

STATE ASSESSORS BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY, 2006 to JULY, 2007

M.C.L. 211.10c created the State Assessors Board in 1969. It provides for 5 members. The members are:

Raman Patel, CMAE 4, SRA, CAE, Washtenaw County Equalization Director, who represents Equalization Directors

Maxine McClelland, Big Rapids Township Supervisor, who represents Township Supervisors

Fred Morgan, CMAE 4, State Tax Commission Member, who represents the STC

Henry Allen, Vice Chair of the SAB, who represents Colleges and Universities, and

Lisa Hobart, CMAE 4, ASA, PPS, West Bloomfield Township Assessor and SAB Chair, representing Assessors.

The SAB has had many changes this past year. Of most significance is the retirement of Joan Peoples, CMAE 4 and CAE after 23 years of service. The SAB wishes Joan and her husband Joe a very happy and healthy retirement. We greatly appreciate the dedicated service she provided to the Board and the Assessment Community.

After conducting a search for a suitable replacement, we were extremely fortunate that David Lee expressed an interest in the job, and accepted the position of Executive Secretary of the State Assessors Board. David joins the SAB with considerable assessment administration experience at local, county and state level. The Board has had discussions with David about educational enhancements through technology, and providing expanding

educational programs. We look forward to working with David on our vision for the future of the SAB. David Lee will work with the Board to provide representation at the MAED and MAA meetings.

We also want to express our sincere thank you to Ms. Kelli Sobel, STC Executive Secretary for managing the SAB offices during our transition. She willingly and efficiently managed the day to day operations of the SAB and actively participated in our committee meetings and Board meetings. Her involvement has demonstrated the need for the STC and the SAB to work closely on tasks of mutual interest. The STC and SAB plans to work together on certain committee work and on issues that affect both Boards. It is further planned that David Lee and Kelli Sobel will work closely on a regular basis to share information, thoughts, plans and ideas.

Education is a primary responsibility of the SAB. In response to input received from assessors and equalization directors with suggestions about educational programs, the SAB formed a committee called the Assessment Administration Compliance Committee. Last fall the Committee recommended to the SAB a plan to study how we could be more effective in fulfilling our educational responsibilities. The SAB approved the plan which included sending a 50 question survey to each certified assessing officer in the State. Assessing Officers were required to complete the survey and submit it along with their certification renewal. The answers to the survey questions were provided on our website.

The survey results were recently tallied by certification level and geographic area. The Committee met to review those results and identified 3 key areas for educational development. They are: 1) The use of the STC Manual, 2) New, Addition, Adjustments, Loss and Losses, and 3) Land Values and ECF's. Interestingly, those results mirror the overall results of the STC 14 point review. The Board adopted the committee's recommendation to develop a mandatory 6 hour renewal program for 2008 that covers all 3 topics. Additionally, at the end of the 6 hour renewal there would be a quiz to benefit the participants on their knowledge and skill set of these topics. At the current time the Committee is developing the educational materials. Our goal is to improve the knowledge and skill sets of assessing officers and compliance with the requirements of the STC for the 14 point review. More information about the required 6 hour renewal for 2008 will be provided to certified assessing officers with their renewal information in the fall. We are currently seeking individuals that would like to instruct, or participate in the

instruction of the renewal programs. The SAB is able to pay a small stipend for the class and I hope that you will consider participating. Please notify David Lee or any Board Member if you would like to serve as renewal instructor.

In approximately July of each year the board reviews the certification requirements of each municipality and county. For example, in 2007 the Board will review the certification levels that will be required for 2009. This provides 18 months for the assessor to obtain any necessary increase in their certification level. The past couple of years the information used for this analysis was the prior year. That means that the Board would look at the SEV for 2006 when determining 2009 certification levels. This was done in part because of the availability of data at that time. However, the availability of the data is no longer an issue and we would be able to use 2007 SEV to establish 2009 certification levels. That being said, the SAB is seeking feedback from MAED and MAA about this issue. Specifically, if 2006 SEV was used, 2 municipalities would require a higher level of certification than they currently have. The first would require a change from level 1 to level 2, and the second would require a change from level 2 to level 3. If 2007 SEV was used, 6 municipalities would be affected. Four municipalities would require a change from level 1 to level 2, 1 municipality would require a change from level 2 to level 3 and the last would require a change from level 3 to level 4.

This year the Board also developed a plan to improve the Level 4 process for the candidate. The changes that were implemented requires graders to grade the demonstration appraisal within 60 days and to provide detailed written information and references for the candidate if the appraisal is not successful on its first submission. Approximately 15 demonstration appraisals are in progress. Our most recent Level 4 is Mr. James L. Chrestensen, from Garfield Township. The Board congratulates him for his achievement.

The SAB sincerely appreciates the hard work and dedication of our Committee Members. These members provide their technical knowledge and their personal time and expense to assist each and every one of us. They selflessly spend numerous hours participating in committee meetings, writing educational materials and editing materials to provide better, high quality assessor education. Our Committees include: 1) The Education Committee, 2) The Narrative Appraisal Report Writing Committee, 3) The Test Committee, 4) The Narrative Grader Committee, and our newest, 5)

The Assessment Administration Compliance Committee. With the exception of Level 4 Graders (since they are to remain anonymous), please stand and be recognized. Thank you for your outstanding contributions.

The SAB has certified many individuals this past year at various certification levels. Currently there are:

Level 1	622
Level 2	954
Level 3	867
Level 4	147

There are a total of 2,590 certified assessing officers.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. The Board will be happy to respond to any questions or concerns that you may have.