After 22 years as director of physical plant at the University of Wisconsin Madison, John Harrod recently retired to start a new chapter in his life—to do whatever he wants, whenever he wants. APPA’s 2000-01 President served APPA and the Midwest region for many years throughout his career.

John spent 18 years at Iowa State University, first as a landscape designer and eventually as associate director of physical plant operations. He then became director of physical plant at Northern Illinois University, where he served for four years before heading to UW Madison.

During his year as APPA President, John’s theme and message to the membership emphasized the “personal touch” that is important and most effective between member to member, and between APPA leadership and the membership at large.

“There’s a real interest and need for members to feel that they are in touch with those who guide and direct the organization, so the personal touch is critical,” John said in an interview with Facilities Manager at the start of his presidency.

In addition to many other accolades during his time in APPA and MAPPA, John received APPA’s 1997 President’s Award and the 1998 Meritorious Service Award.

And as of March 1, Chong-Hie Choi, APPA’s chief financial officer for more than 26 years, has retired. Her tenure with APPA was characterized by her spirit of professionalism—and impeccable financial management. Among her many critical duties for the association, Chong-Hie worked with the APPA Board of Directors and served as the APPA staff liaison to the Pacific Coast region. She also was the recipient of the 2002 APPA President’s Award.

“Chong-Hie has been an invaluable member of the APPA staff,” said Lander Medlin, APPA’s executive vice president. “Her extreme dedication and loyal commitment to APPA cuts two ways. First, she is a true professional in the field of accounting and finance. She logged in 26 clean audits over that period of time—a feat that I don’t believe can be beat! Second, she has been a consummate supporter of our members in the field of educational facilities management. She has always been available and responsive when any need arose. She will be sorely missed by both the staff and the facilities management community.”

Join APPA in wishing both John Harrod and Chong-Hie a very happy retirement.
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