



Newsletter

June, 2013

Issue No. 7

In This Issue

[5 hours Continuing Education](#)

[Jim Boyce Scholarship
Winners!](#)

[The APA Website](#)

[Governor's Committee on
People with Disabilities](#)

[APA on Social Media](#)

Save the Date!

2014 Annual Conference

January 29-31

Welcome These New APA Members!

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

[Oran R Woody](#)

Houston, TX

[Michael B Graham](#)

Houston, TX

[Ajith C S Perera](#)

Dehiwala, Sri Lanka

[James Bell](#)

Austin, TX

Call for Articles!

We invite all APA members

President's Notes

In my last newsletter column, I announced an intention to "design from the inside out" to expand our organization into a national association - and I'm excited to report the progress we've made toward that goal since then. Let's start with certification.

One of our past presidents, Mike Love, was passionate about the idea of establishing an APA Advanced Certification program that would set national standards for accessibility professionals and convey the profession's highest professional status to the holders of APA Advanced Certifications. This is no small proposition. We will need to establish a governance process, set certification policies and procedures, develop qualifications, establish continuing education requirements, etc... There is a lot of work to be done. We will update you with our progress.

Steps are being taken by our Technical Standards Committee looking into ways to increase public awareness of the expert commentary and the resources our organization can offer to the industry at large. How can we best open our Forum and FAQs to our members and increase awareness among those outside our association most likely to become members and give them an incentive to join?

To increase the number of exhibitors -- and the funding they provide for our annual meeting - we have created a task force to look into giving our exhibitors greater value. The task force will develop opportunities to better acknowledge our exhibitors and also provide more opportunities for participants to look at the exhibits.

Our Education and Events Committee has begun work on the development of on-line continuing education programs with a national focus and the engagement of global conference speakers for our annual meeting.

Our Marketing Committee has made plans to exhibit at the ADA Symposium and the Building Professional Institute in May, and we are also actively seeking other venues where we might increase our public exposure.

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

We have formed task forces and committees to review our current by-laws, website content and collateral print materials and make recommendations to the Board for any revisions needed to align those materials with our national outreach. Their work is guided by the question, "What can we offer a national membership to best meet their association needs and expectations?"

And, like every other organization operating today, we are looking at ways to use social media and mass email programs to promote our organization. Through Facebook, LinkedIn and other social media we will recognize and promote organizational accomplishments, special events, member accolades and industry news, because we recognize we must increasingly attract young members if we are to continue to grow as a viable, vibrant national organization.

All in all, it's an exciting time to be a member of APA. We are on our way to becoming our profession's top association!

Gaila Barnett, 2013 APA President



5 hours TDLR and AIA Continued Education!

APA will be offering CE/AIA Training for RAS's and those interested in accessibility over the next several months. Each training session will meet FIVE hours of required Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) continuing education and are also approved by AIA.* The training includes one hour by Robert Posey, TDLR Program Manager, Compliance Division/Architectural Barriers.

The regional trainings are scheduled for Dallas, College Station and a third location to be announced. You may attend one or all of the three training sessions.

Click on the following links for further information or to register! Members receive discounted rates so be sure and log in as a member before registering on the event calendar page:

Dallas CE Regional Training - Already Occurred

College Station CE Regional Training - [7/26/2013](#)

A third regional training is scheduled for 9/27/2013. Mark your calendars - location details to follow.

[Our Website](#)

Like us on Facebook 

View our profile on  [LinkedIn](#)

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

Professionals dedicated to accessibility in all aspects of the physical experience for persons with disabilities.

APA Mission

- Promote accessibility in the physical environment
- Support membership needs and organizational growth
- Enhance professional development
- 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 standards
- Present a unified voice
- Actively participate in the development of accessibility codes, standards and regulations

We hope you can join us!
Your APA Education & Events Committee

Kim Goss, Education and Events Chair

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

APA's Jim Boyce Scholarship Winners Announced!

The Accessibility Professionals Association makes it a part of its mission to find ways to give back to the community, so the Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship was created. It helps promote accessibility in the built environment by raising awareness in the college communities of Texas. **This year Skye Terrell, from Prairie View A&M studying Architecture/Construction Science & Trenton Trunks, from UT San Antonio studying Architecture were each awarded \$1250.** They demonstrated their ability to incorporate accessibility design into their school projects, and exhibited a sincere desire to make accessibility design an important part of their future careers. Winners were selected by APA members who serve on the Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship Committee.

To learn more, visit the [APA website](#).

Chris Schexnayder, Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship Committee Chair

Help make your APA website the best it can be

We ask the APA website to be many things, from a recruitment tool and "face" of our organization to a valuable resource for our members. Please take a few minutes to visit the site and note the things you want to see changed.

What would be most useful to you as a member? Try out the links to see if they work. Do they get you the info you need? Is the information helpful, well-written and up-to-date?

You are our eyes and ears - and this is YOUR website.
<http://www.accessibilityprofessionals.org/>

We need your opinions and ideas to make it happen! Send your thoughts to: jack@aesupport.com

Jack McClellan, Communications Chair

Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities Activity

It's time to submit nominations for the 2013 Lex Frieden Employment Awards. **Deadline for submissions is June 30.** Take a moment and think about employers, entrepreneurs, professionals in the field of disabilities, and local committees in your community who deserve recognition and kudos for their Above and Beyond work in hiring and retaining employees with disabilities and in efforts to raise awareness of the positive impacts of doing so. **There is NO FEE for entries.**

Check here to see what is happening in the Governor's Office <http://governor.state.tx.us/disabilities/>

This month see Governor Perry's Welcome Address to the 2013 winners of the Barbara Jordan Media Award

APA is on Facebook and LinkedIn - Join us!

Are you on Facebook or LinkedIn? APA is and we are having interesting conversations and announcements!

Get notices about upcoming APA events and join the conversations of your member peers as well as others across the country interested in accessibility issues.

A recent Facebook post brought up AbleRoad: An app and website that connects people with accessible places.

APA on Facebook

And on LinkedIn there are several interesting discussions:

- 1) Serv-A-SYST revolutionizes restaurants, bars and other points of service solving the ADA requirements for a lowered portion countertop
- 2) The first ATM lawsuit has been filed
- 3) How to design an accessible shower

Join the conversation and show them all what an APA expert is all about!

APA on LinkedIn

By Marcela Abadi Rhoads, Marketing 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).

[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