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Not seeing all the articles?

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From your 2023 APA president

Full steam ahead!

As I settle in as president, I'm excited by the activity around me at almost every turn. I have first-hand knowledge now since I am invited to every meeting of every committee and sub-committee.

The Education and Events Committee is already busy getting ready for the Spring and Fall Virtual sessions as well as looking over the horizon to next year's Annual Conference.

The Technical Standards Committee is working towards curating the information for everyone depending on their region in the country.

The Expansion Committee is hard at work with a goal of two regions coming on this year.

The APAC-BE Exam Committee is getting thigh high in the weeds working through the results of our brave participants in the "Pilot Exam." Look for results in the next few weeks, and thanks to everyone that participated.

One constant is the energy, time, and effort of the volunteers that help us move forward. I want to thank everyone that is helping out and invite those that may be on the sidelines to jump in. It is a great opportunity to get to know some of your colleagues and improve the world!

Have a great spring.

[John Rife Torkelson](#)

2023 APA president

National APAC-BE certification exam application is now open



The APA Certification Exam for the Built Environment is now open for applications! The exam will be available at Pearson VUE testing centers and through OnVUE online proctoring in about a month. Watch the [APAC Program page](#) and your email for updates.

The inaugural sitting of the APAC-BE exam at the 2023 National Conference was a great success! The candidate pool was an impressive group of accessibility professionals with extensive experience and knowledge. Their feedback on the exam has been invaluable.

Please contact [Camille North](#) for questions

[Click here to apply](#)

[Click here to learn more about the exam](#)

Cheers to another amazing conference!

It was great to have everyone back together again in person. Thank you to all who presented and helped plan the 2023 conference. We had many well-known and well-respected accessibility professionals from around the country present a wide array of topics. It was exciting to watch all the attendee participation and lively conversations throughout the days. Collaborating and sharing our knowledge is so important in helping all of us grow as professionals in this industry.



With the conclusion of the 2023 conference, it is time to start preparing for 2024. Thank you to all attendees who filled out the post-conference surveys. This is an important part of the conference to give us guidance on planning for the following year. As we begin our preparations for 2024, if you are interested in speaking at the conference next year, please email [Frances Ellington](#). Through the survey, we have already received some pretty interesting topics to consider. We encourage any and all members to be a part of the planning process, as having a diverse group of people to share their ideas is what helps make these events a success.

We are planning two virtual training events this year as well. These will be one-day (8-hour) sessions this spring and fall, with the first planned for Friday, April 28th. We hope to reprise a few of the presentations from the annual conference. We know there were a lot of great presentations this year, and it was hard to choose between them, so hopefully, you catch those that you missed at these one-day events.

APA will be hosting three [Texas Accessibility Academies](#) with Marsha Godeaux of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). These will be a two-day comprehensive study of the Texas Architectural Barriers Act (TABAA), Architectural Barriers Administrative Rules, and the 2012 Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS). The course also includes general information about how the TABAA and TAS relate to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The first academy is set to kick off on March 21st.

Last but certainly not least, I really want to thank [Gene Boecker](#) for chairing the committee these last few years and being the liaison for this year while I get my feet wet. I am very grateful to have you share your experience and knowledge with all that you have done for this committee and your contributions to the success of these events. So,

thank you...

I hope to see you all again in 2024, and cheers to another great year!

[Angela Shapiro](#)

APA Education & Events Chair

Upcoming APA Trainings

Save the Date!

2024 APA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

January 24 - January 26, 2024
Austin, TX



2024 APA National Conference

January 24 - January 26, 2024
Austin, TX

Texas Accessibility Academy (virtual)

Tuesday & Thursday, March 21 & 23, 2023

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

TDLR #26376 2 CE (TX Laws & Rules) 14 CE (TX Access Standards)

AIA/CES #APA 262 16 LU|HSW

(you must attend both days for the 16 hours of credit)

Find out more and [register here](#)

Things People to Consider in Multimodal Transportation Projects APA Rocky Mountain Chapter Virtual Training

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

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

ACTCP 1 elective credit, AIA/CES #APA 257 1 LU|HSW, ICC #pending

1 hour CE/LU credit + .5 hour Q&A

Find out more and [register here](#)

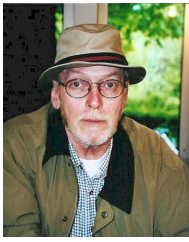
APA Spring CE/LU Virtual Training

Friday, April 28, 2023

8:00 am - 5:15 pm CT (full and half-day options available)

Up to 8 hours* of CE/LU credit; [See the schedule, find out more, and register here](#)

***These courses were offered at the 2023 APA National Conference. Course credit may not be available for repeated courses.**



Thank you for supporting the JBMS raffle

The JBMS Committee would like to thank all who supported this year's scholarship fundraiser at the 2023 APA National Conference by donating an item to be included in the raffle, purchasing raffle tickets, or making a cash donation. We raised more than \$2700 thanks to your generosity!

We are excited to be able to continue to help future accessibility professionals pursue their dreams. If you would like to support our efforts, please consider making a tax-deductible donation on the [APA website](#).

Scholarship applications are currently being accepted for the 2023 Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship. If you know a student pursuing a degree in architecture, landscape architecture, civil engineering, construction management, interior design, or another degree program closely related to accessibility/universal design at an accredited United States institution of higher learning, please let them know they can apply for the [scholarship here](#). The application will close on March 31, 2023.

We encourage anyone interested in joining our committee to contact [Jimmy Bell](#) or [Frances Ellington](#). New committee members are always welcome!

[Jimmy Bell](#)

APA JBMS Chair

APA couldn't do it without our volunteers!



Thank you to the outgoing 2022 APA Board of Directors!

Pictured from left to right: Robert Ronson, Walter Qualls, Mark Morley, Matt Lescher, Charles Watt, Mark Mazz, and John Torkelson (not pictured: D. Clark Teel)



Thank you to the 2022 and 2023 APA Committee Chairs!

Pictured from left to right: Jack McClellan, Sarah Strauch, Geoff Ames, Gene Boecker, Natalie Crawford, Jimmy Bell, Matt Lescher, Robin Roberts, and Kim Hooker (not pictured: Angela Shapiro)

Congratulations, Robin Roberts!

[Robin Roberts](#) is this year's recipient of the APA President's Award for her outstanding and ongoing service to APA and accessibility in the built environment. Robin was instrumental in the launch of the APAC-BE national certification exam.

Thank you, Robin, for all that you have done and all that you continue to do!

Pictured: Robin Roberts receiving the award from John Torkelson, 2023 APA President



ADA relevant articles from an APA member attorney



William Goren

Don't miss [William Goren's](#) post, "[Why the distinction between Deaf and deaf matters: EEOC guidance on hearing disabilities in the workplace and the ADA.](#)" Check out his blog [Understanding the ADA](#) for more about accessibility and the ADA.

ADA tips & news



[Commentary on the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act](#) from [Charles Watt](#), APA President-elect

ATTENTION PLEASE



APA has a new mailing address

6001 W Parmer Lane
Ste 370 #929
Austin, TX 78727

Recent spam emails concerning the APA membership database

Several members have recently received spam emails from another organization concerning the APA membership database. Please be assured that APA has never sold our membership list, nor do we intend to as an organization.

APA Mentorship Program



Tom Ellis, on the left,

A note from a mentee about his mentor:

[Tom Ellis](#) became a Texas state-certified RAS (Registered Accessibility Specialist) in 1995 and is a charter member of the Accessibility Professionals Association (APA). In my opinion, one of Tom's greatest strengths is his unselfish professionalism in volunteering to be my mentor. His knowledge and step-by-step learning process have enabled me not only to firmly

with Art Villarreal

grasp accessibility standards but also the rules and regulations that accompany this profession. I have been rewarded tenfold in my relationship with Tom. I hope you join me in recognizing Tom Ellis as a true mentor and asset to APA.

[-Art Villarreal](#), a new member of the APA Communications & Membership Committee

We have individuals waiting for a mentor match! If you have been in the accessibility industry for three or more years, please consider becoming a mentor. [Find out more about the program and sign up here!](#)

Here's your chance to shine!



APA Member Spotlight

Every two weeks, 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.

- [Kaher Ahmad](#), Charlotte, NC
- [Elena Anderson](#), Metairie, LA
- [Casey Anderson](#), Arlington, TX
- [Glenn Dea](#), Cypress, CA
- [Tracey Delisle](#), Pauma Valley, CA
- [BJ Epstein](#), San Francisco, CA
- [Alexander Friedrich](#), El Paso, TX
- [Juan Hernandez](#), Houston, TX
- [Andrea LaCour](#), Austin, TX
- [May Lu](#), Pasadena, CA
- [Matthew Martin](#), Midway City, CA
- [Paul Martin](#), Costa Mesa, CA
- [Sammy Martinez](#), San Marcos, CA
- [Asa Meyer](#), San Antonio, TX
- [Scott Moore](#), Omaha, NE
- [Barbara Padilla](#), Chicago, IL
- [Katherine Pearson](#), Austin, TX
- [Burren Reed](#), Tyler, TX
- [Jose Samano](#), Galveston, TX
- [Michael Schneider](#), Seattle, WA
- [Lauren Simcic](#), New Braunfels, TX
- [Alison Thompson](#), San Antonio, TX
- [Craig Thomson](#), Vista, CA



Current member?

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

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 2022 Annual Report

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

[Henry Villarreal](#), Miami Beach, FL

[James Vitale](#), Altadena, CA

[Blake Watts](#), Fort Payne, AL

[Dave Wheeler](#), Greenville, SC

[Jonathan White](#), Buffalo, NY

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

2023 Committee Chairs

- APAC Board: [Matt Lescher](#)
- APAC SME: [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](#).

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 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](#)
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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](#).

