

APPA's BOK: Enhancing Knowledge and Reducing the Learning Curve

Part 2—Operations and Maintenance

by Chris Kopach, CEFPP

We are required to have a solid understanding of a vast number of facilities-related topics to reduce operational costs and become more efficient in running our institutional facilities operations. To assist in this requirement, APPA offers its members a number of great tools to enhance the facilities professional's knowledge and reduce their learning curve. One such gem is APPA's Body of Knowledge (BOK.) Divided into four sections, it is the "Holy Grail" for facilities professionals. The BOK is made up of topics that harness the best practices of operations and maintenance professionals everywhere.

USING OUR NETWORK

By making use of its professional network, APPA has been able to harness the knowledge of APPA's past presidents, APPA Fellows, business partners, and its members, thus providing cutting-edge knowledge on a number of complex topics. Authors such as Harvey Kaiser, Douglas Christensen, Steven Thweatt, Gary Reynolds, Alan Bigger, and others are some of the "rock stars" of our facilities field, and they have provided their insight and knowledge to help reduce the learning curve of our members.

In these days of tight budgets, reduced staffing, and additional square footage, APPA's BOK provides a great resource that is only a click away on your computer. The comprehensive coverage of important topics allows us to understand how our facilities departments play a key role in aligning with our universities' overall strategic missions.

The true facilities professional is always learning, and the BOK assists our chief financial officers in making key business decisions based on knowledge, metrics, and best practices regarding facilities operations.

BOK IS AN APPA FOUNDATION

Additionally, the BOK plays a key role in supporting other outstanding APPA services that expand our knowledge and allow us to network with fellow APPA members. These include the APPA Institute for Facilities Management and the online APPA Credentialing Program to become an EFP (Educational Facilities Professional) or CEFPP (Certified Educational Facilities Professional). These certifications are a must for facilities leadership professionals who want to grow their career and take on more responsibilities at their campus. The BOK provides the content and curriculum for the APPA Institute and for these credentialing programs.

As we continue to update the BOK chapters with the most recent and cutting-edge practices, we ask our regions, senior and junior representatives, and our members to get involved by assisting with updating chapters and serving as a resource. If you have a passion for a certain topic within the operations and maintenance section of the BOK, please contact me to learn more about editing or writing a chapter. ☎

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BOK, Part 2, Operations and Maintenance, comprises the following four sections:

■ Plant Management

- Capital Renewal and Deferred Maintenance
- Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity
- Facilities Condition Assessment
- Recapitalization Management
- Work Management

- Building Mechanical Systems

- Elevator Systems

■ Plant Services

- Custodial Services
- Facilities Maintenance and Operations
- Grounds Maintenance and Operations
- Solid Waste and Recycling

■ Building Systems

- Building Architectural and Structural Systems
- Building Control Systems
- Building Electrical Systems
- Building Fire Protection
- Building Interiors

■ Campus Services

- Fire Prevention on College and University Campuses
- Campus Security
- Environmental Health and Safety

BOK

Body of Knowledge

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! APPA is Looking for BOK Authors!

- Are you a good writer and editor, and well organized?
- Are you passionate about the field of educational facilities?
- Do you have a desire to share your knowledge and ideas with your peers?
- Do you want an opportunity to “give back” to the APPA community?

Consider becoming a BOK author, and adding *your* wealth of information to the APPA Body of Knowledge. Your thoughts, insights, knowledge, and experience will be appreciated by everyone using the BOK to do their jobs even better than before.

The Body of Knowledge is built on the foundation of the four core competency areas identified by APPA:

Part 1 – General Administration and Management

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Part 4 – Planning, Design, and Construction

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If you are interested in becoming an author for APPA's BOK, please contact the content coordinator in the core area that best fits you. We are always looking for authors to write, update, or edit chapters. We are also open to adding new subjects and covering new areas of educational facilities management.

We look forward to hearing from you!