



**Connecticut Chapter of the International Association of
Assessing Officers**

Promoting CAE • RES • CMS • PPS • AAS IAAO Professional Designations & Workshops

May 14, 2009

Southington, CT

In Attendance: David Dietsch, Melinda Fonda, David Gardner, Mary Lavallee, Walter Topliff, David Wheeler, Stuart Topliff, John DiGiovanna, John Ford, Ann Paulius, Joan Paskewich, Marsha Standish and Donna Ralston.

Melinda Fonda opened the meeting at 2:21 pm. informing members on new educational offerings she was working on. The first was a course on loaded cap rates that would be held on **September 1 and 2, 2009 in Wethersfield**. The cost is still TBD. It has been approved for six credit hours.

She then informed the group that Judge Levine had agreed to do a program at the court house. Arrangements are still in the works.

She is also working with a developer who teaches at NYU to teach a course on regression analysis for free. This would be held **March/April 2010**. Location still being worked out.

She is working on setting up a **Webinar** class on foreclosure. It would cost the Chapter \$49.00. The fact that you can have as many people view it at the same time makes it an excellent opportunity. It is approved for 1 1/2 hours credit and only members of the Chapter in good standing would be offered this opportunity. A motion was made to offer this by Walter Topliff, seconded by Ann Paulius. Motion carried unanimously. **Ann Paulius will see if the Auditorium at Waterbury City Hall will accommodate the program.**

Walter Topliff told members that he is in the process of trying to set up a one day seminar with Jim Tellatin who is an expert on nursing homes and has publications with The Appraiser Institute. Discussion followed on where to offer this venue. It was established that the best area would be along the RT 91 corridor North of Wallingford. Hartford and Waterbury were mentioned as possible locations but Melinda stated that cost and availability are issues with both those locations. Melinda asked that everyone do some research and think about it and let her know if they could think of some place.

Melinda reminded everyone that Wednesday night at UCONN; Jim Michaud will have a presentation at 6 pm. At this presentation Facet Technology will be sponsoring the appetizers.

Melinda also mentioned a company who is doing her Town's photos called Facet. She would like to have them do a presentation to members some time in the future.

Melinda asked that all members help hand out flyers at Assessor School about our Chapter and its educational offerings to help spur more interest.

The next topic was the IAAO's Kentucky Conference which is its 75th anniversary and each Chapter has been asked to do a presentation about the history of IAAO. Melinda is looking for help on this project. She was told Joan Paskewich might have pictures and that Dave Gardner and Marsha Standish might be able to give her information. She also mentioned Joan Robinson who was not in attendance. Melinda would like to have a meeting in the future to brainstorm ideas. She said it doesn't really matter whether it is a poster board or power point just that it has a lot of content.

The next topic was a scholarship offering. Melinda said she would like to encourage more people to participate in the Conferences. She said she would never have gone to one without a scholarship and now that she did she is hooked. She stated last year was so exciting and that she met many new friends. She feels the networking opportunity is very important in our field. Jennifer Bernardo was not in attendance but Melinda seemed to think we have around \$5,000.00 in the Chapter's treasury and that now would be a good time to offer a scholarship. A motion was made to offer a scholarship by Dave Gardner seconded by Dave Wheeler.

Discussion followed on how the scholarship could be used. They discussed whether it could be used for education, room and board or even a course through IAAO. The members agreed upon a dollar amount up to \$500.00 that expires within a year in June 2010. It will be offered Wednesday June 3rd at Assessor's school. Then it was discussed whether the person who wins would have to be present that night. The majority of members felt that was unfair. Melinda asked would it just be limited to education. The reaction was mixed. Then it was discussed that there should be alternates but mixed agreement on how many. Options of three or five were given and the majority agreed on three.

Dave Wheeler motioned having a hospitality suite at the Kentucky Conference. He said the Chapter would only pay for the difference in an upgrade on a standard room to a suite. He thinks that will give Connecticut a greater presence at the Conference. A couple members had concerns on spending the funds for a room instead of planning social events that would help the objective of networking. Dave Gardner motioned to table the discussion to a further date and look into other possibilities. Melinda appointed him with the help of Dave Wheeler, Marsha Standish, Donna Ralston and Joan Paskewich and any one else who felt there were other ways of networking to come up with a solution for this topic. The motion was seconded by Walter Topliff.

Melinda spoke about her recent meeting with the Connecticut Clerks Associations. The clerks have interest in the IAAO courses and the affordable programs offered by the Chapter. She discussed working with them on joint projects. Melinda asked if anyone knew if taking IAAO courses would allow you to waive the CCMA courses. Walter told her they must apply to OPM. She then mentioned that on the same subject Assessors have expressed the need to have affordable courses available to use for their staff to not only get certified but for courses used for re-certification too. Melinda asked that any suggestions be emailed to her.

Melinda reminded everyone that IAAO course 112 is being offered on August 17, 2009 at the Rocky Hill Fire Headquarters. From 8am to 5pm.

Finally Donna Ralston inquired as to why night classes are no longer offered. Melinda stated that she was under the impression members preferred daytime hours. Donna said she never used to leave her office unattended in past years and if people wanted the course bad enough they would go at night. The discussion didn't create any results.

Motion to adjourn at 3:11 pm by Walter Topliff, seconded by Stuart Topliff

Respectfully submitted,

Mary F. Lavallee

Secretary

CT Chapter IAAO