

# The Professional Affairs Committee Charge



By Dan Bollman, Vice President APPA Professional Affairs Committee

**A**s I begin my term as APPA Vice President for Professional Affairs, I'm heartened by the knowledge that the Professional Affairs Committee is filled with intelligent, dedicated, and driven facilities professionals who are committed to making our profession the best it can be. My job of presiding over this outstanding group is much easier because of the groundwork for outstanding achievement that has already been put in place by those who have gone before me. I will not enumerate on prior accomplishments; rather I'd like to briefly lay out our goals for the next couple of years.

## OUR CHARGE

The charge of the APPA Professional Affairs Committee as directed by you, our members, through the leadership of APPA, is as follows:

*The Professional Affairs Committee (PAC) has a key role in developing, recommending, and executing best practices within the educational facilities environment. It is a launch platform for vetting of ideas, information, and tools to sustain and enhance organizational and*

*leadership responsibilities. Further, it is responsible for recognition of "institutional" excellence by considering applications for such institutional awards as the Award for Excellence in Facilities management (AFE), the Effective and Innovative Practices (E&I) Award, and the Sustainability Award, as well as recognition of "individual" services and achievement by considering applications for such individual awards as the Meritorious Service Award, the APPA Fellow Award, and the Pacesetter Award.*

This charge translates into two primary sets of responsibilities.

First, we will administer and uphold the integrity of the awards and recognition program. We will continue to use the awards and recognition program as a venue to recognize our members for their leadership, engagement, and collaboration. By focusing on these behaviors, the program will not only support APPA's strategic plan but also create opportunities to share our collective knowledge through positive examples of best practices, devoted service, and innovation. This involves not only carefully reviewing award submissions, but also reviewing and updating the current awards to make sure they remain fair and relevant in our changing profession.

The second PAC responsibility is more loosely defined: PAC is the incubator for new ideas and programs that will support APPA and help to advance the profession. To this end, any number of ideas and initiatives can be vetted through PAC and brought forward for approval by APPA leadership. This happens only after PAC has had a chance to validate the benefits, kick the tires so to speak, and come up with a viable framework for moving the new idea forward. We begin this year by focusing on a few key initiatives.

### *Military Transitions:*

We would like to encourage the transition of military professionals who are exiting the service and



may be interested in a career in educational facilities. Because of the military's emphasis on leadership, work ethic, teamwork, and skills development, it becomes an ideal feeder pool for those exiting the service and looking at higher education as an option.

PAC's role will be to assemble a subcommittee and foster relationships with the Society of American Military Engineers, the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps, and other military organizations to share information, develop relationships, and create a knowledge-sharing environment that fosters an easy transition for those who are interested in transitioning.

If implemented effectively, this will create a win-win-win situation: Higher education will gain the benefit of outstanding, leadership-oriented professionals, APPA will solidify its membership through the infusion of new career-oriented professionals, and a broader pool of individuals whom we serve will gain an opportunity to take advantage of all the benefits that APPA has to offer.

***Partner with Construction Owners Association of America (COAA):***

A second priority will be to explore the benefits of partnering with the Construction Owners Association of America. COAA is a professional organization that focuses on capital project planning, design, and construction. They have excellent innovative course content in construction management and related topics. PAC will assist APPA in creating a partnership with COAA to share course content and identify opportunities for further collaboration.

***Best Practices:***

PAC has a history in developing and promoting best practices within APPA. PAC will continue to look for opportunities to capture and share best practices with our memberships. This will include developing a format for publishing prior Effective and Innovative Practices Award submissions.

***Mentoring:***

APPAs Mentoring Program under the leadership of John Morris is quickly becoming a premier benefit of APPA membership. PAC is committed to supporting this program by assisting

the Mentoring Committee in developing ways to effectively market the program to ensure it remains viable and useful for all members.

**MOST IMPORTANTLY**

Finally, and most importantly, we are here to support APPAs leadership and APPAs members. Our goal is to continue to provide outstanding service to our members through the development of new ideas in support of APPAs Strategic Plan. The list of activities in which PAC can engage will continue to grow as opportunities to support APPAs membership are identified.

We are here to serve you and would love to hear your thoughts and ideas. Please feel free to contact a PAC representative today and share your ideas on how we can provide a better offering to you. ☎

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