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Newsletter

March, 2013

Issue No. 6

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Welcome These New APA Members!

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

John Alexander

Waco, TX

Judy D Buck

Helotes, TX

Bryan M Euwer

Bayou Vista, TX

David E Larsen

Heath, TX

David E Thompson

Carthage, Tx

Chase Bearden

Austin, Tx

Shane P Holten

Expanding Boundaries

I would like to start out my year of service as your President by thanking everyone who attended our APA Annual Meeting and Conference in January. Ours is a dynamic organization whose value and vitality depends entirely on your support and enthusiasm. If you got half as much out of the meeting as I did, you came away energized, informed and inspired.

The primary message expressed at our annual meeting this year centered on expanding our boundaries -- and we are ideally poised to do just that. Over half our members now support expanding our membership beyond the state of Texas. Federal accessibility guidelines have made our training programs relevant nationwide. We have the experience, the expertise and the energy to expand our organization into a national asset. I believe that is our destiny. I am completely focused on building our association into the premier accessibility organization in the United States

In that pursuit, I ask myself, "How do we come up with the best solution to expand our organization?" And the answer I keep coming up with is "designing from inside-out" - an approach toward expansion that designates end user needs as the prime design criteria. Your needs are our goals.

The values, ideas and visions that guide us come from you, especially from those of you who are committee members. It's the work of our committees that creates the effectiveness of our training, our reputation for expertise and the credibility of our program. Committee work gives you an unparalleled opportunity to network with your peers and learn from their experiences and viewpoints. I urge each of you to take a look at our committees, decide where you might make a contribution and volunteer.

I know we can expand our association into the world's premier accessibility organization. With your full support and participation, this is something we can do, we must do and we will do. It's an exciting time to be a member of APA and it's a challenging time to serve as a leader - but I can't wait to get started!

Toronto, Ontario

Gaila Barnett, 2013 APA President

APA Legislative- Legal Committee

The committee is meeting and monitoring legislation that could impact our members during this legislative session. Members will be notified if any legislation is introduced which would impact the profession. Other priorities include legislative visits with key legislators, monitoring of new RAS procedures or administrative rules and working with TDLR to improve the availability of online processes.

Philip G. Pearce, Chair

Call for Articles!

We invite all APA members to submit articles for this newsletter.

The topics could be:

- Interesting findings in an inspection that you performed and want to share with the group
- Any tools that you have used that have been useful to your RAS duties (including door gauges, review software)
- Any interesting information you learned from TDLR or any other educational avenue about the new Standards
- Anything that you think might be of benefit to our members!

We reserve the right to print or not print any submitted articles. It is not a guarantee that you will be published, but it will be a great opportunity for us to learn more about you and maybe share



Annual Meeting Wrap up

Every year I look forward to it, and this year's 2013 APA Annual Conference did not disappoint! A whopping 19 hours of learning units were presented as part of a top-notch program put together by our annual conference chairs, Mike Love and Tom Ellis. We heard from Lex Frieden, one of the visionaries and architects of the Americans with Disabilities Act; Kim Paarlberg with the International Code Council; Bryan Francis, Bob Posey and Debbie Jahns from TDLR; as well as many of the experts within our own membership. For those of you who attended, be sure to check the TDLR and AIA websites in the coming weeks to see that your credits were reported correctly. Thanks again to all of our volunteers, committees, committee chairs and Board members for another successful APA year (see the 2012 Annual Report). If any of you are interested in helping with next year's Conference or serving on one of our many committees, please contact our executive director, Shirley Knox.

By Kim Goss, Past-President

2012 Accessibility Award Winners!

The Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities (GCPD), in partnership with the Accessibility Professionals Association (APA), has announced the winners of the 2012 Accessibility Awards, which recognize business and organizations that go above and beyond the legal requirements to provide both physical and service accessibility to people with disabilities.

2012 Award Winners

[Press Release] Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities and Accessibility Professionals Association Announce Winners of 2012 Accessibility Awards

by Fred Cawyer, Chair

Visit the Vendors from the recent APA Annual Conference

interesting things with the other APA members! Brief articles with links to more detailed information are best. And - remember to update your profile in case you do get selected for publication. All authors are linked to his/her profile.

By, Marcela Abadi Rhoads,
Marketing Chair

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If you have any articles for our next Newsletter please submit your articles to ninapaquette@gmail.com

Vision Statement

Professionals dedicated to accessibility in all aspects of the physical experience for persons with disabilities.

APA Mission

- Promote accessibility in the physical environment.
- Support membership needs and

American Construction Inspectors Association (ACIA)

Membership in National Inspectors Association and Educational Opportunities. www.acia.com

Contact Dale LaCasella at executivedirector@acia.com.

Armor/Access Tile Detectable Warning Systems

Green Technology in Emergency Lighting www.us.ecoglo.com

Contact Brian Tuggle at BrianT@engplastics.com.

GlenRidge Construction Services, LLC

RAScal is a software package that produces RAS reports, TDLR forms and client letters. Version 2.0 includes multi-user file sharing and RAScal has been in production for 12 months.

www.rascaltx.com Contact Glen Zoerner at gzoerner@yahoo.com

Hafele America Company

An international leader in architectural, builders, furniture and cabinet hardware. Products include sliding systems for wood and glass, access control/locking identification systems, decorative and functional hardware and organizational products for the home. www.hafele.com/us.

Contact Jodie Yake at jyake@hafeleamerica.com

International Code Council (ICC)

ICC is an association dedicated to helping the building safety community and construction industry provide safe, sustainable and affordable construction through the development codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process.

www.iccsafe.org. Contact Hamid Naderi at HNaderi@iccsafe.org

Mclaughlin Brunson Insurance Agency, LLP

Proven Risk Management solutions for the design industry www.mclaughlinbrunson.com. Contact Jeff Mclaughlin

at Jeff@mclaughlinbrunson.com.

ras.tdlr

ras.tdlr is an extremely powerful online web solution which empowers you to fully automate all your business activities, including: complete project management, plan reviews and inspections, maintaining records of transactions, invoices, project status updates, printing TDLR forms and much more. ras.tdlr built for RAS, by RAS! www.tdlr.us. Contact Ajay Dham at info@tdlr.us

Renovative Bath Systems

Promoting modular, barrier-free showers and level-entry, tile-able, ICC-approved pan, drain and water-proofing System.

renovativebath.com. Contact Rick Millard at rmillard@renovativebath.com

The National ADA Symposium

The nation's largest ADA conference in America offering multiple sessions on accessible design. www.adasymposium.org

Contact Jim Dejong at dejongj@health.missouri.edu

TXRAS Review Software

TXRAS Review and Inspection reporting software, including other required forms & letters. www.grut-computing.com/RAS.php

- organizational growth.
- Enhance professional development.
 - Actively promote the services provided by our members.
 - Hold our members to a high standard of professional ethics.
 - Facilitate consistency in the application of accessibility standards.
 - Present a unified voice.
 - Actively participate in the development of accessibility codes, standards and regulations.

Contact SharyInn Keys at slkeys@fastmail.fm or Carroll Pruitt at cpruitt@pruittconsulting.com

2013 Silent Auction Donors

Please join us in thanking this years' Silent Auction Donors in raising money for the Jim Boyce Scholarship.

- Austin Marriott North
- Tanya Allen
- Marcela Abadi-Rhoads
- Fred and Carol Cawyer
- David Deming
- Tom Ellis
- Kim Goss
- Peter Grojean
- Innovative Images Photography
- International Code Council
- Shirley and Bill Knox
- CC (Chao-Chiung) Lee
- Charles Little
- Jeromy Murphy
- Carroll Pruitt
- Radisson Hotel & Suites Austin Downtown
- John Torkelson

[Click Here](#) to find out more about the Jim Boyce Scholarship or donate.

Don't Underestimate the Power of Service!

"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

-Albert Schweitzer

As a professional organization run by volunteers, APA is only as good as the people serving! Lucky for us we have very capable, passionate and dedicated people in our organization that make APA run smoothly and have made it THE professional accessibility organization in the country! When I was asked to serve as chairman of the Communications, Membership and Marketing committee I was honored and overwhelmed at the same time. I had never served in an APA committee before, although I had been a volunteer for AIA and other organizations in the past. I accepted knowing that it would be a learning process. I had great people in my committee that really made it easier! But one thing we did learn is that although we may have goals, we may not be able to meet them all in one year. We had to prioritize. And we did. We focused on the things we could get done with the volunteers we had. The others we had to put on hold. But after one year of serving, we were proud of our effort and the accomplishments we had made.

Even though we are all very busy with our own businesses, and other obligations, to get out of ourselves and think how we can be of service to others is a most gratifying experience. Being organized and having the ability to delegate tasks makes the job much easier as well. So the more volunteers there are, the less work there is to do for one individual. There are many committees that APA has that are important and help make APA a great organization. Find your passion and help as you can. Not only will you help to make APA even greater, but you will meet the most amazing people who can help you in your journey to be the best Accessibility Professional in the country!

Below is a list of three committees that need more members, and what they do:

Membership Committee: This committee is in charge of recruiting new members, making sure our newest members are properly welcomed, and follows up with members that did not re-join to find out the reason so we can be better. They also analyze the membership benefits and bring ideas to the Board. Contact [Charlene \(Charlie\) Wilson](#) if you want to help. Our meetings are the second Friday of every month at 8:00 a.m. CST.

Marketing: If you are proud of what APA does and want to let the world know about it, this is the committee for you. We will be creating press releases, attending trade shows, posting on social media and making sure our other committees events are getting proper publicity. Contact [Marcela Abadi Rhoads](#) if you want to help. Our meetings are the second Wednesday of every month at 9:00 a.m. CST.

Communications: This committee is in charge of the Newsletter. They solicit articles, proof read and publish the newsletter with APA Staff to assist. They are also in charge of making sure any written information that goes out from APA (website, emails, postcards) are well written and follow our "brand". Contact [Jack McClellan](#) if you want to help. Our meetings are the second Wednesday of every month at 10:30 a.m. CST.

"The road to success is not crowded. Because while most are looking for ways to take, the truly successful people are finding ways to give. With a giving attitude, every situation is an opportunity for success."

Looking forward to succeeding with you!

[Marcela Abadi Rhoads](#), Marketing Chair

* 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).

Welcome the new APA Board and Committee Chairs

2013 Board of Directors

- Gaila Barnett - President
- Chris Schexnayder - President-Elect
- D.Clark Teel - Secretary
- Peter Grojean - Treasurer
- Carroll Pruitt
- Tom Ellis
- Anthony Covacevich
- Kim Goss- Past President

2013 Committee and Task Force Chairs

- Marcela Abadi Rhoads - Marketing Chair
- Jack McClellan - Communications Chair
- Carol Cawyer - Education & Events Chair
- Philip Pearce - Legislative & Legal Chair
- Robin Roberts - Technical Standards Chair
- Chris Schexnayder - Jim Boyce Scholarship Chair
- Fred Cawyer - APA/GCPD Award Chair
- Charlene Wilson - Membership Chair

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