

DECEMBER 2022

# CMA

## COVERING MAINE ASSESSING

NEWSLETTER  
FOR THE MAINE  
CHAPTER OF  
IAAO



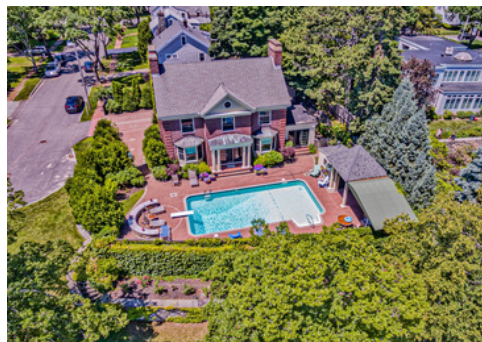
### INSIDE THE ISSUE:

ANNUAL MEETING  
RECAP - 2

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - 3

MAINE NEWS - 4

MEIAAO BOARD INFO - 5



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Everyone,

I hope everyone enjoyed the gorgeous Fall weather. I personally love winter and am looking forward to that first good snowfall. Things seem to quiet down a bit in the winter which gives us time to reflect on the current year and plan ahead for the next year. In thinking about 2022 I believe it was a pretty good year. Covid seemed to settle down a bit and we were actually able to have some meetings and trainings in person. It was great to see everyone at Property Tax School and our annual Chapter meeting this year, catch up a bit and meet some new people as well. It was an extremely busy year in the assessing world. The market went crazy which kept us all wondering how to deal with it and when things would settle down. The market is still crazy but in talking with many of you I think we have stepped up to the challenge and have control of making the adjustments needed (for now). We were hit with some bizarre legislation that is proving to be another huge challenge but as they say, that too shall pass. I am confident we as a group can work together to educate those that can and will fix the mess they (you know who they are) created. Ah well, life is full of challenges, that's what makes it interesting. All in all, when you take time to reflect back on 2022, I hope you will find you also had a pretty good year and had a lot to be grateful for. I know I am very grateful to be in a profession where I have colleagues I can lean on and who are always willing to give guidance and advise when needed. I am grateful for the Maine Chapter and the MAAO working together to provide all of us with excellent educational sessions this year. I look forward to working together again. And most of all I am grateful for having chosen to be in this profession which gave me the opportunity to know and be friends with so many of you. I am looking forward to 2023 and all the great things we all can accomplish. I wish you all happy and safe holidays and Happy New Year!

Karen Scammon, CMA-4, President Maine Chapter IAAO

# Annual Meeting Recap

## Nick Cloutier, Education Committee Chair

The ME Chapter IAAO held its annual meeting back in November, which included four really superb educational sessions. The morning's presentations were focused on Revaluations, an issue that has become more relevant than ever due to recent market shifts sending our respective ratios downward. We first heard from Bob Konczal of Atlantic Valuation Services, formerly the long-time Assessor of Freeport. Bob's sage knowledge and years of practical experience performing statistical market updates set the stage for his practical application guidance and highly valuable advice. After that we were treated to a panel discussion featuring four of our Assessor peers who've all had recent first-hand experiences managing revals. Despite the differing unique circumstances and approaches to their respective revals, there were some consistent thorough lines, particularly regarding the importance of excellent outreach communication, as well as thorough project management and pro-active planning processes. Although there is no one-size-fits-all solution to performing revaluations, we're always much better off as a profession when the experienced colleagues among our ranks are graciously willing to share their knowledge and best practices. A huge thank you shout out to Kyle Avila, Elisa Marr, Ben Thompson, and Caitlin Thompson.

After lunch we had two more excellent sessions that expanded the educational topics even further. We were incredibly fortunate to have two great educators, Attorney David Johnson and Maine Revenue Services' Steve Sullivan, lead us thorough some highly interesting and informative presentations. For those who were unable to

attend, I bet it'd be hard to imagine how topics seemingly dry as processing Deeds and the State Valuation could be so engaging, and at times even laughter-inducing, but that's exactly what went down.

It was truly a pleasure to be in person again with all who attended, to learn and spend quality time together. For those who couldn't attend, you were missed and we hope to see you at future events when you can make it. Although the past two years' worth of Zoom events were certainly useful, the best fellowship and good times occur when we're together! Until the next time... take care.





# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## PAUL CASTONGUAY

- **Certification #514** August 7, 1992
- **When did you become an Assessor? Why?** I officially became Assessor in Waterville in August 1998. I'm still asking myself that same question.
- **What did you do before becoming an Assessor?** I worked for MMC Inc (now Vision) doing revals across New England.
- **If you are currently working as an Assessor - where?** Waterville
- **If you have worked in other municipalities previously - where?** Only when doing revaluation projects.
- **If you could choose anyone as a mentor, who would you choose?** Leonardo Da Vinci
- **What's one thing - work related or not - you learned in the past month?** Don't bet on football...You're not very good at it.
- **What is the best advice you have ever received?** That past mistakes or omissions can and should be remedied.
- **What's some advice you'd like to pass on to other Assessors?** Take every IAAO Course available to you. You'll never regret it.
- **What's your favorite Assessing topic you like to discuss, why?** I like discussing current sales. The numbers I find intriguing.

### OFF THE WALL fun questions

- **What did you want to be growing up?** So long ago, I can't remember.
- **What's something you can't live without?** Time with family and Diet Coke. I'm not certain how to prioritize this one.
- **What's the last book you read?** "Conversation with God." I wouldn't necessarily commend it.
- **Do you have any pets?** I don't. Although I do like cats and dogs.
- **Have a hobby?** I pass my free time with golf and poker.
- **Favorite vacation spot?** Home
- **Favorite food and why?** A really good pizza. I just love molten cheese.
- **What are you currently binge watching?** I've never binge watched anything. I know that's crazy nowadays.
- **If you could trade places with anyone for a day, who would it be and why?** Bruin's goalie. Having 90 MPH pucks flying at you all day can't be much different than assessing.
- **If there's something you want us to know about you please tell!** I've never understood judgmental people.





## MAINE NEWS



Momentum Aroostook is a nonprofit community network of professionals focused on opportunity, growth and empowerment. This was the third year that Momentum Aroostook solicited nominations from the public for rising individuals making significant contributions in Aroostook County in the fields of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Local Government and Civic Leadership, Health and Wellness, Business and Leadership Development, and Education. The class of 2022 Aroostook Achiever award recipients included Brandon Saucier of Saucier Services who provides tax assessment and code enforcement services to several Aroostook County communities. The Aroostook Achievers Awards Gala was held at the University of Maine Presque Isle on November 3. Presenting Mr. Saucier with his award in the Category of 'Local Government and Civic Leadership' is Momentum Aroostook Steering Committee member Idella Thompson Marquis, daughter of Maine Chapter of IAAO member **Penny Thompson**.



**WARMEST  
WELCOME TO  
OUR NEW  
BOARD  
MEMBERS!**



**Amber Poulin**

[assessment@stocktonsprings.org](mailto:assessment@stocktonsprings.org)

**Lauren Asselin**

[lasselin@graymaine.org](mailto:lasselin@graymaine.org)

## Maine Chapter Executive Board

**Karen Scammon**

President

[kscammon@auburnmaine.gov](mailto:kscammon@auburnmaine.gov)

**Darryl McKenney**

Vice President

[assessor@waldoboromaine.org](mailto:assessor@waldoboromaine.org)

**Clinton Swett**

Treasurer

[clinton.swett@capeelizabeth.org](mailto:clinton.swett@capeelizabeth.org)

**Julie Ethridge**

Secretary

[jethridge@yorkmaine.org](mailto:jethridge@yorkmaine.org)

**Judy Mathiau**

Past President

[jmathiau@winslow-me.gov](mailto:jmathiau@winslow-me.gov)

**Kerry Leichtman**

IAAO Rep

[assessor@rockportmaine.gov](mailto:assessor@rockportmaine.gov)

**Caitlin Thompson**

Director

[cthompson@camdenmaine.gov](mailto:cthompson@camdenmaine.gov)

**Brent Martin**

Director

[bmartin@eliotme.org](mailto:bmartin@eliotme.org)

**Natalie Andrews**

Director

[tm@bethelmaine.org](mailto:tm@bethelmaine.org)

**Nick Cloutier**

Director

[ncloutier@scarboroughmaine.org](mailto:ncloutier@scarboroughmaine.org)

**Joe St. Peter**

Director

[jstpeter@auburnmaine.gov](mailto:jstpeter@auburnmaine.gov)