



STATE OF MAINE CHAPTER INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSING OFFICERS

Executive Board Meeting
April 23rd - 10:00 a.m.
Augusta

MINUTES

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

Members Absent: None

President Joseph St. Peter called the meeting to order at **10:04 a.m.**

Secretary's Report

- The March meeting minutes were reviewed. Two corrections were noted:
 - Correction of the spelling of Past President Darryl McKenney's name.
 - LD-18 corrected to LD-15.
- Amber moved to approve the minutes as amended. Darryl seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- Clint sent his Treasurer's Report via email. The current checking account balance is \$9,145.55. Don moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Brent seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Clint reported that the \$500.00 deposit for the upcoming May training at the Carriage House was paid on March 30th.

Standing Committee Reports

Education

- Amber discussed registrations for the upcoming May 21st training. Don reported that there were 36 registrations as of April 23, with 31 attendees having already paid.
- Amber provided Clinton with the invoice for \$2,706.80, covering attendance for up to 50 participants. The Carriage House requires payment and a final attendee count at least seven days in advance.
- Joe announced that he will be conducting an advanced credit hours training at the upcoming Maine Property Tax School. He asked for suggestions and contributions of commercial/industrial property examples for the summer tax school class.
- Joe will be sending another newsletter and will include a reminder for the May 21st training.
- Barbara suggested posting the ME Chapter May 21st training on the MAAO CommUnity ListServ. Don will post another reminder seeking registrations after the meeting.

- The group discussed the effect that moving the summer tax school closer to the Chapter's training has had on attendance.
- Amber suggested offering an "In Case You Missed It" session in the future, potentially as a roundtable discussion or a free webinar, for members unable to attend summer trainings.
- Barbara suggested offering new assessor training around commitment time due to the number of new assessors in the membership. Joe noted this could also be a topic for the winter meeting.
- Amber stated that she will consider the Carriage House again for the winter training if the May 21st training is successful.

Legislative

- Bill talked about the upcoming veteran's exemption changes:
 - Combining the Veteran and Homestead Exemption into one exemption.
 - Removing the wartime service requirement.
 - Lowering the age requirement from 62.
 - Including more disability percentages for exemption.
 - Increasing the exemption amount.
 - Possible need for reapplications following implementation.
 - Property may not receive more than one veteran's exemption.
- Kerry also said the Blind exemption is increasing from \$4,000 to \$5,000.
- None of these changes will take effect for FY2026.
- Joe noted that these changes could potentially double the number of veteran's exemption applications in the implementation year.
- Bill stated that Maine Revenue Services is currently working on guidance for assessors.
- Kerry reported that Nick Cloutier is no longer serving on the Real Estate Property Tax Task Force and that he has taken Nicks place. The Task Force will meet again on May 18th.

Membership

- Don reported that the Chapter currently has 157 members, including 7 lifetime members and 14 new CMAs.

Audit

- The Audit is scheduled for October.

Nominations

- Nothing new to report.

Communications

- Joe has a final draft of the upcoming newsletter and is awaiting one additional contribution before distribution. He will also include the survey link created by Matthew Caton for his portion of the May 21st training on exemptions.

IAAO

- Early bird registration opens April 28th for the IAAO Conference
- The conference begins on Tuesday this year, with travel expected on Monday, which coincides with Canadian Thanksgiving. Kerry noted that Canadian representatives indicated this will not impact travel.

- Barbara recommended attending the Mass Appraisal Symposium, scheduled via Zoom for June 24–25, as well as the International Research Symposium hosted by the IAAO in Dublin on December 4–5.
- Joe will include information about the Presidents Gala fundraiser in the newsletter. The MAAO recently contributed \$2,000.
- A 50/50 raffle will be held at the May 21st meeting.
- Barbara reported that 36 Chapter mugs remain and have been assembled into gift packages to be sold for \$10 at the spring training, with proceeds supporting the Presidents Gala.

History

- Nothing new to report.

Old Business

- Spring training was covered under the Education Committee report.

New Business

- Joe discussed the upcoming October 7–8 MMA Conference in Augusta. The Chapter has been asked to provide a 70-minute presentation and must respond by May 29. Members noted that this is a difficult time of year, and a final decision will be made at the next meeting.
- Bonnie confirmed that Joe, Darryl, and Amber will each be bringing extracurricular activities to the Summer Tax School.
- The next meeting is scheduled to be held in Auburn in June following the spring training.

Darryl moved to adjourn the meeting at **10:44 a.m.** Barbara seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Ferrara
Secretary