

MARYLAND ASSESSOR

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From the MAAO President

Hello Everyone,

I hope everyone at SDAT had a great Thanksgiving and that the upcoming Holidays are just as special. As many of you know, this past summer MAAO hosted the NRAAO conference in conjunction with our own in Ocean City, Md. This conference was a great success due to the hard work put in by our MAAO board, volunteers, and committee chairs. I am thrilled to serve as president of MAAO for the 2023-2024 term alongside many familiar faces dedicated to the organization. MAAO would not exist without the hard work of those who volunteer, so thank you all for your help and support.

For 2024, MAAO has decided to showcase another side of Maryland and head out west to Garrett County and Deep Creek Lake. This will be a smaller conference, with a course selection more specific to our day-to-day work here at SDAT. This conference is the perfect opportunity to meet fellow assessors from across the state, reconnect with old friends, or to come for the first time and see what MAAO is all about.

Looking ahead into winter, did you know that Garrett County is the only county in Maryland that receives lake effect snow? Garrett County receives 60 to 80 inches of snow annually, and in some of the higher elevations, it will receive 100 inches. Good thing our conference is in June!

Thank you again to all those who support our organization, and I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely
Mike Handleman
MAAO President





Visit Our Website at maao-md.org



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Committees

Awards—Sterling Testerman

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CMCA—Bryan Levenson

CMPA—Bryan Levenson

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Newsletter Editor—Lauren Mench

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NRAAO Representative— Sterling Testerman

Parliamentarian—Nathan Kelley

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Social—Talisha Johnson

Website—Aron Bright

From the Director

Greetings MAAO Members,

I hope this letter finds all of you well and enjoying the fun and excitement that comes with the holiday season.

I had such a great time seeing so many of you at the conference in Ocean City over the summer; not only was it a great opportunity to catch up on the latest industry trends and get a sense of how things are going for all of you in the county offices, but I always love the opportunity to show off one of the best towns in our state to non-Marylanders (teaching them how to crack a crab open is always a hoot, too).

While the real estate market seems to have slowed a bit in comparison to the last few years, I know there's never any shortage of work to be done in the world of assessments. The unprecedented speed with which interest rates have risen has also thrown the market into disarray - and don't even get me started on the Commercial market! I truly appreciate all you do in service to your fellow Marylanders, and please know that I continue to advocate for improved systems and recruiting and retention efforts on your behalf as one of the hardest working groups in state government.

Keep up the great work and mark your calendars for the summer conference to be held June 25-28 at the beautiful Wisp Resort in Garrett County. Dust off those hiking boots, because nothing beats those stunning Western Maryland vistas in the summertime!

Cheers,

Michael



James Phelps Soresi

With great sadness, the Maryland Association of Assessing Officers would like to inform you of the passing of NRAAO Past President James Phelps Soresi. He was a gentleman, mentor, colleague, and friend. Jim started his career with the State of Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation in 1967. Shortly after he became a member of the Maryland Association of Assessing Officers and the Northeastern Association of Assessing Officers. Jim was one of four individuals who served as President to both organizations. He served as President of the MAAO in 1997 and President of the NRAAO in 2001. He received the Sherry Vermilya Award in 2003, the Catherine E. Pardee Memorial Award in 1997, and the Richard L. Prendergast Life-time Achievement Award 2016. Jim loved both organizations very much and he continued his involvement even after his retirement. He had such a wonderful time at the last NRAAO conference he wanted Maryland to host again. His lasting legacy of kindness, generosity, selflessness and professionalism in the assessment field will always be remembered.



Condolences can be sent to his wife Darlene Soresi.

1825 Tucker Rd.

Fort Washington, MD 20744

County News

Baltimore City

The Baltimore City Assessment office would like to welcome our new Assessors Brenda Burns, Michael Gainey, Jeannine Goodman, Alimata Kone, and Rhonda Samples. We also welcome our new Assessor Associate Honesty Bullock.

We look forward to working with them.

Charles County

Diane Vest joined our office on July 26, 2023 as an Residential Assessor II with over 20 years of appraisal experience.

We bid a fond farewell to April Holley, who left us on September 19, 2023 to take a position with the Department of Natural Resources.

Frederick County

This past August we said Goodbye to our long-time office Manager Vicki Thomas and Asst. Office Manager Gwen Blacklin as both retired. We were happy to welcome back Carla Bussard as our new Office Manager, and Mari Sol Rodriquez came from Montgomery Co. to fill the position of Asst Supervisor. We will also be wishing our Asst Supervisor, Chuck Boyer a happy retirement as he is calling it a career after 36 years in state service.

Howard County

A noteworthy event for Howard CO SDAT is the retirement of our Supervisor Manya Archie. Manya retired November 1st after 37 years with SDAT.



Kent County

We would like to Congratulate our Office Manager Patricia Sutton on her retirement as of December 1, 2023 after 31 years of dedicated service to SDAT. We wish her well and hope she has a relaxing and joyful retirement.

We would also like to welcome Emily Pawlikowski to the Kent County Team.



Wicomico

We are very excited to announce that we have a new residential assessor. Dave Thomas comes from the appraisal industry and we are really looking forward to him bringing his knowledge and experience to our department. He joined our SDAT team on November 1st.



MAAO News

Our meet and Greet in Sykesville on November 15th was a success. It was a pleasure meeting the new assessors from around the state. The food at EW Becks was fantastic, and all those in class seemed to enjoy a little time to relax after a long day in session. We even had a few seasoned assessors and retirees show up just to socialize and meet everyone. Thank You to everyone who attended and helped with planning.

MAAO was grieved to hear of the passing of James Soresi. He meant so much to the department, organization and so many individuals who had the opportunity to meet him. MAAO has made a donation in Jim's name to the Arbor Day Foundation where 25 trees were planted in a forest of great need in his memory. Jim will be greatly missed, but he will live on in all of our memories.

Mark your calendars for June 25-28 2024
when MAAO hosts Annual Conference at the Wisp Resort
More details to come

