

Ready to Join the Conversation? Click into the APPA Community

By Kimberly Case-Nichols

Do you remember what it feels like to freely propose ideas, break routines, and think outside of the box? Brainstorming ideas for projects, solving problems, and reinvigorating your creativity is one of the major benefits of being part of the APPA Community. You can bring up an idea and let others build on it, until it snowballs into a completely different idea or solution that you may not have come up with on your own. As an APPA member, you owe it to yourself to remove your creative blocks and allow yourself to connect, think divergently, and open up to new conversations online with like-minded, supportive facilities professionals.



As APPA continues to evolve with the facilities industry, so does our need to engage and communicate quickly and efficiently. One of the biggest successes of our APPA Member + Community Engagement Committee's efforts is implementing the APPA Community, an online community open to APPA members only. If you participate in Facebook, LinkedIn, bulletin boards, blogs, Twitter, or any other social media application, then using APPA

Community online is a no brainer! There is no doubt that having a forum and messaging tools enhances the way we seek and share information. When we engage online in common subjects of interest, we form bonds, influence each other, and enrich our own experiences. The APPA Community is committed to providing a welcoming environment that is moderated and intended to provide a go-to place to network with active APPA members.

It is true that networking emails sent out to the broad membership often go unanswered—not because

people are ignoring emails—but because the email inbox has become too cumbersome to manage on a daily basis. This is even more prevalent for facilities professionals who spend a good part of their day in the field with customers, contractors, and students, responding to urgent tasks on a daily basis. The APPA Community replaces the APPAinfo listserv and becomes a more efficient way to communicate. Whether you are a millennial, a member of Generation X, or a baby boomer, you are online in some capacity as a facilities professional. So get started and tailor your online experience to your needs. Here are a few suggestions to help you get introduced to the APPA Community:

1. **YOUR PROFILE**—If you have an online myAPPA account, then you already have a profile set up in the APPA Community. Update your profile and let members know as much or as little about yourself as you want. How's that for easy breezy?
2. **JOIN A GROUP**—Join a host of groups including regions, chapters, topic-specific groups, and affinity groups. The hardest part is wanting to join them all!
3. **DEVELOP YOURSELF**—Create a discussion topic. Start a conversation. Ask a question. The best part is discovering relevant content, brainstorming, and collaborating. Isn't this why you became an APPA member?
4. **KNOWLEDGE CENTER**—Use the knowledge center to find a discussion topic or document. APPA is your industry resource hub.
5. **INCLUSION**—When we're online, connections are created between cultures that might not otherwise happen in person. Online networking allows for equity of all members at every level, regardless of age, race, religion, or gender. APPA is all about bringing our diverse members together.
6. **SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE**—Motivate, reciprocate, and support one another. Online social networking has become the norm in building a sense of connection and finding support groups.

Get on board with the APPA Community and be one of the cool kids!

7. **NETWORKING**—Build collaborative support and inspire others. This is the key to the success of our profession. Networking is one of the top reasons APPA members are here. You no longer have to wait for the next conference, and you can continue conversations that started face-to-face—at your last chapter meeting, Supervisor’s Toolkit, or Leadership Academy, for example. You can do this online 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The APPA Community offers many benefits to members, including flexibility to access online anywhere, anytime with an Internet connection. The community is respectful and allows for people who may not otherwise speak up to do so without interruption. Conversations are documented and can be revisited and reflected on. This allows members to think carefully before responding to an issue. Conversations and comments are selective, allowing members to choose between a quick comment or

question, or a long and detailed blog-like discussion. Over time, the APPA Community will stimulate the user experience and ideally become a primary place for members to network all year long.

APPA has heard our members’ voices and continues to cultivate a community of growth and learning. So what are you waiting for? The APPA Community is there for you to contribute rich content and exchange innovative ideas. If you need any assistance with getting your profile set up, starting a discussion, or answering any other questions about navigating the APPA Community, reach out to myself or your regional Member + Community Engagement Committee chairperson. You can also check out this video to see how to get started: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=skzFsjcw90Q>. See you online and in the conversations! 🗣️

Kim Case-Nichols is executive director of space and facilities management at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Medicine in Las Vegas, NV. She can be reached at kim.case@unlv.edu.

ENHANCE BUILDING ACCESSIBILITY AND OPEN DOORS TO ALL WITH AMERICA'S DURABLE DOOR OPENER

- COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL AUTOMATIC DOOR OPENERS
- SUITABLE FOR ALL SIDE-HINGED INTERIOR & EXTERIOR DOORS
- EASY INSTALLATION & RETROFIT
- AUTOMATIC OR MANUAL OPERATION
- MINIMAL MAINTENANCE, LOW COST, BEST VALUE
- IN BUSINESS OVER 45 YEARS, 10-YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY

CALL 800-344-0088 & USE CODE FM30 FOR 30% OFF YOUR ORDER!

POWER ACCESS
AMERICA'S DURABLE DOOR OPENER™

800-344-0088
sales-int@power-access.com
www.power-access.com

*NEW CUSTOMERS ONLY