

## TRAIN THE TRAINER RECAP

Thank you to everyone who joined us Aug. 20-21 at ASSA ABLOY Entrance Systems for AAADM's annual Train the Trainer event. This two-day gathering brought together new and experienced trainers to share ideas and sharpen skills for teaching classes on swing, slide, fold, and revolving doors.

AAADM certifies more than 1,000 new inspectors each year. The quality of our trainers is crucial for the program's success. This year's group of more than 50 attendees represented an incredible 836 combined years of automatic door experience—a true testament to the expertise within our community.

We were proud to recognize Todd Strickler of Stanley Access Technologies with the AAADM Service Award for his outstanding work on the training PowerPoint now used industrywide. This resource has become an essential tool for all AAADM trainers during certification courses across North America.

The event also marked a fond farewell to Dave Timmerman as he enters retirement. On day two, participants celebrated Dave's legacy with "Aloha Thursday," a fun tradition he co-founded in which the ASSA Product Support and Engineering team wears Hawaiian shirts on Thursdays. We thank Dave for his decades of dedicated service to AAADM and the automatic door industry.

Looking ahead, the 2026 Train the Trainer will be hosted by Door Controls USA on August 19-20 in Ben Wheeler, Texas. A save-the-date has already been sent to all AAADM trainers—we look forward to seeing everyone again next year!



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# INDUSTRY UPDATE

In an industry built on motion, 2025 was a year of meaningful forward steps for AAADM and the automatic door community. Change is a constant in our world—but as we like to say, when one door closes, another opens... automatically.

The year began with a renewed emphasis on competence and accountability. Inspectors completed their annual certification renewal testing through MyAAADM.com, our online testing portal that simplifies access and helps ensure consistency in the field. It was also the first full year under our new Certification Chair, Marcus Keenan, a three-decade industry veteran and codes and product compliance manager at STANLEY Access Technologies. His leadership is helping keep safety standards strong and current as technology and codes evolve.

In March, we once again celebrated National Automatic Door Day, this time under the theme "Everyday Magic." Through a lighthearted social media campaign, we reminded the public how automatic doors quietly transform daily life—evoking everything from sci-fi "Force" powers to witches, wizards, and Hogwarts. That moment when a door opens hands-free remains a small but powerful reminder of accessibility, convenience, and a bit of modern magic.

AAADM also deepened its commitment to safety and accessibility for students by joining PASS, the Partner Alliance for Safer Schools. By collaborating with educators, public safety officials, and industry partners, we are helping promote proven security and accessibility practices in K-12 environments, where automatic doors play a crucial role in balancing secure entry with inclusive design.

Leadership changes marked another major milestone. We thanked outgoing president and long-time industry contributor Dave Timmerman as he retired to the American Southwest, and welcomed incoming president Paul Durgin. A senior technical specialist in automatics at dormakaba USA, Inc., Paul has been a key AAADM leader, known for championing compliance, technician training, and innovation. His priorities as president center on strong standards, robust inspector education, and an unwavering focus on safety and technological advancement.

Other highlights included the launch of our IBC Adoption Tracker, monitoring state adoption of IBC 1105.1.1, and commemorating the 80th anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month—recognizing that automatic doors have supported workplace accessibility from the very beginning. Throughout the year, we also spotlighted how automatic doors support secure, hygienic healthcare environments, efficient foodservice operations, and everyday independence for people with disabilities worldwide.

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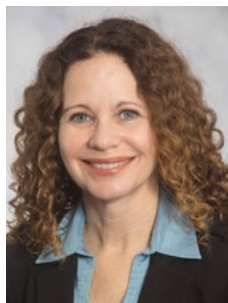
*"This abstract only scratches the surface. We encourage you to read the full [2025 Year in Review](#) on our website—where it's easy to share with colleagues and post on your favorite social media platforms—to see the complete picture of how our industry continues to open doors to a safer, more accessible future."*

*– Joe Zgrabik,  
Account Executive,  
Thomas Associates/AAADM*



# AAADM COMMITTEE UPDATES

AAADM has formed committees to oversee and develop various projects. Following is a summary of some recent committee activity:



## Marketing Committee

CHAIR: KAREN MASLOW

The Marketing Committee continues to strategically release relevant content across our various platforms, with a regular schedule of blogs and news

items, legislative updates, and, of course, social media. We've made it our mission to reach building owners, facility managers, architects, and general contractors via messaging that focuses on automation and equal access, modern aesthetics, and AAADM members' safety and maintenance leadership.

In Q3, our press release efforts alone garnered nearly 87,000 impressions in online pickups, based on published reach or page view data. Social media reached tens of thousands more. In Q2 we also added social media advertising as an ongoing part of our media mix. These include LinkedIn and Facebook posts in conjunction with Architectural Products and Building Design + Construction magazines.

All AAADM members can help us foster engagement and awareness by LIKING AND SHARING AAADM content. Following our blogs and sharing new postings is also important. Our blogs always include links so members can push out content via their own socials.

When members band together to share content, it amplifies the work the association is doing to shine a light on automatic doors and our industry. Many of our messages cover important topics such as the ADA, school access, voting access, and others. A more engaged membership helps make real change.

We encourage everyone to help us get the word out!



Like and share content as it amplifies our message and raises awareness about the industry, which helps all of us.



## Certification Committee

CHAIR:  
MARCUS KEENAN

**Certification Renewal Window Closes Jan. 31; Multilingual Tests Make Formal Debut**

The renewal window for AAADM

Certified Inspectors is now open. ALL Inspectors are required to take a renewal test each year and pay their annual fees, which can be done via MyAAADM.com. Please note that the renewal window will close on January 31, 2026.

Renewal requires passing a 10-question test. The ten questions are drawn at random from our existing bank of approved questions and answers.

Certification continues to evolve, as this year is the formal launch of multilingual testing. Renewal tests are now available in English, French, and Spanish.

We are also close to unveiling a swing-slide-fold AAADM Certified Inspector training class completely in French. This is geared toward the Quebec market, where law requires English/French translations for all public-facing communication.

Although AAADM is not formally active in Canada, the country follows ANSI standards for automatic doors there and AAADM Certified Inspector training does occur there. Because most U.S.-based automatic door manufacturers have a global presence, it makes sense to include Canadian outreach as part of the AAADM mission.

In the past, bilingual English/French trainers on the AAADM course have translated English materials on the fly during class sessions.

Over the past year-plus, AAADM has worked with a translation company to translate class materials, Inspector binders, PowerPoint presentations, and more from English to French. We are in the closing stages of our internal review of these materials and hope to roll out the French-language Inspector training class next year.

Because AAADM trains to the ANSI standards but does not own the actual standards, we sought the buy-in from BHMA prior to undertaking the initiative (BHMA develops the automatic door standards used by ANSI). BHMA endorsed the process and even paid half the cost for the translations.

While a Spanish-language test is included in this year's rollout, there are currently no immediate plans to translate class materials into Spanish.

# AAADM COMMITTEE UPDATES

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## Government Affairs Committee

CONSULTANT: KATHLEEN CARROLL



### Turning Attention to the States

The Government Affairs Committee of AAADM is considering a strategic shift toward advocating at the state level for automatic doors as commonsense accessibility solutions while still

working with the federal government.

The increasing frequency—and longer duration—of federal government shutdowns is the latest indicator pointing to a need to adjust priorities.

“When the federal government is shut down, people and agencies we need to talk to, like the Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division, aren’t available,” said Kathleen Carroll, government affairs consultant for AAADM. “Progress stalls.”

The threat to momentum points to a larger issue, mainly a dearth of interest at the Federal level about accessibility efforts. “We’ve already been told, point blank, that there’s no appetite in D.C. to amend the Americans with Disabilities Act,” said Carroll.

Unfortunately for the millions of people with disabilities, the ADA doesn’t mandate use of automatic doors. “Because solutions such as the International Building Code need to be ratified at the state level, we’re looking at the signs and thinking our time and energy would be better spent focusing on state legislatures instead of the U.S. Congress and other federal institutions.”

To that end, Carroll wants to create model legislation, to be submitted for consideration to state general assemblies, that mandates inclusion of automatic doors in designated buildings. “First, I want to get input from AAADM members,” said Carroll. She is working to compile a list of questions to pose to members about the key provisions they’d like to see in such legislation.

Although lobbying at the state level might seem like a fifty-fold increase in leg work, there are two organizations Carroll is hoping to engage with to assist with getting the completed model legislation in front of state lawmakers. They are the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) and American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). The NCSL is a bipartisan organization that serves all 50 state legislatures by providing research, policy analysis, and a forum for exchanging ideas and ALEC is a conservative-leaning organization that typically works with corporations to draft model legislation and policy ideas that often promote business interests.

By working with both, Carroll hopes to get the automatic door industry’s position in front of as many state legislatures as possible.

“I think our industry is more likely to see movement if we engage directly with the states,” said Carroll. “That’s really where the decisions are made that can positively promote the use of automatic doors to address accessibility concerns. State lawmakers are more in-tune with the needs of their communities and better-positioned to affect change.”

Once Carroll has completed her list of questions for membership, it will be reviewed by AAADM’s executive committee prior to distribution.

