



**STATE OF MAINE CHAPTER
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSING OFFICERS**

**Executive Board Meeting
June 26, 2025 - 10:00 a.m.
Auburn City Hall, 60 Court Street**

MINUTES

Members Present: Vice President Joseph St. Peter; Treasurer Clinton Swett (remote); Past President Karen Scammon; Executive Board Members, Amber Poulin (remote); Lauren Asselin (remote); Brent Martin (remote). IAAO Representative Kerry Leichtman; Maine Revenue Bonnie Baker; Maine Revenue William Brunelle.

Members Absent: President Darryl McKenney; Secretary Barbara Brewer; Natalie Andrews; Theresa Duff.

Vice President Joe St. Peter called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Secretary's Report: Kerry moved to accept the minutes of the May 15, 2025, meeting as written. Amber seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Clint sent the report prior to the meeting. He reported a balance of \$9,183.88. Three checks were cut in June: Augusta Civics Center for the May training, Lauren to cover the cost of the jersey for Judy M. and other misc. fees. Dues have been processed up to date. Amber asked the number of mugs sold this far. Clint referred the question to Barbara. Karen motioned to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Brent seconded. All voted in favor, the motion passed.

Standing Committee Reports

- **Education:** Karen spoke about the positive response to the May training in Augusta. She discussed survey results were favorable and most everyone indicated they would like to have Knud Hermansen back as a speaker at future events. She also discussed someone's suggestion to have note paper available for attendees to write down topics to be discussed during the open session of future trainings. Kerry suggested we collect discussion topics in the morning and discuss after lunch. Kerry also commented it might be a good idea to have Knud H. as a yearly speaker as he is a very engaging speaker with numerous topics he can discuss. Karen spoke briefly about the November annual meeting. She has reached out to the Hilton Garden and Green Ladle. The Hilton Garden has Thursday November 20th available and provided room, sample banquet menus, and cost information. The Green Ladle commented November is one of their busiest times and cannot hold the room without a down payment. The Education Committee will meet in the next couple of months to go over venues and topics for the meeting.
- **Legislative:** Bill Brunelle sent an email to Board members with a chart for property tax bills that have been enacted so far this year. Kerry commented this legislative session has been "disappointing, depressing and frustrating". The number one goal of this year was property tax relief, and nothing was accomplished regarding the issue. The only bill passed was the increase in the Homestead Exemption, but it will be phased in at 5,000 per year up to 50,000. Amber asked what we can tell taxpayers when

they ask what is being done about tax relief. Kerry said in his towns if taxpayers provide their email he informs them when the hearings for the tax relief bills will be, what the bills are about, and encourages them to testify. Brent commented three (elderly) homeowners from Portland have reached out to him with concerns over the new valuations of their homes and their fears they will not be able to afford the taxes.

Kerry testified against the revisions in the proposed Open Space Tax bill. He said the only good thing that came out of this session was the Open Space bill was killed. Amber asked if the support from assessors was helpful in that outcome. Kerry said it absolutely did.

- **Membership:** Nothing
- **Audit:** Clint said the audit will be in October.
- **Nominating:** Joe said Barbara had sent out a list of those positions that will be vacant at the end of the year; President, Vice President, Past President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Executive Board members; Natalie and Teresa. He also reminded the Board Donald Ferrara has agreed to be the next Secretary.
- **Communications:** Joe said the next addition of the newsletter is set to come out in July. William Brunelle, Verna Sharpe, and Brenda Cummings have agreed to write articles. He is looking for someone to write a piece on Barbara and the Sherry Vermilya Memorial Award and the drone presentation at Property Tax School. Nick Cloutier is now the official photographer for the Communications Committee. Joe is looking for volunteers to proofread the website. He would like to see all the links checked, update the member list, update the Dave Ledew Scholarship page and add a list of past recipients, update the JATA brochure, and generally reorganize the site. Amber, Lauren, and Bill volunteered to help. Kerry will send a picture of Dave L. for the scholarship page.
- **IAAO:** Kerry reported there has been no meeting with the IAAO reps since our last Chapter meeting. Calgary is the site for the 2026 annual IAAO conference.

Ad Hoc Committee Report

- **History:** Joe commented on the nice display of historical artifacts at our May training. Lauren, Darryl and Clint contributed items for the display. Clint visited The Big Chicken Barn in Ellsworth and said there are numerous books and antiques where we may find historical items.

Old Business

- **Property Tax School, Evening Program Recap.** Joe started with a Property Tax School recap. The consensus was that everything went well overall. Joe said there could have been more people hanging around to be seen to draw in a larger after-hours group. After hours attendees played Kubb and appeared to enjoy themselves. Cornhole and board games were available. Suggestions were made for next year; set up chairs earlier, maybe have a solo stove for a campfire if it is allowed, set up a hospitality room in the dorm, set up the food trucks a bit earlier for attendees in classes that got out early, add a talent show. Bonnie suggested maybe setting up a QR code in a central location with a list of evening events. Bonnie has a few ideas for the food trucks for next year. Bonnie thanked Joe and Darryl

for the work put into the after-hour events. Lauren suggested perhaps an offsite activity such as mini golf located just down the street. Bonnie commented that the overall cost of Property Tax School is something to be conscious of. Comments were made on how well Judy's retirement event went, Kerry had a good lead into the event, Lauren had a nice presentation for the jersey, and there was good attendance which included Judy's family.

Joe commented that all the assessor groups have been putting on numerous trainings throughout the current year and we should coordinate our trainings. Bonnie stated she has started a list of trainings for next year and would appreciate updates from the Assessor groups when next year's training dates are determined.

New Business

- Kerry reported he has secured a meeting room for August 21st in Camden for the summer meeting/outing. He was working on arranging a boat ride as well. He had thought about a picnic on one of the Town owned islands and may investigate that as well. He will contact the Harbor Master and report back about the day's activities.

Joe suggested the Board promote the David P. Ledew Scholarship more. We have received very few applications in the past. Bill said Rule 205 is being updated and suggested we review the list of acceptable courses on the back of the scholarship application to keep them up to date.

Karen moved to adjourn the meeting, and Clint seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed and the Board adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Scammon