



Meets & Bounds

November 2009

Maine Association of Assessing Officers

President's Message

This is my last President's Message as my two year term ends in December. A new slate of Officers and Directors was elected at MAAO's annual business meeting held on October 7th during the MMA convention. Your new President Tammy Brown was a very supportive Vice President. She assumed many presidential duties during the past two years while also serving as Editor of the newsletter.

Last year, I was in the midst of a revaluation so Tammy, along with the conference committee, took on my conference responsibilities with success. This year, I was able to attend my first IAAO Conference in Louisville, Ky. Unfortunately, it was held the week before our MAAO conference. Once again, Tammy "picked up my slack". I am confident she will serve as she always does with professionalism, integrity, energy and ingenuity.

Tammy will have the support of our new and very capable Vice President Darryl McKenney. Darryl also assumes the duties of Meets & Bounds editor. I am confident Tammy and Darryl, along with the current Board and new Board members Sue Varney and Ruth Birtz will continue to serve the membership in the best way possible.

This year, Board member Beth Bowdoin ended her term as 2nd Past President. Beth has served on MAAO's Board since 1995 and was President in 2004. Beth wrote the Member Profile column for the newsletter. She has faithfully attended Board meetings and her historical knowledge has helped shape the MAAO of today. Thanks, Beth, for all your years of service. The Board's door will always be open to you.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for December 11th. I strongly urge all members to email or call any Officer or Director before then with your ideas and comments to improve the association. One agenda item is to appoint

committee chairs who will make committee assignments. The Board meetings are open to all members and we welcome your attendance.

According to the evaluations, our 2009 Fall Conference was successful. Approximately 55 attended the Wednesday and Friday sessions while 74 attended the Thursday session. The addition of the golf tournament, boat ride, bowling night and spaghetti dinner plus the Silent Auction and good weather all added up to a wonderful conference.

For those who attended my ill-prepared Cell Tower session fraught with technical difficulties, I have not forgotten my promise to post a "polished" version on our website before the year's end. It is on my task list after I finish my 2008 revaluation appeals to the BAR (three to go), ratio study, 2009 abatements, etc. Thanks for your patience.

I must give special thanks to Rick Mace for chairing the 2nd Annual Silent Auction committee. This event raised almost \$800 due in large part to Rick's leadership and solicitation of items. Thanks, too, to Mark Caldwell and Bill Healey for the Golf Tournament, Lisa Morin and Beth Bowdoin for the Bowling Night, Tammy Brown and Darryl McKenney for the Spaghetti Dinner and Martine Painchaud for taking care of the certification hours. Each and every Board member who attended helped in so many ways. Finally, without MMA's Joan Kiszely and her staff, the registration, facility, speaker and vendor parts of the conference would not have succeeded. Thanks to all for your hard work.

If you did not pick up a copy of the 2010 Day Planner at the conference or MMA convention, please email Lisa Morin. Thanks, Lisa, another job well done.

For those assessors who are not members of IAAO,

(cont'd on page 3)

MAAO BOARD**President****Anne Gregory****781-5253****agregory@town.falmouth.me.us****Vice President****Tammy Brown****867-4433****tammybrown4139@aol.com****Secretary/Treasurer****Martine Painchaud****439-1813****mpainchaud@eliotme.org****First Past President****William Healey, Jr.****829-2204 or 846-4971 x448****bhealey@cumberlandmaine.com****Second Past President****Elizabeth Bowdoin****848-1044****assessor@hermon.net****2009 & 2010 Directors****Joe Grube****713-3122 ext. 3206****jgrube@ci.lewiston.me.us****Roger Hoy****Central District****725-6650****rhoy@brunswickme.org****Mark Caldwell****778-6530****assessor@farmington-maine.org****Lisa Morin****626-2320****lisa.morin@augustamaine.gov****2008 & 2009 Directors****Lona LaFrancis****764-2514****North District****llafrancis@presqueisleme.us****Rick Mace****363-1005****rmace@yorkmaine.org****Marian Anderson****737-4305****townmanager@richmondmaine.com****VACANT****South District****Darryl McKenney****832-5369****assessor@waldoboromaine.org****MEMBER PROFILE**

▲ By Beth Bowdoin



Jan Healey was born and raised in Lewiston, Maine one of 6 children which include 2 sisters and 3 brothers. She graduated from Lewiston High School in 1956 where she was very active in sports, playing basketball, her favorite, as well as speedball which she describes as being similar to soccer, and softball. After high school, and getting married to Bill Healey on August 3, 1957, she and her husband moved to Cleveland, but only stayed there for one year before returning to Lewiston. Her first job back in Lewiston was with Bates Fabrics, working in the office. During her time there and while also being busy raising her 4 children she and her family lost

their home to a fire in 1974. After rebuilding and moving back into her new home she left the Bates mill and accepted a job working with Jim Fennesey at United Appraisal as office manager. While there she worked on property cards entering the information gathered by the field workers. During the time she worked for United Appraisal it was owned by Sherry (Sherwood) Vermilya who in later years had an award named after him by the Northeast Region Association of Assessing Officers – an award for outstanding service to the assessing profession). Interestingly enough, years later her son, our own Bill Healey won that award in 2006. In 1979 Jan was hired by the City of Auburn as a clerk to work for the Assessor, Pat Brann. Jan credits Pat for teaching her a great deal during her time in Auburn, taking her out in the field and showing her the ropes of the assessing field. In 1986 Jan and her family moved to Old Orchard Beach where she primarily worked as an appraiser but also pursued and obtained her CMA in 1988. Jan noted that the CMA exam was by far the hardest test she has ever taken and compared to that, the Appraisal test was a piece of cake! After 4 or 5 years working as an appraiser Jan accepted a job as Assistant Assessor in Windham, working with Carol Kelley. In 1999 or 2000 Jan was hired by the Town of Winthrop as their Assessor, working there until her retirement in 2006.

Since her retirement she has kept busy with traveling to and spending the winter months in Sun City, Florida (20 miles south of Tampa) and then returning to Winthrop in April to assist in preparing for the October commitment. After Bill completed the revaluation in Cumberland a year or so ago, she and Carol Kelley assisted him with the hearings there. When she has time she enjoys reading and “little bits” of everything else, including playing golf when time allows.

Jan and her husband Bill have four children, including Bill and his 3 sisters - Debi, Susan, and Lisa, as well as 6 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. ▲

President's Message (cont'd from page 1)

please consider joining. Bill Healey serves on IAAO's membership committee so please contact Bill for membership information. Also contact IAAO representative Matt Sturgis, Maine Chapter IAAO Treasurer. I do not have enough space to list all the reasons why I consider IAAO membership important. Throughout the years, I have taken several IAAO courses and the IAAO "red book" entitled Property Appraisal and Assessment Administration is my "bible". While the Maine Revenue Service courses and annual Property Tax School taught me how to be an assessor, I credit IAAO with teaching me how to become an appraiser. I was reminded of that during the 75th IAAO conference held in Louisville this year. More than 900 assessing professionals from 23 countries were in attendance. Whether I was participating in a session or talking with another assessor, I learned something new that will help me improve my assessing skills and understanding of market forces.

With the able assistance of Bill Healey, the Maine Walk of Fame display won third prize. The competition included 35 State Chapters and Affiliates. Thanks, Bill. I also owe a big thank you to assessors Elizabeth Sawyer, Dave Sawyer and Rick Blackburn for making my IAAO Louisville experience unforgettable. Elizabeth's spirit of adventure took us on a tour of the countryside and included a stop for the best fried chicken and frog's legs. Yum!

My final ListServ award goes to Mike Rogers, Supervisor of Municipal Services for Maine Revenue Services for taking the time to read the ListServ questions and responses. His support and willingness to "chime in" with the official and legal opinion is so valuable. Thanks, Mike. Since last reported in July, 14 topics were discussed by 34 assessors. "Impact of Chronic Lower Water

Levels on Waterfront Values" generated the most activity, with Cell Towers and Commitment Book printing close behind.

I have really enjoyed serving as your President. It has given me the opportunity to meet so many of you. I am proud of the work the Board has done the past two years. The changes have strengthened our association, increased membership and provided more services to the membership. I look forward to serving on the Board as Past President for the next four years and will focus on several goals I did not accomplish. Those goals include formulating duties as a guide for the various committees, including members who wish to serve on committees, adding data and related links to the website, reviewing the By-Laws and recommending changes, if necessary, etc.

And last but not least, direct from the IAAO cookbook, the perfect Mint Julep: 2ozs Jim Beam Bourbon, ½ teas mint flavored syrup, simple syrup to taste, fresh mint sprigs and crushed ice. Fill chilled glass with crushed ice. Add mint syrup, simple syrup and bourbon. Garnish with mint sprig and serve at once.

See ya'll later, Anne Gregory

2009 Board of Directors Meeting Dates

**December 11 9:30 a.m. MMA - Augusta

2010 Board of Directors Meeting Dates

January 22 9:30 a.m. MMA – Augusta (tentative)

****NOTE BOARD MEETING CHANGE****

Membership Questions?

Please contact Affiliate Services at: 1-800-452-8786 | www.memun.org



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HAPPENINGS IN OUR WORLD

▲ By Contributing Assessors

NEWS FROM THE NORTH By Lona LaFrancis

Caribou - On September 2, 2009, just after 6 PM, CMA Randy Tarr was injured when he and his motorcycle were sideswiped by a taxicab. Randy's lower leg was broken in six places. He has had surgery and he's now getting around on crutches, going to physical therapy and looking forward to going back to work. Randy is completing a revaluation for the Town of Madawaska. He does annual updates for "many" towns in Aroostook County.

Woodland - CMA Lewis Cousins has completed a revaluation of commercial personal property for the Town of Woodland. Their personal property valuation increased from \$350,000 to \$2,000,000. Lewis is also the assessor's agent and code enforcement officer for Mapleton, Castle Hill & Chapman.

Presque Isle - Congratulations to "new" CMA, Amanda Pooler. Mandy is employed by Just Value Associates, PLLC in Presque Isle. She passed the CMA exam this summer at property tax school at Colby College in Waterville. Just Value owner Mike MacPherson reports that they have completed the valuation of the mill in Nashville Plantation. They are almost finished with a revaluation for Cyr Plantation (It looks like their mill rate will drop from 22 to 14.) and they will complete the revaluation for the Town of Wade in the spring

MID COAST ASSESSORS By Judy Mathiau

On October 14th, the Mid-Coast Assessors hosted a day long seminar in Rockport with a full agenda and a very tasty buffet lunch. Included in the training was a session on small low energy houses, a TIF primer and a review of three separate projects through the MEGIS (Maine Office of GIS).

Bill Sepe, a Rockport architect who specializes in leading passive energy, presented a slide show of samples on new architecture. He shared his knowledge on the siting and orientation of a building (axis of roof line and north vs south), the type of glass used and "mass" which addresses the storage of hot and cold through the material used.

Chris Shrum, Rockport's Fund Endowment Coordinator, led a discussion on the overview of a TIF policy, highlighted examples of TIF projects implemented in Maine and explored the challenges that assessors should be aware of when a TIF is being considered.

Nancy Armentrout, E911 Database Manager for ESCB (Emergency Services Communications Board), led the

discussion on ILRIS – Integrated Land Record Integration Systems – GEO Library Project LAND USE GIS – how do Assessors manage current land use information as it relates to zoning information as well as E911/ME DOT Partnership for Road Inventory – changes in the way towns inform the State of new roads or changes and the town's role in E911. ▲

NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2010

President: Tammy Brown

Vice President: Darryl McKenney

Secretary-Treasurer: Martine Painchaud

2009-2010 Directors:

Joseph Grube

Roger Hoy

Mark Caldwell

Lisa Morin

2010-2011 Directors:

Lona LaFrancis

Marian Anderson

Rick Mace

Susan Varney

Ruth Birtz

1st Past President: Anne Gregory

2nd Past President: William Healey



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MAAO says **Thank You** to the following sponsors, vendors and speakers for their support in making our 2009 Fall Conference a success!

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SPEAKERS:

Anne Gregory, Attorneys Mike Wilson, Rob Crawford & Peter VanHemel, Appraiser John Ryan, MMA Director of State & Federal Relations Geoff Herman & MRS Director Property Tax Division Dave Ledew.

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**NEWS FROM OTHER
ASSESSING ASSOCIATIONS**

NRAAO

Northeast Regional Association of Assessing Officers (NRAAO) will hold its 2010 conference in Portland at the Eastland Park Hotel from May 23rd thru 26th. NRAAO President Matt Sturgis and Vice President Bill Healey along with Treasurer Paul Lesperance are leading the local Host Committee.

The education agenda will include USPAP and IAAO sessions. The social agenda will include a Lobster Bake, Sea Dogs baseball and golf scramble. Eastland Park room rates are \$109 to \$134 and include parking. Conference information will be emailed to all MAAO members as it becomes available. If you are not a member of NRAAO, please join for \$30. Visit www.nraao.org for more information. ▲

**Meets & Bounds
publication months:**

January, April, July & November

Please contact Tammy Brown or a Director if you have any news for the newsletter.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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 Crystal Corbett
 Diane Douglas
 James Fitzgerald
 Brenda Gove
 Tammi Hollins
 Charles Jordan
 Beth MacDonald
 Helen Markham
 Tony Michaud
 Todd Miley
 Valerie Moon
 Kendi Norton

Just a reminder that MAAO is still looking to build interest in our profession by continuing to add to our membership. You can still go to the MAAO website and download a flyer to share information about the assessing profession with anyone who you think may be interested.

Remember, many of us got our start in this profession by a mentor.....Let's continue to be powerful mentors. ▲

MAAO MEMBERSHIP

▲ By Roger Hoy

The Membership Committee would like to take this opportunity to welcome new members (see box above) who have taken the opportunity to join our membership during 2009. Our MAAO membership is up to 246 members which increased by fourteen members from 2008.

ANNUAL DUES

Regular Membership:	\$30/person
Associate Membership:	\$30/person
Subscribing Membership:	\$200/business*
Municipal Membership:	\$50/municipality**

*Includes all employees

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Please visit our website at: www.maineassessors.org for more information and membership application form.

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2nd Annual Silent Auction

The Silent Auction organized this year by Rick Mace was a huge success. MAAO members helped to raise almost \$800 during The MAAO Fall Conference. As in the past some bidding wars were going on during the final hours, people watching their bids closely (some of whom missed the final time deadline and missed out on some terrific items).

Below is the final list of winners.

ITEM	DONOR	BIDDER	BID
The Right Mat	Town of Waldoboro	Paul McKenney	\$20
Maple Syrup Basket	Judy Mathiau	Jodi Keniston	\$28
Nubble Light Jacket	Town of York Parks Dept	Marian Anderson	\$35
Loon Lodge	Anne Gregory	Curt Lebel	\$95
Titleist Pro Golf Balls	NEXTERA Energy Maine Hydro	Paul Castonguay	\$20
Moody's Diner Print	Town of Waldoboro	Anne Gregory	\$20
Fosters Downeast Clam Bake	Fosters of York Harbor	Richard Main	\$27
Sunrise Picture Book	Gloria Gustafson	Darryl McKenney	\$10
Coffee Cup & Holster	Bergers Bike Shop	Carryl McKenney	\$10
Mountain Bike	Trek Portsmouth	Justin VanDongen	\$195
Conch Sea Shell w/Plant	Beyond the Sea	Anne Gregory	\$10
Occasional Table	Rick Mace, Lost & Found Antiques	Susan Nadeau	\$36
Blueberries 10 lbs	Allen's Blueberry Farm	Keeley Lambert	\$24
Potatoes	Laureen Bither	Sue Varney	\$16
Potatoes	Laureen Bither	Marian Anderson	\$20
Pampered Chef Basket	Kelly Karter	Debbie Turner	\$45
Geddy's Placemat	Kelly Karter	Tammy Brown	\$15
Mt Katahdin Print	Rick Mace, Lost & Found Antiques	Douglas Guy	\$45
Box Paper	W B Mason	Debbie Turner	\$15
Box Paper	W B Mason	Ray Gannon	\$20
Box Paper	W B Mason	Sus Varney	\$17
Louisville Slugger Bat	Anne Gregory	Beth Bowdoin	\$27
Handcrafted Beach Chair	Sue Varney	Laureen Bither	\$25
Valhalla Gift Cert	Town of Cumberland	Joe Grube	\$22
TOTAL			\$797

Congratulations to all who bid and a big THANK YOU! to the donors.



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STATE OF MAINE CHAPTER



International Association of Assessing Officers

IAAO 75th International Conference on Assessment Administration

I had the good fortune of attending the IAAO 75th International Conference on Assessment Administration held September 13th to 16th in Louisville, Kentucky. The Conference was outstanding, offering some of the best educational and networking opportunities I have ever taken part in. The following are some highlights from the Conference.

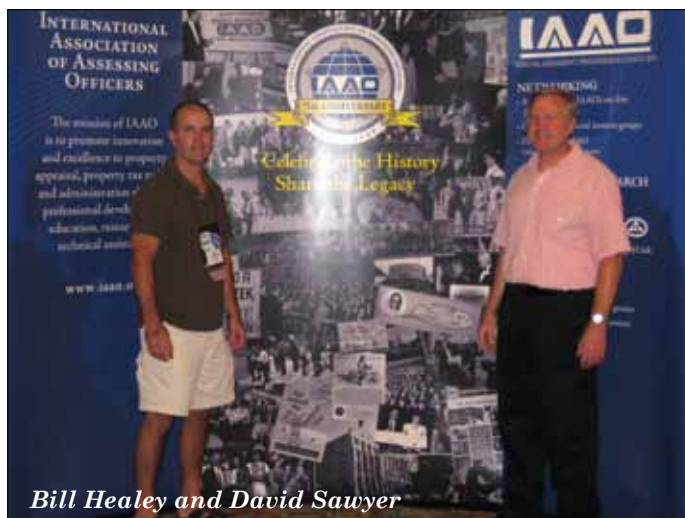
The Welcoming Reception on Sunday evening was held at the Louisville Performing Arts Center with a bluegrass band playing during the function. There were about 900 people in attendance. At the Reception I viewed a film called the Kentucky Show that celebrates the uncommon story of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

There were 7 education tracks available at the Conference; Appraisal Challenges in a Changing Economy, Geospatial, Tax Policy, Personal Development/Management, Personal Property/Public Utilities, Valuation Special Topics, and IAAO Committee Spotlight. I selected the track on Tax Policy and attended courses offered by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. One of the presenters was Karl E. Case, PhD of the Case-Schiller Index. Dr. Case gave a riveting presentation on the Housing Market and the Macroeconomy. I also attended a presentation given by Terri A. Sexton, PhD, on why Assessment Limits are Bad Policy in Both Good and Bad Times.

Other Maine Assessors who attended the Conference were Anne Gregory, Dave and Liz Sawyer and Rick Blackburn. I don't know how they pulled it off, but Dave and Liz scored one of the nicest hotel rooms I have ever seen. It was a VIP suite with 2 rooms and access to another TV room. I must thank the Sawyers for providing the rest of us with a nice place to hold early evening gatherings.

My wish is that every Maine Assessor will have the opportunity to attend an IAAO Conference at some time during their career. If you have any questions about future Conferences please give me a call and I will try to provide you with any information that I can. Remember, there are always scholarships available to IAAO members that would help with the cost of attending.

Bill Healey, MAAO Education Chair and Conference Committee Member



Bill Healey and David Sawyer



MAAO wins 3rd prize at IAAO Louisville Ky, for Walk of Fame display. Maine Assessors Bill Healey, Elizabeth Sawyer, David Sawyer, Anne Gregory & Rick Blackburn

Maine Chapter IAAO's Fall meeting will be held on November 20, 2009, at Southern Maine Community College in South Portland. Please mark your calendars.



Meets & Bounds

MAAO NOVEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

www.maineassessors.org

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