

Similar seminars were held all over the Commonwealth regarding the passage and implementation of Proposition 2 ½. In addition, there have been and continues to be a need for workshops dealing with the added % surcharge for preservation of land, and providing affordable housing, and the changes in laws like Chapter 203, the so called “Hopkinton bill”, which was included in the Municipal Assistance package, and approved as a local option, only if rejected.

There have also been several changes in the regulations promulgated by the Department of Revenue regarding the definition of “growth” over the years since they have been responsible for the supervision and implementation of the “full and fair cash value” requirements in the Proposition 2 ½ initiative.

We believe in the motto “Equity in Assessing through Education” and “We are the Guardians of Fairness”.

The MAAO 2005 Education Committee calendar.

January
Winter meeting
Winter school begins
February
Winter school continued
March
Winter school continued
April
Spring Conference
Winter school continued
May
Winter school continued
June
Summer Conference
Winter school continued
August
Annual School UMASS
Conducted in Amherst
IAAO International
Conference Clerks meeting
September
Clerks meeting
October
Fall Conference, Jiminy Peak
November
Annual Meeting



Education is the way to Full, Fair and Equitable Tax Assessment

The Education Committee, of the Massachusetts Association of Assessing Officers, is the Association’s most important committee.

This committee together with the Department of Revenue is dedicated to the initial education necessary for certification of all new assessors; the MAAO

“We value Massachusetts”

Education committee is also responsible for the continuing education of all Assessing professionals and their professional staff.

This includes the recertification required every three years in order to maintain the designations that assessors earn. The Director of Education is responsible for the administration of the MAAO professional designation recertification program. The director together with the Education Committee also supplies instructors for a number of courses.

The Education Committee is responsible for organizing conferences, workshops, and semi-annual schools; the most notable of these schools is at UMASS in Amherst, which has been conducted for forty eight years.

The MAAO curriculum offered has been developed by Professionals within the Association. This curriculum has been written for

Massachusetts Assessors and it appeals to Assessing Professionals throughout New England. In fact other Assessing Associations in New England have modeled their educational programs after the MAAO. Our members have presented workshops and courses throughout the world.

The Education Committee offers various courses throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and these offerings are open to all Municipal Officials. In some cases, the Education Committee is a partner with other organizations; such as the Massachusetts

Appraisers Association and the Appraisal Institute and the IAAO. In an effort to share information, the Education Committee is partnered with other MMA organizations in order to provide timely topics for discussion that are of interest to all municipal officials and we also are partnered with the Department of Revenue in many of the educational offerings.

The many changes in the laws that affect all of the municipalities make it necessary to provide as much information; not only to assessors, elected or appointed, but to all municipal organizations.

Over the years the Education Committee has provided workshops, seminars jointly with the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Treasurers and Collectors Associations, the Housing Authorities, the International Association of Assessing Officers, Accountants, Chief Financial Officers and other municipal organizations.

One of the most important of these meetings was regarding the implementation of the quarterly billing statute. This local option legislation has saved many municipalities millions of dollars in interest payments for tax anti-cipation notes across the Commonwealth.