

# The Communicator

A Publication of the  
Minnesota Association of Assessment Personnel



MEDFORD OUTLET CENTER



**Cabela's**  
WORLD'S FINEST CUT OUTFITTER



June 2012 – Volume 54



## MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSMENT PERSONNEL 2011 - 2012 SLATE OF OFFICERS

### OFFICERS

President: Melissa Janzen, Wright County (2011-2012)  
Vice President/Parliamentarian: Krista Krupa, City of Willmar (2011-2012)  
Secretary/Treasurer: Shayla Strack, Morrison County (2011-2013)

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Melissa Janzen, Wright County (2011-2012)  
Vice President: Krista Krupa, City of Willmar (2011-2012)  
Secretary/Treasurer: Shayla Strack, Morrison County (2011-2013)  
Past President: Jason Vaith, Stearns County (2011-2012)  
Executive Bd Mem at Large & Chair: Christie Fox, Blue Earth County (2011-2013)

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

President: Melissa Janzen, Wright County (2011-2012)  
Vice President: Krista Krupa, City of Willmar (2011-2012)  
Secretary/Treasurer: Shayla Strack, Morrison County (2011-2013)  
Past President: Jason Vaith, Stearns County (2011-2012)  
Executive Bd Mem at Large & Chair: Christie Fox, Blue Earth County (2011-2013)  
Conference Coordinator: Joy Michaelson, Stevens County (2011-2013)  
Education Board Member at Large: Julie Shelstad, Morrison County (2010-2012)  
Education Board Member at Large: Dawn Anderson, Wright County (2011-2012)  
*(to complete last year of 2-year term for Krista Krupa - who became Vice President)*

### CONFERENCE COORDINATOR

Joy Michaelson – Stevens County (2011-2013)

### COMMUNICATOR COMMITTEE

Judy Liddell – Morrison County

### HISTORIAN COMMITTEE

Judy Liddell – Morrison County



So that all members may recognize the Officers for MAAP, below are pictures of:

**MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF  
ASSESSMENT PERSONNEL  
2011 - 2012 SLATE OF OFFICERS**



President 2011-2012  
Melissa Janzen  
Wright County



Vice President 2011-2012  
Krista Krupa  
City of Willmar



Secretary/Treasurer 2011-2013  
Shayla Strack  
Morrison County



Past President 2011-2012  
Jason Vaith  
Stearns County



Executive Board Member  
at Large 2011-2013  
Christie Fox  
Blue Earth County



Education Board Member  
at Large 2010-2012  
Julie Shelstad  
Morrison County



Education Board Member  
at Large 2011-2012  
Dawn Anderson  
Wright County

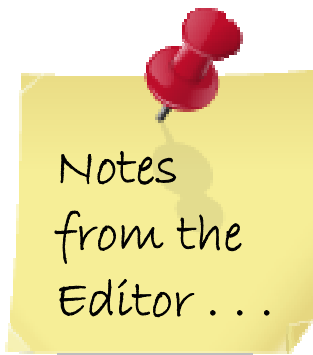


Conference Coordinator  
2011-2013  
Joy Michaelson  
Stevens County



Communicator Editor  
& Historian  
Judy Liddell  
Morrison County





Greetings!



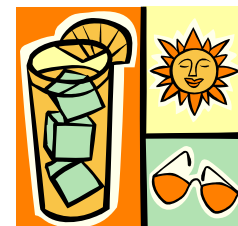
I don't know about anyone else but I feel like June really snuck up on me. Maybe it was the warm spring, maybe it just because work has kept me very busy, or maybe I'm just getting old and I can't remember what I did yesterday! Anyway, it's nice to finally be in the full swing of summer. Time to think about vacations and relaxation.

As I put together this Communicator, I am reminded of what a great Education Committee we have. When I put out my first call for articles, I was rewarded with several e-mails from Chris Fox with details for this year's Summer Workshop. In the e-mails she sent me I can see how much work the Education Committee has put in to make sure the Summer Workshop runs smoothly and we are all able to benefit from it. It's going to be a great workshop and I hope you all consider attending.

The MAAP Summer Workshop will be held in the City of Owatonna, in Steele County. Although, to me, it seems like Owatonna is in another state, it looks like an awesome place to visit. As I was putting together The Communicator and looking for pictures for the cover, I stumbled onto this website: [http://www.visitowatonna.org/pdf/2012\\_VisitorGuide\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.visitowatonna.org/pdf/2012_VisitorGuide_WEB.pdf) It's a very well put together visitor's guide. It made me want to stay for awhile!! Chris (on the Education Committee) and Pam and Lacy (from Steele County) also sent a ton of great information that you will see as you go through The Communicator.

I hope to see many of you at the Summer Workshop!

Judy Liddell  
MAAP Communicator Editor



## Presidents Corner 2012

Hello Everyone,

How quickly things change. It seems like it was just yesterday when I was nominated for Vice President and here I am writing my last article for the communicator. It has been wonderful working with all of the members of the Executive Board and the Education Committee. They are a hard working group who make serving both rewarding and a lot of fun. I would encourage all members to consider getting involved by serving in some capacity. It is a great way to get to know more people and to have a role in shaping the future of the MAAP organization.

I am looking forward to our Summer Seminar in Owatonna, MN. This year's topics will be based on the 2 day Office Administration Support/Assessment Personnel Workshop offered by the Department of Revenue. The seminar will be taking place at the same time as the Steele County Fair, so be sure to check it out if you get a chance. I hear Steele County has one of the best fairs in the state....and admission is free!

I wish everyone a safe and happy summer filled with family, fun and relaxation! I look forward to seeing all of you in August!

Melissa Janzen  
MAAP President 2011-2012  
Assessment Asst. Wright County





Dear MAAAP members:

*It's with a heavy heart that I write this note to you... this will be my last correspondence as a member with MAAAP. ☹ I have accepted the Assessor I position with Kandiyohi County, and from what I have been told, is that since I'm no longer in a clerical position they would like me to become a membership of MAAO.*

*I have made some wonderful friendship through the MAAAP group and will also have memories that will last a lifetime. I want to make sure that you all know how wonderful of a group MAAAP is! It's a great network of people who are willing to help and offer suggestions.*

*I know it's hard to step up and become an officer, but please consider taking the leap. ☺ Believe me when I tell you that it's fun and rewarding all at the same time! Can't go wrong with that!!*

*Anyway, I wish you all the very best is all that you choose to pursue! Maybe I'll see you in passing or out and about shopping and such. ☺ And I guess since I'm still in the Assessing field, I may even see you at a work function!*

*Thank you all for everything the past 3 years. ☺ Enjoy your SUMMER!!!!*

*Krista Krupa  
Vice President*



# Please Join MAAP on Facebook

Facebook's mission is to give people the power to share and make the world more open and connected. That is also what we would like to achieve with our MAAP facebook page. We would like to use our page as a tool to :

Make announcements and Reminders of upcoming events

Provide links to the Communicator and other resources

Provide a platform for our members to communicate

Share photos from MAAP Events

Conduct Polls

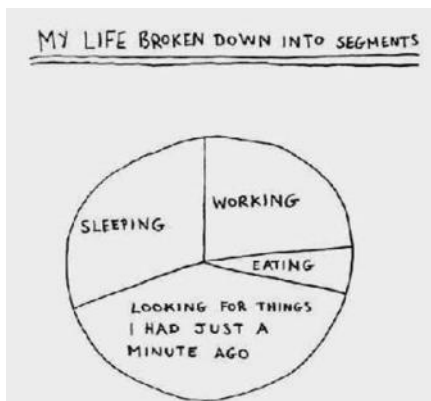
Share ideas



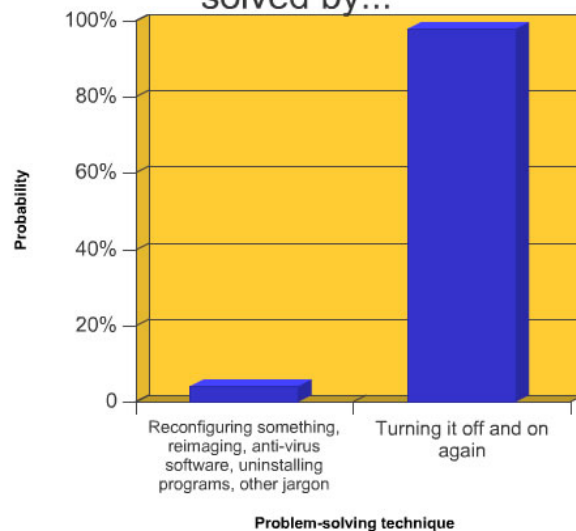
Minnesota Association of Assessment Personnel



Just a little fun...



Likelihood of a computer issue being solved by...



## MAAP BUSINESS MEETING DECEMBER 2, 2011

### *Call To Order:*

The Minnesota Association of Assessment Personnel met Friday, December 2, 2011 at the Pebble Creek Golf Club in Becker. The meeting was hosted by Sherburne County. Vice President, Krista Krupa called the meeting to order.

### *Secretary's Report:*

Secretary Shayla Strack asked the membership if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. There were none indicated, the minutes were approved as published in the *Communicator*.

### *Treasurer's Report:*

Treasurer Shayla Strack asked the membership if there were any corrections or additions to the financial statement. There were none indicated, the Treasurer's Report was approved as published in the *Communicator*.

### *Committee Reports:*

Chairperson Chris Fox gave the Education Committee report. The Education committee met October 14, 2011 at RJ's in St. Cloud, Minnesota to review program agenda items for the next summer seminar, which is scheduled for August 16-17, 2012 at the Owatonna Holiday Inn. The committee is working on finalizing the program agenda.

The committee also spoke to Doreen Pehrson, Nicollet County Assessor, member of the State Board of Assessor's regarding what type of topics and/or speakers qualify to receive CEH Credits. It was suggested that Doreen and/or any member of the State Board of Assessor's be invited to the August, 2012 meeting in Owatonna to speak with the members of MAAP regarding the same information.

The Committee will also be doing a mass mailing of the MAAP brochure to every county or city Assessor's Office in the state in June, 2012.

Editor Judy Liddell gave The Communicator Report. She encouraged everyone to continue submitting those fun and interesting articles for our Communicator publication. The Communicator awards were presented as follows: The winners of the \$25 awards for October 2010: Julie Shelstad for "Rules of Parenting" and, Lori Houtsma for "Realizations of a Newcomer". The winners of the \$25 awards for June



2011: Charlotte Britney for "Deer to Us" and Linda Roehrl, Jean Brezina and Catie Macken for "Where the Buffalo Roam".

Judy Liddell gave the Historian report. Please continue to mail pictures and items of interest to Judy.

***Old Business:***

Krista Krupa reminded the membership how important the evaluations are from the Summer Workshop and the committee appreciates all the comments and everything is taken into consideration to try and make the next meeting better.

***New Business:***

The CEH Survey that was sent out to the membership was discussed. There were 52 surveys returned. The Education Committee will discuss the surveys at their meeting in March.

The 2012 Summer Workshop will be held August 16-17, 2012 at the Holiday Inn, Owatonna.

There has been a request for the purchase of a laptop for the Secretary/Treasurer and also for any MAAP use. A motion was made by Cathy Emerson to approve purchase of a laptop and seconded by Jennifer Becker, motion carried.

McLeod County volunteered to host the winter MAAP meeting Friday, December 7, 2012 in their county. More information will follow by summer seminars.

***Miscellaneous:***

None

***Adjournment:***

Julie Shelstad made a motion to adjourn and Jackie Meyer seconded the motion - meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Shayla Strack, CMA  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Morrison County

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSMENT PERSONNEL

TREASURER'S REPORT 6/8/2012

**Balance as of 03/08/2012** **\$8,881.08**

**RECEIPTS**

Membership Dues - Carver County \$20.00

**Total Receipts** **\$20.00** **\$20.00**  
**\$8,901.08**

**DISBURSEMENTS**

Best Buy - Laptop \$483.18

Best Buy - Antivirus \$53.68

Best Buy - Word,Excel, etc. \$107.36

**Total Disbursements** **\$644.22** **\$644.22**

**BALANCE AS OF 6/8/2012** **\$8,256.86**

Respectfully Submitted-

Shayla Strack  
Secretary/Treasurer

**MAAP EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2012**  
**HOLIDAY INN, OWATONNA**

**Education Members Present:** Jason Vaith, Melissa Janzen, Shayla Strack, Dawn Anderson, Krista Krupa, Julie Shelstad, Joy Michelson, Christie Fox

**Items Discussed:**

- **Holiday Inn Staff:** We met with the staff from the Holiday Inn – Toni – Connie – and Shari. We reviewed the MAAP contract, went over our food choices, information on block of rooms and had a tour of the facilities.
- **MAAP Budget/Balance:** We reviewed the current balance and current bills of items that have been purchased.
- **SCHOLARSHIPS:** After reviewing the MAAP balance a decision was made to include MAAP scholarships in this year's Workshop. It will be a separate drawing from the scholarships that we receive from MAAO. We will be doing five \$75 scholarships.
- **MAAP Registration:** Discussion on if we pursue looking into coordinating registration with the MAAO web site. It was decided to continue with registration the same as other years.
- **Computer:** A Toshiba lap top has been purchased. The total cost was \$645. This includes software and antivirus.
- **Facebook and Web page:** Discussion was held on getting our Facebook page information out to more members. It is felt that this is a good way to share information and pictures throughout the year. It was decided to put the Facebook information in the next communicator to remind members that it is there and to feel free to use it. Discussion on if we should have a web page. Krista will be looking into this option and bringing information to the meeting in August.
- **MAAP Mailing:** Chris, Joy and Shayla will be working together on putting together information to be sent to Counties that currently do not have any MAAP members. The information will include a letter of invitation, MAAP brochure, and information on our upcoming 2012 workshop.
- **COMMUNICATOR:** Chris will contact current members from Steele County to highlight them for the next addition of the communicator. Ask them to submit



something about living in Steele County or whatever information they would like to share.

- **2012 SUMMER WORKSHOP:** Discussion was held on what topics, speakers etc. We could have to continue to receive our 10 CEH's. Chris shared information that her and Mike S. had discussed on incorporating the 2 day Office and Administration Support/assessment personnel Class into our workshop. With all the budget cuts, it might be beneficiary to both our MAAP group and to members to incorporate the two. After much thought, long discussions and phone calls it was decided to proceed with this option. Joy will be contacting the DOR to review this information. The first part of the class would be covered with this year's MAAP workshop and the second day of the class would be covered in the 2013 workshop. It would include 6.5 hours on Thursday and 3.50 hours on Friday. We will continue to include our section of New Laws with the DOR also.

Discussion on including the Tax Calculation Exam at the workshop... Joy will be contacting DOR to see if they would be willing to have someone there that would proxy the test for those members that would like to take it. If it works out with DOR, it will be offered after class on Thursday afternoon.

- **2012 TASK SHEET:** The 2012 workshop task sheet was completed. All tasks have been assigned out. If anyone thinks of a task that was omitted, we will let each other know.
- **FUTURE WORKSHOP LOCATIONS:** We reviewed our locations for the next few years. We also shared locations that Joy will be contacting for possible locations.

I want to say "Thanks" to all the education committee members. I know it was a very long and complex meeting. I believe that we all appreciate each other's ideas and input as that is what will make for a successful 2012 Summer Workshop for all of our MAAP members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christie Fox  
Blue Earth County

**2012 MAAP WORKSHOP  
HOLIDAY INN HOTEL & SUITES  
OWATONNA MN  
AUGUST 16 & 17, 2012**

The education committee of the Minnesota Association of Assessment Personnel announces its 31<sup>st</sup> annual workshop.

Enclosed is the information on the workshop topics, instructors, lodging, agenda and C.E.H's. Directions and information about the Owatonna Holiday Inn is also here in the Communicator and can be found on their web site [www.hiowatonna.com](http://www.hiowatonna.com) the address is: **The Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites 2365 43rd Street NW Owatonna, MN 55060. The telephone number is Front Desk: 1.507.446.8900 Reservations: 1 888 HOLIDAY (888 465 4329) Fax: 1.507.446.8999**

The registration fee is \$75.00. This includes the cost of the 2 day workshop, materials, meals, refreshments. The fee is the same if you attend only one day of the workshop.

**The enclosed registration form should be completed and returned by August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012.** Cancellations will not be refunded after that date. Registration can be faxed with payment to follow at **320-632-0102**. Please pass on copies of the registration form and information to any other personnel within your city/county that would benefit from the workshop and encourage them to attend.

**ROOM RESERVATIONS**

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn. These rooms will be held until **JULY 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 ONLY**. After this date, reservations will be at the best flex rate and on a space available basis only. If you desire overnight accommodations, please contact the hotel directly at 1-507-446-8900 and identify our group name "MAAP" for the rate of \$77 plus tax per night.

**MAAP BUSINESS MEETING**

The annual MAAP business meeting will be held at approx. 12:00 pm on Thursday, August 17, 2012. Again this year, it will be held during our lunch. An officer's meeting will be held at approx. 4:30 pm after the DOR's presentation. This will be for both incoming and outgoing officers.

## **C.E.H's**

The State Board of Assessors has approved 10 C.E.H.'s for attending this workshop. The State Board will not grant CEH's unless you are a Certified Minnesota Assessor. **You must attend both days of the workshop to receive the credit.** The CEH sign-up sheet will be available at the workshop. Please provide your assessor's license number which is required for the credits.

## **MEALS**

A breakfast buffet will be served on Thursday and Friday mornings. The breakfast will include scrambled eggs, breakfast potatoes, bacon or sausage, sliced fresh fruit, French toast, breakfast breads and assorted fruit juices. On Thursday, there will be a soup and sandwich bar and a sweet snack break in the afternoon.

## **MEMBERSHIP DUES**

The yearly membership of \$10.00 is due at the summer workshop. Please use the registration form for renewing your membership even if you are not attending the workshop. It is not mandatory to be a member of MAAP in order to attend the workshop.

## **QUESTIONS????**

If you have any questions, please contact one of the Education Committee members:

Melissa Janzen, President 763-682-7369 [melissa.janzen@co.wright.mn.us](mailto:melissa.janzen@co.wright.mn.us)

Krista Krupa, Vice President 320-214-5165 [KKrupa@ci.willmar.mn.us](mailto:KKrupa@ci.willmar.mn.us)

Shayla Strack, Secretary/treasurer 320-632-0102 [shayla.s@co.morrison.mn.us](mailto:shayla.s@co.morrison.mn.us)

Jason Vaith, Past President 763-569-3359 [jvaith@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us](mailto:jvaith@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us)

Christie Fox, Executive Board Member at Large 507-304-4238 [christie.fox@co.blue-earth.mn.us](mailto:christie.fox@co.blue-earth.mn.us)

Julie Shelstad, Education Member at Large 320-632-0105 [Julies@co.morrison.mn.us](mailto:Julies@co.morrison.mn.us)

Dawn Anderson, Education Member at Large 763-684-4544 [Dawn.Anderson@co.wright.mn.us](mailto:Dawn.Anderson@co.wright.mn.us)

Joy Michaelson, Conference Coordinator 320-208-6552 [joymichaelson@co.stevens.mn.us](mailto:joymichaelson@co.stevens.mn.us)



## **A note from the Education Committee**

**We are excited for our upcoming workshop in August. We hope that you will look over the agenda and activities that this year's workshop has to offer. We have worked hard on putting together an informative and enjoyable workshop.**

**When you look at the agenda you will notice that it has changed a little from past years. With the changes in what "qualifies" for CEH's and budget concerns, a decision was made to incorporate topics from the "Office and Administration Support/Assessment Personnel class into our workshop. What this means is that for the next couple of years, there will not be a separate class like the one that we have offered in the past. This was a decision that both the education committee and the DOR agreed upon.**

**You can see by the agenda what topics will be covered this year and that the "New Laws" portion will be at the end of the workshop.**

**Also this year we will be offering the "Tax Calculation" exam on Thursday afternoon.**

**Another change for this year is that there will not be a separate hospitality room. The Holiday Inn has a large lobby area to "meet and greet" with other MAAP members. We will be allowed to use this area and bring your choice of beverage to sit and visit.**

**Please make note of the early date of July 15, 2012 when reservations need to be made by for the MAAP room rate. After this date the rates will be at their "best flex rate".**

**In this issue of the communicator we have included different places of interest that you or your family may want to see or do while you are here.**

**The hotel has a water park, and your room reservation includes 5 passes to the park. More information can be found on the Holiday Inn information page here in the communicator.**

**The Steele County Free Fair is open during our workshop. This is one of the best fairs in Southern MN. Cabela's is right out the front door of the hotel, and the Medford Outlet Mall is just a few miles north. Owatonna also has many stores for shopping and many nice parks.**

**We are looking forward to seeing all of you this summer.**

**MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSMENT PERSONNEL**

**AUGUST 16 & 17, 2012  
HOLIDAY INN HOTEL  
OWATONNA, MINNESOTA**

**2012 SUMMER WORKSHOP AGENDA**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2012**

7:30 Breakfast Buffet opens

8:00 Registration Table opens

8:30 Welcome!! Introduction and Overview

8:30 DOR Staff: AM Session will include:

- Assessment overview (appraisal process/laws/procedures/classifications)
- Overview of Special Ag Homesteads and Trust Homesteads
- Exclusions: updates to homestead exclusion and to disabled veterans' exclusion

12:00 LUNCH & MAAP Business Meeting (held during lunch)

1:00 DOR Staff: PM session will include:

- The Board of Appeal and Equalization Training, talk about the current changes made to the course, what material is taught to the board members during the training, and review of board certification, reporting and registration requirements.
- Sales Ratios
- Resources for assessment professionals: DOR website, manual, resources on MAAO website E-CRV- going from paper to electronic, how to view an E-CRV etc.

4:00 Tax Calculation Exam will be offered.

4:30 MAAP Officers Meeting (Incoming and Outgoing) – Location to be announced.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 2012**

7:30 Breakfast Buffet opens

8:30 DOR Staff: AM session will include:

- Wrap up from Thursday's material, review, answer any questions from Thursday
- Public Relations – difficult taxpayers, best practices, communication tips, media etc.
- Special Programs Review – SFIA, Rural Preserve, and 2c Managed Forest etc.

10:00 Department of Revenue – A representative of the Department of Revenue will Review the 2012 legislative session and discuss law changes. If time permits, there will be an open forum for any question that attendees may wish to submit.

Noon End of Workshop

**Minnesota Association of Assessment Personnel**  
**Business Meeting Agenda**  
**Thursday, August 16, 2012**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Secretary's Report - Shayla Strack
  - A. Corrections or Additions? If none, minutes stand as published in the Communicator.
- III. Treasurer's Report – Shayla Strack
  - A. Corrections or Additions? If none, financial statement stands as published in the Communicator.
- IV. Committee Reports
  - A. Education Committee – Chris Fox, Chair
  - B. Communicator & Pictorial Directory Update – Judy Liddell
  - C. Historian – Judy Liddell
- V. Old Business
  - A. 2012 Winter Meeting – Mcleod County hosting on Friday, December 7, 2012 (update from Mcleod County)
- VI. New Business
  - A. 2013 Summer Workshop – Joy Michaelson, Conference Coordinator
  - B. Election of Officers
    - a. Vice President
    - b. Education Committee Board Members at Large (2)
- VII. Miscellaneous
  - A. Communicator Awards – Judy Liddell
  - B. Certificate of Service and Appreciation Awards – Melissa Janzen, President
  - C. Any other business to discuss?
- VIII. Adjourn





## WELCOME TO THE HOLIDAY INN HOTEL & SUITES

The Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites of Owatonna is a smoke free 130 -room full-service hotel including 23 suites, offering family-friendly lodging in central Minnesota. All rooms have refrigerators and microwaves. This Holiday Inn includes standout features such as the **Great Serengeti Indoor Water Park**, superior accommodations and exceptional **banquet and meeting facilities**. The hotel has been recently remodeled (2009).

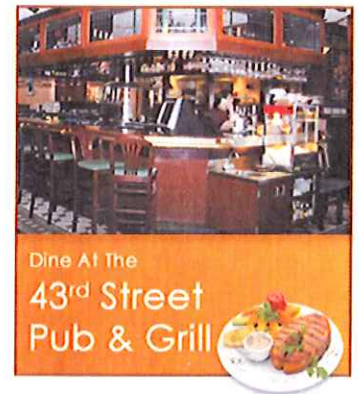
The Great Serengeti Indoor Water Park is chock-full of fun aquatic activities. It offers a fun filled environment for everyone in the family. With two water slides (one tube slide & one body slide), a lazy river, a waterfall spa, and an activity pool featuring water basketball, your options are endless. For little kids there is a zero entry pool featuring a kids slide, life sized Giraffe and a spraying elephant.

Our video arcade features a large selection of the latest video games, as well as interactive games for adults and children of all ages.

Our restaurant, **43rd Street Pub & Grill**, features happy hour from 4:00-7:00 PM, Sunday through Thursday. Enjoy our drink specials, half price appetizers and specialty hot wings. Our menu features steaks, pizza, pasta, and many other mouth-watering favorites.

For those looking for a great shopping experience, the Medford Outlet Mall is only two miles away featuring several stores including Old Navy Outlet. Sportsmen and outdoorsmen may find Cabala's Owatonna store, located a half-mile from the hotel, of interest.

At Holiday Inn<sup>®</sup>, you can make sure your family eats well on vacation without making a big dent in your vacation budget.



### CORPORATE TRAVELERS

We offer complimentary Wi-Fi, business center services, fitness center, same day laundry, complimentary parking.

### THE GREAT SERENGETI WATER PARK

The only indoor water park in Owatonna, our African Serengeti themed water park is decorated with trees, life-size giraffe, hippopotamus, kids slide and a spraying elephant.

#### Features of "The Great Serengeti Water Park":

- The exciting Kilimanjaro Tube Slide
- The Python Body Slide
- The Relaxing Lazy Zambezi River
- Zero Depth Entry activity pool
- Water Basketball
- Several columns of water shooting from the park floor
- Safe and secure place for toddlers and young children
- Protected from the harmful UV rays
- Kids play area with a zero entry pool
- Food delivered from 43rd St Pub & Grill to water park



#### Regular Hours of Operation:

(Water Park is closed both Tuesday and Wednesdays) Summer hours will go into affect June 2012.

## About Steele County



Steele County, Minnesota, was officially organized February 20, 1855 and originally included what is now known as Waseca County. Re-organization in 1856 established the boundaries we recognize today. The new county was named in honor of Franklin Steele, a St. Anthony governmental contractor and a man of prominence. Steele County is located in the south-eastern part of Minnesota, has 432 square miles, is 24 miles long and 18 miles wide.

The first county building, built in 1874 at a cost of \$5,000, was a one-story brick building which has since been demolished. The historic Steele County Courthouse was built in 1891 for \$50,000. It has been remodeled several times and is used solely by the courts. Two courtrooms and one hearing room are available, as well as meeting rooms and office space.

In 1860 Steele County had a population of 2,863 as compared to 21,155 in 1950 and 36,163 as of the 2006 census.

Steele County has numerous streams, natural springs, brooks and lakes. The largest of the streams is the Straight River and the largest lake is Rice lake. Nine mineral springs are located in Owatonna, in an area known as Mineral Springs Park. These springs have been analyzed and show the definite qualities of celebrated springs of this country and France.

**For those of you interested the Steele County Free Fair will be going on during our workshop. It is one of the best county fairs in Southern Minnesota.**

Maps Information History Barker News

**SCFF**  
Steele County Free Fair

August 14-19, 2012  
Only 161 days until the 2012 Fair!

## Welcome To The Steele County Free Fair

**BIGGEST REUNION IN THE STATE OF THE UNION**

The Steele County Free Fair is much more than a county fair...it's a family affair! As the largest county fair in Minnesota, our fair offers a wide variety of events and attractions and admission is FREE!

For one week each year, the fairgrounds in Owatonna rivals a large shopping center. Vendors from 25 states and Canada bring a wide range of goods, from crystal to quilts, art to furniture, potato peelers to RV's. Over 100 food stands will tease the taste buds of fairgoers and have them eating everything from cotton candy to prime rib. Kids and adults of all ages will enjoy events from pig races to puppet shows. Thrill seekers will enjoy the 40 plus midway rides provided by Gold Star Amusements, or one of the many attractions in Adventure Alley. Music lovers of all ages can visit the FREE entertainment stages and tap their feet to all kinds of different music. The Grandstand offers thrilling attractions from demo derby to bull riding. With so much to see and do, it's no wonder that the Steele County Free Fair was named "One of the Top Events in North America".

Stop back throughout the year for further updates.



# Did you know these fun facts about Owatonna?



## Bushel Boy Tomatos

Have you sliced into a plump, juicy Bushel Boy tomato lately? Every single Bushel Boy tomato is grown right here in Owatonna MN, nowhere else!



## Owl City

Ever listened to the song "Fireflies" by National recording artist Owl City? Adam Young, an Owatonna native, began his music career in the basement of his parent's home.



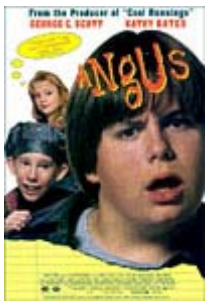
## Viracon, Inc

Viracon Inc., an Owatonna company, fabricated 800,000 square feet of glass for the windows of World Trade Center Tower One, also known as the Freedom Tower in New York City.



## Cybex International, Inc

Cybex International, Inc., an Owatonna manufacturer of premium exercise equipment, was named Fitness Equipment Partner to the hit TV show The Biggest Loser in 2011!



## Angus

The movie Angus (1995) was filmed at the Owatonna High School including the football team and marching band. The film stars Charlie Talbert and James Van Der Beek in their first film roles, as well as Chris Owen, Ariana Richards, George C. Scott, Kathy Bates and Rita Moreno.



## Jostens, Inc.

Manufacturing high-quality class rings for high school and college students, Jostens, Inc., an Owatonna company, has produced specially commissioned rings for the World Series, Super Bowl, NBA Championship, & NHL Stanley Cup.



## Interstate 35

Steele County has a part of the oldest section of interstate in MN—also the most commonly traveled.



## Sequence

The popular game, Sequence, was invented by Owatonna native Doug Reuter in 1970's.



## Steele County Free Fair

The Steele County Free Fair (SCFF) is the largest free county fair in Minnesota.



### CABELA'S WORLD'S FOREMOST OUTFITTER

3900 Cabela drive - off I-35

[www.cabelas.com](http://www.cabelas.com)

507-451-4545

Shop at Cabela's, the largest fishing, hunting and outdoor gear store in the Midwest With three million visitors a year it is the second most popular tourist attraction in Minnesota Store

Hours: Monday-Saturday 8am-9pm, Sunday 10am-6pm.



### MEDFORD OUTLET CENTER

North of owatonna on I-35 - Exit 48

[www.medfordoutletcenter.com](http://www.medfordoutletcenter.com)

507-451-4111

Shop at great stores like GAP, Old Navy, Bath & Body Works, Nike Clearance Store, Maurices, The Children's Place, Bass, Levi's, Lane Bryant, Gymboree, Carter's and many more unique retail stores at outlet prices Store Hours: Monday-Saturday 10am-8pm, Sunday 10am-6pm.

## Places to shop and eat

### ▲ RETAIL STORES

1. Ashley Furniture Store
2. Cabela's
3. Country Goods
4. Court Sports & More
5. Dollar Tree
6. Furniture Outlet USA
7. Game Stop
8. Karl's TV & Appliance
9. Kohl's
10. Let's Ride
11. Lowes
12. Medford Outlet Center
13. Mills Fleet Farm
14. Office Max
15. Paffrath Jewelry
16. Pets & Fish
17. Radio Shack
18. Salvation Army
19. Sears
20. Slumberland
21. Target
22. Tri M Graphics/Studio Getaway
23. Turtle Creek Nursery
24. Uber Glove Co.
25. Uncle Tom's Antiques
26. Walgreens
27. Wal-Mart

### ● LODGING

1. Americinn Motel
2. Best Budget Inn
3. Budget Host Inn
4. Comfort Inn
5. Country Inn & Suites
6. Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
7. Microtel Inn & Suites
8. Northrop-Oftedahl House B & B
9. Oakdale Motel
10. Super 8

### ★ PIZZA/SPECIALTY

1. Buck's Pizza
2. Caribou Coffee
3. Dairy Queen
4. Domino's Pizza
5. Fireside Coffee Bean
6. Godfather's Pizza
7. J & J Softserve
8. Papa Murphy's
9. Russell Stover/Blue Bell
10. Starbucks Coffee

**Owatonna Hospital (A-7)**  
**Mayo Clinic Health System (A-7)**

*For additional specialty retail and dining see page 12.*

### ■ RESTAURANTS

1. 43rd Street Pub & Grill (Holiday Inn)
2. Applebee's Bar & Grill
3. Asian Kitchen
4. Big 10 Restaurant & Bar
5. Buffalo Wild Wings
6. Buster's Bar & Grill (Southpark Lanes)
7. Cabela's Northwoods Cache
8. Cash Wise Food & Deli
9. East Wind Buffet
10. El Tequila
11. Famous Dave's
12. Grace's Mexican & American
13. Owatonna Family Restaurant
14. Hy-Vee Deli & Bakery
15. Perkins Family Restaurant
16. Plaza Morena Campestre Grill
17. Plaza Morena Mexican Restaurant
18. Sportsman's Grille
19. Target Snack Shop
20. The Kernel Restaurant
21. Timber Lodge Steakhouse
22. Torey's Restaurant & Bar
23. Wing's Tavern & Grille

### ● GOLF COURSES:

Brooktree Golf Course	1369 Cherry Street	507-444-2467
Havana Hills Golf Course	210 Dane Road	507-451-2577
Owatonna Country Club	1991 Lemond Road	507-451-6120

### ◆ FAST FOOD

1. Arby's Restaurant
2. Burger King
3. Culver's
4. Jimmy John's
5. KFC
6. McDonald's/Owatonna
7. McDonald's/Medford
8. Quizno's
9. Subway/Bridge Street
10. Subway/Wal-Mart
11. Subway/3 Corners
12. Taco Bell
13. Taco Johns
14. Wendy's



**PARKS**



**Bus Depot located at 9 Oakdale Motel**

# REGISTRATION FORM – MAAP WORKSHOP

August 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
Holiday Inn Owatonna MN  
(Located directly behind Cabela's on I35)

Please send this registration form  
along with payment made payable to  
Minnesota Association of Assessment Personnel or "MAAP"  
to:

Shayla Strack  
Morrison County Assessor's Office  
213 1<sup>st</sup> Ave SE  
Little Falls, MN 56345

Please use one registration form per person.

<b>Name:</b>
<b>Employer:</b>
<b>Position:</b>
<b>Address:</b>
<b>Phone Number:</b>
<b>Fax Number:</b>
<b>E-mail Address:</b>

<b>Registration Fee</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>	
<b>MAAP Membership Fee</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	
<b>Total Enclosed</b>		

Please return registration form with Payment by August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012  
Please include a self-addressed return envelope with vouchers.

Registration may be faxed with payment to follow at 320-632-7804  
Registration may be emailed with payment to follow to  
shaylas@co.morrison.mn.us