



*...to promote uniform and equitable principles of assessment and collection  
through professionalism, education, technology and leadership.*

# Across County Lines

SEPTEMBER 2011

## MISSISSIPPI CHAPTER OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSING OFFICERS

[www.mstax.org/msiaao/index.html](http://www.mstax.org/msiaao/index.html)

### 2010-2011 OFFICERS



Pictured left to right: Mitzi Presley, President • Rhonda Reno, Secretary • Geraldine Seal, Exec. Position #1  
Gerald Barber, Vice President • Ramona Blackledge, Treasurer • James Meadows, Exec. Position #2 • Tal Flurry, Executive Director  
Not shown: John Lewis, Exec. Position #3 • Janet Baird, Exec. Position #4



## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to our newly resurrected publication! We have had an extremely busy but prosperous year. Our executive and education committees have had a leadership and strategic planning retreat and we are ecstatic that we have reignited the State

Chapter of IAAO.

There are a number of exciting new plans that should improve the quality of leadership and assessing and collecting standards in our profession. We will continue to offer biannual workshops as well as biannual one week courses. Newly reestablished in our association is a Candidate's Club. Its purpose is to promote and help candidates achieve professional designations. A mentoring program will be added in the new future. Collector workshops will also be added. We feel assured that with our current programs and the addition of new ones, we as tax professionals can better serve Mississippi taxpayers.

Please remember that the International Chapter is offering two years of memberships for \$200. They have numerous benefits including: online discussion forums, free subscriptions to their respected publications, a premier library with research services, educational opportunities with the ability to earn a professional designation, and discounts on services.

The goals that we set for ourselves for the year have been met. Our web site is updated, email addresses are updated, we have worked with the International Association to make sure our local chapter is where it needs to be, and this is our first publication of Across County Lines! I want to thank everyone who has helped in any way to achieve these goals. The spring workshop was a great success and I look forward to seeing everyone in Natchez this fall.

Mitzi Presley, President

A Tax Assessor came one day to a poor Christian to determine the amount of taxes he would have to pay. The following conversation took place:

"What property do you possess?" asked the assessor.

"I am a very wealthy man," replied the Christian.

"List your possessions, please," the assessor instructed.

The Christian said: "First, I have everlasting life, John 3:16

Second, I have a mansion in heaven, John 14:2

Third, I have peace that passes all understanding, Philippians 4:7

Fourth, I have joy unspeakable, 1 Peter 1:8

Fifth, I have divine love which never fails, 1 Corinthians 13:8

Sixth, I have a faithful wife, Proverbs 31:10

Seventh, I have healthy, happy obedient children, Exodus 20:12

Eighth, I have true, loyal friends, Proverbs 18:24

Ninth, I have songs in the night, Psalms 42:8

Tenth, I have a crown of life, James 1:12"

The tax assessor closed his book, and said, "Truly you are a very rich man, but your property is not subject to taxation."

I pray that all of us will have this kind of tax free "wealth".

Have a richly blessed day.

## IT'S ALL ABOUT THE MONEY

How many times have we heard this expression? To some outside observers that might appear to be the major reason for being active in the IAAO education program, so let's follow the money.

For a three year period leading up to the experience factor a deputy or assessor can make up to an additional \$3500 a year through the IAAO education program. For the first year, if a deputy or assessor attends and completes with a passing grade a one week IAAO select school and the two week certification school they would qualify for \$1000. If passing an IAAO select course during the second year the deputy or assessor would qualify for an additional \$1000. During the third year an additional \$1500 can be made if a deputy or assessor passes a third IAAO select course and a MAE exam.

If you are the elected assessor (we have 82 at last count) and choose to take a fourth IAAO select course, then you would qualify for a Certificate of Education, which would entitle you to an additional \$1500. So at the end of the fourth year a total of \$5000 more a year is received as salary incentives vs. an assessor who does not take advantage of the education opportunities.

With four courses under your belt your next incentive would be to get an IAAO designation. To get a CMS, PPS, or RES designation, depending on the type you seek, an



additional course may be required along with a couple of workshops and possibly a case study. After completing all of this and passing the exam for the particular designation that is being sought, a reward of \$6500 will be given. Therefore, in year 5 it is possible to be taking home an additional

\$11,500 a year compared to an assessor who chooses not to seek the educational opportunities.

For the assessor that is real serious and wants to take the education program to the maximum level, add a couple of more courses with a demonstration project and take a national exam to receive your CAE. The completion of this in year 6 will earn you a tidy \$8500 more toward your yearly salary. If you total up the money accumulated over the 6 years through the IAAO educational programs, you have earned \$20,000 a year.

If you do your math, over a period of 20 years, \$400,000 is out there to be made. Take it from my personal experience; it will be 20 years before you know it. I won't blow your mind by projecting how much this would be if you put it in a deferred income account or how much a difference this income can make toward your retirement pension. But it is serious money in anyone's book.

**CAUTION:** On top of making a chunk of money for being educated, the side effects may be a healthy self-





esteem, the ability to go toe to toe with anyone threatening your county tax base, and the admiration of your friends, family and staff. And when all is said and done, you know that you were the best public servant that you could have possibly been.

Gerald Barber, Vice President

## 2011 MACA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 82nd annual MACA Conference was held July 17-21, 2011 in Biloxi, Mississippi. A few of the topics discussed were offering educational opportunities for the Tax Collectors and deputies in the near future, legal updates and Section 42 housing. However, business was not the only thing that was on the agenda. There was time set aside for some fun and relaxing activities.



### About Our Staff

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Does anyone remember this  
blast from the past?



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## October 3-6, 2011

- 2011 MACA Mid-Winter Conference and MS Chapter of the IAAO Fall Workshop, Natchez, Mississippi
- Track II award certificates (AEI, AEII, and MAE) presented during the conference at the Awards Ceremony
- IAAO Workshop will cover "Eminent Domain Valuation" which will be taught by Mr. William Milton, SR/WA from Summit, MS. This workshop will be submitted for eight (8) hours of continuing education credit with the Mississippi Real Estate Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board.

## November 15-17, 2011

- Newly Elected Assessors and Collectors Workshop  
Bost Extension Center,  
Mississippi State University Campus, Starkville, MS

## March 5-9, 2012

- IAAO School - Jackson, MS
- Course 101 (Fundamentals of Real Property Appraisal)
- Course 300 (Fundamentals of Mass Appraisal)

## May 7-11, 2012 & May 21-25, 2012

- Two week Certified Appraisers School - Starkville, MS

## July 15-19, 2012

- 2012 Mississippi Assessors and Collectors Association Annual Conference, Tupelo, MS