APPNA Staff Service; Member Reflections

Reflections from Retiring Members

W e’re pleased to share these unsolicited words of thanks from two longtime APPA members. Jeff Grimm retired from The Hill School in Pennsylvania on July 29, 2019, previously having served at Lehigh University. Susie Reid has spent her 40-year career at the University of Richmond in Virginia and will hit the retirement trail in December. We thank both of them for their support of APPA over the years.

From Jeff Grimm: “If you’ve been a member of the APPAinfo listserv for any time at all, you’ll know that I came to the people who make up this asset and resource a lot—both for advice and sometimes merely to vent and feel the warmth of the ‘misery loves company’ perspective on our work lives in this industry.

Throughout my career, I have found the people who gravitate to this career field of Facilities Management to be some of the most knowledgeable, helpful, and dedicated employees in any of the organizations for whom I have worked. I also have found them to be some of the most under-appreciated, overworked, and mistreated/misunderstood group of PROFESSIONALS around! Keep doing what you do—taking on the challenges, solving the problems, and helping each other to survive and thrive. And keep using all the resources that APPA offers! It is a great organization and deserves all the support we can give it and its officers and staff. It has been a lifeline during my career in this profession and has helped to raise the esteem of what we do throughout the industry.

Thank you all for your help, support, and camaraderie over the years. They are much appreciated and will be remembered.”

From Susie Reid: “My pending retirement has reminded me of my many years affiliated with APPA and the many friends I have made through APPA over the years. APPA helped educate me in this facilities business starting back in the early 1980s with the Institute for Facilities Management, and in more recent years with the Leadership Academy. And then there have been my trips to the annual VAPPA and SRAPPA conferences. I have been a strong supporter of APPA over the years and simply want to say thank you for all you have done for me. I started out here at UR as a groundskeeper on December 20, 1979 and will leave as a Facilities Director on the same date, 40 years later. Never did I imagine this would be my life—but man, what a great ride it has been! I wouldn’t trade it for the world.

You are a great group of people who are out doing all the right things for our profession. Your commitment is evident in all that you do. APPA has made me proud to be in this business. APPA is an inspiration!”