

The Connections You Make

By Gerald J. Carlson, CEFM

In July of 2014, I had the honor and privilege to assume the duties of APPA's Secretary-Treasurer. One of my most important duties in this position is to be the chairperson of the membership committee. Membership of the organization is its lifeblood—without a strong membership, APPA cannot exist.

I wrote my first article for the Membership Matters column in November 2014, where I expressed my feelings on what my APPA membership and journey had meant to me over the past 27 years. I indicated the importance of the relationships you build within APPA by meeting colleagues at local, regional, and international educational offerings and conferences.

MEMBERSHIP CAN MEAN DIFFERENT THINGS

Membership is what you make it; it can be different for each one of us. To me, it is all about the connections you make. I have made many great connections over the years by meeting friends, colleagues, acquaintances, and business partners. Those connections have helped me in so many ways. If I have an issue to deal with or a question I need an answer to, I just need to send an email, text, or make a phone call. The answer or assistance I need is at my fingertips.

To illustrate what I mean, I'd like to use an excerpt from my previous article. As George Wright once stated, "All of us are smarter than any one of us." With over 1,200 organizational members and over 13,000 individual members, APPA has a lot of experience and information to make available to us. We need to use the connections we make and the resources APPA offers to help us do our jobs better than ever, and to be responsive to the ever-changing facilities environment. Change is occurring all around us; just look at technology, globalization, and climate change. We need to use our APPA connections to provide the answers our administration is

asking of us. With the correct answers, we have a seat at the table as a valuable resource. The APPA connections you make will continue to assist you in the performance of your duties.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OFFERINGS AT APPA

Membership in APPA provides a great deal of benefits. I encourage you to take advantage of all APPA has to offer. In this age where funding is limited and travel restrictions exist, more and more APPA educational offerings are being delivered locally, allowing your staff to receive important training at relatively low cost.

Your institution can host a **Drive-In Workshop**. Simply locate a Business Partner as a sponsor, decide on a relevant topic, and coordinate the event with APPA. This is a very economical way to offer training to your staff and colleagues in your area. More information is available at <https://www.appa.org/Training/documents/HowtoOrganizeanAPPACampusesDriveInWorkshop03202015.pdf>.

The **Supervisor's Toolkit** is another popular training opportunity that is available for presentation on your campus. It has been specifically designed to meet the needs of the facilities management professional. More information about the Supervisor's Toolkit can be found at <https://www.appa.org/training/toolkit/campus.cfm>.

The **Leadership Academy** is available to your campus as the "Academy on Campus." The purpose of the Leadership Academy is to enhance and further develop leadership throughout the educational industry, and consists of four week-long levels. Level I focuses on Individual Effectiveness Skills. Level II covers Interpersonal Effectiveness Skills. Level III concentrates on Managerial Effectiveness Skills. Finally, Level IV centers on Organizational Effectiveness Skills—A Seat at the Table (contact APPA to



schedule your own Academy on Campus.)

More information can be found at <http://www.appa.org/training/academy/index.cfm>.

Membership matters! Make sure you make your APPA membership work for you!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT

On another subject, I have seen firsthand the hard work the membership committee does on behalf of APPA's membership and in support of the APPA staff. The committee members have changed somewhat over the past three years, but the committee's dedication has not. We meet monthly via teleconference calls and in person twice a year. We discuss ways to maintain, recruit, and grow APPA's membership.

The current APPA Membership Committee members are as follows: ERAPPA—**George Stooks**, SUNY Geneseo; CAPP—**Randy Culver**, Black Hills State University; MAPPA—**Erin Marsh**, University of Iowa;

PCAPPA—**Kimberly Case-Nichols**, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; SRAPPA—**Ray Mirizzi**, Northern Kentucky University; and RMA—**Tim Dobson**, New Mexico State University. I would like to offer my sincere thank you to the membership committee for all of their hard work during my three years as the committee chair.

Finally, I would like to thank **Kristin Witters**, APPA's director of membership and outreach, and **Direna Cousins**, APPA's membership coordinator, for all of their hard work on behalf of APPA. They have made my role as the membership chair a very rewarding and fulfilling experience. ☺

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Jerry Carlson completes his term as APPA Secretary-Treasurer and is director of maintenance services at Butler University in Indianapolis, IN. He can be reached at gcarlson@butler.edu.



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