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From the MAAO President

Hello everyone,

I hope you are enjoying the fall weather and are getting excited about the upcoming holiday season. I want to first thank former MAAO presidents Meaghan Beach and Aron Bright for their leadership over the last two years. Due to Covid-19, they had to make a lot of tough decisions and lead our organization through a very tough time. I also want to thank all of our members for your continued support. The board is very excited to be able to hold a full in-person conference in 2022! We are working tirelessly to get everything into place and can't wait to see you there!

I am very grateful to serve as your president and will work tirelessly to make up for the lack of a conference two years in a row. If you have any questions or concerns about MAAO please feel free to reach out to me or any member of the board.

Wishing all of you a happy and safe holiday season! I look forward to seeing everyone at the 2022 MAAO conference!

Sincerely,

Sterling Testerman

From the Director

I hope this email finds you well as we wrap up another unprecedented year in the world of assessments. I'm proud of the way you folks have risen to the occasion over the last 18 months to find effective new ways to serve our customers despite a host of uncontrollable circumstances. I know it hasn't been easy, but with the vaccine readily available and COVID-19 numbers steadily declining across the state, from a logistical perspective there is positive change afoot in the industry. I don't know about you, but I'm excited about seeing more people in the flesh again.

However, as the old saying goes: the more things change, the more they stay the same. And boy does this phrase ring true for our current work environment. The reality is, we are still facing a laundry list of external factors, such as rising lumber prices, labor shortages and supply chain issues, that are wreaking havoc on the marketplace and causing property assessments to rise. Delivering less than desirable news to our customers is never fun, but given the current climate, being the messenger is harder than ever. Hang tight, everyone. You're the best in the business and we will continue to weather this storm together. Because of your dedication, our metrics remain strong as our team continues to meet the needs of this very demanding market. I have every confidence that we will come out on the other side stronger than ever.

A million thanks for your hard work.

Cheers,

Michael Higgs

From the State Supervisor

It is my pleasure to work with so many dedicated employees throughout the state. I would like to thank you for not only the terrific job you do but also for the excellent customer service each of you provide the property owners of Maryland.

The MAAO officers and board have begun planning for the 2022 MAAO Conference! This will be the first full in person conference since 2019. As a MAAO member for 32 years, I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to attend this annual education conference to meet new friends and get reacquainted with those you have not seen for a while, to learn something new, and to safely socialize with your coworkers from around the state.

Best regards,

Dan Phillips



Visit Our Website at
www.mao-md.org



for updates on the 2022 Spring Conference

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Anne Arundel County

Over the summer, we welcomed three new people to our team: Assessors Taylor Barrow and Savannah Conaty, and Clerk Ashley Broomfield, and we welcomed back Assessor Alison Gayne-Hill. Three new assessors, Kristal Ribblett, Denise Simpson and Madalen Rubin, will be joining our team in just a few weeks. The residential team was sad to say goodbye to Kelly Knepp, who has taken the Commercial Manager position for our county. Congratulations, Kelly!

Congratulations are also in order for Evan Lucado and Nikia Croaker. On June 5th 2021 Nikia Croaker celebrated her 10 year Vow renewal and Evan was married on 10/8/21.

In other news, our office staff have started a walking group that meets after work once a week. We've gone on five walks so far, which included Greenbury Point (Naval Academy), Tawes to Calvert Loop, and twice to Waterworks. What a great way to boost staff morale and enjoy the beauty of Annapolis!

Packing has begun for our move back to Calvert Street. We hope to be in and settled by the first of the year.





Frederick County

In July, Carla Bussard was promoted to Assistant Office Manager in the Washington County office. We miss Carla very much but wish her well. Jaime Ensor was promoted to fill the position vacated by Carla, and we are looking forward to hiring a new Office Service Clerk position. In other news, the team continues to meet the demands of a busy marketplace and completing the reassessment.



Kent County

Our team celebrated two work anniversaries in October. Congratulations to Lauren, our Assessor, who celebrated her 5 year anniversary, and to Terina, our Assistant Supervisor, who celebrated her 10 year anniversary. Our five person office has spent a total of 94 years with SDAT, which is something we are truly proud of!

Congratulations are also in order for Office Manager Patricia. She is a proud grandmother of eight grandkids between 2-13 years, with another on the way!

We are all looking forward to spending time with family and friends during the upcoming holiday season.



Montgomery County

Like everyone else around the state, we are looking forward to putting the final touches on the '22RA, then waiting to see how many appeals come our way.

We've had quite a few staff changes since the spring. We said goodbye to Assessor Frederick George at the end of September, Clerk Kim Powell left us in mid-October, and New Construction Assessor Derek Drake is taking some leave to enjoy the arrival of his new baby.

We enthusiastically welcomed new assessors Ryan Jedlicka and Zane Vincent just in time for the Group 1 reassessment. In August, we greeted Andrew Athill, James Gulley and Charles Zhang, and welcomed back a familiar face as Sonya Taliaferro rejoined our ranks as a member of the new construction team. We rounded out our new crop of assessors with Lystra Perry who came on board later that month. All of the new assessors are chugging along learning the nuances of reassessment while Sonya returned hitting the ground running.

On the clerical side of the office we have recently welcomed Troy Simms, Diana Mojica, and Doreia Neal who has kept our office looking as festive as ever since Halloween. We can't wait to see what she has in store for Thanksgiving and other holiday season decorations. As we move into appeals season, her efforts to brighten things up around the office is much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Levenson, CMPA PP



Somerset County

Congratulations to Patrick and Ashley Tawes! On June 18 they welcomed Mason Oliver Tawes. 6lbs 13 oz. of pure joy.



In October Betsy McCready became a Proud grandmother for the third time. Nola Elliott Green was born on October 24, 2021 at 8lbs 8oz.

Congratulations to all!

Lordy, lordy in September Meaghan Beach turned 40—and boy has she been salty ever since! Our office wishes Meaghan a very happy 40th and many more.

In other news, the Northeastern Association of Assessing Officers awarded Meaghan Beach the Sherry Vermilya Award for outstanding service to the assessment profession for 2020. This award is given each year by the NRAAO to one member from each participating Province or State.

In 2021 the Northeastern Association of Assessing Officers awarded The Richard L. Prendergast Life-Time Achievement Award to Leslie Pruitt. This award is given by the NRAAO to one member for their life-time commitment to the assessing profession.

What a proud time for our office. Congratulations Meaghan and Les!



NEW OFFICERS



Troy Regan-Treasurer, Diane Jump-Lyons-Secretary,
JD Repp-Western Rep

Thank you Aron for your service as President in 2020-2021 and for your continued efforts to make MAAO a success!



President Sterling Testerman &
Immediate Past President Aron Bright



SAVE THE DATE
OCEAN CITY MAAO CONFERENCE 6/7/22-6/10/22
More details to come!

CMPA & CMCA DESIGNATION

Are you an Assessor I, II or III? Are you interested in making more money? Are you passionate about assessments? Do you want to learn more? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then perhaps a new designation is for you. The MAAO offers assessors two different designations - the CMPA (Certified Maryland Property Assessor) for residential assessors and the CMCA (Certified Maryland Commercial Assessor) for commercial assessors. If you'd like to learn more about these special designations, contact Bryan Levenson in the Montgomery County office for more information.

Call 240-314-4558 or email Bryan.Levenson@maryland.gov