



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

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

November 12, 2009

Aqua Turf Restaurant

In Attendance: Melinda Fonda, David Gardner, Mary Lavalley, Walter Topliff, David Wheeler, David Stannard, Donna Ralston, Joan Robinson, Lawrence LaBarbera, Pat Hedwall, Robert Musson, Walter Lawrence, Jennifer Bernardo, Stuart Topliff, Ted Gwartney, Tony Homicki, Donna Shanoff, Francine Beland, Dennis Hlavac, P. Beth Paul.

Melinda Fonda opened the meeting at 12:45 am. Requested to table reading of the minutes until the January meeting. Motion to accept by Stuart Topliff, seconded by Donna Ralston.

Then Melinda requested a reading of the treasurer's report by Jennifer Bernardo. Jennifer reported the starting balance as \$5,496.76, deposits were \$10,525.67, the Committee spent \$9,531.12 and the ending balance is \$6,491.32. Motion to accept her report by Stuart Topliff and seconded by Donna Ralston.

New Business:

Melinda went over the meeting/workshop schedule.

First is the Installation of Officers on January 8, 2010 at the Hawthorne Inn in Newington. Announcements were put on the tables. Our guest speaker will be "Sackey" or Anthony Kweku. He will be talking about IAAO and his goals for 2010.

She would also like to recognize the people who help us out by teaching and charging either a low rate or nothing to do workshops. We currently give them a gift certificate but Melinda would like to present them with some kind of certificate of appreciation in addition to the gift certificates. She is hoping that this in addition to the gift certificate will encourage them to teach for us again. It was discussed that we would need to invite them to the meeting since they may not be there. If they did not attend the meeting then we could mail the certificate. A motion made by Donna Ralston to give certificates of appreciation and she volunteered to create them when needed. The motion was seconded by David Wheeler.

Melinda then announced that the billboard workshop would be taught by John Ryan. She hopes to hold it in March as a one day workshop. She also hopes to at least breakeven with the cost of the workshop. This was request at the State level. Hopefully we do the workshop and they will reciprocate with a class for us. Anyone apposed to keeping that same format. A motion was made by Tony Homicki to keep it the same and seconded by Stuart Topliff.

She then informed everyone the IAAO class 400 would be taught the third week of October in either Rocky Hill or Wethersfield. They are still not set on the location. Tony Homicki asked why course 400 and Melinda said it was the next step for people trying to get their designation thus making it the next logical course.

She wanted a consensus from the group as to whether they liked the new afternoon session for the classes versus the night time ones. Everyone seemed to like the afternoon. She explained the turn out has been better around 30 more or less. She tries to keep them on the RT 91 corridor and at a local Town Hall. If anyone has any topic suggestions please get them to her. She has a couple of things she is working on but are not finalized she will have that hopefully for our June meeting.

She is looking for a guest speaker for our 2010 Assessor's School. She wants to keep it interesting so that we get more people involved. If something unique happens in your Town this year and you can get someone to share it with us please let her know.

She asked for discussion. Dave Stannard said "good job, keep it up".

Melinda then moved onto scholarships. She said last year they gave them out at Assessor's School, Pam Deziel was the winner. Do we want to continue doing that at Assessor's school or do it at our January meeting. Someone said both. Melinda explained that the classes we offer are expensive and that the one day courses we do offset the class costs. When our budget grows larger we can offer two. She was looking for suggestions on whether to restrict it to just IAAO offerings or open it up. Pat Hedwall asked if it will help the January turnout to offer this. Melinda said it might. Pat said they are at school anyway in June but in January it can be used to promote more turnouts. Pat made the motion to do two scholarships one in June and one in January for \$500.00 to be used exclusively for IAAO offerings. Joan Robinson seconded it.

Old Business

Elections- Dave Gardner said the ballots are out so please vote.

Melinda said the Executive Director of Membership, Ann Winter, passed away suddenly. She brought the issue to the Executive Board and the voted to send a donation of \$250.00 in the name of CT Chapter of IAAO to the Ann Winter fund which goes to her children.

IAAO Conference – Melinda stated the conference was exciting and that Connecticut was well represented. The next conference is in Florida. She stated we got a lot of recognition because they knew who Connecticut was this year. Stuart Topliff announced that Melinda was recognized with the Stacy Ford Award, for most outstanding representative and for her work on the Wall of Fame that was in conjunction with CAAO. Melinda said she and Stuart put it together with the help of Joan Paskewich, Paul Slattery, Steve Hodgetts, Walter Lawrence and Marsha Standish. She said “I am very proud of it, we should have won, and apparently we only lost by three votes”. She said Connecticut ranked in the top three for the most donations. Some of the items donated were UCONN stuff, Yale items and winery items. She feels everyone should try to fit it in and at least go once. Donna Ralston said “if you go once you will go again”. Stuart Topliff said “if you don’t have it in your budget, pay for it yourself”. Everyone agreed the educational offerings were superior to what is available here during the year.

Tony Homicki announced his support for Tom Frey and reminded everyone to vote. Do this no later than November 30th. Connecticut always represents itself well by having the highest amount of voters participating in the election. He stated we need to keep that going. Melinda thanked Tom for being at the meeting to talk about the different educational offerings. She stated “we are all here for the same purpose which is making us better assessors”.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:02 pm by Stuart Topliff, seconded by Tony Homicki

Respectfully submitted
Mary F. Lavallee

Secretary
CT Chapter IAAO