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Not seeing all the articles?

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

From the desk of the 2023 APA President



Bruises and scar tissue... that's how I describe my learning process as an accessibility consultant. I'm not too proud to admit that I've made my share of mistakes, and when you consider that I've been doing this for over 25 years, that's quite a few.

But it is how I handle those mistakes that has changed over time.

No one likes to be "caught" being wrong. Do I blame others? Dig in my heels with the "I'm right" attitude and ignore the person on the other side? Say it wasn't my fault? I've done all of the above. But now, in my advanced age (is that wisdom creeping in?) I take a step back, analyze what the other person is saying, and assess the situation. Most of the time, I still feel that I'm right, of course, but sometimes... a new bruise! Man, I wish there was a better way. What's that you say? There is?

The APA has an online forum where I can ask questions about confusing, conflicting, sticky parts of the codes and standards - ADA, FHA, TAS, CBC, New York City Building Code, UFAS, etc. (they're all fair game!) or share my experience. It should be marketed as a "First Aid Kit" of sorts, but we'll use the pedestrian Member's Forum instead. It's a great place to ask questions, get others' opinions, and just share the interesting, weird, head-scratching situations you've come across. So, sign up today and save on the cost of bandages and aspirin! As a BONUS (and don't tell anyone), it is something you can follow without having to be directly involved. That's like getting knowledge without going through the painful "learning process." Is it cheating? Some say no. Is it smart? Most say YES!

[John Rife Torkelson](#)

2023 APA President

APA training opportunities this fall

APA Fall CE/LU Virtual Training

Friday, September 15, 2023

8:00 am - 5:15 pm CT

Up to 8 hours of CE/LU credit available

Top 10 Accessibility Issues in Multifamily Housing Projects

APA Rocky Mountain Chapter Virtual Training

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

1:00 - 2:30 pm CT (12:00 - 1:30 pm MT)

Texas Accessibility Academy (virtual)

Tuesday & Thursday, October 10 & 12, 2023

8:00 am - 5:00 pm CT each day

[Find out more and register here](#)

National APAC-BE certification

Have you earned your APAC-BE certification yet?



Many of [your peers](#) are now APAC-BEs - don't be left behind!

The APAC-BE exam, the only one of its kind in the nation, is available through testing centers and online proctoring. The APAC-BE designation is shaping up to be an essential credential for professionals working in accessibility in the built environment.

Questions? Please visit [AccessibilityProfessionals.org/APAC](https://www.accessibilityprofessionals.org/APAC); or contact [Camille North](#) for questions.

Chapter roundup

Two big news items on the Chapter front!

The much-anticipated Texas Chapter is now official! Plus, APA members now enjoy an additional member benefit: **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](#).



The [Rocky Mountain Chapter](#) is having an **exciting 2023!** You're missing out if you haven't attended any of the monthly

roundtables. Past roundtables have included discussions on EV charging stations, tips and tricks of social media, and a Q&A of the APAC-BE exam, and September's topic will be on wayfinding systems.

The Chapter also holds trainings throughout the year on topics relevant to the region. The September training is "[Top 10 Accessibility Issues in Multifamily Projects](#)" - it should be a popular one.



The long-awaited [Texas Chapter](#) is now **official!** And now is a great time to connect with other members in Texas to keep

up with all the [updates](#) happening with the Elimination of Architectural Barriers program in Texas. Join us the first week in October for a talk with TDLR's Marsha Godeaux. More information is coming soon.

Check the Chapter page for details and to find out about other upcoming Chapter events.

2024 APA National Conference update

We are getting very excited about the [2024 APA National Conference](#) in January and are really looking forward to all the presenters we have lined up. We are especially delighted to have our Keynote Speaker, [Julie Sawchuk](#) of [Sawchuk Accessible Solutions!](#) Julie is an accessibility strategist, educator, speaker, and bestselling author on making spaces accessible. After sustaining a spinal cord injury while training for a triathlon, Julie had to navigate an old 115-year-old farmhouse that was anything but accessible. Come hear Julie's story about designing and building her own custom, wheelchair-accessible home and how that started her journey of helping others create accessible spaces and improving accessibility for all.



We look forward to seeing you all there!

[Angela Shapiro](#)

2023 APA Education & Events Chair



Save the date!

Join us January 24 - 26, 2024, at the Austin Marriott North for three days of exceptional continuing education led by top accessibility experts! Registration for the [2024 APA National Conference](#) will open this November.

Call for exhibitors and sponsors

If you're interested in showcasing your products and services to the many accessibility professionals – including architects, design professionals, code consultants, and other specialists – who will attend the 2024 conference, please email FrancesEllington@AccessibilityProfessionals.org. Spaces are limited. [Sign up early](#) to get the most pre-event promotion.

JBMS Scholarship news



Help support the future of accessibility!

It's that time of the year! The application for the 2024 [Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship](#) is open. Please encourage any design professional or related college students to go to the website and apply. It is always an honor to remember Jim Boyce and the others from our APA family who have gone before us by awarding these scholarships in their memory.

Hand-in-hand with awarding scholarships is the need to raise funds to pay for them. Our membership has always been so wonderful to pitch in and help in years past, and we hope you'll help us again this year. Donations may be made via the [APA website](#), or you can always mail a check made payable to Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship to: APA, 6001 W Parmer Lane, Suite 370 #939, Austin, Texas 78727.

[Jimmy Bell](#)
APA JBMS Chair

ADA news and commentary



Commentary from an ADA Coordinator

Check out [Charles Watt's](#) article, "[Socratic attitude.](#)"



William Goren

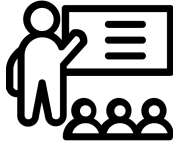
ADA-relevant articles from an APA member attorney

Don't miss [William Goren's](#) blog post, "[Does morbid obesity require an underlying physiological condition: The Texas Supreme Court speaks.](#)"



Notice from the U.S. Access Board

["U.S. Access Board issues final rule on Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines"](#)



Call for proposals

The Great Plains ADA Center has issued a call for session proposals for the [2024 ADA Symposium](#). Email ADASymposium@Missouri.edu for more information.

Member corner

APA couldn't do it without our volunteers!

Many thanks to the APA Education & Events Committee

The APA Education & Events Committee does an incredible job planning the continuing education opportunities at the yearly APA National Conference, the Spring Virtual Training, and the Fall Virtual Training.



Angela Shapiro
Chair



Gene Boecker
BOD Liaison



Fred Cawyer



Tom Ellis



Paul Glenn



Sonia Gutierrez



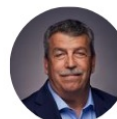
Michael Love



Jonathan Mueller



Carol Reagan



Robert Rocca



Shirley Knox
APA Ex. Director



Frances Ellington
APA Staff



APA mentorship program

Want to help professionals new to the industry? Need help because you're a professional new to accessibility? Check



APA member spotlight

Every two weeks, APA randomly chooses a member to showcase on the APA homepage and social media. Be sure you

out the [APA mentorship program!](#)

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.

[Daryl Benkendorfer](#), Austin, TX
[Jackie Bonavida](#), Westminster, CO
[Kaylan Dunlap](#), Birmingham, AL
[Larry Fleming](#), Humble, TX
[Ann Foster](#), Arvada, CO
[Nick Kelley](#), Colorado Springs, CO
[Matthew Lucier](#), Colorado Springs, CO
[Jennifer Skulski](#), Fishers, IN
[Glenn Staton](#), Colorado Springs, CO
[Scott Sullivan](#), Colorado Springs, CO
[Wendy Sultzman](#), Loveland, CO
[Stephen Teeters](#), Albuquerque, NM
[David Wegener](#), Colorado Springs, CO
[Philip Williams](#), Colorado Springs, CO



Current member?

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

APA 2022 Annual Report

Members can view our [2022 Annual Report here](#)

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 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 board one of the APA committees. If you're a current member, [click](#)

Have ideas for the newsletter or website?

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

[here](#) to see all APA committees. For any questions, please contact [Camille North](#).

2023 Committee Chairs

- APAC Board: [Matt Lescher](#)
- APAC Exam & Item Writing: [Robin Roberts](#)
- Communications & Membership: [Natalie Crawford](#)
- Education & Events: [Angela Shapiro](#)
- Expansion: [Jack McClellan](#)
- Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship: [Jimmy Bell](#)
- Legislative & Legal: Board of Directors
- Rocky Mountain Chapter: [Geoff Ames](#)
- Technical Standards: [Kim Hooker](#)

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

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](#)

2023 APA Board of Directors

[John Torkelson](#): President

[Charles Watt](#): President-elect

[Walter Qualls](#): Secretary

[Gene Boecker](#): Treasurer

[Mark Mazz](#): Board Member

[Sarah Strauch](#): Board Member

Open Position: Board Member

[Clark Teel](#): Past President

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

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) 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 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 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](#).

