

December 2023 | Issue 45

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## From your outgoing 2023 APA President



Everyone always says time flies when you're having fun...

I appreciate this time of reflection as we wade into the holiday season and the turning of the calendar. I write this last article of my presidential term and prepare to pass the gavel to Mr. Charles Watt, our incoming president.

I am excited to see the effectiveness of our efforts to shift to a national APA presence along with our Regional Chapters. Texas is our latest Chapter, and we look forward to others coming soon. This structure will allow the regions to have social and educational events that are appropriate for them, while we grow our national presence.

We are actively in discussions with other similarly focused national organizations to explore working together to enhance the professional, social, and educational offerings for our members. We will share more as we get closer to an announcement.

Finally, I want to recognize another passing of the gavel. Shirley Knox, our faithful Executive Director and my mentor and confidante, announced to the Board of Directors she is ready to "hang up her spurs," passing the reins on to Camille North to guide for the time being. Shirley has been there for us for over a decade and skillfully led us from a regional organization to the national presence we have now. She has provided vision in this transition, while keeping her waders firmly grounded in the details. Most members have no idea how much she does, and that's the way she liked it. As outgoing president and member of the Board, I know I could not have done it without her. She will be missed.

I'm thankful for the time at the helm, but happy to pass the torch. Good luck, Charlie!

## From your incoming 2024 APA President



Well, here we are. It's December. We've made it most of the way through another year. As always, I'm a bit mystified at how fast it's gone by.

During this time, we tend to look back on the disappearing year and try to remember and make sense of where we are and how we got here. We'll start to see retrospectives of the year, detailing its highlights and memorable events.

Concerning the APA, I'm more excited about where we are going than where we have been.

There have been some momentous changes in the APA. We're starting to see our efforts to become more of a national organization gain speed. Last year's National Conference seemed to me to have more individuals from more states than ever before. Also, at last year's conference, we rolled out the first-of-its-kind national certification for professionals working in the built environment, the APAC-BE.

We've now started a Texas Chapter for APA to take its place alongside the Rocky Mountain Chapter, leaving the APA itself as an umbrella organization designed to incorporate various other chapters from other states. And we're working on trying to get other chapters established and incorporated.

"The Times, They Are A-Changin'," sang Bob Dylan in 1964. It's as true now, maybe even more so, as it was then. Technology and the pandemic have had a great impact on many industries, processes, and policies. I've seen the evidence of it in the work I do as the ADA Coordinator for a state agency in Oklahoma. Remote work, downsizing, and lots of movement of office locations, these are things I've encountered almost unceasingly over the past couple of years. I wonder if it is the same for others of you.

It's an interesting and somewhat tumultuous future awaiting us in the APA. Where we're going and how we get there is largely dependent on you, the members of the APA. We need your help and your input as we navigate into the great unknown. We need you to stay with us and stay engaged. Join a committee, serve on the Board, and be as involved as you possibly can, given your individual circumstances.

There's a lot to be done and a lot the APA and its members can offer our communities. One thing that hasn't seemed to change much is the inaccessibility of so many buildings and institutions. Changing that is what we do and what we care about. Another song from the mid-sixties was "Time Has Come Today." Yes, the time has come, and the APA is poised to step in and make a big difference. Let's make it happen.

[Charles Watt](#)

**2024 APA President**

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## "Looking Beyond the Conventional"

January 24 - 26, 2024

Registration is now open!

Save \$150 with the early bird rate



Join us next month for the [2024 APA National Conference](#) at the Austin Marriott North. Don't miss this chance to network with your peers and learn from leading accessibility experts in both National and Texas Accessibility Standards.

Sessions will include

- **"Accessibility Matters: Knowing the 'WHY' Behind Everything That You Do"** with Julie Sawchuk, the 2024 APA National Conference Keynote Speaker
- **"PROWAG: What's New, What's Changed"** with Sarah Presley
- **"TAS Project Variances: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly"** with Marsha Godeaux
- **"Key Federal Mandates for Accessible Housing: The Relationship of the ADA, ABA, and Rehabilitation Act"** with Rex Pace
- **"Once You Arrive: Accessible Parking and Sidewalks"** with Kimberly Paarlberg
- And more!

See the full lineup and register at

[AccessibilityProfessionals.org/2024APANationalConference](https://AccessibilityProfessionals.org/2024APANationalConference)



**Get your national certification! Save \$135** when you take the APAC-BE certification exam - the only national certification for accessibility in the built environment - at the 2024 conference! [Click here to apply](#)

**Already an APAC-BE?** Get your CEUs for your renewal by attending the 2024 conference.

Visit the APAC page for details.

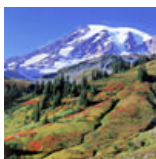
[AccessibilityProfessionals.org/APAC](https://AccessibilityProfessionals.org/APAC)



Hotel rooms for the conference at the discounted group rate are selling out

Reserve your room [here](#)

## Join an APA Chapter!



The [Rocky Mountain Chapter](#) covers issues relevant to the entire West Coast, and professionals outside of the 6 RMC states are highly encouraged to join.



The [Texas Chapter](#) is up and running! To get involved on the ground floor and to contribute to accessibility issues in Texas, join us.

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](#).

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## JBMS Scholarship fundraiser



The raffle was so successful last year at the 2023 Conference that the JBMS Committee has decided to do it again! The committee is collecting donations of items for the raffle. If you are interested in donating, please contact one of the committee members or email

[FrancesEllington@AccessibilityProfessionals.org](mailto:FrancesEllington@AccessibilityProfessionals.org). The committee is also collecting [monetary donations](#) for the [JBMS Scholarship Fund](#).\*

Thank you to those who have already donated items for the raffle: Austin Marriott North; Greg Izor, Izor and Associates; International Code Council; James Terry, Evan Terry Associates & Corada; Jimmy Bell; John Torkelson, theACCESSpartnership, l.p.; Kim Goss, Access by Design; Meghan Simecek, Texas Accessibility Group; Stacey Brewer, El Buey PLLC; Tom Ellis; and Walter Qualls, Images, Etc.

*\*APA is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are deductible under section 170 of the Code. APA is also qualified to receive tax-deductible bequests, devises, transfers, or gifts under sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.*

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William Goren

### ADA-relevant articles from an APA member attorney

Don't miss [William Goren's](#) blog post, ["Absent a gateway to a physical place, is an internet site subject to Title III of the ADA: The view from both sides of the argument."](#)

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### APA and APAC support the Accessible Design Accreditation Initiative (ADAI)

APA and APAC are proud supporters of the [Accessible Design Accreditation Initiative \(ADAI\)](#) launched by the Great Plains ADA Center. The goal of the ADAI is to improve the lives of people with disabilities by advancing accessible design curriculum models for college and university programs offering architecture and interior design degrees. The objectives are accreditation protocols and academy agendas that incorporate the foundational principles of the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, the International Code Council model codes, and the ICC/ANSI A117.1 Standard for Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities. The ADAI is being introduced for consideration to and collaboration with the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA); Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA); National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) and National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB).

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## APA couldn't do it without our volunteers!



Jimmy Bell  
Chair



Stacey Brewer



Meghan Simecek



Kara-Lee Wilson

### Many thanks to the JBMS Committee

Since 2010, APA has awarded The Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship to eligible students with interest in promoting accessibility in their future careers. The JBMS Committee makes that possible.

## 2024 APA National Conference Exhibitors & Sponsors

### Gold Sponsor



### Exhibitors



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](mailto:FrancesEllington@AccessibilityProfessionals.org). Spaces are limited. [Sign up early](#) to get the most pre-event promotion.

### 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.

[Mike Barnes](#), Princeton, NJ  
[Rachael Block](#), San Marcos, TX  
[Karen Carlsen](#), Santa Ana, CA  
[Tess Dickman](#), Seattle, WA  
[Shelton Ensley](#), Seattle, WA  
[Magda Joyce](#), Denver, CO  
[Krista Macy](#), Buffalo, NY  
[Derrik Mills](#), Greenwood Village, CO  
[Frank Morris](#), Arlington, TX  
[Sandra Vaccari](#), Houston, TX  
[Randy Wallace, Jr.](#), Lubbock, TX  
[Joyce Wheeler](#), Seattle, WA  
[K Wheeler](#), Seattle, WA  
[Donald Whiteley](#), Littleton, CO  
[Heather Younghusband](#), Las Vegas, NV



## Current member?

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

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## APA 2022 Annual Report

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

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## 2024 APA Board Elections

The 2024 APA Board Elections close on December 20, 2023. Find out more and vote on the [APA homepage](#).

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## 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.

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## 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](#).

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## 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](#)

## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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



- **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](#).

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, APAC, AIA, ICC, TDLR, 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.

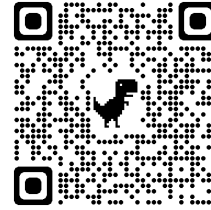


The APA Newsletter is provided to share general accessibility information and other resources that may be of interest to our members and constituents. While the APA Newsletter is published by the Accessibility Professionals Association, it is not intended to draw legal conclusions nor does it substitute 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](#).

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