



Newsletter

June, 2014

Issue No. 11

In This Issue

[APA Scholarship Program](#)

[Jim Boyce Photos](#)

[Upcoming CE trainings!](#)

[Online Guides to ADA and ABA Standards](#)

[Quality Presentations](#)

[Volunteers Needed](#)

[Technical Standards Committee](#)

[Disability in Film](#)

[NDEAM Poster Art Winner Announced](#)

[Lex Frieden Employment Awards](#)

Save the Date!

[2015 Annual Conference & Expo](#)

January 21-23

See the

[2014 Sample Program](#)

Welcome These New APA Members!

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

[Bradley Gaskins](#)
Tulsa, OK

[Sandra Miles](#)
San Diego, CA



APA Presidents Address

Hello everyone. Hope you have enjoyed this unusual weather so far this year. To say the least, it has been all over the map. I am grateful for some much needed rain and cooler climates. You aren't reading this to hear me talk about the weather, so let me turn my introduction into a topic - Gratitude!

They say people who make a gratitude list tend to live longer, happier lives. So I am going to provide you with my gratitude list in regards to my chosen career (or did it choose me?). I was on track to become a licensed architect, but got derailed with the recession in the mid-80s. Architecture was one of the hardest hit professions during that recession. I don't think it was officially designated as a recession, but in many ways it seemed a whole lot worse than what we have gone through recently. I saw a lot of architects suffer, even one very talented designer commit suicide. It gave me pause for thought about my future and that perhaps I might choose a path with a bit more diversification. So, after completing my Associates in Drafting, I chose the Interior Design program at the University of Texas at San Antonio, rather than the Architecture program, with the idea of getting a Masters in Architecture. It is an interesting story, which I won't go into detail here, but I ended up being working for Peter Grojean of Accessibility Unlimited after graduating with my Bachelors of Science, and got sidetracked into the career I am in now, which I call Accessibility Consulting. All that to tell you I am grateful that my career as an accessibility consultant allows me to remain closely tied to the architecture profession - which I love. I have had the privilege of working on some really cool projects. Imagine my surprise when I got to work on a Chapel at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, designed by Philip Johnson! I get to talk with architects, walk construction job sites and am respected as an expert in my field. I don't have to spend all my time behind a desk, get to travel, and get paid well to boot. Part of me regrets not getting a license as an architect and pursuing my creative talents in that field, but being able to stay close to the profession has been rewarding. Oh yea - and I literally walk for miles on my inspections so I get some exercise

Robert Kummer*Eules, TX***Linda Stewart***Austin, TX***Elizabeth Mak***The Woodlands, TX***John Pullin***Mesquite, TX*

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

Sharon Massey, Technical Standards Chair

APA Scholarship Program

in while working! My wife still chides me to go to the gym, but I prefer my exercise outdoors. Snow skiing is my favorite sport. I digress. We have all encountered those in our work who are not so grateful, for one reason or another, that our profession exists. I typically ignore the negative comments and just go about my business. I am grateful that I am a member of a national organization of like-minded professionals. We know the value of the service we offer and can only try to educate those who don't

Back on the business of APA, your Board held its Annual Strategic Planning Conference at McKinney Roughs State Park in March. A lot was discussed, but it seemed the hot topic was a certification program for accessibility professionals. Mike Love (Emeritus APA President) has been leading the way with research into how APA may develop such a program. The Board decided to be aggressive with this goal and hopes to have a plan laid out by the end of this year. More will be revealed. APA is going to be represented at the National ADA Symposium in Denver this June. APA continues to collaborate with Jim Dejong of the Great Plains ADA Center who helps put on the national symposium.

Anyway, don't forget to stop along the busy path of life and give thought to the things in our life that we have to be grateful for - don't wait for Thanksgiving! One way you can express your gratitude is to get involved in committee work. Visit our website for committee chair contact information. Adios for now. Hope you all have a wonderful, and hopefully moderate summer!

Chris Shexnayder, 2014 APA President

Upcoming Trainings in Texas

Houston - 8 hrs training scheduled for August 6, 2014

Plano - 8 hrs training scheduled for October 10, 2014

U.S. Access Board Launches Online Guides to the ADA and ABA Standards

The U.S. Access Board has launched new online guides on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Standards and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Accessibility Standards. This web-based material features illustrated technical guides that explain and clarify requirements of the ADA and ABA standards, answers common questions, and offers best practice recommendations. It also includes a series of animations on various subjects covered by the standards.

The initial installment of the guide covers the first three chapters of the standards, including application and use of the standards

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 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

(Chapter 1), scoping in new construction, alterations, and additions (Chapter 2), and basic "building block" technical provisions (Chapter 3). Guides covering other sections of the standards will be released at a later date. The supplementary animations, which range in length from 6 to 10 minutes, address wheelchair maneuvering, doors and entrances, and accessible toilet and bathing facilities.

The [Guide to the ADA Standards](#) covers design requirements that apply to places of public accommodation, commercial facilities, and state and local government facilities subject to the ADA in new construction, alterations, and additions. The [Guide to the ABA Standard](#) addresses similar standards that apply under the ABA to facilities that are designed, constructed, altered, or leased with federal funds.

Future installments to the guides will be published as they become available. Users can [sign-up](#) to receive email updates on the release of new technical guides in the series.

Quality Presentations

In our role as accessibility specialists, we are often called upon to provide (free) continuing education for our clients. I have performed hundreds of seminars. I intentionally use the term "performed". That is what it is. A performance. Here I will offer some basic tips on providing a good performance.

If you are not interested, your audience won't be interested. Pick a topic you care about and have personal experience with. If you can give real life examples or anecdotes, the lesson will be more entertaining and more effective.

Start and stop on time. I don't care if the guy before you has a few more slides or is taking too many Q&A. Stand over his shoulder, unplug his laptop, start on time. When you can't start on time, at least have the decency to stop on time. A sure fire way to get a good review is to stop on time. It's not as easy as it sounds. Often, you will not make it through your slides either because you messed up the timing or because there were too many questions and tangents early during the seminar.

I never let the audience know how many slides I have. If I run out of time, I simply stop at the next section and skip to the last slide. You do not need to make it through every slide. A one hour seminar is never anything more than an overview anyway; nobody will be the wiser if you skip a dozen slides.

Don't read the slides. Your audience can do that. Then what is the slideshow for? It's for showing pictures, providing an outline and keeping you on topic. Instead of copying a bunch of text into your presentation, provide bullets and references in case the audience wants to look it up later.

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 including specialized and advanced certifications
- 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 codes, rules and 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

SEE PAST ANNUAL REPORTS

Call for Articles!

All APA members are encouraged to submit articles for this newsletter

Share with us:

- Unusual or bizarre review or inspection findings
- Experiences with your work in other states in contrast to the TAS
- Reviews of software,

Give them resources. On the last slide provide a list of online resources or books that you use. Don't forget to provide your contact info, unless it was an awful presentation, then give them your competitors' info.

The best way to become a good presenter is to present often. Don't pass up an opportunity.

If you want more advice on presenting or if you would like to share your own experience, email me at jmurphy@acico.com

Jeremy Murphy, Education and Events Chair

Volunteers Needed to Help Contact Legislators

As many of you know, the Texas legislature meets for 140 days every 2 years (some say it would be better for 2 days every 140 years). This year is the off-season so APA has initiated a volunteer campaign to inform our officials about our program and the benefit to their constituents.

The Legislative and Legal Committee is coordinating legislative visits during the next few months with volunteer members of 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 them to contact APA with any questions regarding legislation affecting the AB program as it relates to the RAS portion in particular, so that we might educate them on the benefits of the program to both business and individuals.

Volunteering is how APA operates so we would need you to pledge 3-4 hours of your time to:

- Attend a 30-40 minute on-line training on how to meet with your official
- Arrange a 45 minute meeting with your representative to introduce yourself and APA. The best time for a visit is in person while they are at home in their respective districts.
- Submit a short follow up report to APA
- Consider participating also in team visits to key legislative committee members during the January APA Annual Meeting in Austin

Please consider taking this time for the benefit of our membership and profession. If you would like to participate in this effort please contact our executive director, Shirley Knox, at executivedirector@accessibilityprofessionals.org.

Robert Ronson, Legislative & Legal Chair

publications, or tools of the trade that may help guide others

- Photographs of exceptional accessibility solutions
- 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.

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 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).

Technical Standards FAQs for Members

The Technical Standards Committee has created two new FAQ's and an updated FAQ #6 which are up on our [APA website](#). FAQ #6 is Multi-Story Buildings and Facilities. FAQ #7 is Mezzanines and Single Story Buildings and Facilities, and #8 is Common Counters - Height, Knee & Toe Clearance & Reach Range. Please take a minute to go to the website and check out these and others. This is one way that this committee tries to answer questions and spread that information to all our members. If you have a question you think would make a good FAQ please let us know, or better yet, send us your draft. (It is after all a non-paying gig). And, if you haven't already participated on the [Forum](#) go take a look at that. This is where all APA members help each other out in "real time".

Sharron Massey, Technical Standards Chair

Disability in Film

You can see main features, and many short films, featuring people with disabilities at the 2014 Cinema Touching Disability Film Festival, October 7 & 8, 2014 in Austin, Texas. Join us to celebrate the reincarnation of disability on screen this October! [Click here](#) to visit the Film Fest homepage.

NDEAM Poster Art Winner Announced

The winner of this years [NDEAM Poster Art Competition](#) is **Grant Manier**, a young man and a very talented artist from Houston, for his work titled *Night and Day*. Grant, who has autism, is an Eco-Artist, using scraps of paper to recycle into great works of art.

The image of *Night and Day* will be used to design the **Texas 2014 NDEAM Poster**, distributed for FREE all across the state and even into other states by request. If you would like to order one or more copies of the poster, which will be designed by Jane Thomas of Apple Specialty Advertising in San Antonio, printed by DARS, and mailed out in September, **please contact me at the email below and we'll get you on the mailing list** while supplies last.

Jo Virgil, jo.virgil@governor.state.tx.us

Lex Frieden Employment Award Deadline

Deadline for nominations for the Lex Frieden Employment Awards is **June 30**. Submit an entry or nomination for employers, local committees, or individuals who have gone Above and Beyond legal requirements to include people with disabilities in the workplace and to raise awareness of disability issues in a way that promotes inclusion. Submission Guidelines and Entry Forms can be found at <http://governor.state.tx.us/disabilities/>, but please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Jo Virgil, jo.virgil@governor.state.tx.us

[Forward email](#)



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