



Message from Dan Whitman

Greetings all,

I really enjoyed the first installment of the MAAO MiNute and look forward to reading it as soon as future issues come out. It is a great avenue to accomplish what I see as MAAO's primary function – to help all MN assessors be better and more consistent in our difficult job. Just in the past couple days I have spoke, and/or interacted, with many fellow assessment personnel on all levels throughout the state. In some cases I was asking others about how they are applying a set of circumstances and in other instances others were asking me what we do. All of these interactions were born out of MAAO. I have met hundreds of fellow assessors from around the state and I never hesitate to reach out to anyone else (and in some cases, for us near the border, we even have relationships across state lines with assessors) to seek help or guidance in doing a better job of seeking equitable application of MN Property Tax laws.

MAAO has set lofty goals over the past several years and I'm so proud of the way we have stepped up to meet these difficult challenges. The MiNute is going to be a great asset in helping us accomplish some of these goals. We still have a huge educational hill to climb before 2019 and we will welcome kind reminders of upcoming opportunities to accomplish required initial education and in meeting continuing education requirements. It appears continuing education requirements will significantly increase in the near future, so once again I will appreciate help in administering all of it.

Continued...

What is the Dan Franklin Scholarship?

In 1998 the Dan Franklin Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in remembrance of Dan Franklin, who was Wilkin County Assessor and Grant County Assessor during his 30 plus years in assessing and served as MAAO President in 1963. Dan Franklin was an education leader for Assessors during his time, being described by some as the "grandfather" of our education system by spearheading many of the beginning educational opportunities for assessors across the state.

The scholarship is awarded annually to one student attending a Minnesota University working towards a degree in Real Estate, preferably with an emphasis in Appraisal. Several of Dan Franklin winners have gone on to be County Assessors themselves including Tina Diedrich-Von Eschen, Kanabec County Assessor (2000 winner) and Karl Lindquist, Grant County Assessor (2007 winner). In future issues of the newsletter we will highlight these winners along with some recent winners.

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Education Highlights

Two new courses recently been added to the [MAAO website!](#)

Advanced Ag Valuation, June 7 - 8, 2017 in St. Cloud, MN. This course provides students with intermediate or advanced experience assessing agricultural properties the skills and knowledge necessary to better understand the **valuation of grain elevators and fertilizer facilities**. The focus is placed on applying the student's knowledge and experience to these complex properties. Students will have a better understanding of the valuation of these properties and will develop confidence to apply the knowledge from this course in their assessments. [Register Now!](#)

IAAO 312—Commercial/Industrial Modeling Concepts, November 6 - 10, 2017 in Chanhassen, MN. Course 312 presents a detailed study of the mass appraisal process as applied to income-producing property. Topics include income property data, market analysis, sales comparison approach, cost approach, gross and net income analysis, capitalization rate development, model specification and calibration, and value review maintenance. [Register Now!](#)

Department of Revenue Updates

- 2017 Property Tax Calculation Exam Now Available. See 2/1/2017 email for more information
- Counties are no longer required to submit the State General Tax Annual Report. See 1/20/2017 email for more information.

Don't forget to check out the latest issue of [Equal Eyes](#) for information about the "Frozen in Time" Photo Contest! Deadline: March 1, 2017



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I am also looking forward to hearing what our MAAO leaders are working on in so many other areas in which MAAO plays a huge role including legislation which seems to affects us yearly and so I hope through regular updates we can be better prepared to handle those ever changing rules.

I so appreciate all the fellow assessors who I interact with and hope you all enjoy the MAAO family as much as I do.

Dan Whitman

New County Assessor



Jean Sowada-Popp
Appointed Morrison County Assessor in December 2016.

Ideas for the next Monthly Newsletter?

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