

# CMA *Covering Maine Assessing*

Newsletter for the Maine Chapter of the IAAO



October 2021

Judy Mathiau, Editor

## Chapter President Judy Mathiau

Have you ever googled your name? I just did this recently and I encourage YOU or DARE you to do the same.

I was going to write my last Presidential Message on *reflections*, but I didn't know where to begin. I needed a jump start and thought why not? I found my name in articles, obituaries, meeting minutes and a whole lot more that I had honestly forgotten about.

I believe that most of what I now reflect on, has had a positive effect on me, and that in turn has helped me to help you in your profession as well.

I am sharing a few of the "googles" I found that may be funny or sad, but leaves me grateful for all that I have experienced.

I had the opportunity to work at the Property Tax Division under David Ledew and many other great staff, but I had forgotten that I was also a member of the **Maine GeoLibrary** representing the Commissioner of Admin and Finance.

I worked for the Town of **Rockport** (twice), but I forgot that there were several hearings before the BAR in 2006 that I was NOT defending because I had just been hired and these appeals had all been deemed denied due to the vacant Assessor's position. I actually reviewed the cases and recommended abatements on a few of them!

I remember when the mom of a dear high school friend passed away in 2013, but I did not realize where my memorial donation had been used! The **Eastport** Fourth of July Old Home Week! Nice!

I have had an amazing adventure as your Chapter President over the past 4 years and I truly hope I did not outstay my welcome.

*Reflection is part of learning and thinking.  
We reflect in order to learn something, or  
we learn as a result of reflecting.*

## Maine News

Lindsay Waller, formerly of KRT Appraisal, was recently hired as an Staff Appraiser in the City of **Auburn**, replacing Kate-Lyn Doustout.

Congratulations to **Andrea Lubejko** and family, on the birth of their new baby girl Lydia Joy, born August 9th.

Belfast's loss Eliot's gain! **Brent Martin** now travels to Eliot as their new Assessor, replacing Martine Painchaud.

**Penny Thompson**, Assessor in Caribou is still Interim Town Manager as well. But that did not stop her from attending the Annual IAAO Conference in Chicago! Joining her was Bill Healey, Valerie Moon and Steve Sullivan. Check out page 2!

**Barbara Brewer** recently acquired her CMA 4!! And, she did this only five years into her assessing career. Congrats to you Barbara!!!



[knox.villagesoup.com/2010/02/18/rockport-assessor-resigns-cites-towns-economic-uncertainty-307291/](http://knox.villagesoup.com/2010/02/18/rockport-assessor-resigns-cites-towns-economic-uncertainty-307291/)

# IAAO CONFERENCE EXCLUSIVE SUMMARY

*Submitted by Penny Thompson*



***“It’s 106 miles to Chicago,  
we’ve got a full tank of gas, half a pack of cigarettes,  
it’s dark and we’re wearing sunglasses”  
“Hit it!”***



For those of a certain age, it doesn’t get more iconic than this Elwood and Jake quote from the 1980 film “The Blues Brothers”. I can’t think of another movie that features the Assessor’s Office in the climactic scene! The host committee played up this Chicago connection during the conference with great success.

Three other assessors from Maine attended: IAAO Executive Board mem-

ber Bill Healey, RES, of Lewiston, Steve Sullivan, CMS, of Maine Revenue Service, and Valerie Moon of Brewer. I encourage you to reach out to them to find out their personal conference experience.

Some of my personal highlights included: keynote speaker Morris Morrison, meeting Steve Sullivan (finally), walking the stage to shake hands with President Greg McHenry in recognition of receiving my AAS designation in 2021 and attending a White Sox game with both Bill and Valerie courtesy of Vision Government Solutions.

My favorite conference memory was my opportunity to speak on community engagement at my session, “*Making Community Connections*”. I grew up 250 miles south of Chicago and in May 1986, I was lucky enough to travel there for the annual state convention for the Illinois Association of Student Councils. I remember watching with admiration as those student leaders presented ideas with confidence and conviction. At their closing gala, I silently vowed that someday I was going to come back to Chicago to present about something that I am truly passionate about. Now, 35 years later, I still have the original newspaper clipping as evidence that it is never too late to keep a promise to yourself!



**HHS council officers**

Hatsellville High School Student Council officers for 1985-87 are Secretary Penny Jackson (front left), Reporter Tina Moran, Vice President Ronnie Poorman (standing left), President Kent Huber and Treasurer Tricia Guyer. The new officer attended the Illinois Association of Student Councils Thursday through Saturday in Chicago. More than 1,019 students and 216

What Boston pop culture reference do you think could be worked into the 2022 conference (and why)? Let me know your thoughts at: [pthompson@cariboumaine.org](mailto:pthompson@cariboumaine.org) and I will follow-up this column with some of your best ideas in a future newsletter issue!



## JATA Program

They are waiting for your call!



For an updated list  
of mentors, log onto

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

## REQUEST FOR OLD MAPS

Executive Board member and  
Chapter Historian Darryl McKenney  
is looking for any old  
Maine maps you may have.

Please contact Darryl at  
207-832-5369 ext. 302  
[waldoboroassessor@gmail.com](mailto:waldoboroassessor@gmail.com)

## November 19, 2021 Annual Maine Chapter Meeting

We are going live and in person for our annual meeting on November 19th! Finally, we feel we are at a point where we can safely gather and get back to some sense of normalcy. We realize the trepidation some may have in joining us for this meeting and we respect your opinion if you decide not to come.

We sent out a SAVE the DATE notice a couple weeks ago which detailed the location as the Hutchinson Center in Belfast. Plus, for those who have to travel, you will have the opportunity to stay overnight on the 18th at a discounted rate at the Belfast Harbor Inn. The Executive Board is planning an informal meeting at the hotel that night as well. A separate email will be sent with the registration. We look forward to seeing you!

## IAAO CONFERENCE EXCLUSIVE SUMMARY CONTINUED



Valerie, Bill and Penny  
WHITE SOX GAME



Steve, Penny & Bill  
CLOSING GALA



**Certified at 100%?**  
**Judy Mathiau, President**

*I know that in Winslow, I have been able to certify at 100% since 2010 when I was hired. We had just completed a revaluation in 2008 and I was able to hold onto a perfect ratio and quality factor as I am sure many of you have done successfully as well.*

*Fast forward to 2021. It was a close call this year, but fortunately I was able to again, certify at 100%. But I will have to prepare for next year at less than that. I received my Preliminary 2022 State Valuation which indicates a developed residential ratio of 88%. The most I can do next year will be 96%. I think I will be luckier than most.*

*When you fill out the MVR, you must state your certified ratio and they have listed certain categories that must be adjusted by the ratio. The MVR Instructions list another category, transmission and distribution. I encourage you to contact your State Field Rep if you have any questions. Be Cautious!*

3. 2021 Certified Ratio (Percentage of current just value upon which assessments are based.) 3   
 Homestead, veterans, blind, and BETE Exemptions, Tree Growth and Farmland values must be adjusted by this percentage

### **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS**

**Commitment Date:** Enter the date the assessment is signed and committed to the tax collector.

**Lines 1 & 2:** Enter county and municipality name

**Line 3: Certified Ratio.** Enter the ratio selected in Section A of the Ratio Declaration & Reimbursement Application. This ratio should reflect the current full market value on which April 1 assessments are based. The ratio must fall within 10% of the local developed parcel ratio that the Property Tax Division provides to the municipality by mail in March. If the certified ratio is not within 10% of the local developed parcel ratio, the municipality must file a petition explaining why the ratio is outside this threshold. If the petitioned-for ratio is accepted by MRS, the municipality may enter the certified ratio on this line. All exemptions, personal property valuations, transmission and distribution line valuations should be adjusted by the certified ratio.

We are planning to include an in-depth session on this at the winter meeting in 2022. I would love to hear from you if you have certain questions we can address at this session and I would love to hear about your experience if you certified **NOT** at 100%. What is your current certified ratio? What properties did you have to adjust by the ratio? How did that affect your tax rate and the tax burden shift? **OR**, did you make value adjustments to certify at 100%?

**Please e-mail me at [jmathiau@winslow-me.gov](mailto:jmathiau@winslow-me.gov)**

**Vote for  
Lisa A. Hobart, CAE, PPS, FIAAO  
For IAAO Vice President**

248.703.6834

[Lhobart59@comcast.net](mailto:Lhobart59@comcast.net)



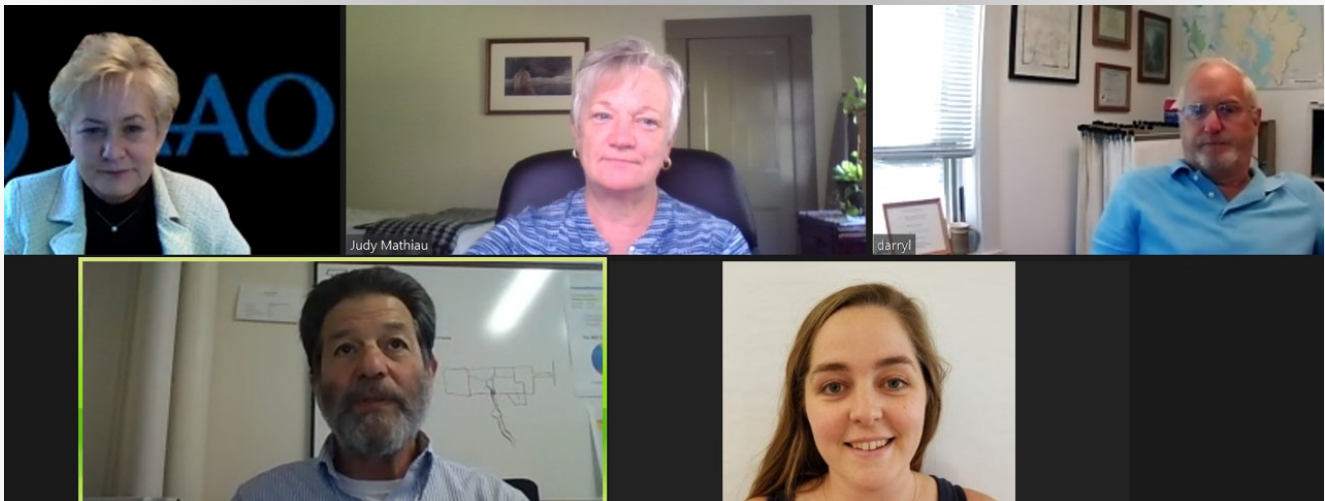
**IAAO Elections will be held November 1-15!  
Your vote is important.**



**Respectfully asking for your Vote!**

The Maine Chapter Executive Board unanimously endorsed Lisa Hobart at a recent meeting. Most of us have had the pleasure of meeting Lisa in person and she is a wonderful person with a lot of energy. Lisa is always willing to listen to your needs, suggestions and concerns.

We encourage you to reach out Lisa if you have any questions regarding her ambitions and goals, or to better understand the voting process. If you are a current IAAO Member you will receive a ballot at the time of the election.



**Executive Board Member meet with Lisa**  
Top: Lisa Hobart, Judy Mathiau, Darryl McKenney  
Bottom: Kerry Leichtman and Caitlin Thompson





## State of Maine Chapter of the IAAO Executive Board

Judy Mathiau	President/Newsletter Editor	<a href="mailto:jmathiau@winslow-me.gov">jmathiau@winslow-me.gov</a>
Karen Scammon	Vice President/IAAO Rep	<a href="mailto:kscammon@auburnmaine.gov">kscammon@auburnmaine.gov</a>
Kerry Leichtman	Past President/IAAO Rep	<a href="mailto:kleichtman@camdenmaine.gov">kleichtman@camdenmaine.gov</a>
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