

# NETWORK



*The Quarterly Newsletter of Virginia's Assessment Professionals*

WINTER 2015



Virginia Association  
*of* Assessing Officers

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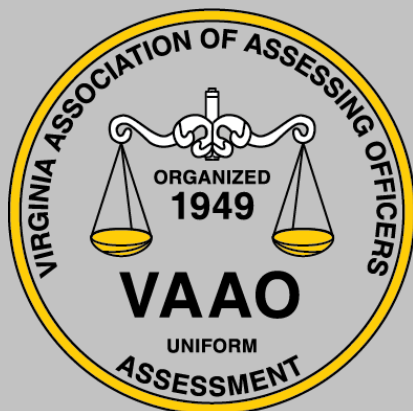
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# A Message *from* The President



## GREETINGS TO ALL

What a winter. If you live in Southwest, Central, or Northern Virginia, you may be more adapt to these temperatures, but Hampton Roads residents are not equipped to handle these temperatures and the snowfall we have received this year. By now I'm sure all of you are thinking your warmest thoughts and trying to remember what spring feels like.

First, I want to thank all VAAO members for allowing me to serve as President and be a part of an organization that not only gives education and knowledge to its members, but allows friendships and networking to be created within our profession in Virginia and across the country. This organization was formed back in 1949 and the individuals who formed and maintained this chapter were motivated and persistent in pursuing a goal of success for the VAAO. To follow in the footsteps of these great leaders is an honor and a privilege. I pledge to uphold these standards that empower all of our members to educate themselves and continue to pursue opportunities offered to enhance their skills to benefit the individual, their jurisdiction and the VAAO.

This next year comes with some challenges for the Executive Board as we start developing new ways to become beneficial to our members. At the same time we are taking steps to provide sustainability for the organization so that the tradition continues. We want to offer the same opportunities many of us have enjoyed over the numerous years we have been members. You will be hearing more about this as the year progresses.

Several opportunities will be available throughout the year for certification/education as well as networking with individuals within our profession. Starting with the Education Seminar at the Omni Hotel in Charlottesville July 15-17, the Education Committee is well under way in creating a program that you will not want to miss. Our next Board meeting is April 10, 2015 at 10:00AM at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/Short Pump. Please let us know if you would like to join any of our meetings and we will make room for you.

In conclusion, the near future will be important years for the VAAO. We will continue to strive to be one of the best organizations in the nation and stand behind our members to make their knowledge and careers flourish. We hope you join us and enjoy the many benefits of membership and support of our mission. I look forward to a productive successful year and invite each of you to participate, and most important, become involved.

Regards,

Ron Agnor, *President, Virginia Association of Assessing Officers*

## ***Virginia Senate Bill 872 – Written Justification of Assessment Increases***

As of February 23rd, Virginia Senate Bill 872 – summarized by [Legiscan.com](http://Legiscan.com) as “[requiring an] assessing officer of a governing body to provide, upon taxpayer request, a written explanation of or justification for an increase in the assessed value of the taxpayer's property” – unanimously passed both the Senate and House. The final step for Bill 872 to become a law is by receiving Governor McAuliffe’s signature - due by midnight, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Full text of the bill can be read [here](#).

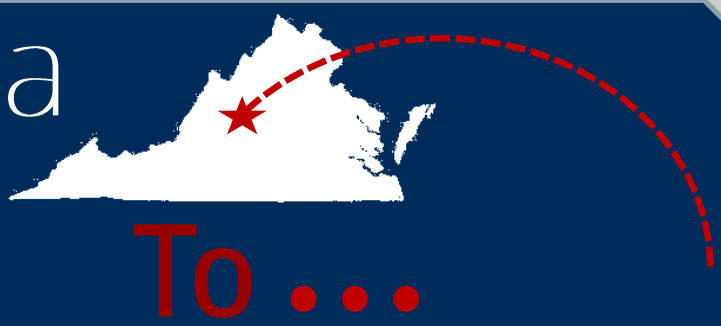
## ***Potential Tax Rate Changes***

Arlington County Civic Federation is pushing for a reduction of the current tax rate – from \$.996 per \$100 to \$.987 per \$100. Full story can be read [here](#).

With significant support from Board of Supervisors, James City is toying with an 8.2 cent tax increase. Full story can be read [here](#).

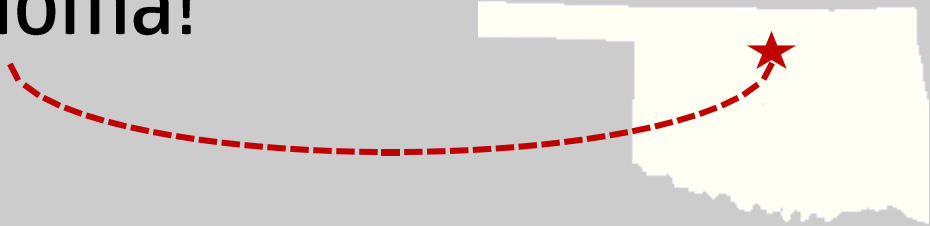
Talks of a two cent tax increase are being held in Hopewell to help offset revenue impacts from decreasing real estate values. Full story can be read [here](#).

# From Virginia



# To ...

# ...Oklahoma!



The 19<sup>th</sup> International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) and Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) GIS/CAMA Technologies Conference was held March 2-5 in Oklahoma City, OK.

Presentations on research, case studies, and real world experience were given by practitioners and academics. Session titles included:

- *Use of Regional and Statewide Data Aggregation*
- *Defining Values with GIS*
- *Field-Based Collection of CAMA and Spatial Data in a Mobile Environment*
- *Location Influences and Equity Testing*
- *GAMA—GIS Assisted Mass Appraisal*
- *Newer Geospatial and Geostatistical Methods*, and many other highly insightful topics.



Andrew Vinson, GIS Technician for the City of Norfolk, presents his topic *Refining GIS/CAMA Data Quality and Data Visualization with Python* in a breakout session (above left).



Oklahoma City Thunder vs. the Philadelphia 76ers was one of the social & networking events of the conference (above right).

The 20<sup>th</sup> GIS/CAMA Technologies Conference will be held February 22-25, 2016 in Savannah, GA.

# IAAO 300 fundamentals

New this year, **IAAO 300: Fundamentals of Mass Appraisal** will be offered the week of the annual conference, with the course commencing that Monday. Class attendees will also receive the benefit of a box lunch at the conference's opening session (Wednesday), and a ticket to both the president's reception (Wednesday night) and concluding banquet (Friday night). The final course examination will be held on Friday.

## **IAAO 300: Fundamentals of Mass Appraisal**

"This course provides an introduction to mass appraisal and is a prerequisite for the 300 series of courses offered by the IAAO. Topics covered include single-property appraisal versus mass appraisal, components of a mass appraisal system, data requirements and analysis, introduction to statistics, use of assessment ratio studies in mass appraisal, modeling of the three approaches to value, and selection of a mass appraisal system.

*Recommended: Course 101, Course 102, Fundamentals of Mass Appraisal textbook*

*AQB Approved: 33.50 CE with exam / 30 CE" – IAAO Website*

Along with the summer classes offered at the Advanced Assessor's School, this offering affords individuals the opportunity to complete two courses within a six month time span. For more information, please contact Janice Hudgins at: [jhudgins@cityofchesapeake.net](mailto:jhudgins@cityofchesapeake.net)



Does your office have a new-hire, retirement, 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

Lisa Freeman joined the Virginia Beach administrative staff in late 2014 as a Real Estate Transfer Clerk. Prior to joining the office, she worked in land use for the Culpepper County Real Estate Assessor's Office.

## Retirements

Following a private sector career in commercial brokerage and appraisal, Bing Gentry served the city of Virginia Beach for 18 years after.

*"His contacts and skills were very valuable and will be missed by our department."*



**Advanced Assessors' School**  
University of Mary Washington – Stafford Campus  
*June 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>*

**Education Seminar**  
Charlottesville Omni  
*July 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>*

**Annual Conference**  
Virginia Beach Hilton  
*October 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>*





# 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

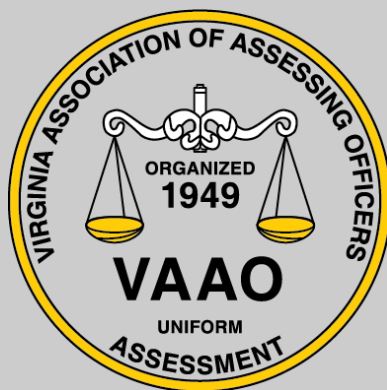
Rosie Barbour, RES

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

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# 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

## 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.

# Your newsletter

Have an idea, comment, or suggestion for *Network*? This is your newsletter and we are here to serve you, the Virginia assessment community. We want our readers to get the most out of this publication, and that stems from receiving direct feedback and content. We encourage you to contact us.

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