

THE TOILETEER

MAY 4, 2026

Introduction

Welcome back Toileteers, Marisa Miles here, the American Restroom Association's new Program Manager. I am excited to join an amazing organization that has been a leader in restroom accessibility advocacy for 25 years. Expect monthly newsletters that cover national restroom news, notices, design, and advocacy. Stay tuned for upcoming increased communication via newsletter, ARA blog, social media, and more.



The Flushy Awards

A New Award for Restroom Leadership



A new annual awards program The Flushy Awards (a.k.a. "The Flushies"), is launching its inaugural class in 2026 to honor leadership in restroom access, equity and community. The program is hosted by Throne Labs and features a strong partner roster: PHLUSH, the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, the American Council of the Blind, PERIOD. The Menstrual Movement, the American Association of People with Disabilities and the American Restroom Association.

Key dates:

- Nominations open: April 20, 2026
- Nominations close: May 22, 2026
- Winners selected: May 29, 2026
- Public announcement: June 2, 2026

The six inaugural categories are:

Municipality of the Year, Transit Excellence, Innovator Award, Advocate of the Year, Community Champion and Breaking Taboo – individuals or organizations normalizing bathroom stigma for the greater good.

Anyone can submit a nomination at flushyawards.org. One submission per nominee per category; all are reviewed by a judging panel. As the awards organizers put it: "Bathrooms are not a luxury. They are essential infrastructure... When everyone can stay, communities thrive."

ARA Call to Action: Think of the city manager, parks director, transit planner, advocate, designer or community organizer in your network who is moving the needle in your area, and nominate them between April 20 and May 15.

Support the American Restroom Association!

- Donate to support our continued advocacy, staff, and research.

Recent ARA Advocacy

- American Restroom Association Comment – RIN 3014-AA50
- Press Release: ARA In Opposition to Idaho's HB 752



Wazoo App

Got to go, but don't know where to look... The Wazoo App is here to help. Wazoo was conceived in summer 2021 by co-founders Steve T. Sullivan and Gavin Lehane (later joined by Lesley Lane and Jack Nowling) after Sullivan noticed delivery drivers repeatedly stopping to use a single port-a-potty outside his home. There are roughly 1.3 million delivery drivers in the United States, and many cope with restroom scarcity through diapers and other workaround tactics. Wazoo's stated mission is to "heed the call of nature, when nature calls, wherever you may be."

TO HEED THE CALL OF NATURE

WAZOO
WHEN NATURE CALLS



How it works: users open the app, see vetted nearby restrooms (public restrooms, restaurants, gas stations, grocery stores, even temporary porta-potties), and tap through to Apple or Google Maps for turn-by-turn directions. Listings include opening and closing hours, parking information, the number of stalls, accessibility, and key/code information where applicable. The team has also built an enterprise dashboard so delivery and logistics companies can subscribe their drivers and track utilization. Coverage is expanding internationally as Wazoo recently rolled out a Paris map.

For context, Wazoo joins a growing restroom app field that includes Flush Toilet Finder, Bathroom Scout, Charmin's SitOrSquat, and the crowdsourced Bathroom App.contributions. ARA encourages members to download one or two of these apps, contribute listings for local facilities you trust, and flag closures so others can plan with confidence.

Australia's National Toilet Map

Australia offers a strong case study in public restroom accessibility and U.S. policymakers should take notes. The National Public Toilet Map (toiletmap.gov.au) is a fully government-funded national database operated by Continence Health Australia and funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

The map currently shows the location of more than 23,000 publicly available toilet facilities across the country, including adult-change and baby-change rooms, with details on opening hours, wheelchair accessibility, gender options, hoists, sharps disposal, showers, and Master Locksmiths Access Key (MLAK) availability. The MLAK is a national master key that opens specially equipped accessible toilets 24 hours a day for eligible disabled users

The map and accompanying free iOS/Android app let users:

- Filter facilities by feature and accessibility need;
- Calculate driving or walking routes to the nearest toilet;
- Create and share custom maps via URL or QR code
- Submit additions and corrections directly to keep data current.

The system serves an estimated 4.8 million Australians affected by incontinence, plus families and travelers. Rowan Cockerell, CEO of Continence Foundation of Australia, has put it simply: "The National Public Toilet Map is a useful website and app for everyone. It is especially helpful for those who experience incontinence and would otherwise restrict their activity for fear of not having access to a toilet."

Advocacy Highlight: Tork Coalition for Inclusive Hygiene

On March 31, 2025, Tork launched the Tork Coalition for Inclusive Hygiene, billed as the first-ever industry coalition dedicated to driving inclusive hygiene in public restrooms. ARA Co-founder and Treasurer Dr. Steven Soifer represents the Association on the coalition, as a founding member. Other founding members include Dan Rocker, LCSW, President of the International Paruresis Association (IPA); and Lee Moreau, founder and director of design consultancy Other Tomorrows and Professor of Practice in Design at Northeastern University. Uma Srivastava, Executive Director of KultureCity, has since joined as the coalition's newest member.

The coalition grew out of a Tork-led roundtable convened in Washington, D.C., in summer 2024 in partnership with the Global Handwashing Partnership. Its goals are to raise awareness of the hygiene barriers people encounter in public restrooms, develop research and resources for facility managers, and advance design and policy that works for all.

Tork recently surveyed more than 6,000 individuals in five countries and found:

- 44% of all respondents plan their travel routes to ensure they have access to public restrooms
- 38% avoid eating or drinking while they are away from home to limit their use of public restrooms
- 26% avoid a social event because of concerns around access to public restrooms
- 1 in 6 people have left a job because of a poor restroom. This data sheds a light on the scale of the issue and its impact on businesses, their visitors, customers and employees.



American Restroom Association
Co-Founder Dr. Steven Soifer

