



Connecticut Chapter of the International Association of Assessing Officers

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

January 8, 2010

The Hawthorne Inn

In Attendance: Melinda Fonda, David Gardner, Mary Lavallee, Walter Topliff, David Wheeler, Miles Andrews, Donna Ralston, Robert Musson, Jennifer Bernardo, Stuart Topliff, Christine Barta, Patty Campbell, Mike D'Amicol, Pam Deziel, David Dietsch, John DiGiovanna, Liz Duffy, Mike Fedele, Ann Marie Gradoia, Ted Gwartney, Toni Homicki, Mary Huda, Chris Kelsey, Doug Kidd, Mary Lavallee, Cassandra Legault, Joan Paskewich, Bob Ralston, Jim Ramos, Dick Romano, Michael Stewart, Tom Tanganelli.

Melinda Fonda opened the meeting at 6:47pm. She said it was great to see all the new faces. She said we had such an exciting year in 2009. She apologized for the guest speaker's inability to be there. She explained that he had an unexpected work conflict. She stated a couple of months back in the Fair and Equitable publication he had set some goals for the upcoming year. He is a member of the IAAO Executive Board and is working hard for us with the Executive Board.

Old Business:

Melinda then went on to say she wanted to do a recap of 2009 because it was so successful something that was evident by the turnout of tonight's meeting. We offered education on the sub-prime market. We had Jimmy Shaw who is a member on the IAAO Executive Board, come to UCONN and talk about IAAO designations and their importance to us. We have somewhere between ten and fifteen people in Connecticut on track to achieve their designations. We offered course 112 this year, taught by Mike Fedele. We also offered a class on loading capitalization and discount rates. That was put together by Miles Andrews and Julie Morgan. Both of these instructors volunteered to help make 2009 a success. A webinar was offered on foreclosures. This was a total success. Melinda stated she was not sure how Webinars will be utilized in Connecticut because of the restrictions on signing in and out. She said IAAO is looking for more Webinars to offer. Melinda has spoken to the Committee regarding the restriction issue. She told them she is certainly willing to promote anything they offer but that may mean only offering them in a public forum until she gets approval from CCMA Committee on how this will be resolved. She asked Walter Topliff if the Committee has discussed this topic and he replied "not very much." Melinda mentioned there was an IAAO Webinar offered last November. She told the person organizing it that they didn't promote it very much. They told her the restrictions are an issue for them too. She told them that the CT

Chapter is trying to work through the same issue. She continued to state that the fee structure for IAAO has changed which she assumes is due to the fact thirty nine people from Connecticut signed up. She said she is trying to promote education in Connecticut. Another reason it was such a great year is the collaboration between CAAO and CT Chapter of IAAO on offering a guest speaker on energy in conjunction with Hartford County Assessor's Association. It's success was apparent in the attendance numbers. She hopes to continue the relationship and create new collaborations with other county associations. She said CT Chapter is not trying to replace CAAO in education but rather enhance the educational offerings available to Assessors. In these economic times she feels the more options the better it will be for Assessors trying to get their mandatory credits for recertification. When you consider all the budgetary constraints and inability to get out of the office these half day lower cost options might work right now. Her plans for next year are still up in the air except for the billboard seminar. It will be held Monday March 8th in Waterbury. John Ryan will be the instructor. Quality Data will be the host for this event. It will be held at their facility. It is limited to 30 seats. Melinda is still computing the fee structure. It will probably run about \$125.00. This will cover the instructor and materials. The biggest expense is in the materials. She has brought this concern to IAAO and hopes things will change in the near future.

New Business:

Melinda is hoping in 2010 to do a program on modeling in revaluation on how we get the value. Someone from the audience asked "will it be similar to the class offered by IAAO on modeling?" Melinda said no it would not because that course was too intense for one week. Her objective is to offer a hybrid class. She felt she has found success in offering half day seminars which start in the afternoon. She would like feed back from people either way on whether they feel this works for them or not. The afternoon classes allow you to go into the office, get done what you need to, grab lunch, get in 3 hours of credits toward certification and still get out to go home by 4:30 or 5pm. Making the seminars smaller and more affordable is her goal.

Melinda is researching an instructor from NYU, who teaches a program on regression analysis. She has asked him to come and teach a 3 hour hybrid session. She is hoping to convince him to do this at no charge. It is not set in stone yet because of time constraints. This would be one in a series of sessions ending in offering a sales ratio analysis session. The sales ratio session would be on more than what it means at the state level and how it impacts revaluation. If someone would like to jump in and help coordinate this project she would be happy to delegate this responsibility to someone because at this time she is in revaluation mode and a little overwhelmed. She feels she has delegated more than enough onto Stuart Topliff and would like some other people to help as well. If anyone has any interesting ideas she would gladly entertain them. They could either run under CT Chapter or help out Mary Huda who is the education chairperson for CAAO. She said we are in need of fresh ideas. Melinda wanted to thank the people who helped make 2009 such a success. She thanked Miles Andrews and Mike Fedele with certificates of appreciation. Julie Morgan was also offered congrats. She said these instructors were volunteers. Bob Reardon from Massachusetts was also offered thanks and praise. She

mentioned there were lots of people who helped behind the scenes. Ann from Waterbury and the Waterbury IT team helped set up the Webinar.

One of the goals of CT Chapter is to promote offerings from IAAO. Melinda said she attended an IAAO Executive Board meeting last November in Nashville. She felt if she was going to be involved in this organization she needed to know what they did and if they were accomplishing anything. She was amazed at all that was getting done. She watched them heatedly discuss the budget, goals, education and the future of the organization. She said she as proud to be part of this organization. If you are not a member of IAAO you should become one. She stated she is not just saying that because she was a representative. Someone from the audience informed everyone she was not just a rep but rep of the year. Everyone applauded her. She humbly said thank you and said she was excited about all IAAO has to offer all of us. She said the only issue is that some of the offerings are only at a county level. She feels we can create our own classes based on the same lessons and teach them locally.

House Keeping:

Melinda then stated the secretary's report was unavailable but was posted online.

Then Melinda requested a reading of the treasurer's report by Jennifer Bernardo. Jennifer reported the ending balance as of 1/6/2010 was \$8,353.63. A motion to accept her report by Stuart Topliff and seconded by Dave Wheeler.

Melinda then proceeded to start the drawing for the scholarship being awarded that night. Mike D'Amicol chose the first ticket. The winner was Jennifer Bernardo; alternates were Chris Kelsey and Dave Dietsch.

Melinda then opened the floor for questions. Walter Topliff asked if course 400 was being offered the week after Columbus Day. Melinda stated it would probably be the third week in October. The course is on tax policy and taught by Wayne Luellen from Calgary. He was a past president of IAAO.

Ceremony:

Melinda then called up all the nominees for the swearing in ceremony.

Finally she thanked David Gardner for all his help with the Bi-laws issues this year.

Requesting to table reading of the minutes because they were unavailable but were posted online. Motion to accept by Stuart Topliff, seconded by Dave Wheeler

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm by Dave Wheeler, seconded by Stuart Topliff

Respectfully submitted

Mary F. Lavalley

Secretary
CT Chapter IAAO