



# Meets & Bounds

November 2015

Maine Association of Assessing Officers

## President's Message

I would like to begin my last president's letter by thanking the Board for a great two years! I couldn't have asked for a better group of individuals to work with, it made my term just fly by. Most of us can relax a little now that tax commitments are behind us as well as Tax School, our MAAO Annual Conference, and the MMA Convention. We can all look forward to spending time with our family and friends over the Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, and Christmas holidays! I wish you all the best as we look forward to a very happy 2016.

Our Annual Conference was outstanding once again, with quality educational sessions, superb accommodations, useful networking, and lively socializing! We had great attendance with many new people attending their first conference. My thanks go out to Bill and Debbie for their organization and the rest of the Board for the great team work that made this conference a special event. I also want to thank Bob Smith and his staff for the wonderful job they do at providing us with great hospitality.

The highlight of our conference has become the awarding of the MAAO Assessor of the Year Award. This year we had the privilege of presenting Darryl McKenney of Waldoboro and Palermo, with the award. Darryl is truly a shining example of what it means to be a public servant. The Maine assessors are very fortunate to have Darryl as a colleague.

Once again MAAO teamed up with the Maine Chapter of IAAO at the annual MMA Convention to host a booth. The two organizations offered information about our associations, freebies, a raffle (Congratulations to our raffle winner, Stacy Desrosiers, Town Clerk of St. Albans), and more importantly advice and encouragement to new assessors and selectmen/assessors. We had numerous people stop by over the two day convention

and had the opportunity once again to socialize and engage great conversations with our colleagues. I am really looking forward to next year in hopes that we will be able to reach out to more assessors as the convention moves to Bangor!

On matters concerning our Board of Directors, Ruth Birtz is our new President. We have re-elected five members; Mike D'Arcangelo, Tammy Brown (Secretary), Lewis Cousins, Bill Healey Jr. (Vice President), Jacqueline Robbins, and Debbie Turner.

I would also like to offer my congratulations to Dave Sawyer of Windham on the announcement of his eminent retirement at the end of this year. I have known Dave since I entered the assessing field back in 1987 and have appreciated his willingness to guide and support his peers over the course of his career. He has and will be an example of what a great assessor should be!

Thank you all for your support of MAAO and thank you especially to our Board of Directors for their hard work and dedication in our attempt to provide the best educational opportunities possible and for their willingness to offer their expertise and experience. ▲

### MAAO Board Meetings 2015

Dec. 4      10:00 a.m.      MMA - Augusta

### MAAO Board Meetings 2016

Jan. 8      10:00 a.m.      MMA - Augusta

## MAAO BOARD

### PRESIDENT

Rick Mace, Town of York  
Phone: 363-1005  
E-mail: [rmace@yorkmaine.org](mailto:rmace@yorkmaine.org)

### VICE PRESIDENT

Ruth Birtz, Town of Lincoln  
Phone: 794-3372 Fax: 794-2606  
E-mail: [assessor@lincolnmaine.org](mailto:assessor@lincolnmaine.org)

### SECRETARY

Tammy Brown, Town of North Haven  
Phone: 867-4433  
E-mail: [tammybrown4139@aol.com](mailto:tammybrown4139@aol.com)

### TREASURER

Martine Painchaud, Town of Eliot  
Phone: 439-1813  
E-mail: [mpainchaud@eliotme.org](mailto:mpainchaud@eliotme.org)

### FIRST PAST PRESIDENT

Darryl McKenney, Town of Waldoboro  
Phone: 832-5369  
E-mail: [assessor@waldoboromaine.org](mailto:assessor@waldoboromaine.org)

### SECOND PAST PRESIDENT

Tammy Brown, Town of North Haven  
Phone: 867-4433  
E-mail: [tammybrown4139@aol.com](mailto:tammybrown4139@aol.com)

### DIRECTORS

Dan Robinson  
Phone: 985-2102, ext 1333  
E-mail: [d Robinson@kennebunkmaine.us](mailto:d Robinson@kennebunkmaine.us)

Roger Hoy

Phone: 724-7475  
E-mail: [mhoy5@roadrunner.com](mailto:mhoy5@roadrunner.com)

John Wentworth, Town of Harrison  
Phone: 583-2241  
E-mail: [jwentworth@harrisonmaine.org](mailto:jwentworth@harrisonmaine.org)

Mike D'Arcangelo, Town of Gorham  
Phone: 222-1600  
Email: [mdarcangelo@gorham.me.us](mailto:mdarcangelo@gorham.me.us)

William Healey, Jr., Town of Scarborough  
Phone: 730-4061  
E-mail: [whealey@ci.scarborough.me.us](mailto:whealey@ci.scarborough.me.us)

Lewis Cousins, City of Presque Isle  
Phone: 760-2714  
E-mail: [lcousins@presqueisleme.us](mailto:lcousins@presqueisleme.us)

Jacqueline Robbins, Town of Monroe  
Phone: 525-3515  
E-mail: [bonaire4@myfairpoint.net](mailto:bonaire4@myfairpoint.net)

Deborah Turner, Town of Harpswell  
Phone: 833-5771  
E-mail: [dturner@town.harpswell.me.us](mailto:dturner@town.harpswell.me.us)

## MEMBER PROFILE: Larry Gardner



Larry has been Ellsworth's Assessor since 2000. Before that he was the Assessor in Bar Harbor for three years and before that SW Harbor for seven years. He remembers his job interview for SW Harbor, the Selectman Chair said "We've decided that if we hire you, you'll be the Code enforcement Officer, do you have a problem with that?" Larry says he took the job and learned a hell of a lot about zoning, land

use ordinances, shoreland laws and the like.

Before being an assessor he worked for the Cole-Layer-Trumble revaluation company in Camden, Rockport, Boothbay, Westbrook, Portland and then Bar Habah as a job supervisor. He says revaluation companies are hired to come in and quickly hit and run but do so with great accuracy. His experience with C-L-T taught him the importance of good quality control.

Larry was born in wild, wonderful West Virginia. He says he was always a jock growing up liking every sport. He particularly liked playing football. He was quarterback for his grade school and high school teams and says this taught him a lot about leadership and teamwork.



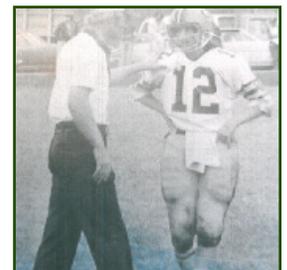
He says the late Senator Byrd was the guest speaker and fancifully played the fiddle (hee haw!) at his high school graduation.

"I come from a Marine Corps family"

His dad and mom were both Marines. Larry says he grew up seeing Marines everywhere

so naturally he enlisted and served four years as an anti-tank TOW weapon system specialist, wearing the eagle, globe and anchor uniform.

Larry says the period he served (1979 to 1983) was when the Marines were bombed in the Beirut. He remembers that before the bombing his helicopter carrier ship, the Iwo Jima, was heading back out of the Mediterranean Sea to the United States but called to station off the coast of Beirut and was given orders to go in the very next day. "We were receiving our M-16 ammunition and I remember asking questions about what to expect but no one had answers for me." He was 19 and had never even heard of Beirut and remembers how especially scared he and his fellow devil dogs were but the orders were called off the next day and the next ship of Marines that did go in he remembers waving to their vessel as they passed by. A few weeks later his ship of jarheads was back in the USA before the bombing occur.



Larry says at first, that period of time he served was not considered a war-time era so he remembers complaining that when he reached 62 he still wouldn't be eligible for the veterans exemption. He says the person he was complaining to said, "Would you have rather been shot at or **BOMBED**

*(Continued on Page 3)*



## MAAO Secretaries Report

▲ By Tammy L. Brown

Once again this year the MAAO Annual Fall Conference was held at Sebasco Harbor Resort. Sebasco Harbor Resort staff members continue to go above and beyond to meet our many needs. The MAAO Board would like to thank all the attendees from our Assessing and Code Enforcement communities for attending this year's conference. The continued collaboration between the Assessors and Code Enforcement Officers continues to grow each year. We would like to extend our gratitude to the many speakers and vendors, without their continued support we could not put on this caliber conference.

The MAAO Board would like to once again congratulate Darryl L. McKenney, on being named the Maine Association of Assessing Officer's Assessor of the Year. Darryl who is the Assessor for the Towns of Waldoboro and Palermo represents all the professional, ethical and compassionate qualities needed to be a great assessor. Darryl has served on the MAAO board since 1993. Since that time he has held the following positions: Regular Board Member for varies years, President in 1996 and 2012-2013 and Vice President in 1995 and 2010-2011, not to mention the many years serving in the Past President roll. Darryl has been an integral part of the MAAO Board history. His encouragement and leadership has help to shape MAAO into the organization it is today.

As you may be aware the Assessing profession is sometimes very daunting and complicated, Darryl serves as Assessor with competence and compassion. Darryl is a very involved individual; he serves in many capacities in the Towns of Waldoboro and Palermo. He serves as Assessors' Agent, General Assistant Administrator, Code Enforcement Officer, E911 Coordinator, Cemetery Overseer as well as finding time to volunteer for the Salvation Army and his local Church. Darryl continues to give of himself to the many communities that he works and lives in. Rather it is helping the people who come into his office with whatever their needs may be on that given day, to helping someone who may be in need of wood to heat their house during the winter. He has even been known to have an open door policy for anyone needing a

place to lay their head at night. Darryl exemplifies the meaning of community servant with style and dignity. If you happen to run into Darryl, please take the time to congratulate him on this great accomplishment.

Please consider nominating an assessor to recognize their professional and dedicated service to his/her profession and community. It is never too early to start planning for next year's award recipient. The award will once again be given out at the MAAO Annual Meeting. If you nominated someone for this year's award and would like them to be considered for next year's award please contact me before the deadline of July 10, 2016.

The Board met on September 4, 2015 as a wrap up of the Annual Fall Conference. At that meeting the board discussed the educational offerings, speakers, location, evaluation forms, food as well as the evening activities. The Board would like to extend our sincere thank you to those attendees and vendors who took the time to fill out the evaluation forms. The evaluation forms will help us to prepare for the upcoming 2016 Annual Fall Conference. We heard you load and clear, next year look for shorter sessions. Shorter sessions will give us the opportunity to bring you more topics as well. The sign in sheets for each day of the Fall Conference have been transferred to Maine Revenue Service so that they can record the credit hours for each attendee.

Once again this year we were asked to co-sponsor a booth at the MMA Convention with the MCIAAO. The booth was staffed by Judy Mathiau and Kerry Leichtman from the MCIAAO Board and Rick Mace and Darryl McKenney for the MAAO Board. It was the intension of both organizations to help promote the assessing profession and be available to answer any questions the attendees may have had regarding the assessing profession. The booth was a huge success.

The next MAAO Board Meeting will be held on December 4<sup>th</sup> at MMA in Augusta at 10:00. If you have anything you would like the board to take up, please contact any board member. ▲

**Meets & Bounds  
publication months:**

**January, April, July & November**

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

**Member Profile – Continued from Page 2**

and get your damn tax exemption or not be shot at or bombed and not get your exemption?” Larry says he never complained about it again but eventually that period of time was considered a war-time era primarily due to those 200 fellow Marines (many of his friends) being killed.

He says he also loves music. He listens to anything and everything but especially enjoys heavy metal and rap pop artist like Snoop and 50 Cent. “Slayer” is currently the CD in his car playing today. He loves the hard-ass beat.



But Larry’s a family man. “I’m a boring guy.” He says he spends all his free time with wife Marilyn and their kids doing “stuff.” He has a daughter, Monica and two boys Anthony and Manny.

Monica, age 30 (single but in a relationship) lives in Colorado. Anthony, age 19, going to college and Manny, age 10. Larry says having kids about every ten years apart has kept him silly and happy. ▲

**Membership Questions?**  
 Please contact Affiliate Services at:  
 1-800-452-8786  
[www.memun.org](http://www.memun.org)

**MAAO Assessor of the Year Winner**



Rick presents Darryl with Assessor of the Year Award.



Darryl after the award ceremony.



Darryl’s family came together to celebrate his award with him.



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 Web site: [www.easternac.com](http://www.easternac.com) • E-mail: [rglennon@easternac.com](mailto:rglennon@easternac.com)





## MAINE ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSING OFFICERS

### ASSESSOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

#### **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, 2016.** 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 an 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 2016 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, 2016.

Nomination submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

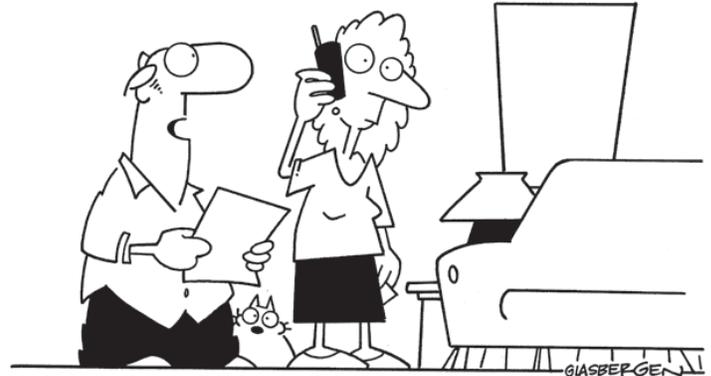
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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We need more participation in the newsletter! This is a picture of a Kettle House in Texas and a mushroom house in Ohio, I would encourage any Asses-

sors who have come across strange and unusual houses to share them in our newsletter. *Thanks Ruth E Birtz*



"Ask the realtor if we can list the litter box as a third bathroom."



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Ph: (207) 876-3300 / Fax: (207) 876-3330  
[hamlinassociatesinc@gmail.com](mailto:hamlinassociatesinc@gmail.com)

## 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](http://www.maineassessors.org) for more information and membership application form.



# Meets & Bounds

## MAAO NOVEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

[www.maineassessors.org](http://www.maineassessors.org)

MEETS & BOUNDS-MAAO  
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