

## **Wet Your APPetite** **Terry Byerly**

### **On the Road Again: Make traveling for work (or pleasure) a breeze**

Welcome to another edition of Wet Your APPetite, where we highlight two smartphone/tablet applications that will help the facility professional be more productive, organized and effective, and maybe even provide a little fun along the way. Each issue, we will feature two apps that fall into one of the following categories: social, commerce, facilities, travel, organization or productivity. In this edition of Facilitator magazine, we feature two apps that you can use when you travel, either for business or for pleasure.

If you discover any apps you would like to suggest for future issues, please send them to [apps@rfmaonline.com](mailto:apps@rfmaonline.com). If we use your recommended app in the article, we will be sure to recognize you for the suggestion, and you will receive a small token of our appreciation.

Thanks for checking out Wet Your APPetite. See your next issue for more helpful apps for the facility professional.

#### **Uber (Travel)**

Uber (Uber Technologies Inc.) is your private driver in more than 100 cities and 30 countries. With Uber, you will no longer have to wait in taxi lines or call ahead for car reservations. Through the app, you can connect with a private driver in your vicinity in minutes. You can compare the rates of varying vehicle types and get the fare information before you confirm your pick up. The app also lets you split your fare when you share a ride with a friend.

Uber is available for free and supports Apple and Android products. The latest version (2.28.0) in the App Store has a 4+ star rating. In the Google Play store it has a 4.2 rating. Once you load the app, you will need to create an Uber account, which can link to your PayPal account or credit card. After securing your ride, Uber will automatically take care of the transaction so you won't have to worry about scrambling for cash or even a tip for your driver. Plus, when you sign up for your Uber account you will get \$10 off your first ride. After your trip, you can also rate your experience and give feedback on the driver.

This app was featured at the RFMA regional event in June. Many of our attendees have used Uber in their travels since and have given nothing but rave reviews. I have also received many stories of how much quicker it was to get an Uber ride versus a taxi or other means of transportation.

#### **My Favorite Features:**

- Set your pickup location on the map. Even when you don't have the exact address, it will use your phone's GPS
- You get to choose the vehicle/driver
- Check the progress of your Uber at any time and you get a text when your ride arrives

#### **Airbnb (Travel)**

Airbnb (Airbnb Inc.) allows users to find places to stay at more than 600,000 listings in 34,000 cities. The app is both for the traveler looking for an interesting place to stay and for the host wanting to manage their listings and connect with guests around the world. As a traveler, you can book one-of-a-kind accommodations and find rooms for rent from your mobile device, even if you are traveling last minute. You can also find long-term sublets with Airbnb.

As a host, you can get acquainted with your guests before you say yes. You can accept, decline or pre-approve guests, and send them special offers. The app also allows the host to respond to messages and update their calendar availability with ease.

Airbnb is available for free and supports Apple and Android products. The latest version (4.1.1) in the App Store and Google Play has a 4+ star rating.

**My Favorite Features:**

- Explore vacation homes and make a “Wish List” to share with friends
- Access your itinerary, message your host and get directions to your listing
- You can book anything from a beach house to a penthouse or even a treehouse

Terry Byerly is the Senior Manager of Facilities for Pizza Hut and has 16 years of experience in facilities maintenance. Byerly currently serves on the RFMA Advisory Council and has a bachelor’s degree in Information Systems.