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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.

Miscellaneous musings from your 2025 APA President



January is over, and the groundhog thinks he knows better than those meteorologists. We'll see.

The APA Conference was another great success. Many thanks are needed for our great staff and the Events and Education Committee for all the hard work that went into making things happen. And, of course, a special thanks to all those who presented at the various sessions. A huge thanks to Marsha Godeaux for her time to keep our Texas members updated on the happenings in access compliance in Texas. But, above all, I'd like to thank John Wodatch for his presentations and his life's work, bringing accessibility to us through his efforts at the federal level, both professionally and personally. He is an icon in the accessibility world.

Speaking of icons and images, APA will soon have an updated logo. The update was necessary to address issues discussed elsewhere in this newsletter. Conference participants provided useful feedback on the options presented. Thanks to everyone who offered their thoughts. Of course, only one could be selected.

Getting back to that groundhog...

The APAC exam is proving its worth. As a general test of accessibility standards knowledge, it is dividing those who know from those who think they know. Don't be a groundhog. Take the exam and prove you know your stuff!

[Gene Boecker](#)

2025 APA President

The APA 2025 National Conference was a huge success!

APA extends our deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to the resounding success of the 2025 National Conference! Your participation, dedication, and enthusiasm made this event truly memorable.



To our attendees: Thank you for your engagement, insightful questions, and commitment to advancing accessibility.

To our keynote, presenters, and facilitators: We are immensely grateful for your expertise, passion, and willingness to share your knowledge.

To our exhibitors and sponsors: We appreciate your support and commitment to fostering a more inclusive world. A heartfelt thank you to Marsha Godeaux (TDLR) and Katie Baker (Round Rock Parks and Recreation) for helping with the offsite visit to the [Play for All Park](#).

To our APA Education and Events Committee: We are deeply grateful for your hard work and commitment. Special thanks to Angela Shapiro for chairing the committee with such dedication. We also appreciate Tom Ellis for serving as the conference photographer; many of the photos in this newsletter are courtesy of Tom.

We're excited for the future and hope you'll join us for more APA events!

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Exhibitors



Save the date! 2026 APA National Conference: "Growing Stronger Together"



SAVE THE DATE
JANUARY
21 - 23, 2026

Accessibility Professionals Association
2026 National Conference
"Growing Stronger Together"



AccessibilityProfessionals.org

Mark your calendars!

APA's 2026 National Conference
"Growing Stronger Together"
January 21-23, 2026

Join us for continuing education,
connections, and collaboration

More details soon!

Call for 2026 presenters!

Don't miss your chance to present at the 2026 APA National Conference
Submit your proposal [here](#) before April 1

Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship raffle

This year, the Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship raffle raised over \$3,000 for the scholarship fund. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets and to those who donated items: APA, APA Rocky Mountain Chapter, APA Texas Chapter, APAC, Austin Marriott North, Chris Schexnayder, Corey Credeur, ICC, James Terry (Evan Terry Associates & Corada), Jeromy Murphy, Jimmy Bell, John Torkelson (theACCESSpartnership), Kim Goss (Access by Design), Meghan Simecek (Texas Accessibility Group), Stacey Brewer (El Buey), and Tom Ellis.



You make the [scholarship program](#) possible!

A new look is coming to APA



APA is evolving! Building on the momentum of the 2025 National Conference theme, "Moving into the Future," we're thrilled to announce a comprehensive rebranding over the next few months, including a streamlined website (APAaccess.org), a centralized member hub, a convenient mobile app, and an updated logo.

Those who attended the National Conference at the end of January had the opportunity to preview and give their opinion on the new, redesigned APA logo. Changing the logo may have brought up some questions from some people. Questions like, why did we need to change it?

[Read more](#)

ADA-relevant article from an APA member attorney

Don't miss [William Goren's](#) blog post, "[A temporary disability can be a protected ADA disability and other stuff.](#)"



William Goren

APAC Program updates



- The APAC Program is excited to announce that we've applied for national accreditation through NCCA! We expect good news by the spring, and we'll keep you posted.
- APAC is thrilled to collaborate again with the Great Plains ADA Symposium. The paper-and-pencil exam will be offered on Tuesday, June 17, at a discounted rate of 50% off the testing fee, in addition to the exam application fee. Click [here](#) to register.
- APAC will soon be offering a multi-day prep course on the topics covered by the APAC-BE exam. While the course will not give specific insight into the exam content, the presentations will be offered by the leaders in accessibility.
- Congrats to all our new APAC-BEs! The list of all APAC-BE certificants can be found on the APAC website, [APACexam.org](#).

Watch APACexam.org for news and updates!

2024 APA President's Award

[Kim Hooker](#) has been honored with the 2024 APA President's Award! 2024 President [Charles Watt](#) presented the award at last month's APA Annual Meeting, recognizing Kim's outstanding leadership and years of dedicated service as Chair of the Technical Standards Committee. Join us in congratulating Kim on this remarkable achievement!



What makes a ground surface accessible?

While the federal accessibility standards and state building codes require accessible surfaces to be firm, stable, and slip-resistant, the standards do not specify a test method to objectively measure various surfaces such as carpets; vinyl; decking; synthetic sport surfaces; engineered wood fiber, poured-in-place rubber, crumb rubber, and hybrid systems with an overlay over loose fill material or padding used on playgrounds; portable path and modular decking used on beaches; and crushed limestone, decomposed granite, and surface stabilizers used on pedestrian trails.

[Read more about RESNA's call for public comment](#)

APA is now on Instagram

Follow us [[@APAaccess](#)] to see photos from the conference—maybe even a photo of yourself! Remember to connect with us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#), too.



Upcoming APA Webinars

Texas Accessibility Academy (2-day virtual class)

hosted by APA and the Texas Chapter of APA
Tuesday & Thursday, March 25 & 27, 2025
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. CT each day

Presented by [Marsha Godeaux and Jonathan Sparks](#) of TDLR

[Register for the Academy](#)

APA Spring Webinar

Wednesday, May 28, 2025
8 a.m. - 5:15 p.m. CT (half-day options available)
Up to 8 hours of continuing education



Select courses from the 2025 APA National
Conference will be offered
More information coming soon

Welcome our new members!

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

[Jackson Arnold](#), CA
[Lisa Bazile](#), CO
[Dinah Boelter](#), MN
[Jessie Bullard](#), TX
[Odessa Carson](#), MI
[Steven Chacon](#), TX
[Eric Contreras](#), FL
[Bobi Cook](#), TX
[Nicole Corpuz](#), CA
[Trey Crook](#), TX
[Cesar Diaz](#), TX
[Thomas DiGiuseppe](#), TX
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[Corbin Garcia](#), TX
[Abraham Gutknecht](#), TX
[Jody Hogue](#), TX
[Donna Lucero](#), CA
[Miranda Martin](#), CA
[Christopher Meza](#), TX
[Kirk Money](#), CO
[Lucas Munasque](#), TN
[Teresa Robbins](#), MI
[Debbie Rossler](#), TX
[Zoe Skutaris](#), MD
[Adrienne Stockhausen](#), IL
[Katherine Stuteville](#), TX
Peter Truch, Canada
[Todd Wyatt](#), CO

APA chapters

All members can [join a "Home Chapter"](#) at no extra cost. For more information or to designate your Home Chapter, please contact [Frances Ellington](#).

APA 2024 Annual Report

Members can view our
[2024 Annual Report here](#)

2025 APA Board of Directors

- [Gene Boecker](#): President
- [Walter Qualls](#): President-elect
- [Tom Ellis](#): Secretary
- [Jonathan Mueller](#): Treasurer
- [Mark Mazz](#): Board Member
- [Sandra Miles](#): Board Member
- [Sabrina Blackman](#): Board Member
- [Charles Watt](#): Past President

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

Learn more about Accessibility Professionals Association - APA

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

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

New APA forum coming soon!

Get your questions ready to post to our new forum, which will be available on our new website. You'll be able to post

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](#).

2025 Chapter/Committee/APAC leaders

- Rocky Mountain Chapter: [Ashley Pitts](#)
- Texas Chapter: [Meghan Simecek](#)
- Communications & Membership: [Natalie Crawford](#)
- Education & Events: [Angela Shapiro](#)
- Expansion: [Jack McClellan](#)
- Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship: [Meghan Simecek](#)
- Legislative & Legal: [John Torkelson](#)
- Technical Standards: [Matt Lescher](#)
- APAC Board: [Kristi Avalos](#)
- APAC Exam & Item Writing: [Robin Roberts](#)

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

questions about accessibility, add images, and get answers! Available only to APA members.

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!

Let APA work for you!

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

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

*APA is a registered provider with the American Institute of Architects (AIA/CES Provider #G583), the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR Provider #0007855 / License #PVD312), the International Code Council (ICC Preferred Provider #1321), Accessibility Professionals Association Certification Program (APAC Preferred Provider



#101), and offers pre-verified ACTCP credits for the ADA Coordinator Training Certification Program (ACTCP). Numerous organizations, including the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, accept APA training for CE requirements; attendees are responsible for verifying course requirements for their licenses/certifications.



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](#).

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