

**STATE OF MAINE CHAPTER
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSING OFFICERS
Executive Committee Meeting
May 8, 2015 * 9:15 a.m.
MRS - Augusta, Maine**

MINUTES

Executive Committee Members in attendance: President Wade Rainey, Vice President Kerry Leichtman, Treasurer Matt Sturgis, Secretary Judy Mathiau, Directors Martine Painchaud and Susan Russo; Kyle attended via speaker phone

Members absent: Past President Helen Taylor and Director Cathy Jamison

The meeting opened at 9:15 a.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Kerry moved to accept the 4/10/15 minutes as presented, seconded by Matt, all in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Matt stated that the financial accounts have not changed since last month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education – Kyle reported that all speakers were accounted for and that the following agenda has been planned: Cyndi Robbins, owner of the Poland Spring Resort will start the day with a history of the resort and surrounding area; MMA will be present for a legislative update; Bob White will demonstrate the new 9-1-1 program; Mike Rogers of MRS will present on the Undeveloped Land Values, and other state matters; Keiser Homes tour.

Legislation – Nothing new to report.

Membership – Nothing new to report.

Audit – Nothing to report.

Nominating – Judy e-mailed the committee with a list of current committee members and term expirations. Nominations should be presented to the committee no later than the July meeting.

Newsletter – Kerry will have the next newsletter ready the following week.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chapter Purpose - Kerry asked the committee if they had thought about assessing standards. The standards are not what they once were. Assessors were taught to follow the letter of the law in regards to equity, ratios and burden of proof.

There was discussion on current appeal cases and the deciding factors or opinions involved. The committee did not think that the attorneys would be on board with this mind set, because they work for their client.

Another suggestion was made to educate the assessor on winning an appeal. There is criteria necessary to press the point on assessing standards when defending our assessments in an appeal.

It was suggested that a bulletin or publication be created. Perhaps MRS would endorse and/or assist. Kerry has already gathered several resources on this subject and will put together a list and distribute to the committee for review.

Chapter's Legislative Purpose – Matt checked with IAAO as to what the restrictions on a chapter to testify on legislative matters. He said that IAAO and Chapter procedures states that no lobbying is allowed. The committee thought it was still okay to poll the members on a case by case when a new law is proposed, asking for their input and if the chapter testifies before the taxation committee on the poll results, it would not be either for or against.

MLS Membership – Kerry spoke with a broker that was willing to speak to the realtor association regarding our request to purchase a MLS membership. The broker reported back to Kerry that they were very much against it, but that he would pursue the idea further.

NEW BUSINESS:

MMA Booth – Judy asked if there was interest in having a booth again this year at the convention. Everyone agreed and Judy said she will contact MAAO President Rick Mace to see if they will participate again as well. The committee was not interested in sponsoring an affiliate program.

ASSESSOR SHORTAGE DISCUSSION

Open discussion with MRS Representatives including Property Tax Director David Ledew, Jeff Kendall, Nichole Philbrick, Justin Poirier and Tom Walker.

Judy recounted the points made at the last meeting on this subject. The committee asked the MRS staff if they had begun a strategic plan or what their thoughts were on this subject.

Dave said that Jerome was concerned as are they, that we are lacking experienced assessors in the work force. Jerome had met with the commissioner and they have agreed that there is some money available if needed to address this concern. The commissioner would want a solid plan that would create results. Dave also said that he has spoken with MMA and that they are on board as well.

Matt thought that the internship was a good idea. There are plenty of qualified assessors that might be willing to allow a newly certified assessor to job shadow.

Kerry felt that Boards of Assessors should have the same training if made available.

Other ideas included:

Ambassador Program – possibly through a community college, or MRS Staff training – higher level of certification

Municipal Employee Training – existing staff with an interest could be trained

MRS Training – hold sessions throughout the year on advanced training on a specific subject, such as TIFs, BETE/BETR

Matt moved to adjourn at 11:30 a.m., seconded by Martine, all in favor.

Next committee meeting will be June 5th, 2015 at Poland Spring Resort during lunch.

*Respectfully Submitted By
Judy Mathiau, Secretary*