

FRONTLINE

"Increasing Awareness of Assessment Administration Through Frontline Communication"

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2002-2003 Chapter Officers

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2003 IAAO CHARITABLE PROJECT

The Official Kentucky Officials' Cookbook

Our cookbook is in the process of being printed at this very moment. We are all very excited about this project. Thanks to everyone who submitted recipes to our committee members.

The cookbook should be ready for sale at the summer conference. The cost will be \$15.00 and it will be worth every penny. There are recipes of all types from peanut butter sandwiches to possum with venison stuffing. Remember that half of the proceeds are going to the Ronald McDonald House while the other half will be used for scholarships awarded by our chapter.

The committee worked long hours to make this possible. Please take the time to thank Cindy Meholovitch, Stacey Ewalt, Susan Bailey, and Patsy Conway for typing all of the recipes that were submitted. We ended up with over 700 recipes. Also thanks to the proofreaders of the recipes. The project would not be possible without their dedication. We have ordered 1000 cookbooks and we expect to sell even more. Please start thinking about people that you can sell our books to so that we can make our charitable project a success this year.

OPERATION PHONE HOME SUCCESSFUL

I want to take this opportunity on behalf of Donna Seeberger and myself to thank everyone who helped make our operation phone card project to our military troops a huge success. The total number of minutes that we collected was over 29,000. Once again our membership amazes me with how large everyone's heart is. No one ever dreamed that we would collect that many minutes to send to our troops. We spoke to several families of the troops that we sent cards to and they were so appreciative and asked me to thank the chapter on behalf of them. Several people sent me addresses of loved ones that were overseas and I sent a letter of appreciation from the chapter along with phone cards to them first. Once again thanks again. Our chapter is the greatest.

Nancy Bock, President

**Executive Committee
2002-2003**

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NASHVILLE MAGIC: 2003 IAAO CONFERENCE

Nashville Magic is the theme of IAAO's 69th annual International Conference on Assessment Administration being held Sept. 14-17th in Nashville. Everyone is encouraged to attend. This year's conference promises to offer a lot of opportunities for people who haven't attended in the past because of distance.

The IAAO Conference is packed with information valuable to anyone in the property tax assessment business. Whatever the need, it will be addressed in one of the workshops, which cover all of the latest assessment issues and the use of state of the art technology. And of course the benefits of meeting assessors from around the country, who are faced with similar situations, offer a unique learning experience for the assessment professional.

Most conference events are being held at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Nashville, but the Kentucky Chapter is making the Doubletree Hotel its conference headquarters. The Doubletree is only two blocks away from the main conference hotel. If you haven't already made reservations at the Doubletree, you should do so now to make sure you get the special room rate of \$89.00. The other two conference hotels, the Sheraton and the Renaissance, are \$110 and \$135, respectively. You can make reservations at the Doubletree on-line or call 615-244-8200.

The Kentucky Chapter of IAAO is hosting a membership appreciation party with the Tennessee Chapter of IAAO and the hosts of next year's IAAO Conference, the Boston Local Host Committee, Monday night at the Sheraton. All conference attendees are invited. Watch the next issue of Frontline for more details.

Remember to show your colors at the IAAO conference with official Kentucky Chapter apparel. There are many new styles to choose from and reduced prices on t-shirts and golf shirts.

If you are planning on attending the conference, be sure to register by June 30 for the lowest rate. If you did not receive registration information in the mail, you can register on-line at IAAO's website, www.iaao.org. The website also contains hotel information and a link to the host committee's website (check that out to find out all the neat stuff you can do while you're there!).

This is probably the closest the conference will ever get to Kentucky, so don't miss this opportunity to attend.

A Letter From Your President

Can you believe that it is less than a month before our summer conference? My year as president is already half over and it seems like just yesterday that I was taking my oath of office.

Our chapter has once again opened their hearts to help with a project that was dear to my heart. We collected over 29,000 phone card minutes for our troops overseas. I am so proud of all of you. Thanks to everyone who helped with this worthwhile cause. Also a special thank you to Donna Seeberger for serving as chairman of this project for me.

Next month the cookbooks will be ready for sale. I am asking that every deputy and PVA help us sell these cookbooks for our chapter. The profits will be split with the Ronald McDonald House and our education fund for the chapter. The price will be \$15.00 for each cookbook. I want to thank Stacey, Cindy, Patsy, Susan and Dawn for their help in making this project a reality.

The IAAO Conference is going to be held in Nashville this September. Please make plans to join us in Nashville. The conference will probably not ever be this close again so lets show the world how great and strong our Kentucky Chapter is. The Doubletree in Nashville will be the official Kentucky headquarters. Also on Monday night we are going to host a joint reception and dance with the Tennessee chapter. Please plan on joining us for the great fellowship with our neighboring state.

I want to also report that our membership has grown this year. We are

currently at 381 members with 114 out of the 120 counties represented. I am not giving up on my goal of 100% participation. Please help me make this a reality with the six counties that have not joined.

Finally, I want to thank everyone for helping me make our year a success so far. Every member is special to me and I treasure being your president. Thanks to all of my officers for always being there for me.

I will see you all in Northern Kentucky. Remember the meeting is on Wednesday, June 4th. Please make plans on attending.

Nancy

Letter from the Vice President

Spring. The sounds of spring are everywhere as I take my daily walk: distant rumbles of thunder, lawn mowers droning through their never ending chores, and... assessment notices!

What sound does an assessment notice make? For me, it sounds like one of my neighbors booming, "Well, what do you think about that PVA now?"

For a moment I have the urge to quicken my pace and ignore him. But I stop to find a big barrel-chested man who is intent on venting whether anyone is listening or not. He has done his homework, at least insofar as

knowing who in the neighborhood has gotten tagged with the steepest increases. "And do you know what she told me? She says the Revenue Cabinet is making her put everyone on at ninety percent. Ninety Percent!"

At this point I decide it is time to move on. This conversation is definitely not going my way. Thank goodness this guy has no idea where I work!

The thought that I am left with after this awkward encounter is that spring must be a difficult time of year to be PVA. A tough job gets a lot more difficult when thousands of people have just received their assessment notices. Being PVA in the spring must be like being in one of those old westerns where there is an indian hiding behind every rock.

But the job must have its rewards or we wouldn't have any PVAs. For one thing, you have the opportunity to belong to the greatest IAAO Chapter in the world. And having a friend in every county gives new meaning to the term, "commonwealth".

So hang in there, friends, this spring storm will surely pass.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Covington,

Nick



COMMITTEE REPORTS

DESIGNATION COMMITTEE

The Designation Committee met January 14 and 15 at Lake Barkley State Park. The committee decided to do a mailing to individuals who have completed coursework for a designation program or only need one or two courses to complete coursework for a designation program. The intent of this letter was to encourage individuals who are currently candidates to complete their program or for those who have completed work in a program to obtain candidacy and work toward their designation. We would like to take as many members as possible to the IAAO conference in Nashville this fall. The Executive Committee has agreed to put up a \$100 cash incentive to any chapter member who receives a designation this year!

After corresponding with the Education Committee and Education and Research Branch, these letters were mailed on April 24, 2003. As stated in our letter, "We feel the knowledge, experience, and self esteem gained from completing a professional designation program would be beneficial to our membership."

Anyone interested in an IAAO designation can contact the designation committee. You can also obtain information on IAAO's website at www.iaao.org.

Members of the 2003 Designation Committee are Brad Bailey, Ronnie Heady, Marc McLean, Cheryl Roberts, Patti Royster, and Jay Woods. I would like to thank the Kentucky Chapter of IAAO and our President, Nancy Bock, for selecting me to serve this year.

Jeff Kelley, Chair

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The main work of the Education Committee during its initial meeting in January was awarding 15 scholarships totaling \$8,324.00.

The education survey for next year will be distributed in August. Please complete and return the survey as soon as you receive it. This survey is a major factor in determining class locations and how many times a class will be held.

Members of the Education Committee are Debbie Boyd, Janice Stokes, Ann Riley, Michael Stafford, Lee Martin, Donna Feese, Nick Kearney and Neila Monroe, Chair.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Members of the Public Relations Committee have been busy since their initial meeting Jan. 14 at Lake Barkley. The committee agreed that the fundraising project for this year would be the "Official Kentucky Officials' Cookbook" and that half the proceeds would go toward the purchase of a big ticket item for Ronald McDonald House. Thanks to the hard work of the Cookbook Committee, recipes have been gathered, typed, and the cookbook has been sent to be printed. We are expecting to have the cookbook available for distribution at Summer Conference and to raise enough money to purchase a big screen TV and DVD player for the Ronald McDonald House in Louisville. The committee also wants to encourage everyone who can to attend the conference in Nashville. It won't be this close again for a long time folks! If you ever thought about going, this is the year!!!

Members of the Public Relations Committee are Lora Bailey, Howel Carr, Jason Chinn, Richard Embry, Kim Holt, Jason Scriber, Renee True, and Cindy Meholovitch, Chair.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

This year has been and will continue to be exciting for all members of the Kentucky Chapter of IAAO. The membership committee and the President, Nancy Bock, have been very busy recruiting members for 2003. Currently, there are 381 members, which is 44 more than last year. There are 114 counties and several Revenue employees represented this year. Thank you for your support of the Kentucky Chapter and the membership committee. Remember the National IAAO meeting in Nashville, Tennessee this fall. Let's all attend to show our support for our great chapter.

It's not too late to join the chapter. Anyone who is interested in joining should contact one of the members of the membership committee. The members of the committee are Perry Stokes, Denise Harper Angel, Jim Lawson, Jason Clark, Dana Bland, Brad McDowell, Linda Farley and Alison Cummings, Chair.

PRICES SLASHED AGAIN! FINAL MARKDOWNS!

The chapter still has plenty of t-shirts, sweatshirts and golf shirts and the prices have never been lower! In a final effort to sell as many shirts as we can, prices have been marked down again.

Golf Shirts \$10.00
Sweatshirts - \$5.00
Henley - \$5.00
Long Sleeve T-Shirt - 2 for \$5.00
Short Sleeve T-Shirt - 2 for \$5.00

Everyone needs at least one chapter shirt for the conference in Tennessee! We will have the shirts on sale at the summer conference, so be sure to check them out!!

COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee has been hard at work filling the slate of officers for the 2003-2004 year.

Vice-President

Jason Scriber - Scriber has been PVA in Henry County since 1997. He is currently serving on the Public Relations Committee and has also served on the Nominating Committee.

Jeff Kelley - Kelley has been PVA in Webster County since 1993. He is currently serving as chair of the Designation Committee and has also served on the Education Committee.

Secretary:

Susan Bailey - Bailey has worked for the Revenue Cabinet since 1992 and prior to that was a deputy in the Fayette County PVA office. She is currently serving her fifth term as Chapter Secretary.

Treasurer:

Mike Whitaker - Whitaker is chief deputy in the Franklin County PVA office. He is currently serving his second term as Treasurer and has served on the Designation and Nominating Committees.

Executive Committee

Cyndi Abrams - Abrams works in the PVA Administrative Support Branch of the Revenue Cabinet. She is currently serving on the Budget Committee and has also served on the Membership Committee.

Alison Cummings - Cummings is a deputy in the Simpson County PVA Office. She is currently serving on the Membership Committee and has also served on the Designation Committee.

Richard Embry - Embry has been PVA in Butler County since 1998. He has been on the Public Relations Committee for three years.

Stacey Ewalt - Ewalt has been with the Revenue Cabinet since 1991. She is currently serving her second term on the Executive Committee and has also served on the Education Committee.

Ron Johnson - Johnson worked as a deputy in the Hopkins County PVA office for 10 years before joining the Department of Property Valuation in 2000. Johnson has served as Vice-President and President of the chapter and is currently serving on the Executive Committee.

Marc McLean - McLean is a deputy in the Franklin County PVA office. He is currently serving on the Designation Committee.

Melinda Mathis - Mathis is chief deputy in the McCracken County PVA office. She is currently serving her first term on the Executive Committee and has also served on the Public Relations Committee.

Cheryl Scarbrough Roberts - Roberts is a deputy in the Logan County PVA office. She is currently serving her third term on the Designation Committee and has also served on the Public Relations Committee.

John Steele - Steele has been PVA in Pendleton County since 2000. He is currently serving on the newly created Budget/Audit Committee.

Nominations will be open through the chapter meeting June 4. Ballots will be distributed in September.

Members of the 2003 Nominating Committee are: Jeff Feese, Chair; Mills Foster; Jerry Hume; Kellie Roberts; and Vince Lang.

STRANEY NOMINATED FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mark Straney, Meade County PVA, has been nominated to run for the IAAO Executive Board. Straney could become the first Kentuckian to serve on the board in fifteen years, since Boone County PVA Chester Henderson back in the late 1980's. Mark served as the sixth president of the Kentucky Chapter of IAAO in 2000-01. All chapter members who are also members of the international organization are urged to support Mark with a vote for the Executive Board!

Below is a list of all the candidates running for office in the upcoming IAAO election.

Vice President

Wayne Trout
Virginia

Executive Board Position #1

David Jackson, AAS
New York

Mark Straney, Meade County PVA Kentucky

Executive Board Position #2

Richard Norejko, CMS
North Carolina

R. Latham Harris, CAE
South Carolina

Executive Board Position #3

John Moreland, RES
Iowa

Sherron Schultz
Maine

Executive Board Position #4

Kathrynn Scheele
Washington

Dolores Cooney, CAE
Montana

CHAPTER MEETS MARCH 5

On Wednesday, March 5, the Kentucky Chapter met in Frankfort at the Water Plant Board. During the meeting Nancy Bock presented Terry Tolan of the United Way with a check for \$800, which we raised from the lap quilt last year. Guest speaker Barry Murphy encouraged everyone to come to Nashville for the IAAO conference and discussed plans for a joint reception. The meeting ended with a surprise 50th birthday celebration for Vice-President Nick Kearney.

CHAPTER MEETING PLANNED FOR SUMMER CONFERENCE

The Kentucky Chapter of IAAO will meet Wednesday, June 4, during the summer conference at the Marriott Inn in Covington. All members are encouraged to attend and catch up on items of interest to the Chapter and national association.

The agenda will include a candidate forum where those running for office in the fall will have an opportunity to address the group. All candidates are listed in the Nominating Committee report on page 5 of this issue. The cookbook should also be ready for distribution.

This year's summer conference will feature an expanded education program with workshops on topics such as GIS, websites, ratios and certification, and ethics. A complete list of topics is in the article below.

The Chapter meeting begins at 2:30 and will be followed by a reception. Everyone mark your calendar and plan to be there.

KENTUCKY GIS CONFERENCE 2003: LOUISVILLE AUGUST 18 - 21

Kentucky's tenth GIS Conference is scheduled for August 18 - 21 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Louisville. The 2003 conference theme is "Ten Years of Discovery", which celebrates the conference tenth anniversary milestone, as well as the bicentennial year of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery's departure from the Louisville area. Last year, nearly 70 PVAs, deputies and Revenue Cabinet employees attended the GIS conference.

This year's conference promises to be more informative than ever. Over 60 presentations are planned for the two day (Aug. 19-20) program, as well as several optional preconference (August 18) and postconference (August 21) workshops. The program will feature a great deal of diversity in topics, at every level from introductory to technical. Presenters from every level of government as well as the private sector will be speaking. Topics submitted for presentation include agriculture, brownfields, business applications, community GIS, education, demographics, flood hazard mapping, geology, geodesy, hydrology, internet applications, landfills, police/

emergency management, planning, policy and trends, parcel mapping, remote sensing, software customizing/conversion, surveying, utilities, water/wastewater mapping, and wildlife management, to name a few. An Executive Track will also be featured on the program, geared toward government officials, managers and others without a prior working knowledge of GIS.

After the recent city-county merger, Louisville is now the 16th largest city in the nation in population. The downtown area has a wide range of activities including dining, shopping, museums, riverfront activities, and people watching. On the evening of the 19th, following a reception, over 100 conference attendees will trek to Slugger Field to watch the Louisville Bats, a AAA affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds, take on the Norfolk Tides, a AAA affiliate of the New York Mets. Tickets will be sold for \$7.00 each through the Office of GIS.

Regardless of background or skill level, the Kentucky GIS Conference has something for everyone, and at \$150 for a full conference registration, it is a bargain.

SUMMER CONFERENCE AGENDA FINALIZED

Plans have been finalized for the 2003 summer conference June 2 - 6 at the Marriott in Covington. Registration will begin Sunday afternoon and continue on Monday. Also on Monday will be the golf tournament.

This year's conference will feature an expanded education program with more classroom hours being offered every day. Tuesday morning from 9:00 - 12:00 three concurrent sessions will be held on Professional Designations, CMRS 911, and How to Defuse the Angry Taxpayer. Wednesday features four concurrent sessions on GIS, Ethics, Ratios and Certification, and Advanced GIS. Thursday morning begins with a three hour general session and continues after lunch with workshops. The general session will include a GIS demonstration, a presentation by the state auditor's office, and information on appeals. The workshop topics include Appraiser Certifications, Creating a Website, and TRIM/SACS Update. The conference concludes Thursday night with the banquet and dance.

RESULTS OF THE 2003 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

by Nick Kearney

The 2003 session of the Kentucky General Assembly, just the second odd-year thirty day session held since the voters approved annual sessions in 2000, continued the trend of unimpressive numbers in terms of bills passed. Only 20.6 percent of bills introduced in 2003 were passed, compared to 22.1 percent of bills introduced in 2001. The Senate only managed to pass 32 of 192 bills, or 16.6 percent, with the House passing 96 of 387 bills for 24.8 percent. Both of the odd year sessions are the lowest in terms of productivity over the past five years, as indicated below:

Percent of Bills Passed: KY General Assembly

2003	20.6%
2002	26.9%
2001	22.1%
2000	33.7%
1998	40.3%

Very little legislative activity occurred in 2003 on the property tax front. With the looming budget crisis, there was little opportunity for legislators to provide property tax relief. Bills were filed exempting various portions of MOTAX, extending enterprise zones, allowing quarterly property tax payments, and changing delinquent property tax collection methods, but none of these passed. In all, 22 bills could have had an impact on property tax, but only one, Senate Bill 165, managed to make it through the entire process and receive the Governor's signature.

SB 165 deals with the public availability of mine maps. Going back to mine-map submissions for the 1989 tax year, the Revenue Cabinet may make public those portions of mine maps that depict the boundaries of mined out parcel areas submitted by taxpayers for unmined minerals tax purposes. This bill was drafted in response to the 2000 coal slurry impoundment failure in Martin County. A web-site is planned to facilitate making available electronic maps of

mined out areas and engineering drawings of operating mines in Kentucky.

The only other success in the 2003 General Assembly was the belated enactment of a budget bill for the 2002-2004 biennium. This bill should have been passed in the 2002 regular session and the subsequent special session, but failed in both attempts due to differences between the House and Senate regarding campaign financing issues. Eventually it dominated the short 2003 session and probably contributed to the lack of action on many other bills.

SOUTH REGION UPDATE

by Karen Bushart

The South Region representatives of IAAO met in Myrtle Beach, SC April 29, 2003. We had beautiful weather and the facility was wonderful! I will give you a summary of what went on.

It was suggested that IAAO ask the state chapters for assistance in financing the rep meeting, such as one night's lodging and possibly airfare, as reps are the communicator between the state and national chapters. I relayed that the Kentucky Chapter was generous enough to authorize one night's lodging and airfare for me to attend.

The consensus was that we should try to have one central meeting, rather than the regional meetings. Suggestions were that it should be at the opposite end of the country from the annual conference to give all areas a chance to attend. We also thought it should be a good location where people would want to go.

We thought communication between members was going well.... One suggestion was to get reps the newsletters from all sections. Communication with leadership is good and we attributed that largely to Mary Reavey and Bill Carroll.

We discussed the proposed bylaw and constitution changes and thought it was ok to reduce the size of the board from 13 to 10, but questioned not keeping the past president for continuity.

We discussed the awards programs and pointed out that the Stacey Ford award was for overall rep performance, while the McCarren Award was for the most new members. A comment was that the IAAO Awards program is too political.

Comments were positive on the Rep newsletter, we liked listing meetings and dates.

We did not see a problem with the appointment process in rep vacancies. Using the state chapters seemed like a logical avenue for recommendations.

The idea of having an agency subscription and with a lesser fee for members of the agency...they felt it was important that there only is one bill and each member of the agency not billed individually.

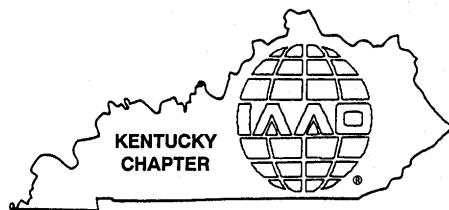
It was suggested that reps could be the host/hostess at seminars, rather than flying staff to these states. IAAO could pay hotel bills, but they would not have to pay for airfares.

We had a very good meeting. The dates for the other regional meetings are:

Western Meeting: Reno, NV, May 16, 2003; hosted by Jeff Payson
 Eastern Meeting: Portland, ME, May 19, 2003; hosted by Marsha Standish
 Midwest Meeting: Omaha, NE, between June 9-12; hosted by Ginny Whipple

Karen Bushart, Clark County PVA, has been an IAAO State Representative since 1995 and was recently appointed Regional Representative for the South Region.

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