

Reflection on an Honor

By Paul Wuebold
Vice President for Professional Affairs



T*empus Fugit* . . . this Latin expression can be translated as “time flies.” How many times have we heard and experienced this truth in our lives? I can attest that for my last three years as APPA Vice President for Professional Affairs, time has definitely flown by. As my term as an APPA officer draws to an end, I wanted to share a few thoughts regarding the Professional Affairs Committee’s recent successes.

This journey started four years ago with a simple question from a close colleague asking if I would be interested in running for this position. After all, I really enjoyed the APPA mission and the APPA members, but initially felt that my relative newness to the organization would not make me the most qualified candidate. However, after research and deliberation, I decided to run for election and thus set off on my three-year adventure.

TAKING STOCK

One of the first things we set out to do was to fully understand what the Professional Affairs Committee’s role is in terms of professional development and member benefits. APPA President Randolph Hare asked us to strip down our responsibilities to the core and then analyze each one to determine if they were “value added.” For the most part, we were the scoring venue for annual APPA individual and institutional awards and recognition.

Peer recognition is extremely valuable in any organization, and there are special bragging rights tied to being the “best of the best.” But we felt that there were many more months of the year that could also be utilized for organizational or member enhancement, so the committee members determined to take a more active, 12-month role in these activities. And now the payoffs are being realized more and more as their ideas become reality. The key to the success of all of the changes and new

programs we introduced is that they are focused on improving both our people and our culture.

DEVELOPMENTS AND CREATIONS

The first action step we took was to establish a new charge and mission statement that would better define the emerging roles the committee has envisioned for our members. 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 the vetting of ideas, information, and tools to sustain and enhance organizational and leadership responsibilities.

Further, it is responsible for recognizing institutional excellence by considering applications for honors such as the Award for Excellence, the Effective and Innovative Practices Award, and the Sustainability Award, as well as recognizing individual service and achievement by considering applications for the Meritorious Service Award, the APPA Fellow designation, and the Pacesetter Award, among others. The number of annual award submissions this year hit a high, which means that many institutions are doing great things worthy of peer recognition. The last few years of PAC have produced many new and important programs for our members.

One of the most significant recent developments was the establishment of a “Best Practices” link on the APPA website. As the PAC scored annual awards submissions, it quickly became obvious that the number of available awards was simply not sufficient to recognize the number of qualified nominees. As such, the PAC felt that establishing a “Best Practices” library would help recognize all the great achievements and innovations our members are pursuing, while helping other members jump-start initiatives at their institutions without reinventing the wheel. Eventually the library will be filled with



many categories of accomplishments, making it easy for members to access and utilize a great deal of valuable information.

Another important development for our members is the planned creation of "Quick Hits" links, enabling many successful institutions to submit programs, presentations, databases, evaluations, and checklists. These quick hits are easily accessed on the PAC webpage and afford members more useful information to help them mature their organization and take it to the next level of success. The most important feature of these items will be that they are transferable, meaning that any institution can easily edit and tailor the information to meet their specific goals.

An authorship program has also been established within the committee in connection with *Facilities Manager* magazine, allowing those on the committee to write relevant, timely, and thought-provoking articles that will be of interest to a wide variety of our members. The articles often touch on hot topics or successful and innovative practices used at their institutions.

Access to important, relevant, and interesting information has been one of the key highlights of PAC's evolution. Beginning very soon, there will be monthly facility manager knowledge quizzes on the PAC webpage. The intent is to increase/confirm individual knowledge of managers' professional roles as well as generate interest and participation in the APPA Certified Educational Facilities Professional (CEFP) program. Equally important in this initiative is to get the members to go to the APPA website often and use it as their go-to source for professional facilities manager information.

Finally, one recent addition to the PAC webpage is an "On This Date" section. Here you will find interesting historical information affecting our professional mechanical, construction, and maintenance world.

TEMPUS FUGIT

I want to extend my personal thanks to those valuable committee members past and present: E. J. Hook, James Harrod, John Michalewicz, Marion Bracy, Ron Tarbutton, Tony Ichsan, Beth Clark, Douglas Laditka, Heather

Hargrave, Jason Wang, Roy Ruiz, and Steven Gasser. Other important members that rotated off the committee were Leon MacLellan, Keith Woodward, David Stapleton, and Luis Rocha. Further, I want to thank APPA Executive Vice President Lander Medlin and her staff, especially Christina Hills, for routine support and advice. Finally, I want to extend my thanks to the APPA voting members who entrusted me to lead this committee. I am proud of our accomplishments, but our work is not done. In July a new VP join the APPA Board, and they will continue to move forward with even more improvements. While I could certainly sum up the last three years with "tempus fugit," it's also true that "time flies when you're having fun!"

I hope to see you all at the APPA Annual Conference in San Francisco, July 21-23. ☺

Paul Wuebold is senior executive director, facilities and grounds at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, AL. He can be reached at pwuebold@fa.ua.edu.

20th ANNUAL ELEVATOR U CONFERENCE

June 19-22, 2017 Hosted by the:



HELD AT THE: BOAR'S HEAD THE OFFICIAL HOTEL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

- Online Registration Now Available
- The trade association for university facilities professionals and elevator shop personnel
- Membership is affordable
- Network with your peers. Learn from those who have been there and done that.
- Hear from experts on common issues and get solutions that work on issues from Maintainability, Specifications and Procurement
- Elevator tradeshow just for universities - One-on-one time with elevator industry vendors
- Silent Auction - Proceeds Donated to EESF



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.ELEVATORU.ORG