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Your newsletter may have been clipped. Click on "View entire message" at the bottom of this email.

A note from your outgoing 2024 APA President



As you receive this newsletter, we're all likely preparing for winter and the holiday season. I know I've got a couple of site visits coming up in the next several weeks, and I hope the weather has mercy on me and doesn't get too cold, rainy, snowy, or any of the other things it could throw at me. I'm also trying to steel myself to have some measure of self-restraint to keep from stuffing my face as I have some holiday dinners and parties to attend over the next month.

Despite all these "challenges" facing us, we're on the verge of making it through another year. Soon, we'll have the opportunity to gather again at our National Conference in Austin at the end of January. It's going to be an excellent conference with another superlative keynote speaker, John Wodatch, who has been influential in legislating for equal rights for individuals with disabilities for over 50 years. We're lucky to have the opportunity to learn from him.

Make your plans to attend the APA Annual Conference, which will be held from Wednesday, January 29th, until Friday, January 31st, at the Austin Marriott North in Round Rock, Texas. Registration is open and available on the APA website. I hope to see you there!

Charles Watt

2024 APA President

A note from your incoming 2025 APA President

It's December already. The holidays are here, and we are both excited about the season and exhausted at the same time. And I haven't started talking about work

yet.

A lot of what we do as accessibility professionals runs along the same lines. I find that I am excited about a new project, but it can become exhausting when there are many emails and meetings involved. And so it goes.



Yet, there is always an excitement at this time of the year. There are new presents, new friends and new opportunities. And that's what I'm hoping for us as an organization. Over the next months, there will be new presents (to be announced soon), new friends (talk with someone you DON'T know at the conference), and new opportunities. This is an exciting time of transition as the APA moves into a more national presence, connecting with other organizations and sharing our objectives and hopes for accessibility in the built environment.

I can't tell you the number of times I've been able to reach out to another professional and ask them how they did this or how they interpreted that. The amount of brain trust in our organization is amazing. But what is even more amazing is the willingness of our members to help with these things. There is a genuine love for what we are all about. And THAT is even more exciting.

Come meet with us in January and see what the excitement is all about and what even more exciting things may be on the horizon.

[Gene Boecker](#)

2025 APA President

2025 APA National Conference registration is open!

[Moving into the Future](#)

[2025 APA National Conference](#)

Wednesday, January 29, through Friday, January 31, 2025

[Register now and save \\$150 with the Early Bird Rate](#)



[Find out more and register here](#)

We want to hear from you! Share your burning questions for our upcoming ADA and FHA panels at the conference to help shape the discussion. Due to time constraints, we may only be able to address some of the questions, but we will try to cover as many as possible during the sessions.

Your input is vital to creating an engaging and meaningful event. We can't wait to hear your thoughts! All questions must be submitted by **December 21, 2024**, to ensure they are considered for discussion.

Submit questions for the panel, "ADA Q&A: Deep Dive with the Experts"

Submit questions for the panel, "Accessibility and Fair Housing: Ask the Industry Experts Anything"

NOTE: Conference registration does not include sitting for the APA Certification exam. If you are interested in taking the exam, visit the [APA Certification Page](#).

Apply to sit for the APAC-BE exam at the conference and save \$80

Platinum Sponsor



Gold Sponsor



Exhibitors



If you're interested in [showcasing your products and services](#) at the 2025 conference, [email us](#) today!



The 2025 conference will be held at the Austin Marriott North. All conference attendees are responsible for securing hotel accommodations and travel arrangements. A limited number of rooms are available at a special APA discounted rate. Check availability and book [here](#).

Share Your Expertise!

The APA Education & Events Committee is already planning for 2026. Submit your presentation proposal [here](#) for an opportunity to present at the 2026 APA National Conference.

Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship (JBMS) Committee Announces 2025 Raffle

The JBMS Committee is excited to announce that we will again host a

JBMS RAFFLE



Donations being
accepted

fundraising raffle at the 2025 APA National Conference. Last year, we raised over \$3000, and we're aiming to surpass that amount this year.

To make this possible, we're seeking donations of items. If you have something to contribute, please reach out to us via [email](#).

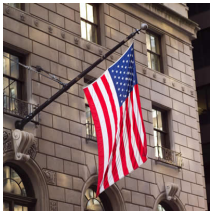
Thank you for your continued support of our [scholarship program](#)!



William Goren

ADA-relevant article from an APA member attorney

Don't miss [William Goren's](#) blog post, "[How a business should NOT go about accommodating a person with a disability.](#)"



An update coming to accessibility rules for federal buildings - Read more [here](#)



APAC exam registration, updates, and news



A big thank you to Karen Braitmayer from the APAC Program

We want to thank Karen Braitmayer for her time on the APAC Board. We will miss her expertise and insights.

To learn more about the APAC Board, visit [APAC Program page](#)

APAC Program on the move

We're thrilled to announce that the APAC Program is taking a significant step forward by pursuing accreditation through the Institute for Credentialing Excellence.

Stay connected with us on social media! Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).

Congratulations to our newest APAC-BE certificants!

[See a list of all current APACs here](#)

Not yet on the list? [Apply](#) to sit for the in-person APAC-BE exam at the 2025 APA National Conference and save \$80.

Thank you to the 2024 APA Board of Directors

for your unwavering commitment to APA's mission.

We greatly appreciate all you have done this year!

2024 APA Board of Directors



Charles Watt
President



Gene Boecker
President-elect



Sarah Strauch
Treasurer



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Secretary



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Jonathan Mueller



John Torkelson
Past President



Minda Weldon
Executive Director



APA Policies and Procedures - AI Bots not invited!

The APA Board of Directors has been busy updating policies and procedures to maintain best practices.

The new APA Recording and AI Assistant Usage Policy adopted in July does not allow recording or artificial intelligence (AI) software "bot" attendance at public or private meetings and events except for limited conditions in which a single official recording may be made.

The Whistle Blowing Policy adopted in November affirms APA's commitment to handling all matters legally and with integrity and ensuring that anyone who reports ethical misconduct is protected from retaliation.

Learn more about these and other APA Policies and Procedures [here](#).

It's election time!

APA members, help shape the association's future by voting for the 2025 APA Board. Log into the [APA website](#) and use the buttons under the welcome banner to cast your votes.

APA Elections



Member of a chapter? Remember to cast your vote for chapter leadership as well.

Voting ends 12/15/2024



2025 Dues

Dues increasing January 1, 2025

Effective January 1, 2025, APA membership dues will increase to \$285.

APA Advocates for Accessible EV Charging



In October, APA submitted comments to the U.S. Access Board regarding the proposed rule for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations. Thank you to those members that provided input to help shape these comments.

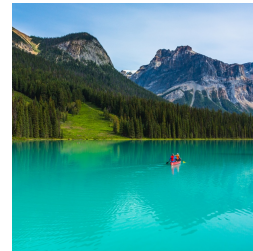
Read our comments [here](#).

Chapter updates



The Texas Chapter has had a fantastic first year, offering valuable resources to its members, including a free information session with TDLR, a TX-specific webinar, and the first of a series of roundtable discussions on business basics.

Don't miss our upcoming chapter dinner at next month's conference. Watch your emails for more details.



The Rocky Mountain Chapter capped off a strong year with two informative CE webinars and several roundtables on various topics. We continued to grow and welcomed members from 13 states.

Be sure to join us for the chapter dinner at next month's conference. More details to follow.

APA member benefits

APA mentorship program



Want to help professionals new to the industry? Need help because you're a professional new to accessibility? Check out the [APA mentorship program!](#)

APA member spotlight



Each month, APA randomly chooses a member to showcase on the APA homepage and social media. Be sure you have a photo and bio in the APA member directory so we can shine a spotlight on you!

[Check out this and all the other member benefits here](#)

Welcome our new members!

Click on the member's name to view their profile in our Member Directory. Not all members have public profiles.

Talal Alharbi, Saudi Arabia

[Bassamat Bahnasy](#), CA

[Bijeta Choudhury](#), OR

[Sarah Coffey](#), NY

[Jessica Desmarais](#), CO

[Sue DeVries](#), MI

[William McBrayer](#), CA

[Komala Narra](#), TX

[Soo Park](#), WA

[Debra Rusnak](#), TX

[Nicholas Stone](#), TX



Current member?

This year's [APA logo](#) is available for your use.

APA 2023 Annual Report

Members can view our

[2023 Annual Report here](#)

APA chapters

All members can [join a "Home Chapter"](#) at no extra cost. Members may also join additional chapters for \$60/year. For more information or to designate your Home Chapter, please contact [Frances Ellington](#).

Are you in need of an accessibility specialist?

Looking for a specialist to help with planning your building designs or making inspections? If so, we have the expertise

Have ideas for the newsletter or website?

Join the Communications & Membership Committee. We meet virtually just once a month! Contact [Natalie Crawford](#) to find

you need right on our website!

Check our [Hire a Professional](#) page and search our complete directory by expertise, name, or location.

We need you!

APA is looking for professionals who are interested in promoting accessibility throughout the nation. We would love to have you come on one of the APA committees. If you're a current member, [click here](#) to see all APA committees. For any questions, please contact [Camille North](#).

2024 Committee/Chapter leaders

- **Communications & Membership:** [Natalie Crawford](#)
- **Education & Events:** [Angela Shapiro](#)
- **Expansion:** [Jack McClellan](#)
- **Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship:** [Meghan Simecek](#)
- **Legislative & Legal: Board of Directors**
- **Technical Standards:** [Kim Hooker](#)
- **APAC Board:** [Matt Lescher](#)
- **APAC Exam & Item Writing:** [Robin Roberts](#)
- **Rocky Mountain Chapter:** [Dana Barton](#)
- **Texas Chapter:** [Stacey Brewer](#)

Minutes from past committee meetings are available to APA members [here](#).

out more.

Advertise with APA!

If you or a company you know of would benefit from reaching other accessibility professionals, consider advertising on our website or in our newsletter. [Contact APA](#) for details.

Have ADA, FHA, TAS, or other technical questions?

It's easy to get answers via the APA members-only [Forum](#):

- 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](#):

- Remember to opt in for any new discussions, even if you have previously opted in for all discussions.

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

Call for job openings!

One of your APA member benefits

Let APA work for you!

Find qualified applicants by posting your job to our [Jobs Forum](#).

Learn more about Accessibility Professionals Association - APA

- [About us - Our vision and mission](#)
- [APA annual reports](#)
- [History](#)
- [Past Board members](#)

2024 APA Board of Directors

- [Charles Watt](#): President
- [Gene Boecker](#): President-elect
- [Walter Qualls](#): Secretary
- [Sarah Strauch](#): Treasurer
- [Mark Mazz](#): Board Member
- [Sandra Miles](#): Board Member
- [Jonathan Mueller](#): Board Member

- [John Torkelson](#): Past President

Members may see all Board minutes [here](#).

APA is an approved* provider for APAC, AIA, ICC, Florida DBPR, and more!

Continuing Education: *APA is an approved CE/LU provider for AIA/CES Provider (#G583), ICC Preferred Provider (#1321), and Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR, #PVD312). APA also provides preverified ACTCP credits on noted courses and has previously awarded an APA-ADA Specialist Designation, an APA-ADA Assembly Area Designation, and an Accessibility Standards completion certificate. APA partners with APAC (Accessibility Professionals Association Certification Program) to provide CE credits. Members/guests can meet the CE/LU requirements of numerous organizations, including the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, by attending APA training and verifying with organizations when a course has been registered.



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's interpretation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or 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.

If you have any articles for our next newsletter, please submit your articles to [Frances Ellington](#).

Follow us on social media!



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