



# Regional Conference Reports

# 2015



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Embracing the emphasis on change from last year's conference, Greg Adams, Dawn Aguilera, and Rick Koehler of the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, hosted a lively 2015 MAPPA Conference. Held September 20-24 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the conference was nothing short of consequential.

Keynote speaker Kevin Brown initiated the conference with an enthusiastic and humorous talk on how we can be daily heroes. Supporting the facility services ideal to provide outstanding customer service, Brown shared about how everyday experiences can become opportunities to create the best possible outcomes.

Participants attended trainings on “Creating a People-Centered Organization” and “Achieving Institutional Goals through Facilities,” which emphasized the importance of customer service—both internal and external—to facility operations. The Big Ten Trainers Network, which tackles topics on training facility professionals, again joined MAPPA along with the Big Ten and Friends Conference, which facilitates idea sharing and networking for regional custodial professionals.

APPA President Peter Strazdas (Western Michigan University) and APPA Executive Vice President Lander Medlin joined the MAPPA fun this year with updates from APPA. Strazdas focused on the importance of member engagement and collaboration.

MAPPA transitioned 10 leadership positions at this year's conference. Most notable were the musical transitions of MAPPA President Mike Hamilton (Iowa State University) and Professional



2015-16 MAPPA Officers.



MAPPA President Greg Adams.

Development Chair Dana Gillon (University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign). Hamilton spectacularly executed an a capella rendition of “My Way” by Frank Sinatra, and Gillon's team celebrated via flash

mob—which included MAPPA leadership—after Tuesday's president's speech.

Greg Adams (Marquette University) is now MAPPA president; Mike is MAPPA past-president; Dana is MAPPA treasurer; and Tim Thimmesch (Grand Valley State University) was welcomed as president-elect.

MAPPA facilitated the donation of almost \$1,000 for the Sojourner Family Peace Center during the conference. President's Awards were received by Kristie Kowall (Illinois State University), Dana Gillon, and Jim Bogan (University of Wisconsin). Outgoing board member awards went to Brandon Baswell (Michigan State University), Ruthann Manlet (University of Minnesota), and Dana Gillon.

The president's reception and dinner ended with an inspiring speech from newly elected President Greg Adams. MAPPA's goal, to “steadfastly promote diversity in our leadership and membership,” was the highlight of his talk. Adams related his experience



MAPPA certified trainers for Supervisor's Toolkit (Karen Walker, Mario Barcena, Ruthann Manlet, Shoko Miyagi).

Photos by Margaret Hamilton.

from facilities departments in multiple universities to MAPPA's and APPA's rich resources for developing people and their careers within the profession of educational facilities management.

## THE 2015-2016 MAPPA OFFICERS

President—**Greg Adams**, Marquette University

President-Elect—**Tim Thimmesch**, Grand Valley State University

Secretary—**Bob Currie**, Iowa State University

Treasurer—**Dana Gillon**, University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign

APPA Senior Representative—**Kristie Kowall**, Illinois State University

APPA Junior Representative—**Lowell Bromander**, Hamline University

APPA Liaison—**Suzanne Healy**

To view MAPPA's website and find a complete listing of the board of directors, please go to <http://www.appa.org/regions/mappa.cfm>.

**2016 CONFERENCE: October 1-5, 2016 - Des Moines, Iowa**