Happy New Year ADPA’ers!
I hope you all had a great holiday season. To start, thank you past Board and committee members for your tremendous service the last few years. The group has seen growth not only in individual memberships (> 130) but with our member services. The new Board hopes to continue this trend by improving member services and options in 2018 and beyond. We also hope to query the group in the near future about these benefits.

Looking back on 2017, we had a great ADPA Symposium, Training Day and Social utilizing a corporate partner location (DEMA) and member provided space (SeaLife & SeaWorld Orlando). Please see the annual report for Symposium highlights. The Symposium featured presentations by our Gold Corporate Partners: Aquatic Solutions, Oceanears, and Animal Exhibits and Design. ADPA Silver Corporate Partner Submersible Systems also attended our Social. Many thanks to all of you who presented and were training day instructors; it’s our collective group efforts that make ADPA a success!

I want to welcome our 2018/2019 newly elected Board members. Please help me in congratulating President-Elect, Mauritius Bell, CA Academy of Sciences, Secretary, Jake Emmert, Moody Gardens, and Membership Director, Chip Arnold, Alaska Sea Life. Per our Bylaws, the President appoints the Treasurer and a Director-at-Large. With the support of the newly elected Board members, I have appointed Paul Dimeo, Aquarium of the Pacific, to continue in his role as Treasurer and appointed recent ADPA past President George Peterson, Monterey Bay Aquarium, as Director-at-Large. They have agreed. Their service to the ADPA BoD will provide continuity and experience. I want to thank Arnold Postell for his service as Director-at-Large the last two years. His contributions in this role and as past President have helped grow ADPA professionally.

For those of you who have graciously reached out to help on a committee, I ask for your patience as we transition current projects and responsibilities to the new Board members. This quarter we will be formalizing the committees with new members, committee chairs, and processes, and will reach out to those of you who have contacted BoD members.

To close out my first President’s Corner, I would like to say how honored I am to now be your President. After more than 20 years of BoD service, I consider myself the lucky one to be affiliated with so many fine DSOs and have had the opportunity to watch and contribute to our industry growth. Get ready for a great year!

And as usual... #WTTADPAMF!
2017 ADPA Symposium Scholarship Re-cap!
Lauren Larese, Dive Operations Manager
Bass Pro Shops

Being awarded the ADPA Symposium scholarship is a game changer. It provides the support needed to prove the worth of the dive program to your facility and how attending industry conferences can benefit your program. It’s almost like having your own cheering section. This was amplified for me especially since it was only the second year of the scholarship and the first six months of me being in my position within our company.

Attending Training Day and the Symposium provided me with the opportunity to become a DAN DFA Pro instructor, something my facility had been looking into for some time. Along with completing other courses throughout the week, I was able to meet the many people I see in the email chains and who have answered many of my emails.

There has always been a debate about which part of a conference is more beneficial, the lectures or networking. Although the lectures provided new tips and tricks and at times made me think of entirely new topics I could apply to my facility, I must take the side of networking. After presenting on my facility, almost the entire room was able to offer suggestions and tips to make things operate a bit smoother or more efficiently. I now have quite the collection of business cards that were handed to me along with “call or email anytime.”

Presentation day came with its own set of nerves. Compare it to attending your significant other’s family reunion for the first time. All the cousins, aunts, and uncles trying to learn your story with each being so different in their mannerisms, but all connected by the same goal, being a family. I learned it’s what ADPA truly is, a family that won’t judge (well maybe a little), and will help pick you up and point out the right direction. Now that’s not to say they won’t pick on you or take photos at the most inopportune moment to share with all. I left our social on day 2 certain I could reach out at any time to my new family knowing they have my back and will catch me when I stumble.

Now that I know more of the opportunities provided during this week, I can better plan for next year. The amount of talks/courses and vendors to see were overwhelming for a first timer. Lucky for me though, there were many willing to help me make my plan of attack on the DEMA showroom floor so that no time would be wasted, and no booth left unvisited.

Oh and one more thing….. Bull sharks! Everyone gets a Bull shark!
The ADPA Board of Directors would like to thank all of our Committee members for their help in 2017. We accomplished many of our priorities in 2017 and have plans to continue expanding our member services and offerings in 2018. Please see a summary of each committee’s activities and don’t hesitate to reach out to any Committee Chair or Board member for more information or to get involved.

**2017 ADPA Board of Directors**

George Z. Peterson – President / Monterey Bay Aquarium  
Holly Martel Bourbon – President-elect / National Aquarium  
Katie Shoultz – Secretary / Florida Aquarium  
Paul Dimeo – Treasurer / Aquarium of the Pacific  
Chip Arnold – Membership / Alaska Sea Life Center  
Arnold Postell – Director at Large / South Carolina Aquarium

**External Affairs – Arnold Postell**

Our guiding principles are to enable communication, keep a member focus, provide accessibility, and always consider the value of outreach projects.

In 2017, the External Affairs Committee members attended or presented at:

Regional Aquatics Workshop – Boston, MA  
AZA Mid-Year- Albuquerque, NM  
AZA Annual – Indianapolis, IN  
AZA – Connects magazine, monthly publication

**2017 Committee Members:**

- Arnold Postell – Chair  
- 2015-2017 ADPA BoD  
- Jake Emmert
Communications – Dave DeBoer

The Communications Committee is the single point of contact between the Board of Directors and the members to assist in disseminating vital information to the members in a professional and efficient way. Our main order of business is the production of this quarterly newsletter *Bottom Times* which includes:

- Message from our President
- Industry News and Updates
- DSO & Member Spotlights
- Outreach Updates
- Corporate Sponsor Highlights, Advertising and News
- Employment Opportunities
- DIVE HACKS - Tips for DSOs
- ADPA & DEMA schedules and info
- And more to come!

2018 work plan to include:

- Welcome our new committee member, Mark Lane, Sr. Dive Officer – Cal. Academy of Sciences
- Work more with the External Committee on external messaging and content
- Designing ADPA’s internal and external communications with a “branded” look and feel
- Working with the IT Committee on different BT delivery platforms
- Survey mechanism for BT / member feedback
- Updated ADPA logo & merchandise opportunities

2017 Committee Members:

- David DeBoer - Chair
- Andrew Morgan
- Arnold Postell
- Katie Shoultz
Corporate Partner – Holly Bourbon

While we are eager to build our Corporate Partner support, the committee only approaches and works with CPs who align with the ADPA mission. Our guiding principles are to position ADPA’s importance within the dive industry, leverage collective purchasing power, sell-through brand exposure, and promote positive media impressions.

In 2017, the CP Committee secured the following Corporate Partners:

Gold Partners

DEMA (3rd year) - Diving Equipment and Marketing Association; an international organization dedicated to the promotion and growth of the recreational scuba diving and snorkeling industry.

Aquatic Solutions (2nd year) - For more than 20 years, Aquatic Solutions has provided top quality underwater services such as acrylic buffing, leak detection, and exhibit repair to zoos and aquariums worldwide.

Oceaneers (2nd year) - Founded in 1991, Oceaneers has more than 20 years of experience in the aquatic sound industry and creates high-quality underwater communication devices for all of your aquatic environment needs. This includes underwater speakers and communication systems that can be customized to fit your exhibit, field and animal needs.

Animal Exhibits and Design (Added in Nov for 2018) - Animal Exhibits is our newest Gold Partner and is a full-service exhibit design and fabrication firm that specializes in live-animal habitats and educational materials for zoos, aquariums, and natural history & science museums. They specialize in wet and dry exhibit construction, allowing the rest of your exhibit construction schedule to be flexible.

Silver Partners

Submersible Systems, Inc. - For more than 35 years, Submersible Systems has supplied divers with SPARE AIR’s, the smallest, most-compact redundant system available for out-of-air emergencies. Systems come in multiple sizes to meet your diver and exhibit needs.

2017 Committee Members

- Arnold Postell – Chair
- Holly Bourbon – Co-Chair
- Paul Dimeo
- Todd Hall
- Dave DeBoer
**Symposium – Katie Shoultz**

The 2017 Annual Symposium and Training Day were held in Orlando, Florida on Oct. 30 and 31 with additional ADPA-sponsored activities throughout the week. For the first year, Training Day was held at the Orange County Convention Center, courtesy of Gold Corporate Partner DEMA. Additional sessions were hosted by SeaLife Orlando and the Symposium and Social by SeaWorld Orlando. Thank you to all our hosts! Once again, this year was one of the largest Symposium to date with 71 attendees and more than 40 Training Day participants.

Symposium presentation topics ranged from exhibit construction and renovation projects to tips and tricks unique to diving, with several presenters sharing their success growing their programs and conducting field and conservation work. Symposium minutes, including short presentation summaries and PowerPoints are all available on the member’s only website.

The primary function of the Symposium Committee is to plan and run these annual events in accordance with the guiding principles. We strive for early and comprehensive communication, a strong member focus, and accessibility.

**2017 Committee Members:**

- Katie Shoultz – Chair
- Holly Martel Bourbon - Co-Chair
- Jake Emmert
- Heather Hooper
- Andrew Morgan
- Andrew Solomon
- Ryan Yuen

**Training Day – Paul Dimeo**

A primary function of the Training Day Committee is to plan this annual event in accordance with the guiding principles. For Training Day, we strive to provide fresh, industry-related training opportunities that enhance professional development and accessibility; promotes innovation; all while considering the value of the proposed training curricula and content.

This year we had 43 Training Day attendees at 10 sessions.

**2017 Training Day Courses included:**

- Guardian Full Face Mask Audio-Visual Workshop 101, 102, & 103 – Jeff Christiansen and Joel Hollander - Seattle Aquarium
- Process Mapping and Communication Skills – Angie Bradley-Brown – Florida Aquarium
- DSO Workshop – BOD and ADPA members
- PSI Inspector and Cylinder Handler Refresher Course – Paul Boissinot – Quebec Aquarium
- DAN Instructor Course – Chip Arnold & Katie Shoultz – Alaska Sealife Center and ADPA BoD, respectively
**2017 Committee Members:**
- Paul Dimeo - Chair
- Mark Craven
- Angie Brown
- 2015-2017 ADPA BoD
- Jeff Christiansen
- Joel Hollander
- Scott Chapman
- Paul Dimeo

**Information Technology – Scott Chapman**

The IT Committee is looking forward to another exciting year of DPiC development and public website enhancements. We continually strive to address new feature requests and fix any outstanding bugs in a timely manner to ensure our user base of over 40 institutions has a working product responsive to their needs.

The public website is resting comfortably in its new home at [https://adpa.org](https://adpa.org) and was recently updated with an image highlighting Moody Gardens. We hope to rotate through a series of images throughout the year from various ADPA institutions. If you have a cool image that you’d like to share, please email a copy to support@adpa.org. High resolutions images look best!

Last year we introduced online tools for symposium registration. This year, we will likely build out this platform to enable other types of online payments (e.g., annual dues.) Please continue providing feedback on all online tools. Member insight is instrumental in ensuring DPiC and the public website are robust and reliable resources to help manage our dive programs.

**2017 Committee Members:**
- Scott Chapman – Chair
- Chip Arnold – Co-chair, Google Group and Site
- Daniel Redinger – Co-chair, DPiC and public website development

**Membership – Chip Arnold**

As of this publication, we have 131 active members representing 75 institutions.

Of this, 90 are Professional members and 41 are Associate members.

The membership committee and the BoD have accepted four new members to finish up 2017:

[https://adpa.org/adpa-members/](https://adpa.org/adpa-members/)

**Professional**

- Clint Collins  Diving Logistics Specialist/ADSO - University of Hawaii at Manoa
- John Gorman  Curator of Exhibits - Maui Ocean Center
Associate
Carole Anderson    Independent Contractor/DSO - Aquarium of Niagara
Brittney Fleenor  Zookeeper-Aquarium/ Dive Safety Officer - Fort Wayne Children's Zoo

Thanks to all you committee members (remember: you’re all part of the membership committee) for the recommendations to these folks and keep on promoting ADPA membership.

Past Presidents/Elections – Casey Coy

The following positions were up for election at the end of 2017:

- President-Elect – 4-year term, 2 as president-elect and 2 as president
- Membership Director – 2-year term
- Secretary – 2-year term

Elections were facilitated by an anonymous Survey Monkey poll open to professional members. Voting began on Monday, November 27 and ran through Friday, December 29, 2017.

Election results were as follows:

- President-Elect – Mauritius Bell
- Membership Director – Chip Arnold
- Secretary – Jake Emmert

Congratulations to the winners! The Elections committee would like to thank all the candidates for their participation.

2017 Committee Members:

- Casey Coy – Chair
- Arnold Postell
- Mike Terrell
- Gavin Wuttken
Organization Spotlights – By: Jon Nonnenmacher & Andrew Morgan

Newport Aquarium, Newport KY

The Newport Aquarium in Kentucky first opened in May 1999 and is an AZA-accredited institution. Newport Aquarium is currently owned by Herschend Family Entertainment, which also owns a sister aquarium in New Jersey, the Adventure Aquarium. The Newport Aquarium is known for the first ever shark ray breeding program which started in 2009. In 2013 and 2016 the shark ray named Sweet Pea gave birth to one pup each year, which is the first ever documented shark ray captive breeding event.

The Newport Aquarium dive team started in 2000 and is now being run by Jon Nonnenmacher, Lead Diving Safety Officer. Currently, the team consists of 100 volunteer divers and 12 staff divers. Annually, this crew completes between 750 and 1000 dives ranging in purpose from maintenance, dive shows, mermaid shows, and of course, the trademarked Scuba Santa show.

The famed Scuba Santa program was started in 2003 and is celebrating its 15-year anniversary this year. Scuba Santa has had live segments on the Today Show, Good Morning America, and has even been featured in a New York Times article. Originally, a dive staff member would portray this jolly aquanaut with 11 individuals now rotating to dive in as the big red guy. Scuba Santa can be found daily at the Newport Aquarium starting the day after Thanksgiving through New Year’s Eve. Ho Ho Ho!

When Jon and his team are not suiting up as festive figures, they are collaborating with the Aquarium’s husbandry staff on the shark ray captive breeding program. With the potential stress of containing an individual shark ray, Jon has developed a process of relieving some of this stress that has been admirably coined the ‘Nonnenmacher’. Stay tuned for a presentation on the ‘Nonnenmacher’ at our Annual ADPA Symposium in Las Vegas, November 12-13th, 2018.

The next large project at the Newport Aquarium is the construction of an exhibit named Ring of Fire which is slated to open in March 2018. Jon and his team have been asked to ensure all aspects of this new display be diver-friendly.
ABOUT THE DSO

Jon Nonnenmacher was the kid that would grab a PVC pipe or cut off a part of a garden hose and use that to snorkel in pools. His interest in sustained-underwater submersion started at a young age and continued into his college days at Wright State University, where he completed his initial dive certifications.

Jon’s start in the aquarium dive world began in 2010 when he interned at the Newport Aquarium with the now-DSO of the Cincinnati Zoo, Jen Meeks. During this time as a volunteer and intern, Jon helped to develop some of the shark ray diving protocols and was eventually offered an ADSO position with Jen.

His passion for being up close with exotic creatures and turning a wrench or two keeps the DSO role fresh for Jon as he loves to tinker.

When Jon’s not gallivanting as Scuba Santa or whispering to the sharks and rays, he’s head banging as a member of the KISS ARMY and skull crushing from the couch on Sundays as the Steelers try to be as good as the New England Patriots.
Be Alarmed... VERY Alarmed!

When the pizza that just got delivered is more important than your diver’s low air... yes that happened...

For those of you with Surface Supply Carts and hungry tenders, or just for peace of mind, try adding one of these to your cart to alert topside staff that divers are low on air. The Low Pressure Alarm whistle, from http://www.airgas.com/p/A56AC-PA25 is adjustable down to 500 psi and will alert staff that it’s time to switch tanks or pull the divers up. Complacency is the scourge of our sometimes repetitive work... for $200 & some pipe thread you can dramatically reduce the risk.

Submitted by Dave DeBoer, DSO at Adventure Aquarium

Are you Shure? You should be...

According to Rick Smith, Saint Louis Zoo, Shure Step is an invaluable and modular step system he uses (thanks to a visit to North Carolina AQ) to get divers safely in and out of exhibits that require stepping over acrylic or other obstacles. With the variety of steps and stacking arrangements you’ll have a solution for every application.

https://shure-step.com

Submitted by Rick Smith, DSO / Zookeeper

Have a Hack? Submit your problem solver, or tip to: ddeboer@adventureaquarium.com Include instructions and photos!
Corporate Partner Report

**What is the Be A Diver Pool?**

For Zoos & Aquariums, the Be A Diver® Pool is a great opportunity to not only engage your guests and draw new visitors to your establishment, but also increase media coverage and local interest and exposure.

The Be A Diver® Pool Tour is a year-round, nationwide program that enables targeted potential diving customers to try scuba diving in the warm, safe confines of a four-foot deep swimming pool under professional supervision.

The Be A Diver® Pool travels throughout the United States, making appearances during large-scale events which already attract potential customers who fit the same affluent demographic profile targeted by the diving industry. The Be A Diver® Pool uses a professional New York-based Public Relations firm to help attract media attention as well as potential customers, and is often used by the event to help draw media attention for the event itself.

To learn more, please visit -


http://www.submersiblesystems.com

https://www.diversalertnetwork.org/
OCEAN ENGINEERING ENTERPRISES is a small business that produces high quality “OCEANEARS” underwater speakers, synchronized swimming sound systems, hydrophones, acoustic diver recall systems and U.S. Navy approved diver signaling devices.

We are located in North Canton, Ohio and are proud to say our equipment is MADE IN AMERICA!

O.E. Enterprises is proud to be your source for underwater speaker arrays and diver recall systems. When your aquatic center is in need of a low cost underwater speaker array, give our company a chance to work for you. You will be glad you did.

oceanears.com.
The Remora SOLO is truly THE one-of-a-kind waterproof power cleaning tool, making underwater surface cleaning tasks a breeze. Tough enough to use in both salt- and freshwater environments, the completely self-contained, battery-powered SOLO makes operation safe and convenient with no cumbersome hydraulic hoses or dangerous power cords.  

[Website link](http://www.remoramarine.com/adpa-cp-intro-promo/)
Over 60 Years as an Industry Leader

Sherwood Scuba - Innovation, Quality, Performance for over 60 years. Sherwood Scuba is very pleased to be celebrating sixty years in the diving industry. Sixty years is a long time for any company to be in business and in the scuba diving industry, only a handful of companies that have been around that long. Sherwood Scuba is one of those companies and it didn’t happen by accident. The companies that have lasted are still here because they build quality products, they continue to listen to the needs of their customers, and they have an unending passion for what they do: building safe, reliable dive equipment.

www.sherwoodscuba.com/
Newsletter Info

*Bottom Times* is the quarterly newsletter of the Association of Dive Program Administrators. Please submit jobs, ideas, and other info to the communication committee one month before the next release date.


Communication Committee

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Dave DeBoer</td>
<td>Adventure Aquarium</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ddeboer@adventureaquarium.com">ddeboer@adventureaquarium.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-Chair</td>
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<td>Katie Shoults</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
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Board of Directors

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<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Email</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Holly Martel Bourbon</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>President- Elect</td>
<td>Mauritius Bell</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Jake Emmert</td>
<td>Moody Gardens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director-at-Large</td>
<td>George Peterson</td>
<td>Monterey Bay Aquarium</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gpeterson@mbayaq.org">gpeterson@mbayaq.org</a></td>
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ADPA Website  [www.adpa.org](http://www.adpa.org)

ADPA Google Group  [https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/adpa](https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/adpa)  (Member Access Only)