



# Meets & Bounds

November 2016

Maine Association of Assessing Officers

## President's Message

Congratulations go out to Judy Mathiau our Assessor of the year. I am sure all of us who know Judy feel this is well deserved. Sebasco was a great success this year. We would have liked to see a little more participation in the Code Training offerings, but those who attended the classes reported they were excellent. We will try to get the word out a little better to the Code Enforcement Officers next year. Our annual silent auction that funds scholarships was a huge success. Rick Mace has a report on the results of the auction included in this newsletter. Oh and did I mention, I will be going to Africa in 2018 as successful bidder on the all-inclusive week at the game reserve in South Africa. Thanks to all my board members for making it another successful fall seminar.

Our educational offerings, Northern Maine Spring Seminar, BAR Workshop and Fall Conference were all a

success and very well attended. The presentations at the MMA Convention were excellent. Our Assessing career was very well represented by the presence of Kerry Leichtman, Kyle Avila, Clint Swett, Darryl McKenny, Bill Healey and myself at the MCIAAO and MAAO Assessing Booth.

We as a profession are moving forward into a new year with new professional certifications, new educational offerings, and a mutually beneficial cooperative working relationship with all Assessing Associations. I think it's very exciting to be part of all of this.

In closing, I hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday season!

Ruth Birtz, President



## MAAO BOARD

### PRESIDENT

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## MEMBER PROFILE: John Brushwein



Defender of assessments.

As a child I was planning on being a professional basketball player, however that didn't pan out. After reality set in I decided to go to the University of Maine at Orono. At the end of my first year I was not sure what career path I wanted to take and decided not to return with no clear purpose. During that summer I ran into John O'Donnell and John told me about an assessing program he was enrolled in at what was then Central Maine Vocational Technical Institute. I decided to go and talk with Herb Cushing, who was heading up the program. After speaking with Herb, I decided to enroll.

The class consisted of Darryl McKenney, Elizabeth Sawyer, Peter Matheson, Steve LeMay, and one other person whose name escapes me. I interned with Patten Appraisal at the end of my 1<sup>st</sup> year measuring and listing for revaluations in Ogunquit, Maine, and Hopkinton and Huntington, Massachusetts. After getting my Associates Degree in 1982 and my CMA the same year, I went to work for John E. O'Donnell & Associates in Auburn. My first assessing position was working for the Town of Wilton in 1984. In 1985 Dan Sanborn called me (Dan was the Assessor in Farmington at the time) and told me there was a job opening in Bar Harbor and suggested it might be step up for me.

I remember driving into Bar Harbor the first time and thinking that it was incredible. I got the job as the Assessor and Code Enforcement Officer. The Town was in the process of voting on a new zoning ordinance which included expanding from 13 zoning districts to 33, and the ordinance went from 33 pages long to 133 pages. At the time I did not think there was any chance it would pass, wrong! A year later I got a call from the assessor in Mount Desert, Dennis Gardner. Dennis told me he was leaving to do fee appraisals full time and asked if I was interested in the Mount Desert position. It was also for both Assessor and Code Enforcement Officer, however it was primarily a residential community and the pay was \$7,500.00 more than I was making at the time. I told the Bar Harbor Town Manager of the opportunity but added that I was comfortable with the Town of Bar Harbor and the new ordinance and that I would stay if they offered me \$2,500.00 more. The answer from the Council was thanks but no thanks. The quote in the Bar Harbor Times from one of the Councilors was; "Thank **Jim** for his time in Bar Harbor". Obviously I left a lasting impression. Bar Harbor subsequently hired a separate Assessor and Code Officer.

I worked for the Town of Mount Desert for 19 ½ years including a 2 year stint as Town Manager. I had the opportunity to assess some very impressive properties, including Martha Stewart's property in Seal Harbor. The property originally belonged to Edsel Ford but prior to Ms. Stewart purchasing the property, it was owned by a gentleman affiliated with the Boston Celtics. He had purchased a pub in England that was being torn down, had the interior dismantled, shipped to Seal Harbor and reconstructed in the

*(Continued on Page 4)*

## MAAO Secretaries Report

▲ By Tammy L. Brown

MAAO Annual Fall Conference was held at Sebasco Harbor Resort. Kudos once again to the Sebasco Harbor Resort staff members who went above and beyond to meet the many needs of our Association; we offer our most sincere thanks to them for all they do to assist us with this conference. The MAAO Board would also like to thank all the attendees from our Assessing and Code Enforcement communities for attending this year's conference. The continued collaboration between the Assessors and Code Enforcement Officers continues to grow each year. Without the outstanding speakers and vendors who continue to offer their knowledge, time and continued support we wouldn't be able to host a conference of this quality. We offer our most sincere thanks to all of them for their continued support.

We have already begun to plan the 2017 conference. We expect the new certification requirements for the Advanced Assessor to roll out in 2017. We are happy to announce that we will be able to offer some of the Advanced Assessor courses that have been approved by Maine Revenue Services. We are looking forward to the addition of these sessions and hope our membership will take advantage of these new offerings.

The MAAO Board would like to once again congratulate Judy Mathiau, on being named the Maine Association of Assessing Officer's Assessor of the Year. Judy who is the Assessor for the Town of Winslow represents all the professional, ethical and compassionate qualities needed to be a great assessor. Judy is a true leader who embodies nothing but team player qualities with everything she does. Judy has been a long time member of Maine Association of Assessing officers, even serving as President in 1997; currently she serves on the Maine Chapter International Association of Assessing Officers Board as Vice President. She has also represented the Assessing community in her role as Chief of Training when she was employed by Maine Revenue Services, Property Tax Division. Judy has been an active advocate for Assessors, serving on many advisory committees, working groups and lending her experience and knowledge to assessors as an instructor at Maine Revenues Services Property Tax School.

As Assessors we all know the day to day business can sometimes be so rewarding and other times bring us difficult situations. Judy tackles every situation with complete professionalism and compassion. Over the years she has received many phone calls from other Assessors seeking her advice and wisdom. She always takes every call to heart and offers her best advice. The next time you see Judy, please take the time to congratulate her on this great accomplishment.

Please consider nominating an assessor to recognize their professional and dedicated service to his/her profession and community. It is never too early to start planning for next year's award recipient. The award will once again be given out at the MAAO Annual Meeting. If you nominated someone for this year's award and would like them to be considered for next year's award please contact me before the deadline of July 10, 2017.

The Board met on September 9, 2016 as a wrap up of the Annual Fall Conference. At that meeting the board discussed the educational offerings, speakers, location, evaluation forms, food as well as the evening activities. The Board would like to extend our sincere thank you to those attendees and vendors who took the time to fill out the evaluation forms. The evaluation forms will help us to prepare for the upcoming 2017 Annual Fall Conference. The sign in sheets for each day of the Fall Conference have been transferred to Maine Revenue Service so that they can record the credit hours for each attendee.

Once again this year we were asked to co-sponsor a booth at the Maine Municipal Association Convention with the Maine Chapter of International Assessing Officers. The booth was staffed by Clint Swett, Kyle Avila and Kerry Leichtman from the MCIAAO Board and Ruth Birtz, Bill Healey, Jr. and Darryl McKenney for the MAAO Board. It was the intension of both organizations to help promote the assessing profession and be available to answer any questions the attendees may have had regarding the assessing profession.

The next MAAO Board Meeting will be held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at MMA in Augusta at 10:00. If you have anything you would like the board to take up, please contact any board member. ▲

Respectfully submitted by, Tammy Brown



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*Valuation, Appraisal Review & Advisory Services*

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*Member Profile – Continued from Page 2*

basement of the main house (very cool). It also had a carriage house that had a hydraulic turntable to turn the horse carriage around after being driven into the building. It was the early version of the Bat Cave with the table to turn the Batmobile around.

One day I went to take a look at renovations being done at a house in Northeast Harbor and was greeted at the door by a guy in painters pants splattered in paint that I assumed was working on the house. I asked him if the owner was at home. He informed me that he was the owner and showed me through the house. He took me into his studio where he was working on a painting of the Brooklyn Bridge that was probably 8'X8' (see photo). It turned out that he was famous artist, Richard Estes. It just goes to show you that you can't judge a book by its cover.



I returned to the Auburn area in 2007 and after brief stints in Paris and Auburn accepted the Assessor's position in Gray in 2012. I am currently the Assessor for Gray and Cumberland which is an interesting combination. I typically go with the Code Enforcement Officer on Certificate of Occupancy inspections and last spring we had to go out to a small island not very far off the shore of Little Sebago Lake. We met the owner as he was paddling over in a very long and narrow canoe. As he was nearing shore I had a bad feeling. The water was very shallow at the time and was probably no more than 2 1/2 feet deep. We got in the canoe (3 of us), and made our way over. After completing the inspection we went to the dock and both the owner and CEO got in the canoe.

As I stepped in and started to sit down, I shifted slightly and the entire canoe flipped. All three of us went in, fortunately for me I was quick enough so that I did not get completely soaked, the other two were not so lucky. Needless to say, I have not heard the end of it. When we got back to the office, I told everyone that we would have stayed drier if we had walked out to the island.

It has been an interesting career. When I am not working or fighting crime, I spend time playing tennis with my wife, cycling, and fishing with my son. ▲

**MAAO Meeting/Training Calendar 2016**

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location
December 2	Friday	10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting	MMA - Augusta

**Membership Questions?**

Please contact Affiliate Services at: 1-800-452-8786

## 2016 Assessor of the Year Award

The Maine Association of Assessing Officers is pleased to announce that Judith Mathiau, from the Town of Winslow is the recipient of the 2016 Assessor of the Year Award.

She provides service and contribution beyond just that of the municipality in which she serves by active participation in various Assessing organizations. In conjunction with the Maine Chapter of the IAAO, she has been instrumental in educating new/inexperienced assessors and has taught several outstanding courses at the Maine Property Tax School. She continues to be an active member of both the Mid-Coast Assessors Group and the Central Maine Association of Assessors.

Judy is recognized as an Assessor who displays characteristics of integrity and leadership. ▲



## ANNUAL DUES

Regular Membership:	\$30/person
Associate Membership:	\$30/person
Subscribing Membership:	\$200/business*
Municipal Membership:	\$50/municipality**
Student Membership:	FREE

\*Includes all employees \*\*Includes Boards of Assessors & Elected Municipal Officials

Please visit our website at: [www.maineassessors.org](http://www.maineassessors.org) for more information and membership application form.

## Meets & Bounds publication months:

### January, April, July & November

Please contact Ruth Birtz or a Director if you have any news for the newsletter.

## Auction Wrap-Up!

▲ by Rick Mace

Our Scholarship Fundraising Auction was a huge success at this year's Fall Conference. Thanks to everyone that donated an item and the brisk bidding we were able to raise \$2,452. The highlight was the African Photo Safari once again, two trips selling for \$1,100 each! The lucky winners were Ruth Birtz and Jim Nadeau. The deal with the Zulu Nyala Game Preserve is that they split the proceeds with MAAO. Other popular items included the chainsaw Moose Sculpture that sold for \$102 and will be staying at the Sebasco Harbor Resort, the Trek Bike selling for \$280, the Mainely Deer Antler Basket selling for \$56, and the bountiful supply of adult beverages.

Just remember that this money raised is for any of our members to use towards their quest for certification credits. Please don't hesitate to apply for this scholarship money! It can be used for any educational offering on all levels, IAAO, ME Chapter, MAAO, or Maine Revenue Service, etc. Scholarship applications are on our website or you can contact Tammy Brown. ▲



*Rick Mace discussing the MAAO Auction.*

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Every year MAAO awards two scholarships. The scholarships may be used for a variety of continuing education programs that grant a minimum of 16 hours of continuing education. If you would like to apply, please complete the enclosed application and mail to:

MAAO  
c/o Maine Municipal Association  
60 Community Drive  
Augusta, ME 04330

If you have any questions regarding the application process contact Joan Kiszely at 1-800-452-8786.

The deadline is 60 days prior to the event you intend to use the scholarship for. ▲



## MAAO Scholarship Eligibility Requirements

### Applicants must:

1. Be a current member of MAAO and in good standing.
2. Demonstrate a need for academic and financial assistance.
3. Submit the required application form to be received by the Scholarship Education Committee Chair 60 days prior to the event you plan on using the scholarship for. Applications will not be accepted if not received by the deadline.

### Scholarship Conditions:

1. Scholarship recipients are ineligible to apply for another award for three (3) years. Unless no other applications have been received and/or monies are available. This decision will be left to the discretion of the Board.
2. Must apply timely and on appropriate form to be considered for the present year.
3. Use the scholarship by 12/31 of each year.
4. Shall write a summary stating length of time in assessing field and the financial assistance for the scholarship.
5. Qualifying educational course work is defined as granting a minimum of 16 hours assessment by which a letter or certificate of completion can demonstrate examination success and the assignment of full credit. Continuing Education Units for licensure renewal other than Certified Maine Assessor and Certified Assessing Technician do not meet the scholarship conditions.
6. Successful applicants who subsequently decline the scholarship must reapply for future consideration.
7. Applicants must certify that no other tuition or course materials reimbursements has been awarded, nor will be sought, from any other source (e.g., county, state, local jurisdiction, or other educational or professional body), unless the scholarship does not fully cover the entire amount of the course and will receive the balance.
8. An application must be submitted with an original signature.
9. The name of the school or sponsoring organization must be submitted with the scholarship application.
10. Applicants are limited to one application per calendar year.
11. Only one (1) scholarship to be given to a Municipality every three (3) years. Unless no other applications have been received and/or monies are available. This decision will be left to the discretion of the Board.
12. The MAAO Board reserves the right to reject or accept courses that are acceptable for the scholarship.

Reimbursement will cover only up to the amount of the registration fee(s).

IAAO courses, State related courses, and other related subjects pertaining to the assessment field in general including State, MAAO, NRAAO and IAAO conferences are accepted courses.



## Maine Association of Assessing Officers Application for Scholarship

The decision of awarding the amount and the number of scholarships is made by the MAAO Board of Directors.

**Please print clearly. Application must be submitted 60 days prior to the event you plan on attending.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Municipality:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State and Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location & Course Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I certify that the information furnished by me in this application is complete and accurate.**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

On a separate sheet of paper, please state in your own words the reasons you believe you qualify to receive a scholarship:

Please return completed application to:

Maine Association of Assessing Officers  
C/O Maine Municipal Association  
60 Community Drive  
Augusta, ME 04330

If you have any questions regarding the application process contact Joan Kiszely at 1-800-452-8786.

**Note:** Selections will be made based on the application information received, funds available and eligibility. The Chair of the Scholarship Committee will notify all recipients and announce their names in the MAAO newsletter.



## MAAO Fall Conference - Sebasco



*IAAO President Pete Rodda presentation Sebasco.*



*Games at Thursday night Spaghetti Social.*



*Sunset at Sebasco Harbor Resort.*



*Our favorite uninvited guest at Sebasco.*



*Bernstein Shur presentation.*



## MAINE ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSING OFFICERS

### ASSESSOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

#### The Award

The Assessor of the Year Award is sponsored annually by the Maine Association of Assessing Officers Association (MAAO) to recognize professional and dedicated service by an Assessor to his/her profession and community.

#### Nominating Process/Presentation of Award:

- 1) The selection committee shall be appointed by the MAAO Board of Directors. It may consist of the following:
  - The Chair of the Awards and Scholarship Committee, the Awards and Scholarship Committee members and the MAAO Executive Board members.
  - Immediate past recipient of the Assessor of the Year award.
- 2) The Committee shall solicit nominations from MMA members and affiliates. **Deadline for nominations to be submitted will be July 10, 2017.** Nominations will be submitted on the official MAAO Assessor of the Year Nomination Form.
- 3) The Committee shall not disclose the name of the recipient before the Awards Ceremony.
- 4) The Award will be given during the MAAO Fall Conference Annual meeting in September.

#### Criteria:

Nominees for this award shall meet the following criteria:

- 1) Nominee must hold the title of Assessor for his/her municipality, and be a current CMA.
- 2) Nominee provides service and contribution beyond just that of the municipality in which he/she serves by active participation in various Assessing organizations.
- 3) Quality and consistency of work product
- 4) Nominee is recognized as an Assessor who displays characteristics of integrity and leadership.
- 5) Nominee shall have at least three years experience as an Assessor.
- 6) Nominee is not eligible if they have been a previous recipient of the Assessor of the Year Award.

#### Additional Information

For additional information, please contact Joan Kiszely at MMA at 1-800-452-8786 or in the Augusta area at 623-8428.



**MAINE ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSING OFFICERS  
2017 ASSESSOR OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINATION**

Nominee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Municipality: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Original Certification as an Assessor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date or Year Nominee began work as an Assessor \_\_\_\_\_ (Must have served as an Assessor for at least 3 years)

Please answer questions below and attach additional sheets if necessary.

1. Please provide examples of the Nominee's leadership, service, and contribution to the Assessor's profession. List any participation in or awards given that were associated with any State, New England, or International organizations.
  
2. Please provide examples of the Nominee's dedication toward the community they serve and describe their efforts to promote the cause of good local government.
  
3. Please give a brief synopsis on the quality and consistency of work product.

Please attach all supporting documentation (newspaper articles, letters, letters of recommendation, resume, etc.) with this nomination form and submit to:

**MAAO - Assessor of the Year Award**  
C/O Maine Municipal Association  
60 Community Drive  
Augusta, ME 04330.  
Deadline is July 10, 2017.

Nomination submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_



# Meets & Bounds

## MAAO NOVEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

[www.maineassessors.org](http://www.maineassessors.org)

MEETS & BOUNDS-MAAO  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER  
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