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A note from your 2025 APA President



As we meander into summer, it reminds me of those lazy days of my youth spent running through the woods or lying on the beach or just doing whatever. Many seasons have passed since then, and those lazy days seem further and further from reality nowadays. And so, we keep on keeping on.

But, let me ask you something, if I may. What are we keeping on for? To what purpose? It must be something important, right? What motivates you? Why are you in this business in the first place? Think about it.

Now, take that thought and add it to your bio. Do it on your [Member Hub](#) on the new APA website. The new website is great, but we're missing an opportunity to brag on ourselves if you don't have your bio updated. Let's face it, many of us never thought to update the bio on the old website. Well, this is a fresh start. Get your information together and show us what you've got! There's even a place to upload images. Post some of your favorite projects or some of your favorite "oh-ohs" you've seen in your practice.

While you're there, check out the [Forums](#). Here's the chance to ask those questions that have you scratching your head and thinking, "Why does it say THAT?" or "This is the situation.... Any helpful solutions?" or "I know it says this in Texas, but what are the requirements for that in New York? Or Boston? Or Chicago?" There are lots of forum pages. Oh, and don't forget to click the settings cog in the upper right corner and set your communication preferences so you can be notified when a topic comes up.

APA is about providing for its members. This is a way for everyone to help provide something for one another (and yourself, if you count updating that bio).

[Gene Boecker](#)

2025 APA President

Karen L. Braitmayer confirmed as 2026 APA National Conference keynote!

APA is thrilled to announce that [Karen L. Braitmayer](#) will be the distinguished Keynote Speaker at the 2026 APA National Conference! Her address promises to be a highlight of the conference, offering insights that are both inspiring and informative.



Architect Karen L. Braitmayer, FAIA, APAC-BE, is the founding principal of the accessibility consulting firm Studio Pacifica based in Seattle, Washington. Her "good fight" has consistently focused on supporting equity and full inclusion for persons with disabilities. In 2019, she was chosen as the national winner of the AIA Whitney M. Young, Jr., award—a prestigious award given to an architect who "embodies social responsibility and actively addresses a relevant issue." In the award's 48-year history, she was the first recipient honored for their work in the area of civil rights for persons with disabilities. Braitmayer was also appointed by President Barack Obama to the United States Access Board, a position she held from 2010 to July of 2023.

Join us in Austin, Texas, from January 21-23, 2026, to hear from this visionary leader.

Registration will open in the fall! The APA Education & Events Committee is busy finalizing an exciting lineup of speakers and sessions. Bookmark APAaccess.org/APA-National-Conference and check back often for updates.

Conference Vendor & Sponsor Registration Opening Soon! Don't miss your chance to connect with accessibility professionals. For more information, email FrancesEllington@APAaccess.org.

Announcing the 2025 Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship recipients!

APA is delighted to announce the recipients of the prestigious [2025 Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship](#). This year, we are proud to give awards to two outstanding students.

The Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship was established to honor the legacy of Jim Boyce, a beloved and influential figure in the field of accessibility in the built environment. Jim was known for his

unwavering commitment to mentoring others, his dedication to creating a more accessible world for those with disabilities, and his integral role in the early history of APA. Through this scholarship, APA aims to support the next generation of professionals who will help advance accessibility in the built environment.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the 2025 Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship recipients:



Ella Townsend

An undergraduate architecture student

"Receiving this scholarship is a tremendous honor and an enormous blessing. The Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship supports my education and enables me to continue learning the importance and need for inclusive and accessible design. Juggling academic responsibilities with educational expenses is a daunting task and I am grateful for the financial support of this award. With financial pressures easing up, I am able to put more time and energy towards my education. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity and look forward to continuing my education and making the world a more accessible place."



Tristan Moon

An undergraduate interior design student

"This scholarship means more to me than just financial assistance—it represents opportunity, hope, and recognition of my hard work. Coming from a background where access to higher education hasn't always been guaranteed, this support not only eases the burden of tuition but also motivates me to continue striving for excellence. It allows me to focus fully on my studies and pursue my goal, knowing that others believe in my potential. I am truly grateful and committed to making the most of this opportunity, both for myself and for those who have supported me along the way."

DOE poised to strike down accessibility standards

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to rescind the requirements in 10 CFR 1040.73 which require that new construction not discriminate against people with disabilities. The DOE is relying on another provision in 10 CFR 1040.71 that is general in stating that no "handicapped" person shall be excluded from participation or subject to discrimination.



The proposed rule is a "Direct Final Rule," meaning that it will go into effect on July 15, 2025, without the customary comment periods. The current requirement in 10 CFR 1040.73 states

that new construction must be in accordance with the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS). Although the UFAS is almost half a century old, it is still more than what would be in place if the rule is allowed to proceed.

To reset the process, “significant adverse comments” would need to be received by DOE by **June 16, 2025**; just a few weeks from today. If you or your organization would like to file comments, that must be done through the Federal eRulemaking Portal. For additional information, [click here](#).

The APA Technical Standards and Legislative and Legal Committees will be composing comments to be submitted on behalf of APA.

ADA-relevant article from an APA member attorney

Don't miss [William Goren's](#) blog post, ["The starting line is what the ADA and Rehabilitation Act are all about."](#)



William Goren

APAC Program updates



- APAC is thrilled to collaborate once again with the Great Plains ADA Symposium to offer the exam in Atlanta. Watch this space or [APACexam.org](#) and help us welcome our new certificants!
- APAC has a [new practice test on the website](#). Are you up to the challenge?
- 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!

Explore the new [APAaccess.org](#)! Members need to create a new login and update their profile

APA has a new address: [APAaccess.org](#)! The website has undergone a complete refresh. You'll notice a significant improvement in the member experience, featuring a brand-new Member Hub where you can download your 2025 CE certificates and exchange information with other members in exclusive forums. Please note that information from the old website is still being added. We appreciate your patience as the content is finalized.

To take full advantage of the new website, including the [Hire A Professional directory](#), **please update your profile**. Because we were unable to port member logins and existing profiles to the new system, **you'll need to create a new login**. Please use the email APA has on record for you,

and [click here](#) to get started. **NOTE: Your old login from the old website will not work.** Once you've logged in and accessed the new Member Hub, you'll find a helpful video on the front screen explaining how to update your profile.

By popular demand, we've added the following certifications to the "licenses, certifications, and designations" list for member profiles:

- ADAC (Certified ADA Coordinator)
- ICC Accessibility Inspector / Plans Examiner
- ICC California Public Accommodations Accessibility Inspector / Plans Examiner

Even if you've already updated your profile, be sure to add these new certifications if you hold them!

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to email CommunicationsDirector@APAaccess.org.

APA advocates for clearer processes and reduced administrative burdens for RAS

The Accessibility Professionals Association (APA), on behalf of its Texas Chapter (APA TXC), recently submitted a formal letter to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) raising concerns about procedural changes within the Architectural Barriers (AB) section. These unofficial practices have significantly increased administrative demands on Registered Accessibility Specialists (RAS), including tasks not outlined in the AB Administrative Rules, such as verifying property ownership and managing file closures.

[APA's letter](#) calls for a collaborative resolution to align departmental procedures with the law and better support RAS in their core duties: ensuring accessibility compliance. The letter offers constructive recommendations, such as streamlining closure requirements, clarifying responsibilities, and improving consistency in documentation practices.

TDLR has responded to the APA TXC letter, and a dialogue is now underway. This is a crucial opportunity to ensure the voices of RAS professionals are heard and considered as part of the ongoing conversation.

Help strengthen APA's advocacy

To strengthen our communication with TDLR and provide concrete examples of challenges RAS are facing, we invite you to share your experiences. Please take a moment to fill out [this form](#) with your comments, examples, and suggestions. Your input is vital in helping us advocate effectively on behalf of all RAS professionals.

APA remains committed to working with TDLR to advance accessibility while maintaining a fair, efficient, and professional process for all stakeholders.

Upcoming APA events

Texas Accessibility Academy (Zoom webinar) hosted by APA Texas Chapter

Date: Tuesday, June 24, 2025 and Thursday, June 26, 2025

Time: 8 am - 5 pm CT each day

Credit: 8 hours of CE each day

Registration is now open for **members and non-members**. Find out more and register [here](#).

APA Rocky Mountain Chapter webinar - Topic: Assisted Listening

Date: July 9, 2025

Time: TBD

Presenter: Kasey Kaumans

Registration will open soon, offering options for both **members and non-members**.

APA Texas Chapter member meeting and roundtable discussion

Date: July 14, 2025

Time: 12 - 1 pm CT

Topic: Business Basics: Insurance

Special guests: Glenn Wilson and Daniel Aranda from [Higginbotham](#)

This will be an **APA Texas Chapter member-only** event. This event will be free, but no continuing education (CE) credits will be available for attendance.

APA Texas Chapter webinar - Topic: PROWAG

Date: July 29, 2025

Time: 9 - 11 am CT

Presenter: Marsha Godeaux from TDLR

Registration will open soon, offering options for both **members and non-members**.

APA Rocky Mountain Chapter member meeting and roundtable discussion

Date: August 14, 2025

Time: 12:30 - 1:30 pm CT

Topic: TBD

This event will be free, but no continuing education (CE) credits will be available for attendance.

Never miss an APA event!

Don't miss out on future APA events! Be sure to bookmark the [APA calendar](#) for all upcoming dates and details.

Shape the future: Join our Technical Standards Task Force!

Want to help guide accessibility standards and make sure our voices are heard? We're forming **Technical Standards Task Forces** to monitor upcoming code changes and proposed rules, study their impact, and ensure APA provides timely and impactful responses. The Code Change Proposal Task Force and the Notice of Proposed Rule Making Public Comments Task Force will meet as needed.

Interested? Fill out this [form](#) or reach out



Have you noticed recent changes to .gov websites and documents? As the leading association for Accessibility Professionals, APA recognizes the importance of ongoing access to resources and up-to-date information. Continue the discussion and share your observations on the latest developments in our members-only forums within the Member Hub.

Welcome our new members!

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

[Michael Anderson](#), NE

[Kevin Banks](#), OH

[Emily Barclay](#), TX

[Cole Christian](#), TX

[Don Davison](#), TX

[Mark Derry](#), FL

[Edwin Mohabir](#), CA

[Patricia Najarro](#), NJ

[Angela Satterfield](#), SC

[Alexis Tsourounakis](#), FL

[Paul Verheyden](#), TX

APA chapters

All members can join a "Home Chapter" at no extra cost. For more information or to designate your Home Chapter, please email

MembershipDirector@APAaccess.org.

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 Board minutes in the Member Hub.

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.

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.

Do you have ADA, FHA, TAS, or other technical questions?

It's easy to get answers via the APA

We need you!

APA is seeking professionals who are interested in promoting accessibility nationwide. We would love to have you come on one of the APA committees. For more information, contact MembershipDirector@APAaccess.org.

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 in the Member Hub.

members-only Forums found in your Member Hub.

Call for job openings!

Let APA work for you!

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

Explore new career opportunities!

Don't forget to check the members-only job board in your Member Hub regularly.

[Learn](#) more about Accessibility Professionals Association - APA

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

Continuing Education: APA is a registered provider with the American Institute of Architects (AIA/CES Provider #G583), the APA Certification Program (APAC Preferred Provider #101), the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR Provider #0007855 / License #PVD312), and the International Code Council (ICC Preferred Provider #1321), and it offers pre-verified 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 confirming course requirements for their licenses and 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 CommunicationsDirector@APAaccess.org.

Follow us on social media!



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