AAP Journal
Assessors' Association of Pennsylvania

AAP
ASSESSORS' ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA

Summer 2017
Issue 3 Volume 14

CCAP
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS Association of Pennsylvania

An affiliate of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania

IAAO—How It All Started!

By the late Matylda Zurowska Hudak

This article was reprinted from the July/August issue of the 1985 Assessment Digest. It is based on a presentation that was given by the late Ms. Hudak at IAAO's 50th International Conference on Assessment Administration, held October 28–31, 1984, in Hollywood, Florida. Ms. Hudak was one of the founders of the association and an assessor in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

When 11 men and I met in Philadelphia in 1934 to organize an association of assessors who would strive to take assessors out of politics and establish training and educa-tional programs, our aim was to make it a professional organization. Most of us were strangers to each other. The men did not know what to do with the woman intruder. I was asked for my certification, which I produced—but I noticed that the same request was not made of the men. The meeting ended with me being voted secretary-treasurer. This responsibility only lasted a year or so because I lived in Scranton, Pennsylvania and the rest of the staff was in Chicago—very inconvenient.

In my opinion, our IAAO organization should be grateful to Carl Chatters, who, at the time of our organizing, was working for the municipal finance organization. He arranged for us to use some space, their supplies, and equipment with the municipal finance organization. Mr. Chatters' advice, guidance, and encouragement were priceless. He later became executive director of IAAO.

John C. Donehoo always had the organization at heart.

I recall Mr. Jacobs, Sr., of Chicago, and his encouragement. He spent time and money on us whenever we met in Chicago. Dominic Trotta from New York City, an honest, experienced public official, was generous with his time and advice. I went to New York City to consult with him on assessment problems a few times and shall always be grateful for his encouragement. Because we were low in funds, the organizers paid their own way for two or three years.

How well I recall our first "Open Meeting" in Chicago. As I sat talking to Mr. Chatters, a big gentleman yelled from above "What's a woman doing in this meeting?" I looked him in the eyes and replied, "The same as you, sir—hoping to learn a thing or two."

You have come a long, long way. The organizers never visualized or expected to witness the tremendous progress that you have made. As the last living founder, I am especially pleased to see the number of successful women in the profession—and just think—this year the new president will be Barbara G. Brunner [1984]. From her record, I note that she is able and will inspire our vast

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AAP Education Calendar

Fall 2017 CPE Classes
Courtyard by Marriott
State College
Intro - September 11 – 15
Site/Market - September 18 – 22
Cost - September 25 - 29
Income - October 2 – 6

Fall 2017 CPE Review
CCAP Office, Harrisburg
November 29 - December 1

2017 Fall Conference
November 2 - 3
Eden Resort, Lancaster

Spring 2018 CPE Classes
CCAP Office, Harrisburg
Intro - March 12 - 16
Site/Market - March 19 - 23
Cost - March 26 - 30
Income - April 2 - 6

2018 Annual Conference
April 25 - 27
Valley Forge Casino Resort

Spring 2018 CPE Review
CCAP Office, Harrisburg
June 18 - 20

** Check the AAP website, www.paassessors.org, for more details*

What's Inside

President's Message, Legislative Update, Latest County Corner, AAP People

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President's Message

Happy Summer Everyone!

For those of you who weren't able to make our 69th Annual Conference, you missed a great venue, very educational classes and of course, the camaraderie. As you know, the Spring Conference is when your new AAP officers are inducted and we say a heartfelt thanks to our outgoing president, Angelia Tennies, for the great job that she did throughout the year. We cannot forget the Executive Board, the Board of Governors and the AAP staff, Doug Hill, Terry Cochran and Lori Lawyer, for the fine job that they did and a warm welcome to our newly elected secretary, Lynda Kyttle.

I would also like to thank those of you who volunteered to be on Committees because without you, we wouldn't be able to accomplish the things that we are doing.

As you may or may not know by now, the Local Government Commission's House Bill 1361 (adding two CPE's to the State Board) was passed out of the Local Government Committee on June 14th and is moving through the channels. Thanks to Doug Hill, Lisa Schaefer, Phil Klotz, Steve Howe and Danette Magee for their steadfast efforts on this initiative.

Going forward, a few new committees will be potentially added to our growing list. The first would be a USPAP Committee chaired by Steve Howe to investigate the possibility of certain USPAP requirements being removed that do not pertain to assessors and the second would be a State Board of Real Estate Appraisers Committee co chaired by Steve Howe and Tony Alu who would attend all SBCREA meetings.

Please don't forget the AAP Mission: Improve assessment practices in the Commonwealth. Provide for the collection, distribution and exchanges of information relating to the field of assessing among its members. Improve public relations, Inform members of legislation intended to improve assessment functions. Cooperate with other interested agencies in the promotion of the objectives of this organization and encourage a fair and just distribution of the tax burden.

In closing, I just want to say, have a great summer, enjoy your family and friends and be safe!

Sincerely,

Larry from Philly

Larry Shubert, CPE
AAP President



Legislative Update

By Jonathan B. Schuck, Co Chair
Government Information Committee and
Director of Assessment/Tax Claim, Chester County

Greetings fellow assessment professionals throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. By the time you receive this issue of the AAP Journal, it will be well into the summer season. Hope you have already enjoyed some well-deserved vacation time or have plans to enjoy time off before the seasons once again turn. AAP remains committed to meeting the complex and diverse challenges encountered with a combination of intelligence, applied knowledge and creativity. Keeping abreast of the legislative environment is one means of accomplishing this goal.

Six months into the 2017/2018 Session, more than 2651 bills/ resolutions have been introduced, 43 of which pertain to assessment-related matters. Since the prior Update in early March, several bills of interest have been introduced.

Increasing Membership of State Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers to Include Two CPEs
House Bill 1361 - Passed the House and was referred to the Senate Consumer Affairs and Professional Licensure Committee. With the budget negotiations in full swing, this bill and the Senate counterpart will probably stay in the Senate committee until the fall.
Senate Bill 689 - First consideration in Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee

Restrictions on School District Reverse Appeals
House Bill 1213 - First consideration in Commerce Committee
Senate Bill 586 - First consideration in Urban Affairs & Housing Committee

Dissolution of Local Government Commission (as Part of Proposed 2017-2018 Budget)
House Bill 218 - Passed in House 114-84; in Senate Appropriations Committee
Funding for the commission was restored the week of June 26.

Also, I have updated the topical summary of legislation introduced this session. There has been little substantive activity on these bills since early March (new bills in bold text):

Professional Licensure – making the Assessors Certification Act applicable to counties of the first class
House Bill 539/Senate Bill 384

Property Tax Reform
House Bills 262 and 429 - elimination of property taxes
House Bills 230 and 1318 - diversification of county/school taxes
House Bills 1285 and 1418/ Senate Bill 347 - Homestead exclusion

Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans/Surviving Spouses
House Bills 78, 488, 1374 and 1376
Senate Bills 106, 156, 237, 239, 389, 390 and 407

Tax Relief for Senior Citizens
House Bills 460 and 641
Senate Bills 102, 356 and 376

Tax Relief for Volunteer Firefighters and EMTs
Senate Bill 413

Exclusion of Mobile/ Manufactured Homes from Assessment and Taxation
Senate Bill 417

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The *AAP Journal* is published four times a year.
Deadline for the Fall 2017 issue is September 6, 2017

Article submissions are welcome.
Please send to:
Terry Cochran
AAP Deputy Director

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AAP People & Chapter News

South Central Chapter

The South Central Chapter meets quarterly - March, June, September and December. Each meeting begins with the business meetings at 9 a.m., with seminars beginning immediately after the meeting (approximately 9:30 a.m.) and are held at the Adams County Agricultural and Natural Resources Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325. Please contact Barb Walter at (717) 337-9837 for more information.

Adams County

Congratulations to **Daryl Crum**, Director of Adams County Tax Services, who placed 4,695 out of 30,074 participants in the 2017 Boston Marathon. Daryl ran the marathon in three hours, 20 minutes and 13 seconds. Daryl's son Kalani, 13 years old, placed 861 out of 8921 participants in the 2017 Boston A. A. 5K. Congratulations to both participants!

Chester County

Congratulations to **Sabrina Higgins** for earning her CPE designation this past February!

Franklin County

Congratulations to **Jodi Martin,** who was promoted to Chief Appraiser!

Welcome to **Cary Blackdeer**, Franklin County's newest appraiser.

Juniata County

Congratulations to **Aaron Miller**, the county's newest CPE!

Philadelphia County

Congratulations to **Arpanaben Shah**, **Dennis Sweeney**, **Bridget Sykes**, **Linda Sykes** and **Donna Thain** for earning their CPE!

Seth and **April Floyd** are pleased to announce the arrival of their daughter, Autumn, born on June third. Congratulations to the Floyd family!

Sullivan County

Congratulations to **Darlene Fenton** for earning her CPE license!

York County

Congratulations to **Kate Snyder**, York County's newest CPE!

Send Your Chapter and County News!

Don't forget to send your county or chapter news for the next AAP Journal. Our next deadline is September 6.

Please send your news to Terry Cochran at *tcochran@pacounties.org*.

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membership to make this our best year. Please give her every possible support to achieve her program. I take note of your large increase in membership and the many new programs begun during Paul Corusy's guidance. He was a man of unusual background and always willing to help a member grow.

I commend you for all that you have done to educate those who are in the assessment field, and for your attempts to educate the public about what assessing is all about. Thanks to this organization, assessors now are respected. And now you are in the world of computers! There is much to learn, and a healthy appreciation of the public is essential. Wish that I were young again! At 78 *young*, I feel the need to learn more about you and to appreciate *what you are doing*.

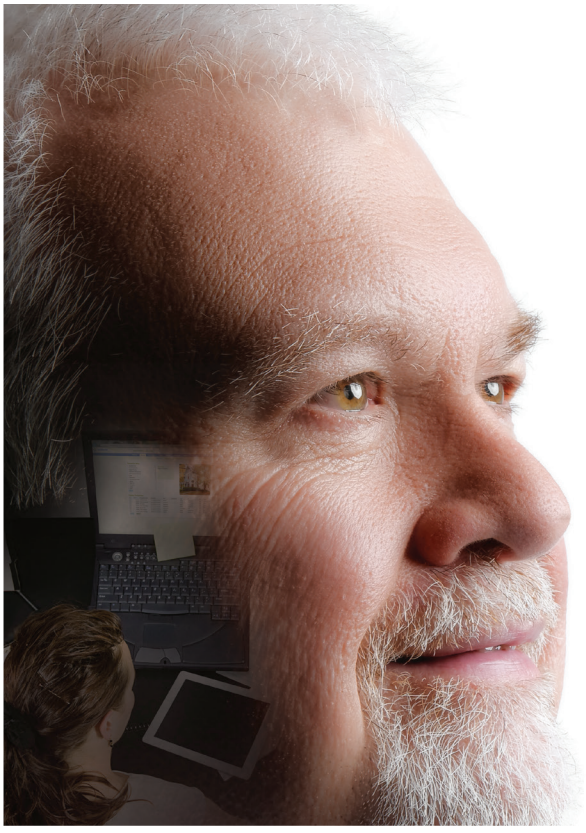
I thank you sincerely for all your courtesies to me—for making my life richer in trying to "keep up" with your progress. May IAAO continue to prosper and serve our citizens.

I truly am very, very proud of you. May God bless you! And many, many thanks. ■

83rd Annual Conference On Assessment Administration

The 83rd Annual International Conference on Assessment Administration will be held September 24 – 27, 2017 at Bally's Las Vegas, with more than 1,500 attendees. Check out *www.iaao.org* for more information.

Attendees can register online or download the registration form. The registration fee for the conference is $595 for members and $775 for nonmembers until July 21st and then increases to $715 and $895. Onsite registration pricing starts on September 9th with the fee for members at $830 and $1,015 for nonmembers.



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Annual Conference Recap
May 3 to 5, 2017, Lancaster Marriott

Congratulations to the 2017-18 AAP Officers!

From left to right - Angelia Tennies (McKean), Immediate Past President; Larry Shubert (Philadelphia County, President; Deborah Crawford (Tioga County), President Elect; Mark Kellerman (Centre County), First Vice President; Robert Roland (Bedford County, Treasurer; and, Lynda Kyttle (Monroe County), Secretary





Many of our award recipients were able to attend the Annual Banquet held during the AAP's Annual Conference in Lancaster in May. Congratulations to everyone!

Service Award Recipients

Trailblazer Awards (20 - 29 Years of Service)
Renae Newhart, Columbia County
Scott A. Smith, Lehigh County
Rocco Amentler, Luzerne County
Mark E. Lawton, McKean County
Angelia S. Tennies, McKean County
Deborah Storman, Monroe County
Kathleen Shuler, Montour County
Kristin Montgomery, Sullivan County

Board of Governors' Awards (30 - 39 Years of Service)
Larry Fetsko, Allegheny County
Keith Yearick, Clinton County
Sharon L. Martucci, Lehigh County
Cindy Treible, Monroe County
Timothy R. Barr, EST

Presidents' Award (40 or More Years of Service)
Richard L. Benkovic, Lehigh County

Golden Achievement Award (50 or More Years of Service)
Gerald N. Dann, Centre County

AAP Award Winners
Hanisits/Hettinger Awards - Joan Righter Price
Naessig Awards - Anthony Alu, Luzerne County
President's Award - Timothy Barr, EST
Garrity Award - Denyel O'Brien, Laurel Mtn Chapter



At left: Congratulations to our newest group of CPEs! All were awarded their CPE pins at the AAP's Annual Conference in Lancaster this past May!

County Corner!

Anthony Alu, CPE
Director of Assessment, Luzerne County

Luzerne County, located in scenic Northeastern Pennsylvania, is conveniently located just two hours from Philadelphia and just over two hours to metropolitan New York City. Featured as one of the best outdoor destinations in Pennsylvania, the region is robust with state parks, forests and ample public lands. The area is easily accessible via four major interstates and the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport. The area's two largest cities are Hazleton and Wilkes-Barre and the county is home to approximately 350,000 residents.

Rich in history and ethnic cultures, the region is filled with diversity. Local festivals and community parades occur throughout the year celebrating various cultures. Visitors and locals alike enjoy festivals such as the Fine Arts Festival, a juried art exhibition in Downtown Wilkes-Barre every May; Funfest in Hazleton with a large parade, car show, a delight for the foodie and music lover; the Pittston Tomato Festival held every August in this quaint town. These are just a few examples of the array of festivals and fairs happening in Luzerne County throughout the year. Downtown Wilkes-Barre offers an ample amount of its own history with unique Victorian architectural styles ranging from old mansions to gothic churches.

Northeast Pennsylvania is home to AHL Penguins Hockey (farm team to the Pittsburgh Penguins), Pocono 400 NASCAR Racing, AAA Rail Riders baseball (farm team for New York Yankees) and the Mohegan Sun Casino at Pocono Downs.

Pennsylvania has one of the most extensive systems of hiking/biking trails in the nation and Luzerne County boasts a great portion of those trails. Soon to be completed into downtown Wilkes-Barre is the Delaware and Lehigh Rail/Trail, a 165 mile trail starting in the Philadelphia area and ending at the Susquehanna River. The Luzerne County Rail/Trail, a twelve mile paved surface along the Susquehanna River, is a year-round trail used by bikers, walkers and runners. Other Rails to Trails and single track can be found throughout the County. One of the regions longest is the 28 mile Lehigh River Gorge Trail. Shorter trails include the Back Mountain Trail and Hazleton Rail Trail. Ample single track can be found at Moon Lake, Francis Slocum and the Mocanaqua Loop.

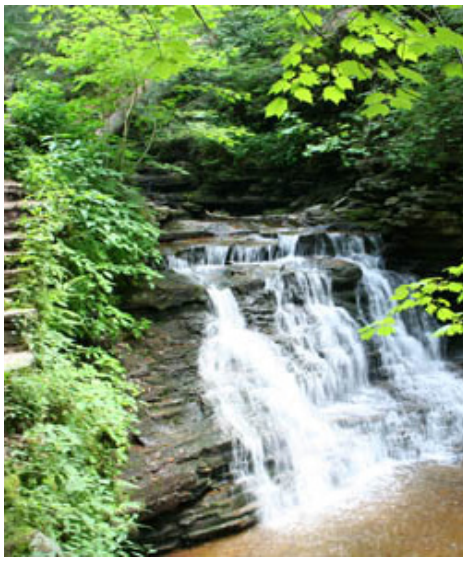
Home to four state parks, Ricketts Glen State Park has received nationwide recognition. The Glen Falls Trails, considered the most difficult at Ricketts Glen, was voted People's Choice "Best Hike in PA" by Backpacker Magazine. Luzerne County's other state parks include Frances Slocum, Nescopeck and Lehigh Gorge.

Luzerne County has several colleges, universities and private schools offering nationally recognized quality educational programs. These schools contribute to the social, athletic and cultural atmosphere of the area. Downtown Wilkes-Barre is a college town, with the bookends of Wilkes University and Kings College and the Barnes & Noble Bookstore catering to students in the center of town.

The county is alive with theatre, performing arts, music and culture. From local artists to visiting exhibits to top name performances. The F. M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts is a restored art deco theatre offering top name entertainment, family programs, as well as being the home to the Northeast Pennsylvania Philharmonic Orchestra. The Mohegan Sun Arena has a full schedule of country artists, children's entertainment and something for everyone to enjoy. The Wiltsie Performing Arts Center in Hazleton hosts several concerts throughout the year, as well as the Performing Arts Institute in Downtown Hazleton.

The Riverfront Parks Committee is a non-profit organization promoting programs and activities free for children and families along the Susquehanna River. Some of the activities held are Riverfest in June, Chalk fest in September, Jazz concerts throughout the summer and Winter Along the River in February. All the events are free to the public.

Luzerne County is a four-season destination, with numerous ski resorts only minutes away, challenging golf courses, several whitewater rafting companies, hiking biking trails, the Susquehanna River for kayaking and wildlife viewing.



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