



Choose APPA

By Lisa Potter, CEFP

As facilities professionals, our daily lives are incredibly hectic given the work and personal responsibilities and challenges we face every day. Memberships with professional development organizations such as APPA can assist us and give guidance in our work lives (and our personal lives).

APPA membership offers numerous benefits that can increase our effectiveness, efficiencies, and professional development. They keep us up to date with the latest trends and information in our facilities and physical plant field through *Facilities Manager* magazine and the www.appa.org website.

APPA also provides educational and networking opportunities with our peers at APPA U, APPA's annual conference, Drive-In Workshops, Supervisor's Toolkit training and regional conferences, just to name a few. All of these events help us broaden our knowledge,

extend our networks, and help us "sharp the saw," as Stephen Covey characterized it.

GETTING OUT OF YOUR BOX

From my own experience, APPA has provided me with a unique opportunity to guide me and enhance my career. APPA helped me grow as an individual and as a leader by teaching me how to work through my introverted persona. It helped me get out of my box; I am now involved with Rocky Mountain APPA (RMA) as a board member. I co-chaired and hosted the RMA 2013 conference, and I am a qualified trainer for APPA's credentialing program—with a number of classes under my belt. What can APPA do for you, and why choose APPA over other organizations?

APPA offers some specialized opportunities that other organizations do not provide:

Facilities Management Evaluation Program (FMEP):

A team of our peers will come to your institution to review and evaluate your department's programs and resources. Their mission is to:

- Identify and confirm needed resources for your facilities organization
- Place your organization on track to achieve continuous quality improvement
- Identify a path toward excellence for your entire facilities team
- Establish a strategic planning tool
- Help you find ways to exceed customer expectations

Then you can either make the necessary improvements or determine if your organization is ready to apply for APPA's Award for Excellence in Facilities Management.

Award for Excellence: Apply for this prestigious award and be recognized for your team's efforts, hard work, and dedication toward effectiveness in our field.

Credentialing Program: Be recognized for your own accomplishments by becoming certified. This achievement demonstrates your commitment to professional development as well as your time and understanding of our field. Become an Educational Facilities Professional (EFP) or Certified Educational Facilities Professional (CEFP).

APPA U: Two main programs are offered twice a year:

- **Institute for Facilities Management:** A four-track curriculum to help you understand and learn more about each of the following cores: Administration and Management; Main-



tenance and Operations; Planning, Design and Construction; and Energy and Utilities.

- **Leadership Academy:** Enhance and further your leadership capabilities through a four-track curriculum: Individual Effectiveness, Interpersonal Effectiveness, Managerial Effectiveness, and Organizational Effectiveness skills.

Networking: Expand your peer networking to national and international levels. Ask each other questions and provide answers to others via APPA's discussion list, APPAinfo. Give advice, obtain advice. Support and help each other out on tough issues and concerns in our field. Why reinvent the wheel? I'm sure others have come across the same issue and may be able to offer some great solutions. Learn from their

efforts and mistakes and build upon what they are able to provide, and then share the best practices.

Annual Conferences and Regional Conferences: As a member you can attend these annual events at the discounted membership rates. Annual conferences offer professional development sessions as well as an opportunity to meet and exchange information with our business partners.

GET INVOLVED AND SHARE

Renew your membership now and take the opportunity to add additional associates to your membership at no additional fee. Here is your chance to get others involved in APPA—use this as another tool to work with for your succession plans. Support your staff; support your colleagues; support APPA by getting others involved in the association.

Take charge of your career or the professional development of your staff. Reach out to other institutions in your state that are not members and share your experiences to get them interested in joining too. Get more involved with APPA or regional chapters by joining a committee or getting a board member position. Become a Toolkit trainer or a CEFP/EFP trainer. Support a local Drive-In Workshop. Just get involved!

Expand your knowledge and involvement. Share what APPA has to offer—it is an experience you will not forget. ☎

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