



Meet the Code Advocacy Task Force

By Kevin Folsom

The APPA Code Advocacy Committee started in 2004 with Brooks Baker. Since then the Code Talkers column was created, numerous articles have been published, and APPA members are beginning to see the power that APPA has to influence codes that affect their institutions.

The APPA Board of Directors approved funding for the initiative to carry on another three years, and formalized a committee now known as the Code Advocacy Task Force (CATF). “Task Force” is used because we are soliciting experts in a specific area of our industry to serve on the group rather than emphasizing regional representation at this time. Following is a brief introduction of each CATF member:

Mike Anthony, University of Michigan: has been involved since 1999 in code issues with NEC and NFPA on behalf of APPA. He has contributed numerous articles to Code Talkers and written two books for the industrial electrical industry.

Richard Davis, Evergreen State College: background in code work – was in K-12 in late 1980s and 1990s. Did utility

tariff work in Southern California. Formed alliance with school districts to grandfather old schools. Currently on technical advisory committee on administrative electric codes. Works a lot with elevators as well and compliance with state codes in Washington. Is also an attorney. Member of Washington State Bar Association Understands construction law. “It’s not only that we regulate, it’s HOW we regulate.” Need correlation between regulations and the purpose of those regulations. Need more clarity on the reasoning behind regulations and who is in authority.

David Handwork, Arkansas State University: has been in higher education facilities for six years. He came from private industry, where OSHA is everywhere. Active with ASHRAE and technical committees providing the educational facility perspective. ASHRAE has a significant impact on higher education because it can save or cost us a lot of money depending on what they institute.

Terri Konchesky, West Virginia University: is a code specialist. Works in safety and codes. Is a liaison between the university and state fire marshal. Sits on campus fire safety board. Member of NFPA and involved with Fire Watch and the *Campus Fire* newsletter. She works with NFPA, ASHRAE, some OSHA, deals with architects, engineers, and contractors to ensure compliance with codes and specs.

Brooks Baker, University of Alabama/Birmingham: started in health-care and has first-hand knowledge in the creation of codes and standards in that industry. His involvement has been trying to keep them from being too restrictive, while preventing manufacturers from driving code development/implementation to benefit themselves. Past APPA President.

John Bernhards, APPA Staff: began with APPA in January 2008, and has

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extensive experience working with code governing and standards writing bodies.

As you can imagine, the APPA Code Advocacy Task force has a tall order to fill related to the development of all codes that affect educational institutions. They may be a long time getting that accomplished, but you can rest assured they have a strategy:

1. Create a codes portal through the APPA website giving access to all codes for all member institutions. We're currently in the design process with bidding developers.
2. Identify all the standards writing bodies that affect codes for education while monitoring their activity. We currently have a list of 12.
3. Chose the top ten codes that need APPA's influence during the in public comment period, then provide representation. There are seven that need

In the May/June Code Talkers column a typographical error transformed 11'-0" into 110" as the minimum width for van accessible parking spaces under the proposed new ADA Standards. The same type error made the 5'-0" minimum width for an access aisle look like 50". Designers should be careful to recognize that the proposed Standard still requires the same 16'-0" of total width that is required by the Current ADA Standards. The new version simply offers the option of 11'+5' or 8'+8'. The editor regrets the error.

As an update, the U.S. Department of Justice released the proposed new standards and regulations in June. They and other documents developed with the Proposed Rule may be downloaded from www.ada.gov/NPRM2008/ADAnprm08.htm.

4. Solicit more articles for the Code Talkers column to educate members and the industry.

How can you help? For starters, we need volunteers in the following areas:

1. If you serve on any kind of technical committee that provides standards writing support, let us know.

2. If you serve on any kind of codes governing body, let us know.
3. Write articles for Code Talkers in areas that you are knowledgeable. ☎

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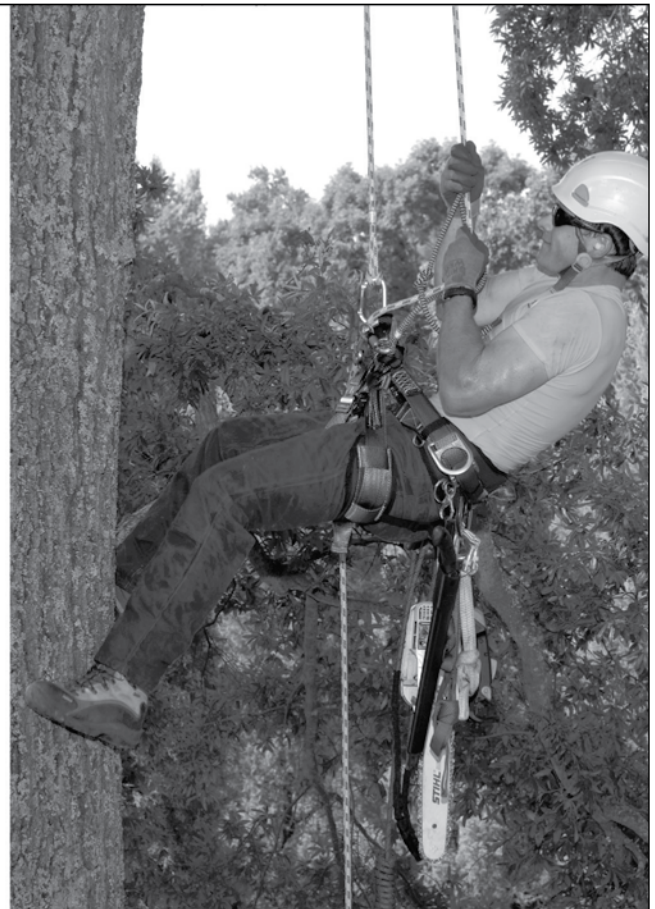
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