

March 2024 | Issue 46

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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 2024 APA president

We had another successful Annual Conference at the end of January. I'd like to thank APA staff, volunteers, and the Education and Events Committee for their hard work in making it so. We had almost 200 attendees, some traveling quite some distance to join us in Austin. We had the largest percentage of attendees from outside Texas ever. There was even a bit of an international flavor to the conference, thanks to those who traveled from Canada to be there.



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APA executive director news

After more than fifteen years serving as the executive director of APA, Shirley Knox, has announced her retirement. Shirley helped shape APA from a small Texas association to the leading national organization in accessibility in the built environment. Shirley, you will be missed, and we thank you for your dedication and guidance!



We are excited to announce that Minda Weldon is the new executive director of APA. Many of you may remember Minda from her time with APA from 2010 to 2020. Minda, an epidemiologist, left APA to help with Austin Public Health's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please help us welcome Minda back to APA.



Announcing an exciting collaboration between APAC and the Great Plains ADA Center

For the first time, the APAC-BE certification exam will be offered at the National ADA Symposium. This joint initiative signifies our commitment to advancing the professional growth and recognition of individuals within the accessibility industry.

The written exam will be offered during the Symposium on Tuesday, June 11th, from 6:00 - 10:00 PM. **The deadline to apply is May 24, 2024. Seating is limited.**

ADA Symposium attendees taking the exam will receive **the APA member rate, a complimentary year of APA membership, and a waiver of the testing fee (a total value of over \$600).**

[Find out more about the APAC-BE exam and the ADA Symposium here.](#)

The APAC Program is thrilled to welcome the new APAC-BEs who took the exam at the 2024 APA National Conference. **[Who do you know on the list?](#)**

[Apply here](#)

The APAC Program welcomes Camille North as its new executive director. Camille was previously the APAC project manager and has worked with the program since its inception.

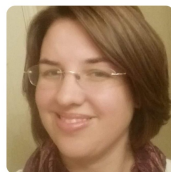
[Visit the APAC Program website](#) or **[contact us.](#)**



Upcoming APA Trainings



Jonathan Sparks
Program Specialist III, TDLR



Marsha Godeaux
Program Specialist VI, TDLR

Texas Accessibility Academy **March 26 & 28, 2024, via Zoom**

16 hours of CE

AIA/CES #APA 262 16 LU|HSW

You must attend both days for the 16 hours of credit

[Click here to register for the Texas Accessibility Academy](#)

APA Spring CE/LU Virtual Training **April 26, 2024**

8:00 a.m. - 5:15 p.m. CT (half-day options available)



Dr. Nanette Odell
Founder and CEO, Life Quest
Training & Consulting, LLC



Jonathan White
Director of Design Consulting,
University at Buffalo's IDEA Center

[Click here to register for the APA Spring
CE/LU Virtual Training](#)



Marsha Godeaux
Program Specialist VI, TDLR



Jonathan Sparks
Program Specialist III TDLR

SAVE THE DATE

January 29-31, 2025

2025 APA National Conference
"Moving into the Future"



Thank you for another successful conference!

To everyone who attended, presented, planned, and executed the 2024 APA National Conference, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for contributing to the conference's success. Your presence, dedication, and hard work made this event truly exceptional.



[Continue reading](#)

Gathering in the lobby to tour LBJ Library



Background info at LBJ Library



2 1/2 day APA Conference



Accessible transit in front of Hotel



Oval Office at LBJ Library



2 1/2 day APA Conference



Accessible transit in front of Hotel



2 1/2p day APA Conference



2 1/2 day APA Conference



Entering the LBJ Library



Dinner with the Texas Chapter...01-25-2024



2024 Education & Events Committee



APA 2024 CONFERENCE
MARRIOTT NORTH
2600 LA FRONTERA BLVD,
ROUND ROCK, TX 78

Various Meetings and Social Events...
01-24 thru 26, 2024



APA Conference- Polling Place Session
Leader- Jim Terry

We also want to thank Tom Ellis for sharing the photos he took at this year's conference. His photos have been uploaded to the [APA website here](#). If you have photos that you would also like to share, please email FrancesEllington@AccessibilityProfessionals.org.

APA Texas chapter update

The APA Texas Chapter got off to a great start at the 2024 APA Conference. The Texas Chapter Board was ratified at the annual business meeting on Thursday and got to work during their first official meeting on the last day of the conference.

[Continue reading](#)



Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship update

Thank you to all who participated in the JBMS raffle at the conference. Thanks to your generosity, the Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship committee raised over \$3,000 through the raffle!

A special thanks to those who donated items to be raffled, including Kim Goss, Access by Design; Austin Marriott North; APA; ICC; Greg Izor, Izor and Associates, Inc.; James Terry, Evan Terry Associates & Corada; Jimmy Bell; John Torkelson,



theACCESSpartnership, Ip; Stacey Brewer, El Buey PLLC; Tom Ellis; Truff; Walter Qualls, Images, Etc.; Meghan Simecek, Texas Accessibility Group; Building ONE Consulting; and the Texas Chapter of APA.

2023 APA President's Award

Congratulations to **Geoff Ames** of building ONE consulting for being awarded the 2023 APA President's Award. Geoff, thank you for your extraordinary effort to get the APA Rocky Mountain Chapter off the ground and running, your unceasing effort to plan informative training sessions, and for doing all this with a smile and a positive attitude. You are a joy to work with!



William Goren

ADA-relevant articles from an APA member attorney

Don't miss [William Goren's](#) blog post, ["Nested positions."](#)

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.

[Dawn Anderson](#), CA

[Jennifer Angle](#), TX



Current member?

[Caitlyn Casey](#), CT
[Christina Clementi](#), IL
[Joseph Cooley](#), VA
[Kathryn Denis](#), MA
[Wendy Devall](#), LA
[Steven Dombrowski](#), WA
[Valeriana Flores](#), TX
[Iris Gonzalez-Alfonzo](#), KS
[Reb Payne](#), CA
[Sindy Reyes](#), TX
[Joshua Rucker](#), MA
[Suzie Scher](#), CA
[David Wietbrock](#), IN
[Desmond Wilder, Sr.](#), TX
[Donald Wood](#), CA
[Dan Woosley](#), AL

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 you need right on our website! Check our [Hire a Professional](#) page and search our complete directory by expertise, name, or location.

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.

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

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.

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](#)

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!

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

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](#).

RESNA Call for Committee Interest on Ground and Floor Surfaces

The Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) seeks interested parties to serve on the Standards Committee on Floor and Ground Surfaces (GFS). For more information, visit [here](#).

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](#).

Thank you to the organizations that sponsored and exhibited at the 2024 APA National Conference

Gold Sponsor



Exhibitors



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

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 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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