



Meets & Bounds

January 2014

Maine Association of Assessing Officers

President's Message

As we begin a new year I would like to convey my appreciation to our membership and in particular to the MAAO Board of Directors for the support, encouragement, and friendships that have been shared over the course of my career as an assessor. The knowledge and experiences that we have been able to impart on each other has been invaluable. My desire as president of MAAO is to make sure that we continue this tradition, especially as new people enter our profession.

Speaking of new people entering our profession, the Board is going to make a concerted effort to make ourselves available to our new CMA's. We will continue to strive to provide quality educational opportunities and programs. The Board wants to hear from our membership as to what their needs and concerns are. At the suggestion of several people, we will be offering a program related to Code Enforcement at our 2014 Conference. If you have any suggestions for topics you can relay them to Bill Healey, the Chair of our Education Committee (whealey@ci.scarborough.me.us).

In an effort to become more accessible to everyone in municipal government, the Board is very excited to announce that we have been invited by the Maine Chapter of IAAO to join them at the MMA Convention next fall. There will be an assessing booth available for all to visit and we hope to have representatives from our other assessing organizations in attendance, as well Maine Revenue Services.

One of the topics we discussed at our last board meeting was how to regenerate assessing professionals and to ensure that the integrity that we have worked so hard to accomplish and maintain in the great State of Maine continues. As you all know, not many of us dreamed about growing up to be tax assessors! So how do we make our profession one that is visible and desirable? The Board will be working on this in the coming year; again, please feel free to share your thoughts and ideas with us. As a side note, when you get a chance, ask Roger to tell you about his grandchildren! ▲

– Rick Mace, President

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MAAO Meeting/Training Calendar 2014

March 7	Board Meeting	MMA - Augusta
April TBD	Northern Maine Spring Workshop	Northern Maine Community College - Presque Isle
April 2	Verbal Judo-Tactical Communications For The Contact Professional	MMA - Augusta
May 2	Board Meeting	MMA - Augusta
May 8	Board of Assessment Review	MMA - Augusta

MAAO BOARD

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Beth O'Bar

MEMBER PROFILE: Dan Robinson

▲ By Anne J Gregory, CMA, Assessor, Town of Falmouth
email: agregory@town.falmouth.me.us



Dan Robinson has been Kennebunk's Assessor since March 1, 1999. Dan is a Portland native and graduated from Deering High School in 1986. He then attended the University of Miami. Dan returned to Maine in 1990 and began his career working for CLT, a revaluation company, during the 1991 revaluation of Gilford, New Hampshire. After his stint at CLT he began working for Will Cochrane, Gilford's assessor. In 1996, Dan was hired as the Deputy Assessor for Portsmouth, New Hampshire, also serving as the acting Assessor during that time.

Kennebunk is located on the ocean between Wells and Kennebunkport. Dan is responsible for 6,652 real estate parcels and 915 personal property accounts. The town's taxable valuation is \$1,945,949,600, with an assessment ratio of 95% and COD of 10. Dan is also responsible for managing the Town's GIS department, is the appointed E-911 Addressing Officer, and served as the point person for the Town's recent upgrade of their website.

Currently, Dan is working on a project aimed at making the office paperless. He and his assistants have scanned all plans, old property record cards and revaluation documents using Laserfiche software. The scanned documents will be available for other departments to view, too. Dan expects to finish this project before year's end. He is also finalizing the documentation for IAAO's CAE designation. Dan is a member of IAAO, MAAO and Maine Chapter of IAAO.

For Dan, the most enjoyable aspects of the assessing profession are being in the field and the analysis required in maintaining an equitable valuation model. He also enjoys the wonderful people he has met throughout the years. As with most assessors, the least desirable side of assessing is politics; he feels the numbers are what they are and the assessor should be left alone to do their job. He also knows the immeasurable value of having great staff and feels very fortunate to have Megan Verlander and Carol Doucette working with him on a daily basis.

Dan is the father of two boys ages 13 and 19 and one girl age 6. He spends all his free time coaching the two youngest children in field sports and gymnastics along with parenting all three. ▲

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

Please contact Ruth Birtz or a Director
if you have any news for the newsletter.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

▲ By Mike D’Arcangelo, Gorham Assessor

The most relevant issue facing all communities is LR 2721 proposed legislation to preserve revenue sharing. Many communities have testified that if Revenue Sharing is cut further, communities will be cutting services and capital expenditures. I would urge all Assessors be involved with purposed new legislation by following the Legislative bulletin on Maine Municipal Association web page.

A recent letter shared on our listserv

Good morning!

I’ve been involved with municipal government for 30+ years now, and I remember times when towns would say NO to the State and the State would say “then we’ll withhold State Revenue Sharing”.

If the State takes away SRS, can the municipalities then say NO to doing licenses, registrations, vitals, GA, etc., etc., etc. What would they do?? Maybe they would penalize us like they threatened towns that would not join RSUs. Wait a minute, that didn’t happen either!!

Food for thought.

John

John M Falla, Town Manager
 Town of St George
 P O Box 131
 Tenants Harbor, ME 04860-0131
 Tel. # (207) 372-6363 Ext 207

“The best executive is the one who has sense enough to pick good men to do what he wants done, and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it.” Theodore Roosevelt

LETTER FOR ABATEMENT

▲ By Darryl McKenney, Waldoboro

Waldoboro, ME 04572

August 31, 2013

Dear Mr. Spear,

We need HELP. We live on Pine Street on a beautiful piece of property on the Medomak River, and we pay our taxes promptly on this property. About six weeks ago four beautiful domestic geese landed on our lawn which abuts the Medomak River. We called the Animal Control Officer for Waldoboro about three weeks ago. She was going to get in touch with the game warden. We have not heard on thing back from her.

The geese have de-valued our property to the extent that we can’t use our lawn by the river because of the “poop” of the geese!! Can you imagine our great-grandchildren playing on the lawn or even us older people walking on it? We have a very small stone patio where we use to sit, but can’t sit there anymore because it is full of “poop”. We just built a ramp over a small gully to get to the other side so to make an area where we can sit near the river. Can’t get to it because of the “poop”.

We love watching the geese, but they are not ours-we didn’t ask for them- they are ruining our property. We need them gone. Someone has to catch them and take them some place where there is a pond. They are just eating the grass on our lawn and drinking the salt water.

We think at night they go to the Public Landing which is up-river from our property.

Please, can you Help us? ▲

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MAAO Secretaries Report

With the holiday season behind us we can begin to look ahead to the exciting year that's before us. MAAO would like to thank you for your continued support during 2013. We hope we were able to assist you with your assessing & educational needs and goals for 2013.

The MAAO Board met on December 7, 2013, at MMA in Augusta. As part of our year end meeting, committee chair were elected. We welcomed Rick Mace as our new President. Rick will serve as president for the years 2014 and 2015. The Board looks forward to his leadership during this period. The following is a list of Committees and the chairs, if you would like to assist with a committee and the chair has not contacted you please feel free to contact them.

- Secretary: Tammy Brown
- Treasurer: Martine Painchaud
- Audit/Finance: Mark Caldwell
- Calendar/Advertising: Mark Caldwell
- Newsletter: Ruth Birtz
- Ethics Committee: Jacki Robbins
- Legislative Committee: Mike D'Arcangelo
- Membership Committee: Roger Hoy
- Awards/Scholarship Committee: Beth O'Bar
- Technology Committee: Dan Robinson
- Education Committee: Bill Healey
- Conference Committee: Susan Varney
- Historian: Martine

The Board set the meeting calendar for year 2014. Below are the dates of the upcoming MAAO Board Meetings.

The Board reviewed the service agreement for the contract with MMA for year 2014. The board once again

voted to continue the contract with MMA. We would like to express our sincere thanks to MMA's Affiliate Department for all their help. We look forward to working with the MMA's Affiliate's Department for another year.

On January 10, 2014 MAAO held its first Board Meeting of 2014. The board listened to the committee reports given by the chair of each committee.

The education for the 2014 year is coming together nicely Bill Healey reported. The Board of Assessment Review Workshop date has been set for May 8, 2014. Once again Bill Dale and Sally Daggett will lead the discussion. This workshop continues to be well received and we thank Bill and Sally for their continued support. Some speakers have been confirmed for the Annual Fall Conference and Bill is waiting to hear from a few more. With the overwhelming support of the split session at last years Fall Conference MAAO is planning on offering the split session again this year. The subject is to be determined at this time. We will keep you posted as things continue to come together.

The board would like to remind you that MAAO has money available for scholarships for upcoming educational offerings. It is a simple application that must be filed 60 days before the educational offering you would like to attend. The application is enclosed with this issue of Meets & Bounds.

The next scheduled board meeting is March 7th at 10:00 at MMA in Augusta. If you have anything you would like to share or have the board take up, please contact any board member and they will be happy to assist you. ▲

Respectfully submitted by Tammy L. Brown

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location
Jan.10	Fri.	10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting	MMA – Augusta
Mar. 7	Fri.	10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting	MMA - Augusta
April	TBD	Northern Maine Spring Workshop		TBD
April 2	Wed.	TBD	Verbal Judo	MMA-Augusta
May 2	Fri.	10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting	MMA - Augusta
May 8	Thur.	4:00 p.m.	Board of Assessment Review Workshop	MMA - Augusta
Aug. 8	Fri.	10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting	MMA-Augusta
Sept. 3,4,5	Wed. Thur. & Fri.	Fall Conference Annual Meeting		Sebasco Harbor Resort
Oct. 1 & 2	Wed. & Thur.	10:00 a.m.	MMA Convention	Augusta Civic Center
December 5	Friday	10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting	MMA-Augusta

Embarrassing Moments Conducting Inspections; An Assessor's Tale

All of us from time to time have suffered from some verbal communication slips on inspections. I would like to encourage sharing some of these finer moments. I will start the ball rolling by sharing with you one of my most recent inspections. I was asked to review a property that was a foreclosure and reported by the property owner to be in complete dis-repair. Upon arriving at the property the residence did appear to be in very bad condition from the exterior of the property. Windows broken, roof in need of replacing and siding in bad need of painting or replacement. These observations were eagerly affirmed by the property owner. I had assumed I would find the interior consistent with the exterior. I was led in the front door and was instantly met by an orange glow. The interior appeared to be in process of complete demolition with only the kitchen cabinets remaining. The orange glow came from these cabinets. The bottom cabinets were painted a pepto bismol pink; the upper cabinets were painted the color of an orange sherbert. This was the cause of the orange glow. I immediately responded

“Wow, somebody really likes orange.” The property owner’s response was “thank you my wife just did that.” At which point I replied, again very quickly and quite insincerely, “nice job.” That’s when I realized that even after 22 years at this job, the filter can fail.

I hope you enjoy this story, and I encourage you to share yours. Please send your submissions to: assessor@lincolnmaine.org. ▲

Upcoming Event!

Northern Maine Conference

April 26, 2014

Northern Maine Region III
Vocational School, Lincoln Maine

ANNUAL DUES

Regular Membership:	\$30/person
Associate Membership:	\$30/person
Subscribing Membership:	\$200/business*
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.

Membership Questions?

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

www.memun.org

SCHOLARSHIPS

Every year MAAO awards two scholarships. The scholarships may be used for a variety of continuing education programs that grant a minimum of 16 hours of continuing education. If you would like to apply, please complete the enclosed application and mail to:

MAAO
c/o Maine Municipal Association
60 Community Drive
Augusta, ME 04330

If you have any questions regarding the application process contact Joan Kiszely at 1-800-452-8786.

The deadline is 60 days prior to the event you intend to use the scholarship for. ▲



MAAO Scholarship Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must:

1. Be a current member of MAAO and in good standing.
2. Demonstrate a need for academic and financial assistance.
3. Submit the required application form to be received by the Scholarship Education Committee Chair 60 days prior to the event you plan on using the scholarship for. Applications will not be accepted if not received by the deadline.

Scholarship Conditions:

1. Scholarship recipients are ineligible to apply for another award for three (3) years.
2. Must apply timely and on appropriate form to be considered for the present year.
3. Use the scholarship by 12/31 of each year.
4. Shall write a summary stating length of time in assessing field and the financial assistance for the scholarship.
5. Qualifying educational course work is defined as granting a minimum of 16 hours assessment by which a letter or certificate of completion can demonstrate examination success and the assignment of full credit. Continuing Education Units for licensure renewal other than Certified Maine Assessor and Certified Assessing Technician do not meet the scholarship conditions.
6. Successful applicants who subsequently decline the scholarship must reapply for future consideration.
7. Applicants must certify that no other tuition or course materials reimbursements has been awarded, nor will be sought, from any other source (e.g., county, state, local jurisdiction, or other educational or professional body), unless the scholarship does not fully cover the entire amount of the course and will receive the balance.
8. An application must be submitted with an original signature.
9. The name of the school or sponsoring organization must be submitted with the scholarship application.
10. Applicants are limited to one application per calendar year.
11. Only one (1) scholarship to be given to a Municipality every three (3) years.
12. The MAAO Board reserves the right to reject or accept courses that are acceptable for the scholarship.

Reimbursement will cover only up to the amount of the scholarship.

IAAO courses, State related courses, and other related subjects pertaining to the assessment field in general including State, MAAO, NRAAO and IAAO conferences are accepted courses.



**Maine Association of Assessing Officers
Application for Scholarship**

The decision of awarding the amount and the number of scholarships is made by the M.A.A.O. Board of Directors.

Please print clearly. Application must be submitted 60 days prior to the event you plan on attending.

Name: _____

Municipality: _____ **Title:** _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip Code: _____

E-Mail: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Location & Course Date: _____

I certify that the information furnished by me in this application is complete and accurate.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

On a separate sheet of paper, please state in your own words the reasons you believe you qualify to receive a scholarship:

Please return completed application to:

MAAO
C/O Maine Municipal Association
60 Community Drive
Augusta, ME 04330

If you have any questions regarding the application process contact Joan Kiszely at 1-800-452-8786.

Note: Selections will be made based on the application information received, funds available and eligibility. The Chair of the Scholarship Committee will notify all recipients and announce their names in the MAAO newsletter.



THE ASSESSOR OF THE YEAR AWARD **MAINE ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSING OFFICERS**

The Award

The Assessor of the Year Award is sponsored annually by the Maine Association of Assessing Officers Association (MAAO) to recognize professional and dedicated service by an Assessor to his/her profession and community.

Nominating Process/Presentation of Award:

- 1) The selection committee shall be appointed by the MAAO Board of Directors. It may consist of the following:
 - The Chair of the Awards and Scholarship Committee, the Awards and Scholarship Committee members and the MAAO Executive Board members.
 - Immediate past recipient of the Assessor of the Year award.
- 2) The Committee shall solicit nominations from MMA members and affiliates. **Deadline for nominations to be submitted will be July 10, 2014.** Nominations will be submitted on the official MAAO Assessor of the Year Nomination Form.
- 3) The Committee shall not disclose the name of the recipient before the Awards Ceremony.
- 4) The Award will be given during the MAAO Fall Conference Annual meeting in September.

Criteria:

Nominees for this award shall meet the following criteria:

- 1) Nominee must hold the title of Assessor for his/her municipality, and be a current CMA.
- 2) Nominee provides service and contribution beyond just that of the municipality in which he/she serves by active participation in various Assessing organizations.
- 3) Quality and consistency of work product
- 4) Nominee is recognized as a Assessor who displays characteristics of integrity and leadership.
- 5) Nominee shall have at least three years experience as an Assessor.
- 6) Nominee is not eligible if they have been a previous recipient of the Assessor of the Year Award.

Additional Information

For additional information, please contact Joan Kiszely at MMA at 1-800-452-8786 or in the Augusta area at 623-8428.

**MAINE ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSING OFFICERS
2014 ASSESSOR OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINATION**

Nominee's Name: _____

Municipality: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Nominee's Position: _____

Date of Original Certification as an Assessor: _____

Date or Year Nominee began work as an Assessor _____ (Must have served as an Assessor for at least 3 years)

Please answer questions below and attach additional sheets if necessary.

1. Please provide examples of the Nominee's leadership, service, and contribution to the Assessor's profession. List any participation in or awards given that were associated with any State, New England, or International organizations.
2. Please provide examples of the Nominee's dedication toward the community they serve and describe their efforts to promote the cause of good local government.
3. Please give a brief synopsis on the quality and consistency of work product.

Please attach all supporting documentation (newspaper articles, letters, letters of recommendation, resume, etc.) with this nomination form and submit to:

MAAO - Assessor of the Year Award

C/O MMA, 60 Community Drive

Augusta, ME 04330.

Deadline is July 10, 2014.

Nomination submitted by: _____

Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Congratulations To The Following Newly Certified Maine Assessors and Assessor's Technicians!

CMA	864	Poulin, Amber	Active	05/14/13	Stockton Springs
CMA	865	Desjardins, Nicholas	Active	05/14/13	Biddeford
CMA	866	Bell, John	Active	08/09/13	Waterford
CMA	867	Neves, Karen	Active	09/03/13	Albion
CMA	868	Norton, Kendi	Active	09/03/13	Kennebunk
CMA	869	Pike, Everett	Active	08/09/13	Detroit
CMA	871	Sutherland, Robert	Active	08/09/13	Edison
CMA	872	Sloan, Brian	Active	08/09/13	Auburn
CMA	873	Smith, Geoff	Active	11/13/13	Boothbay Harbor
CAT	232	Ricker Susan	Active	05/14/13	Lewiston
CAT	232	Targett, Leanna	Active	05/14/13	Salem Twp
CAT	233	Watson Jr., Bernard	Active	08/09/13	Cambridge

From Beth Newcombe, Assessor in Arundel

'I went to the Fall Conference and ended up with my BFF (best furry friend) Bailey. You never know what you may find at the silent auction.'

This is Bailey at five months.



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**Arguing with an Assessor is like wrestling with a pig in the mud.
After a while you realize that the pig enjoys it!**



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MAAO JANUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

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