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Issue No. 25

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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.

Keith Fey  
*Helotes, TX*

Ruth Garcia  
*El Paso, TX*

## From your APA President - Accessing the Future

I write this today with a heavy heart just hearing the news of the passing of George Ferrie, Director of Compliance at the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. George was a longtime supporter of APA and a friend. He will truly be missed. We plan on honoring George at our upcoming annual meeting.

It is hard to believe that 2017 is nearing an end and we will be meeting for our 2018 annual meeting in the very near future. 2017 has been an exciting year for APA. Our second APA specialist designation on Assembly Areas will be offered at the upcoming annual meeting. We will be exhibiting at the National American Institute of Architects in June of 2018 and our board has been looking at other potential opportunities for our organization which will be announced early next year.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your APA president this last year and I will continue to support the association next year as past president. I look forward to Jack McClellan's leadership next year as President. I know he will be a fantastic leader. We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting!! Make your reservations now.

[Carroll Pruitt](#), FAIA, NCARB, 2017 APA President

## [APA Annual Conference & Expo in Round Rock, TX - near Austin January 31- February 2, 2018](#)

Don't miss the opportunity to obtain all of your credits\* for this year - TDLR (CEU), AIA (LU), ICC (CEU) and ACTCP. Learn the latest from industry experts on the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act and the Texas Accessibility Standards.

Here are a few highlights:

- Ron Lucey- Executive Director, TX Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities
- Fair Housing Expert- Doug Anderson, Fair Housing

Michael Herman  
Houston, TX

Cole Kennedy  
Helotes, TX

Linda Porras-Pirtle  
Houston, TX

Craig Senglin  
Dallas, TX

## Have ADA, FHA, TAS or other Technical Questions?

It is easy to ask via the APA member-only [Forum!](#)

\*Just log in and access your member profile.

\*Under the Forums heading select Forum Memberships.

\*Choose the forums and threads that interest you.

\*You may opt-in for any or all discussions.

Sign up for [Job Opportunities](#) and [Member News!](#)

\*Even if you have previously joined the Forum, and "opted in for all discussions", you must go back to your preferences and opt in for any new discussions.

Don't forget that we also have [FAQs](#) for members only!

## Builders, Architects, City Planners, etc. - Do you need to Hire an Accessibility Specialist?

Looking for a specialist to help with planning your building designs and/or inspections? If so, we have the expertise you need on our website.

[Check Hire A Specialist for a complete directory](#) by expertise, name or location.

## APA Needs You!

It is never too late to help an APA committee - either as a member or doing a special one-time task. Members may see Committee minutes

## Accessibility First

- Public Right of Way Guidelines- Melissa Anderson, Melissa Anderson, LLC. (formerly US Access Board)
- Assembly Area Specialist (new designation program) Track-Jim Terry, CEO, Evan Terry Associates

Register now! (Members should login into the APA website before registering to enjoy the member rate!)

## [REGISTRATION PAGE](#)

**Reserve your hotel room now before the Group Rate is sold out!** [Online room reservations are now just a click away with Reslink!](#) You will be directed to the property's home page with the negotiated rate code already entered in the appropriate field.

## Interested in being an Exhibitor and/or Sponsor at the 2017 Conference & Expo?

Contact Nina Paquette, [ninapaquette@gmail.com](mailto:ninapaquette@gmail.com)

## Interested in donating an item or two for the Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship Silent Auction?

Contact Nina Paquette, [ninapaquette@gmail.com](mailto:ninapaquette@gmail.com)

## Dues Increase

The Board of Directors of APA works to keep expenses as low as possible for the association, but costs continue to rise across the board. The Board has deliberated for several months on certain items, one being the monthly dues. Due to increasing expenses, there is a need to raise dues for this upcoming year. Thus, the dues have been raised to \$225.00 from \$200 as of November 2017. Our last dues increase was in 2013.

Additionally, you will see a small increase (\$15.) in the cost of the 2018 Annual Conference. The cost of the food menu and Audio-Visual equipment at the hotel is increasing. We have shopped hotels across the Austin metro area and the Marriott continues to be extremely affordable and has received strong reviews annually from our members who attend the conference.

We thank you for your continued support of APA. We also encourage your participation with committees so that we may continue the numerous efforts of the organization.

## APA Scholarship Fundraising

[here](#). Contact anyone below to discuss how you can help:

Communications

- [Mark Morley](#)

Education & Events

- [Kim Goss](#) and [Jim Terry](#)

Jim Boyce Scholarship

- [Jimmy Bell](#)

Legislative & Legal

- [Peter Grojean](#) and [Carroll](#)

[Pruitt](#)

Membership & Marketing

- [Jessica Hamm](#)

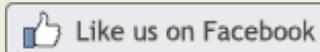
Technical Standards

- [Kim Hooker](#)

## 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.

### [Our Website](#)



[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](mailto:ninapaquette@gmail.com)

## APA Board of Directors

Meet this year's **Board of Directors**. Members may

The summer was full of activity as we wind down the Summer Donation Campaign and gear up for the Silent Auction.

## 2017 Giving Campaign

We give a HUGE thanks to the APA Board President who has, for the third year in a row, challenged the APA Board of Directors with a matching donation to the JBMS Summer Donation Campaign. We've also added an opportunity to tack on a donation to the Scholarship Fund when you renew your APA Membership. All monies donated to the Scholarship are kept separate from the general APA fund and are used exclusively for the administration of the committee and for the funding of the scholarships. Don't forget to keep track of your donations to JBMS as charitable tax deductions! In the next few weeks when the APA Board Challenge finalizes we will officially end the 2017 Summer Donation Campaign and will be able to update the donation thermometer. Thanks again to the APA Board President Challenge and to all the APA Member donors for your continued support to the Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship!

## 2017-18 Silent Auction at Annual Conference

The Silent Auction at the 2018 APA Annual Conference is now gearing up. The auction is always a fun time with items from the fun and whimsical to the artistic and practical to bid on. This is our major fundraiser of the year and the one we count on to continue the scholarship. Please watch for the item donation request emails that will be coming out soon and [fill out and return those donation forms](#) so we can prepare bid sheets for the Conference. I'm always excited to see what fun things you all donate. Bid high and bid often!

[Jimmy Bell](#), JBMS Chair

## APA Scholarship Becomes National Scholarship

In other news, following in the transition footsteps of TRASA to APA, we have officially expanded the Scholarship from being limited only to Texas residents to now being a nationwide scholarship! We have changed the [scholarship Guidelines and application](#) and are now listed on several scholarship databases so deserving students are aware of our scholarship.

Jim Boyce was my dear friend since 1983 when I was in college and then working in the construction industry. Long before the ADA, when we were just beginning to add grab bars in toilet stalls and build ramps, Jim was the guy I'd call or drop by his house in the evenings to

see all Board minutes [here](#).

[Carroll Pruitt](#) - President  
[Jack McClellan](#) - President-Elect  
[Tom Ellis](#) - Secretary  
[Clark Teel](#) - Treasurer  
[Jimmy Bell](#) - Board Member  
[Sharon Massey](#) - Board Member  
[Paul Glenn](#) - Board Member  
[Peter Grojean](#) - Past President

## Vision Statement

A national Association of professionals with knowledge and expertise in pursuit of compliance with accessibility regulations related to the built and physical 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 professionalism and ethics.
- Facilitate consistency in the application of accessibility regulations
- Present a unified voice in our industry
- Actively participate in the development, interpretation and adoption of accessibility regulations.
- Promote the value of certified accessibility specialists and consultants.

[CLICK HERE FOR PAST ANNUAL REPORTS](#)

\* 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

ask how it should be done. He was always gracious and willing to offer his advice. It has been my honor and privilege to serve on the Scholarship Committee and as the Chair of the Committee the last several years but it's now time for me to step aside and let someone in with new fresh ideas. Thank you for allowing me to serve and I look forward to watching the scholarship continue to expand and grow so we may honor not only Jim Boyce but also all of the other great APA members that have passed on and left their marks in our hearts and in the world of accessibility.

[Jimmy Bell](#), JBMS Chair

## APA Needs Your Voice - Join a Committee!

### APA Communication Committee:

The Communications Committee is responsible for the quarterly APA newsletter and the oversight of all APA communication tools. Acting as gatekeeper, we support APA committees with communications and use volunteer proofers to review all internal and external written material published or sent out on behalf of the Association.

### APA Membership & Marketing Committee:

The Membership & Marketing Committee is responsible for the plans and actions used to COMMUNICATE with and RETAIN current Members, WELCOME new members, RE-CONNECT with dropped members and RECRUIT potential new members. These new members may be TX RAS, TX Non-RAS, out-of-state and even international individuals and organizations. Additionally we want to PROMOTE MEMBERS and the APA to the building and accessibility industry.

### APA Technical Standards Committee:

The Technical Standards Committee provides a technical resource library (FAQs) and a FORUM for members to get technical clarification on ADA and other standards. We give input on regulations affecting the industry by drafting position papers for the APA BOD to review, when needed. We provide a Technical session (Tech Talks) at the Annual Conference and plan to provide webinars for members.

### Exhibitor/Sponsor Committee:

The Exhibitors/Sponsors Committee is formed to bring in exhibitors that can provide our Conference Attendees with exposure to new products, tools and concepts, as well as bring revenue to APA via exhibitor and sponsor

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).

Additionally, we provide space for advertisers but we do not claim any knowledge of or approval of advertisers products or services.

fees.

### **APA Education and Events Committee:**

The Education and Events Committee is responsible for continuing education programs throughout the year in addition to programs at the annual conference as well as regional training.

### **APA Legislative & Legal Committee:**

The Legislative and Legal Committee keeps a watch on legislative activity and takes action when needed.

### **Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship Committee:**

Since 2010, APA has awarded select design students The Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship for their dedication and interest in promoting accessibility in their future careers. The committee revises and mails out application materials, awards scholarship(s) and raises funds each year.

### **APA Newsletter now accepting advertisers!**

If you know a vendor who might be interested in a similar ad, have them contact [ninapaquette@gmail.com](mailto:ninapaquette@gmail.com). This ad is just \$50 per issue in our 2018.

### **This Year's APA Member Logo will be available for your use on business materials beginning January 2.**

### **How to Increase your business? Update your Profile!**

#### **Member Referral Requests are Increasing!**

"I am receiving 4-6 inquiries a week asking how to find a RAS and or a Consultant on Accessibility" noted Shirley Knox, Executive Director of APA. "I send everyone to our website's member directory to do a search by City or by Skill" So, it's time to update your profile, ADD a picture, and market yourself! "

**NOTE: Interested parties looking to hire a Specialist, will NOT be able to find you unless you have updated all your "interests".**

#### **Process to update your Profile:**

- \* Login
- \* Click on your name in the top right corner
- \* Click on Profile
- \* Click on Interest Tab
- \* Check all items that apply to your services

- \* Hit the save button
- \* Do a few sample searches under the Membership Directory tab and see if your Profile comes up as you would expect it to.

Jessica Hamm, Chair Membership & Marketing Committee

### **APA is an Approved\* Provider for AIA, ICC and TDLR!**



***\*APA is a TDLR Provider (#1521), AIA/CES Provider (#G583), ICC Preferred Provider (#1321) and provides selected courses which apply toward ACTCP certification, APA also awards an APA-ADA Specialist Designation and Accessibility Standards completion certificate, when all criteria are met***

### **Proofers Wanted!**

The Communications Committee is always seeking proofreaders for the APA newsletter and other APA communications. If you are knowledgeable, talented, and interested in grammar, spelling, sentence structure, etc., please contact [Nina Paquette](#) .