

STATE ASSESSORS BOARD  
2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Greetings from the State Assessors Board! Once again, we have had a very busy and productive year. The state of the economy, the high number of foreclosures, and the increasing number of Michigan Tax Tribunal appeals have made quality assessment administration of critical importance. We work hard to provide certification and training programs that contribute to the assessing officer's compliance with all laws, rules, STC Bulletins and guidelines.

Michigan Compiled Law 211.10c, created the State Assessors Board in 1969. It provides for 5 members. The members are:

Mr. Raman Patel, CMAE 4, SRA, CAE, Washtenaw County Equalization Director, and SAB Vice-Chair representing Equalization Directors. Raman has worked in the field of assessment administration for 36 years.

Mr. Henry Allen, representing Colleges and Universities. Henry is the longest serving member of the Board, having served since 1984. He previously held the positions of Vice-Chair and Chairperson of the Board. He retired from Michigan State University having served as the University Regional Director for Southeast Michigan.

Mr. Fred Morgan, CMAE 4, representing the State Tax Commission. Fred has held several key positions in the field of assessment administration, including Chief Assessor for the City of Detroit and Chief Judge for the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

Mr. Allan Berg, CMAE 3, representing Township Supervisors. Allan is the Supervisor of Belknap Township, Presque Isle County. He was appointed to the Board in January of this year replacing Ms. Maxine McClelland from Big Rapids Township. Mr. Berg is a Limited Real Estate Appraiser and Broker. He performs assessing services in Alpena, Montmorency and Presque Isle Counties.

Mrs. Lisa Hobart, ASA, PPS, CMAE 4, representing Assessors. She is the Assessor of West Bloomfield Township and serves as Chairperson of the State Assessors Board.

This year the Board said good-bye and best wishes to fellow Board Member, Maxine McClelland and Executive Secretary, David Lee. We thank them for their contributions and achievements, and wish them well in all of their future endeavors.

The State Assessors Board is a volunteer position. The actions of the Board are fulfilled by a very capable team of individuals. We extend a special thank you to Ms. Kelli Sobel,

Executive Secretary of the State Tax Commission who is serving as the Interim Executive Secretary of the State Assessors Board. We would also like to thank Ms. Nancy Armstrong, Ms. LaNiece Densteadt, Ms. Barb Duncanson and Ms. Liz Tobias.

The Committees and work groups of the State Assessors Board provide a very important function to our goals and objectives. We are able to accomplish outstanding renewal programs and classes because of the dedicated efforts of volunteers. The SAB wishes to recognize the efforts of our Committees:

Assessment Administration Compliance Committee,  
Equalization Course Group,  
Subject Property Approval Group and the newly formed

On behalf of the State Assessors Board, we thank you for your dedication to the educational and technical advancements you have contributed to Assessment Administration. Your generosity is appreciated. Contributions made in education touches many lives and you should be proud of your achievements.

The Board has directed significant changes to our website. If you have not had the opportunity to visit the site recently, we encourage you to do so. We have valuable information regarding programs, courses, renewals and examinations. We offer renewal programs and quizzes online. There is much to be gained from in-class educational programs, but as is true with most organizations, we are seeking methods to operate in an efficient and effective manner.

Plans developed over the past year have been implemented. The results are overwhelmingly positive. Over 95% of individuals participating in our programs have rated them as good or excellent. Our recertification programs focus on 3 required topics. They are:

Land Values, Land Value Maps, and Economic Condition Factors  
Application of New, Loss, Additions, Losses and Adjustment  
Usage of the Assessor's Manual (currently under development)

The Board is always interested in working with individuals that would like to instruct courses and/or renewal programs. We invite interested individuals to contact the Board if you are interested in serving on a committee, or would like to contribute in a program. Instructors are compensated for their work, and the fees vary depending on the program.

As an important reminder, 12 hours of renewal credit is required each year. At least 6 hours is a mandatory program. However if you take all 12 hours this year as mandatory renewal hours, you will need 6 hours of mandatory credit next year, with 6 hours of renewal credit. The third year, you may have all 12 hours of elective renewal hours. The elective hours must be directly related to assessment administration.

The renewal programs are a result of the findings of many "14-point reviews" conducted by the State Tax Commission. Our programs were designed to provide an educational basis and

greater understanding of the requirements of the assessing officer. The State Assessors Board is proud to partner with the State Tax Commission to provide greater skill sets of all involved in the complex field of assessment administration.

The Board currently has 12 demonstration appraisals in process. These are appraisals that have been received by the Board and are in the grading process. The process has been modified. We require that the demonstration appraisals be graded in a timely fashion and that detailed comments be provided to the candidate by the grader. Our most recent level 4 is Mr. Matt Woolford of Kent County. The Board congratulates him on his outstanding achievement.

There are four levels of certification. Currently there are:

553	Level 1
961	Level 2
902	Level 3
<u>148</u>	<u>Level 4</u>
2564	Total

The total number of certified individuals is slightly higher than last year, and the number of individuals certified at level 4 remains unchanged. Of the 148 level 4 certifications, approximately 89 are actively engaged in the public sector. The other 58 are retired, employed by the private sector or not presently working.

The Board is eager to provide meaningful programs and curriculum to foster quality assessment administration. We welcome your thoughts and feedback. Our email address is [State-Assessors-Board@Michigan.gov](mailto:State-Assessors-Board@Michigan.gov)

Thank you very much for the opportunity to report.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Hobart, CMAE 4, ASA, PPS  
State Assessors Board Chairperson