



Newsletter

March, 2014

Issue No. 10

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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.

[Dawn Anderson](#)
San Jose, CA

2014 APA President Addresses Attendees at Annual Conference

The theme for this year's conference was "Setting a Course". Every ship needs a course. At the end of every Star Trek episode (the original) Captain Kirk would direct Scotty, the Engineer, to "set a course" for a new adventure. As your President, I would like to continue to lead our efforts to expand our organization beyond Texas. In addition to attracting more members from other states, I would like for each of you to consider our expansion as an opportunity to expand your accessibility consulting business as well. There is no better training ground in the United States for accessibility consulting than being a RAS. We respect those who wish to concentrate their efforts on TAS, and will continue to focus our resources to meet the needs of Registered Accessibility Specialists. You are the backbone of this organization.

On a recent trip to San Antonio with an associate who uses a wheelchair, I was awakened to the many barriers that still exist, barriers many of us, even accessibility specialists may overlook. The Accessibility Professionals Association is here to support continued legislation which mandates accessibility and stands ever watchful for those who want to end such mandates.

You've heard the expression - "Lead, Follow, or Get Out of the Way". As your President I intend to lead, follow and get out of the way. This is your ship. Like any ship - friendship, relationship, partnership - it takes a collaborative effort to keep the ship afloat and headed in the right direction. We need each and every one of you to be a part of moving our organization forward. We appreciate your membership but please look for opportunities in the coming year to get involved. So be a part, whether it is participating in our on-line forums, serving on a committee, running for office, helping to organize events, etc. - there are many ways you can help make this organization stronger. Being a part of this organization not only helps you, but helps make our world a little more user friendly for everyone.

Thank you and I look forward to serving this year as your President.

David M Swatek
Waco, TX

Chris Shexnayder, 2014 APA President

Danny Espinosa
Lubbock, TX



Joe Jarke
Austin, TX

Colleen Dement
Austin, TX

Don E. Murray
Waxahachie, TX

Jim Terry
Birmingham, AL

Kenneth Bonifay
Nashville, TN

A Message About Our Forums

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

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".

2014 Annual Conference Recap

This year's conference was another success, in large part to technology. Mother Nature didn't cooperate with our plans for Jim Terry, who remained iced-in in Birmingham, but thanks to the internet, virtual meeting technology and the responsiveness of the Marriott's technical staff, we didn't miss a beat. Jim's sessions proved to be just as valuable as expected - chock full of technical data, as well as tips and tools for everything from plan reviews to inspections to writing a contract. We hope to have him join us in person next time.

We also witnessed the wonders of technology from our keynote speaker, Reggie Showers. Reggie entertained, inspired and motivated as he shared his personal story of triumph and adventure, especially in the world of extreme sports. All while showing off his state-of-the-art titanium prostheses designed especially to improve his golf swing!

We also heard from Bob Posey, AB Program Manager at TDLR, an energetic Bryan Francis, Deputy Executive Director of TDLR, and our very own Fred Cawyer, Michael Love, Carroll Pruitt and John Torkelson. See the entire program [here](#).

Thank you to all who helped make this year's Conference such a success. If you weren't able to attend, you will have the opportunity to see some of the more popular sessions at our regional meetings later in the year. Stay tuned!

Kim Goss, Annual Conference Chair

Upcoming Trainings in Texas

San Antonio - 8 hrs training scheduled for April 25, 2014

Houston - 8 hrs training scheduled for August 6, 2014

Thanks to these Sponsors and Exhibitors!

Platinum Sponsor

EHP Consulting, LLC - Real Estate Environmental Services

Sharon Massey, Technical Standards Chair

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 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!](#)

Consulting. **Contact:** Russell McMillan at rcm@ehpdallas.com or visit www.ehpdallas.com

Ruby Sponsor

American Construction Inspectors Association (ACIA) - Certify ADA Inspectors through our registered Construction Inspector (RCI) program and offer nationwide networking education opportunities. **Contact:** Dale LaCasella at executivedirector@acia.com or visit www.acia.com

Ruby Sponsor

Turner Construction Company - Providing building services to clients who value diligence, resourcefulness and creativity in a partner. **Contact:** Josh Kubala at jkubala@tcco.com or visit www.turnerconstruction.com

2014 Exhibitors

Best Bath Systems - Best Bath Systems is dedicated to helping seniors and people of all abilities live independently. We are a leading manufacturer of safe, comfortable, and durable showers and walk-in tubs for homes, hospitals, universities, and care facilities. **Contact:** Isaac Romo at Isaacr@best-bath.com or visit www.best-bath.com

GlenRidge Construction Services, LLC - RAScal

RAScal is a software package that produces RAS reports, TDLR forms and client letters. GlenRidge Construction Services is pleased to introduce RAScal 2.1 which adds many new features requested by RAScal users. **Contact:** Glen Zoerner at gzoerner@yahoo.com or visit www.rascaltx.com for more information.

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. **Contact:** Hamid Naderi at HNaderi@iccsafe.org or visit www.iccsafe.org for more information.

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 is built for RAS, by RAS! **Contact:** Ajay Dham at adham@natlsolutions.com or visit www.natlsolutions.com for more information.

Safety Floor - Specializing in creating a non-slip surface on tile, concrete, stone, and porcelain floors through micro etching. **Contact:** Mike Jaynes at info@safetyfloortx.com or visit safetyfloortx.com for more information.

Southwest ADA Center - Promote voluntary compliance with

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

the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by providing technical assistance, training and information. **Contact:** Marisa Demaya at mdemaya@bcm.edu or visit www.southwestada.org for more information.

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 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

Southwest Solutions Group - Storage and filing systems that meet accessibility guidelines. **Contact:** Shelley Kilpatrick at marketing1@southwestsolutions.com or visit www.southwestsolutions.com for more information.

If you are interested in being a sponsor or an exhibitor next year contact ninapaquette@gmail.com. You can review this year's Benefits and guidelines as a sample. See EXHIBITOR and SPONSOR Benefits.

Join a Committee and participate in APA

Contact one of the 2014 Committee Chairs or visit the website Committee page for more information:

- **APA/GCPD Award**
 - Fred Caywer, fredcaywer@aol.com
- **Communications**
 - Mark Morley, mark@aesupport.com
- **Education & Events**
 - Jeremy Murphy, jmurphy@acico.com
- **Jim Boyce Scholarship**
 - Tanya Allen, tanyalln@yahoo.com
- **Legislative & Legal**
 - Robert Ronson, robert@adaassistance.com
- **Marketing**
 - Atilla Huszka, attila@statereview.com
- **Membership**
 - Tom Ellis, tomellis1@me.com
- **Technical Standards**
 - Sharon Massey, smassey@accessatelier.com

Congratulations to the 2013 APA/GCPD Accessibility Award winners

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

The winners are:

- **Dallas Children's Medical Center**
- **Irving Convention Center**
- **Perot Musuem of Nature and Science in Dallas**

See this brochure for more information on the 2014 Awards.

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, 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

Information is also available at the [APA website](#) as well as the [GCPD page](#) on the Govenors' website

Fred Cawyer, Awards Committee Chair

Welcome the 2014 Board of Directors

Chris Schexnayder - President

Carroll Pruitt - President-Elect

D. Clark Teel - Secretary

Peter Grojean - Treasurer

Anthony Covacevich - Board Member

Robin Roberts - Board Member

Jack McClellan - Board Member

Gaila Barnett - Past President, Ex-Officio

Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship

We are thankful for another successful Silent Auction that was held at our annual APA Conference in January. We raised over \$3,400 for the Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship Fund. We are extremely grateful and would like to recognize all our silent auction donors listed below. It would not have been a success without them. We would especially like to thank DPR Construction for their monetary donation to the Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship fund.

I would also like to thank Martha Weiss and Kam Szutu with their dedicated assistance to our Silent Auction.

I am also happy to welcome two new members to our committee: Jimmy Bell and Bill Schuster.

Scholarship packets have been sent out to Texas colleges and universities and we have received one application so far. So please spread the word about the scholarship fund. All the information can be found on the APA website [Jim Boyce Scholarship page](#).

The application deadline is March 31st, 2014.

We are always looking for new members with other ideas to raise funds for the scholarship fund, adding to our list of colleges and universities, preparing the scholarship packets, following up with calls and emails on our mailings and reviewing the applications and choose scholarship winners.

We are looking forward to another successful year and to honoring the memory of Jim Boyce.

Tanya Allen, Jim Boyce Scholarship Committee Chair

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).

Donations and/or Silent Auction always welcome for the next Annual Conference

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!](#)

Please join us in thanking the 2014 Donors!

- [Austin Marriott North](#)
- [Marcela Abadi-Rhoads](#)
- [Jimmy Bell](#)
- [Cabot Cheese](#)
- [David Deming](#)
- [Tom Ellis](#)
- [Kim Goss](#)
- [Peter Grojean](#)
- [Shirley and Bill Knox](#)
- [James Krueger](#)
- CC Lee
- [Carroll Pruitt](#)
- [RAScal - GlenRidge Construction Services](#)
- [John Torkelson](#)

Barbara Jordan Media Awards

[Ticket purchases and sponsorship](#) are still available for the **2014 Barbara Jordan Media Awards** ceremony. The awards ceremony, hosted by the University of North Texas Mayborn School of Journalism in Denton, will take place on **Thursday, March 20, 11:30am**.

[Bob Phillips of Texas Country Reporter](#) - a previous several-time winner of the award - will be the Keynote Speaker. Ticket purchases and sponsorship are available on the [UNT website](#). Individual tickets are \$25; \$15 for Students. Table sponsorship are available at several levels and include recognition in the program and from the podium. For info contact the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities via jo.virgil@governor.state.tx.us

Apply For "Advocates in Disability" Award

The Advocates in Disability Award (ADA) program awards and encourages a young adult with a disability between the ages of 14 and 26 who is dedicated to positively affecting the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families. The program also supports an innovative project developed by the recipient to serve and empower individuals with disabilities. To apply **for up to \$10,000 in funding**, go online at www.hscfoundation.org/2014ADA.php. Applications must be received by **April 11, 2014 (by 5:00pm ET)**.

Jo Virgil, GCPD

NDEAM Poster Art Competition Deadline is Near

The deadline for this year's Texas NDEAM Poster Art competition is near - **March 15**. There is **NO FEE** for entries, and the contest is open to *any* Texas artist with a disability. The annual competition determines the artwork to be used in the design of the Texas NDEAM Poster, which is distributed all across Texas and some to other states as well. There is no specific theme for the art, and all media can be considered. Submission Guidelines and Entry Forms are available on our website, or you can contact Jo for more details at jo.virgil@governor.state.tx.us

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