

# NETWORK



*The Quarterly Newsletter of Virginia's Assessment Professionals*

SPRING 2014



Virginia Association  
*of* Assessing Officers

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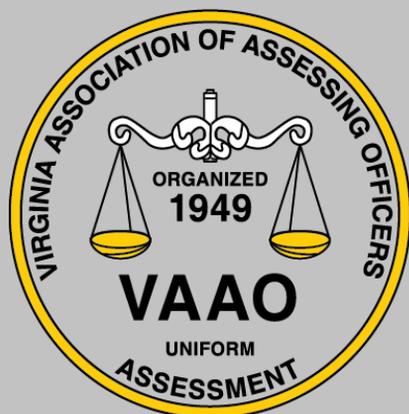
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# A Message *from* The President



Springtime in the Commonwealth...

Sounds like part of a Mel Brooks, film does it not? When you receive this newsletter, the winter from hell should be over and the scent of assessment notices will be in the air. Our legislators have been up to their old habits: introducing new legislation and making changes to existing legislation that is self-serving and financially impactful to the Commonwealth's localities, without encouraging or seeking input from the professionals that must implement the changes or the citizens that must bear the brunt of the fiscal burden.

Summer is just around the corner, but it's not too early to begin thinking about the education seminar in July and the annual conference in October. Education is the main focus of our association and your participation is the key. Mary Deas (Education Chair) and her committee have put together a great program of education with topics that will be of interest to everyone. The location will be the same as last year: the Omni in Charlottesville.

You will note some changes in the newsletter. Under the leadership of our new coeditors (Paul Bidanset from Norfolk & Woody Fincham from Albemarle County), *Network* will be trying some changes to peak your interest and provide insight to matters of importance. Please provide feedback and assistance when asked so this publication can continue to be part the assessors' network. Thank you Paul and Woody for taking on this important communication tool and we wish you much success. Can the Zangerle Award be far behind?

I hope this greeting has found you all well and you are ready to take on new challenges with the knowledge and professionalism the VAAO is known for. See you in C-Ville.

Sincerely,

*Bill Marchand*

**VAAO President**

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# Inremembrance

(Picture and obituary from: <http://www.covenantfuneralservice.com/obituaries/larry-lee-lewis/>)

## Larry Lee Lewis

*Born on 9/4/1943*

*Departed on 4/14/2014*

*Resided in Spotsylvania County, Virginia*

*Larry Lee Lewis, 70, of Spotsylvania County died Monday, April 14, 2014 at Georgetown University Hospital following surgery.*

*Larry was born in Independence, Missouri on Sept. 4, 1943 to the late Paul and Geneva Lewis. He was the youngest of four sons. After graduating from high school he attended the School of the Ozarks.*

*Larry was a U.S. Air Force veteran having served in Izmir Turkey in the early 1960's serving as a surgeon's assistant. He served as a member of the Fredericksburg Police Department for four years and then worked for the Virginia Department of Transportation until 1975.*

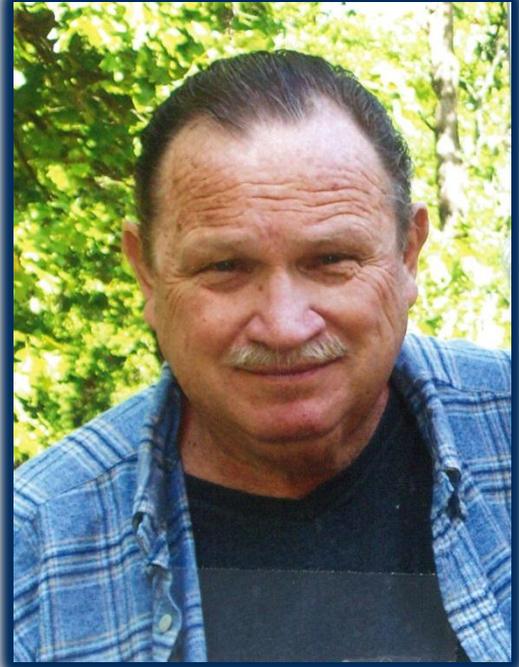
*In 1975 he married his wife, Judy and began his work as a commercial real estate appraiser for Fairfax County, where he worked in litigation until his retirement in 2000. In 2001, he began working for Spotsylvania County Assessment.*

*Survivors include his wife of 39 years, Judy C. Lewis; two sons Michael Lane of Fredericksburg and Rodney Lee Lewis of St. Louis, MO; daughter Laura Lane Ragland and her companion, Mike Pontbriand, of Fredericksburg; granddaughters Leann Ragland of Fredericksburg and Miranda Lewis and Michaela Lewis both of Denver, CO; one great-granddaughter; two brothers Jerral "TuffY" Lewis of West Plains, MO and Jim Lewis and his wife, Vicki of Fredericksburg; sister-in-law June Lewis of West Plains, MO; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins; and his "boys" Tyler and Skip.*

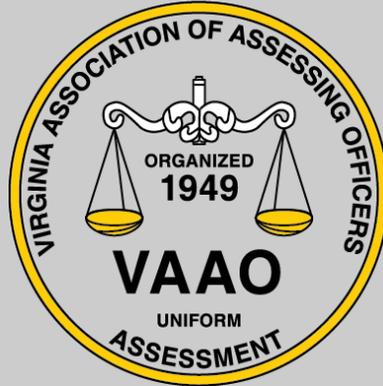
*He was preceded in death by his oldest brother, Junior Paul "Cotton" Lewis.*

*A service will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, April 21, at Covenant Funeral Service, Fredericksburg with Rev. John D. Ragland officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. Burial with military honors will follow at noon in Quantico National Cemetery.*

*In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to an SPCA of one's choice or to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.*



# Virginia Association *of* Assessing Officers Professional Designation Award



“The IAAO’s Professional Designation Program provides a mechanism to unify and standardize the designation process. It must be recognized that IAAO professional designations represent an ultimate professional objective.”

In an effort to support the IAAO’s Professional Designation Program, and encourage, support, and help facilitate each VAAO member in reaching their ultimate professional objective, the VAAO hereby institutes an award for successful completion and written confirmation of the granting of an IAAO professional designation. The award shall be administered as follows:

- Upon receiving a CAE designation, the sum of \$500.00 shall be the award
- Upon receiving any IAAO designation other than CAE, the sum of \$300.00 shall be the award
- A total lifetime award for completion of multiple designation programs shall not exceed \$800.00
- Presentation shall be made, along with a memento from the VAAO at the annual education seminar or annual conference, by the Professional Designation Program Committee
- The committee shall request from the VAAO treasurer and the treasurer shall have authority to issue the funds for these awards
- The effective date for this award program is January 1, 2014. Any active member of the VAAO with a designation certificate date on or after this date shall be eligible for this monetary award.
- This award program may be cancelled, amended, or replaced without notice to the VAAO membership, by the VAAO Board of Directors.
- In any event there is a dispute over the granting of any award, the VAAO Board of Directors shall be the final arbitrator

Does your office have a new hire, retirement, new designee, or promotion? Let us know and we will feature them in our next issue! Please email: [Paul.Bidanset@norfolk.gov](mailto:Paul.Bidanset@norfolk.gov)

We find members in different stages of their assessment careers. Some are just beginning, others are moving to new jurisdictions or ascending to positions of increased responsibilities, and a lucky few are settling into retirement - hopefully swapping their field hats for golfing hats. We send our congratulations and wish them all the best of luck in this next stage of their lives!

## New Hires



*Andrew Vinson is the new GIS Technician for Norfolk. He received his BA in geography from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville in 2010 and his MS in geography from the University of Alabama in 2013.*



*Tom Webster began working as Appraiser I for Lynchburg.*

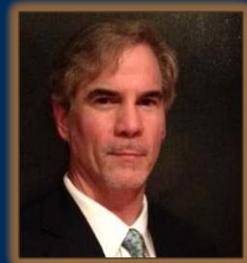


*Brian Mazor is Norfolk's newest Residential Appraiser. Prior to this Brian, worked for Hampton's assessment, as a fee appraiser, and also held an extensive career in law enforcement.*

## Promotions



*Rob Mackey of Norfolk has been promoted to Real Estate Appraiser III of the city of Norfolk's Commercial Projects Team.*



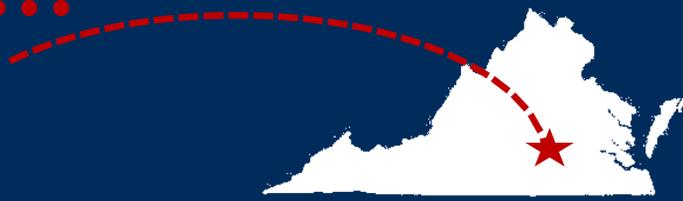
*David Nelligar-King, RES, of Norfolk has been promoted to Certified Residential Appraiser III, Team Leader/Supervisor.*

## Retirements



*Bill Baldwin retired on December 31, 2013 after working for Lynchburg since October 2000.*

# From VA to...



## ...Florida!



The 18<sup>th</sup> International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) and Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) GIS/CAMA Technologies Conference was held February 23-27 in Jacksonville, FL. Virginia was well represented by a number of presenters:

- *Finding a Fort: and What's it Worth?* by Brian Gordineer (City Assessor, City of Hampton, Office of the Assessor, Hampton, VA)
- *COD, A Misunderstood Measure of Equity* by Josh Myers (Statistical Consultant, Josh Myers Valuation Solutions LLC, Chesapeake, VA)
- *Location in Mass Appraisal Modeling: The Great Equalizer* by Josh Myers (Statistical Consultant, Josh Myers Valuation Solutions LLC, Chesapeake, VA)
- *Optimal Spatial Weighting Functions of Geographically Weighted Regression Models Used in Mass Appraisal of Residential Real Estate* by Paul E. Bidanset (Statistician/Real Estate CAMA Modeler, Office of the Real Estate Assessor, Norfolk, VA) and John Lombard (Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Urban Studies and Public Administration, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA)
- *Using Location Analytics Data in Commercial Appraisals* by Jennifer Kuntz (Esri, St. Charles, MO) and Brent Jones (Cadastral/Land Records Industry Manager, Esri, Vienna, VA)
- *National Mosaic Parcel Forum* by David Salzer (Project Manager, UNH Technology Transfer Center, Durham, NH), Patrick Santoso (Project Manager, UNH Technology Transfer Center, Durham, NH) and Brent Jones (Cadastral/Land Records Industry Manager Esri, Vienna, VA)

The 19<sup>th</sup> GIS/CAMA Technologies Conference will be held March 2-5, 2015 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

# In the headlines:

## **New Bill Passed - Notice of Assessments**

*Amending and reenacting § 58.1-3330 of the Code of Virginia, relating to real property tax; Notice of assessment*

Effective 7/1/2014 assessment notices are required by law to include:

- Appraised and assessed values of both land and improvements for the new and prior two tax years.
- Current tax rate and tax rate of prior two tax years
- Total new tax levy and tax levies of prior two tax years
- Change in tax levies in percentage terms

More details: <http://goo.gl/4IKrNH>

## **Changes in Tax Rates**

*Arlington County* - 2015 fiscal year real estate tax reduction – from \$1.006 to \$0.996 per \$100 of assessed value – aimed to offer relief to homeowners who have been experiencing assessment increases.

More details: <http://goo.gl/L0V68n>

*Pittsylvania County* - Many tax payers are opposing a 5 cent per \$100 real estate tax increase.

More details: <http://goo.gl/C0yUw8>

*Halifax County* - Residents are not speaking out against proposed 1 cent increase in property tax rate (from 45 cents to 46 cents per \$100) aimed to help soften revenue blow from 1.51 percent decrease in the previous year's tax base.

More details: <http://goo.gl/TEwhSj>

*Albemarle County* – Real estate tax raising 3.3 cents - to 79.9 cents per \$100 dollars – in order to fund \$5.8 million spending gap within the school division.

More details: <http://goo.gl/65yWnR>

*Nelson county* – Amid education deficits, real estate tax increasing 12 cents - from 60 to 72 cents per \$100 .

More details: <http://goo.gl/mfCMvw>

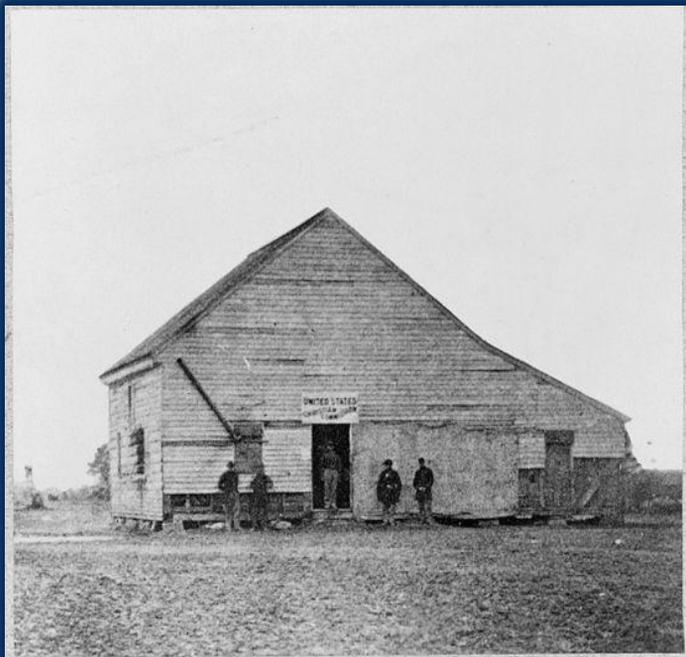
# Noteworthy

If you or someone you work with has recently contributed to the assessment industry with a project (article, blog, etc.), please email [wfincham@albemarle.org](mailto:wfincham@albemarle.org) and we will feature it in a future edition of *Network*.

- Network's coeditor Paul Bidanset wrote the cover story in the IAAO's March 2014 *Fair & Equitable* magazine. It is an interesting read on geographic data visualization using a freely distributed, open source software package called R. Paul walks the reader through some of the possibilities that can offer some new ways to observe data output as it relates to location using maps and overlays. It is certainly a different way to view data than scatter plots and whisker plots.
- Network's coeditor Woody Fincham, SRA wrote the first part of a series over at *Appraisal Buzz*. It is a public relations endeavor to highlight key differences and some of the overlaps between private fee valuation work and that of the assessment side of valuation. Many times when working alongside private fee appraisers there are misconceptions regarding how assessment offices work towards developing and reporting valuation.

A link to the article is available [here](#) (must have an IAAO membership to access).

The blog can be viewed [here](#).



White Oak Church, Falmouth, circa 1889. Image is in the public domain

Founded in 1664, the county of Stafford celebrates their 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Congratulations on this milestone!

Property taxes in Stafford are handled by the Commissioner of the Revenue, led by Commissioner Scott Mayausky.



Provost Marshal's Office, Aquia Creek, circa 1863. Image is in the public domain.

# Save the dates:

## 2014

### Assessors' School

June 9-13

University of Mary Washington

*Fredericksburg, VA*

### Education Seminar

July 15-18

Omni Hotel

*Charlottesville, VA*

### Annual Conference

October 8-10

Sheraton Waterside Hotel

*Norfolk, VA*

# IAAO membership

Dear VAAO Members,

It is our pleasure to serve the VAAO as your IAAO representatives. If you are not yet an IAAO member, we encourage you to join your colleagues from around the globe as part of this “internationally recognized leader in property appraisal, assessment administration and property tax policy”!

IAAO members qualify for a wide array of valuable benefits designed to enhance professional knowledge and career opportunities. IAAO member benefits include:

- registration discounts on IAAO webinars, seminars, and annual conference
- discounted member prices on IAAO books and multimedia in the IAAO Marketplace
- full access to the IAAO library with physical and/or electronic access to thousands of books, articles, and government documents, as well as linked databases and other resources
- electronic access to download the latest USPAP guide
- 10% discount on the McKISSOCK online USPAP course
- the opportunity to earn an IAAO professional designation or become accredited
- scholarship opportunities for those needing help with membership dues and education costs
- the ability to connect and share information with colleagues from around the world in the AssessorNET online community
- subscriptions to the monthly magazine *Fair & Equitable* and quarterly academic journal *Journal of Property Tax Assessment and Administration*
- access to Member Look Up - an online membership directory with a variety of search options
- leadership opportunities through service as an IAAO representative, committee volunteer, or executive board member
- international recognition in the Awards Program
- retired and lifetime status for those who are long-time members and meet qualifications

A more detailed listing of member benefits can be found in the Member Resource Guide. One of the most important member benefits is complete access to all of the information found within IAAO's website. Join now (for half price) and start receiving benefits today!

Regards,

Kim Smith, AAS

Rosie Barbour, RES

***\*Half-price Application on Following Page***

## Step up to IAAO and stand out in the crowd

The International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) is a nonprofit educational and research association of individuals in the assessment profession and others with an interest in property valuation.

Membership is open to anyone and includes individuals working in government, private industry and academia, as well as members of the general public.

### IAAO Memberships

#### Regular Membership

is available to all officers, officials, and employees of a governmental authority or jurisdiction who have any or all of their duties related to property valuation, property tax administration, or property tax policy; all persons engaged as individuals, or employees of an organization, who exclusively spend their time to provide professional services to governmental officers, officials, or offices of a governmental authority or jurisdiction in support of the property valuation, property tax administration or property tax policy functions. Professional services do not include the providing of hardware, software, equipment; or the sale of either goods or services to governmental agencies.

#### Associate Membership

is available to all officers, officials or employees of governmental agencies who do not have any duties directly involved in property valuation, property tax administration, or property tax policy; all officers, administrators, employees and enrolled students of educational institutions; individuals involved in or interested in property valuation, property tax administration, or property tax policy; any member of any organization, group, or association, whether local, regional, national or international, interested in property valuation, property tax administration or property tax policy.

#### Affiliate Membership

is available to groups or associations of public officials, employees or citizens interested in property valuation for property tax purposes, property tax administration and property tax policy. For application and information please contact [membership@iaao.org](mailto:membership@iaao.org).



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSING OFFICERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

## Half-price referral application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Jurisdiction/Firm \_\_\_\_\_

Office Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Office City \_\_\_\_\_ Office State/Province/Country \_\_\_\_\_ Office Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Office Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Office Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home City \_\_\_\_\_ Home State/Province/Country \_\_\_\_\_ Home Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Home Email \_\_\_\_\_

Send mail to:  Office  Home  Check here if you do not wish to receive membership e-mails.  
Email is a vital link between IAAO and its members. It is IAAO policy not to sell, rent, or distribute e-mail addresses.

Kara Smith, AAS  
Person referring applicant (if applicable)

Check here if you are an elected official.

Please indicate if you have been convicted of a felony or crime of office which may reflect on your ability to abide by the IAAO Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct.

Yes  No

#### Councils and Sections Interest Areas

(You may join more than one at **no** additional charge. You must be an IAAO member to be eligible for membership in these groups.)

- Public Utility  Mapping & GIS  
 Tax Collection  Personal Property  
 Computer Assisted Appraisal

Office use only:

I hereby apply for membership in the International Association of Assessing Officers and agree to comply with the requirements of the IAAO Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct. If accepted for membership, I will abide by the IAAO Constitution, pay the established dues, and comply with the Code and Standards.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues are payable in advance.** Please complete this application and return with payment of dues. If paying by credit card, please provide the information requested and fax to 816-701-8149.

Visa  MasterCard  AMEX

Cardholder Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Membership Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For information about an accredited membership designation, go to [www.iaao.org](http://www.iaao.org).

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

If paying by check, please make check payable to IAAO in US funds and mail to: IAAO, PO Box 29900, Dept. 929, Phoenix, AZ 85038-0900.

#### Proration Schedule

Date Received	Jan - Mar	Apr - June	July - Sept	Oct - Dec
Regular Member	\$87.50	\$65.63	\$43.75	\$87.50
Associate Member	\$90.00	\$67.50	\$45.00	\$90.00

**Join in the 4th quarter and don't pay again until Jan. 1, 2015.  
Enjoy as much as 3 months free!**

Prices are quoted in US dollars and are subject to change. Prices are guaranteed through 12/31/14.