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# Newsletter

September, 2012

Issue No. 4

## In This Issue

[Register for fall CE](#)

[Welcome These New Members](#)

[Call for News Articles](#)

[APA Mission](#)

[Accessibility Awards](#)

[Roadway Standards](#)

[Forum Discussions](#)

[ADA More Than Compliance](#)

## Save the Date!

2013 Annual APA Conference,  
January 23-25, 2013, near  
Austin, TX!

## Register Now!

Fall Regionals -  
APA is offering 4-6 hours of  
TDLR required CE training and  
AIA LU.

Both dates include two hours  
by Robert Posey, TDLR  
Program Manager Compliance  
Division/Architectural Barriers.

Dates and locations:  
[September 7, San Antonio](#)  
[October 5, Dallas /Ft.Worth](#)

## Welcome These New APA Members!

[Click on the member's name  
to view his or her profile in our](#)

## ***Moving Forward. Leading the Way.***

Are you letting our association work for you? As you know, APA went through a "makeover" about a year ago. We have a new name, a new look, and some new benefits for our members. One of the reasons for the founding of our organization (TRASA) was to provide a place for accessibility professionals like ourselves to gather, share information, learn from each other, and to have a unified voice. Now in our 13th year, APA is becoming a recognizable name in our industry. We have established ourselves as a credible organization by providing quality continuing education, by forging relationships with regulatory entities like TDLR and the Access Board, and by maintaining the integrity of our membership. Now we are establishing ourselves beyond the borders of Texas. So, let us help you. As a member, you may use the APA Member Logo to identify yourself as a member. Use it in your email signatures, on your website, even on your business cards. For guidelines of use, visit the Member Logo page on our website. Being part of a professional organization lends credibility to you and your business. And at the same time, it helps to spread the word about APA.

By, [Kim Goss](#), 2012 APA President



## **Accessibility Awards Important to Mission**

As a reminder, the deadline for submitting one or more of your favorite RAS construction projects is Friday, September 28th. This is a wonderful opportunity to honor your clients, design teams, the construction industry and yourself - for all the hard work and dedication needed to have a successful project, even in today's slow economic environment. Every project constructed

## Member Directory.

Eric S. Rodriguez

*Dallas, Tx*

Linda Bradley

*Coventry, RI*

## Call for Articles!

The CM&M Committee invites all APA members to submit articles for this newsletter. The next deadline is November 1st, 2012.

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!

The CM&M committee reserves 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. You will be featured as well.

By, Marcela Abadi Rhoads, CM&M Committee Chair

these days needs to be celebrated, but we want to really celebrate those project that "go above and beyond" in implementing physical accessibility and useability. It is also an excellent opportunity to stress our APA Mission in tangible forms.

The Annual APA and Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities (GCPD) Awards program stresses our commitment to meeting Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS) for the built environment, and "service access" provided by the end-users.

Please select one of your projects, fill out the Nomination Form application, get some good photos of the final property asset and pay the \$50 entry fee. TAS compliance is confirmed by visiting team-members, representing APA and the Governor's Committee, for all the submitted projects. We have doubled the number of Award submittals each year, and we are hoping for many more worthy projects this year.

Even if you elect not to submit, please participate as a member of the "Compliance Confirmation Team" with others throughout the State. It is great to meet others that are striving to make the world a better place for all citizens of Texas.

This award has been awarded to three projects for each of the last two years. However, the entry photos of every project submitted are shown during a PowerPoint presentation at the APA Annual Conference.

The APA/GCPD Award is so impressive that if you can't afford to pay all of the entry fee - share the privilege of entering with the design professional, the contractor, and the property owner/client at only \$12.50 each!

If you have any questions, please contact Fred @ 214.505.3728.

By, Fred Cawyer, Chair, Awards Task Force

## (TxDOT) Released Roadway Standards

On June 5, 2012, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) posted their new Roadway Standard PED-12 and on June 13, 2012, a revision to the PED-12 was posted as PED-12A. The new standard PED-12A will replace the previous standard PED-05 and will be applicable to new TxDOT construction projects beginning with the November 2012 letting. The use of these new standards prior to November is an option of the district. Engineers designing TxDOT projects should contact the appropriate district office when beginning the project. The PED-12A standard can be found on TxDOT's website or click here.

A summary of the PED-12 changes are:

- PED-12 replaces PED-05.

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## APA Mission

- To promote accessibility in the physical environment.
- To support membership needs and organizational growth.
- To enhance professional development.
- To actively promote the services provided by our members.
- To hold our members to a high standard of professional ethics.
- To facilitate consistency in the application of accessibility standards.
- To present a unified voice.

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## [Our Website](#)

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If you have any articles for our next Newsletter please submit your articles to [ninapaquette@gmail.com](mailto:ninapaquette@gmail.com)

- Diagonal curb ramp types 4, 8, and 9 have been eliminated. The current draft of the Public Right of Way Accessibility Guidelines prohibits diagonal curb ramps in new construction.
- Detectable warning material specification, detailing, and notes have been changed to clarify installation of various materials
- Curb ramp types 1, 7, and 10 have been modified to improve overall design.
- General notes have been consolidated and edited for clarification and to revise references.

A summary of the PED-12A changes are:

- PED-12A replaces PED-12.
- Curb ramp types 3, 6, 7, 10, and 11 dimensions and minor graphic representation were revised.
- Note 22 was revised.

For additional information contact TxDot Design Division:  
Mr. Pete Krause, RLA at 512.416.2714  
Mr. Harry Dawson, RLA at 512.416.2320

By [A. Martin Mullins III](#), Principal, TexasAbility, LLC

## Forum Discussions Help Members

By now everyone has gotten their feet wet using the new standards. There have been some good technical discussions on the forum, also some interesting topics that could use more analysis such as [Referenced Standards \(105\)](#), and I want to thank everyone who has taken the time to participate. We have started building a reference library on the new standards and I hope that it will become a valuable resource for our members.

One of the things I just discovered under my forum preferences is that you can set it to deliver a daily digest rather than delivering each email individually. I hope it works out. My inbox needs all the help it can get!

By, [Robin Roberts](#), Chair, Technical Standards Committee

## ADA Means More Than Compliance

Accessibility means many things to many people. To most of us in APA, it means compliance with the standards but to someone with a disability it means so much more. It means they can work. It means they can go out where ever they want to go and do whatever they want to do, just like you and I do. Fighting for that right has taken decades of work. There are many moving parts that have to be in alignment for "accessibility" to truly be achieved.

Recently, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee held a hearing on the issue of "Olmstead Enforcement Update: Using the ADA to Promote Community Integration." A foreign topic to most people who work on access

issues, but a very important one to the community we serve.

Olmstead v. L.C. is the 1999 U.S. Supreme Court case which established that under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals with disabilities have the right to live and receive their services in the community, rather than only in institutional settings. In 2010, the HELP Committee held a hearing on the state of Olmstead enforcement twenty years after the passage of the ADA.

In Texas, we began work on this issue in 1992. The popular thing to do back then was to put someone with a disability (physical or mental) in an institution or nursing home if providing assistance to them was difficult for the family. There were 19 year olds living in nursing homes with the elderly where their quality of life suffered greatly. More importantly, once institutionalized, they were unable to work. There were no "day release" programs, so thousands of vibrant people wasted away in institutions instead of getting assistance in their homes or in community-based programs.

At that time Texas spent \$7,652 per MILE, per year, for our state highways. Our highways were number one in the country but we were 52nd in human services (behind both Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands). The message we were sending said, "Welcome to Texas! Come on through, but don't stay."

It cost the tax payers almost \$50,000 per year to keep a person in an institution, yet we could give them the opportunity to live at home with some in-home assistance for an average of \$8,000 per year, or in a community-based program for about \$16,000 per year. For roughly the cost of one mile of highway, we could release someone from an institution and provide them assistance in their home where they could work and be productive members of society, which was ultimately what the Americans with Disabilities Act was all about.

As a result, many institutions were closed down and money was reallocated to fund community-based programs and to assist people in their own homes. The Olmstead case made getting people out of institutions a law instead of the exception. Many lives have flourished because of it.

Sometimes we have to look back to see how far we've come.

By, Kristy J. Avalos, President/CEO, Accessology

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