

June, 2015

Issue No. 15

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Regional Trainings

August 7- Plano, TX

October 16- Houston, TX

Save these training dates - 8 CE hours. will be offered at each location. Watch your inbox for Constant Contact emails from APA. Check our [website](#) for more details.

Welcome These New APA Members!

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

President's Welcome

I hope this newsletter finds all of you well. It is hard to believe this year is nearly half over. Many exciting things have been happening this year. Your education committee is hard at work on Regional Trainings and next years' Annual Conference. They are planning some new and exciting programs, so save these dates - January 20-22, 2016.

By the time this reaches you, the current legislative session will be over. Our legislature meets every two years for 141 days. I'm among those who believe they should only meet every 141 years for two days. All kidding aside, the legislative committee has been watchful for legislation that would directly impact our business in Texas. Fortunately, the RAS program was not at risk this year. There have been a couple of pieces of legislation that impact accessibility, including one that would have severely restricted van accessible parking, and another that impacts bed height in accessible hotel rooms. The van parking bill has been changed to a study requirement. We will have to wait and see what happens on both. Another interesting piece of legislation was one that restricts state agencies from requiring finger prints to renew a license. Many of you that are architects, engineers or registered interior designers have had to go through finger printing to get your license renewed.

One of our staff members attended the Atlanta ADA Symposium on our behalf in May. This is part of our national outreach efforts. A special task force is working on an ADA Specialist's Certificate program, led by Jack D. McClellan, AIA. This certificate will likely require special training and testing, along with other qualifications. We hope to offer this program next January at the Annual Conference. Mike Love continues to work on a national ADA Certification, and is hard at work to find development funding. Our sincere thanks to everyone involved in these efforts.

George J Duggan

Biloxi, MS

George M. Reed

Biloxi, MS

Bryan N Verdecanna

Helotes, TX

Dave Lardner

Austin, TX

John Battista

Granada Hills, CA

Have 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 you preferences and opt in for any new discussions.

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

[Walter Qualls](#), Chair Technical Standards

Your Scholarship Program - A

I wish all of you the best as we Move Forward and Seek Excellence in Accessibility.

[Carroll Lee Pruitt](#), FAIA, NCARB, APA
2015 APA President



Register for the August 7th Regional Training in Plano, TX

The regional training programs provided by the APA are the most up to date and trustworthy source for Barrier-Free continuing education for architects, accessibility professionals and facility managers. Each program is presented by an APA member with the professional experience to bring clarity to confusing and changing standards. If you are seeking education that goes beyond the basics, the APA Regional Training is your best option.

For a limited time, the registration fee for 8-hours of continuing education at the August 7th Plano, TX event has been reduced to \$99.00 for APA members and \$150.00 for non-members.

Continuing Education programs include:

- **Difference between TAS and ADA Standards**
- **Accessible Toilet and Bathing Facilities**
- **Retail Stores and Spaces**
- **Accessible Kitchens and Kitchenettes**

If you are seeking networking opportunities in addition to education, consider attending the 2016 APA Conference in Round Rock, TX, January 20-23, 2016. Hear the latest from local and national educators and professionals. Mark your calendars.

[Jeromy Murphy](#), Education & Events Chair

Do you need to Hire an Accessibility Specialist?

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.

[Jimmy Bell](#), 2015 JBMS Chair

[Our Website](#)

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[Sign up for membership
today!](#)

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

APA Board of Directors

Meet your **2015 Board of Directors**

[Carroll Pruitt](#) - President
[Peter Grojean](#) - President -
Elect

Looking for a specialist to help with planning your building designs and/or inspections? If so, we have Registered Accessibility Specialists (RAS) on our website. Check [Hire A Specialist](#) for a complete directory by name or location.

Jim Boyce Scholarship Awarded

The JBMS Committee has been hard at work since the Annual Conference and after careful consideration of all the scholarship applications received would like to announce that Mariano Garcia III of the University of Texas at San Antonio was chosen to receive this years' Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$2,500.

This scholarship is only possible because of the membership's generous participation in the Silent Auction at the Annual APA Conference each year and through cash donations. The JBMS Committee would like to thank the APA membership for your continued generosity. Our desire is to continue building the fund so that we may award more or larger amounts in the future to deserving students. The Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship is set up as a 501.3c charitable organization and all cash donations to the Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship are tax deductible as charitable gifts. We would like to extend a special thank you to those APA members who have pledged monthly or annual donations. If you would like to tax deductible donation you may do so easily at the following [link](#).

[Jimmy Bell](#), JBMS Chair

Removing Barriers

This short article hopefully will expand your view, and renew your commitment, to the importance of removing barriers. Perhaps you come to the Accessibility Professionals Association with commitments formed in training, advocacy, or personal experience. Whether you hone your awareness of the Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS) to improve our built environment, represent a long overlooked group of citizens, or to directly improve access for someone you care for - you enter a world of requirements and interpretation. Accessibility professionals face a large body of knowledge that will test your ability to evaluate conditions, understand the intent of the TAS requirements, and apply them consistently.

I want to share a story that only serves to prove that art inspires us and we should work to remove barriers. In The Inheritance Cycle, the author Christopher Paolini creates a fantasy world

D. Clark Teel - Secretary
Jack McClellan - Treasurer
Robin Roberts - Board Member
Sharon Massey - Board Member
Leslie Marrero - Board Member
Chris Schexnayder - Past President, Ex-Officio

Vision Statement

Further develop a national association of 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 at a national level.
- 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 codes, rules and standards.
- Present a unified voice in our industry.
- Actively participate in the development, interpretation and adoption of accessibility

called Alagaesia where world peace is ordered by dragon riders and their dragons. We enter the story at a time of conflict and the once "graceful and flowing" city of Doru Areaba on the Island of Vroengarg is in ruins. Our hero gains a new awareness when he visits the ruins. It is the only city built for riders and their dragons with "every door like a mouth" and streets wide enough for "two dragons to walk side by side."

This passage in a fantasy novel demonstrates the wonder of removing barriers. You don't need special powers to see the obvious lesson of the wonder of providing adequate space for an intended purpose. Back in Texas, everyone needs a lot of reminding and clarification. TAS Technical Memorandum TM 2014-24 discusses the location of accessible routes. We are reminded that the location of accessible routes must be "located in the same areas as the general circulation path." It is further emphasized using a clever contrasting phrase to make a strong point. We are reminded that "same area" means "not in a different space within a building." The memorandum presents six good factors to evaluate if the location of the accessible route would adequately meet the needs of people with disabilities - the population to be served; the availability to the user; the location relative to distance and time; the locations relation to isolation and separation; the function of the building or facility; and equal treatment and opportunity. These do seem obvious but in our world they are often marginalized by demands of budget and project scope. Everyone wants to do the right thing but they can't do the right thing, right now. I hope that one of the six factors will strike a chord with decision-makers to become sensitive to "isolation and separation" when barriers exist.

Those in the APA community know what fantasy fiction teaches us - Dragons should not go in one door and their Rider in another.

Kim Hooker, Technical Standards Committee Member

Committees Need Volunteers

If you were not able to join us at the Annual meeting for committee sign-up it is not too late. All of the committees below could use additional members. Feel free to contact any of the chairs below to discuss the committee goals and expectations. If you don't have time for a monthly committee meeting, but would be willing to do a specific task for APA, please contact Nina at ninapaquette@gmail.com. We have a number of tasks that wouldn't take much time.

Meet the 2015 Committee Chairs!

codes, standards and 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 substitute 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).

Communications - [Mark Morley](#)
Education & Events - [Jeromy Murphy](#)
Jim Boyce Scholarship - [Jimmy Bell](#)
Legislative & Legal - [Robert Ronson](#)
Membership & Marketing - [Tom Ellis](#)
Technical Standards - [Walter Qualls](#)

April Training Well Received!



Peter Grojean and other Experts shared excellent information resulting in eight (8) hours of required Continuing Education.

APA thanks to those who prepared presentations:

- "The Difference between TAS & ADA Standards" by Stephen Meyer
- "Accessible Toilets & Bathing Facilities" by Stephen Meyer
- "Retail Stores and Spaces" by Tom Ellis
- "Accessible Kitchens & Kitchenettes" by Peter Grojean
- "Best & Worst Problems, We Have Seen" by Jack McClellan

[Tom Ellis](#) & Barbara Ellis, Education & Events Committee

News from the Governor's Office

Lex Frieden Employment Awards deadline for nominations is July 15, 2015. Please help us recognize employers, entrepreneurs, local committees or individuals whose efforts toward full inclusion in the workplace and in the community

deserve recognition. There is NO FEE for entries and self-nominations are welcome. [Submission Guidelines and Entry Forms](#) can be found on our LFEA website. The awards ceremony luncheon will be held this year on Wednesday, October 21, in Fort Worth.

Jo Virgil, GCPD