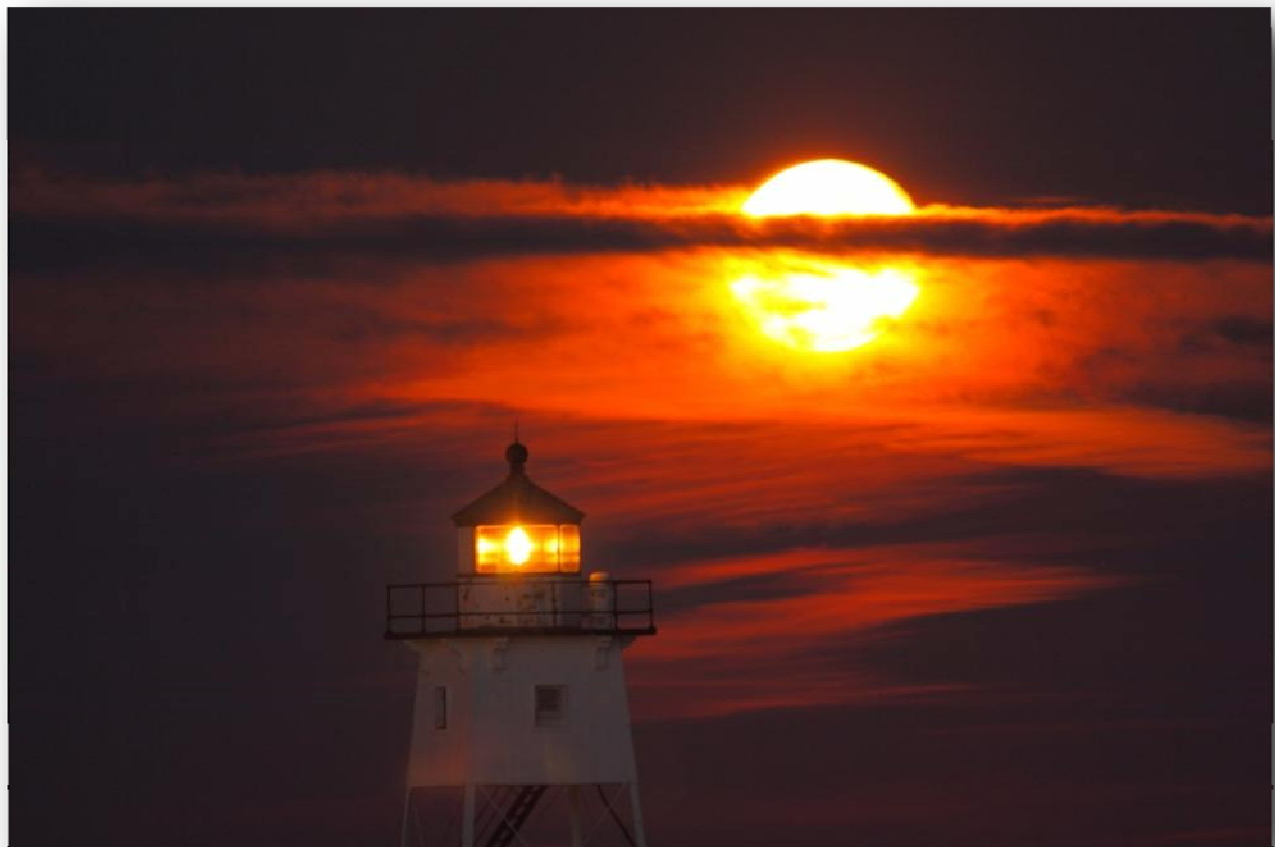


The Communicator

A Publication of the Minnesota Association of
Assessment Personnel



June 2010 – Volume 50



MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSMENT PERSONNEL 2009 - 2010 SLATE OF OFFICERS

OFFICERS

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Shayla Strack, Morrison Cty. (2009-2010)
Vice President: Jason Vaith, Stearns Cty (2009-2010)
Secretary/Treasurer: Barbara Wendt, Ci St. Cloud(2009-2011)
Past President and Chair: Julie Shelstad, Morrison Cty. (2009-2010)
Executive Board Member at Large: Christie Fox, Blue Earth Cty. (2009-2011)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

President: Shayla Strack, Morrison Cty. (2009-2010)
Vice President: Jason Vaith, Stearns Cty (2009-2010)
Secretary/Treasurer: Barbara Wendt, Ci St. Cloud(2009-2011)
Past President: Julie Shelstad, Morrison Cty. (2009-2010)
Executive Bd Mem at Large & Chair: Christie Fox, Blue Earth Cty.(2009-2011)
Conference Coordinator: Jennifer Becker – (2009-????)
Education Board Member at Large: Joy Michaelson, Stevens Cty. (2008-2010)
Education Board Member at Large: Barbara Osmundson, Freeborn Cty (2008-2010)

CONFERENCE COORDINATOR

Jennifer Becker – Mc Leod County

COMMUNICATOR COMMITTEE

Judy Liddell – Morrison County

HISTORIAN COMMITTEE

Joanna Campbell – Pope 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
2009 - 2010 SLATE OF OFFICERS**



President 2009-2010
Shayla Strack
Morrison County



Vice President 2009-2010
Jason Vaith
Stearns County



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



Past President 2009-2010
Julie Shelstad
Morrison County



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



Education Board Member
at Large 2008-2010
Joy Michaelson
Stevens County



Education Board Member
at Large 2008-2010
Barbara Osmundson
Freeborn County



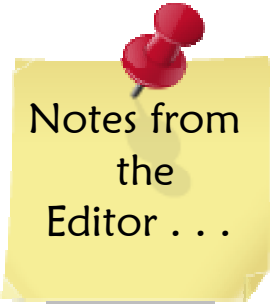
Conference Coordinator
Jennifer Becker
McLeod County



Communicator Editor
Judy Liddell
Morrison County



Historian
Joanna Campbell
Pope County



Notes from
the
Editor . . .

This Communicator has really snuck up on me. I looked at my calendar, noticed it was the end of May and couldn't figure out what I was supposed to be working on. Oh yeah, I have to get The Communicator together!

Luckily, I have excellent MAAP members to fall back on; Barb Wendt had everything in order for the minutes and reports. Christie Fox had the Summer Workshop Agenda and registration stuff ready to go. Jennifer Becker had an article ready about the Department of Revenue Workshops. And of course, I received some awesome articles from MAAP members. This is a great bunch of people to work with!

The picture on the front of this Communicator is also on my computer as wallpaper. My husband took it and I just love it. The original is much crisper and has better detail-I have to compress the pictures in The Communicator so it isn't such a huge file to send. Can anyone tell me where it was taken and what time of day it is? If you think you know, tell me at the Summer Workshop.

One of my biggest struggles with putting together The Communicator is coming up with a cover. So, if you have a picture you've taken or design you would like to share, I will consider it for the cover. Of course I will give you credit and you will have the satisfaction of your peers complimenting you on your excellent photography or artistic skills. That's enough to get me motivated!

It looks like we have a great Summer Workshop lined up for August 19th and 20th. I hope to see and catch up with everyone! And, of course I will be taking pictures for both The Communicator and the MAAP directory.

Sincerely,
Judy Liddell
MAAP Communicator Editor

P.S. The picture to the right will probably give away where the cover photo was taken. It was photographed in the same place but a different time of day. It's another one of my favorites that my husband took. Another clue: it was taken in a county that no longer has any MAAP members.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



June, 2010

Well...It's my last official article as MAAP President. I've met a lot of new people and have gotten to work with a lot of fun and dedicated people on the Education Committee, members of MAAP and other organizations! Everyone is very supportive of MAAP and the members are committed to always making it better!

Again, this summer, we have open positions within MAAP. Please consider volunteering for an office. We always like to get new members involved!

This year, we will be at the Holiday Inn in Willmar. The Education Committee met and toured the facility in March. I think we'll be happy with our accommodations. It was a nice hotel and conference center. It also sounds like we'll have a very informative workshop. The DOR is always helpful and full of information. I've heard nothing but good things about the FBI presentation. I don't know much about court cases, so, that will be good also, then Ethics to finish out the workshop.

We will be having a hospitality room again both Wednesday and Thursday evenings. On Thursday, we will have some hors' devours. It's always fun to get together, exchange stories and enjoy some food and refreshments!

I'm so happy that summer is here! My (only) daughter graduated from high school on May 30th, so she is now starting a new chapter in her life...and, yes, I am very sad that she'll be leaving home in August. She's going to be attending Jamestown College in Jamestown, ND...so; she'll be about 4 hours away. I asked her what I'm supposed to do now that she's moving out and leaving me with a house full of boys...she didn't seem to be too upset about my situation...Oh well...Now, we have two in college and two still at home...

I look forward to seeing everyone in Willmar!

Shayla Strack
MAAP President 2009-2010
Records Specialist, Morrison County



THE BOYZ

Polar was born April 7, 2003. He is a White German Shepherd. My wife and I brought him home in June 2003. We chose him out of the litter because he was the first one to come over to see me. He plopped down next to me with these big paws, we knew then he was coming home with us. We were so excited to get him home. The only one that was not happy about him being added to the family was our sassy cat, Peaches, although they've become good friends over the years. The first few months Polar caught on to life in a house very quickly, learning tricks and getting house trained. Tricks came very easy to Polar, sitting pretty, laying down, rolling over, and playing dead. The one thing he is not good at is fetching. Once he has the toy, there is no giving it back. Polar loves eating pigs ears, going for walks and rides. He loves hanging his head out the window. We were fortunate to have Polar at our wedding. We got him a bowtie and he posed for pictures with us. They are some of our most favorite photos. A few years ago, we thought he needed a companion...

Pudge was born July 21, 2006. Another White German Shepherd with the same parents as Polar. We were questioning which one to get but then this white fluff ball came around the corner and we said that is the one. He was the biggest out of the litter, which is where he got his name from. We brought him home in early September. Polar didn't know what to do at first but then he realized he had a new companion. They are now the best of friends. Of course the cat was upset again and it took her a little while to get used to another pet in the house. She still has her moments with the boys, especially when they pick on her or when Pudge chases her around the house. Pudge was also very quick to catch on to getting house trained. Tricks are a different issue. Pudge is not very coordinated and struggles with sitting pretty on his hind legs or trying to roll over. He does however, LOVE to fetch. Whether we're outside, sitting down watching television, eating at the dinner table or getting ready in the morning, he always wants to fetch.

It is so interesting for my wife and I to see how different the two of them are even though they both have the same parents. Polar is our calm, wise one, who just fits perfectly into our life style. He is somewhat of a pig, weighing in at around 105 lbs. He also has a very thick coat of long hair and a big bushy tail. Pudge, on the other hand, is so hyper, always running around and can't stay still for too long. He keeps us on our toes! He is smaller than Polar, only weighing about 85 lbs. Pudge has a very thin coat with short hair and a tail that is curled up and around to his back at all times. They both are a huge part of our lives and we couldn't imagine life without them!

Jason Vaith
Stearns County
MAAP Vice President 2009-2010



What's Happening Around MAAP Country . . .

New Members:

☺ Stephanie Jordahl in Todd County

☺ Vicki Dabill in Itasca County

Please make an effort to get to know our new members and make them feel welcome at future meetings.

Retirement News:



On March 31 Nancy Laite of Freeborn County decided to start a new chapter in her life and retired from the county after 24 years of service. Before becoming employed by the county Nancy owned her own abstracting business which she sold to become employed by the county. Nancy joined MAAP in 1992 and had many fun years of traveling to both the summer and winter sessions.

As many of you Nancy has struggled with health issues through the years so hopefully being retired will help with some of the stress and physical issues she has endured and she can enjoy herself just doing nothing or leisurely doing whatever.

Her friendly smile will be missed by all. Good luck Nancy!

The Communicator article winners were announced at the Winter Business Meeting:



Pictured above: Julie Shelstad, Chris Fox & Joan Seelen

For the October 2008 Communicator:

With the most votes for "Friends, co-workers and neighbors", Joan Seelen and Chris Fox won.

With the second highest number of votes, there was a tie! Julie Shelstad's article "Common Clichés and Phrases" and Joan Seelen's "I made it back in time and finished", won.



Pictured above: Barb Osmundson

For the June 2009 Communicator:

With the most votes for "All I Ever Really Needed to Know I Learned In Assessing", Melanie Taillefer won.

With the second highest number of votes, "Gone to the Dogs", by Barbara Osmundson won.

**Congratulations to the winners and
Thank You to all participants!**

Voting for articles in the October 2009 and June 2010 Communicators will take place at the Summer Workshops.

With Deepest Sympathy . . .

Joy Michaelson's father, DeWayne Michaelson, recently passed away. Please remember Joy and her family in your thoughts and prayers.



WE WANT YOU!!

The Minnesota Association of Assessment Personnel needs a few motivated and ambitious members to volunteer for soon to be vacated positions. Are you up to the task? Positions needing to be filled are Historian, two Education Board Members at Large and Vice President. **NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!**

After her MANY years of keeping everything together, Joanna Campbell is stepping down as **Historian** for MAAP. Thank you for all the time and devotion to MAAP, Joanna!

The two **Education Board Members at Large**, Joy Michaelson and Barbara Osmundson have completed their two year terms. Thank you for all your extra effort Joy and Barb!

And of course we need to elect a new **Vice President** (who automatically becomes President the following year). Thank you to Shayla Strack for her excellent leadership this past year and we look forward to having Jason Vaith lead us into the new year!

Please consider volunteering for one of these positions. This is an excellent organization to be part of! There is no need to be afraid of not knowing what to do, past and current Board and Committee Members are always willing to help! If you have questions about the duties and responsibilities of any of the positions, please don't hesitate to ask the current or past officers.

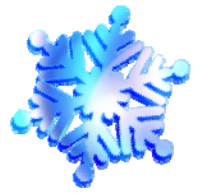
Election of officers will take place during the Business meeting on Thursday.



MAAP Winter Business Meeting

Friday, December 4, 2009

Hosted by the City of Maple Grove
Holiday Inn, Alexandria



MAAP Winter Business Meeting Ugliest Ornament Contest



The winners of the Ugliest Ornament Contest were:

13 - Joanna Campbell
With her homemade star
tree topper

And first runner up:
6 - Barb Wendt
With her antique oil can
decoration

On the next page is the
story behind the winning
ornaments - check it out!



Cathy Emerson from
the City of Maple
Grove, shared what
decorates their
office door during
the Holiday Season.
Every year a little
something gets
added!





The Story Behind the Ornament - Joanna Campbell

My ornament was a star tree topper made of wire and gold tinsel. When I was little I remember decorating our Christmas tree, only around the bottom half of the tree, and always dreamed of putting the star on. I didn't get that honor until my Mom and Dad thought I wouldn't fall off the ladder attempting to place the star.

Finally I was big enough to string the lights and put a Christmas bulb through the hole in the middle of the star and could now place it upon the top of the tree, along with the glass balls and the ("tin" tinsel) icicles. Wow, I could do the whole tree! Top and Bottom,

ladders were great. I had great fun decorating every year, my older brother could care less and my younger brother was a baby.

Then I got married and left home and the following year my Mom bought an aluminum tree. So the star was left in a box along with most of the other ornaments. Their new tree had a rotating spot light of four colors to reflect and light up the tree. EHHHHHHH Gaddddddd! I hated that tree and was glad it wasn't my tree.

Since they got that aluminum tree I asked my Mom if we could go through her Christmas decorations and I could pick out some to have. There in the box was my favorite star, which was just starting to show signs of tarnish and wear, but I didn't care. I used it for many years on my Christmas tree, with my kids fighting over who got to put the star up. This went on until the star became so bedraggled that I finally had to retire it. I still look at it every Christmas when I get out all my decorations and think about all the fond Christmas memories attached to it.



THE STORY BEHIND THE WHIZ CAN CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT – Barb Wendt

My husband collects WHIZ tin can products manufactured in the early 1900s through 1950s by the R. M. Hollinghead Corporation of Camden, New Jersey. The company started out making products for the horse tack industry (bridles, saddles, etc.) as well as household cleaners. With the advent of the automotive industry in the early 1900s, the business expanded into the car care products industry.

As you may know, in order to have an official collection, you must have at least 3 items in the collection. His collection started about 20 years ago with 3 products for car tire tube repair and motor oil additives. He thought the graphics on the cans were clever and interesting. Well, he started picking up a few here and there at antique shops, and then collecting really took off. Now he is possessed and has that look in his eye - "I MUST HAVE THEM ALL!" The internet has been a great source for finding these products, and his collection now consists of well over 200 different tins and products from the line. We even had to build a glass storage/display cabinet in the man cave to display his collection. His friends know he collects these products, so one Christmas several years ago, one of the guys made the WHIZ CAN CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT for his garage. I thought the MAAP competition was a great place to display our ugly ornament treasure.

As an interesting side note, R. M. Hollingshead holds a patent for the drive-in movie theater and he opened the first drive-in theater in Camden on June 6, 1933. The first film shown was "Wife Beware". It would be interesting to look up this film sometime.

Getting to know you. .

In the last issue of The Communicator, Judy introduced a new feature which will focus on a county or city and how they do their assessment jobs. Judy got us started right in her own backyard. It was fun and interesting to see how many people work for the Morrison County Assessor's Office, who they are and what exactly they do. I volunteered at the winter meeting to do the next article about the city of Maple Grove Assessor's Office. I look forward to reading about other counties and cities in the future.



by Mary Peterson, City of Maple Grove

First, I would like to give a very brief history of Maple Grove. The first settlers to Maple Grove arrived in 1851 and staked their claims. Prior to that, it was inhabited by Winnebago Indians who were shipped to Maple Grove from Wisconsin by the federal government because "no one lived there". The town board, consisting of three members, governed Maple Grove until 1954, when the town became incorporated into a village and in 1974 became a city. The first growth of suburbia was around the lakes by the late 1950's. Then came I-94 and the population started growing again. The 1970's saw Orrin Thompson Homes and New Horizon Homes begin the growth spurt which continued until the economic downturn a couple of years ago. The population in 1970 was 6,275 and by the end of 2009 was over 62,000. A few years ago a "downtown" area was created where the Maple Grove Government Center is now located. Also created was Minnesota's first Life Style Center where people can enjoy shopping, dining and entertainment.

Maple Grove has a City Assessor who is hired by the City Council and reports to the City Administrator. Our office is under the jurisdiction of Hennepin County to whom we submit the assessment. Under his supervision are eight full time employees and one part time employee and over 23,000 parcels to be valued and classified. Bruce Sanders had held this position since 2005 until his retirement April 30, 2010. No decision has been made at this point about his successor.

Maple Grove has five full time appraisers: Tim Mitchell (Commercial Appraiser), Rich Gruber (Senior Residential Appraiser), Julie Gustafson (Residential Appraiser), Karla Anderson (Residential Appraiser) and Chun-Yin Chong (Residential Appraiser). We also have a part time commercial appraiser aide (JoAnn Lowrie) who assists Tim with his commercial duties. Tim is in charge of viewing and valuing all the commercial properties. As Senior Residential Appraiser, Rich assists the City Assessor in directing the overall residential appraisal function in addition to coordinating the computer aided mass appraisal (CAMA) system, building rates, Green Acres and exempt

properties. Each residential appraiser has their areas of the city to view new, existing and remodeled properties and analyzes field data and market data information for property values. Those market values are sent to Hennepin County by January 31st to be reviewed and approved. Our market value notices are usually in the mail in March at which time the appraisers are busy answering questions and reviewing properties in dispute. They work hard to resolve any issues before the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meets. The entire department attends and typically we will have less than thirty petitioners. If any of those do not agree with the Board's decision, then they have the option to go to the County Board which meets in June.

Pam Olson, Assessing Clerk, is the main public contact and handles counter traffic and phone calls. She has been with the city since March, 2005 and before that worked at the Sherburne County Assessor's Office. She processes all the homestead applications including the data entry, relative homesteads, duplicate social security match lists, abatements, and filing.

Cathy Emerson, Assessing Technician, has worked for the city since November, 1990. She worked for Utility Billing in the Finance Department and then moved to the Assessing Department in August, 1994. She processes CRV's, non homestead properties, foreclosures, platted values, change authorizations and assists at the counter and the phone. She also runs reports as needed.

I am also an Assessing Technician and have worked for the city in this department since March, 1988. I process the residential and commercial divisions, lot splits and combinations. I also process the blind/disabled classification, veteran's exclusion, primary/secondary lists, permits/finals that are distributed to the appraisers for viewing and assist at the counter and the phone.

This is a very general overview of what we do in our office. We are very proud of the work we do and the teamwork involved. If any of our MAAP members are in the vicinity, please stop by and say hello. Right next to the Government Center is the new Hennepin County Library that opened in May, the Town Green is getting the finishing touches (including the band shell) and you can't go wrong with all the shopping and dining opportunities!



Pictured above, left to right: Rich Gruber, Cathy Emerson, Julie Gustafson, Tim Mitchell, Mary Peterson, Karla Anderson, Pam Olson, JoAnn Lowrie, and Chun-Yin (Chewy) Chong.

Our “Marley” The “Readers Digest” condensed version

By Christie Fox, Blue Earth County

This story starts out with my husband wanting a hunting dog. I also wanted a dog; one that does not shed....hmmm let me think...what about a Labradoodle. No shed from the poodle, and hunting from the lab. Perfect mix. Our search ended up at a kennel north of St. Cloud and South of Little Falls. We looked at a litter of puppies. I picked out the puppy that I liked: cute, mellow, sweet little female. My husband Dennis picked out the puppy he liked: nose to the ground, running all over the office, behind file cabinets, under the chairs and busy all the time. My husband thought she would be a good hunter. We went home to think it over.

We had our foreign exchange student living with us at the time, so one evening her and Dennis got in the car drove up and picked up the puppy. We ended up with the puppy that my husband, Dennis, thought would be the better hunter, the BUSY, nose to the ground puppy. We named her “Marley.” That was our first mistake. If any of you have read the book, or seen the movie, you know why. From that day forward, our lives were filled with “Marley” activities. Was she cute?...oh yes! Was she busy?...oh yes! What follows is a partial list of all the things that our “Marley” has destroyed or done. Prices are approximate ☺

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chewed Rugs - \$200 | TV Remote controls - \$75 | Yard Solar Lights - \$25 |
| Ripped up magazines - \$25 | Chewed Shoes - \$50 | Fencing collar - \$125 |
| Camera - \$150 | Edging for landscaping - \$50 | Yard Solar Lamp - \$10 |
| Digital Camera - \$125 | Turtleneck shirt - \$15 | Bed pillows - \$ |
| Fox Welcome sign - \$50 | Island bar stools - \$180 | 20 Bras - \$80 |
| Sliding Door screen - \$20 | Baseball hat - \$30 | Movie DVD's - \$100 |
| Music CD's - \$45 | Chewed leashes - \$25 | Glass Candle décor - \$55 |
| Son's girlfriend's car detail - \$125 | | |

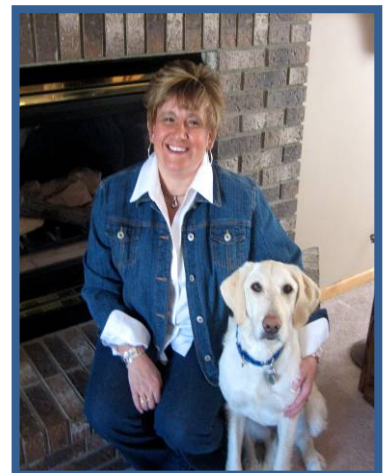
I am sure there is more, I just cannot remember all the items.

We have a home magazine (weekly shopper with ads) which is delivered weekly. In our neighborhood, it is usually delivered by two nice kids. Miss Marley sits very nicely in the driveway, wagging her tail when she see's the delivery kids coming. Of course they think it is cute that she is waiting for them to deliver the paper. Little do they know when they give Marley the paper, thinking she is going to carry it to us in the house, that she will have it destroyed in under 2 minutes..... UGH....our yard looks like it has just snowed! As I am picking up all the shredded paper she comes over by me with the look on her face, like didn't I do a nice job of ripping up all the paper? Now, let's play ball.

She has to be busy all the time....chewing, ripping up something, whether it is something of value to us, or the garbage. I have so many “Marley” stories that I wish I would have kept notes, as I could have written the next “Marley and Me” book.

Even though she has destroyed many items, and has gotten into a ton of mischief, the love that she gives back is PRICELESS...did I just say priceless....well maybe not priceless.

PS. She is a good hunter.



What have I done.....?

By Christie Fox, Blue Earth County

During a winter conversation with my husband Dennis, we were talking about what would help Marley settle down. He mentioned to me maybe a playmate would be helpful. That was all I needed to hear, and out to the web sites I went.

After a couple of months of searching on Petfinders.com there was this picture of a dog at the Buffalo, MN shelter that had been turned into the shelter with another dog that a lady found in or near an abandon house. The shelter named them "Kalvin" and "Kline". I took one look at Kalvin's picture and called my best friend and said...I think we need to take a road trip. I called the shelter to make sure Kalvin was still there and said I will be there when you open on Saturday to meet him.

My best friend and I loaded the car with Marley and her dog Izzie, a goldendoodle. When we got to the shelter there was another lady looking at Kalvin and walking around with him outside. Oh boy, with my luck she will probably take him. The shelter had said that they had a lot of interested parties in him. After approximately one half hour she took some pictures of him and left.

OK, now it was our turn to meet Kalvin. The lady from the shelter took us into a small room to meet him. He was wagging his tail, came over laid down by me and put his head on my lap...THAT WAS IT....my heart just melted. My best friend said to me...I think you better take him. I told the shelter that I would like to have him, and they said that he has to meet the other dogs in the family first. That would be "MARLEY"...oh boy...Marley...oh boy. Will she behave? She has been cooped up in the car for 3 hours....oh boy...here we go. I informed the lady that our other dog was in my car, so we took Kalvin out to meet Marley to make sure they would get along. My heart was just a racing. Please be good Marley....please....behave....be a good girl Marley. I took her out of the car and to my amazement she was just fine. We have been to obedience class with her, so I started walking around the parking lot telling her to heel, sit etc. She really did not pay much attention to Kalvin. When the lady from the shelter decided that we would let the dogs "greet" each other they did just fine. WHEW....thank goodness. She said that I could adopt Kalvin. He had to have his boy surgery, so I could not take him home for a few days.

On the way home I was whining to my girlfriend, I hope I made the right decision, I know nothing about this dog...no history...NOTHING. What have I done! Another dog to take care of...what if he is just like Marley....what if he is not housebroken...what if....what if. Enough of the what ifs! I told the shelter I would take him and that was that. Wednesday, the day the shelter said I could come and get him, arrived and we (my best friend and I) went to pick him up and bring him home. That was March 3rd.

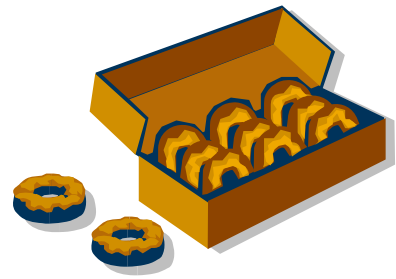
Since that time, "Reggie" (his new name) has filled my heart with more love than you can imagine. He is just a wonderful dog. He comes when he is called. He takes treats very gently. He loves kids. He does not shed. He is a good listener. He is very patient. He loves to snuggle, and has not damaged one thing in the house. How lucky I am to have adopted such a special dog.

Why anyone would have not taken care of him, dumped him, or lost him is beyond me. Everyone that has met him can not believe he is from a shelter and what a great dog he is. And my reply is ...I know...I just love him. Marley does too. ☺



Costly Doughnuts

by
Charlotte Britney, Itasca County



Itasca County Assessor's Department is happy to announce that we have a new Administrative Secretary. Her name is Vicki Dabill, pronounced "day-bill". She fits right in with our "crazy" crew - works hard and enjoys laughing about all the crazy things we have to deal with. She had lots of prior knowledge so basically hasn't needed any training for the projects put in front of her. She anticipates projects before they even come up. No bumps in the road and since nothing has gone wrong, we haven't had anything to tease her about.

Now compare that with MY experience. The first Friday I was here, I thought it would be nice if I bought doughnuts for the office. I thought this wouldn't be very costly even though I wouldn't be getting a check for three weeks. This was to celebrate my first week and the weekend was upon us. So off I went to Ogles for some of their great bakery items. This is where it becomes funny to some and embarrassing to me.

On the drive back to work there are two stop signs - I know where they are and have never missed stopping for them. But this day there was a huge blinking letter road sign in the middle of the next block on the sidewalk off to the right. As I came to the intersection I slowed down, looked all ways, and tried to read the rolling information on the sign to determine if I was able to proceed on to the next block or if I had to detour. After determining that I wouldn't have to make any detours I continued on.

In the middle of the next block I met the local police car and thinking nothing negative about it, continued on my way. Well, he put on his lights took a u-turn in the street. I pulled over thinking that he was going to go right by me in pursuit of an emergency call. Much to my surprise he pulled up behind me, got out of his vehicle and approached my car. With my most polite voice I asked him "What is wrong officer?" He said "Did you realize that you just blew that stop sign?" Now I immediately became "stupid" and proceeded to tell him, "No sir, I did stop and looked for traffic", and that I had also been trying to decipher the scrolling road sign. He said that the way he saw it, I had rolled through the stop sign (now that is a little different than blowing a stop sign but I certainly wasn't going to say anything at this point). He proceeded to write me a ticket and then said that I could request a court date and probably get out of it if I wanted to.

I came back to the office and went immediately up to the courts and asked how much the ticket would cost. I cringed when they told me \$90. I thought to myself that that was costly enough and wouldn't pursue the court situation because if I lost, it would be even more expensive.

When I went back down to the office with the doughnuts everyone in the office was laughing - and I knew it was about me. It turned out that two of my fellow co-workers had gone past me while I was pulled over and came back to report to all the others. Of course they wanted to hear the whole story of my "crime".

Those were the most expensive doughnuts I have ever bought!



Life Lessons from a day in the life of a 3 Year Old...



Drama Queen

By
Kristi Botzek – Sherburne County

- 1) Waking up at 6:30am, even if being awakened by a hug and a kiss, entitles you to throw the nearest heavy object at anyone in sight.
- 2) Spongebob Squarepants cartoons must be watched on the living room TV for at least half an hour before anyone is allowed to talk to you.
- 3) Don't even think about getting dressed until you have a cup of water and a bag of dry cereal set next to you. Then put your clothes on backwards or inside out because that's the way it's supposed to be.
- 4) You don't have to comb your hair or brush your teeth because "you don't care".
- 5) When riding in a vehicle, if someone says the wrong thing and you can't reach anything to throw, just use your shoe.
- 6) If you don't like the dinner choice, lay on the floor, scream, and spin in circles, until you realize no-one is watching. Then eat your dinner, but don't forget to feed most of it to the dog under the table.
- 7) Bathwater is supposed to be on the bathroom floor, not in the bathtub.
- 8) Toothpaste was invented as an art supply to color all over the counters, sink and mirror.
- 9) Bedtime is not a real time.
- 10) When in trouble: just smile, bat your eyes, and run. Mom will never know it was you!



~~All information provided by my beautiful daughter, Macy Kay!~~

IT COULDN'T COME SOON ENOUGH, BUT WHEN IT DID

By

Barb Osmundson, Freeborn County

I think we would all have to agree we just went through the winter from (that place). Experts say it was a usual winter, the fact being we got used to global warming and different weather patterns.



I remember walking one of the dogs on New Year's Eve looking at the "Blue Moon" and thinking that I would remember that night when the heat of summer came and the mosquitoes would be eating me alive. The air was bitterly cold and the snow was crunching as we walked. Unfortunately that night continued on and on and on with the endless snow alternating with the relentless cold. As March 1st approached I thought only one month to go. Then something miraculous happened, we got through March without a snowstorm. Everyone who had not traveled to a warmer climate were waiting for the other shoe to drop and we thought we would experience some type of weather phenomena during the month of April but it just continued to grow more tolerable with each passing day.

Now that May has passed it seems unreal that all the boats are on the lake and have been since the first part of May. Usually you do not see ski jets or water skiers until around mid June however we seem to be experiencing one of the warmest springs that I can remember. Everything seems to be bigger and brighter. The flowers have been spectacular, the rainbow we sat and watched was so vivid we felt like we could reach up and touch it. The birds start singing at 4:30 A.M. and seem to go non-stop all day. My grass has never been so thick and green. In fact if it gets anymore lush I might have to stop the lawn service. Sitting and watching the lake it is so fascinating to watch the wind making patterns on the water and the sun making it look like a bunch of sparkling diamonds.



I can remember some Memorial Days where we had snow flurries and the thought of a cookout never even entered our minds. This year I was invited to a cookout that was absolutely perfect. We started on the porch with beverages and snacks, engaged in a game of croquet, ate brats and salads and finished up with a bonfire watching the lake and not one state bird (mosquito) bit us. I am sure they will be out in full force now that we have had some rain the last few days.

Since we have experienced such a glorious spring I wonder if summer will be anti climatic. We usually have a standard joke, first comes June, then the 4th of July followed by our county fair in August and then summer is over. That statement drives some of us nuts since it is so true it is irritating. Possibly we will be longing for fall come about August 1st if our spring proceeds into a long hot summer. I have my die hard co-workers that refused to turn their AC on before June which is totally unheard of. I didn't care, when the temp hit 89 degrees and the humidity started to climb I had no qualms about turning it on.

We love to complain, but it is hard to fathom living anywhere else. The weather patterns in Minnesota make life interesting. I hope you all have a wonderful summer and we can only hope the winter of 2010 - 2011 isn't as rough as this one we just experienced.



OVERCOMING CHANGE

By Penny Hermann, Sherburne County

When I started at the county it was an exciting move and quite an adventure! I had been previously laid off with a mortgage closing background and was struggling to find employment. I was excited to get the call (just an hour after my interview with Jackie and Jerry) informing me that I had the job, if I was interested. OH YES! I was!!

The first obstacle that I had to conquer was within my first week of employment I had to tell Jackie that I was pregnant. OH BOY! That was a biggie and I was scared. Interviewing for a new job, getting hired and a doctor's appointment all on the same day just to find out I have to tell my new employer that I'm going to have a baby!

After that shock wore off, my next obstacle was changing positions to the Administrative Assistant I, from the front desk. I knew that with my background in mortgage, I would be challenged and have to learn a lot very quickly! That involved "COURSE A". Oh man, was that ever an eye opening experience! That's when I discovered that I do not know as much as I think I know even after passing my test in course A.

With all the hype of the Green Acres Laws that have changed, my days of answering the phone and being "helpful" I believed were OVER. This was by far the greatest challenge. With all the changes in so little time, it was difficult to explain to callers what the letters meant and what it was exactly that we needed. Now, it is clear and most of the confusion for both, me and taxpayers, is minimal.

When I was told about MAAP, I was excited to LEAVE THE HOUSE without kids or a husband. I actually looked forward to the time away, yes even with co-workers. The time away gave me a chance to see another side of the job that is fun and educational all at the same time.

With life, my 4 year old Parker, 18 year old Carter and soon to be 16 year old Tori, there is NO lack of excitement. One is graduating, the other starting to drive and the third, preschool. It's been a whirlwind of emotions and quite the roller coaster ride!



Parker & Carter



Tori in Hockey-2009

With work, my 5 year Sherburne County anniversary is approaching, I look back and think about all the good days and how far my family and my job have taken me. In these days of our economy, I'm thankful to have this job and look forward to many more years.

MINNESOTA ▪ REVENUE

Notes from the Department

An Update from the Property Tax Division

Michael Stalberger

Information and Education Section

The CCC's of Assessing

We all know there are a lot of S's in the word "assessing", but for this article I would like to focus on another letter that is just as important for those of us who work in assessing. Assessors must possess numerous traits, but there are three that stand above if we want a fully-functioning property tax system. If you attended the most recent Summer Seminars in St. Cloud, John Hagen and Gordon Folkman talked about the importance of consistency and collaboration; I'd like to add the value of customer service.

Consistency. We all know how important it is to strive to ensure consistency for all taxpayers – throughout your counties, but also across counties. We had new legislation this year (to be mentioned in a bit) that was a direct reaction to inconsistent property tax treatment for a taxpayer with property in more than one county. Surely, the property tax in Minnesota is very complex, but part of our job is to make sure we understand the laws of the state and fully administer them. To that end, we need another "C" – collaboration.

Collaboration. In order to fully administer the property tax laws, we need to work together to be sure we all understand what is expected by the Legislature. We all need to be sure we are applying the same standards and practices to administer the laws. The department is trying to be very proactive in this regard. We are adding courses and workshops (the Office Administrative Support/Assessment Personnel Workshop is a prime example – more on that in a bit), as well as other offerings. We also work to bring in assessors on working groups and committees, and we are building on our relationships with MAAO and MAAP. We hope that counties and assessors are fostering this same environment. If you ever have a question on what a certain law really means or how a certain program should be administered, don't hesitate to contact others in neighboring counties for their opinion or us at the department.

Customer Service. This one is the make-it-or-break-it trait in my opinion, and it is especially important for all you folks in the positions you are in. Will consistency and collaboration improve the assessment in the eyes of the taxpayer if they are on the receiving end of poor (or no) customer service? I have no doubt you all work very diligently to provide the best service to all your taxpayers, but providing customer service is one part of our jobs that is always there. You should just keep it in mind and make sure you can end every encounter with a taxpayer (and your co-workers and other assessment colleagues) feeling like you provided them with the best assistance you could. I am fully aware that there are some taxpayers that are never going to be satisfied, and that is another matter for another article. For most of them, however, great customer service can go a long way in helping them understand the world of property taxes and feel better about their questions.

MAAP Summer Workshop

The division will be presenting at the upcoming workshop in August in Willmar. We plan on providing the group with a comprehensive review of the new laws. New this year, we will be providing the group with our four-hour Ethics course on Friday morning. The Ethics course is

required for any licensed assessor, but it will likely be an informative and beneficial seminar for any assessment professional.

The course has been recently updated and emphasizes professional conduct and standardized assessment practices within an ethical context. Numerous case studies, scenarios, and discussion points have been added to allow for the participants to think through the dilemmas presented and relate them to their own professional and personal lives. Instead of teaching “what not to do,” this course should help you to think about “what to do.” If you have ever been in a situation where you weren’t sure which solution was the right one, this course may help you with that. If you’re curious to figure out how a “coffee shop dilemma,” correcting a County Board Commissioner, and determining how to implement state guidelines can be related in a course about ethics, you’ll just have to wait until August find out.

Changes at the Property Tax Division

As you all likely know, Gordon Folkman has retired from his position as the Director of the division. If you ever had the opportunity to meet Gordon, you know he is an intelligent and personable man who genuinely cared about property taxes. He is the ultimate collaborator, always willing to work with anyone who shared the same goal of getting the best results for whatever problem was at hand. His leadership will be a great starting point for John Hagen, who has now been appointed Director. You all likely know John very well, so it goes without saying that we know he is more than capable of continuing Gordon’s positive leadership of the division. He also brings even more experience and knowledge of property taxes and assessment to the position. I can only see more positive results under his leadership.

With these two transitions, among others, the division will be experiencing some changes. We have several openings (John’s assistant director position which will prove to be challenging to fill considering what he did in that role, as well as some Regional Representative positions) that will need to be filled. I am confident we will find some exceptional individuals who will be ready and willing to work with the assessment community. As these positions are filled, you’ll likely see some changes, but we will be sure to keep you informed. It’ll be an exciting few months for the Property Tax Division.

And Finally...

A couple of additional notes: First, this article was actually submitted on time! If you remember from the last issue, I planned my New Year’s Resolution to be timely Communicator submissions. It looks like I made it – and this might be the longest I’ve kept a resolution! Second, it appears – due to popular demand – a Remy update is in order. He just celebrated his second birthday. He *might* be growing up some. His digging has gone way down (no pun intended), but now he seems to fill his time moving rocks from around my house. It is cases like these that I’m glad to be his “uncle” rather than his “owner”. But I’ve outsmarted him; I’m replacing the rocks with wood chips. At least those will be easier to run over with the lawnmower. And it gives me a project to work on this summer!

The Property Tax Division, and myself especially included, enjoy collaborating with you all – and everyone else in the assessor’s office – to make sure taxpayers throughout the state are receiving consistent and uniform property tax treatment. Thanks so much for what you do to help ensure this, and as always, please let us know if there is something the department can do to help. I’ll do what I can to help or will point you in the right direction. I’m most easily reached by email because I’m often away from the office visiting counties, so send me a message at michael.stalberger@state.mn.us or you can try to reach me at 651-556-6071.

MINNESOTA • REVENUE

2010 New Laws of Note

Michael Stalberger
Information and Education Section

The legislative session ended one day late (we had a one-day special session this year to finalize the budget deals reached late at night on the last day), and it was rather light in terms of property taxes. I mean “light” in terms of the number of provisions that affect our jobs, not in terms of the ramifications of the changes. There were about 60 different provisions, but most of these were technical or administrative in nature that you won’t really notice. There are some, however, that you should be aware of.

We saw changes to when and how assessors can testify in Tax Court. This was a needed change based on some recent court decisions. Exemption of property also saw some changes – including charter schools, leased federal lands, and exempt application requirements. Green Acres and Rural Preserve saw some minor changes. The “decision deadline” was extended and the department’s valuation methodology was expanded. Enrollment in the Rural Preserve program has been made easier and the covenant termination withdrawal period has been reduced.

There were some changes to agricultural and rural lands. Linking parcels in certain instances for the agricultural homestead first tier value is now allowed. This new law was a consequence of inconsistent homestead treatment in counties and will likely have some significant administrative issues. We have new direction in classifying the commercial boarding of horses, a new deadline for the Metropolitan Agricultural Preserve program, and changes to the second half tax payment date.

Other miscellaneous changes involve the minimum amount for splitting the annual property tax amount into two installments and to the class 4c(11) Marinas and class 1c Ma and Pa Resorts classifications. Finally, the Legislature has created a working group to investigate ways to simplify the property tax system, make recommendations on ways to make the system more understandable, and provide other recommendations.

The following notes describe law changes made during the 2010 legislative session that directly relate to you as assessment personnel. These and the provisions that were technical or administrative in nature that will be covered in the division’s New Laws Summary. Consult that for full information on all the changes. Also note these, and other changes, will be covered in detail at the MAAP Summer Conference. Consider this a preview to whet your appetite...

- Assessor testimony – Assessors are now able to perform appraisals of property, review the original assessment and determine the accuracy of the original assessment, prepare an appraisal or appraisal report, and testify before any court or other body as an expert or otherwise on behalf of the assessor's jurisdiction with respect to properties in that jurisdiction.
- Green Acres – the deadline to withdraw class 2b Rural Vacant Land from the Green Acres program without a payback of deferred taxes was extended to August 16, 2010. Additionally, if a parent had been a member of an LLC and the property enrolled in Green Acres is transferred to a son or daughter of that member, deferred taxes on 2b lands are no

longer due. Finally, the department has been directed to consult with the University of Minnesota to determine an agricultural value for Green Acres purposes, and the county assessor is also now directed to consult with the department and determine the relative value of agricultural land for each assessment district.

- Rural Preserve – The conservation management plan required is redefined as a “conservation assessment plan”. This is intended to further the original purpose of the program which was to “keep it green”. The conservation management plan required a plan writer to physically walk the property. The “conservation assessment plan” makes it more cost effective and easier to enter into the Rural Preserve program, without making any substantive changes in the requirements. Finally, the property owner is now required to provide three year’s notice before terminating the covenant. (The covenant must be in place for at least eight years, meaning a minimum of five years enrolled, then three year’s notice to terminate the covenant). This time line is closer to that of SFIA.
- Agricultural homestead first tier value linking – This new law provides that agricultural property owned by a family farm corp., joint farm venture, LLC, or partnership that is contiguous to an individual’s class 2a owner-occupied homestead (or, if non-contiguous, is located in the same township or city, or not farther than four townships or cities or a combination thereof from the class 2a homestead), may receive the first tier homestead class rate up to the maximum market value on any remaining market value not received on the shareholder’s member’s, or partner’s homestead class 2a property. The owner must notify the county assessor by July 1 that they have property which may qualify for taxes payable the next year. This new law was a consequence of inconsistent homestead treatment in counties. The department is working to provide direction to counties regarding this new provision, which will likely have some significant administrative issues.
- Commercial boarding of horses – The new law provides that commercial boarding of horses, which may include related horse training and riding instruction, may be an agricultural product if the boarding is done on property that is also used for raising pasture to graze horses or cultivating other agricultural products. The agricultural classification is not applicable to tack shops or trail riding; rather it allows that pasture land used for these horses may count towards the ten-acre requirement of agricultural products.
- Metropolitan Agricultural Preserves – The application date for metropolitan agricultural preserves is now June 1 (from March 1) to qualify for the next year’s taxes. For the 2010 assessment year, the application date is extended to August 1.
- Marshall County special agricultural homestead – Provides a special agricultural homestead for class 2a homestead property located in Marshall County that was class 2a homestead but was abandoned due to March 2009 floods. Similar provisions have been enacted in response to past natural disasters, and the same rules apply in this instance that applied in those.
- Class 2a and 2b tax payment dates – Only properties with class 2a land will be eligible for a second-half due date of November 15. 2b class properties will have a second-half payment date of October 15. For taxes payable in 2010 and 2011, for any property that was subject to an October 15 due date for taxes payable in 2009, the county shall not impose (or shall abate) penalty amounts in excess of those that would apply if the second-half due date were still November 15.
- Property tax installment payments – In 2009, a law change raised the minimum amount for splitting the annual property tax amount into two installments from \$50 to \$250. This year, the legislature reduced that amount to \$100.
- Ma and Pa Resorts – If an owner of a class 1c resort ceases to use that resort as a homestead property, but continues to operate it as a resort, and moves to another resort in the same

county both properties will be assessed as a single class 1c resort (with one tier). For this linking, the resort entities must have identical ownership.

- Class 4c(11) Marinas – Properties owned by a marina that does NOT provide a direct access ramp or facility to water, but is located next to public property that does provide the access, can now qualify for this classification.
- Homestead treatment of manufactured home cooperatives – A new trend for manufactured home parks is the creation of cooperatives. A cooperative provides home owners with ownership interest in the land their homes are sitting upon. This new law provides that an entire manufactured home park may qualify for new type of homestead treatment, a reduced class rate on the land, instead of the homestead market value credit. The cooperatives have the same class rate as class 4d (0.75%) if more than 50% of the lots are occupied by shareholders, and a class rate of one percent if 50% or less are occupied by shareholders.
- Charter schools – The changes to law now allow property owned by a nonprofit corporation or association exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(2) or (3) of the Internal Revenue Code; a public school district, college, or university; a private academy, college, university, or seminary of learning; a church; or the state or a political subdivision of the state that is leased to a charter school for a period of at least 12 consecutive months for use to provide direct instruction, special education, or administrative services directly related to the educational program to qualify for exemption. If the property is not owned by one of the above entities, the property may still qualify for exemption – there are several requirements to meet, the most important being that the terms of the lease must require nothing more than a nominal consideration (something less than the cost to break even) for use of the building.
- Leased federal lands – In 2008, legislation was enacted that allowed government-owned leased lands to be exempt by county resolution if they had been exempted as of January 2, 2008. This legislation was the result of inconsistent assessment practices, because it codified those inconsistent practices. The new law provides that all leased federal lands used for non-commercial purposes are exempt from taxation. There is no longer an option to exempt these lands, as there is for state, county, and local lands. This is for lands only, not buildings.
- Exempt application requirements – Churches, houses of worship, property used solely for educational purposes by academies, colleges, universities, or seminaries of learning are required to file a statement of exemption. These properties are only required to file once and it does not apply to existing properties that were exempt for taxes payable in 2011. Only properties owned by the state or a political subdivision of the state are not required to file a statement.
- Property Tax Principles and Working Group – The Legislature has determined it wants the tools necessary to create a more accountable and efficient property tax system. It has directed the department to form a property tax working group to investigate ways to simplify the property tax system, make recommendations on ways to make the system more understandable, and provide other recommendations. The group will have members from several stakeholder groups and must finish its work and make recommendations by February 1, 2012.



**MAAP BUSINESS MEETING
DECEMBER 4, 2009**

Call To Order:

The Minnesota Association of Assessment Personnel met Friday, December 4, 2009 at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria, Minnesota. The meeting was hosted by the City of Maple Grove. President Shayla Strack called the meeting to order.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary Barbara Wendt asked the membership if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. There were none indicated and with a motion to accept the minutes by Mitzi Wicklund and a second from Cathy Emerson, the minutes were approved as published in The Communicator.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Barbara Wendt asked the membership if there were any corrections or additions to the financial statement. There was one correction changing the speaker's name on the August minutes from Greta Grosch to Karla Heeter. Mitzi Wicklund made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report with this minor correction and Cathy Emerson seconded the motion. Motion carried and the Treasurer's Report was approved.

Committee Reports:

Chairperson Chris Fox gave the Education Committee report. The Education committee met October 2, 2009 to review program agenda items for the next summer seminar which is scheduled for August 19-20, 2010 at the Willmar Holiday Inn. The committee is working on finalizing the program agenda and will work with the Department of Revenue to incorporate the Assessor Ethics course at this workshop as required every four years for all assessor licenses.

Editor Judy Liddell gave The Communicator report. She encouraged everyone to continue submitting fun and interesting articles for our Communicator publication. The October Communicator awards resulted in a tie for second place, so there are actually three winners for this issue. The winners of the \$25 awards are: October 2008: "Friends, co-workers and neighbors" – Joan Seelen & Chris Fox; "She said, "I made it back in time and finished." – Joan Seelen; and "Common Clichés and Phrases"– Julie Shelstad. June 2009: "Gone to the Dogs" – Barb Osmundson and "All I Ever Really Needed to Know I Learned in Assessing" – Melanie Taillefer.

Joanna Campbell gave the Historian report. Please continue to mail pictures and items of interest to Joanna. She will bring the books to the summer workshop each year for our review.

Old Business:

Judy Liddell e-mailed the updated pictorial directory to all MAAP members by the end of November. Any members who wish to add or change their picture in the directory can contact Judy, (judyl@co.morrison.mn.us). She will be available to retake pictures at our future workshops.

The second order of old business was the 2009 summer workshop evaluations. The evaluations were very positive. The evaluation responses are important for future seminar development. We are always looking for input from the membership to continue to help us learn and grow.

Julie Shelstad, Shayla Strack and Jason Vaith were invited to attend the MAAO Executive Board meeting in November to present information about our organization and to thank them for continuing to support of the MAAP organization.

New Business:

The Education Committee will meet in the spring to do a final tour of the summer seminar site and finalize program details for the registration packets.

The members discussed the MAAP sponsorship with the Department of Revenue “Office Administration Support/Assessment Personnel Workshop” in Alexandria in November. There was a very positive response to workshop offering, and the 50 registration limit was met very quickly. A waiting list of about 35 interested registrants was started, and a second workshop session is being considered for Winter 2010. MAAP will continue to work with the Department of Revenue to promote educational opportunities for its membership.

The next order of new business was to find a volunteer host for the 2010 winter meeting. Stearns County and the City of St. Cloud will join forces to host the winter MAAP meeting Friday, December 3, 2010 in St Cloud. More information will follow by summer seminars.

Miscellaneous:

Members are urged to continue submitting suggestions for future speakers and topics for MAAP summer seminars. Please let her know if you have any good suggestions for speakers or presentations that would be pertinent to our organization.

Adjournment:

Julie Shelstad made a motion to adjourn and Mary Pederson seconded the motion – meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Wendt, CMA
Secretary/Treasurer

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSMENT PERSONNEL

TREASURER'S REPORT 05/31/10

Balance as of 10-14-09

\$ 8,955.54

RECEIPTS

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Dues Paid | \$ 10.00 |
| 2009 Nov. DOR Workshop Registration - Alexandria | \$ 525.00 |
| 2009 Dec. Winter Business Meeting Registration - Alexandria | \$ 725.00 |
| 2010 Feb. DOR Workshop Registration - Bemidji | \$ 2,400.00 |

Total Receipts

\$ 3,660.00

\$ 3,660.00

\$ 12,615.54

DISBURSEMENTS

| | |
|---|-------------|
| 2009 Nov. DOR Workshop Expenses (Alexandria) | \$ 1,883.00 |
| 2009 Dec. Winter Business Meeting Expenses (Alexandria) | \$ 534.91 |
| Communicator Awards (5) | \$ 125.00 |
| 2010 Feb. DOR Workshop Expenses (Bemidji) | \$ 908.71 |
| Refunds for (3) Workshop Registrants | \$ 225.00 |

Total Disbursements

\$ 3,676.62

\$ 3,676.62

BALANCE AS OF 05-31-10

\$ 8,938.92

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara Wendt
Secretary/Treasurer

2010 MAAP WORKSHOP

WILLMAR HOLIDAY INN CONFERENCE CENTER WILLMAR MN AUGUST 19 & 20, 2010

The Education Committee of the Minnesota Association of Assessment Personnel announces its 30th annual workshop.

Enclosed is the information on the workshop topics, instructors, lodging, agenda and C.E.H.'s. Directions and information about the Willmar Holiday Inn may be found on their web site www.holidayinn.com. The address is 2100 East Highway 12, Willmar. You may reach the hotel at 320-235-6060. The hotel fax number is 320-235-4231.

The registration fee is \$75.00. This includes the cost of the 2 day workshop, materials, meals, refreshments and a gathering on Thursday evening that will include hors d'oeuvres. 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 4th 2010. Cancellations will not be refunded after that date. Registration can be faxed with payment to follow at 320-255-7205. Please pass on copies of the registration form and information to any other personnel or office within your city/county that would benefit from the workshop and encourage them to attend.

Please note that you will need to RSVP if you plan on attending the party to include hors d'oeuvres on Thursday evening as we need to order the food accordingly.

ROOM RESERVATIONS

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn. These rooms will be held until August 4th 2010. After this date reservations will be accepted on a space available basis only. If you desire overnight accommodations, please contact the hotel directly at 320-235-6060 and identify our group name MAAP for the rate of \$79.99 per night plus tax for a double queen or king room.

MAAP MEETING

The annual MAAP business meeting will be held at approx. 3:00 pm on Thursday, August 19th, 2010. An officer's meeting will be held immediately after the business meeting. This will be for both incoming and outgoing officers.

C.E.H.'s

The State Board of Assessors has approved 10 CEH'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 with cheese served with your choice of bacon, sliced ham or sausage patties, American fries, caramel and cinnamon rolls, sliced fresh seasonal fruit, coffee and chilled juice. On Thursday, there will be a Deli Buffet and a sweet and salty snack break on Thursday afternoon. There will also be a party gathering on Thursday evening in the hospitality room that will include a variety of hors d'oeuvres. Please indicate on the registration form if you will be attending this gathering.

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:

Shayla Strack, President, 320-632-0102, shaylas@co.morrison.mn.us

Jason Vaith, Vice President, 320-656-3692, Jason.vaith@co.stearns.mn.us

Barb Wendt, Sec./Treas., 320-255-7203, barbara.wendt@ci.stcloud.mn.us

Julie Shelstad, Past President, 320-632-0105, julies@co.morrison.mn.us

Christie Fox, Exec. Board Member At Large, 507-304-4238, Christie.fox@co.blue-earth.mn.us

Joy Michaelson, Education Board Member At Large, 320-589-7407, joymichaelson@co.stevens.mn.us

Barb Osmundson, Education Board Member At Large, 507-377-5176, barb.osmundson@co.freeborn.mn.us

Jennifer Becker, Conference Coordinator, 320-864-1269, jennifer.becker@co.mcleod.mn.us

**MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSMENT PERSONNEL
AUGUST 19 & 20, 2010
HOLIDAY INN CONFERENCE CENTER
WILLMAR MINNESOTA
2010 SUMMER WORKSHOP AGENDA**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2010

8:00 Registration and Breakfast Buffet

9:00 Welcome!! Introductions and Overview

Introductory Remarks – Bill Effertz, President, MAAO and Hennepin County Assistant Assessor

9:30 Department of Revenue - A representative of the Department of Revenue will review the 2010 legislative session and discuss law changes. If time permits, we will also discuss foreclosures issues and have an open forum for any questions those attendees may have.

10:45 FBI Special Agent Ann Raymer – Mortgage Fraud

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Tax Court from A-Z – Bruce Sanders, Retired City of Maple Grove Assessor. Bruce will be speaking on Tax Court from start to finish.

Minnesota property taxpayers have a right to appeal the assessment of their property if they believe the assessment is in error. What forms does the taxpayer need? What happens after the proper forms have been filed? Who represents the county? Bring your questions along.

3:00 MAAP Business Meeting

4:00 MAAP Officers Meeting (Incoming and Outgoing)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 2010

7:30 Breakfast Buffet

8:30 Ethics Course

The Department of Revenue will be leading this course. It was developed in accordance with MN Statutes Sec. 273.0755, which requires all licensed Minnesota Assessors to attend and participate in a seminar that focuses on ethics, professional conduct and the need for standardized assessment practices. This requirement must be met at least once in every four year period.

1:00 End of Workshop

**MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSMENT PERSONNEL
BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA
THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2010**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Secretary's Report - Barb Wendt
 - A. Corrections or Additions? If none, minutes stands 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 - Christie Fox, Chair
 - B. Communicator Committee - Judy Liddell
 - C. Historian - Joanna Campbell
- V. Old Business
 - A. Pictorial Directory - Judy Liddell
 - B. 2010 Winter Meeting - Hosted by Stearns County & City of St. Cloud on Friday, December 3, 2010
- VI. New Business
 - A. 2011 Summer Workshop - Holiday Inn, Duluth, MN
 - B. Ask for volunteer to host 2011 Winter Meeting
 - C. Election of Officers
 - 1. Vice President
 - 2. (2) Education Board Members at Large
 - 3. Historian
- VII. Miscellaneous
 - A. Certificate of Service and Appreciation Awards
 - B. Any other business to discuss?
- VIII. Adjournment

REGISTRATION FORM – MAAP WORKSHOP

August 19th & 20th, 2010
Holiday Inn Willmar MN

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

Barb Wendt
City of St. Cloud Assessor’s Office
400 2nd St. S.
St. Cloud MN 56301

Please use one registration form per person.

| |
|------------------------|
| Name: |
| Employer: |
| Position: |
| Address: |
| |
| |
| Phone Number: |
| Fax Number: |
| E-mail Address: |
| |

| | | |
|--|----------------|---------------------|
| Registration Fee | \$75.00 | |
| MAAP Membership Fee | \$10.00 | |
| Attending Thurs. evening gathering??? | Y or N | <i>(circle one)</i> |
| Total Enclosed | | |

Please return registration form with Payment by August 4, 2010
Please include a self-addressed return envelope with vouchers.

Registration may be faxed with payment to follow at 320-255-7205
Registration may be emailed with payment to follow to
barbara.wendt@ci.stcloud.mn.us