



APPA Membership Starts with Our Own Institution

By Greg Clayton, P.E.

APPA membership matters. I am sure most of us reading this magazine could fill at least a page on what APPA membership means to us. Here is my story.

THE START

After working in healthcare for ten years in Nova Scotia, I moved to Prince Edward Island in 2000 to become the director of facilities management at the University of Prince Edward Island. It has been a great 15 years and counting. When I started my new position, I immediately began to network with my local chapter, AAPPA (Atlantic Chapter). Before I knew it, I was treasurer of that chapter and attending my first Eastern Region (ERAPPA) conference in 2001, in Hershey, Pennsylvania. I have been attending ERAPPA annual conferences ever since.

Over the past few years, I have been fortunate enough to be able to attend the APPA Annual Conference and plan on attending this year in Chicago. When I look back, I think it is interesting how my facilities management professional network has dramatically expanded. It has grown from the early days of networking with local institutions in Atlantic Canada to networking with facilities professionals across North America. This is one of the great values of APPA membership and of getting involved in the association.



University of Prince Edward Island

My involvement included being a membership committee member at the chapter, regional, and international levels; a chapter treasurer; an ERAPPA regional board member; and a chapter president, a position I currently hold. This involvement, along with attending the annual conferences, has enabled me to meet many great facilities professionals and to vastly expand my professional network. The ability to pick up the phone or e-mail a colleague to get

advice, to help solve a problem, or to help fuel a new campus initiative is invaluable.

OTHER VALUES OF MEMBERSHIP

APPA also provides a lot of other great values to its members, including the credibility APPA and its research brings to our profession. Attending the APPA conference allows you to hear the outcome of some of our recent research. The APPA bookstore is also full of great resources to help you and your department to improve

and to implement new ideas. For our institution, we use the APPA Operational Guidelines trilogy, to determine and verify staffing levels for our campus. We also participate in the annual Facilities Performance Indicators survey to help determine where we are doing well and to help set goals for improvement.

Another valuable benefit of APPA membership are the educational opportunities it provides. Here in Atlantic Canada, APPA has worked with our chapter over the past two years to host the Leadership Academy Track 2 and the Supervisor's Toolkit. We are planning on hosting Leadership Academy Track 3 this fall. APPA's willingness to work with our chapter to host these programs has allowed our members to receive excellent leadership training. This has helped us introduce APPA to institutions that are unfamiliar with our association, and

to show them firsthand what it has to offer them.

GROWING THE MEMBERSHIP

My thoughts turn to how we can continue to make positive contributions to our associations, our members, and our profession. One way to do that is within your own institution. Look in your facilities department to see who is not yet an associate member and get them to sign up. They will soon appreciate the values of membership, because they will gain access to APPA's Body of Knowledge, the digital *Facilities Manager* magazine, and the wealth of knowledge that comes from networking.

Another way to grow our membership is to pick up the phone and reach out to new professionals who have recently started at an institution near you. Try to make them feel welcome and give them

the information to engage with APPA early in their career.

Finally, look around your province or state and reach out to an educational institution you have not seen at an APPA event, talk to them about the values of APPA membership, and invite them to come to your next APPA function. Doing this will plant a seed that will strengthen our membership and our professional network.

I have truly enjoyed my APPA journey to date. We can all make a difference when it comes to growing membership and strengthening APPA. Membership really does matter! ☺

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