



Newsletter

December, 2013

Issue No. 9

In This Issue

[Silent Auction Items Needed!](#)

[APA Scholarship Program](#)

[Jim Boyce Photos](#)

[Annual Conference](#)

[Letter from the President-Elect](#)

[Be an Exhibitor at the Annual Conference](#)

[Membership Benefits](#)

[Accessibility Awards](#)

[A Message About Our Forums](#)

[Elections](#)

[Dues Notice](#)

Save the Date!

**2014 Annual Conference
& Expo**
January 29-31

Welcome These New APA Members!

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

Patricia L. Jackson
McKinney, TX

Dwayne Zinn
Corinth, TX

Victor Santoyo
Helotes, TX

President's Notes

As we approach the last days of my year as your President, I feel both humbled and enriched. I have been humbled by how challenging it's been to serve as President of the APA during a time of transition. We started out the year with the far-reaching goal of expanding our association into a national organization by promoting membership outside Texas and advancing knowledge of other states' accessibility laws. That goal represents some big changes -- and change is always hard. In pursuing it, I learned what it's like to try to turn an ocean liner. It takes time.

I am rewarded by the advances we made this year in revising and modifying our strategic plan, bylaws, committee goals, and exhibitor/sponsor guidelines. Those revisions represent real progress. I am encouraged that we have finally begun the process of updating and improving our website. And I am elated at the progress we've made toward establishing a certification process. I can see the day coming when every serious Accessibility Professional will carry APA certification.

Serving as your President during the past year, I gained tremendous appreciation for the potential of our organization when we all work together. I honestly believe there is nothing we cannot achieve. But I have also learned during the past year that it takes more than a consensus of the Board to reach our goals, especially a goal as ambitious as becoming a national organization. It takes the consensus - and the support -- of our entire membership.

So I encourage each of you to take a moment out of your over-booked life and envision how much we could achieve as a national organization -- for ourselves, our built environment and the physically challenged people we serve - and renew your commitment to help make it happen.

That's what it will take.

I know we can do it.

Yours in gratitude, humility and open-ended optimism,
Gaila Barnett, 2013 APA President

Gerald M Wall
Washington DC



Silent Auction Items Needed!

Benefit the Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship!

Example Items for auction:

- Gift baskets
- 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 and air tickets
- Weekend getaways, concert tickets and other activities

[Donate an auction item here!](#)

APA Scholarship Program

Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship was established by the Texas Registered Accessibility Specialist Association (TRASA) now 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.

Jim Boyce Photos

Calling on all early members of APA! Do any of you have a good, clear photo of Jim

Annual Conference and Expo

Make plans now to join us in Round Rock, Texas, for our Annual Conference and Expo in January. The Education and Events Committee has been hard at work all year long planning for our signature training event. This year, our featured guest is Jim Terry from [Evan Terry Associates](#). Jim and his firm are pioneers in the accessibility consulting and barrier free design field. Jim will be drawing from his many years of technical experience in applying the provisions of the ADA Standards, sharing his knowledge on everything from technical requirements of healthcare and other specific project types to writing contracts and his vision for the future of ADA consulting.

We are also excited to announce our keynote speaker, Reggie Showers. Reggie is an inspiring man with an amazing story to tell. Reggie will share experiences from his life as a double amputee, snowboard instructor and two-time motorcycle drag racing world champion. [Click here](#) to hear and see more about Reggie. And join us in January to meet him in person!

Our three-day conference has something to offer all professionals, from the newly-licensed RAS to the seasoned veteran. We are privileged to once again have Bob Posey, AB Program Manager at the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, as well as repeat performances of some of our most popular sessions from this year's regional meetings. For those new to the industry, or those who just want to brush up on the basics, there will be sessions focused on fundamentals such as performing a plan review or an inspection. For the more experienced professional, project-specific sessions and topics such as referenced standards will dig a little deeper into the technical requirements.

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

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

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

Where No Association Has Gone Before

Hello APA members. It will be my privilege to serve as President of the Accessibility Professional Association in 2014. In the beginning, those authorized by TDLR to perform TAS reviews and inspections were called Independent Contract

Boyce? We would like a better photo to put on our website. If you have a photo contact Jack McClellan at jack@aesupport.com

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

Developing Professionals with knowledge and expertise in pursuit of compliance with accessibility codes and standards related to the built environment

APA Mission

- Support membership needs and organizational growth
- Enhance professional development
 - Specialized or advanced certification
- Actively promote the

Providers (ICPs). This organization began as an idea between a few ICPs, including myself, who wanted to create a unified voice in our dealings dealing with TDLR. As with most organizations of this type, it was built upon the backs of a small group of dedicated volunteers. Today, I am a proud witness of what a small group of like-minded individuals can accomplish if the goals are for the greater good of the many.

As you are aware, we changed our name recently from the Texas Registered Accessibility Specialists Association (TRASA) to the Accessibility Professionals Association (APA). Many of our members provide a wide variety of accessibility consulting services and we wanted our name to accurately reflect those we represent. However, I am keenly aware that the Texas Registered Accessibility Specialists Program is the backbone of our organization. The Accessibility Specialist Association would not have gotten where we are today as an organization without the support of our members, and I want to put at ease the minds of those RASs that may think our name change indicates we are re-directing our focus. In fact what we are doing is expanding our focus and hope that by doing so it will provide our members with the opportunity to expand theirs as well, if they so choose.

Where do we go from here? The original Star Trek adventures come to mind when Captain Kirk would sit back in his chair at the end of an episode and direct his crew to "plot a course" for a new destination. What awaited the Star Trek crew was mostly unknown, but his crew seemed excited about a new adventure. The possibilities for the Accessibility Professionals Association are truly exciting! Architects, Contractors, Government, ADA Coordinators, Accessibility Consultants, and Advocates are just some of the professions that would benefit from membership in the Accessibility Professionals Association. It is my hope we can make some significant advances towards expanding our organization in the coming year.

We value the continued input and support of our membership as we continue our on our journey of exploration and hope you share in our vision for the future. Please take advantage of the many opportunities to be a part of this wonderful organization.

Sincerely,
Chris Schexnayder, President-Elect

Be an Exhibitor at the Annual Conference

Get face-to-face time with hundreds of Registered Accessibility Specialists and related accessibility professionals - those who regularly consult and collaborate with owners, architects, builders, and others who help maintain accessibility in the built environment. The Annual Meeting not only provides product representatives, organizations and manufacturers with a unique, in-person environment to discuss and promote your products and services, it also offers a cost-effective way to raise your

- services provided by our members
- Hold our members to a high standard of professional ethics
 - Facilitate consistency in the application of accessibility codes, rules & standards
 - Present a unified voice in our industry
 - Actively participate in the development of accessibility codes, standards and regulations
 - Promote the value of accessibility specialists

company's profile through strategic name placement and public recognition.

See [EXHIBITOR and SPONSOR Benefits](#).

APA Committee Membership "Benefits"

When I was asked to write a short piece on the benefits of committee membership in APA, my mind went blank. Nothing seemed beneficial to me personally... especially during the months when I've got a heavy workload. Just like most of you, I'm self-employed. I rarely have a night or weekend I don't work. Frankly, I'm exhausted.

But the more I thought about it, I realized that the only way APA can succeed is by members like me being actively involved in committee work. Signing up for a committee isn't just calling into a conference call when it's "convenient." It's making a commitment of time you'd normally give your clients, friends, or family to help APA change the way environments are built to be accessible to everyone.

Giving up time every month enables APA to expand nationally and thrive. When I don't think I have the strength to do one more "committee chore," I think about the sphere of influence I'm accessing outside my small world. That gives me the strength to contribute a few more hours to help make a real difference in differently-abled people's lives.

Consider becoming an [involved](#) member in one of the APA committees next year... After all, you will "benefit" something bigger than yourself.

[Toni Potts](#), Communications, Marketing, and Membership Committee Member

Accessibility Awards

There was another good response to this year's Awards Program nominations process. We have project nominations located in Alpine, Austin, Arlington, Dallas, Fort Worth, Gun Barrel City, Hurst and Irving.

The Governor's Committee and the APA Task Force Committee members will be scheduling the on-site accessibility re-confirmation visits to the nominated sites over the next few weeks / months. If you are contacted regarding being the "physical compliance" confirmation APA member RAS this year, please consider it an opportunity to learn more about the nominated project(s) in your part of the great State of Texas. The on-site visits typically take one to two hours. And interfacing with the "end-users" is fun. They are typically extremely proud of

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 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

there new facilities and really enjoy the opportunity of showing it off !

Working hand-in-hand with the Governor's Committee members also provides a unique opportunity to get out of your regular day-to-day schedule - to see and experience some wonderfully designed and accessible projects that go "above and beyond" in both environmental and program / service access.

Thank you,
Fred Cawyer, Awards Committee Chair

A Message About Our Forums

While the majority of the APA forums remain technical in nature, as a member benefit two new FORUM categories have been added!

- 1) **Job Opportunities** - for people seeking additional employment and/or the posting of RAS and design work opportunities.
- 2) **Member Professional and Personal News** - an opportunity to tell your fellow APA members your latest news-promotions, job changes, awards, volunteer work, retirements, marriages, births and so forth.

The technical forums and categories are unchanged. To join any or all of the forums go to the APA website, go to your profile, and make selections under "Forum Memberships".

Robin Roberts, Technical Standards Chair

APA Board of Director Elections - Please Vote!

During the month of November, APA solicited and accepted nominations for open board and officer positions for 2014. APA members will be receiving an email in December with a link to the on-line election survey. Please take the time to cast your vote for President-Elect, Secretary and Board Member at Large. A short biography and campaign statement will be available for each candidate. New officers and board members will be introduced at the 2014 Annual Conference and Expo in Round Rock, Texas.

Dues Notice

Our Standard annual Professional Membership is now \$200 or \$150 for a non-professional associate membership. Membership can pay for itself when you take advantage of our accredited

* 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).

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.

[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to scknox@sbcglobal.net by executivedirector@accessibilityprofessionals.org | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

TRASA | 3355 Bee Cave Rd 301B | Austin | TX | 78746