APA Membership & Marketing Committee:

Chair - [Jessica Hamm](#)

MEETING DATE = 2nd Tuesday at 9:30AM Central

The Membership & Marketing Committee is responsible for the plans and actions used to COMMUNICATE with and RETAIN current Members, WELCOME new members, RE-CONNECT with dropped members and RECRUIT potential new members. These new members may be TX RAS, TX Non-RAS, out-of-state and even international individuals and organizations. Additionally we want to PROMOTE MEMBERS and the APA to the building and accessibility industry.

### APA Technical Standards Committee:

Chair - [Kim Hooker](#)

MEETING DATE = 2nd Wednesday at 1:30PM Central

Technical Standard Committee provides a technical resource library (FAQs) and a FORUM for members to get technical clarification on ADA and other standards. We give input on regulations affecting the industry by drafting position papers for the APA BOD to review, when needed. We provide a Technical session (Tech Talks) at the Annual Conference and plan to provide

webinars for members.

### **Exhibitor/Sponsor Committee:**

Chair - Paul Glenn

MEETING DATE = March 28, August 29, Sept 26, Nov 7  
at 10AM Central

The Exhibitors/Sponsors committee is formed to bring in exhibitors that can provide our Conference Attendees with exposure to new products, tools and concepts, as well as bring revenue to APA via exhibitor and sponsor fees.

### **APA Education and Events Committee:**

Chairs - Kim Goss & Jim Terry

MEETING DATE = TBD

Continuing Education Committee is responsible for programs throughout the year in addition to programs at the annual conference as well as regional training.

### **APA Legislative & Legal Committee:**

Chairs - Peter Grojean & Carroll Pruitt

MEETING DATE = TBD

Watch legislation activity and take action when needed.

### **Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship Committee:**

Chair - Jimmy Bell

MEETING DATE = March 16 (campaign, enough applications?), April 13 (award scholarship, start Campaign) , Sept (Revise, send & follow-up application), Oct (wrap up campaign/begin Silent Auction) - on the 2nd Thursday at 10:00am Central

Since 2010, APA has awarded select design students The Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship for their dedication and interest in promoting accessibility in their future careers. The committee revises and mails out application materials, awards scholarship(s) and raises funds each year.

## **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 them

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

Peter Grojean, Legislative & Legal Chair

### **APA Newsletter now accepting advertisers!**

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
- \* 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!**



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## **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.

## **APA would like to THANK this year's Exhibitors and Sponsors!**

### **2017 Platinum Sponsor**

#### **EHP**

Real Estate Environmental Consulting Services: Supporting a wide range of product areas including asbestos, lead-based paint, mold, indoor air quality, and various levels of soil/groundwater assessment and/or remediation. Contact: Bryan Paxton at [bkp@ehpdallas.com](mailto:bkp@ehpdallas.com) or visit [www.ehpdallas.com](http://www.ehpdallas.com)

### **2017 Gold Sponsors & Exhibitors**

#### **International Code Council**

The International Code Council (ICC) is a member-focused association. It is dedicated to developing model codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures. Most U.S. communities and many global markets choose the International Codes. Contact: Hamid Naderi at [HNaderi@iccsafe.org](mailto:HNaderi@iccsafe.org) or visit [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)

#### **Precision Safe Sidewalks, LLC**

Precision Safe Sidewalks, LLC provides sidewalk issue surveying services as well as ADA compliant uneven sidewalk repair services with its proprietary equipment and methodology. Contact: Dave Lardner at [dave@safesidewalks.com](mailto:dave@safesidewalks.com) or visit [www.safesidewalks.com](http://www.safesidewalks.com)

### **2017 Bronze Sponsors**



## **Southwest ADA Center**

The Southwest ADA Center provides resources, information and training to businesses, employers, government agencies and consumers regarding their rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Contact: Marisa Demaya at [mdemaya@bcm.edu](mailto:mdemaya@bcm.edu) or visit [www.southwestada.org](http://www.southwestada.org)

## **Turner Construction Company**

Turner is a North American based international construction services company. Founded in 1902, Turner first made its mark on the industry pioneering the use of steel-reinforced concrete for general building, which enabled the company to deliver safer, stronger, and more efficient buildings to clients. The company continues to embrace emerging technologies and offers an increasingly diverse set of services. Contact: Brenda Premenko at [bprenenko@tcco.com](mailto:bprenenko@tcco.com) or visit [www.turnerconstruction.com](http://www.turnerconstruction.com)

## **2017 Exhibitors**

**BlueDAG** - BlueDAG ADA assessment software, a cloud-based solution for creating fast and accurate ADA inspections and reports, with state and federal barrier standards built in. BlueDAG reduces evaluation time by 50-75%, and works on desktop and mobile platforms. Contact: Damon Brown at [damon@bluedag.com](mailto:damon@bluedag.com) or visit at [www.bluedag.com](http://www.bluedag.com)

## **Corada, Powered by Evan Terry Associates**

- The Comprehensive Online Resource for the ADA, a website built to assist professionals working in ADA and access-related fields find the information they need, so that they will be more effective and efficient in their work. Corada offers an online database that connects ADA requirements and official technical assistance materials to other relevant information. Contact: Ann Marie Leveille at [admin@corada.com](mailto:admin@corada.com) or visit [www.corada.com](http://www.corada.com)

**Deschamps Mat Systems (DMS)** - ADA compliant beach access mats and floating wheelchairs. Contact: Bruce Glen at [Bruce.westcoastsales@mobi-mat-dms.com](mailto:Bruce.westcoastsales@mobi-mat-dms.com) or visit at [www.mobi-mat-dms.com](http://www.mobi-mat-dms.com)

**Greenfields Outdoor Fitness** - The inclusive, patented Signature Accessible line from Greenfields Outdoor Fitness enables communities to provide affordable exercise opportunities to individuals with mobility impairments. Contact: Gia Larah at [gia@greenfieldsfitness.com](mailto:gia@greenfieldsfitness.com) or visit at [www.greenfieldsfitness.com](http://www.greenfieldsfitness.com)

**Hamilton CapTel** - We deliver innovative solutions that make phone conversation possible for individuals with hearing loss. Users can listen while reading word-for-word captions on a CapTel phone, PC/MAC, Smartphone, Tablet, or business phone. Contact: Mitchell Levy at [mitchell.levy@hamiltonrelay.com](mailto:mitchell.levy@hamiltonrelay.com) or visit at [www.hamiltoncaptel.com](http://www.hamiltoncaptel.com)

**International Code Council (ICC)** - The International Code Council is a member-focused association. It is dedicated to developing model codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures. Most U.S. communities and many global markets choose the International Codes. Contact: Hamid Naderi at [HNaderi@iccsafe.org](mailto:HNaderi@iccsafe.org) or visit [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)

**Precision Safe Sidewalks, LLC** - Precision SafeSidewalks, LLC provides sidewalk issue surveying services as well as ADA compliant uneven sidewalk repair services with its proprietary

equipment and methodology. Contact: Dave Lardner at [dave@safesidewalks.com](mailto:dave@safesidewalks.com) or visit [www.safesidewalks.com](http://www.safesidewalks.com)

**National Floor Safety Institute (NFSI)** - ANSI accredited walkway safety standards, training, and testing. NFSI has been a past provider of APA course content. Contact: Russell Kendzior at [atrusk@nfsi.org](mailto:atrusk@nfsi.org) or visit at [www.nfsi.org](http://www.nfsi.org)

**Texas Board of Architectural Examiners (TBAE)** - TBAE wishes to promote better communication between the agency and registered accessibility specialists in the shared pursuit to encourage greater accessibility in Texas. Contact: Jack W. Stamps at [jack.stamps@tbae.state.tx.us](mailto:jack.stamps@tbae.state.tx.us) or visit at [www.tbae.state.tx.us](http://www.tbae.state.tx.us)