

June 2019

Issue No. 31

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APA Accepts 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.

Place an Advertisement here!
Contact us.

From your APA President

It has been a very busy couple of months since our last newsletter. All of our committees are back at work on their respective tasks. Legislative and Legal has been particularly busy. If you remember from the prior newsletter, there were two bills that were being watched. Here are a few others you might be interested in, SB2199 (baby changers), HB3993 (van parking), HB3163 (parking markers). Everyone on the committee has been involved and providing comments, however I want to thank John Torkelson who spoke on behalf of APA regarding HB 291. We sincerely appreciate his continued dedication.

One of the things that the Board is excited about is exploring the testing certification we've been working for. As you know, we have developed our Specialist Designations and have tests members may take on Accessibility Standards Basics, APA-ADA Specialist, Assembly and Transient Lodging. Certification for these is a huge undertaking that will not happen overnight. For the 2020 Annual Meeting we will not be introducing a new specialist designation. Instead, we will offer each of the above tests for those that may have missed taking them in the past. Please see the APA-ADA Specialist Program on the website for more information.

Also, please take a look at our committees and see what they are doing. We know we beat this drum a lot, but we are always looking for volunteers. Even if you can only play a small roll, it is ALWAYS helpful!

By Sharon Woodmore, 2019 APA President

Upcoming Training Events

We are happy to announce that we are returning to Houston for regional training. Training will be on June 14 at the University of Houston, downtown. And, we are continuing our regional training in Plano on August 9. The programs are set and spots are filing up. Please check the website for additional details and

This ad just \$50 an issue.

sign-up. (Both sessions are also offered via webinar for CE credit)

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.

The 2020 APA Conference will focus on play areas and outdoor developed areas. To that end, we are pleased to announce that Bill Botten, of the US Access Board staff, will be presenting various sessions as well as our keynote presentation. The playground visitation the last two years was such a hit and people expressed so much interest in the topic that we decided to plan the next conference around that theme. Planning continues, so stay tuned.

By Gene Boecker, APA Education & Events Chair

Welcome These New APA Members!

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

Barry Esham
Portland, TX

Thomas Helgeson
Santa Fe, TX

Rob Roy Parnell
Drippings Spings, TX

Dean Perkins
Tallahassee, FL

Kurt Primuth
Oklahoma City, OK

Dinesh Shah
Sugar Land, TX

Wayne Smokay
Haines City, FL

William Winning III
Houston, TX

Florida Chapter Hosting First Training August 16 in Orlando!

Accessibility Professionals Association has been based in the central US for the last 20 years. We are now expanding to Florida and other states to advance the knowledge of ADA and related state regulations in the built environment.

The Florida Chapter will be hosting their first 8-hour training session in Orlando (will also be available by webinar) on August 16 with renowned national speaker-Jim Terry (please see link to registration below). Our goal is to offer in-depth training to expand the knowledge base of those that work with ADA and Accessibility in the Built Environment in Florida and the surrounding area.

Courses are approved for CE credit by Florida DBPR-General, AIA, ICC (in person only), and TDLR. Receive your necessary CE credits for various organizations during this one session.

For information regarding the August 16 training click here.

By Diana Ibarra (dibarra@ibarra.net) and Jeff Yanke (jyanke@evanterry.com), APA Florida Chapter Co-Chairs

Save the Date!

APA Annual Conference & Expo

January 29-31, 2020

Round Rock TX - near Austin

Why Join APA? - One Member's Voice

My name is Charles Watt and I have been a member of the Accessibility Professionals Association for only one year. Unlike the majority of APA members I am not a RAS or an architect, nor do I reside in Texas. I am the ADA Coordinator for the Oklahoma Dept. of Rehabilitation Services, a vocational rehabilitation agency whose purpose is to assist individuals with

ADA TIPS and NEWS

Accommodating Employees with Electrical Sensitivity

The following is a quick overview of some of the on the job accommodations that might be useful for people with electrical sensitivity. For a more in depth discussion, access [JAN's publications](#).

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

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!

It is never too late to help an APA committee - either as a committee member or just volunteer for a special one-time task. Members may see Committee minutes [here](#). Contact anyone below to discuss how you can help!

Communications
- [Maggie McCarthy](#)
Education & Events
- [Gene Boeker](#)
Jim Boyce Scholarship

disabilities to prepare for, find, and maintain employment opportunities. So why did I join the APA and how have I found it helpful to me in my duties as an ADA Coordinator?

The Dept. of Justice regulations implementing the ADA state "A public entity that employs 50 or more persons shall designate at least one employee to coordinate its efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities" under the ADA. This designated employee must also conduct an "investigation of any complaint communicated ... alleging its noncompliance" with the ADA. This person is most commonly referred to as an ADA Coordinator but other job titles are also used.

It is fairly easy to see, from the "job description" given by the DOJ, why an ADA Coordinator must be knowledgeable about as many aspects of the ADA as is possible. Certainly, complaints might arise due to the inaccessibility of the built environment but the necessity of being able to proactively alert an organization to existing accessibility barriers is also essential.

The education I have received as a result of attending regional trainings and the APA Annual Conference have been invaluable to me as I try to determine whether or not various elements in a building or building site are in compliance with the ADA Standards. In addition, the opportunity to create a network of knowledgeable peers and to ask questions in the online Member's Forum is also extremely helpful.

The ability to proudly display the APA logo and to receive various specialty designations like ADA Specialist, Transient Lodging Specialist, etc. gives an imprimatur of professionalism and expertise available nowhere else.

I wholeheartedly recommend membership in the Accessibility Professionals Association to all my fellow ADA Coordinators. I've met people who I know can and will help me if I need it and have received the finest training and education on the intricacies of the ADA Standards for Accessible Design which is available.

By [Charles Watt](#), ADA Coordinator and APA Member

Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship News

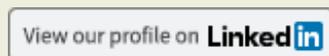
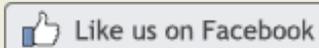
More than 75 students applied for the 2019 Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship. On April 23, the two recipients were announced, each of whom will receive a \$1500

-Tanya Allen
Legislative & Legal
- Peter Grojean and Carroll
Pruitt
Membership
- Iliana Diaz
Technical Standards
- Kim Hooker
Exhibitor/Sponsors
- Paul Glenn
Expansion
- Jack McClellan

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

APA Board of Directors

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

[Sharon Woodmore](#): President
[Robin Roberts](#): President-Elect

scholarship.

Congratulations to the 2019 Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship Recipients: **Allison Brown, majoring in Architecture and Gwyndalen Lacy Drop, majoring in Architecture**

Many thanks to the generous donors who made these scholarships possible! All funds are raised by APA members. Please join us in supporting students interested in accessibility!

[Donate to the Jim Boyce Scholarship here!](#)

[Tanya Allen](#), JBMS Chair

Interview with Trent Tunks - past APA Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship winner

Trent Tunks likes to think big. The winner of the 2018 APA Jim Boyce Scholarship is drawn to large urban design projects and this focus is fused into his academic and long-range future plans.

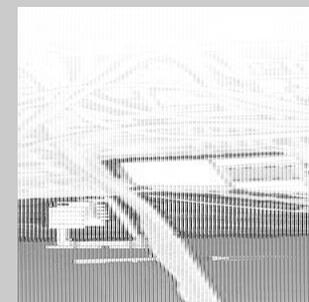


Trent's Team

His goal is to graduate in the fall of 2020 with his Master of Architecture degree from the University of Texas building on his undergraduate architecture degree from UTSA.

He has already distinguished himself as a capable and creative architect-in-training. Notably, he has joined other students in a highly competitive design competition where he took home honors as a finalist. The Urban Land Institute (ULI) Hines Student Competition is a prestigious challenge to architectural students to collaborate across disciplines to dream and design a better built environment. Groups of five students form teams to devise a development plan for a real American city site, including designs and market data.

His University of Texas project, The Landing, created a design for Cincinnati that envisioned sweeping green spaces in an urban environment that promotes renewable energy efforts with social connectivity.



Trent's Design

He explained his appreciation for what he calls "democratic space" that offers ample room for walkways, stairs and ramps. A wheelchair user, Trent knows first-hand the

[Robert Ronson](#): Secretary
[Clark Teel](#): Treasurer
[Stacey Brewer](#): Board Member
[Mork Morley](#): Board Member
[Tom Ellis](#): Board Member
[Jack McClellan](#): Past President

Learn more about us!

About Us

Vision and Mission

APA annual reports

History

Past Board members

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](#).

* 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).

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

advantages and aesthetics that come with public spaces that make life easier for everyone.

In addition to his life experience adapting to wheelchair use from the age of 16, he has seen the need for architects to incorporate more accessibility, even if in small ways. While working with the AIAS Freedom by Design program at UTSA, he described one eye-opening experience of a woman who could not leave her house on her own simply because she could not hold a door open. "It took just a new door closer and new handles for her to come and go on her own. I call that freedom by design."

Inspirations such as these motivate him to expose architecture peers to wheelchair use and how it impacts design. One senses that he is on a professional and personal quest... "How can we make access more integrated? Is there a better way?"

Trent notes the scholarship has been a long-time goal and even applied as an undergraduate. He commended the mission of the Accessibility Professionals Association with a heartfelt comment "It is incredibly important to bring accessibility to the forefront - I am so thankful and honored!"

by [Maggie McCarthy](#), APA Communications Chair

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.

Do you know someone who would make a good Exhibitor/Sponsor for 2020?

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 effective. Share your experience with our membership by asking the point-of-contact if they would consider being an Exhibitor or Sponsor at our next Annual Conference. Collaboration, Networking and Information-Sharing are some of the great benefits of our organization. We have nearly 200 attendees. Can you imagine how dynamic and interactive 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 next Annual Conference a rewarding experience. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

By Paul Glenn, Exhibitor-Sponsor Committee Chair

Thank You To Our Recent Exhibitors & Sponsors!

If you missed them at the conference or want to re-connect, this PDF has live links to contact info and websites!

[2019 APA Annual Conference Exhibitors and Sponsors](#)

APA Needs Your Voice - Join a Committee!

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

APA Chapter Expansion Task Force:

We are looking for 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. We would love to have writers and proofers join our group!

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.

Looking to increase 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 SERVICE AREA 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

- BE SURE TO MARK ALL STATES YOU SERVE IN SERVICE AREA!

- * 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.

How To Hyperlink Your Email Signature

Within Microsoft Outlook:

Select "New E-mail"

Within the pop-up window titled "Untitled - Message (HTML)" select the "Signature" option along the menu at the top of the pop-up. When you select this menu option you should see options to choose an existing signature to add to the new email, but at the bottom is the option to select "Signatures".

Within the pop-up window titled "Signatures and Stationery" under the subtitle "Select signature to edit", either select a current signature to edit or create a "New" option below the window.

The selected signature appears in the main display area of the pop-up window. If you selected the "New" option, a small pop-up appears titled "New Signature" prompting you to type a name and select "OK".

To set up a hyperlink to a web page or site, select the small symbol of the globe and chain at the far right-hand side of the pop-up window main display area subtitled "Edit signature" that is displaying the signature you are editing or creating.

A new pop-up window should appear with the title "Insert Hyperlink". Across from where it says "Look in:" pick the small symbol of the globe and magnifying glass. This should bring up an internet browser window for you to navigate to the website of page of your choosing. Once on the desired page in your internet browser highlight the entire address and right click with your mouse to bring up a small option pop-up and select to "copy".

Back in the "Insert Hyperlink" pop-up window point your cursor to the "Address:" window near the bottom of the pop-up and right click your mouse to bring up a small option pop-up and select to "paste". Back at the top of the "Insert Hyperlink" pop-up window, triple click the duplicate web address in the "Text to display:" window and type however you wish the text to appear in your signature for the hyperlink. If you are satisfied, select "OK" at the bottom right corner of the window.

You have now added hyperlinked text to your signature shown in the pop-up window titled "Signatures and

Stationery". This hyperlinked text can now be moved and adjusted to edit or build your signature as you want. When done select "OK" at the bottom right corner of the window, now place your edited or created signature in an email to test.

By Mark Morley, APA Communications Committee and APA Board Member

APA is an Approved* Provider for the Florida DBPR, AIA, ICC, TDLR and more!



Continuing Education - *APA is a registered provider with the American Institute of Architects (AIA/CES, #G583), Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR, Provider #0007855 / license #PVD312), Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR, #1521) and a preferred provider for the International Code Council (ICC, #1321). APA provides pre-verified ACTCP credits for the ADA Coordinator Training Certification Program (ACTCP). We provide courses of study and award an Accessibility Standards Basics completion, as well as Designations for APA-ADA Specialist, APA-ADA Assembly Specialist and APA-ADA Transient Lodging Specialist, when all criteria are met. Members/guests can meet the CE/LU requirements of numerous organizations by attending APA Training, and verifying with which organizations a course has been registered.