

June, 2018

Issue No. 27

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

Looking for a specialist to help with planning

From your APA President

Committees are active and working to provide you, as APA members, with the services that have established APA as a "go-to" organization for ADA information for the built environment. I urge you to read about the various committee activities and to take the opportunity to join those committees. That is where the work is done, the relationships are established, and the heart of our organization lies. The rewards of such involvement for your professional and personal development are more significant than most members realize. It is always easy to "let the other guy do it", but anyone who has "done it" will attest that they got more out of the experience than they put in. Jump in and become a member of the new wave of APA members. Be a part of the second generation of APA in this year of expansion.

This year we are off and running to implement the program of growth approved by the board of directors' retreat meeting in March. On June 28th and 29th Donald Bloom, Jim Terry, and myself will meet with a core group interested in establishing an APA Florida Chapter. In August we plan a meeting in Atlanta in an effort to establish a chapter there. Donald has generously offered for his company to host the meetings at no cost to APA. We are planning to have a training seminar in Florida the first week in October. With a core group in place, we will use that event as a recruitment opportunity for chapter membership. We hope to follow the same pattern in late October in New Mexico.

Just as we did with the testing program, our goal is to jump in and learn along the way. Much has to be done in the next couple of months to prepare for this. The bylaws will have to be amended, "chapter" frameworks must be established, and volunteers will be needed to continue the process and initial training in these and other states. We will continue to be sensitive to the needs of the RAS community as Texas transitions to being a chapter of APA over the next few years. I know we can count on many of you when we call for your help. You can be part of the next generation of APA, making it a truly national organization.

Jack McClellan, 2018 APA President

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.

Save the Date!

APA Annual Conference & Expo
Round Rock TX - near Austin
January 30-February 1, 2019

Welcome These New APA Members!

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

[Cindy Conyers](#)
San Marcos, TX

[Nathan A. Miraflor](#)
Houston, TX

[Michael A. Lowenthal](#)
Italy, 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!

APA Needs You!

If you are a current member, this year's APA Member Logo is available for your use.

Four Questions Google Maps Has for You

Google Maps offers a handy way to navigate but often leaves mobility-impaired people wondering, unsure if their route will accommodate wheelchairs, walkers or other adaptive equipment. Now, Google is asking their users to answer four questions related to accessibility to improve and increase knowledge:

- Is there a wheelchair-accessible entrance? Is there wheelchair-accessible seating?
- Is there wheelchair-accessible parking?
- Is there a wheelchair-accessible elevator?

For those who may not understand the implications, Google furnishes a description for each of these questions [here](#). While rather basic, users are able to refine the information with comments, even noting helpful details like the number of steps, location of nearby elevators, or restroom size.

Thanks to a brigade of voluntary contributors, information is added daily about transit systems, parks and trails, local eateries and businesses. Ideally, Google hopes to add Street View imagery of transit stations so that individuals with many types of disabilities can gauge their level of access and better plan their trips.

But, for the 12 million (and counting!) places available via the maps, noting accessible features will take time. Google officially rolled out the accessible maps for London, New York, Tokyo, Mexico City, Boston, and Sydney this spring. However, anyone can add information for other locations. It is also easy to become a local Google Guide, and the company encourages Meet-Up events to connect like-minded guides who see the benefits of marking routes of all sorts for the full use of all people.

For ambitious trail markers, Google loans out its Google Street View trekker cameras to organizations or municipalities that want to show the "street view" type equivalent off-road. For many, the device enables armchair travelers to skip the hike and enjoy the scenery digitally.

Google notes that some 65 million individuals use wheelchairs. While this limited information about wheelchair access may not help everyone navigate, it opens the doors for users to participate and help make the world a little wider for everyone.

[Maggie McCarthy](#), APA Member

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

Communications

- [Mark Morley](#)

Education & Events

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

Jim Boyce Scholarship

- [Tanya Allen](#)

Legislative & Legal

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

[Pruitt](#)

Membership

- [Marcela Abadi Rhoads](#)

Technical Standards

- [Kim Hooker](#)

Marketing

- [Donald Bloom](#)

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](#)



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

Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship Recipients Announced and Fundraising Campaign Begins

Several very deserving applications for the Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship were submitted this year and we really had our work cut out to choose the recipients. It's never an easy task when so many great applications are received! This year it was our honor to award scholarships to Allison Brown, majoring in architecture, and to Trent Trunks, majoring in architecture. Each student will receive \$1,500 thanks to your donations and they have been offered associate membership in the APA as well as attendance at the 2018 APA Conference. A big congratulations to these two students! As we continue to build our fund we hope to be able to award more scholarships or larger amounts to the students that have a keen interest in accessibility compliance in honor of Jim Boyce.

The Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship is now totally self-funded by your donations and as we kick-off our summer fundraising campaign with a \$5,000 goal we hope you'll remember us with your tax-deductible donation.

[Donations may be made here](#) or checks may be mailed to:

Jim Boyce Scholarship Fund
9433 Bee Cave Road
Building II, Suite 203
Austin, Texas 78733

Donate to **YOUR** APA Scholarship Fund
Please consider a donation to the Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship. Help us reach our goal for this year.



The Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship was established by the Accessibility Professionals Association (APA), to honor and recognize our friend and colleague Jim Boyce. Jim was formerly a Plan Review Manager with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) and was one of the drafters of the Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS), in 1994. When Jim retired from TDLR, he became a Registered Accessibility Specialist (RAS) and was among the Charter Members of APA. The success of APA is in large part due to Jim's leadership in its earlier years.

The NEXT entry deadline is March 31, 2018.

To donate to the JBMS Fund, [click here](#).

Know Someone who Would Make a

APA Board of Directors

Meet this year's **Board of Directors**. Members may see all Board minutes [here](#).

[Jack McClellan](#): President
[Sharon Woodmore](#):
President-Elect
[Tom Ellis](#): Secretary
[Clark Teel](#): Treasurer
[Stacey Brewer](#): Board
Member
[Robin Roberts](#): Board
Member
[Paul Glenn](#): Board Member
[Carroll Pruitt](#): 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.

[Link to APA Mission](#)

[Link to past APA annual reports](#)

* The APA New sletter is provided to share general accessibility information and other resources that may be of interest to our members and constituents. While the APA New sletter 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 New sletter 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.

Good Exhibitor/Sponsor?

We are at mid-year and your Exhibitor-Sponsor Committee is busy Planning for the Annual 2019 APA Conference. The Committee is geared up to secure participants and would like to solicit a few minutes of your time. The Exhibit Floor is fun, interesting and interactive. Do you know of a potential Exhibitor or Sponsor that you can invite to our next Conference?

As you work through your day, there are countless products and services that you come across that are intriguing, innovative and solution-impacting. Share your experience with our membership by asking the point-of-contact if they would consider being an Exhibitor or Sponsor at our 2019 Annual Conference. Collaboration, Networking and Information-Sharing are some of the great benefits of our organization. We had 160 attendees last year, 2018 Annual Conference. Can you imagine how impacting and fun it would be if even half of our attendees invited just one Exhibitor or Sponsor for the 2019 Annual Conference?

It's an easy challenge. When you find that one interested individual, just send me their contact information and the Committee will take it from there. We will email them information about opportunities for being an Exhibitor or Sponsor. Your assistance will undoubtedly make the 2019 Annual Conference a rewarding experience. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Nina or me.

[Paul Glenn](#), Exhibitor-Sponsor Committee Chair

APA Conference Highlighted in ICC eNews

From the [article](#):

Reaching out to accessibility professionals in Texas

The Accessibility Professionals Association (APA) held a successful Annual Conference & Expo in February featuring three days of national and local speakers and training. A Premium Sponsor of the APA Annual Conference, the Code Council spoke with attendees on the latest code publications and documents during the expo. Courses offered by the APA at national and regional training events receive ICC continuing education credits. ICC members are welcome to join next year's APA Annual Conference being held Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2019, in Austin, Texas.

To read more from [ICC eNews](#).

To learn more about the [International Code Council](#).

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.

Still unsure of what to do? [Watch this helpful video.](#)

APA Needs Your Voice - Join a Committee!

See a list of chairs to contact on the left side of this newsletter.

APA Marketing Task Force:

We are looking for feedback from those national members who live and work outside of Texas in order to expand our reach and provide members with more opportunities.

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 Committee:

The Membership 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. 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.

APA 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 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.

APA 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 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, APA Assembly Designation and Accessibility Standards completion certificate, when all criteria are met*

APA Newsletter now accepting advertisers!

If you know a vendor who might be interested in advertising in this newsletter or on our APA website - have them contact ninapaquette@gmail.com. This ad is just \$50 per issue.

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](#) .

We Welcome Members to Submit Articles

Include articles on topics of interest to your readers, relevant news and events. If you find an interesting article on the Web, you can easily ask the author's permission to summarize the article and link to it from your newsletter. Inserting a link in your article lets you track which topics attract the most interest.