

# ~ River Currents... ~ ~ ~

FROM THE COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER OF IAAO

REPRESENTING MEMBERS IN OREGON AND SW WASHINGTON

**WELCOME** to the 35 newest members to IAAO mostly from Oregon Dept of Revenue appraisal staff: Industrial, and Field Liaison folks! It is our hope that all of you will choose to participate in the Chapter meetings as possible – and we know that everyone’s schedule and family needs vary.

**THE COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER (CRC)** is still new and we are still feeling our way. While it sounds simple to restart a dormant chapter, there are so many things to consider and everyone has so many demands on one’s time. Questions arise: Where do we meet? How often do we meet? Are there Dues? Who is a “member”? Do we have a role?

**A LITTLE RECENT HISTORY:** We had a two plenary meetings orchestrated by Steve Harris, and Corey Henkelman of Washington Co., OR in 2007 to check on interest and viability. We were greeted and encouraged by then *Int’l Vice President, Dr. Josephine Lim of Vancouver, BC.*

**CURRENT OFFICERS** were elected January 2008 are: President: Rick Schack, DOR, Oregon; Vice President: H. Mike Webber, Clark Co., WA; Secretary: (vacant) Treasurer: Joshua Fleurett, Clark Co., WA

**We** have met three times – January, April and September in 2008. At our first meeting Jan 2008, we voted to re-establish, and committed ourselves to the ideals that IAAO stands for — in all that is professionalism, for the educational benefit and opportunities membership affords. At that first meeting, we were honored by the presence of *IAAO International President, Guy Griscom from Houston, TX* who officially installed our chapter officers, and charged us with the responsibility to grow in IAAO and grow the chapter! There are a few other “dormant”

chapters just waiting in the wings – watching us to see how we move forward.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT was crafted:  
*“We promote leadership, professionalism, and the principles of uniformity and equity within the assessment and taxation community through communications and education.”*

In April, we had Ian Madin, of Dept of Geology & Mineral Industries, speak to us about the use and benefits of LiDAR – Light Distance and Ranging, primarily to detect land areas prone to slippage in the Portland Metro area. Clark County has been utilizing LiDAR to identify new construction in remote areas! In Sept., we heard Mr. Ray Collings, Project Manager for Clark County’s IT dept, present the steps going from a legacy computer system, to- and through the (request for purchase) RFP steps and stages for a new, dynamic assessment and tax computer system.

**OUR NEXT MEETING will be January 29<sup>th</sup> at the new IKEA store at Cascade Station, by PDX.** Network & dinner at 5:30; 6:30 - 8:30 program **IKEA is letting us use the training room free – for only the price of our dinners (\$5.99 and up).** The presentation will be by Mr. **Brad Armbrust**, a real estate professional, [also] intimately in the throes of this Foreclosure Market - that we all are dealing with. You will not want to miss this opportunity to learn *the rest of the story* and be able to ask gritty questions! Map: [www.ikea.usa/portland](http://www.ikea.usa/portland)

**ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT,** IAAO will celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> year as a leading association for the assessment and tax jurisdictions world-wide. This historic educational conference will be held in Louisville, KY, Sept 13-16, 2009. The programs under the motto of *“Win, Place and Grow, with IAAO”* are being lined up as you

INTERNATIONAL... continued

read this, for a hot-topic-intense conference in a locale steeped in American history. Definitely a unique opportunity!

**CAN'T AFFORD A CLASS** or membership? Take a look at IAAO's Scholarship Fund program! There is help for *members* to enhance your professional standing and education. Applications received by Feb 1 and August 1 of each year will be considered for award. Applications may be completed on line at [www.iaao.org](http://www.iaao.org) Any questions? Direct your queries to the Scholarship Fund Committee at [sfc@iaao.org](mailto:sfc@iaao.org) for a prompt and confidential reply. Funds are available for 14 \$1,000 scholarships.

**Not too long ago**, a question was posed to me: *Would it be possible to obtain permission to get the IAAO logo on one's business cards?* **YES!** You can - Read on...

**Enhance your standing right now!** Your Membership in IAAO does carry name recognition and is of value! Did you know that YOU may have your IAAO membership recognized on your business cards with the IAAO logo, at no cost to you? Simply contact Christopher Bennett at [Bennett@iaao.org](mailto:Bennett@iaao.org) and he will set you up!

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS! 2009: 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!** Since this is a special year for IAAO, the Int'l Membership Services Committee and HQ Staff are working to make this a special year for you, individually and collectively.

Currently, as a "Rep" for Oregon, by referral, I am authorized to offer first-year only half-price membership dues to new members. But this year, each time any of You refer a new member, by signing Your name on the referral line on the application, Your name will be entered in a drawing for a cruise for two on the Princess Diamond plus a \$250 Visa gift card! And that's not all: There will be a total of four drawings! There will be a drawing in

April, July, and at Conference for exciting prizes that will include: a *Garmin GPS*, a *Gourmet outdoor grill* and, and an *I-phone*.

The *I-phone* drawing and the Grand Prize Cruise drawing will both be held at the Conference! All the more reason to make plans now to attend the outstanding educational opportunity in Louisville, KY! I've been told that there are to be some fantastic side trips planned before and after the Conf., such as a train tour of the Bourbon Trail – for which Kentucky is famous!

*"IAAO membership doesn't cost – it pays!"* -has long been the banner motto.

**IN THIS FINANCIALLY UNCERTAIN YEAR**, prospective and current members, will need IAAO more than ever – for tools like the Job Board, and expert advice from other members via *"Assessor Net"*. They'll also need the know-ledge and credibility to maintain their highest professional standards. By keeping your membership and encouraging others, just may help you keep your job or employ-ability. You will be seeing more about this membership campaign in the magazine, too.

**A SPECIAL RECRUITMENT:** Carol is seeking an individual from SW Washington's counties to perform the duties of a Representative, or "Rep" from the north side of the Columbia River – to assist me with our Chapter and membership. The time commitment is minimal – mostly a quarterly report which is fill-able online to HQ? Please call or email me if you're interested, or have questions: 503-945-8248, or [carol.k.judd@state.or.us](mailto:carol.k.judd@state.or.us)

Don't forget - our next meeting is set for January 29<sup>th</sup> at IKEA's training room - next to the Dining Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor 5:30 pm  
\* RSVP to [richard.j.schack@state.or.us](mailto:richard.j.schack@state.or.us)

*"River Currents" was prepared on my own time at home - ckj*