



NETWORK

Spring 2010

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF ASSESSING OFFICERS
The Quarterly Newsletter of Virginia's Assessment Professionals

City of Alexandria



The City of Alexandria, located between Washington, DC and Mount Vernon and adjacent to the Potomac River, was originally incorporated in 1779. Named for its first owner, John Alexander, the city was originally a port of entry and major export center for the mid-atlantic region. In 1789, Alexandria and parts of Fairfax County were ceded to Washington, DC and were formally accepted by Congress in 1801. Alexandria was returned to Virginia in 1847, and was given city status and a charter in 1852.

Many of the streets in historic Old Town are named for prominent British nobles that held office in the colonies and some heroes of the newly formed United States. The city was an important location during colonial and revolutionary times, drawing among other important residents George Washington, who both worshipped and socialized in town. He was a member of the local Masonry and worshipped at Christ Church.

From its earliest days the city has known the impacts of war. During the French and Indian War, British General Braddock set up his headquarters in the Carlyle House. Washington drilled militia troops in the town square during the Revolutionary War. The city was captured and held for ransom during the War of 1812. "Light Horse Harry" Lee, the father of Robert E. Lee, brought his family to Alexandria in 1810. Robert lived here until his departure for West Point. During the Civil War, the Union Army occupied the city and used it as a logistical headquarters and hospital. The Torpedo Factory was built during World War I and used again in World War II. Although the city was a trading and shipping point for slaves, it also has a history of freed black communities and features a prominent museum on their history. The Watson Reading Room is named in honor of Charles and Laura Watson, early African-American landowners in Alexandria. Laura Watson established the Sunnyside community on land willed to her by her husband. (Continued on page 8.)

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VAAO Board Meeting Recap

VAAO SUMMER BOARD MEETING OMNI HOTEL RICHMOND, VIRGINIA JANUARY 22, 2010

Call to order by VAAO President Robert Willingham, ASA on January 22, 2010 at 10:00 AM.

In Attendance:

Voting Members:

Past President	Thomas Rice, CAE	-Present
President:	Robert Willingham, ASA	-Present
President Elect:	Greg Daniels, CAE	-Present
1st Vice President:	Susan Lower, SRA	-Present
2nd Vice President:	Larry Mackereth, CAE	-Present
Secretary:	Bill Marchand	-Present
Treasurer:	Ron Agnor	-Present

Director 1 Year:	Catherine Brincefield	-Present
Director 1 Year:	Lisa Neunlist	-Absent
Director 1 Year:	Terry Yowell	-Present
Director 2 Years:	Mary Deas	-Present
Director 2 Years:	Dayle Gallaher	-Absent
Director 2 Years:	Don McKigney	-Present

Invocation: Janice Nutter provided the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance: Waived (no Sgt at Arms nor Flag)

Old Business: No Old Business.

Secretary's Report: Bill Marchand

Greg Daniels, CAE made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the October 10, 2009 Board Meeting and the Installation & Awards Banquet. The motion was seconded by Susan Lower. All voted in favor.

There was a question regarding the existence of the minutes from that meeting. Secretary Marchand reported that the minutes were being pieced together and would be emailed for comment and correction soon.

No motion to approve was made....

Treasurer's Report: Ron Agnor - Present

The Association's total assets were \$130,441.22 as of December 31, 2009. It does not include interest from CD's and savings payable 01/01/2010.

The Annual Conference in Fairfax ended with a loss of \$5,079.54

The Hampton Roads Regional Seminar held in Virginia Beach on December 11, 2009 yielded a gain of \$1896.75 and recognized Kim Smith for a job well done.

Dues paid form 959 Regular Members, 25 Retired Members and 36 Associate Members.

Please find attached the accompanying documents (Account Balances & 2009 Budget Summary) that provide the details for the deposits, reserves, revenues & expenditures.

First Vice President Greg Daniels made a motion to accept the budget as amended and was seconded by President Elect Susan Lower. All voted in favor.

Budget is attached

Committee Reports:

Reporting to the President Elect: Susan Lower, SRA

Education Committee: Jennifer Stevenson - Absent

The Chair's report was given by President Elect Lower. The Seminar plans are moving along nicely with several new ideas, including the possibility of returning to Penn Park for a picnic. Need Report From Susan

Audit & Finance Committee: Billy Driver - Present

The committee completed the audit for the 2009 VAAO Education Seminar. The final total was a profit of \$427.38. The Audit and Finance Committee thanked Don McKigney and the Education Committee for their efforts in record keeping for the seminar. The Chair thanked committee members George Barham and John Kiger for their efforts, as well as Bob Willingham for his support during the past year. Arrangements were being made to audit the "Big Book",. Practice was to conduct the "Big Book" (Treasurer's Records) audit as soon as possible after the Annual Conference.

The Report is attached.

Annual Meeting 2011: TBD - Absent

The VAAO 63rd Annual Conference will be held in Roanoke at the Hotel Roanoke. Tentative dates are October 5th, 6th & 7th 2011. More definitive information will be forthcoming, as plans are firmed up.

Reporting to the First Vice President: Greg Daniels, CAE

Arrangements Committee 2010: Kim Smith & Janice Hudgins - Present

The VAAO 62nd Annual Conference will be held November 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th, 2010 at the Hilton in Virginia Beach. The room rate is \$119.00 a night.

Membership Committee: John Nelms, RES, SRA - Absent

John reported that he has processed 10 new members since his last report in September; bringing the total to 46 new members for 2009. He has not processed any new members in 2010.

The Report (email) is attached.

PDP Advisory Committee: David Sanford, CAE - Absent

The Chair's report was read by the First Vice President and included having a professional development session at the Education Seminar in July as well as keeping members apprised of changes in designation requirements resulting from IAAO's membership in The Appraisal Foundation. The Report is attached.

Personnel Committee: Kathy Grizzle - Absent

No Report

Reporting to the Second Vice President: Larry Mackereth, CAE

Awards Committee: TBD - Absent

No Report

Resolutions Committee: John Nelms, RES, SRA - Absent

No Report

Manual Committee: John Kiger - Absent

No Report

Publicity Committee: Ryan Davis - Absent

The Board discussed an electronic version of the Network which would allow for a less expensive endeavor less restrictive in design and content.

Reporting to the President: Robert Willingham, ASA

Nominating Committee: Thomas Rice, CAE, Past President - Present

No Report

Legislative Committee: Janet Coldsmith, CAE - Absent

Terry Yowell will look for someone to take over for Charles Crowson, who has retired. There was lengthy discussion regarding the pros and cons of having a "Legislative Lookout". The projected cost estimate was \$6,000. It was decided that the President would get answers to several Board questions and concerns, raised during the lengthy and spirited discussion. President Willingham researched the questions and provided answers to the voting membership on January 28th. The Board was polled and a final decision to pay the \$6,000 was approved by a 9 to 4 vote on January 29th, 2010.

Technology Committee: John Yeatman, AAS (Absent) & Sam Davis, CAE - Absent

The committee continues to update the website (www.vaaao.org) as information is presented.

Use Value Committee: Charles Campbell, COR - Absent & Warren Arthur, COR - Absent

No Report

Parliamentarian: Sam Davis, CAE - Absent

No Report

A Message from the President

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - BOB WILLINGHAM

Greetings and I hope everyone is enjoying the spring weather after a long snowy winter. By now most of us are wrapping up assessment hearings from our recent reassessments and are getting ready to start gearing up for 2011. We had an average 3.75% decrease in assessments due thanks to a fairly stable economy driven by the University of Virginia and medical community. This is highlighted by Martha Jefferson Hospital's new \$190,000,000 campus being constructed in the Pantops area of the County.

It's been an interesting year on the assessment legislative front. I guess I shouldn't be amazed at how our politicians view the assessment process or how important it is in the operation of local government. The recent bills introduced that would switch the burden of proof to the assessor and requiring independent fee appraisals to request assessment increase before the Board of Equalization would have negative impacts on office resources. I want to thank everyone who worked diligently to fight these bills and to achieve reasonable results in new legislation.

VAAO committees have been hard at work planning the year for our members. The Education Seminar is scheduled for July 14 – 16, 2010 at the Doubletree Hotel in Charlottesville. The Education Committee has developed a schedule that will offer great opportunities for continuing education. There will be a barbeque and social at Penn Park instead of the reception at the hotel. This will be a throwback for us "old timers" and hopefully will become a tradition for our newer members. Registration and information on the Seminar is available on the VAAO website, www.vaa.org.

The Arrangements Committee is working on the 2010 Annual Conference being held at the Hilton Virginia Beach on November 2 – 5, 2010. More information will be coming on the schedule and events.

I'm extremely proud how both committees are keeping educational opportunities as our primary purpose at a reasonable cost. I know we all face tough economic times and our budgets are strained to meet the training and educational needs of our staffs. With the cancellation of the annual Assessor's School, the VAAO will look to expand educational opportunities. Course 102 is being offered in Northern Virginia and the Tidewater area is planning to offer Course 101.

In closing, the Officers, Directors and Committee Members are dedicated to making our organization a success and beneficial to all members. The VAAO is only as strong as its members. I urge everyone to become involved and continue the success we all share.

Thank you for your support. I hope to see you at the Seminar or Conference!!

Bob

Congratulations to the VAAO's newest members:

James	Barker	City of Richmond
Mark	Beazley	City of Newport News
Patricia	Brown	Culpeper County
Diana	Burden	City of Hampton
Ann T.	Burkholder	City of Winchester
Holt W.	Butt	City of Portsmouth
Tanya Y.	Childress	Gloucester County
Cheryl	Collins	Culpeper County COR
Erika	Cowling	City of Suffolk
Woody	Fincham	City of Newport News
Nikola	Georgiev	City of Norfolk
Kevin M	Hobbs	City of Chesapeake
Aimee	Hower	City of Hampton
Frances	Johnson	City of Bedford COR
Elizabeth	Julius	Loudoun County
Mary	Kashouty	City of Hampton COR
Sandra	Kurek	City of Newport News COR
David	Merinar	City of Suffolk
Julie	Moon	Loudoun County
Rose	Murafka	City of Fairfax COR
Kevin	Prine	City of Portsmouth
Doris	Salyer	Roanoke County COR
Matt	Shockley	City of Petersburg
John	Stevens	City of Richmond
Virgil P.	Stowe	City of Danville
Mike	Trowbridge	City of Hampton

VAAO Featured Member Profile

Anshu Kapani

Full Name: Anshu Kapani
Hometown: Fairfax, Virginia
Job Title: Real Estate Appraiser
Jurisdiction: County of Fairfax
Marital status: Married
Children: 2 sons, Alex 9, Nicholas 7
Pets: 1 dog
Place of birth: New Delhi, India
Education: Bachelors in Commerce



Work history: Have been working for Fairfax County since 2004

Professional Designations/ Affiliations: Certified Residential Real Estate Appraiser

Organizations: None

VAAO Participation (Committees, etc.): Active Member

What is your idea of a perfect day off? A day at the beach with light breeze and sun

If you could invite three famous people to dinner, who would they be? Brad Pitt and the two founders of Google, Larry Page and Sergey Brin

Favorite Books: Peter Pan

Hobbies: Projects around the house

Dream vacation: Switzerland and Hawaii

Favorite sport/team: Washington Capitals

Guilty pleasure: Chocolate and a good red wine

Favorite restaurant: Coastal Flats

Favorite night on the town? A relaxing dinner with the family followed by a hilarious movie and topped off with a stroll around Fairfax Corner with Ben & Jerry's ice cream in hand.

Favorite television show? Would have to be "Friends" followed by "Everybody Loves Raymond"

What song describes your life? This is a hard one, but I'd have to choose "Working for the Weekend" by Loverboy.

Who is your hero? I would have to say my mother; she always seems to have good advice and something nice to say.

Of what achievements are you most proud? Family, friends and career

Retirement plans? Definitely travel. I'd like to travel and see the world but I would also like to keep busy and stay close to the family.

Favorite part of being in the assessment world? Being involved in something that touches the lives of so many people in so many ways and being able to understand the impact and change it brings to all aspects of government and the community.

Continued from page 4

Historian: Brian Bergen, MAI, SRA - Absent
No Report.

Chaplain: Janice Nutter – Present
No Report

Flag Bearer/Sergeant-at-arms: TBA - Absent
No Report

Ad Hoc Committee for One-Day Regional Seminars: Mary Ann Davis – Absent
Kim Davis reported on the seminar held in Virginia Beach as noted in the Treasurer’s report.

Education Liaison: Brian Bergen, MAI, SRA - Absent

The annual Assessor’s School will be held at JMU June 7th -11th, 2010. The applications have been mailed to localities. The Assessor’s School was cancelled due to budgetary considerations.

COR Liaison: Terry Yowell, COR – Present

Ms. Yowell will look for a replacement for Charles Crowson, who has retired. Terry also expressed concern for the state’s funding shortfalls.

Old Business: No Old Business

New Business: Wendell Ingram, ASA informed the Board that the IAAO Board would be in Norfolk at the same time as the Annual Conference in Virginia Beach. He suggested inviting and paying for the IAAO Board dinner at the VAAO installation banquet. Discussion regarding Charles Crowson as the organizations Legislative Liaison was thoroughly discussed, as noted in the Legislative section above.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. All present voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Bill Marchand

Secretary

Featured Jurisdiction – Continued from page 1

Today the city is a thriving location, home to both historic buildings and modern architecture it is visited by visitors and locals alike. Vibrant neighborhoods of the city like Del Ray feature local artists of all mediums and include several galleries. World class restaurants are found both in old town as well as the other neighborhoods. King Street features a ghost tour where the present meets the past and participants hear about the many colorful characters who have inhabited the city. A present day water taxi ferries ardent fans to Nationals Park to take in a midsummer's classic game. And for the weary travel there are an abundant selection of fine hotels to retire for the evening.