



From your APA president

I don't think any of us had any idea what kind of year 2020 was going to be when we were at the annual conference in January, but WOW. I hope all of you are doing okay and staying safe.

I just wanted to give a brief update on things. We've scaled back a lot of the committee and task force activities this year but are still providing virtual regional trainings and will also be doing a Virtual Annual Conference on January 27 and 28, 2021. Everyone should still be able to get their required CEUs from the 2-day APA conference. The focus will be, appropriately enough, on Healthcare for All. This year we are pleased to have Rex Pace, the National Accessibility Officer, from the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) joining us. He will be discussing the future of Healthcare for All and giving a presentation on the proposed Standards for Accessible Medical Diagnostic Equipment. There will also be presentations on ADA/FHA requirements for independent living and assisted living facilities, common errors found in healthcare facilities, the differences in requirements for various healthcare occupancies, and site inspections. Although we can probably all agree that a virtual conference is not optimal, a large in-person gathering is less so. I know we will all be together again. Hang in there.

[Robin Roberts](#)

2020 APA president

Accessible Polling Places

by [Leonard G. Lane, Jr.](#)



November 8, 2016 – a day I will never forget. A Registered Accessibility Specialist (RAS #290), I was an expert witness for Harris County, Texas, which had been sued by the U.S. Department of Justice. I spent 12 hours on Election Day at various polling places, observing accessibility issues for disabled persons at 13 polling places throughout the county....

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events

The APA 2021 Annual Conference will be virtual this year, on January 27 and 28. Check out our [Event Calendar](#) to see details of the conference (to be posted soon) as well as all of our upcoming events.



APA improves website accessibility

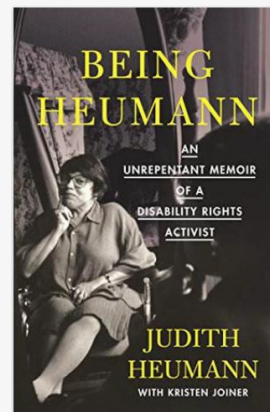
APA has been working with our web platform provider and Useable Net to help improve accessibility on our website and increase usability across a more diverse population. We've improved our website and increased accessibility by installing specialized tools, updating the code and site design to meet requirements, and testing our site using Useable Net's accessibility tools.

A key improvement we've made is structuring content by using headers carefully. Doing this has made our content much easier to understand and digest and improves flow. Additionally, we've edited site code to help screen readers interpret our pages. This makes it much easier to provide in-page navigation. We've also addressed issues relating to visual impairment by making sure that the colors on our site contrast well so that everyone can distinguish between various elements

Book review, submitted by [Kim Hooker, AIA, RAS](#)

Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist

By Judith Heumann with Kristen Joiner



We are absorbed in the present and we need memoirs to remind us that behind the hallmarks of progress there was struggle. Judith Heumann was a driving force in the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act and her memoir details a career of activism. Her life is remarkable, and it was never easy. "But it taught me, at a very early age, that most things are possible when you assume problems can be solved."

The author suffered polio as a child. Her parents, orphans of the Holocaust, did not accept medical advice to send her to an institution or accept limited educational options. This is a gritty story of how she achieved academic distinction, won a lawsuit against the New York City Board of Education for denying her a teacher's license, and pursued graduate work at the landmark Center for Independent Living at the University of California - Berkeley. She details the effort and organization that was required to organize a 24-day sit-in at the San Francisco office of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, with coordinated sit-ins around the country.

The movement concluded with Joseph Califano, secretary of the US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in the Carter administration, signing the enabling regulations for Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (originally written during the Ford Administration). Heumann reminds us that getting a law passed is just the beginning. Work was required for Section 504 to be understood, implemented, and enforced. Projects, programs, and organizations had to be

on the page.

We hope that our members will find our greater accessibility to be more inviting and user friendly for everyone. For more information, be sure to check out the [resources](#) (e-books, white papers, and infographics) available on Useable Net's site.

Welcome our new members!

Click on the member's name to view their profile in our Member Directory.

[Bruce Bealor](#), San Antonio, TX

[James Gee](#), Richmond, TX

[Ronda King](#), Seattle, WA

[Craig Lobnow](#), Murrieta, CA

[Alejandro Mireles](#), El Paso, TX

[Lawrence Pikas](#), Porter, TX

[Michael Shaw](#), Seattle, WA

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.

Current member?



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

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](#) and [Member News](#):

- Remember to opt in for any new discussions, even if you have

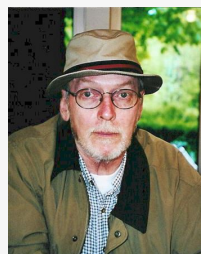
formed. Republicans and Democrats worked together to solve a major societal issue – and the result was the ADA, which was signed on July 26, 1990, by President George H.W. Bush. Her work continued with appointments in the Clinton and Obama administrations and participated in national and international committees.

ADA relevant articles from an APA member attorney

[William Goren](#) visits several Covid-19 scenarios in his blog, [Understanding the ADA](#). See how they apply to the ADA.

In partnership with the International Code Council (ICC)

And sponsored by our Technical Standards Committee. [Click here](#) to read "Are Wheelchair Spaces Required at Bars?"



Congratulations to our Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship winners!

We wish them the best on their educational journey during this unprecedented time.

Tyler Kleinsasser

South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
Graduate Student, Civil Construction Engineering & Management

Matthew L. Gilbert

Louisiana State University
Freshman, Construction Management

The Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship was established by APA to honor and recognize our friend and colleague, Jim Boyce. [Click here](#) for applications and donations.

Are you in need of an accessibility specialist?

previously opted in for all discussions.

Don't forget that we also have [FAQs](#) for members only!

APA needs your expertise!

The APA committees always welcome help. Consider volunteering as either a committee member or a volunteer for a special one-time task.

Minutes from past committee meetings are available to APA

members [here](#). Contact anyone below to discuss how you can help.

- **Communications:** [Maggie McCarthy](#)
 - **Education & Events:** [Gene Boecker](#)
 - **Jim Boyce Scholarship:** [Tanya Allen](#)
 - **Legislative & Legal:** [Peter Grojean](#) and [Carroll Pruitt](#)
 - **Membership:** [Iliana Diaz](#)
 - **Technical Standards:** [Kim Hooker](#)
 - **Exhibitor/Sponsors:** [Tom Ellis](#)
 - **Expansion:** [Jack McClellan](#)
 - **Florida Chapter:** [Diana Ibarra](#) and [Jeff Yanke](#)
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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.

Learn more about Accessibility Professionals Association - APA

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

APA Board of Directors

Meet this year's Board of Directors. Members may see all Board minutes [here](#).

[Robin Roberts](#): President

[Robert Ronson](#): President-Elect

[Meghan Simecek](#): Secretary

[Clark Teel](#): Treasurer

[Stacey Brewer](#): Board Member

[Mark Morley](#): Board Member

[John Torkelson](#): Board Member

[Sharon Massey Woodmore](#): Past President

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

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). We provide courses of study and award an Accessibility Standards Basics completion, as well as Designations for APA-ADA Specialist, APA-ADA Assembly Specialist and APA-ADA Transient Lodging Specialist, when all criteria are met. 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

[Camille North](#), APA Communications Director.



[Accessibility
Professionals
Association](#)

