



# Meets & Bounds

January 2017

Maine Association of Assessing Officers

## President's Message

I would like to begin by wishing everyone a happy, successful Happy New Year. Last year was certainly a year of changes in the Assessing community. Many of us are now working as both Code Enforcement and Assessor as fewer and fewer people are entering these professions. We also saw a move to a single Assessor for several communities. This is a trend the profession has recognized is likely to continue as more of us approach retirement. Enhanced education and advanced certifications have been implemented with the hope of stimulating more interest in becoming an Assessor. Shared communications between Assessing organizations and Revenue Services helped to bring forward these changes.

Most of us are now in the planning stages for the New Year. That means budget preparations, 706's, inspection schedules, as our cycle begins again. Please remember scholarships are available. Not just through the Maine Association of Assessing Officers but through other affiliate groups as well. Our application is included in this newsletter. Municipal budgets are getting tighter and tighter; make sure you are able to get the educational opportunities you need by using these scholarships. The education schedule is also included within. The list has

educational opportunities all over the State so there should be something that fits your needs. I am very excited that the Maine Chapter of MAAO will be offering the newly required Ethics class at Sebasco this year.

We will be finalizing the MAAO budget in January and appointing committee chairs. If you have any news worthy items you feel could benefit other Assessor's please forward them to me [assessor@lincolmaine.org](mailto:assessor@lincolmaine.org).

In closing, have a great winter! As a Patriot fan, I am feeling very cautiously optimistic about being in the Super Bowl. Spring is not that far away!

### MAAO Board Meetings 2017

Mar. 17	10:00 a.m.	MMA - Augusta
May 5	10:00 a.m.	MMA - Augusta
Aug. 4	10:00 a.m.	MMA - Augusta
Dec. 1	10:00 a.m.	MMA - Augusta

## Meets & Bounds publication months:

**January, April, July & November**

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

## MAAO BOARD

### PRESIDENT

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## MEMBER PROFILE: Justin Vandongen



I grew up in the Finger Lakes area of New York, a land of cow corn and apples. I am one of three boys raised by a stay at home mother and talented but quirky father. My father has worked for Xerox since the mid-70's as a designer for copy machine parts. These days he is the only one left in the design group as the copy machine business continues towards obsolescence.

After high school I attended the University of South Carolina (GO GAMECOCKS!) for a time. I wasn't great at being a student in such a new environment. I enjoyed my time attending "events" that were uncommon in my hometown and spent many nights fishing for stripers under the bridge near my apartment (that says stripers, like striped bass, get your mind out of the gutter). It was during this time that I met my wife Jennifer. She, being much more studious than I, went off to graduate school in New Haven, CT. I transferred to SUNY New Paltz and finished my non-utilitarian degree in political science.



We then moved back to the area where my wife grew up in Boston Metro West and began our careers. While Jen has a desirable degree in the pharmaceutical industry, I couldn't quite figure out what my education was good for and decided to get my teaching license. After influencing precisely one class of middle school aged children I thought better of the idea and began working in retail management. In 2005 Jen and I were married on Cape Cod.

The hustle and bustle of the area was getting to be too much for someone that was occasionally chased by cows while waiting for the school bus, so we decided to move to Maine. I secured a transfer to the Brunswick location of a certain blue home improvement store and spent my days managing the delivery of appliances. It is quite difficult to keep from getting bored in that environment and I began looking for a more rewarding career. Then came the event that would change history, an ad in the paper for a free course in tax assessing.

It was just the first evening of a three month course and I knew that I had a future in assessing. It wasn't that I was learning a lot right off the bat, Dick Foucher was a great storyteller but was not the best at staying on course. I was always good at math and my background in building materials and construction methods allowed me to pick up the material quickly. I had taken a lot of coursework on the American legal system so the law portion of the training came fairly easy as well.

Unfortunately Dick was not in the greatest of health and he had to cancel

*(Continued on Page 4)*

## MAAO Secretaries Report

▲ By Tammy L. Brown

Can you believe it, another year has come and gone? With the holiday season behind us we can all begin to look ahead to the fresh year that's before us. MAAO would like to thank you for your continued support during 2016. We hope we were able to assist you with your assessing & educational needs and goals for 2016. We are looking forward to assisting you with your educational needs in the new year.

The MAAO Board met on December 7, 2016, at MMA in Augusta. At this meeting, the board heard all committee reports and what the objective of those committee chairs will be for 2017.

The Board reviewed the service agreement for the contract with Maine Municipal Association for 2017. The board once again voted to continue the contract with MMA. We would like to express our most sincere thanks to MMA's Affiliate Department for all their help. We look forward to our continued collaborations.

The Board has set the meeting calendar for year 2017. Below are the dates of the upcoming MAAO Board Meetings/Educational Offerings:

January 13, 2017 at 10:00 Regular Board Meeting at MMA in Augusta.

March 17, 2017 at 10:00 Regular Board Meeting at MMA in Augusta.

April 14, 2017 at 8:30 Northern Maine Spring Workshop at Northern Maine Development Commission in Caribou.

May 5, 2017 at 10:00 Regular Board Meeting at MMA in Augusta.

May 11, 2017 at 4:00 p. m. Board of Assessment Review Workshop at MMA in August and live interactive video conferencing in Caribou.

August 4, 2017 at 10:00 Regular Board Meeting at MMA in Augusta.

September 6-8, 2017 Annual Fall Conference at Sebasco Harbor Resort.

October 4-5, 2017 MMA Convention in Augusta at Augusta Civic Center.

December 1, 2017 Regular Board Meeting at MMA in Augusta.

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.

It is never too early to consider nominating someone for Assessor of the Year. Do you know that special Assessor who goes above and beyond the day to day functions of the assessing office? If so, please take the time to make that nomination. We are very lucky to have this award in place for our most deserving Assessors. Both applications are enclosed with this issue of Meets & Bounds and can be found on our website [www.maineassessors.org](http://www.maineassessors.org).

The next scheduled board meeting is March 17<sup>th</sup> 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



Darryl McKenney wanted to share his great news. His youngest Daughter Ashlie has announced her engagement.



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## News From Around the State

▲ by Ruth Birtz

The Board of Property Tax Review has issued a decision on an appeal filed by Xpress Natural Gas verses Baileyville. Representing Baileyville at this hearing was Lorna Thompson and William Van Tuinen. Xpress Natural Gas was challenging the assessment of mobile trailers on site at the paper mill in Baileyville. They claimed the 706 process was not followed by the Town appropriately; therefore they should not be barred from appeal of the assessment. Bill Van Tuinen has posted the written decision by the Board of Property Tax Review on the MAAO listserv. For those who may have missed it, it is a very interesting read and it has information helpful to all in the assessing field. Unfortunately it was too large to include in this newsletter. To briefly summarize, the Board upheld the decision made by the assessors that the company was barred from appealing for failure to comply with the 706 form. Anyone wishing the entire copy of the decision by the Board please email me at [assessor@lincolnmaine.org](mailto:assessor@lincolnmaine.org) and I will be happy email you a copy.

### Member Profile – Continued from Page 2

the course after just a few meetings. I decided that I could self-study the materials in order to prepare for the next test offering. So a month after being introduced to the assessing realm, I was sitting in a room full of people taking one of the toughest exams I had faced in quite some time. A month later I received noticed that I had passed the exam and was a Certified Maine Assessor.

Since that time I have served in various municipal roles including Administrator for the Town of Pittston, Director of Assessing and Code Enforcement for the Town of Boothbay and currently the Assessor and GIS Coordinator for the Town of Bar Harbor. I have also conducted three tax revaluation projects in the last ten years. The most rewarding part of my time in Bar Harbor was seeing two of my coworkers receive their certification as assessors.

In my spare time, not that I have much being a father of three young daughters, I enjoy playing basketball, bass fishing, woodworking and fixing up houses. I very recently etched my name in the record books as Keg Stacking Champion at the second annual Bar Harbor Beer Fest.

## Education Schedule 2017

- April 14            MAAO Northern Maine Spring Workshop in Caribou
- May 10-12        Maine Property Tax Institute at Sunday River Ski Resort in Newry
- May 11            MAAO Board of Assessment Review at MMA in Augusta
- July 31-Aug. 4    Maine Property Tax School in Belfast
- Sept. 6-8         MAAO Fall Conference Sebasco Estates in Phippsburg

Be sure to check affiliate groups for other educational offerings throughout the year. Some additional information can be found at the State of Maine Revenue Services website at: [www.maine.gov/revenue/propertytax/trainingcertification/courses.htm](http://www.maine.gov/revenue/propertytax/trainingcertification/courses.htm)

## 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.



## 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. Unless no other applications have been received and/or monies are available. This decision will be left to the discretion of the Board.
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. Unless no other applications have been received and/or monies are available. This decision will be left to the discretion of the Board.
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 registration fee(s).

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 MAAO 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:

Maine Association of Assessing Officers  
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.



## 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, 2017.** 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 2017 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:

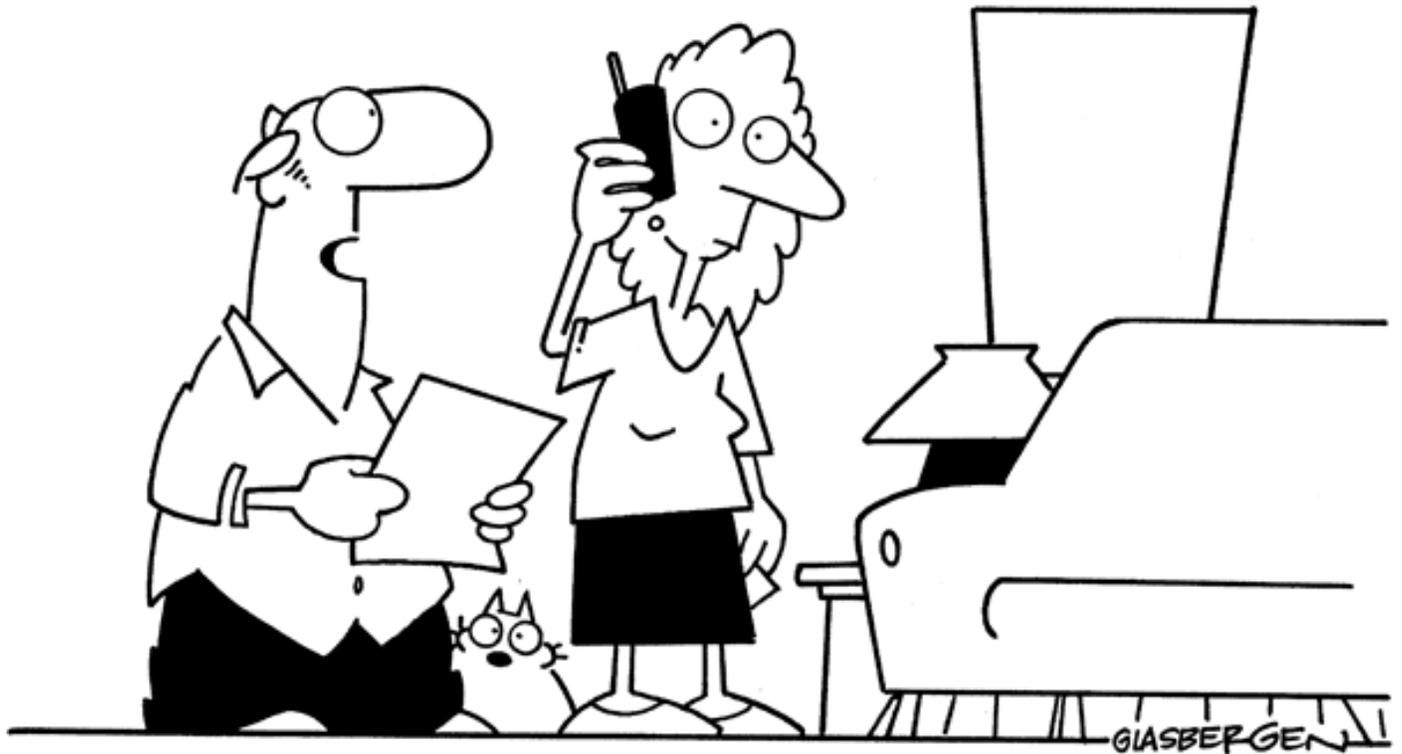
**MAAO - Assessor of the Year Award**  
C/O Maine Municipal Association  
60 Community Drive  
Augusta, ME 04330.  
Deadline is July 10, 2017.

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

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

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

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**“Ask the realtor if we can list the litter box as a third bathroom.”**



From the world of Wacky Houses; Wonderworks  
(Pigeon Forge, TN, United States)

## Membership Questions?

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



# Meets & Bounds

## MAAO JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

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

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