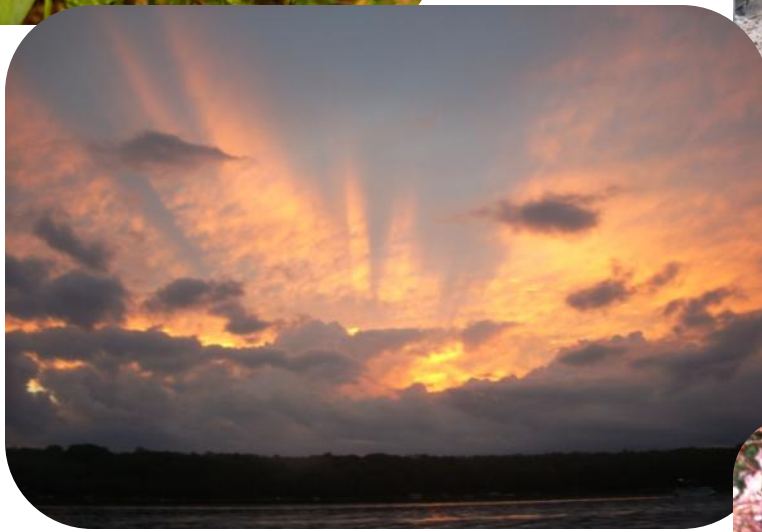
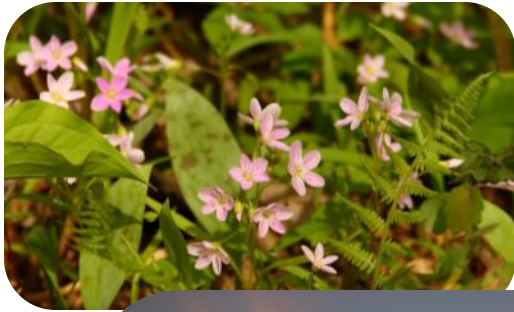
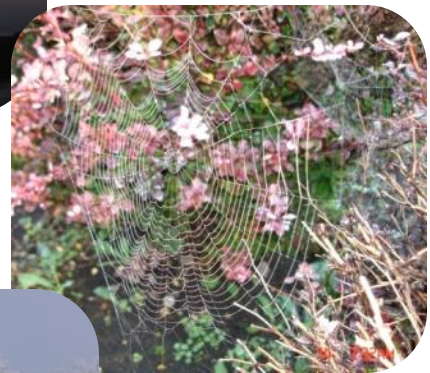


# THE COMMUNICATOR

A Publication of the Minnesota Association  
of Assessment Personnel



The change  
of seasons



## October 2010 – Volume 51



# MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSMENT PERSONNEL 2010 - 2011 SLATE OF OFFICERS

## OFFICERS

President: Jason Vaith, Stearns Cty (2010-2011)  
Vice President/Parliamentarian: Melissa Janzen, Wright Cty (2010-2011)  
Secretary/Treasurer: Barbara Wendt, City St. Cloud (2009-2011)

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Jason Vaith, Stearns Cty (2010-2011)  
Vice President: Melissa Janzen, Wright Cty (2010-2011)  
Secretary/Treasurer: Barbara Wendt, City St. Cloud (2009-2011)  
Past President: Shayla Strack, Morrison Cty (2010-2011)  
Executive Board Member at Large: Christie Fox, Blue Earth Cty (2009-2011)

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

President: Jason Vaith, Stearns Cty (2010-2011)  
Vice President: Melissa Janzen, Wright Cty (2010-2011)  
Secretary/Treasurer: Barbara Wendt, City St. Cloud (2009-2011)  
Past President: Shayla Strack, Morrison Cty (2010-2011)  
Executive Board Member at Large: Christie Fox, Blue Earth Cty (2009-2011)  
Conference Coordinator: Jennifer Becker, McLeod Cty (2009-????)  
Education Board Member at Large: Krista Krupa, City of Willmar (2010-2012)  
Education Board Member at Large & Chair: Julie Shelstad, Morrison Cty (2010-2012)

## CONFERENCE COORDINATOR

Jennifer Becker – McLeod County

## COMMUNICATOR COMMITTEE

Judy Liddell – Morrison County

## HISTORIAN COMMITTEE

Judy Liddell – Morrison County

## **MAAP PURPOSE** *Article II – MAAP By-Laws*

“The purpose and objective of this organization shall be to further the work experience and knowledge of assessment personnel through education, communication and participation.”

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

## MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSMENT PERSONNEL 2010 - 2011 SLATE OF OFFICERS



President 2010-2011  
Jason Vaith  
Stearns County



Vice President 2010-2011  
Melissa Janzen  
Wright County



Secretary/Treasurer 2009-2011  
Barbara Wendt  
City of St. Cloud



Past President 2010-2011  
Shayla Strack  
Morrison County



Executive Board Member  
at Large 2009-2011  
Christie Fox  
Blue Earth County



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



Education Board Member  
at Large 2010-2012  
Krista Krupa  
City of Willmar



Conference Coordinator  
Jennifer Becker  
McLeod County



Communicator Editor  
& Historian  
Judy Liddell  
Morrison County



## Time flies when you're having fun!

It's almost November and I should have had this Communicator sent out a week ago. But I was having fun last week-I was in Florida! More about that later.

First off, I would like to thank everyone who e-mailed articles and photos for the cover. So who sent in photos? On the cover, starting with the upper left photo and moving down:

"Spring Beauty" photographed by Beau Liddell submitted by Judy Liddell

"Are you gonna share that?" submitted by Patricia Herrmann from Sherburne County

"The place to be" sunset photo submitted by Patricia Herrmann from Sherburne County

"Fall Spider Web" photographed & submitted by Joan Seelen from Blue Earth County

"Hoar Frost" photographed and submitted by Judy Liddell, Morrison County

"Halloween Cat Pumpkin" photographed and submitted by Judy Liddell, Morrison County (and, yes, I carved the pumpkin!)

**Thank you** for all the submissions; it's the members who make this a great publication! I look forward to seeing more photos and articles!

At the Winter Meeting I will be presenting the awards for articles submitted to the October 2009 and June 2010 Communicators. The top two articles from each Communicator receive a certificate and a cash prize. Just another incentive to get you to submit an article!

Please check out a special article included from the Education Committee concerning "The Care Connection". Be prepared to vote on the proposal at the 2010 Winter Meeting.

We have another edition of "Getting to Know You". Mitzi Wicklund and Liz Lopez, from the City of Edina, have graciously done a write up on their office – check it out!

And now about having fun! I took a long awaited vacation with my two daughters to Florida. Why Florida? One of my sisters and her family has lived down there for 20 years and I have never been down to visit! Plus, my niece works at Disney so she took us to the Magic Kingdom and Disney Hollywood Studios. We also visited my Aunt Shirley who lives down there too. Two days at Disney, a state park visit, a day at Siesta Key beach and visiting family can make time fly! But we had sooooo much fun, I want to go back!

It was a trip of "firsts" for me: first commercial airplane ride, first visit to Disney, first time in the ocean. . . it was all wonderful! I know exactly how my kids felt since these were all firsts for them as well.

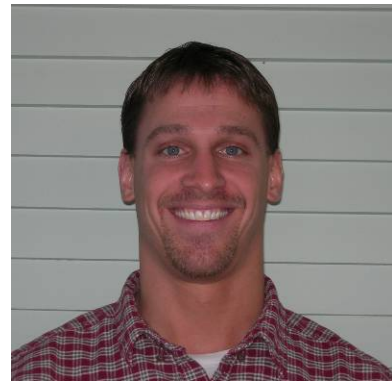
I hope you all can experience some wonderful first time adventures like me!

Judy Liddell  
MAAP Communicator Editor



Jamie, Judy and Emily in front of Mickey's Sorcerer's Hat at Disney Hollywood Studios.

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Hello fellow MAAPEES☺

Wow, how quickly time flies, it seems like just a couple of weeks ago we were in Willmar at the Summer Workshop. Hopefully everyone had a great time.

Bill Effertz, President of MAAO, kicked off the workshop with a quick welcome. Anne Raymer, FBI Agent, spoke about Mortgage Fraud. Bruce Sanders talked to us about the process of Tax Court. And of course you can't forget about the one and only Michael Stalberger from the Dept. of Revenue, who always keeps the topics interesting

I'd like to welcome the new committee members: Vice President Melissa Janzen from Wright County, and Education Committee Member Krista Krupa from the City of Willmar. Also, I would like to welcome Judy Liddell who is taking over the Historian position. I am looking forward to working with you. With that being said, I would like to send out a big THANK YOU to Joanna Campbell for the GREAT job she did as the previous Historian.

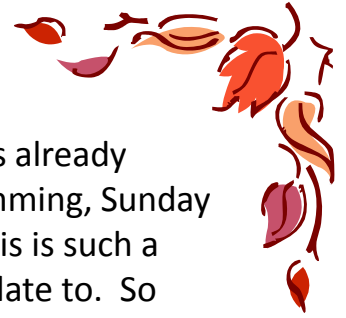
Hopefully you have marked your calendar for the MAAP Winter Meeting December 3<sup>rd</sup> in St Cloud. It will be held at the Stearns County History Museum.

Hope to see you there. If you are unable to join us at the Winter Meeting, I hope you all have a Safe and Wonderful Holiday Season!

Jason Vaith  
MAAP President (2010-2011)  
Stearns County



Hello MAAP members ,



I hope everyone enjoyed their summer. It is hard to believe fall is already upon us. Time to get back into the swing of things: School, Swimming, Sunday school, Dance, Confirmation just to name a few at our house. This is such a busy time of year for me and my family, as I'm sure you can all relate to. So much for the lazy days of summer.....

Since I have only been involved with MAAP for a couple of years now, I haven't gotten to know very many of you. Therefore, I thought it would be appropriate to tell you a little bit about myself and my family.

My husband Tom and I have been married for 16 years. We have lived in Buffalo for about 5 years now. I am an Assessment Assistant at Wright County and Tom is the Building and Grounds Manager at Zion Lutheran Church in Buffalo. We have 3 children Jonathan (12), Emma (10) and Josie (5). We recently bought a new home which has been both wonderful and exhausting. The property was a foreclosure and a "handyman special". I keep telling the kids that the end of the renovations is in sight.... I don't know who I'm trying to convince more, them or myself.

Although being nominated to be Vice President of MAAP was not even on my radar before the summer seminar, I am looking forward to taking a more active role in the organization. I am also excited to be working with the other officers and committee members, who I have been told by many people, will be a valuable resource and great source of support when I need it.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Winter Meeting!

*Melissa Janzen*  
MAAP Vice President 2010-2011  
Assessment Assistant Wright County



*The Education Committee is proposing an update to The Care Connection wording and amounts (as shown below). We would like to propose an increase in the Memorial amounts from \$20 (what it currently is) to what is highlighted below. Also, we would like to include parent(s) for a Memorial. Please read through this and be prepared to vote on this at the 2010 Winter meeting. Thank You for your consideration ☺*

## **THE CARE CONNECTION**

The Care Connection functions as a communication-connecting tool for the members of the MAAP organization. Its purpose is to send a little sunshine to MAAP members that are either ill or experiencing a loss of someone close to them.

It is the membership's responsibility to notify the Secretary/Treasurer of MAAP of the name and mailing address of a current member or members who are ill and/or being hospitalized. Once notified the Secretary/Treasurer will mail that individual a card on behalf of the organization.

Members will notify the Secretary/Treasurer of MAAP when a current member has experienced the loss of a spouse, parent, child or significant other. The Secretary/Treasurer on behalf of the organization will sent a \$35 memorial to that member. If it is a death of a member or retired member the memorial will be \$50.

MAAP members are asked to forward pertinent "Care Connection" news to the Communicator Editor.

Guidelines approved at the MAAP winter meeting Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> 2004  
Proposed Update at the MAAP winter meeting Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

# What's Happening Around MAAP Country...

## New Members:

Amy Weigel, City of Moorhead  
Travis Scoblic, Big Stone County  
Cindy Marti, Brown County  
Monica Heyer, Crow Wing County  
Carolyn Runholt, Lyon County  
Catherine Peloquin, Ramsey County  
Lacy Schuster, Steele County

I hope everyone will make an effort to welcome and get to know the new members!

## Retirement News

Susan Keil, Aitkin County  
Betty Welu Lidholm, Retired (but she promised to attend the Winter meeting!)

We will miss our retired members and wish them well, they have been a great benefit to the MAAP organization!



Every year at the Summer Workshop, names of workshop attendees are drawn for scholarships and prizes. Below is a list of winners:

MAAO Scholarships to use for 2011 MAAP Workshop in Duluth. Six \$75.00 certificates and One \$50.00 certificate were awarded at the 2010 MAAP workshop in Willmar. **A special thanks to MAAO for their continued support!**

\$75 Cathleen Olson - Aitkin County  
\$75 Joyce Eisenmenber - Martin County  
\$50 Norma Padget - Martin County  
\$75 Dawn Campion - Olmsted County  
\$75 Sherri Kitchenmaster - Rock County  
\$75 Janet Kaschmitter - Stearns County  
\$75 Joanne Welch - Independent Assessor in Glenwood Area



Christie Fox  
drawing names

Award for Returned Name Badge: Diane Rolloff, Brown County  
Award for Returned Survey: Joyce Eisenmenger, Martin County (she was really lucky this year, she also won an MAAO Scholarship for next year)  
Special Business Meeting Attendance Award: Edie Kloss, Wright County



# Certificates of Service



Pictured above from left to right:  
Lori Mueller, Michael Kost & Joanne Corrow

## Five Years of Service – 2005–2010

David Armstrong – Le Seuer County  
Joanne Corrow – Le Seuer County  
Pam Daly – Stevens County  
Michael Kost – Houston County  
Mae Lewis – City of Bloomington  
Lori Mueller – Nicollet County  
JoDee Schinkel – Hennepin County  
Luann Trobec – MCIS

## Ten Years of Service – 2000–2010

Edie Kloss – Wright County  
Rebecca Radke – Washington County  
Julie Shelstad – Morrison County



Pictured above: Edie Kloss & Julie Shelstad



Pictured above: Sue Torison

## 15 Years of Service – 1995–2010

Betty Johnson – Beltrami County

## 25 Years of Service – 1985–2010

Betty Jo Lidholm – Retired – Baxter  
Sue Torison – City of Willmar

*Thank You to everyone for their years  
of dedication to the MAAP organization!*

# Certificates of Appreciation

The following were awarded Certificates of Appreciation at the August 2010 MAAP Summer Workshop:

Shayla Strack:	Vice President (2008-2009) President (2009-2010)
Julie Shelstad:	Past President (2009-2010)
Joy Michaelson:	Education Board Member at Large (2008-2010)
Barb Osmundson:	Education Board Member at Large (2008-2010)



Pictured above from left to right:  
Barb Osmundson, Joy Michaelson & Julie Shelstad

*Your years of dedicated service are greatly appreciated!*



Passing the gavel. . .



Jason Vaith- President 2010-2011, accepting the gavel from Shayla Strack- President 2009-2010



Melissa Janzen - Vice President 2010-2011 accepting the gavel from Jason Vaith - Vice President 2009-2010

**MAAP**  
**2010 Summer Workshop**  
**Willmar, MN**  
**August 19-20, 2010**



This year's MAAP Summer Workshop was held at the Holiday Inn Conference Center, in Willmar, MN on August 19 and 20, 2010. Again, we had a wonderful turn out and great speakers!



< Bill Effertz, President of MAAO, gave some introductory remarks to get the workshop going.

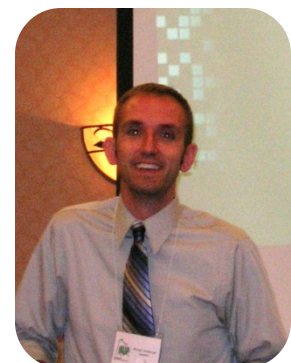


FBI Special Agent, Ann Raymer > spoke to the group about mortgage fraud.



< Bruce Sanders, Retired City of Maple Grove Assessor, discussed Tax Court from start to finish.

Michael Stalberger, MN Dept of Revenue > went over tax law changes and on Friday, taught the Ethics Course.

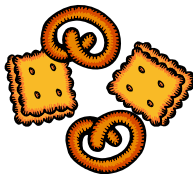


*Thank You to all the speakers!*

*And Thank You to the MAAP Education Committee for a great workshop!*

# Hors d'oeuvres with MAAP!

On Thursday evening, MAAP sponsored a social hour (or two or three) in the hospitality rooms. Hors d'oeuvres were served by the hotel and the menu included: egg rolls, fruit, veggies, meat, cheese & crackers, chicken wings & pizza squares. The food was delicious and the socializing was fun!



Thank you to the Education Committee for setting up the Hospitality Rooms and creating a place for MAAP members to get together after the workshop. The hors d'oeuvres and snacks were wonderful, too!

# Getting to know you...

In an ongoing effort to network with other counties, a new segment has been added to The Communicator. This segment is designed to help each of us understand how other counties or cities run their offices and understand what each person does in that office. It is interesting to see how other offices do their business!

## City of Edina Assessing Office

By Mitzi Wicklund and Liz Lopez



Contrary to its long standing reputation there's more to living and working in Edina than eating cake! Edina City Hall and its auxiliary facilities bear testament of the hard working employees whose diligence and dedication help keep the annoying myth alive. The Assessing Department represents their part of that work force through maintenance of accurate property records and reporting to Hennepin County. As a first tier suburb of Minneapolis, Edina has no green acres, nothing that qualifies for plat law and no areas of vacant land. Its border communities are Hopkins, Minnetonka, St. Louis Park, Minneapolis, Richfield, Bloomington and Eden Prairie. School district boundaries for those same communities overlap boundaries into Edina. A naive homebuyer new to the community may be surprised to find the home they've just purchased is in a neighboring community's school district. Edina is also divided by Highways 62, 100, and 169 and has six different zip codes.

The City of Edina Assessing Office consists of seven people: City Assessor Bob Wilson, residential appraisers; Rick Nelson, Bev Moos and Adrienne Garcia, commercial appraiser; Moreau Sankey, and assessing technicians; Liz Lopez and Mitzi Wicklund. All staff maintains at least a CMA license with several maintaining higher licenses. One might ask what would keep the office staff of seven busy without the joys of Green Acres or Ag homesteads? It's a busy office maintaining property records for approximately 13,298 single family detached homes, 386 doubles and triplexes, 604 townhouses, 448 co-ops, 3,652 condos and 4,545 apartment units totaling approximately 22,933 dwelling units. Additionally there are 89 industrial and 357 commercial parcels. The city is divided into homogeneous districts as determined by street and the "addition" portion of the legal description and of course property type. Edina touts two golf courses, two country clubs, three enclosed ice arenas, a major hospital with supportive medical facilities and many parks, an outdoor pool and baseball / soccer fields. 50<sup>th</sup> and France is considered the downtown of Edina, and just south via France Ave is Southdale Mall and the Galleria Shopping Center. Industrial areas border highways 494, 100 and 169.

City Assessor Bob Wilson is the direct liaison representing the City with the County and a very involved member of MAAO, and IAAO. Bob handles approval of exempt properties, value review and inspections of select commercial, industrial and co-op

properties. Bob is expert witness in tax court and works with the department appraisers reviewing values and sales ratios. He also writes the general statistical overview for the board of appeal and equalization book each year and represents the assessing department at department manager and City Council meetings. He oversees all activities in the office.

The appraisers keep tabs on improvements, permits and of course sales ratios. With virtually no open space or buildable lots a close eye is kept on parcels sold followed by the house being raised. They review one fifth of the city each summer for the quintile review and are responsible to represent the valuation of properties in their respective areas during board of appeal and equalization. The commercial appraiser values commercial, industrial apartment, condominium and co-op properties. He monitors their sales and conducts interviews with owners regarding the purchases or sales. He also works as a liaison for the Hennepin County Attorney's Office to try to resolve commercial/industrial/apartment value disputes before assigned court dates. He is responsible for the sales ratio study for the properties and for inspecting those properties. He also supports values assigned to properties at the board of appeal and equalization.

The assessing technicians: Liz and Mitzi, are the first line of public contact whether to greet people as they enter the office or answer the three phone lines. Liz, with 30 years of City tenure does all homestead record keeping and reporting, electronic file maintenance, completes electronic change orders and mails homestead cards for signature. She maintains the City's list of disabled/blind classifications reporting qualified applicants to the County and places special assessments on properties. She transfers all CRV information to respective properties before providing it to the appraisers. Mitzi Wicklund maintains the Veterans' Exclusion list, exempt property list, compiles the Board of Appeal and Equalization materials, requests levy numbers for special assessments, does the file transfers for those special assessments and expedites division/combination paperwork between the City and County. Since she is also a Notary, processes the senior citizen deferrals for special assessments and helps the general public needing notary services. During board of appeal and equalization Liz and Mitzi are the first to answer residents' valuation and classification questions before determining if the caller needs to be referred to the appraiser for their area.

As you see the city of 46,598 keeps the entire department on their toes. Don't be shy when you are in the Twin Cities. Visit some of Edina's wonderful restaurants, movie theatres or shopping areas....even us! It's a great place to live and work, and you'll discover why residents are called cake eaters.



Liz Lopez and Mitzi Wicklund

## REALIZATIONS OF A NEWCOMER

By Lori Houtsma, Isanti County



Hi! My name is Lorri Houtsma and I work at Isanti County. My first day of work was January 5, 2009 with the County. I had worked for the past 24+ years for a real estate attorney so I thought working at the Assessor's office would be a good fit for me. However, I did not realize how the public for the most part viewed not only the Assessor's office but a County worker in general. The comments and insinuations have been mind boggling at times. Here are a couple of them I have had to deal with:

A man came to the counter last year and wanted to know why he did not receive homestead last year. I explained the deadlines to him and told him it would go into effect for 2010. (All of this was done in a very friendly yet professional manner, of course.☺) I told him what he would be "saving next year" to try and soften the blow because most people think a homestead credit is a lot more of a credit than it really is. That did not work. He was ranting and raving very loudly. It was about 4:25 p.m. on a Friday afternoon. He asked me if I took that extra money and put it in "my" coffee fund. Finally, when he realized there was nothing I could change for him (and that I did not drink coffee ☺), he started to walk away and then he turned around and stated "You know what I would have done with that money? I would have gone out and bought bullets!"



I will now always remember his name, address and parcel number.

We always send out an annual form letter to property owners who have a relative residing at their property and if we do not get a response, we send one more letter in September. This year, I received a letter back from someone after the second "form" letter that told me to stop sending her "threatening" letters and why do I have to focus on this nice family when there are so many people out there doing drugs and who have mental problems.

I will now always remember her name, address and parcel number.



When I first started, we had the ACS/CAMA system – so many F keys and shift F keys to learn. I had many F word thoughts at that time. That is all I am going to say. Then late last year, we switched to MANATRON. Oh my, I barely had the first system down and now I am learning something new. It was and still is difficult at times. I think the problem is its name. It would be a better system if it would have been called WOMANATRON. No offense guys!

So now the Assessor tells me she is sending me to this MAAP conference. It is in Morton at Jackpot Junction in August of 2009. At this point, I had now been here eight months. I was going by myself but I could bring my mom (who grew up in Redwood Falls) so that helped.

I remember that first morning of the conference walking into breakfast and it felt like all eyes were on me and only me. The new girl. I went through the buffet line and found an empty table. I could tell most of you were familiar with each other which made me feel even more alone. I was back at my first day of kindergarten, again with all those insecurities creeping in so I did exactly what I did back then . . . ran to my mommy! She of course sent me back and like everything else, it got easier.

I also remember sitting there listening to the Representative from the Department of Revenue and going through our worksheets. At that point, I did not have 2a, 2b, 2c, etc. down. More letters of the alphabet to deal with. Am I ever going to get this?

This year we have dealt with green acres. We have a lot of mixed land in Isanti County and this was a huge undertaking. We were and still are very short staffed due to budget cuts (we have over 22,000 parcels). We lost one of our appraisers to retirement and our Deputy Assessor was on maternity leave this summer so there were only three of us. I kept a sense of humor and became very familiar with it and we made it through August 16<sup>th</sup> . . . and then I went on vacation!

\*\*\*\*\*



I have now been here almost two years and I have come to realize the following:

- I realize that although there are always some who see the glass half empty, I choose to see it half full.
- I realize I can't please everyone.
- I realize that I can start something new and I will be good at it with hard work and determination.
- I realize it's OK to have some insecurities. They make me human.





# A Fond Farewell

By Betty Welu Lidholm, Retired



So I'm writing to say bye to all members of MAAP. It is really growing and there are so many nice people doing a great job. It's really nice seeing all the new faces and even the men in it now!

I have been involved for over 20 years and it has gotten to be so much more work with all the paper work. I do miss seeing all people that I had kept in contact with, but not the paper work. You meet a lot of nice people and I do stay in touch some them.

I was the first gal in Pope County to become an assessor. Most men felt that a woman didn't know how to measure. A couple of men at the boards insisted on a man from the office go out with me because women didn't know anything. Wayne was the man. He found no mistakes and was I ever glad for that!



The very first class I took there were only two or three women in the class. Over the years I have seen a few more. One class I really enjoyed was at Grand Rapids called Lakeshore or Course G. In comes a pretty young gal looking so lost! My husband and I took her under our wing, as it was her first class. We had a great time and did everything together - meals and lots of after class things. It was that time of the year when they were doing a lot of things on the water and we took in everything we could before bed time. She knows who she is. Right Sue?

So now at my age it is time to stay out on the golf course and enjoy the years I have left, which I hope is another 10 years. I play three to four times a week and I'm in a women's league, mixed and couples leagues. We have a lot of fun and sometimes I even win money.



Every Wednesday night a group of us go out to dinner after golf. Summer time is going too fast for us now. We plan on getting in some card games this winter so the slow winter doesn't drag us down.

So keep all the fun and laughs in the group and always have a great time when you are together!

Farewell from one of your old MAAP members . . . remember, old Assessors never die, they just fade away!

## Rules of Parenting?

By Julie Shelstad, Morrison County

I have always considered myself a somewhat intelligent person. I typically did well in school, caught onto things quickly and was able to easily figure things out on my own. However, that all changed 13 years ago when I became a parent and ever since then I've questioned how much I really do know.

Over the years, I've come to realize that my 3 kids are my "teachers". They are doing their best to mold and shape me into the "good" parent they'd like me to be. There have been countless lessons on what should or shouldn't be said, what is acceptable behavior in public and just general things I need to know.

I know I'm not the only parent who has been taught by their children, but thought it was my duty to share what I've learned the last 13 years. Below is my list of the TOP 10 KEY RULES to follow (once your child(ren) has reached the ages of 9-13ish):

- ♥ Even though things are lying on the bedroom floor, their room IS clean since they know where everything is at and can easily find what they need. So it is organized and nothing should be moved!
- ♥ NEVER hug or kiss your child in front of friends...it's an unwanted public display of affection and should be avoided at all costs! However, at home is fine (as long as friends are not present).
- ♥ Eye rolling means you have said or done something your child disagrees with or they think was embarrassing. You'll see this happening more & more as they get older, so no need to rush them to the eye doctor to have their eyes checked because it is normal!
- ♥ When shopping together, walk at least 3-4 steps behind your child. There's absolutely no need for you to walk beside them...they need their space!
- ♥ Don't even think about waving at your child across a crowded room. There's no need to publicly acknowledge you are related to them and besides...they'll just ignore you anyway ☺
- ♥ Even though their friends think and say you are a "cool" parent, you really aren't...so ignore that comment from the friends and, for heaven's sake, don't actually believe it!!
- ♥ It's NOT OK to do the "lawn mower", "shopping cart", "sprinkler" and "butter churner" dances in public...it is mortifying for your child. They will NOT come near you if you do this!
- ♥ If they are "overly" nice to you, there's typically a need for money or they want something...don't fall for this one, it's a trick ☺
- ♥ You should be willing to put your plans on HOLD whenever there's something your child wants to do instead. You can't expect your child give up something they want to do...it's simply "not fair" to them...so don't be selfish ☺
- ♥ Texting & phone calls should be allowed at all hours of the night...what if something important needs to be discussed (like who just broke up with whom, for example). These things are vital pieces of information that simply cannot wait until the next day!

There are several rules I didn't list and MANY more that are yet to be taught to me as my children age. So I know that list will change (and get even longer, I'm sure).

In all seriousness, the list above is simply some "fun, quirky & humorous" things I've "learned" from my kids. By no means do I follow those "rules". In fact, on some of them, I do exactly the opposite, just to embarrass them (haha)! Let's face it, maintaining a good sense of humor while parenting has definitely kept me SANE all these years ☺



The most important thing I have learned is that parenting is truly a humbling and rewarding experience. I have great kids and feel blessed to have each one of them! They continue teach me as they grow and I can't wait to learn more from them...they are a big part of who I am today!

## **MAAP BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**AUGUST 19, 2010**

### ***Call To Order:***

The Minnesota Association of Assessment Personnel met Thursday, August 19, 2010 at Holiday Inn in Willmar, Minnesota. Vice President Jason Vaith called the meeting to order. President Shayla Strack was unable to attend the business meeting due to a prior commitment.

### ***Secretary's Report:***

Vice President Jason Vaith asked the membership if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. There were none and the minutes will stand as published in The Communicator.

### ***Treasurer's Report:***

Vice President Jason Vaith asked the membership if there were any corrections or additions to the treasurer's report. There were none and the report will stand as published in The Communicator.

### ***Committee Reports:***

Chairperson Christie Fox provided the Education Committee report. Christie advised the membership that the 2011 MAAP summer workshop is scheduled for the Duluth Holiday Inn, August 18-19. The committee received a proposal from the Mall of America for a possible future workshop location, and the rates were a higher due to the metro location.

The Education Committee, along with newly elected board members, will meet Thursday right after the close of the business meeting in the hospitality room to set their next meeting date and review options for following workshop, The education committee encourages all input from membership regarding future workshop speakers and locations, so do not hesitate to contact a board member with your suggestions.

Judy Liddell gave the Communicator report. She went over the voting process for the communicator awards. Votes for 2 October and 2 June story submissions will be collected by the close of this workshop. There is a cash prize awarded at the December meeting to the winning submissions. Judy also gave a reminder to keep sending articles. The articles have been fabulous. Keep up the good work. She also noted that the June "Communicator" cover photo was taken in Grand Marais. Picturesque photos from other parts of the State are welcome from members for use on future covers.

Judy also inquired if anyone was having possible firewalls restrictions on the e-mailed "Communicator." We want to be sure that everyone receives their copy via e-mail. Let her know if you have not received your copy of the "Communicator."

Judy asked for volunteers to write a story about their county/city for the next *Getting to Know You...* section of the "Communicator." She will seek out volunteers to write a story if needed.

### ***Old Business:***

The first order of old business was the pictorial directory update. Judy Liddell will continue to obtain photos for new members for the MAAP directory. If you want to re-take a picture, get in touch with Judy. She plans to e-mail the updated directory in November. Please let her know if you don't get it by the end of the year.

***New Business:***

The first order of new business was the 2011 summer seminar, which is scheduled for August 18 and 19 at the Holiday Inn in Duluth, Minnesota. The program is being discussed by the Education Committee, and suggestions from members for topics and speakers will be welcome.

The next order of new business was the 2011 Winter Business Meeting; Sherburne County Assessor's Office volunteered to host.

The next order of new business was the election of officers. Vice President, Jason Vaith asked for any volunteers or nominations for the office of Vice President. Julie Shelstad nominated Melissa Janzen from Wright County. Melissa accepted the nomination. A vote was held and Melissa Janzen was elected the new Vice President. She will hold the position of Vice President in 2010-2011, President in 2011-2012, and Past President 2012-2013. Vice President Vaith then asked for nominations or volunteers for the two open positions of Education Board Member at Large; Julie Shelstad, Morrison County and Krista Krupa, City of Willmar volunteered for the nomination, as did the current members Joy Michaelson and Barbara Osmundson. Joy & Barbara stepped back from the nomination to allow Julie Shelstad and Krista Krupa to accept the nominations. All voted in favor of Julie and Krista holding the positions for Education Board Member at Large for a two year term (2010-2012). Joanna Campbell will no longer hold the position of Historian. Christie Fox nominated Judy Liddell for the Historian position, she accepted the nomination. With no other volunteers for the position, all voted in favor of Judy holding the Historian position.

***Miscellaneous:***

The next order of business was the Certificates of Service presented by Vice President Jason Vaith. Certificates for five years (2005 – 2010) were awarded to David Armstrong, Joanne Corrow, Pam Daly, Michael Kost, Mae Lewis, Lori Mueller, JoDee Schinkel, and LuAnn Trobec.

Certificates of Service for ten years (2000 – 2010) were awarded to Edie Kloss, Becky Radke and Julie Shelstad.

Certificate of Service for fifteen years (1995-2010) was awarded to Betty Johnson.

Certificates of Service for twenty-five years (1985 – 2010) were awarded to Betty Jo Lidholm and Sue Torison.

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to Shayla Strack for Vice-President (2008 – 2009) and President (2009 – 2010); Julie Shelstad for Past President (2009 -2010); Joy Michaelson and Barb Osmundson for Education Board Member at Large (2008 – 2010).

A special attendance door prize was awarded at the business meeting, and Edie Kloss was the lucky winner.

***Adjournment:***

Mary Peterson made a motion to adjourn and Judy Liddell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Wendt, CMA  
Secretary/Treasurer

# MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSMENT PERSONNEL

## TREASURER'S REPORT 10/15/10

**Balance as of 05-31-10**

\$ 8,938.92

### **RECEIPTS**

Dues Paid	\$ 1,220.00
2010 Workshop Registration	\$ 4,875.00
MAAO Scholarship Award	\$ 500.00

***Total Receipts***

\$ 6,595.00

\$ 6,595.00

\$ 15,533.92

### **DISBURSEMENTS**

Willmar Holiday Inn/Green Mill Conference Center	\$ 4,314.21
Wednesday Night Hospitality Snacks	\$ 53.17
Speaker - Bruce Sanders - Mileage and Stipend	\$ 354.00
Speaker - Amy Raymer FBI Agent - Stipend Refused	\$ -
Mike Stalberger Hotel & Meal Expenses	\$ 201.93
Door Prizes	\$ 400.00
Returned Name Badge & Survey (Rolloff & Eisenmenger)	\$ 20.00
Miscellaneous expenses - postage, folders, etc.	\$ 19.14
(4) Workshop Refunds - Pope, Sherburne, Stevens, CPU	\$ 300.00
Shirley Grossman Memorial	\$ 50.00

***Total Disbursements***

\$ 5,712.45

\$ 5,712.45

***BALANCE AS OF 10-15-10***

\$ 9,821.47

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara Wendt  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Minnesota Association of Assessment Personnel**  
**Business Meeting Agenda**  
**Friday, December 3, 2010**

- I. Call to Order
  
- II. Secretary's Report - Barb Wendt
  - A. Corrections or Additions? If none, minutes stand as published in the Communicator.
  
- III. Treasurer's Report – Barb Wendt
  - A. Corrections or Additions? If none, financial statement stands as published in the Communicator.
  
- IV. Committee Reports
  - A. Education Committee – Julie Shelstad, Chair
  - B. Communicator Committee – Judy Liddell
    - 1. Pictorial Directory
  
- V. Historian – Judy Liddell
  
- VI. Old Business
  - A. 2010 Summer Workshop Evaluations – Shayla Strack
  
- VII. New Business
  - A. Changes to Care Connection wording
  - B. 2011 Summer Workshop – Julie Shelstad
  - C. 2011 Office Administration Support/Assessment Personnel Workshop Update
  - D. 2011 Winter Meeting will be hosted by Sherburne Co.
  
- VIII. Miscellaneous
  - A. Communicator Awards – Judy Liddell
  - B. Any other business to discuss?
  
- IX. Adjourn

# MAAP Winter Business Meeting

Friday, December 3, 2010

Hosted by Stearns County and City of St. Cloud

At the Stearns County History Museum

235 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South, St. Cloud, MN 56301

[www.stearns-museum.org](http://www.stearns-museum.org)

320-253-8424



- 9:30 a.m. Registration, coffee, rolls
- 10:00 a.m. Introductions & Stearns History Museum Speaker  
MAAP Business Meeting  
Museum Tour  
Group Photo
- 12:00 noon Lunch \*\*\*See Below to Make Selection  
Door Prizes  
Gift Exchange – bring a wrapped \$5.00 gift - optional

Registration Fee: \$15.00 per person (make checks payable to MAAP). Please mail your registration and payment no later than November 22<sup>nd</sup> (no refunds after that date) to:

Barb Wendt, MAAP Secretary/Treasurer  
City of St. Cloud  
400 2<sup>nd</sup> Street South  
St. Cloud, MN 56301  
Phone: 320-255-7203 Fax: 320-255-7205  
E-mail: [Barbara.wendt@ci.stcloud.mn.us](mailto:Barbara.wendt@ci.stcloud.mn.us)



Suggested Hotel Accommodations Available Near the Stearns History Museum:

Holiday Inn (at Division Street & Highway 15)  
75 South 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
St. Cloud, MN 56301  
1-320-253-9000

Request MAAP Group Rate  
2 Double or 1 Queen Rate: \$79.99  
<http://www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/st.-cloud/stcmn/hoteldetail>

Rooms will be available until November 5<sup>th</sup>. After that date, the group rate will still apply, but will be subject to availability.

Registration forms can be e-mailed or faxed in advance with checks to follow by November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Luncheon Menu includes : Chicken Breast Rouladen w/sauce or Stuffed Pork Chop; includes Brown Rice Pilaf, Roll and Butter, Salad Tray, Assorted Beverages and Assorted Desserts. (Provided by Creative Catering of Rice, MN)

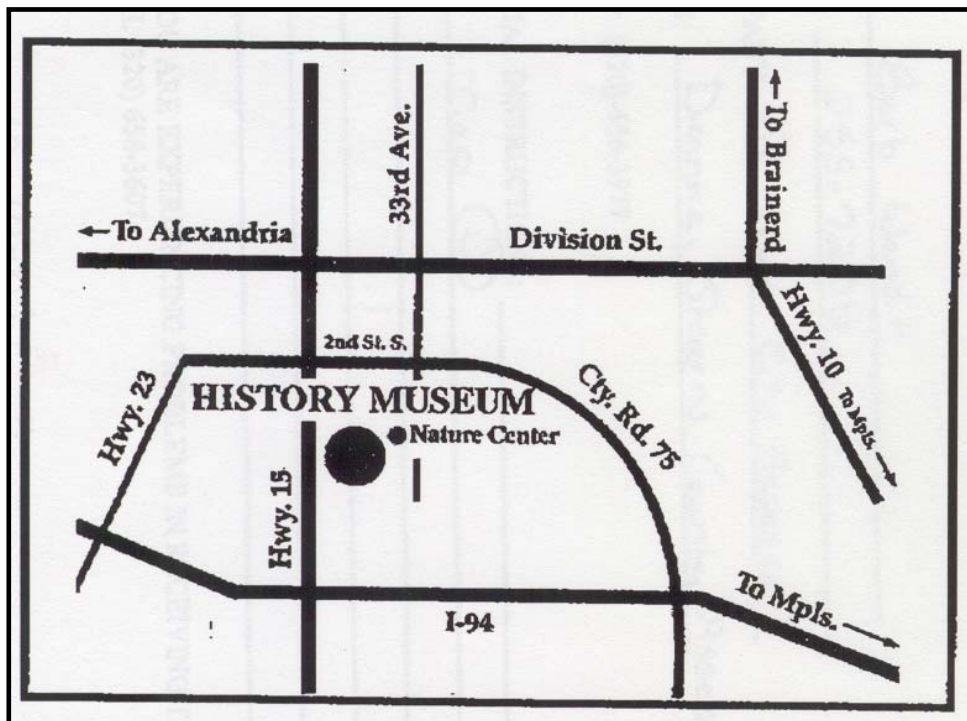
Name(s) of Attendees:	City/County	Indicate Entree Selection: Chicken or Stuffed Pork Chop	\$15.00

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## St. Cloud City and Stearns County Welcome You!

The Stearns County History Museum is the site for the 2010 MAAP Winter Business meeting. The museum is located on a 100-acre nature park with walking paths (though due to the time of year we won't venture out on them) and of course not far from many shopping malls and restaurants. Inside the museum two floors of exhibits await you. A list of the exhibits on display is attached for your review. When you're done with the tour make sure to stop in at the museum store. The store offers a selection of books, toys and unique gift items related to Minnesota. We hope you will enjoy your visit here with us!

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*The Stearns County History Museum is located at 235 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South in St. Cloud. As you enter Heritage Park, located across the street from CashWise and the former WalMart store location, you will first see the new Skate Board Park Construction and the Nature Center building. The museum is located about 2 city blocks back into the park property. Parking is free! The phone number at the museum is (320) 253-8424. We'll see you there!*

Link to google map:

[http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&q=stearns+county+history+museum&fb=1&gl=us&hq=stearns+county+history+museum&cid=0,0,8463561872029903416&ei=Sh6\\_TOeqAYXGswboxcG2DQ&sqi=2&ved=0CB4QnwIwAQ&hnear=&ll=45.547687,-94.195189&spn=0.013374,0.027423&z=15](http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&q=stearns+county+history+museum&fb=1&gl=us&hq=stearns+county+history+museum&cid=0,0,8463561872029903416&ei=Sh6_TOeqAYXGswboxcG2DQ&sqi=2&ved=0CB4QnwIwAQ&hnear=&ll=45.547687,-94.195189&spn=0.013374,0.027423&z=15)



## Current Exhibits of the Stearns History Museum

**The Indelible (P)ink: The Pink Panther and Popular Culture:** Temporary exhibit on loan from The Daura Gallery at Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, Virginia. The exhibit consists of 44 original cels plus 40 associated drawings from the animated 1993 television series, “The Pink Panther” plus 28 related objects including posters, comic books, lamp, and clock. October 21<sup>st</sup> – January 20, 2011.

**Panoramic Dream: Sam Pandolfo, The Pan Motor Company and St. Cloud:** Was he a crook or an entrepreneur wronged the by the courts. This exhibit explores St. Cloud’s infamous automaker. A 1918 Pan automobile is one of several artifacts that tells the story of the legendary Sam Pandolfo. Permanent.

**Dedicated to the Land:** Photograph exhibit featuring Stearns County Century Farms. Through 2011.

**ArtiFind:** Based on the popular children’s book and DVD series *I Spy*, this exhibit is a scavenger hunt for artifacts. Scenes based on a hardware store, a toy store, kitchen, and sports locker will provide the setting for the hunt and riddles will provide the keys to the treasures of history. Through 2012.

**The World’s Best, Finest and the Envy of Everyone in Town:** This exhibit examines the inventions that have made life easier in the home and on the farm, including many that have been created by Stearns County residents. Through 2012.

**“Let Me Introduce You”:** The famous and not so famous people of Stearns County including Oscar-winning actor Gig Young and actress June Marlowe of “Little Rascals” fame. Through 2012.

**In Their Own Words:** Chronicles the early immigrants as they traveled to and settled in central Minnesota using diaries and family histories as the text. Through 2012.

**Flowing Through Time:** Walk through a prairie, wetlands, savanna, and big woods natural environment and learn the story of water and its uses and misuses. Permanent.

**On Solid Ground:** The granite industry of the 1930s is featured in this exhibit that looks at the impact of quarrying in central Minnesota. Permanent.

**Alice Wheelock Whitney:** Alice Whitney was a community leader and philanthropist in St. Cloud. This exhibit features her portrait, personal artifacts, and, family photos. Permanent - revised.

**Pantown Theater:** Theater with seating for 15 features 4 short documentaries on Sam Pandolfo, the Rox Baseball Team, Munsinger Gardens, and the central Minnesota granite industry. Permanent.