



Newsletter

December, 2014

Issue No. 13

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January 21-23, 2015

Reserve a room [here](#)

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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.

[Laurence Dean](#)
Colchester, VT

[Ceslo Gonzalez Jr](#)
Palmhurst, TX



"You say Goodbye. I say Hello"

I thought the lyric of that old Beatles tune was appropriate for our last APA newsletter of 2014. I'll step down as President at the close of our 2015 annual conference, but a well-qualified person is taking my place. Carroll Pruitt will be your new president for 2015.

There's no one more qualified to lead us than Carroll. For over ten years, he's run his own building code consulting company. He teaches university students, worked as a Manager for the International Code Council, is a licensed architect, AIA Fellow, and even worked as a building official. Our organization will be in good hands.

I'd like to think I contributed to the success of our organization, but any successes we had in 2014 are because of the hard-working all-volunteer APA committees, the Board of Directors, our Executive Director, Shirley Knox, and her staff. We also benefitted because Marcela Abadi Rhoads marketed our organization in social media, and Mike Love worked tirelessly to lead the development of a professional accessibility certification through APA. This newsletter is filled with the accomplishments of all these great members.

We may not make great strides every year, but the key to success is always persistence and determination. Without an active, involved membership, it's impossible. You don't need any special talents. You just have to make a time commitment—a very valuable commodity these days.

The past year has been rewarding. I'll continue supporting APA in any way I can. Thank you for the privilege of serving as your president. May you have a happy, safe, successful 2015!

Sincerely Yours,
[Chris Shexnayder](#), 2014 APA President

Monica Guajardo*Laredo, TX*Jessica Hamm*San Antonio, TX*Jerry James*Kennedale, TX*Johnathan Killebrew*Fort Worth, TX*Cynthia Manubag*Irving, TX*Ellen Schulte*Austin, TX*Donald Bloom*Flowery Branch, GA*Melinda Townsel*Austin, TX*

A Message About Our Forums

The majority of the APA forums are technical in nature, but we have added two new categories for member use.

1) **Job Opportunities** - for people seeking additional employment and/or the posting of RAS and design work opportunities. [Note - even if you have signed up for FORUMS before you must sign up again for new topics like this.](#)

2) **Member Professional and Personal News** - tell your fellow APA members your latest news-promotions, job changes, awards, volunteer work, retirements, marriages, children and other important life events.

To join any or all forums go to the [APA website](#), go to your profile, and make selections under "Forum Memberships".

Sharon Massey, Tech

2015 APA President Welcomes You!

I believe these are exciting times for APA. I've watched us grow over the last 10 years and think the Accessibility Professionals Association is the foremost organization for accessibility consultants in the nation.

I'm a proud RAS, a registered architect, a Fellow in the American Institute of Architects and worked in the model building code industry for 16 years in Austin, Texas where I've been involved in many activities at the local, state and national levels.

My theme for next year is "Moving Forward - Excellence in Access." This theme has a dual purpose. It represents our move from a statewide organization to leadership on the national level. Excellence in Access is intended to show that APA members are subject experts not only in TAS, but in federal standards for accessibility in the built environment. Our horizons include all of the United States and countries beyond.

I look forward to serving as your President during 2015, which is a legislative year as well. Please feel free to email me with any concerns, issues or suggestions to make APA a better organization. Hope to see each of you at your Annual Conference in Austin this January!

Carroll Pruitt, President Elect

Make plans now to join us for our Annual Conference & Expo in January!

Dust off your boots, this year we are meeting at a new venue, the Radisson Hotel & Suites in downtown Austin. Come and enjoy the weirdness of Austin and get your 8+ hours of continuing education*. This year, we are pleased to announce that Bill Botten from the US Access Board will educate us on Outdoor Developed Areas, Play Areas and Swimming Pools. Our keynote speaker is Dennis Borel, Executive Director of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities.

Additionally, we will have programs led by members and we are continuing the Tech Table Talks. Bring your most puzzling accessibility questions to the table and brainstorm them with your peers then join me in the evening for a Shiner Bock and some music on 6th Street.

[Register today](#) to get the early-bird pricing, see the [DRAFT program](#) and [reserve your room](#) at a special APA rate. See you in Downtown Austin!

Jeromy Murphy, Education & Events Chair

*APA is an approved provider for TDLR #1521 and AIA #G583

Standards

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](#)

Like us on **Facebook** 

View our profile on **Linked** 

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

Vision Statement

Further develop a national association of professionals with knowledge and expertise in pursuit of compliance with accessibility codes and standards related to the built environment.

Silent Auction Items Needed!

Benefit the Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship by donating this year. Example Items for auction:

- Gift baskets
- Restaurant, gas and retail gift cards
- Tools such as digital levels and pressure gauges
- Software or handbooks for inspections, reviews and tracking projects
- Use of vacation homes, boats and air tickets
- Weekend getaways, concert tickets and other activities

[Return the donation form](#) to Martha Weiss or email her at Martha@AccessibilityCodeEtc.com

Be an Exhibitor at Annual Conference!

Get face-to-face time with hundreds of Registered Accessibility Specialists and related accessibility professionals who regularly consult and collaborate with owners, architects, builders, and others who help maintain accessibility in the built environment.

The Annual Conference not only provides product representatives, organizations and manufacturers with a unique, in-person environment to discuss and promote products and services, it also offers a cost-effective way to raise your company's profile through strategic name placement and public recognition.

See [EXHIBITOR and SPONSOR Benefits and Application](#) or contact [Paul Glenn](mailto:PaulGlenn@plano.gov) at Paulg@plano.gov or [Walter Qualls](mailto:WalterQualls@imagesetc.ras@gmail.com) at imagesetc.ras@gmail.com.

APA Has Out-of-state Members

Did you know that APA has members in states other than Texas? If you work in other areas of the United States, these members might be a valuable resource for you for contract projects or advice about state- or site-specific accessibility requirements and regulations in their area.

To find a member in another state, go to the Membership Directory on the [APA website](#). Click on the magnifying glass symbol to bring up the search dialog. Choose "State" in the Search By drop-down menu. Next, select the state. This provides name and contact information of any APA members in that state.

[John Alexander](#), Membership

Can't Commit to Committee Membership? There are other ways to contribute.

Send an email to ninapaquette@gmail.com for more information, if any of the special tasks below interest you.

APA Mission

- Support membership needs and organizational growth at a national level.
- 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 codes, rules and standards.
- Present a unified voice in our industry.
- Actively participate in the development, interpretation and adoption of accessibility codes, standards and regulations.
- Promote the value of certified accessibility specialists and consultants.

[CLICK HERE FOR PAST ANNUAL REPORTS](#)

Interested in Writing a Newsletter Article?

All APA members are encouraged to submit articles for this newsletter.

Possible topics:

- Unusual review or inspection findings
- Experiences with work in other states
- Reviews of software, publications, or tools of the trade
- Photographs of exceptional solutions
- Anything you think

Membership

The Membership Committee works all year to reach out to potential members and welcome new members. This past year we contacted newly-licensed RASs and sent Ambassadors to the TDLR Academy to familiarize participants with our organization. We mailed letters, made phone calls, and reached out to other accessibility professionals with whom we work, to invite them to join APA. We welcome all APA members to join the committee, but these tasks can help us even if you are not able to join the committee.

- APA members who are affiliated with various design & construction associations (AGC, Home Builders Association, AIA, BOMA, IFMA, CIAC, etc.) are needed to be official Ambassadors to disseminate APA information.
- Contact Dropped Members. We will provide a script.
- Greet new members at the Annual Conference. We provide resource material.
- Write articles for the newsletter about APA member benefits. We can provide topics.

Tom Ellis, Membership Chair

Marketing

The APA Marketing Committee invites members to kick off 2015 by helping to promote our organization by increasing the visibility of value APA membership provides. Our committee develops new marketing ideas and needs assistance with the following tasks:

- Find expo and other event possibilities and associated pricing and deadlines.
- Oversee an event with booth/table by attending and recruiting other APA members to help.
- Write a marketing-related article for the APA newsletter with links to interesting marketing advice.
- Write an article for other publications on behalf of APA.
- Be an APA Ambassador by discussing APA within other professional groups.
- Oversee an APA PR initiative using media contacts and APA marketing collateral.
- Serve as APA Social Media Liaison (Facebook and LinkedIn, etc.)
- Conduct hardcopy mailer campaign to new audiences using APA Post Cards, letters or business cards.
- Price and evaluate value of purchasing external mailing lists

Attila Huszka, Marketing Chair

Communications

Looking to get your feet wet and become more involved in the APA? Join the Communications Committee. Don't believe you can attend every online monthly meeting? No problem. We can still use your volunteer help for things we will be accomplishing

will benefit 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 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.

Mark Morley,
Communications 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 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).

in 2015, so come on. And just to let you in on a little inside secret; I believe that this committee has more fun during our meetings than any other. Upcoming tasks for 2015:

- Proofer(s) for written communications
- Quarterly Newsletter Coordinator to monitor due and publication dates
- Website Review Coordinator
- Website Accessibility Resources Coordinator
- Reporters for newsletter articles
- Reviewer for Constant Contact (APA's email system) Analytics and provide analysis to Communications Chair

Mark Morley, Communications Chair

Tech Standards

The Technical Standards Committee is soliciting your input in developing new FAQs. FAQs help challenge all APA members to address the complex issues we face each day in promoting more accessible environments.

If you have an issue or some detail you believe should be shared with the rest of our organization, send it to smassey@accessatelier.com. Your input would be appreciated and our committee can review the topic to determine if an FAQ is the best approach for your topic.

Additionally, if you are willing to draft the FAQ, our committee will help flesh it out and finalize. We provide a template and technical support.

Sharon Massey, Technical Standards Chair

Members Needed to Help Contact Legislators --- Training Provided.

The Texas legislature meets for 140 days every 2 years. We're initiating a volunteer campaign to inform officials about APA and its benefits to their constituents.

The Legislative and Legal Committee coordinates legislative visits with volunteers from APA. This is an opportunity for you to visit with your legislative representatives, and introduce yourself and APA as a resource to utilize during the 2015 Legislative Session.

Our overall objective is to encourage legislators to contact APA with questions regarding legislation affecting accessibility in Texas. We want to help them understand the RAS licensing program and values, while educating them on the benefits of a RAS and the APA to both business and individuals.

We need volunteers to:

- Attend a 30-40 minute on-line training on how to meet with your legislator
- Arrange a 45 minute meeting with your representative to introduce yourself and APA. The best time for a visit, in person, is while they are in their respective districts.

- We ask that you submit a short follow up report to APA
- You may also participate in team visits to key legislative committee members, if scheduled.

To participate in any of these efforts, please contact our executive director, Shirley Knox, at executivedirector@accessibilityprofessionals.org.

Robert Ronson, Legislative & Legal Chair

APA Board of Director Elections - Vote!

During the month of November, APA solicited and accepted nominations for open board and officer positions for 2015. **APA members will be receiving an email in December with a link to the on-line election survey.** A short biography and campaign statement will be available for each candidate.

Cast your vote for two Officers and a Board Member-at-Large. New officers and board members will be introduced at the 2015 Annual Conference & Expo, January 22 in Austin, TX.

APA 2015 Dues Have Not Increased

Our Standard annual Professional Membership for 2015 will remain at \$200 or \$150 for a non-professional associate membership. Membership can pay for itself when you take advantage of our accredited training sessions at discounted Member rates!

Details for Membership Classifications:

Professional Member(voting) - Persons in good standing holding a nationally or state recognized accessibility license or certificate that requires testing and on-going continuing education in order to maintain the license or certificate, and who has completed the registration form and paid in full the membership dues as set forth in the bylaws. (Examples of licenses and certifications include but are not limited to Texas Registered Accessibility Specialists, California Certified Access Specialist, International Code Council Accessibility Inspector/Plans Examiner, Certified ADA Coordinator, or other registered design professional who maintains four hours of accessibility related continuing education annually).

Associate Member (non-voting) An individual who is NOT licensed as a Registered Accessibility Specialist, does not qualify as a Professional Member, but has completed the registration form and paid in full the membership dues as set forth in the bylaws.

Reminders from the Governor's Committee on People With Disabilities

The National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) Poster Art competition, is open to any Texas artist with a disability, no specific theme is required. **NO FEE** for entries. Submission Guidelines and Entry Forms can be found at the NDEAM website. Deadline for submissions is March 15, 2015.

Nominations are needed for Barbara Jordan Media Awards (deadline of January 15, 2015) and the Lex Frieden Employment Awards (deadline of July 15, 2015). Nominations and submissions will be accepted any time.

Jo Virgil, GCPD

[Forward email](#)



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