



# NORTHEAST NEWS

## Matthew E. Sturgis President 2009-2010



Dear NRAAO Members:

It is a great honor and privilege that the State of Maine will host the Northeast Conference May 23 to May 26, 2010 at the Eastland Hotel in Portland, Maine. The Eastland is located in downtown Portland, in the heart of the arts district of Portland. If you have not been to Portland within the past few years, you are in for a number of great surprises. There is a burgeoning arts community, and the Portland Museum of Art is its centerpiece. Portland is also fast becoming a culinary hub, to the extent it was recently featured in the New York Times as a must visit. There is also an active night-life with live music and classic pubs, the Portland Sea Dogs (AA Red Sox Affiliate), and is an easy drive to outlet shopping in Freeport, Maine. There is literally something of interest for everyone, and most of it within walking distance to the Eastland Hotel.

The Maine Host Committee is working to provide you a high quality educational experience with our education agenda. We are planning on a USPAP Up-

date, one day IAAO Seminar, and sessions on personal property, utility trends and issues, and a commercial property session, among others.

The social agenda of the conference is also shaping up to be pretty special. No trip to Maine is complete without a lobster bake, and we are planning one on Monday May 24<sup>th</sup>. For the links challenged the annual golf scramble is on Tuesday May 25<sup>th</sup>. Finally, there is shopping, sightseeing, and multiple other activities that we will endeavor to tell you of in Portland and the surrounding communities during your time here.

Portland is accessible by planes, trains, and automobiles. With the Amtrak Downeaster servicing Portland by passenger train, Portland International Jetport available by plane, and easy access by Interstate 95. So plan on joining us in May for what we think will be an excellent 2010 NRAAO Conference.

Matthew E. Sturgis  
NRAAO President

Inside This Issue	Pg
Spring 2009 Board of Directors Meeting	2
2009 Richard L. Prendergast & Kay Pardee Award Recipients	3
2010 Portland, Maine Conference at a Glance	4
2009 Sherry Vermilya Award Recipients	4
2009 Scholarship Awards	5
2010 Accommodations	5
IAAO Elections/Vote	5
NRAAO Members in the Spotlight	5
Thank You Message to NRAAO Members	6
NRAAO Officers & Newsletter Contact Info	6
Fall 2009 Board of Director's Meeting	6

## May 17, 2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The NRAAO Board of Directors and Committees met in Ocean City, Maryland to discuss the Association's business. Here are some highlights from that meeting:

**President's Report** President Les Pruitt (MD) called the meeting to order. All Officers were present, as well as 14 Past Presidents, 5 State Presidents, 7 NRAAO Reps, 6 IAAO Reps and 7 NRAAO Committee Chairs.

**Treasurer's Report** Treasurer Paul Lesperance (ME) provided an income and expense report for the period 10/1/08 thru 4/30/09, which was accepted and placed on record.

**Membership Committee** Betsy Quist (CT) reported the following: 262 Active, 21 Associate and 39 Subscribing Members. Total membership is at 322, which is down from 399 the previous year. It is imperative that member contact information, especially emails, be kept current. Any assistance with this task is greatly appreciated.

**Budget Advisory - Audit Committee** This report is generally given at the Fall meeting. Chair Angelo Marino (NH) will review the current budget and provide recommendations at that time.

**Education Committee** Linda Cwiek (RI) noted the exceptional program that the Maryland Committee has developed.

**Awards Committee** Donna Ralston (CT) reported that six *Sherry Vermilya Awards* will be given this year, as well as the *Kay Pardee & Richard Prendergast Lifetime Achievement Awards*. Some jurisdictions did not have a 2009 candidate for the *Sherry Vermilya Award*.

**Scholarship Committee** Viviane Valentine (RI) reported that the 2008 scholarships have all been awarded. Two recipients last year could not use the scholarship and were therefore offered to the two alternates who could accept. One extension from the 2008 scholarship was granted for good cause. The Board of Directors voted to grant ten \$300 scholarships for 2009, which were drawn at random during the meeting.

**Newsletter** Editor Karen Beattie (RI) reported that just eight paper copies of the newsletter are being printed and mailed. The e-format is saving a tremendous amount for the NRAAO. Anyone who is a current member but not getting the emailed newsletter should contact Karen, Betsy Quist or Dave McMullen so that their email addresses can be verified and corrected if necessary. [BeattieK@ScituateRI.org](mailto:BeattieK@ScituateRI.org)

**Web Master** David McMullen (NH) has completely revamped the website and has included many new links and postings. Please send comments, suggestions and feedback to Dave at [webguy@nraao.org](mailto:webguy@nraao.org)

**Outreach Committee** No report was given.

**Conference Advisory & Subcommittees** Tony Homicki (CT) handed out an enhanced Conference Guideline sheet, with updates from the 2008 NY conference. Discussion was generated regarding out of state travel budget cuts and the

potential need for assistance. The Board also discussed conference splits and it was suggested to develop a written policy on this subject. Some states need to split conference proceeds in order to supplement their local educational programs. This is not necessary in all states. It was suggested to have a subcommittee address this issue and offer guidelines for consideration.

Upcoming conference site committee reports followed:

**Maryland 2009** - President Les Pruitt reported that all events and classes are on track for the 2009 conference. He is looking forward to Wednesday night's banquet.

**Maine 2010** - President Elect Matt Sturgis was unable to attend the Ocean City conference due to a prior commitment. Paul Lesperance stated that the Maine Committee is close to finalizing 2010 plans. Conference dates are May 23-26, at the Eastland Park Hotel. Room rates are \$109 and \$134 and include parking. Maine is planning a lobster bake event, baseball game and nearby Freeport shopping. USPAP and IAAO courses are in the works.

**Connecticut 2011** - Early Committee research is finding the best hotel rates in April. More details will be available at the Fall Board Meeting.

**Massachusetts 2012** - The Committee is considering several possible conference sites, including Boston, Quincy, Springfield and Cape Cod.

**Future Conference Sites** 2013 - Rhode Island. 2014 - New Jersey. The State of New Hampshire asked to be slotted to host the 2015 conference.

**New Business** The Northeast has a new representative now at IAAO. Executive Board Member Jim Michaud (NH) thanked the NRAAO for support during his recent election. Jim will serve as IAAO Executive Board Member for a two-year term. Tom Frey (NY) was not successful in 2008 but plans to run for IAAO E-Bd again in 2009. The NRAAO Board of Directors fully endorsed Tom's bid for office and encourage all members to elect another member from the Northeast to IAAO Executive Board. **IAAO Members: don't forget to vote for Tom Frey in November!!**

The NRAAO Board of Directors voted to issue the Maine Committee \$2,000 in seed money. The 2009/2010 Election of Officers took place resulting as follows: President Matthew E. Sturgis ME; Vice President Bill Healey ME; Secretary Everett Martin MA; Treasurer Paul Lesperance ME; and President Elect Robin O'Loughlin CT. The 2009 - 2010 slate of officers were sworn in on May 20, 2009 at the Closing Banquet in Ocean City. President Matt Sturgis and Vice President Bill Healey, who were unable to attend, were sworn in on June 10th by legal counsel John O'Connor. The ceremony was held in Salisbury, Massachusetts in the presence of Treasurer Paul Lesperance, Secretary Gus Martin and Past President Helene Murphy.

**2009 RICHARD PRENDERGAST LIFETIME  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD  
RICHARD M. BARTLETT, RHODE ISLAND**



The NRAAO Executive Board created the **Richard Prendergast Lifetime Achievement Award** in 2005 in honor of the first President of our organization. Dick Prendergast was fiercely loyal and dedicated to what the NRAAO stands for. He was known for his desire and diligence to bring a level of professionalism to the assessment field, and for always looking for a way to keep current members actively involved. He believed that people should be rewarded for their accomplishments and it was Dick who fought to establish the *Sherry Vermilya Award* still being given today. Nominations for this prestigious award are made by the NRAAO Past Presidents.

The 2009 successful nominee was educated in Massachusetts and upon graduation entered the US Air Force, serving our country from 1960 to 1964. He moved to **Rhode Island** in 1969 to start a career in revaluation, learning from his Uncle, who was a member and Past President of the NRAAO. He learned quickly and was appointed Assessor in East Greenwich, RI where he was so well liked and respected that they also made him Tax Collector and Finance Director. He became very active in the NRAAO and he, like his Uncle before him, went on to be President of our organization from 1982-1983. He is a Past-President of the Rhode Island Association of Assessing Officers, Past-President and current Executive Director of the Society of Professional Assessors. He left the assessing world to form his own revaluation/appraisal company, doing work in RI, MA and CT never wavering from his loyalty to NRAAO. He has an extraordinary wit and is extremely endearing. The NRAAO congratulates the *2009 Dick Prendergast Lifetime Achievement Award* winner... **Richard (Dicky B) Bartlett**.

**2009 KAY PARDEE AWARD RECIPIENTS  
TOM & PAT FREY, NEW YORK**



The **Kay Pardee Award** was established in 1967 to recognize one of our members for outstanding and dedicated service to the NRAAO. This award was created in memory of Catherine Pardee, an amazing woman who constantly demonstrated her dedication to our profession and achieved many "firsts": first woman president of CAAO; first woman to attain CAE designation from the IAAO.

Without question, this year's recipient has dedicated his service to our profession with a 30+ year career as an assessor in the state of **New York**. Along with being an active and vocal member of the NRAAO for so many years, this man has a long list of accomplishments and I must mention but a few: IAAO member since 1983 and recipient of the Professional Assessor Designation from the New York Institute of Assessing Officers. He has been the State Rep. to IAAO and an IAAO Instructor, as well as IAAO Education Coordinator. He is a Past-President and Treasurer of the New York State Assessor's Association. He retired as an active Assessor in 2004 but continues his dedication by serving as Executive Director/Secretary of the New York State Assessor's Association.

But you know that old saying, "behind every successful man, is a hard-working woman". Well, this man has had his woman beside him since they met, as teens on vacation with their parents. She was also in the assessment profession and successfully completed the first revaluation for her jurisdiction in decades. She retired in the mid 90's to care for her ailing parents. She has been awarded the Distinguished Assistance Award as well as an Outstanding Staff Assistance Award from the NYSAA. She continues to serve and act as co-ambassador for New York to the many state, regional and national association functions and endeavors. This is a couple that has worked side-by-side for as long as anyone can remember.

The Past Presidents choice for the *2009 Kay Pardee Award* goes to none other than **Tom & Pat Frey**.

**2010 PORTLAND  
Conference  
At A Glance**

**Sunday 5/23/2010**

Registration  
Board of Director's Meeting

*Welcome Reception  
With our Vendors*

**Monday 5/24/2010**

Annual Meeting  
& Awards Breakfast  
Vendor Demonstrations

IAAO Rep's Meeting  
Educational Sessions

*Lobster Bake*

**Tuesday 5/25/2010**

*Golf Tournament*

Educational Sessions

**Wednesday 5/26/2010**

Educational Sessions

*Closing Banquet &  
Installation of  
2010/2011 NRAAO Officers*

**Visit  
[www.nraao.org](http://www.nraao.org)  
for all your  
Northeast News  
& conference  
info!**

**2009 SHERRY VERMILYA AWARD RECIPIENTS**



Pictured Above: Bruce Bolt (MD), Carolyn Nadeau (CT), Awards Chair Donna Ralston (CT), and Jeffrey Hesley (NJ)

Connecticut's candidate began as an elected, then appointed Assessor. She has served as Secretary of the CAAO for three years, before moving up the chairs, ultimately serving as President in 2007. She ran for a second term as President, serves on the Legislation Committee and worked to reform the Board of Assessment Appeals process. She is passionate about her work and loyal to the State Association. Congratulations **CAROLYN NADEAU, CCAI II.**

Maryland has nominated someone whose career began as a Prince George's County Appraiser Trainee in December 1973 and currently serves as an Assessor Manager for the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation since November 2000. He was President of the MAAO in 1988/89 and served for many years as the Awards Committee Chair. He earned Eagle Scout in 1971. Maryland is very proud to present the 2009 Sherry Vermilya award to **BRUCE BOLT.**

Massachusetts has selected a graduate of Bentley College, who is currently in the Naval Reserve. After earning his Real Estate License, this man was elected to the Board of Assessors and served as Chair from 1982-1994, at which time he became the "full-time" Assessor. Besides serving tirelessly in his community and his state, he has taken on something quite unique—establishing assessments for a brand new town. For his stamina and his many years of contributions to the MAAO, Massachusetts presents the Sherry Vermilya Award to **JAMES C. JUDGE, MAA.**

New Hampshire's candidate has 30 years of municipal experience and serves in her current position for the past 19 years. She is a Certified New Hampshire Assessor, Past President of the NHSA and Past President of the NRAAO. Over the years, her support and effort toward creating scholarships and arranging educational opportunities has been invaluable. She has now set her sights on increasing the number of certified assessors in her state. Congratulations to New Hampshire's 2009 Sherry Vermilya recipient **KAREN G. MARCHANT.**

New Jersey's nomination started out in the revaluation field. During the mid 1980's he worked his way up from a residential data collector to a Project Manager and by 1993 left the revaluation business to become an Assessor. A few years later he took on a second assessing jurisdiction followed by an additional position in his primary municipality as their Zoning Official. He has served the Association of Municipal Assessors of New Jersey in many capacities, has chaired numerous state association golf outings and hospitality events. He currently serves on the AMANJ Education Committee and is officer of the state association serving as a Tri-County Vice President. Congratulations **JEFFREY R. HESLEY.**

Rhode Island has nominated a woman who started out as a Clerk to the Assessor, and absorbed everything there was to learn. She later worked for a revaluation company, then returned as the West Greenwich Assessor. She has earned her RI Certified Assessor designation, and worked on the 2007 NRAAO-Newport conference. She has served on the RIAAO Education Committee and Secretary, and on the Farm, Forest & Open Space Committee. Congrats to **CHARLENE G. RANDALL.**

## 2009 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Congratulations to the ten lucky recipients of the annual NRAAO Educational Scholarship. The Executive Board elected to award ten \$300 scholarships in 2009, to be used for continuing education. Recipients must contact Scholarship Committee Chair Viviane Valentine (RI) for all the details. [viviane@gloucesterri.org](mailto:viviane@gloucesterri.org)

Patricia Acquaviva-Aubin, RI  
Harold L. Brown, MD  
Robert J. Gagne, NH  
Anthony J. Homicki, CT  
Carolyn Nadeau, CT  
Valerie Owens, MD  
Betsy Quist, CT  
Donna Ralston, CT  
Frank J. Ragonese, MA  
Derek S. Wood, MD

Alternates:

Karen S. Beattie & Viviane L. Valentine, RI

---

## 2010 PORTLAND, MAINE CONFERENCE ACCOMMODATIONS

The Maine Local Host Committee is proud to welcome the NRAAO to Portland from May 23-26, 2010. Next year's conference site is the Eastland Park Hotel, 157 High Street, Portland, Maine.

Contact the hotel toll free at 1-888-671-8008. NRAAO room rates: \$109 to \$134 including parking. Visit the Eastland Park Hotel website:

[www.eastlandparkhotel.com](http://www.eastlandparkhotel.com)

---

## GET THE VOTE OUT!

NRAAO Members who are also members of the IAAO, remember to support our NRAAO Members in their upcoming elections. For **IAAO Executive Board Region 2: Tom Frey, New York.** And running for **IAAO Associate Member: Michael Miano, Massachusetts.**

Visit [www.IAAO.org](http://www.IAAO.org) and look for the **2010 Election Candidate Profiles** for their complete bios and voting information. Voting runs from **November 1st thru November 30th.**

## NRAAO MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Recently, some of our NRAAO Members have been recognized on the national level for their excellence and achievements. At the 75th Annual IAAO Conference held in Louisville, Kentucky two of our Members received prestigious awards from the IAAO Awards Committee.

**Stacey Ford Award** This award recognizes the "IAAO Representative of the Year" who has made an outstanding effort to promote IAAO membership during his or her year of service. The award recipient is chosen based on his or her overall activities and achievements. The award is named in honor of Stacey Ford, a former IAAO membership manager, who was a great booster and supporter of the IAAO Outreach Program. Congratulations to the 2009 award recipient **Melinda Fonda** from the state of Connecticut.

**Donehoo Essay Award** This award was named in honor of the first President of the IAAO, John C. Donehoo, and is presented to the author of the best essay on assessment, property tax administration, or policy. The submitted essay must be on a topic, written in a style, and of a length suitable for publication in the *Journal of Property Tax Assessment & Administration*. The 2009 award recipients are **David McMullen** from Lebanon, New Hampshire and John Lifflander from Ridgefield, Virginia.



Pictured Above: David McMullen (NH), Melinda Fonda (CT) \ and IAAO Executibe Board member Jim Michaud (NH).

## THANK YOU MESSAGE FROM TOM &amp; PAT FREY

Dear NRAAO Membership:

Pat and I wanted to thank the NRAAO Membership and the Past Presidents of the NRAAO for presenting us with the Catherine E. Pardee Memorial Award at the Annual Conference in beautiful Ocean City.

I am rarely at a loss for words, but the shock and surprise that set in as Donna Ralston, Awards Chairperson, described the recipients of this award and I realized she was talking about Pat and me, left me speechless. As we walked forward to accept the beautiful clock/plaque I realized we would be expected to say something and there wasn't a lot in my head other than, wow isn't this special.

I'm pretty sure my comments didn't convey the feelings we had at receiving the Catherine E. Pardee Award and we wanted to make sure the membership knows what a wonderful gift this was to us and to thank the Past Presidents for voting us this honor. After we were back home, I looked at the past recipients of the Pardee Award and was humbled to be in such wonderful company of people that had worked hard to make the NRAAO the respected organization it is today.

So, Thank You, to all the members of the NRAAO for being a part of this great group of assessing officials and see you next year in Maine.

Tom and Pat Frey

**NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
ASSESSING OFFICERS**

Matthew E. Sturgis,  
President - Maine

William Healey, Jr.,  
Vice President - Maine

Paul G. Lesperance,  
Treasurer - Maine

Everett "Gus" Martin,  
Secretary - Massachusetts

John M. O'Connor Esq.,  
Legal Counsel

Leslie Pruitt,  
Immediate Past President  
Maryland

*NRAAO Newsletter Editor*  
*Karen S. Beattie*  
[BeattieK@ScituateRI.org](mailto:BeattieK@ScituateRI.org)

**FALL BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING**

The Fall '09 Board of Director's Meeting is scheduled for FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2009 in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. The Meeting will be held at the Public House. All NRAAO Officers, State Representatives, Committee Chairs, Past Presidents, and State Presidents are welcome to attend. Committee Chairs should be prepared to present their committee reports.

For more details, please contact NRAAO Secretary Gus Martin at [elmartinfarm@verizon.net](mailto:elmartinfarm@verizon.net)

NRAAO Committee Chairs

Awards - Donna Ralston (CT)  
Budget/Advisory - Angelo Marino (NH)  
By-Laws/Infrastructure - Bernard Haney (NJ)  
Conference Advisory - Tony Homicki (CT)  
Education - Charlotte Rodgers (MD)  
Membership - Betsy Quist (CT)  
Newsletter - Karen Beattie (RI)  
Outreach - Bernard Haney (NJ)  
Scholarship - Viviane Valentine (RI)  
Website - David McMullen (NH)