



## STATE OF MAINE CHAPTER INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSING OFFICERS

Executive Board Meeting  
June 25th - 10:00 a.m.  
Auburn

### MINUTES

**Members Present:** President Joseph St. Peter; Secretary Don Ferrara; Past President Darryl McKenney; Directors Brent Martin; Vice-President Lauren Asselin (remote); Amber Poulin (remote)

**Members Absent:** Treasurer Clinton Swett; Directors Barbara Brewer; Theresa Duff; Kerry Leichtman; Natalie Andrews; also, Bill Brunelle and Bonnie Baker

President Joseph St. Peter called the meeting to order at **10:09 a.m.**

#### Secretary's Report

- The March meeting minutes were reviewed. No corrections were noted.
  - Because a quorum was not present, the minutes could not be approved.

#### Treasurer's Report

- Clint sent his Treasurer's Report via email. Joe presented the current checking account balance is \$10,282.35.
- The IAAO President's Gala fundraising balance was reported at \$1,005 toward the Chapter's pledged contribution of \$2,000. The Maine Association of Assessing Officers (MAAO) also contributed \$2,000.

#### Standing Committee Reports

##### **Education**

- 68 people registered for the Spring Meeting, 63 attended, 59 signed the morning attendance sheet, and 56 signed the afternoon attendance sheet. This represented approximately 40% of the Chapter's membership.
- Members asked about the status of their training certificates. Joe, Don, and Amber agreed to review the Chapter's shared drive for certificate templates.
- Joe suggested preparing certificates in advance for future meetings so they could be distributed at the conclusion of the training.
- Amber reported that several attendees talked during presentations, making it difficult to hear the presenters. This concern was raised by multiple members following the meeting.
- Amber also recommended obtaining presentation materials from speakers in advance so they could be distributed to attendees after the meeting.

- The Board discussed the size of the meeting venue with some members reporting feeling cramped due to attendance exceeding the available space. We also had members suggest considering a more centrally located location, such as Augusta.
- Nicholas Cloutier had mentioned to Joe, a future venue location could be the Waterville Opera House, which is attached to Waterville's City Hall.
- Brent reported that he had been appointed to the Board of Real Estate Appraisers. He also noted that the Appraisal Board is gathering information on assessing professionals as it considers future certification changes, similar to those implemented with the CMA 2–4 program. These changes could create additional commercial appraisal training opportunities and strengthen the connection between the appraisal and assessing professions.

### **Legislative**

- Joseph discussed the new Veterans Exemption, noting that there is still ambiguity regarding the exemption tiers. The State expects to issue updated guidance and a revised application in December or January.
- The Veterans Exemption amounts will increase significantly, leaving municipalities only a few months to process applications before the April 1, 2027 filing deadline.
- Darryl reported that \$300 rebate checks will be issued to taxpayers with incomes up to \$50,000 (single), \$75,000 (head of household), and \$100,000 (married filing jointly).
- Darryl also reported that a 2% income tax surcharge now applies to taxpayers earning more than \$1,000,000 annually.
- The Property Tax Fairness Credit increased to \$1,500 for individuals under age 65 and remains \$2,000 for individuals age 65 and older.
- Beginning July 29, camper excise tax will be based on length, with a minimum tax of \$6 and a maximum tax of \$352, plus \$18 for campers exceeding 53 feet.
- Veterans may receive an excise tax exemption on up to three leased automobiles.
- The Real Estate Property Tax Task Force is expected to meet eight additional times.
- The Veteran, Homestead, and Blind Exemptions will be combined into a single application. It is not yet known whether municipalities will need to obtain new applications from existing participants.

### **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**

- No new communications projects.

### **IAAO**

- Nothing new to report.
  - Subcommittee-IAAO Representative was not in attendance.

### **History**

- Nothing new to report.

### **Old Business**

- Recap of spring meeting was talked about under education.

### **New Business**

- **Annual Meeting Venue and Topics:** Joe stated that it may be beneficial to rotate meeting locations. While attendance at the Spring Meeting was strong in Lewiston, Augusta remains a popular central location, and Waterville may provide another suitable option. Amber agreed to explore potential venues.
- **Involving Newly Certified CMAs:** Joe proposed creating a one-year term Board position for a newly certified CMA to encourage greater involvement in the Chapter. Members discussed the idea and noted that newly certified assessors often have limited availability for Board service but were in favor of the idea. Any change to the Board's composition would require approval by the membership at the Annual Meeting.
- **Recognition of Steve Sullivan:** Darryl suggested recognizing Steve Sullivan at the Annual Meeting for his many contributions to the assessing profession.
- **Newsletter:** Joseph hopes to publish the next Chapter newsletter in August and is seeking an editor. Amber uploaded photographs from the Spring Meeting to the shared drive, and Joseph noted that he also has photographs available for use in the newsletter.
- **IAAO President's Gala Fundraising:** Joseph plans to make one final fundraising request. The Chapter will contribute only the funds raised and will not supplement the donation with additional Chapter funds.
- **August 20 Board Retreat:** The list of attendees has been finalized, and the event arrangements have been confirmed.

Joseph moved to adjourn the meeting at **10:45 a.m.** No one seconded due to not having a quorum.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Ferrara  
Secretary