

# CMA *Covering Maine Assessing*

## LETTER FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

I was going to write about "adapting during a pandemic", but like the topic of BETE, enough is enough.

So, instead, I hope to enlighten you on some interesting excerpts that I came across recently from the Maine Chapter Archives.

Did you know that in 1983, the Chapter President sent IAAO Headquarters a letter regarding the political activity of the Chapter? In the letter, a plea was made to allow the chapter to engage a retired professional assessor to act as a lobbyist, on behalf of the chapter. The response from IAAO was a firm **NO**. The reason for the **NO** was primarily because IAAO did not want to endanger their federal income tax exemption.

Speaking of Legislation, in 1985, 11 assessors were assigned to the chapter's legislative committee. One of those was Darryl McKenney, who currently serves on our executive board!

Today, the Chapter still has a legislative committee but with only 4 members and like 1983, they are not allowed to lobby on behalf of the Chapter. But they do keep the board informed of current legislation and upcoming proposed bills.

I know of several assessors that testify before the taxation committee and I encourage all of you to be knowledgeable and cognizant of any proposed or newly enacted laws that may affect your responsibility as an assessor.

For a list of new Property Tax Legislative Changes, go to the Property Tax Division's [Assessor's Page](#).

- Judy Mathiau

## MAINE NEWS

A 5-year-old dispute over the taxable value of the pulp mill in **Old Town, Travis Roy**, is headed to Maine's highest court, with the city planning to appeal a recent ruling by the Maine Superior Court in favor of a former mill owner that has sought a lower property value.

Assessor **Kerry Leichtman** has been appointed to the State Board of Property Tax Review effective July 28, 2020 by Governor Mills.

**Lewiston** and **Auburn** see \$33M in new commercial development in last 12 months. City officials reflect on FY20 growth and what's ahead including, in Auburn, restaurant news and the potential for "major expansions soon." A new massive dairy barn, multimillion-dollar updates at the Bates Mill Complex, a new high school for special education students, new apartment buildings and a new urgent care facility were among the \$33 million in new commercial projects on both sides of the river in the Twin Cities in the past 12 months.



## Newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the IAAO

September 2020

Caitlin Thompson, Editor

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### IAAO UPCOMING EVENTS

- IAAO 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Legal Seminar, held in Austin, Texas, December 3-4, 2020
- GIS/Valuation Technologies Conference, scheduled for New Orleans, Louisiana, March 15-18, 2021
- Emerging Leadership Summit, scheduled for Chicago, Illinois, April 2-3, 2021
- International Research Symposium and the Prep & Trial Seminar have both been cancelled due to the risks surrounding COVID-19 but are working on hosting the seminars in 2021

## FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE IAAO NEWS



**VISION Government Solutions** sponsored the IAAO Women's Initiative workshop—Dr. Brené Brown's dare to lead training™

This workshop is designed for individuals who are ready to embrace brave leadership, shed their armor and show up with whole hearts in their work and life. Intuitive and interactive facilitation will guide the group through the actionable and measurable skill sets of daring leadership.

Our good friend and colleague, Gaylord Wood was recently honored by the Florida Chapter IAAO with their first ever Lifetime Achievement award. We're not surprised. The following is excerpted from the Florida Chapter's newsletter. Congratulations Gaylord!

The first recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award is someone who has supported the Chapter for many years. Over the years **Gaylord "Jay" Wood** has given his time and effort to the Chapter by presenting legal updates at our Conferences and Seminars. Anytime a complex assessment issue arises in Florida you can always count on Jay to have an opinion and give a well-educated take on how the issue at hand could affect

other aspects of appraisal. If you look back at the last 30+ years of appraisal cases in Florida you will find Jay's name on a lot of them, representing Florida Property Appraisers.

This photo was provided by Patrick Alesandrini, Chief Deputy of the Hillsborough County Property Appraisers.

"My wife Mary and I drove to Ft. Lauderdale to present this award to Jay. We met at his home and made the presentation and stayed for a lovely visit. I think he was quite surprised, which is just the kind of gentleman he is. Never presumptuous ....He and his wife both spoke fondly of Maine and his involvement there."

## MAINE CHAPTER NEWS

This spring the MEIAAO held not one but two educational zoom meetings. They had some great turn out and we were even able to record them.

June 12 –

- Q&A with Peter Lacy, Property Tax
- Legislative Session Updates, Kate Dufour, MMA
- Defending Values during COVID19, Joel Moser, Bernstein Shur

June 26 -

- Fireside Chat about Revals, KRT Appraisal
- Portland Reval update, Chris Huff, Portland Assessor
- Inspections during COVID-19, Panel
- Maines Real Estate Market, Chris Lynch & Julie Cromwell

These meetings and all supporting documents are available on our website. If you haven't checked them out yet [\*\*Click Here!\*\*](#)



## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Following a review of comments, concerns, and logistics on holding the IAAO annual conference in Denver in late August, IAAO transformed the 86th Annual International Conference on Assessment Administration into an exciting virtual conference featuring educational sessions, an exhibit hall, and special events.

The 2020 virtual conference will take place **August 30 to September 1**.

The International Conference on Assessment Administration is the premier platform to share successes, discover best practices and learn from expert colleagues the latest research in the field of property appraisal. Educational sessions, networking opportunities and events, and a varied exposition equip assessment professionals with the tools needed to succeed. Conference attendees were given the opportunity to interact with peers from across the country as well as around the globe.

An overview of contents from the conference included

- Future Trends
- Exhibitor Solutions
- Oversight and Compliance Review
- Managing Public Relations and Communications
- Managing Complaints and Appeals
- Leading and Managing the Assessment Office
- Appraising Property
- Developing and Managing Cadastral Data
- Collecting and Maintaining Property Data
- Working with the Legal Framework

For the complete schedule of educational sessions follow this link

[Annual Conference 2020](#)

## IAAO 2020 CONFERENCE FAQs

**What kind of software will I need to participate in the virtual event?** An internet connection and a web browser.

**Will the sessions be recorded?** Yes, and your registration fee will include an "on demand" feature, so you can access any session you choose from the conference library during (and after) the scheduled conference dates.

**Will I still be able to interact with the presenters during the sessions?** Yes, the speakers will be available to answer questions during the sessions that are presented over the conference dates.

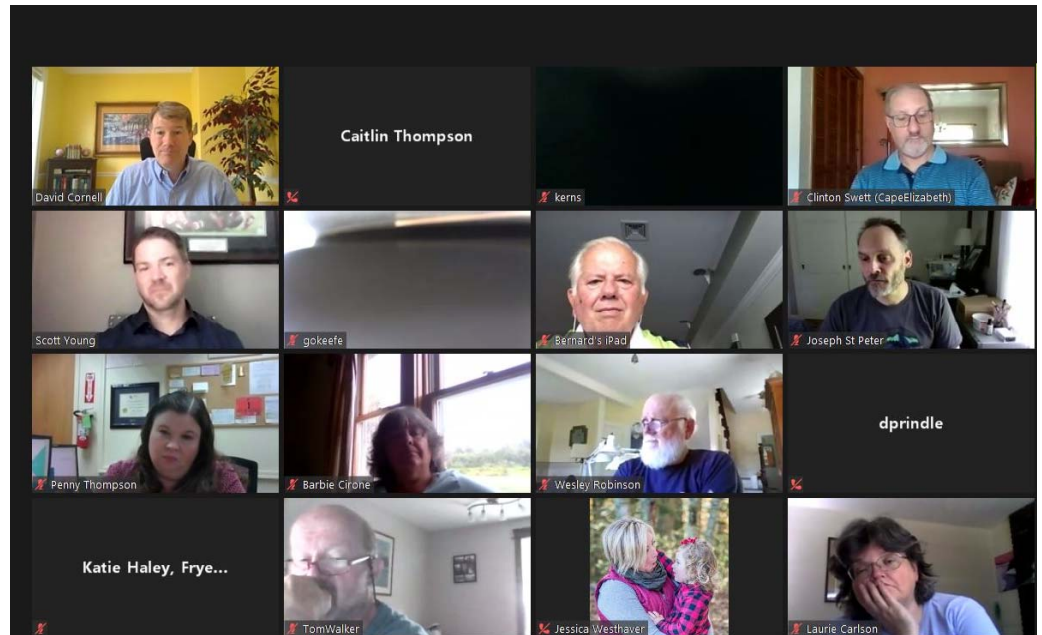
**Will CEUs will be available?** Yes. Attendees can get credit for each session they attend, and the system will check attendees into sessions to track attendance. Up to 50 hours may be available.

**Will there be an exhibit hall?** Yes, there will be a virtual exhibit hall that allows attendees to visit exhibitor booths, participate in product demos, interact one-on-one with the exhibitor representatives, receive logo item giveaways, and be eligible for any exhibitor prizes!

**How long will the virtual Conference be available after September 1?** Materials will be available until December 31, 2020.

# THE 73<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MAINE PROPERTY TAX SCHOOL WENT VIRTUAL!

Looks like some  
great feedback!  
Thank you  
Andrea and  
everyone who  
was involved!



Well, we managed to keep the tradition alive, even in the midst of a global pandemic. The 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Maine Property Tax School, Online Edition, has been a success so far. There have been a few minor hiccups here and there, but it seems we have quickly learned to navigate through this world of online education.

I would like to sincerely thank all who registered for their openness to this new online format, and also for their patience and understanding throughout the process. It's been a learning experience for us all! An online Property Tax School will never be the same as Tax School in beautiful Belfast, but maybe next time we can all use a Zoom background with an ocean scene and feel like we're on the coast. Just kidding – let's keep our fingers crossed that we can return to Belfast for the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Maine Property Tax School.

**-Andrea Lubejko**

Chief of Training & Certification

Overall, how would you rate this year's online Property Tax School?				
Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
39.02%	40.24%	18.29%	2.44%	0.00%
Were you able to complete all 16 hours of your CMA continuing education requirement?				
Yes	No	N/A		
78.05%	12.20%	9.76%		

**After tax school**

**7 people sat for the CMA!**





## NEW PUBLIC RETTD LOOK UP APPLICATION

The Property Tax Division of MRS has created a new online lookup service that allows the public to search for Maine real estate sales as reported on filed Real Estate Transfer Tax Declarations (RETTDs). The online RETTD Public Lookup Application allows users to review and download or print PDF versions of RETTDs going back as far as 2006. Documents can be searched by county, municipality, property type, book and page, selling price, and date sold. There are no fees to use this service.

The new application is available by viewing the Transfer Tax section of the Property Tax Division website and clicking on Public Real Estate Transfer Tax Lookup, or may be accessed directly using this link: [https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/mrs/rettd/public\\_lookup/index.pl](https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/mrs/rettd/public_lookup/index.pl)

## NEWS FROM MAINE REVENUE

Peter Lacy is officially the new Director of the Property Tax Division—Congratulations Peter!

*MRS is pleased to announce that Peter Lacy has recently been selected as the new Director of the Property Tax Division, effective June 1. Peter has a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Southern Maine and a law degree from the University of Maine School of Law. He is also a Maine licensed attorney. Peter has been with MRS since 2008, starting as a Revenue Agent in the Sales, Fuel and Special Tax Division, where he performed field audits of businesses for Maine sales and use tax compliance. He also served as Deputy Director of the Sales, Fuel and Special Tax Division, before transferring to the MRS Office of General Counsel. Peter has spent the last five years at the Office of General Counsel, most recently as Deputy General Counsel, providing legal analysis and guidance on a broad range of matters to the different divisions at MRS.*

We have a couple of bulletin updates in the pipeline, but nothing that will be posted to the website for a while.

If you have any questions, please contact the Property Tax Division at (207) 624-5600.

## Maine Chapter of the IAAO Executive Board

<b>Judy Mathiau</b>	President	<a href="mailto:jmathiau@winslow-me.gov">jmathiau@winslow-me.gov</a>
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