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<http://www.aema.com>



An Association of Members of the Accessibility Industry

# AEMA News Bites

## President's Message (Winter 2017)

**Dear AEMA Members,**

I want to thank the membership for the honor of serving as your president this past year. Rick Crane, of Bella Elevator, is excited to assume your president role for the 2018 year, beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> (read Rick's message in this newsletter).

AEMA had several positive accomplishments this year and we also experienced a couple surprises. Our code committee members have dutifully participated in our pertinent code committee meetings, with our accessibility & residential lift industry representation clearly in mind. AEMA member Bill Richardson, of Savaria, has graciously accepted the A117.1 code committee representation for AEMA this year, replacing member Scott Cleary, who was our representative over the last couple years (thank you, Scott). This A117.1 committee position takes a person with in depth knowledge of how our industry ties in with our other pertinent codes (A18.1, A17.1, ADA, Electrical, State & Local). Significant hours of time are spent, during the A117.1 code committee meetings, going through many subjects not applicable to our industry, just to make sure when a subject pertinent to our industry does come up, we are properly represented. AEMA members in our other pertinent code committees obviously make sure we are properly represented as well. They all communicate together to make sure we continue to have forward progress in our industry

We also had activity, throughout the year, in our board meetings, & with our members, in the other areas that we continually monitor, including House Bill Tracking/Communication, Membership Services, Public Relations & inquiry Communication & Education/Technical. We continue to make sure our membership is served properly.

Our surprises this year were missing the opportunity to gather together at our Annual General Meeting (AGM), during the 2017 NAEC convention, due to hurricane Irma & the unexpected passing of our AEMA treasurer, Alan Jensen. We look forward to re-convening at our 2018 AGM & I report that our financial position is in the black, for the 2018 year.

We hope everyone enjoys the holidays and AEMA looks forward to serving you in the new year.

Best Regards,

Don Zimmerman, (outgoing) President

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## AEMA Code Updates – December 2017

(This is an overview only – please consult the actual code documents for the specific requirements.)

**The most significant change is the ¾ and 4 rule for Private Residence elevator hall doors. Several States are now in the process of adopting these changes, or making changes to the existing rules to deal with this issue.**

**We urge all contractor members to either order elevators compliant with the new standard, or to watch their State requirements carefully to ensure that they have compliant elevators when required.**

### 1. New Version of A17.1 – 2016 was published in Nov 2016

#### Section 5.2 – LULA Elevators

No major changes

#### Section 5.3 – Residence Elevators

- Revision adding maximum deflection requirements for Accordion style car gates – 5.3.1.8.2
- **Major Revisions to the 3 & 5 rule – now ¾ & 4. This change also provides information on where clearances are to be measured depending on the specific hall door/car gate combination provided – 5.3.1.7, 5.3.1.8.3**
- New requirements added for Elastomeric Buffers – 5.3.1.14
- Changes made to the Emergency Signaling Device Section – 5.3.1.19

### 2. New Version of the A117.1-2017 – Standard for Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities published in May 2017.

Highlights of Changes to Sections 407 – 410)

#### Section 407 – Elevators

- 407.4 Minimum Dimensions of Elevator Cars Chart updated
- 407.4.6 Updates to maximum button heights
- 407.4.7 Updates to floor designation requirements
- 407.4.9 Update to Car Position Indicator character heights
- 407.4.10 Update to Emergency Communication Instruction requirements – Braille

#### Section 408 – LULA Elevators

- with new requirements for New and Existing Buildings

#### Section 409 – Private Residence Elevators

- No Technical Changes

#### Section 410 – Platform Lifts

- 410.5 Updates to Minimum Clear Floor space requirements for New buildings vs Existing Buildings (36” x 52” vs 36” x 48”)

## AEMA Code Updates – December 2017 - Continued

1. **New Version of A18.1 – 2017** will be published prior to the end of 2017

### Highlights of Changes

- **Additio1. New Version of A18.1 – 2017** will be published prior to the end of 2017

### Highlights of Changes

- Addition of Engineering Tests to Sections 9 & 10
- Re-locatable Lifts added to the Scope of A18 complete with requirements
- Revisions to Section 2,3,5,6 & 12 – Maintenance
- Updating of References – Table 1.5-1
- Revision to 2.1.1.7 – Platform mounted Sidewalls of Stationary Runway Sidewalls
- Revisions to 2.11.1 and 3.11.1 – Emergency Signals and Audio Alarms
- Revision to 7.8 – Safeties and Governors

### **Some active Project Teams**

Inspection Guide  
Performance area lifts  
Runway door unlocking devices  
Manual operation  
IPL emergency alarms

## **Ron & Marsha Rucker – DC Elevator Spotlight**

From its headquarters in Lexington, Kentucky, the heart of the Bluegrass Region, **DC Elevator Company** serves its customers in all matters of vertical transportation. Specializing in service and repair of elevators of all brands, while also offering construction and modernization, the employee-owned company has prevailed over the last four decades.

The Lexington company has representations in Louisville, Florence, Hazard, and Paducah, and a Charleston, WV, branch office. Its operators, **Ron and Marsha Rucker**, are likely not strangers to you. As owners of Progressive Elevators, they served commercial and residential customers for over a decade, before Progressive became a part of the DC Elevator family in 2015.



With over 30 years in the construction and elevator industries, **Ron Rucker** now serves as the West Virginia area manager. His previous experience, working alongside his father in the construction trade gives him a broad background in construction and project management. Upon his father's retirement, he succeeded as President and expanded E.P. Rucker Contracting to include metal building sales and construction.

During his 30 plus years in the building trade, hoistway construction projects continued to be at the forefront leading to an extensive knowledge base for elevator installation and repair. By 2005, Progressive Elevators was founded and within two years, became his main focus. He holds a CAT-S, along with a West Virginia and Kentucky Mechanic's license. Concentration on sales and project management, with a specialization in commercial accessibility & residential elevator products, including LULA Elevators, has proven elemental for the success of the business.

## Ron & Marsha Rucker – DC Elevator - Continued Spotlight

As an AEMA and NAEC member, past member of the ABC-ECC Board of Directors, Ron is **currently serving on the 2017-19 AEMA Board of Directors**. His experience in the industry and as President of Progressive Elevators makes him a welcome addition.

His wife, **Marsha**, holds an ADN from the University of Charleston, and an RBA from WV State College. She serves DC Elevator as a Sales and Marketing Coordinator, and has been a part of the industry since 2005. As co-owner and Vice President of Progressive Elevators, she has been a member of AEMA and ABC-ECC. She co-chairs and has served on NAEC's Accessibility and Residential Committee.

Ron's and Marsha's know-how and experience will help to grow the accessibility business in all states DC Elevator currently services. The customer trust and satisfaction built by DC Elevator's staff are already key elements to a mutually beneficial long-term business relationship, and – as the 2017 40th company anniversary proves – the key to success.

### Article on Women with Disabilities

#### Women live longer, but not as well as men, in their golden years, study finds

By Carina Storrs, Special to CNN - Updated 5:16 PM ET, Thu March 17, 2016

Do this at 50 and you could live to 100 01:31

#### Story highlights

- Women live longer than men, but they suffer more disabilities, new study finds
- About 24% of women 65 and older in the United States had a disability in 2011 compared with 17% of men

(CNN)Although women continue to have a longer life expectancy than men, they are now living worse and suffering more disabilities in their golden years, a new study finds.

Researchers compared data from studies of people 65 and older and enrolled in Medicare that were done in 1982, 2004 and 2011. The studies surveyed participants about whether a disability kept them carrying out various daily activities, and then followed the participants in the years following the survey to determine their mortality rate.

The researchers found that between 1982 and 2011, the number of additional years that women at age 65 could expect to live increased by two years, from 18.5 years to 20.5 years, while the life expectancy of men at age 65 increased by five years from 14 to 19 years.

More striking was the improvement in how men spent their golden years. Whereas women at age 65 were estimated to spend 30% of their remaining years with a disability in both 1982 and 2011, the proportion of the time left that men at 65 would have a disability decreased from 22% in 1982 to 19% in 2011.

#### [Can your address predict your premature death?](#)

The researchers considered an individual as having a disability if they reported that a disability or health problem prevented them from doing at least one of their normal activities, such as eating, shopping for groceries and getting out of bed.

"Despite the fact that women live more years than men, they can expect fewer active years," said Vicki A. Freedman, a research professor at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, and lead author of the study, which was [published on Thursday in the American Journal of Public Health](#).

It came as a surprise to see that men and women traded places between 1982 and 2011, and that men started to surpass women in terms of disability-free years, Freedman said.

## Article on Women with Disabilities - Continued

### [Old school: UCLA's course on aging for freshmen](#)

For both genders, trends in disabilities were moving in the right direction between 1982 and 2004. The number of women and men age 65 who experienced a physical limitation dropped from 25.8% to 20.2% and from 22.3% to 15.5%, respectively. But then from 2004 to 2011, the number leveled off for men and actually climbed back up to 24.2% for women.

"The reasons are likely to be complex," Freedman said.

"Men and women certainly experience different health conditions later in life and maybe we are getting better at treating health conditions that men have," she said. It is possible that there has been more progress in treating heart disease, which disproportionately afflicts men, than conditions such as arthritis that tend to affect women, she added.

Another reason could have been differences in the health behavior of the older adults who made up the survey cohort in 2011 compared with previous years.

For one, cigarette smoking had increased among women but decreased among men in previous decades. In addition, "older women on average have fewer economic resources than men," and thus could have been less able to maintain their health, Freedman said.

Looking on the bright side, Freedman pointed out that there at least was not an increase in recent years in the number of people with severe disability, defined as those who were unable to carry out at least three different activities. In 2004 and 2011, about 10% of women and 7% of men fell into this category, down from 13.2% of women and 10.7% of men in 1982.

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### Join the conversation

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Part of the reason that older women are more likely to have disabilities is that "women are just living longer regardless of the disability," said Jen'nan Read, an associate professor of sociology and global health at Duke University who was not involved in the study. "Whereas for men, there's a selection effect going on in that those making it to the oldest ages are the healthiest," she added.

No one really seems to understand why women appear more able to keep on ticking through physical adversity, although a number of gender differences could be at play, Read said.

"As the population is aging, and women are more likely to live longer, it has huge implications for [women's] quality of life. They live longer and have poor quality of life years and also tend to be less likely to have the social and economic resources to deal with these problems," Read said.

As the [baby boomer generation ages](#), it is expected that 20% of the population will be 65 and older in 2030, compared with 15% in 2015.

"We need systems in place, such as assisted living facilities, nursing homes and home help programs, but we are nowhere near the level we would need as this population of baby boomers explodes in the next 10, 20, 30 years," Read said.

## Message from Rick Crane

Dear AEMA Members,

As 2018 fast approaches, I am very excited to assume the role of AEMA President, realizing full well that I have big shoes to fill when compared to recent past presidents, such as Don Zimmerman and Mark Townshend who have done so much for the organization.

With that said, I am just going to jump into the water and see if I can swim, and hopefully the board will keep me from drowning.

To start, I am going to repeat a question I posed during my last newsletter address: How does our industry association continually add value to its members?

While it's important we hold fast to the values that have defined our industry, we must also challenge AEMA to remain relevant, focused on topics and issues that drive all of our businesses and our industry forward and safeguard them against threats.

It's in all of our long term, vested interests to not only answer these questions but to invest in the solutions so that we may continue to thrive as an industry.

Thus, kicking off 2018, I look forward to speaking with each of you, and I welcome your candid feedback and participation, as we work to make the Aema organization, and the accessibility industry as a whole, even better tomorrow than we find it today.

Take care,  
Rick Crane

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### New Board Members

James Boydston	Handi-Lift	Carlstadt, NJ
Kurt Frieztzsche	Pacific Elevator	Palo Alto, CA
Bill Stratton	Inclinators	Harrisburg, PA

### Returning Board Members

Rick Crane	Bella Elevator	Peoria, IL
Ron Rucker	DC Elevator	Charleston, WV
Mark Townshend	Garaventa Lift	Surrey, BC