



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

**Executive Board Meeting  
January 22 - 10:00 a.m.  
Auburn**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** President Joseph St. Peter; Vice-President Lauren Asselin; Secretary Don Ferrara; Treasurer Clinton Swett; Past President Darryl McKenney; and Directors Barbara Brewer; Theresa Duff (remote); Kerry Leichtman (remote); Natalie Andrews (remote); and Amber Poulin (remote). Bonnie Baker was also present.

**Members Absent:** Director Brent Martin

President Joseph St. Peter called the meeting to order at **10:03 a.m.**

**Secretary's Report**

- The December meeting minutes were reviewed. Darryl moved to approve the minutes as written. Clint seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report**

- Clint sent his Treasurer's Report via email. The current checking account balance is \$9,586.38. Darryl moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Barbara seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- Kyle Avila will be processing the Chapter's website hosting subscription, which will be paid this week or next. Historically, this cost has been under \$100. Updated payment information has already been provided to Kyle.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Education**

- Karen Scammon was the previous chair and discussed at the last meeting potential training dates for 2026, tentatively planned for May and November in conjunction with the Annual Meeting.
- The Board discussed offering additional remote educational opportunities through the Education Committee during the year.
- A list of recommended training topics has been compiled through polling.
- Clint suggested adding valuation of gravel pits as a possible training topic.

**Legislative**

- The Real Estate Property Tax Relief Task Force has published a preliminary report on its findings; however, the Board has not yet reviewed this report in detail.
- Barbara asked about LD 15 and its potential impact on trailer valuations. It was noted this will not take effect until after April 1, 2026.

- Darryl and Joe discussed ways the Chapter could help educate residents about the Property Tax Fairness Credit.
- Kerry discussed concerns regarding valuation changes in the Unorganized Territory and efforts to claw back valuations to prior years.
- Darryl reviewed recently approved or proposed legislation, including:
  - **LD 140** – Increase to the Homestead Exemption
  - **LD 264** – Removal of the 12-month waiting period for the Homestead Exemption
  - **LD 326** – This bill increases, for property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2026, the maximum value of residential real estate that is exempt from property taxation for inhabitants of the State who are legally blind from \$4,000 to \$10,000.
  - **LD 438** – Limits nonprofit exemptions if deemed detrimental to residents by vote
  - **LD 715** – Property Tax Fairness Credit and new eligibility requirements
  - **LD 888** – This bill changes the property tax benefits for veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States for property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2026. The bill provides that veterans are no longer required to have served during a federally recognized war period and receive an exemption of up to \$5,000 of the just value of the property. It provides that Veterans who are 62 years of age or older receive an exemption of up to \$6,000 of the just value of the property. It also provides that veterans receive an exemption of between \$10,000 and \$50,000 based on their United States Department of Veterans Affairs service- connected disability rating. The bill provides that a veteran's unremarried surviving spouse, minor child or parent remains eligible for the benefit that the veteran would be eligible for if the veteran was living.
  - **LD 1506** – Exemption of individually owned personal property

### **Membership**

- Don reported that membership reminders for 2026 have been sent. Current membership totals include **117 paid, 3 pending, 11 new Free CMA members, and 7 lifetime members.**

### **Audit**

- The Audit is scheduled for October. There was no additional information to report at this time.

### **Nominations**

- Joe appointed Kerry Leichtman as IAAO Representative. The appointment was seconded by Terri. No vote was taken.

### **Communications**

- Joe, the prior chair, reported the next newsletter will be released soon.
- Newsletter editing will rotate, with Barbara beginning as editor and Lauren also serving as an editor.
- Barbara suggested featuring Women in Assessing for March (Women's History Month), including:
  - The first woman assessor in Maine as well as the first certified female assessor in Maine, Patricia Martin.
  - Statistics on women with assessing certifications in Maine (Barbara suggested this, but Bonnie cannot give us this information, Bonnie suggested using our membership list instead).
  - The IAAO Women's Initiative
- The Board discussed increasing communication touchpoints with members throughout the year.

- Bonnie requested inclusion of the upcoming IAAO course in March in the next newsletter.
- The IAAO asked Joe if the Maine Chapter could sponsor the Presidential Gala at the annual conference as Bill Healey is the new IAAO President. Historically the state chapter of the residing president donates towards the event. The amount of the donation is usually between \$2,500-\$3,000.
- Joe will solicit additional announcements from members prior to publication.

### **IAAO**

- Kerry reported nothing new from IAAO at this time.
- A potential Presidential Gala was discussed to recognize new IAAO President Bill Healey, who is from Maine.
- Estimated fundraising needs range from \$2,500–\$3,000.
- Concerns were raised about using Chapter funds, as the event will be held in Canada and attendance costs for members are approximately \$2,400. Joe suggested that the Chapter could fundraise for the gala rather than using membership funds.
- Fundraising ideas discussed included:
  - Silent auction (typically raises around \$1,000)
  - Requesting a donation from the City of Lewiston
  - Fundraising at Summer Property Tax School (with limitations on 50/50 and gambling)
  - Donations from revaluation firms or technology vendors (e.g., KRT, C3AI)
- Darryl suggested using Chapter funds initially and replenishing them through fundraising efforts.
- Bonnie agreed to inquire about possible fundraising opportunities at Summer Property Tax School.

### **History**

- Darryl shared a 1931 photograph of Maine assessors that he recently acquired.  
Darryl also identified three additional historical photos that had already been purchased by someone else, though he may be able to obtain scans of them.

### **Old Business**

- Newsletter volunteers will be Joe, Barbara, and Lauren.

### **New Business**

#### **2026 Goal Setting:**

- Joe discussed increasing educational opportunities and better meeting member needs.
- Barbara asked if we were still looking at the possibility of increasing the annual membership fee.
- Joe asked for a review of current annual expenses before any decision is made.
- Joe noted that prior member polling showed a preference for raising membership fees rather than training fees.
- Don and Barbara stated that any fee increase should be supported by expanded educational offerings.
- Joe emphasized an increased focus on remote workshops due to the number of in-person trainings already available statewide.
- Bonnie noted concerns about increasing membership fees while also requesting donations for the Presidential Gala in the same year.
- Clint and Barbara will review historical spending trends.

## **Committee Chairs and Members**

- **Education** – Chair: Amber Poulin
  - Members: Theresa Duff, Natalie Andrews
- **Legislative** – Chair: Darryl McKenney
  - Members: Brenda Cummings, Justin Poirier
- **Audit** – Chair: Theresa Duff
  - Members: Amber Poulin, Quang Minh, Brent Martin
- **Nominating** – Chair: Lauren Asselin
  - Members: Barbara Brewer, Brandon Velasquez
- **Communications** – Chair: Joseph St. Peter
  - Members: Lauren Asselin, Barbara Brewer, Bill Brunelle
- **IAAO** – Chair: Kerry Leichtman
  - Members: Barbara Brewer, Valarie Moon
- **History** – Chair: Darryl McKenney
  - Member: Brent Martin, Brenda Cummings
- **Membership** – Chair: Don Ferrara
  - Members: Clinton Swett, Brent Martin

Vice-President Lauren Asselin moved to adjourn the meeting at **11:00 a.m.** Clint seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Ferrara, Secretary