

March, 2016

Issue No. 18

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**Welcome These  
New APA Members!**

## President's NEWS

The 2016 Annual Conference was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who worked at setting it up and who presented at one or more of the sessions. Your contributions are very much appreciated. Without your time and efforts APA would not exist. And a special Thank You to Shirley and Nina for the outstanding job in putting the whole thing together! We are very fortunate to have you both.

We also want to thank our Sponsors and Exhibitors for 2016. These organizations will be listed for the entire year on our website, and we will have a full list of them in our June newsletter as well.

This year presents several challenges and opportunities. The APA-ADA Specialist program was a big success. Congratulations to the 77 new APA-ADA Specialist graduates. These APA members attended four - 2-hour sessions on the Americans with Disabilities Act and passed a proctored examination. This is a first for APA and a giant step forward for our organization. This year we will be working to refine and improve the course and test. My goal is for this specialist track to become a "certification," which will require more work and vetting of our courses and examinations.

APA has the opportunity to use this new track as a means of growing our membership. APA offsets its expenses from two main sources: membership dues and the annual conference. Now that there are numerous other CE providers, APA needs to offer something more to its members than continuing education and networking. And we want to grow our membership to include accessibility professionals throughout the country. By offering the APA-ADA Specialist Program (and other specialists programs in the future) we are making membership attractive to a much broader group of people. The Marketing & Membership (M&M) Committee will be exploring ways to get the message out on our new specialist program(s) to result in

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

Ed Beasley

*Bandera, TX*

Ronald L Bibbs

*Kansas City, MO*

Robert Cook

*Lubbock, TX*

Charles T Duff

*Houston, TX*

Kristi Emery

*Austin, TX*

Tim A Fleming

*Keller, TX*

Jose R Guerrero

*San Juan, TX*

John Harris

*Commerce, TX*

Steven Lewandowski

*McKinney, TX*

Chris McCall

*Houston, TX*

Adam Norris

*Commerce, TX*

Jane B O'Keefe

*Gulfport, MS*

Derek Preas

*Commerce, TX*

Michael A Ray

*El Paso, TX*

Mike Starr

*Houston, TX*

Sharon B Young

*Heath, TX*

increasing our membership and awareness of APA and membership benefits. Have ideas? Join the M&M committee by contacting [Jessica Hamm](#) today.

My motto for this year is: "On Course - Full Speed Ahead!"

[Peter Grojean](#), 2016 APA President

## **New Look for APA Membership Directory!**

**Want another opportunity to grow your business?  
Then update your Profile!**

In addition to a new look for your APA website, the Membership Directory features a whole new search tool! This is an exciting new Member Benefit for you.

This tool allows you, and anyone wishing to Hire an Accessibility Professional, to search many new fields related to skill sets. **BUT - in order for you to provide an accurate picture of your services, you must go to your Member Profile and update your descriptors. Additionally, go to the "Interest tab" and check all the items that apply to your services.**

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

We encourage you to then do a few sample searches under the Membership Directory tab and see if your Profile comes up as you would expect it to.

### **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

## 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 your preferences and opt in for any new discussions.

Don't forget that we also have [FAQs](#) for members only!  
[Walter Qualls](#), Chair Technical Standards

## Do You Want to Hire a Specialist?

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.

## APA Committees Need 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 [here](#). Contact anyone below to discuss:

\* Hit the save button

[Jessica Hamm](#), Chair Membership and Marketing Committees

## Register for the next regional training

APA will be hosting a regional training opportunity on [April 15, 2016](#), in San Antonio. Earn your required eight hours of RAS continuing education in person, or log in via webinar for those who are unable to attend or just want a refresher. Please note that webinar attendees will have to self-report those hours.

### Save these dates for future trainings:

Aug 12, 2016 - Plano, TX

October 21, 2016 - Houston, TX

Feb 1-3, 2017, Marriott North, in Round Rock, TX - near Austin

[Kim Goss](#) and [Jim Terry](#), Education & Events Chair

## APA Specialist Track Graduates 77!

Accessibility Professionals Association Board of Directors and task force have developed an "APA Specialist" Designation program which is awarded to individuals who specialize in the built environment, attend the eight hours of specific APA training and pass a written, proctored test. The designation is limited to members of APA.

Follow the link to see the listing of those who [successfully completed the first training](#) for the APA/ADA Specialist Designation and passed the test given on January 22, 2016.

These individuals are members of APA, hold a license/certification as RAS, ICBO, CASP, or equal. We congratulate them on this accomplishment and the advancement of their professional knowledge and expertise.

*Sincerely, Your APA Board of Directors*

## Proofers Wanted!

The Communications Committee is seeking proofreaders for

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

- [Walter Qualls](#)

## 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.

[Jimmy Bell](#), 2015 JBMS Chair

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the APA newsletter and other APA communications. If you are knowledgeable, talented, and interested in grammar, spelling, sentence structure, etc., please contact [Nina Paquette](#) or Communications Chair, [Mark Morley](#). Thank you for your consideration.

By [Teresa Darr](#), Communications Committee Member

## Jim Boyce Scholarship Applications Due March 31

We are thankful for another successful Silent Auction that was held at our annual APA Conference. We raised \$3773 for the Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship Fund. We are extremely grateful and would like to recognize all our [silent auction donors](#). It would not have been a success without them.

Scholarship packets have been sent out to Texas colleges and universities and we have received one application so far. So please spread the word about the scholarship fund. All the information can be found on the APA website [Jim Boyce Scholarship page](#). The application deadline is March 31st.

We are always looking for new members with other ideas to raise funds for the scholarship fund, adding to our list of colleges and universities, preparing the scholarship packets, following up with calls and emails on our mailings and reviewing the applications and choosing scholarship winners. If you would like to help please contact me.

We are looking forward to another successful year and to honoring the memory of Jim Boyce.

[Jimmy Bell](#), Chair JBMS Committee

## APA is now a Preferred Provider for ICC - as well as AIA and TDLR!



Your APA 2016 [Member Logo](#) will be available for your use on business

If you have any articles for our next Newsletter please submit your articles to [ninapaquette@gmail.com](mailto:ninapaquette@gmail.com)

**materials on January 1, 2016, or when you renew in 2016.**

## **APA Board of Directors**

Meet your **2016 Board of Directors**. Members may see all Board minutes [here](#).

[Peter Grojean](#) - President  
[Carrol Pruitt](#) - President-Elect  
[Tom Ellis](#) - Secretary  
[Jack McClellan](#) - Treasurer  
[Jimmy Bell](#) - Board Member  
[Sharon Massey](#) - Board Member  
[Ken Otten](#) - Board Member

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## **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 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).