

Fall 2012

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**MAAO's President  
Pam Sanders**

Greetings from Ocean City, Maryland, in a post-Hurricane Sandy environment. Compared to the New Jersey Shore and some communities closer to home, Worcester County fared pretty well. I personally was amazed and very thankful that not a drop of water made it into my first-floor condo.

I am honored and excited to serve you as President this year. I also want to thank Robert Smith, who initially encouraged me to serve on the Executive Board (EB) and for being a proponent of not only my professional development but in his past roles with the Association, especially coordinating many of the recent and very successful golf outings and socials at Seacrets. I would also like to thank retired Washington County Supervisors of Assessments, Tim O'Rourke and Jerry Elmore who brought me into the fold.

Speaking of professional development (I know, a very weak segue), the 2013 MAAO Conference will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Kent Island.



Just over the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, in the Queen Anne's County community of Grasonville, the property enjoys a favorable, central location. We anticipate that based on its proximity to the metropolitan counties, as well as many of those that reside in Southern Maryland; it will encourage many to attend who would prefer to commute and a mid-point for those of us that live on the fringes of the State.

The Education Committee is in its initial stages of planning. Based on some preliminary decisions, a theme of sorts is coming into view: professional development and the importance of real estate education. *(continued on next page - column 2)*

**From the Director**

Dear MAAO Members:

I want to thank all of you this year for once again getting the reassessment accomplished in an expeditious, efficient, and highly professional manner.

I know that our newly hired assessors recognize the importance of the invaluable experience of our senior assessors and the guidance they provide them in the utilization of the AAVS system.

Later this month, the Department will be presenting its budget to the Department of Budget and Management in Annapolis. In future issues of your newsletter, we can discuss how the Department fared in the budget process. In the last budget cycle, the Department was pleased to receive significant funding for the installation of the COSTAR software for valuing commercial properties.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Young  
Director

**FAREWELL FROM THE STATE SUPERVISOR**

On December 31, 2012 I will be retiring from the department. I have been employed with the State of Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation for the last 34 years. During this time, I served six Directors of Assessments and Taxation and worked with 78 different Supervisors of Assessments. I enjoyed working for the department and sincerely appreciate the support provided me over my career in the agency.

I've had the privilege and pleasure of working with a large number of dedicated professionals in the department. This includes everyone at headquarters, my real property staff, as well as each and every one in the local offices. I will miss you all.

Again, it has been my privilege to have worked with all of you. Thank you for your support over the last 29 years I served at headquarters.

Sincerely,  
Hank

## MAAO'S PAST PRESIDENT

I just want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who helped with the 2012 MAAO Conference last June. I couldn't have asked for a better group of people to work with to pull it off. I hope everyone that attended had a great time and learned something new. We are all looking forward to a new year with new challenges. I know that the MAAO board is planning another fun filled educational conference for 2013 on Kent Island. We all would like to see you there.

Keep striving to do your best in your professional and personal lives and remember the ride is half the fun, don't miss it!

Teresa R. Hartle

### M.A.A.O. Annual Income & Expense Report

Total Balance in Accounts	1/1/2012	\$9,964.12
Total Receipts		\$19,697.02
Total Expenses		-\$20,133.48
Total Balance in Accounts	9/11/2012	\$9,527.66

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Editor – Kathleen Phillips

#### **Executive Board 2011-12**

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*(MAAO's President - continued from page 1)*

A factor that I find interesting about being an active observer of the real estate industry is that it touches everything from the most mundane of issues on the micro level to regional and global events, such as Hurricane Sandy to the Tsunami in Thailand and their possible effects on financing on a more macro level. Being exposed to coursework and individuals that have an understanding of how these factors may influence real estate values on the local level is vital to a strong foundation in mastering the concepts, principals and practices of real estate valuation. This is the reasoning behind the legislation that led to the Maryland Real Estate Appraisal Commission requirement that those individuals that hold a license or certification obtain recertification credits.

What better way to earn those much needed educational credits or for some of our more-recent hires to network and passively learn by casual conversation, than to enjoy three days of Administrative Leave, authorized to attend the 2013 MAAO Conference at a modest registration fee with a discount for first-time attendees.

In addition to veteran or rookie assessors, the Membership Committee is actively pursuing assessors from neighboring states and appraisers that practice, outside of the context of SDAT. In an effort to defer the cost of this and future conferences for all attendees, as well as providing a different perspective, knowledge, and work experience.

On the social end of the program, the EB has arranged for a Seacrets-like beach party at the adjacent property, The Jetty Dock Bar. There will also be the annual golf tournament with its signature "best ball" format, at a very reasonable greens fee to play one of the best courses on the Eastern Shore; complete with lunch, Mulligans, a Pot of Gold, and don't forget the "valuable" prizes. There will also be time to enjoy local activities that are unique to the local community, which may include time on the water in a kayak or visits to the retail outlets and/or nature organizations.

As an extension of my involvement with the EB, I have also attended a few Northeastern Association of Assessing Officers (NRAAO) conferences, and I just returned with Les Pruitt, Educational Chair and Bruce Bolt, MAAO Representative to NRAAO, from the fall Board of Director's meeting; in Warwick, Rhode Island. NRAAO is planning a like-minded conference at the Newport Hyatt in the Harbor on Goat Island; being conducted April 28, 2013 - May 1, 2013.

In closing, if you have never attended a MAAO Conference or if it has been a long time, please make a resolution to take the first step to control your own professional development by attending the 73rd Annual gathering of Maryland's finest real estate professionals.

Pam Sanders



# Anne Arundel County

Since last spring's Newsletter we have lost Grace Gale (Assessor) who returned to work for the IRS part time and Sherry Jorgenson (Office Services Clerk) who has decided to go into the Day Care business. We enjoyed working with both of them and wish them the best.

We are very happy to have Christopher Waller, Assessor I and Office Services Clerks Jamise Jackson and Stacey Matthews join us. Dave Clark has also returned as a Commercial Assessor after retiring from the DC Assessment office.

Scott Bernstein has added another little girl to his family, Stella. And another one is on the way for Angela Chavez.

Joseph V. Glorioso



# Baltimore County

Roger Lee retired since the spring newsletter. We are all anxiously awaiting the naming of our new Supervisor of Assesments. In the interim Jean Dickens is the acting supervisor.

Donald Debnam departed for Prince George's County to become a commercial assessor and Wendy Sherrod has transferred to Baltimore County from Montgomery to be closer to home. Also our newest assessor Lisa Moreland is now an Assessor II.

Kathy Phillips



# Caroline County

Caroline County was fortunate to have only minor flooding and power outages from "Sandy". Hope those of you in the southeast and far west are getting back to normal now.

Congratulations are in order to Keith Bobbick, Assistant Supervisor, on the addition to his family. The lovely Ella Rose was born May 21<sup>st</sup>.

A second hoorah and congrats to Molly Ness who was promoted to Assessor II in November. That first year just zipped by!

Last, we say "Enjoy your retirement Hank!!" We will miss you!

Dana M. Jarrell



# Dorchester County

We would like to welcome our newest assessor Tina Woods.

Mark Dennis' son William Kane Dennis graduated with Academic Honors from The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina. He received a BA degree in School of Humanities & Social Sciences with a major in Criminal Justice and graduated as a Distinguished Naval Student. He was nominated by The Citadel administration & received a Who's Who Award. Other accomplishments: Certificate from the USMC for a perfect score of 300 in Combat Fitness testing, Deans list for 3 semesters, Commandants List 2 semesters (for top leadership performance in company), Presidents List twice (for receiving Commandants List and Deans List same semester), Selected by Freshman class in his company both his Junior and Senior year as being Most Respected Upperclassman Leadership, Graduated July 2011 from USMC Officer Candidate School in Quantico, VA. He was commissioned May 4th, 2012 into the USMC as a 2nd Lt. with orders to report to Quantico, VA by Jan. 2013 to attend The Basic School (Officer training).

Mark Dennis



# HARFORD County

Hello from Harford!

From the strange but true file...

We'd like to congratulate **Jennifer Holmes** on her one year anniversary of being an assessor. She hung in there through our AAVS growing pains last year and came through like a trooper. She has been promoted to an Assessor II and surprisingly, is happy and isn't trying to flee... And she bought a house! (Maybe that's it?) Strange but...

From Stork Central:

Office Secretary/Appeal Board Clerk and all around go-to person **Tricia Siejack** became the proud mom of adorable **Arianna**.

Office Manager (she is not allowed to retire) **Sandy Riley** became the grand mom of precious **Abigail**. Sandy's daughter, **Jennifer Hetrick** is a Personal Property assessor at HQ.

Is there an attorney in the house?

Assistant Supervisor **Laura Keller's** daughter **Emily** graduated Summa Cum Laude and was the Valedictorian of the 2012 Class of University of Baltimore School of Law. She sat for the Bar in July and should be hearing shortly. She is working at Eccleston and Wolf.

Congratulations to everyone - Year two of AAVS is completed!

Nancy Schmidbauer



# Howard County

We are happy to announce that our staff has expanded by one with the recent hiring of Office Services Clerk Stacy Hull. Stacy lives in Glen Burnie and has an eight-year-old daughter named Aubree and a two-year-old son Austin. We're delighted to have her on board and she has picked up the work quickly.

Renee Mierczak



# Queen Anne's County

Congratulations are in order for the Queen Anne's County Office!

Donna Jennings was married in January to Benny Smith.

On July 30, 2012, Vickie Blizzard was promoted to Assessor I, Commercial and Industrial. We are all pleased that her diligence and determination have resulted in this great opportunity.

Carol Foreman has retired effective November 1, 2012, with over 36 years of service. Carol began her career with the Department of Assessments and Taxation as a temporary employee in the Baltimore City office in July, 1975. A year later, she was hired as a permanent employee, and remained in the Baltimore City office for 9 more years. In 1985, she transferred to the Talbot County office to be closer to her new home on Kent Island. 8 years later, she got even closer to home with a transfer to the Queen Anne's County office.

Throughout her career, Carol received positive feedback from SDAT Help brochures, as well as numerous letters of appreciation for assistance provided to the public. In addition to her dedicated service, Carol provided humor to our office. She shared stories of office softball games, weekend boating and crabbing adventures, and her infamous recipes for spare ribs and peanut brittle. We will miss her, and wish her the best in her retirement.

Peg Ness



# Worcester County

Since we missed the Spring Edition newsletter there has been several additions to our office and families. In the spring we welcomed our newest Assessor Jennifer How. Jennifer has been a great asset to our office and we are lucky to have her.

In June we welcomed the arrival of Caiden, son of Claude Gattis and Aiden, the grandson of Janet Rogers, Office Clerk. Naomi the granddaughter of Bob Smith recently celebrated her 1<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Claude Gattis and Catherine Hovance completed and passed their Income class in March.

We are also proud to have Pam Sanders representing Worcester County as the current MAAO president.

Enjoy the upcoming holidays!!

Catherine Hovance