

MARYLAND ASSESSOR

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From the MAAO President

Hello Everyone,

While spring has started off cold in Maryland, it's only a matter of time before the warm weather arrives and we start fantasizing about going to the beach. Speaking of getting away to the beach, I'd like to invite you to MAAO's annual educational conference, which will be held at the Grand Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland, from June 7th to June 10th.

Our Executive Board and committees have worked tirelessly to make up for the lack of a conference two years in a row. We've got a fantastic lineup of classes and instructors planned, as well as some fun activities for you to do in your spare time. This year, we have a scavenger hunt that will take you to some interesting Ocean City locations, with the grand prize being a new flat-screen television!

We can't wait to reconnect with old friends and hopefully make some new ones! There is no better time than 2022 if you have never attended an MAAO Conference. As always if you have any questions about MAAO you can reach out to me or any of the other board members.

All the best,

Sterling Testerman

From the Director

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we gear up for the warmer months, which always prove to be quite busy for the industry (not that you all have had any downtime to speak of for the last couple of years). The good news is this burgeoning real estate market is a sure sign that the state's economy is stronger than ever as Maryland continues to lead the pack in COVID response and recovery.

Don't get me wrong, I understand the real estate industry is still taking some licks due to a host of circumstances impacting just about every corner of the marketplace. As Assessors, each of you is vital to the success of not only the Department, but to State government as a whole. And, because of your dedication, SDAT's metrics remain strong as your team continues meet the needs of our customers.

I know your jobs aren't easy under the most ideal of circumstances. You all continue to weather an unprecedented storm, and you have a lot to be proud of.

That being said, there's a silver lining to every cloud and I'm proud of the strides we are taking at SDAT to enhance the Assessor role. The job vacancy rate in Real Property is the lowest we've had in several years, thanks in part to areas of focus for the Assessor role that include upgraded training plans, combining the training and probationary time for new hires and promotions, establishing a central hiring board for the first level of hiring Assessors, and creating an SDAT transfer list within Real Property for retention.

With all this exciting momentum combined with a bonus and raises resulting from annual union negotiations, there's never been a better time to be an SDAT Assessor. I'm so proud of this team and I look forward to seeing everyone in person at the annual conference this summer. Thanks for all that you do!

Cheers,

Michael Higgs

From the State Supervisor

The 2022 MAAO Conference will be IN PERSON and as always will be educational and fun. It's just over a month away and being held at the Grand Hotel in everyone's favorite place, Ocean City, Maryland. Whether you're a 30-year veteran with the department or a 30-day rookie, MAAO is for you. We all work very hard throughout the year so this an opportunity to take a few days away from the office to learn something new, make new friends, and get reacquainted with those you have not seen for a while. I have registered and encourage each and every one of you to register and make your way to OC.

Please make sure you spread the word to our new Assessors, so they have the opportunity to attend as well. A discount is even available for first time attendees!

As always, I thank you all for the great work you do every day serving the citizens of our great state and I look forward to seeing you in Ocean City!

Best regards,
Dan Phillips



Visit Our Website at

maao-md.org



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Nomination—Aron Bright

NRAAO Representative—Terina Wertz

Parliamentarian—Nathan Kelley

Scholarship—Julie Dresser

Social—Talisha Johnson

Website—Aron Bright

2022 MAAO CONFERENCE

Accommodations:

The 2022 MAAO Education conference will be held from June 7th to 10th at The Grand Hotel in Ocean City, MD.

To book a room, call the hotel directly at 410-289-6191 or 1-800-447-6779 and mention the MAAO22 room block.

Room rates:

City View: \$149 per night (plus tax)

Partial View: \$159 per night (plus tax)

Direct ocean View: \$179 per night (plus tax)

Registration:

New MAAO Member/First Time Conference
Attendee: \$100.00

MAAO Member Conference Registration: \$150.00

Non-Member Conference Registration: \$300.00

Non-member Single Day Registration: \$150.00

Click [here](#) to register

Education Agenda:

Tuesday, June 7 Evening Session - Value
Considerations for an Agricultural Apiary

Wednesday, June 8th Morning Session - Looking at
Appraisals from both sides

Wednesday, June 8th Afternoon Session - The
2022 Redevelopment Process (Walking Tour)

Thursday, June 9th - USPAP* (All Day)

Thursday, June 9th Morning Session - Bullet
Proofing Appraisals & Going Concerns in
Hotel Valuation

Thursday, June 9th Afternoon Session - CMTA
Designation and Narrative Report Writing

Friday, June 10th Morning Session - Maryland Tax
Court, Recent Cases & Topics of Interest

*USPAP attendees must purchase their own
course materials (The 2022 7 Hour National
Student Manual, 2022 USPAP Reference Manual &
2020-21 USPAP Manual). Click [here](#) to purchase
materials



County News

Anne Arundel County

We are happy to be back in our regular offices on Calvert Street, and we have welcomed many new faces to our team!

Carlos Martins, Kristal Ribblett, Madalen Rubin, and Denise Simpson all joined our residential team as Assessor I and Mortisha Howell returned to Anne Arundel County as a Residential Manager. Sean Hensely joined us as a Commercial Assessor II, and he brings a wealth of experience with him from PG County. We also welcomed two new Office Clerks, Tenisha Burnside and Ryan Shultz.

Sadly, we have also had plenty of goodbyes. Sean Brooks, Evan Lucado, and Kristopher Wenn all left our commercial team, and our residential team said goodbye to Janet Dougherty, Renee Garrett, and Alison Gayne-Hill, who all left SDAT, as well as Joe Saunders who transferred to PG County.



Baltimore City

Baltimore City has experienced a great deal of transition over the last two years. With that in mind, we have welcomed as residential assessors Keisha Frost, Nicole Okafor, Stephen Harry, Usman Audu, and William McPhatter. Keisha, Nicole, and Usman joined us from other State agencies, and Harry and William are new to the State.

Abishkar Panday, Kevin Jackson, and Jimmie Joyner have been promoted to commercial assessors, while we said goodbye to Talisha Johnson who transferred to Cecil County (a dramatically improved commute), and Karen Denton who retired, and our assessor manager, Mortisha Howell has returned to Anne Arundel County.

As you can guess, we have several residential assessor positions and welcome ALL transfer inquiries.

Charles County

The latest news out of Charles County is Matthew Walker was promoted to our Commercial Assessor I in March 2022, Brenda Goldring retired after over 30 years with the department at the end of 2021, and Quanna Watson will be joining our office in May as our newest Residential Assessor I.

Congrats to all!

Frederick County

We have had quite a few recent changes in Frederick County during the last few months. In December, we said goodbye to Robert Paolino who was our Assessor Supervisor. Robert transferred to Worcester County to assume a position as Commercial Assessor. In January, Dana Bowman was promoted to fill the position. In February, one of our newer assessors Keith Young transferred to Washington County which allowed him to cut his commute in half. Also, in January we hired Aaron Blair for Office Services Clerk. We are currently recruiting to fill two vacant assessor positions.

Montgomery

In mid-November we said hello to Michelle Lee on the Clerical side. As the calendar turned over to a new year, we said goodbye to clerk Christina Lamberth after 3 plus years of service. Then in late April, we said goodbye to Assessor III Silene Rezende after 4 plus years of service time.

We also had a tearful goodbye to a long-time assessor and friend of the office (and a great supporter of our office pools). Joe Carr passed away in late January after a brief illness. Anyone who knew Joe knew of his gregarious laugh and great sports insight and knowledge. He is missed by many already.

On a positive note, Assessor III Patrick Simpson became C & I Assessor I in early December. We are all looking forward to warmer weather, the end of the appeals season and the June Conference. If you haven't registered yet, please consider signing up for the Thursday afternoon session. See you all in OC!

RIP Joe Carr

Prince George's

Where does the time go? Here we are in the middle of another appeal season and trying to get a grasp on the reassessment for 2023.

With that being said, we are doing on our best even though during the past year some people have come and gone. Dawn, Eva, Nicole, Jamanda, Hope, Doris, and Lisa parted ways with SDAT and we wish them the best. We gladly welcomed Lupe, Crystal, Lashawn, Shane, Joseph, Misty, and Angela and are looking forward to them getting up to speed soon. Marilyn Haney retired again, but we still have Chuck.

Congratulations to Robert Sass on his promotion to Assessor Supervisor and Faith Miller and her husband on becoming parents for the first time to a baby boy.



Washington County

So many changes have happened since we last submitted to the newsletter. Our longtime Office Manager, Debbie Pitsnogle retired along with the Office Secretary, Kate Mellott. Assistant Office Manager, Gina Sharpe was promoted to Office Manager, Office Service Clerk, Lisa Lohman was promoted to Office Secretary, while Carla Bussard transferred in from Frederick County as the Assistant Office Manager and Michelle Janisse was hired as the new Office Service Clerk. C & I Assessor James Keller left SDAT to pursue being a teacher at Oakdale High School in Frederick County. JD Repp was promoted to C & I Assessor I and Keith Young transferred here from Frederick County as an Assessor.

Melissa Adelsberger finally got to take a long awaited trip to Disney World, originally planned for March 2020, which was very nice. Lisa is in the process of helping her daughter, Holly, plan a wedding for the fall of 2023. Assessor Supervisor, Erica Herrera, received a beautiful engagement ring from her fiancé, Yacine, on her birthday March 20th.

JD not only got a promotion, he got a new companion! Meet little Molly - She is adorable!!!!



Worcester County

Things in Worcester County are picking up again as spring has begun. Sadly, for us our Commercial Assessor Linda Gerardo, left us in October. But on a brighter note, she is now the Assistant Supervisor in Dorchester County. Good Luck Linda! Our office welcomed Robert Paolino as our new Commercial Assessor in December. He came to us from the Frederick County office where he was the Assessor Supervisor for residential. Also, in December Jason Bennet transitioned into an Assessor III. Keep up the good work Jason! January and February brought crazy snowstorms to the beach and the pile of snow at the inlet has finally melted. At the end of March, Abigail Lagonigro, an Assessor III, and her husband welcomed their first child, a little girl named Violet. That's all for us down here in Worcester County, hope to see you all at this year's MAAO conference being held in Ocean City!