

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's Message

By Brian Timm, Director of Facilities at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium



Greetings from Omaha, Nebraska where we have flood warnings and Thunderstorms. To say we have been busy here at the zoo would be a huge understatement. We have opened two major projects; a new guest services area, called Glacier Bay Landing in April and Asian Highlands in

May. We have also just completed our AZA accreditation inspection. Now it is time to come up for air and get back to normal operations. All three of these events could not have happened without the incredible contributions from the facilities staff members. In many ways, they are the backbone of making things a success and these efforts should not go unrecognized. This is not unique to any one zoo or aquarium as we all play a major role in the achievement of the mission of our institutions. I am honored to be a part of these successes through the leadership of the AZFA.

"Leaders are made, they are not born." said football coach Vince Lombardi. So where does one find a good source for developing leadership? The AZFA Board of Directors is an ideal school for putting in the effort to achieve a goal that is worthwhile. Most past and present members of the AZFA

Board signed up out of a sense of responsibility and passion for job that they do. I wonder how many considered that Board service results in enhanced skill to support personal and career growth in their organizations. Board service has high rewards with minimal to no risk involved (unless you are like me and spend several hours trying to get The Outlet articles just right). The experience is an opportunity for learning an array of leadership skills that will have long term benefits. Please consider becoming a part of the AZFA Board through the election and nomination process as we approach the annual conference in Oklahoma City in October. The Education Committee has added a session topic surrounding the duties and details of each of the Board positions, so be sure to check it out if you want to learn more.

The annual conference continues to take shape through the efforts of Tommy Bryant and the many committee members involved. The registration forms are on the AZFA website and we are starting to get attendees signing up. The theme of this year's conference is Animal Welfare and you will see that in several the educational sessions. Some of the confirmed session topics this year are: OSHA 10, Elephant Herpes, Accreditation Standards, Holding Spaces, Creating Accessible and Inclusive Facilities, Risk Assessment and Basic ICS. These are just a few topics for all of you to consider. Take time to talk to other members or presenters to get the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

In This Issue...

President's Message	1-2
The Green Scene	3
AZFA Nominations 2019	4-6

2019 Annual Conference.....	8
New Members.....	9
Editors Note.....	9

information on those sessions that you are unable to attend. Let's continue to make this the best conference to date.

On a personal note, I would like to announce that after eight years I will be leaving Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium. I am excited to be joining the team at the Houston Zoo as the Senior Director of Campus Maintenance. I would like to thank Omaha for giving me the opportunity to lead the Facilities Department and for the support given to the AZFA. My new journey will begin in late July. I am looking forward to this new opportunity and will continue to be involved in the AZFA.



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The Green Scene

By Sam Peterson, Sustainability Coordinator & Office Manager, San Antonio Zoo & Aquarium

Inspired by the Australian-founded initiative and co-hosted by Calgary Zoo and the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Plastic Free July is a 31-day international challenge to reduce and refuse single-use plastics. In 2018, a coalition of North American zoos and aquariums (including the San Antonio Zoo) partnered with Northwest Earth Institute to create an online EcoChallenge platform that allowed participants to choose action pledges, monitor their progress, and track their collective impact throughout the month. Categories for the challenge were food, personal care, community, lifestyle, and create your own, and featured actions like refusing straws at restaurants, carrying reusable bags and beverage containers, and purchasing products without plastic packaging.

Last year there were 5,242 participants on 78 teams from the zoo and aquarium community. Overall, they saved 35,383 plastic straws; 37,174 pieces of plastic cutlery; 28,166 plastic bottles; 17,776 plastic containers; and 14,776 disposable cups worth of waste not sent to the landfill! Our zoo's team, the San Antonio Zoo Crew, had 147 members and finished the challenge in 17th place with 25,279 points. Our impact included:

- 1,033 pieces of plastic cutlery; 808 plastic bottles; 294 plastic containers; 701 plastic straws; and 306 disposable cups not sent to the landfill
- 88 hours of volunteerism
- 53 petitions signed
- 1,407 pieces of litter picked up
- 15 community events
- 202 zero-waste meals consumed

Due to the success of 2018's challenge, this year's Plastic Free July was open to participants outside the zoo and aquarium industry as well. The online platform is easy to use and encourages participants to share their experiences on the feed and across social media. The San Antonio Zoo Crew participated again this year. The challenge is a fun way to learn about sustainability while fostering teamwork and encouraging connections with other participants across the industry. Let's keep the spirit of Plastic Free July going all year long and let's kick the plastic habit!

Meet the Candidates: AZFA Nominations 2019

The following positions are open for election this year. Voting will be held during the Business Meeting on Monday morning at the annual conference in Oklahoma City. Members who are unable to attend the conference may mail their ballots in advance. Ballots will be available via e-mail and the website later this summer.

President-Elect

John Kanzia, Brookfield Zoo

I began my career as a Water Quality Volunteer at the John G. Shedd Aquarium in the late 1990's while attending the University of Illinois at Chicago in pursuit of a Bachelor's Degree in Biological Sciences. At Shedd, I discovered my passion for aquatic life support system design and operation, as well as the science and technology behind maintaining the environments for the collection animals that we exhibit in our zoos and aquariums. After nearly ten years at Shedd, the opportunity arose to spread my wings and take an open Environmental Quality Manager position with the Brookfield Zoo. I now oversee the Brookfield Zoo's Environmental Quality Program, utilizing a collection of over 30 pieces of equipment and working with facilities staff, keepers, curators, and veterinarians to optimum habitat conditions for our collection.



As a dedicated member of the Aquarium & Zoo Facilities Association since 2006, I have served on a variety of different committees, including the Conference Committee, the Site Selection Subcommittee, the Publications & Website Committee, and the Website Administrator. I have also served on the AZFA Board of Directors as the Vice President and most recently the Director at Large. I've seen some exciting new changes over the last decade, and would be honored to do my part to help keep the AZFA moving forward. Thank you for your consideration!

Vice President

Fred Ramey, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium



Fred Ramey is the Operations Manager of the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium in Tacoma Washington where he oversees the facility maintenance, new construction, grounds, custodial, safety, and security. He has worked at the PDZA since January 2016, and before that spent nearly 8 years working in Construction Project Management and Facility Management for the Washington Army National Guard. Fred is a graduate of the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School and is a Logistics Officer as well as a Public Affairs Officers in the Army National Guard. He is a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, has a Master Degree in Public Administration and is completing a Graduate Certificate in Environmental Sustainability. Fred lives with his daughter, son, dog, and cat and takes advantage of all that living in the Pacific Northwest has to offer to hike, camp, and adventure.

Vice President

Sean Woods, Louisville Zoo



Sean Woods is the Facilities Operations Manager for the Louisville Zoo. His primary areas of responsibility include the Maintenance, Horticulture, Life Support, and Safety Departments. Sean began his work career at the Zoo as a seasonal Guest Services employee when he was in high school. After working in several different departments, Sean left the Zoo and was the Facilities Manager for downtown Louisville Metro Buildings. After working this job for several years and earning his Project Management Certification, Sean was thrilled to receive an opportunity to go back to the Zoo in a role he was very passionate about. Sean joined the AZFA several years ago when he returned to the Zoo and has enjoyed the opportunity to meet so many people and learn about the amazing things other zoos do around the country.

Secretary

Dean Violetta, Cincinnati Zoo



Dean Violetta, a University of Cincinnati alum, has worked on Zoo projects for the past 26 years and the last 16 of those years as the main architectural contact as vice president of Cornette/Violetta Architects. His Zoo-based architectural design experience also includes projects for the Nashville Zoo, Riverbanks Zoo, and Detroit Zoo. For the past 4 years, Dean has served as the Director of Planning and Exhibit Design at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. Dean coordinates all master planning and long range vision planning while arming the Zoo with the knowledge and experience necessary to continue as leaders in Zoological & Exhibit design.

Director-at-Large

Allmon Forrester, John Ball Zoo



The zoo world was nowhere on my radar as I was planning my career goals, but it has been more rewarding than any career I could have imagined, except for maybe a professional athlete. I have spent the last 19 years with the coolest job at John Ball Zoo. I oversee the Facility Maintenance Department, Building and Grounds Department, security and serve as owners' representative for capital projects at the Zoo. In total now, I have over 30 years' experience in almost every arena of site management including facilities, construction, grounds, housekeeping and planning. Because we are a mid-size zoo in Grand Rapids, Michigan, I also wear other hats serving as Safety Officer and senior staff member mentoring the Green Team, Communications Committee and Training Committee and whatever else needs to be addressed.

Sustainability is one of my core values and I consider myself a 'meat and potato tree hugger' but the ones I hug the most are my wife of 30 years, 3 married children and 7 grandkids. My hobbies pretty much are what my kids need me to do: home renovation, babysit, granddog sit, projects, etc.

I hold degrees in Horticulture, Landscape Architecture and Sustainable Business Professional Certification. Since 2001, I have been a professional member of the AZA and professional member of the AZFA since 2007. In addition to the honor of the Presidency last year, I have worked on a few AZFA Committees for the past 5 years, serving as Chair of Conservation Committee for 2 years and currently Chair the Program and Education Committee.

It has been a real pleasure to be involved in the AZFA. The friends I have met, places that we have been, will always hold a special place with me. With the years I have been in the facilities community and the zoo world, I feel fortunate and well positioned to give back. I look forward to serving the AZFA and its members in any capacity that I can.

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Quick Look: Highlights of the Annual Conference in Oklahoma City October 20th – 23rd

- Host: Oklahoma City Zoo
- Hotel: Marriott Renaissance – discount AZFA rate of \$129/night available until September 27, 2019
- Pre-Conference Outing: Topgolf – Sunday, October 20th (lunch included)
- Ice Breaker: Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum – Sunday, October 20th (dinner included)
- Trade Show and Educational Sessions: Monday the 21st – Tuesday the 22nd
- Theme: Animal Welfare
- Zoo Day: Followed by Banquet and Silent Auction – Wednesday, October 23rd
- Post-Conference Tour: Tulsa Zoo – Thursday, October 24th (lunch included)

Online registration is open at www.azfa.org. Note that attendees must be current members to register for the conference; please contact Membership Administrator Sam Peterson (sam.peterson@sazoo.org) if you need assistance renewing your membership.

We look forward to seeing you in Oklahoma City!



WE NETWORK - WE BUILD - WE PROTECT

New Members

Professional

Susan Barton, John G. Shedd Aquarium

Martin Hayes, Preventative Maintenance Manager, Houston Zoo

Robert Velazquez, Houston Zoo

Chris Davis, Bermuda Aquarium Museum and Zoo

S. Simons, Safety & Risk Manager, Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens

Chris Emmet, Life Support/Facilities Technician, Alaska SeaLife Center

Stanley Chapin, Retired Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

Patrick Starnes, VP, Construction & Facility Operations, Georgia Aquarium

Beth Rich, Zoo Keeper, San Diego Zoo Global

Florence Tang, Houston Zoo

Roy Greer, Maintenance Supervisor, Abilene Zoo

Jason Parks, Maintenance Technician, Abilene Zoo

Associate

Dr. Neha Shah, Highway Construction Company

Commercial

Ross Bloom, Owner, BYXS Commercial

Brian Connelly, CEO, CTK Aquatics

William Murry, Vice President, Thermeq

Tabitha Jordan, Sales Executive/Marketing, Polygem Epoxy

Kelly Bair, President, Nets Unlimited

Calendar

Deadline for articles for the next newsletter:
October 22nd 2019

Annual Conference: October 20th - 23rd, Oklahoma City Zoo, Oklahoma City, OK

Publication Schedule

- Summer Issue - July
- Fall Issue - October
- Winter Issue - January
- Spring Issue - April

www.azfa.org

Don't forget to check out the AZFA website for updates and news.

Website Administrator

John Kanzia, john.kanzia@czs.org

Membership

Membership Administrator

Samanthe Peterson, sam.peterson@sazoo.org

Editor's Note

By Jennifer Golden, Operations Project Manager, Zoo New England

I am sure many facilities have recently celebrated the opening of a new exhibit. Whether this was an in-house remodel of an existing exhibit space or a large scale new construction project our members want to hear about it. Share your experience and spotlight the new addition to your zoo or aquarium. Please send your articles with pictures to jgolden@zoonewengland.com