



Those Who Make Things Happen

By Mary Vosevich



There are so many great things happening in APPA, that it's hard to know where to start. The problem is not that I don't have something to say (most of you know that is not my problem!). It's just that there are so many things that APPA is doing, that it is hard to pick just one. I could write about my incredible journey as APPA's president from 2012-2013, or APPA's many collaborative efforts with our international partners. Or, about APPA U and the excellent educational programs offered throughout the year. Of course, I could write about the enhanced relationships facilitated by APPA and the great work taking place internationally, regionally, and locally. Or, what about our new APPA members in Mexico? What about the various initiatives that have allowed APPA to be at the forefront of our profession? Or, I could write about the people—our incredible membership, staff, and business partners. The list goes on and on.

I was finally able to focus and recognize what I needed to say: APPA is all about the people, the professionals, working and collaborating to support one another in our field. These incredible people keep us current, vibrant, and make APPA the “go-to” organization in our educational facilities profession.

SO MUCH GOING ON

APPA will be **celebrating its 100th anniversary** this year! I like to think of it as 100 years of excellence, and 100 years of facilities professionals dedicated



APPA OFFERS ANSWERS,
ENCOURAGEMENT, RECOGNITION,
EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND
FRIENDSHIP.

to supporting our profession and one another. Obviously much has changed over 100 years, but one thing remains constant: APPA is a knowledge-based organization dedicated to “supporting educational excellence with quality leadership and professional management through education, research, and recognition” (**APPA's mission statement**).

Let's start with the importance of this mission statement. Our mission clearly supports us in becoming excep-

tional leaders in our profession, and at the very core of our organization is a robust and diverse membership. APPA's new **integrated membership model** will expand our membership, diversity, and knowledge even further, making anyone at your institution an APPA member. This will allow us to engage everyone in our respective organizations, leaving no resource untapped. The integrated membership model is no small undertaking, but it clearly is the right thing to do for the benefit of APPA and every member.

Obviously, APPA's members are the core element in our organization, and APPA is always looking for ways to foster collaboration and the sharing of ideas. To that end, APPA has **welcomed Mexico into the organization**. This

expansion of APPA will enhance our already diverse membership and global presence. Mexico did not approach APPA expecting to be an international partner with its own governance. They wanted to be APPA, and they wanted to be a part of APPA's existing regions. This opportunity for intellectual exchange, new ideas, and collaboration with our neighbors to the south is an outstanding opportunity that I am very excited about. It is no surprise that Mexico's quest for education and collaboration in the field of facilities led them straight to APPA.

I would be remiss in not addressing our **emerging professionals** in facilities management. This group is a key component of APPA, and the future of our profession and our organization. We need to listen and hear their ideas, support their professional development, and prepare them for advancement. I have quoted Maya Angelou many times saying, "The very idea of lifting someone up will lift you, as well." Look to your emerging professionals in your organization and "lift" them: mentor them, teach them, listen to them, and collaborate with them.

THOSE WHO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN

APPA People make things happen. Each of us has our own interests, areas of expertise, and tasks where we excel. Our interests may be in educational programs, or information gathering, or research, or technical skills. There is always something APPA can offer that will align with your particular passion. As you identify your passion or area of interest, I encourage you to share and bring a colleague along for the ride. Know that what you need professionally, and what will allow for true partnership in learning, is right at your fingertips. APPA can always offer answers, encouragement, recognition, education, research, and friendship.

So let's not keep this a secret! We are on the threshold of the next 100 years. Think back to the initial members of APPA. What was their vision and what

was their mission? How do we celebrate their hard work and dedication while charging forward into the next 100 years? It is you that will make it happen through your volunteerism, your desire to be better, your desire to share and give back, and your desire to make a difference. It is through your leadership, the work you are doing at your respec-

tive institutions, and the work you are doing with APPA that will lift us into the future. ☺

Mary Vosevich is the director of physical plant at the University of New Mexico, and Immediate Past President of APPA. She can be reached at mvosevic@unm.edu.



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