

**STATE OF MAINE CHAPTER
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSING OFFICERS
Executive Committee Meeting
December 11, 2015 * 9:30 a.m.
MRS, Augusta, Maine**

MINUTES

Executive Committee Members in attendance: President Wade Rainey, Vice President Kerry Leichtman, Secretary Judy Mathiau, Treasurer Matt Sturgis and Directors Martine Painchaud and Cathy Jamison. Also present was Jeff Kendall of MRS and Chapter Member Julie Ethridge

Members absent: Past President Helen Taylor and Directors Kyle Avila and Susan Russo

The meeting opened at 9:45 a.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Martine moved to accept the 10/16/15 minutes as written, seconded by Cathy, all in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Matt reported that there are no changes from his previous report. Judy submitted to Matt, \$1600 in monies for membership and meeting fees. Judy will continue to accept member applications and money and will submit to Matt and Julie at the January meeting.

Kerry moved to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Martine, all in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education – Kyle had previously asked for ideas for the February Winter Chapter Meeting. Judy passed out a list compiled from membership applications. One idea was the abatement process which Matt volunteered to present on. Kerry suggested that the "Time Adjustment/Paired Sale" presentation be done in February, and be taught by Jim Thomas (who has agreed) as well as Dave Bouffard. And two other suggestion would be a panel of assessors to talk about waterfront pricing, both ocean and lake and a session on paper streets.

The committee agreed to keep an e-mail discussion on-going so that we could finalize the schedule before the next board meeting. Also, Cathy will look into Brunswick venues and Judy will look at the Augusta/Waterville area as meeting spots.

Legislation – Nothing new to report.

Membership – Nothing new to report.

Audit – Nothing to report, however, Martine expressed an interest in chairing this committee again in 2016 along with Cathy. This will voted at the January meeting under committee assignments.

Nominating – Nothing new to report.

Newsletter – Kerry transferred his past newsletter documents to cd's and handed them over to Judy who has agreed to fill the editor position in 2016.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chapter Purpose – Kerry felt that the annual meeting did hit on statutory assessing standards that we are familiar with but did not introduce the idea of other common traditional guidelines that assessors have followed over the years. The committee agreed that at least this was a start in the right direction and will be discussed further.

Property Tax Institute – Judy reported that she had not met recently met with the folks at the Property Tax Division but that the new institute was introduced at the annual meeting. She also said that it was agreed that chapter members would have an option to attend one day (Thursday) in order to meet the chapter requirements for a quarterly meeting. This would replace the spring meeting typically held in May.

NEW BUSINESS:

Stipends - Judy recommended changes to the stipend policy to make it clear that stipend payments should be made after the member's service in that position. Judy was under the impression that the first payments made in the last part of 2013 was for the service performed during that year, but it became apparent that it was to serve the upcoming year. However, she took over the secretarial duties at the beginning of 2014 and was not compensated.

Other discussion ensued on who should actually get the stipend and for how much. Currently, the by-laws state that the secretary, treasurer and newsletter editor be compensated and that the amount would be decided by a majority vote of the membership at the annual meeting. The board agreed that the current positions do a lot of work throughout the year and that the education coordinator should also be compensated.

As a result, the following motions were made:

Judy moved to amend the by-laws to include the education coordinator to also receive an annual stipend, seconded by Kerry, all in favor.

Kerry moved to make stipend payments payable at the end of the year of that person's service, or a proration thereof, seconded by Cathy, all in favor.

Matt moved to make the stipend amount at \$500, seconded by Kerry, all in favor.

An amendment to the by-laws will have to be put before the membership as voted above.

Web Site Policy - Judy wondered if the chapter needed a web site policy in order to avoid possible conflict with material posted to the site. The board discussed the idea and agreed that we could make that decision on a case by case basis if and when the possibility arises.

Me Chapter/MAAO Joint Membership – Kerry asked the board whether they would support the idea of a joint membership with MAAO as an option to individuals. He felt it could increase the number of members. Kerry was concerned that new assessors were not aware that there was more than one organization and that this would help.

Martine felt it may pose a problem financially as MAAO accounting is handled by MMA.

Discussion ensued regarding past practice and the majority of the board felt it should keep the membership separate, but to continue to collaborate with MAAO on educational offerings.

Judy suggested a panel made up of the different assessing organizations as a presentation at the 2016 MMA Convention. This was done a few years ago and went very well, because it also received feedback from the audience.

MLS Access – Kerry has written a compelling letter to Maine MLS officials in the hopes that they will begin to allow assessors access to their site. Other states allow this but Maine does not. Kerry will keep us apprised of the result.

Chapter Archive - Wade thought it would be a good idea to have a room or place where our documents, photos etc could be archived and viewed. Although it would be difficult to actually find a place for this, the board agreed that it would be nice to have a portable archival set up, one where we can set up at conventions, chapter meetings, etc.

IAAO Membership Anniversaries – Matt suggested that we send a congratulatory letter to IAAO members who have had an anniversary. These are listed in the IAAO *Fair and Equitable* every month. It was agreed to start doing this.

Certification and Training Rules – Jeff Kendall made mention that there is a proposal drafted to change the rules regarding recertification of assessors. The proposal would be to make mandatory a 7 hour ethics and a 7 hour income approach training every 3 years.

The Board thanked Cathy for her time as a director and wished her well.

Cathy moved to adjourn at 11:25 a.m., seconded by Martine, all in favor.

The next committee meeting will be January 8, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted By
Judy Mathiau, Secretary