



Meets & Bounds

November 2011

Maine Association of Assessing Officers

President's Message



I know the old adage is "Time flies by" but..... Wow, these last two years have gone by so quickly. I can't believe I am writing my last President's Message as my two year term ends in December. I look forward to continuing to serve as past president for the next four years.

According to the evaluations, our 2011 Fall Conference was a huge success. Bill Healey brought us a tremendous educational lineup. Bill's connection to IAAO continues to be a huge benefit in helping us to find very knowledgeable speakers. The MAAO board members appreciate you taking the time to fill out the evaluations. This helps us to better serve our membership's needs in the future.

I would like to give thanks to the following people for agreeing to take on special roles for this year's conference. Thanks go to Rick Mace for chairing the 4th Annual Silent Auction committee. This event raised over \$800 due in most part to Rick's leadership and dedication. Thanks, too, to Mark Caldwell and Bill Healey for heading up the Golf Tournament, Marc Perry for the entertaining Bowling Night and Darryl McKenney for his help with the Spaghetti Dinner and Listserv Topic meeting. Each and every Board member who attended helped in so many ways. Finally, without MMA's Joan Kiszely and her wonderful staff, the registration, facility, speaker and vendor parts of the conference would not have been so successful. Thanks to all for your hard work.

A new slate of Directors were elected at MAAO's Annual Business Meeting held on September 29th during the MAAO Fall Conference. Your new President Darryl McKenney has been so helpful to me during his term as Vice President. I know he will continue to strengthen our membership as he begins his presidency.

Darryl will have the support of our new and very capable Vice President Rick Mace. Rick also assumes the duties of Meets & Bounds editor. I am confident Darryl and Rick, along with the current Board and new Board member, Beth O'Bar will continue to serve the membership in the best way possible.

The MAAO board members would like to take the opportunity to thank Lona LaFrancis for her six years of service to the MAAO Board. Lona has been a huge help in organizing the Northern Maine Workshops. Lona's leadership has helped to ensure that the educational needs of the northern assessors have been met.

From the president's perspective, it was really good to have a large part of our membership available for the Annual Meeting. I think it was a great idea to move the Annual Business meeting to our Fall Conference. This move gave us the opportunity to ensure that more of our members' voices could be heard.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for December 9th. We would like to ask all members to email or call any Director before any of our meetings with your ideas and/or comments to improve the association.

Tammy L. Brown
MAAO President

MAAO BOARD

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Education Chair Submission for Newsletter

I can't believe another year has already come and gone. It was a pleasure serving the MAAO and its members as Education Chair in 2011. I can't thank the Board enough for all of their help and support.

Our annual events, the Board of Assessment Review Workshop, Northern Maine Workshop, and the Fall Conference were all hugely successful. The educational offerings were well attended and the speakers did a great job.

Our most recent event, the 2011 MAAO Fall Conference, was held at the Sebasco Harbor Resort in Phippsburg from September 28th - 30th. We had 69 members and 6 exhibitors in attendance. Speakers included Town of York Assessor, Rick Mace, IAAO Past President, Bill Carroll, Attorney Rob Crawford and members of his staff from Bernstein Shur, IAAO National Instructor, Gary McCabe CAE, Geoff Herman of MMA, and Director of Maine Revenues Property Tax Division, David Ledew. The speakers interacted well with the attendees and the education sessions were top notch. While I like to talk about the education, the other events including the golf and bowling tournaments, spaghetti supper and evening "meeting sessions" were an absolute blast! I hope to see all those that attended this year as well as those that couldn't at the 2012 Fall Conference. ▲

Bill Healey
 MAAO Education Chair



Darryl and Joan managing the registration desk at the MAAO Fall Conference



Geoff Herman and Dave Ledew discuss the upcoming legislative changes and how it will affect assessors.

Membership Questions?

Please contact Affiliate Services at: 1-800-452-8786

www.memun.org



Bill Carroll

Dear Tammy,

Thank you, Bill Healey and all of your members for the warm hospitality you extended to Jo Ann and I while we were at your Maine Association of Assessing Officers conference. You could not have been nicer.

One of the benefits of having the opportunity to speak in various

locations around the country is the opportunity to meet local IAAO members. Your Maine Association of Assessing Officers is an example of what makes me so proud of our IAAO members around the world. In addition to presenting an extremely professional and beneficial education program at your conference, you also offered a much needed opportunity for your members to relax and get to know each other. That is very important with all of the stress brought to bear on today's property tax professionals. Your conference was terrific.

Although the rain for the next few days caused us to shorten our stay and did not allow us to enjoy the beautiful fall colors in Maine, it was a pleasure to visit your state and get to see the beautiful Sebasco Harbor Resort. Thanks so much for loaning us your GPS system. I will return it to Bill Healey at Leadership Days this weekend.

Please relay our gratitude to your members for all of their kindnesses.

With Kindest Regards,
Bill Carroll

PS I am also proud of you for your dedication to the young people of your community. Getting up early every morning to teach kids rowing sounds like a tough job. It is people like you that take time to help our young people that make our world a better place. Thank you for that.

MAAO Conference Bowling Night

Over a dozen bowlers showed up (on Thursday evening at the MAAO Conference) to try their hand at candle-pin bowling and enjoyed an evening of festivities which included a lot of laughing and surely some sore muscles the next day. Marc Perry and Judith Mathiau took top honors in the 1st round event, and Marc Perry & Bill Healy won the 2nd round event. Notable standouts included the team of Steve Weed and Ruth Birtz, a.k.a. Gruesome Twosome, the team of Darryl McKenney and Tammy Brown, a.k.a. Nice Butts, and the team of Mark Caldwell & Jim Fennessey, a.k.a. Old Bastards.

It was a fun time had by all who attended and we encourage more conference attendees to participate at next year's conference where I'm sure winners will be defending their titles and maintaining their bragging rights.

Respectfully Submitted by Marc Perry



Judy Mathiau, perfecting her game before the "Big Bowl Off"!

2011 Board of Directors Meeting Date

Dec. 9 10:00 a.m. MMA - Augusta

**Meets & Bounds publication months:
January, April, July & November**

Please contact Rick Mace or a Director if you have any news for the newsletter.

2011 Silent Auction Update

The 2011 Annual Conference featured another successful auction thanks to the hard work and generosity of our membership. We were able to raise \$870 to put towards next year's conference.

The highlights of the auction included the Trek bicycle going to Craig Skelton for a high bid of \$160, the Lobster Trap Chair going to Beth Bowdoin for a high bid of \$72, and 40 pounds of Allen's Wild Maine Blueberries going to Brenda Cummings for a high bid of \$40.

It's never too early to be thinking about next year's auction. If you come across something fun and exciting for the auction just let one of the Board members know and we'll make arrangements to pick it up and store until next September. ▲



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Perils of the Job

▲ By Kerry Leichtman, CMA, Assessor, Rockport, Maine

Well there I was, minding my own business -- okay, so maybe I was on someone else's property poking my nose into their business -- I had just finished inspecting the interior of a renovated house and was outside measuring its footprint. I put my clipboard down on an unused propane tank, measured a few sides and returned to my clipboard to add to my sketch, when what I thought was a horse fly got in front of my face. I automatically swatted it away and started making my notes. Within a few seconds I was in the middle of a frenzy of PO'ed bees. I dropped my tape and clipboard and ran, brushing bees off my arms and hands. I got stung some. But forget about that, I only had three inspections left and I wanted them done! But the record cards and permits were on the clipboard.

So I went back. The bees seemed to have taken a fondness for my clipboard -- there was a writhing cloud of them all around it. I didn't get any closer than 20 feet or so. Their hive (or nest, whatever) was apparently under the tank's lid. I thought about running and making a

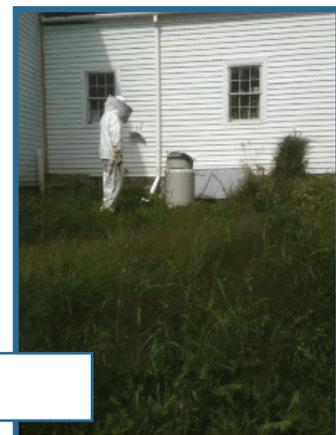


quick grab, but luckily realized how stupid a plan that was, then got a towel from my truck and thought maybe I could fan it at them and grab the clipboard. I tested that theory out by retrieving my tape, which was maybe ten feet from the tank. I got the tape but also got stung again.

What to do, what to do... I called Eileen, who is, as most of you know, my assistant.

Among Eileen's interests is beekeeping. I thought maybe she knew some trick that I could do to get my clipboard and papers. Unbelievably, she just happened to have her bee suit in her car! I kid you not. Did I want to borrow it, she asked me. Yes but with you in it, I said.

Now I don't claim to be a hiring genius but I sure am feeling pretty wicked clever at the moment. And yes, I finished my inspections. ▲



Eileen in bee suit.

MAAO 2011 FALL CONFERENCE SILENT AUCTION WINNING BIDS

Item	DONORS	Address	Donation	Winner	Amount	MAAO Solicitor
1	Allen's Wild Maine Blueberries	PO Box 454, Blue Hill, ME 04614	10lbs. Fresh Frozen Blueberries	Brenda Cummings	\$40	Roger Hoy
2	Lost & Found Antiques	Town of York	Ladderback Chair	Richard Main	\$25	Rick Mace
3	Darryl McKenney	Town of Waldoboro	Kentucky Gift Basket	Beth Bowdoin	\$21	Darryl McKenney
4	Foster's Downeast Clambake	PO Box 486, York Harbor, ME 039112	Gift Certificate for Clambakes	George Greene	\$36	Rick Mace
5	Beyond the Sea	240 York St, York, ME 03909	Hand-Painted Wine Glasses	Ruth Birtz	\$10	Rick Mace
6	Town of Cumberland	Town of Cumberland	1 Gift Certificate for 18 Holes of Golf	Darryl McKenney	\$25	Bill Healey
7	Town of Cumberland	Town of Cumberland	1 Gift Certificate for 18 Holes of Golf	Cheryl Dubois	\$5	Bill Healey
8	Bradley's Village Gallery	244 York St, York, ME 03909	Brown's Head Light Print	Bill Carroll	\$18	Rick Mace
9	Maine Farmland Trust	97 Main St. Belfast, ME 04915	Hat, Book, DVD	Rich St. John	\$28	Darryl McKenney
10	Bradley's Village Gallery	244 York St, York, ME 03909	Moose Peak Light Print	Robin Mayo	\$6	Rick Mace
11	York Parks & Rec Dept.	200 US Route 1, York, ME 03909	Nubble Light Jacket	Bill Carroll	\$21	Rick Mace
12	Bradley's Village Gallery	244 York St, York, ME 03909	Union Bluff Print	Mark Caldwell	\$12	Rick Mace
13	Moody's Diner	1907 Atlantic Hwy Waldoboro, ME 04572	2 Metal Signs	Cheryl Dubois	\$18	Darryl McKenney
14	Lona LaFrancis	City of Presque Isle	1 Bag of Potatoes	Richard Main	\$3	Lona LaFrancis
15	Lona LaFrancis	City of Presque Isle	1 Bag of Potatoes	Paul McKenney	\$3	Lona LaFrancis
16	Lona LaFrancis	City of Presque Isle	1 Bag of Potatoes	Sue Varney	\$3	Lona LaFrancis
17	Judy Mathiau	Town of Winslow	Laura B Photo	Don Harriman	\$14	Judy Mathiau
18	Ruth Birtz	Town of Lincoln	Dried Wreath	Cathy Donovan	\$25	Ruth Birtz
19	Ruth Birtz	Town of Lincoln	Necklace & Earrings	Beth O'Bar	\$15	Ruth Birtz
20	Darryl McKenney	Town of Waldoboro	LL Bean Sport Tube	Rich St. John	\$20	Darryl McKenney
21	Cranberry Hill Antiques & Lighting	PO Box 84 Cape Neddick, ME 03902	Vintage Deer Lamp	Richard Main	\$34	Rick Mace
22	Flo's Hot dogs	PO Box 153 Cape Neddick, ME 03902	T-Shirt/Sauce	Robin Mayo	\$10	Rick Mace
23	Lost & Found Antiques	Town of York	Green Depression Glass Jar	Laureen Bither	\$14	Rick Mace
24	Berger's Bike Shop	241 York St, York, ME 03909	TREK Cruiser	Craig Skelton	\$160	Rick Mace
25	Berger's Bike Shop	241 York St, York, ME 03909	Bell Helmet/Gloves	Marc Perry	\$25	Rick Mace
26	Spanky Smith	Town of York	Handmade Mittens	Lona LaFrancis	\$14	Rick Mace
27	Anne Gregory	Town of Falmouth	Pumpkin Cookie Jar	Cathy Donovan	\$5	Anne Gregory
28	Anne Gregory	Town of Falmouth	Hand-Decorated Mirror	Ruth Birtz	\$17	Anne Gregory
29	Withdrawn					
30	Lost & Found Antiques	Town of York	Vintage Sampler	Donna Hays	\$7	Rick Mace
31	Lost & Found Antiques	Town of York	Lead Crystal Decanter	Darryl McKenney	\$25	Rick Mace
32	Darryl McKenney	Town of Waldoboro	Mexican Dominoes Game	Curt Lebel	\$18	Darryl McKenney
33	Darryl McKenney	Town of Waldoboro	Saw Horses	Mark Caldwell	\$20	Darryl McKenney
34	Penobscot Island Air	PO Box 273 South Thomaston, ME 04858	Lobster Trap Chair	Beth Bowdoin	\$72	Tammy Brown
35	Northern Maine Distilling Co	PO Box 782 Houlton, ME 04730	Twenty 2 Vodka	Paul McKenney	\$17	Laureen Bither
36	Laureen Bither	Town of Houlton	Kitchen Gift Basket	Darryl McKenney	\$20	Laureen Bither
37	The Chocolate Shoppe	149 Main St. Farmington, ME 04938	Box of Chocolates	Don Harriman	\$14	Mark Caldwell
38	Sebasco Harbor Resort	Sebasco Estates	Golf for 4	Jim Fennessy	\$50	Bob Smith
Total					\$870	

What's Happening at the Property Tax Division

November 2011

The Property Tax Division is cruising along in high gear, preparing for the 2013 State Valuation, municipal reimbursements and the upcoming legislative session.

November 1st brought a large influx of MVRs – as of November 1st we had received 354 MVRs. We mailed the Turn Around Documents on October 26 and already have received a handful of them back. If you want the T/A in electronic format please email Jeff Glazier at Jeffrey.A.Glazier@maine.gov or prop.tax@maine.gov – be sure to provide him the name of the town(s) you are requesting.

Jon Carrell is retiring, effective December 31, 2011. Jon has been with the Property Tax Division for more than 30 years. Good luck Jon! With Jon's retirement, Mike Rogers will be making changes in municipal assignments for SV audits- you may see someone new assigned to your town for SV purposes. Lou Durgin recently was offered and accepted a Property Appraiser II position

with the Division. We hope to fill his vacant PA I position in the near future.

Jeff Kendall continues to be busy with various Current Use Programs and educational meetings. He is preparing a Working Waterfront legislative report and is sitting on a Study Group with David Ledew to review the Farm and Open Space Tax Law.

Mike Rogers is busy as always meeting with towns that are faced with possible wind farm developments. Mike does a great job of illustrating the effect that huge property value increases have on school subsidy and revenue sharing payments to municipalities.

The Electronic Real Estate Transfer Tax (E-RETTD) application is up and active. Electronic RETTDs have been recorded in 31 municipalities. If you would like immediate access to sales transactions that were electronically filed, contact Deb Maringola @ 287-2012 or Laurie Thomas @ 287-6029 and we will create your account. ▲

Got your deer, yet?

Thank you to everyone who provided info for the newsletters for the past two years! Info and articles can now be sent to Rick Mace (rmace@yorkmaine.org). Our newsletter is in good hands.

Thanks again,
Darryl



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Municipal Membership:	\$50/municipality**
Student Membership:	FREE

*Includes all employees **Includes Boards of Assessors & Elected Municipal Officials

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

What do you feel your tax bill should be?

September 25, 2011

To whom it may concern:

We feel our property tax should be between \$900.00 and \$1,000.00 per year.

Old County Road is a dump infested area. We have made numerous calls regarding dumping and nothing has been done.

We have made numerous calls and stopped in to complain about the potholes that are causing damage to our cars. This is a public road and is the Town's responsibility.

There are places on this road that are unkept and no way up to code!!! There are a lot of issues that should be addressed with some of the residents.

We are being penalized for wanting to live in a nicer home and to give ourselves some security. We are looking to build a garage, some decks and nice landscaping but are having second thoughts due to the taxes.

People who don't care about their living quarters or property should be the ones penalized.

Thank you,

XXXXXXXXXXXX

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The MAAO Board would like to thank our 2011 vendors for their support



MAAO 2011 Fall Conference



President Brown welcomes the attendees to the MAAO Fall Conference



Bill Carroll, Immediate Past President IAAO



Darryl McKenney awarded President Tammy Brown an award of appreciation from the MAAO Association for her time serving as president.

MAAO 2011 Fall Conference



Game night at the hospitality cottage. Shown in this photo, Judy Mathiau, Charlie Charland, Frank Yattaw, Ruth Birtz, Marc Perry and Darryl McKenney.



Bill Healey introducing Robert Crawford and members of his staff.



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STATE OF MAINE CHAPTER

International Association of Assessing Officers



At the Annual MAAO Fall Conference Rick Mace received the Sherry Vermilya Award given by IAAO, presented by Paul Lesperence.

The International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO)

Congratulates the following members:

Lisa A. Morin, City of Augusta for 5 years of membership. **Joseph Grube**, City of Lewiston and **Richard A. Levesque**, Town of Fort Fairfield for 20 years of membership

Congratulations on your anniversaries!



Meets & Bounds

MAAO NOVEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

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