

PITTSBURGH Chapter Newsletter

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President's Message

Dear Members,

It's June, and I am six months into my term as Chapter President.

During this time we have changed the design of our chapter web site. If you have not visited the site recently, take a look.. www.pghai.org.

Our education committee continues to offer programs for trainees and those seeking continuing education. In May we completed the Litigation Series, and a number of members have attained the Litigation Certificate. Mark Smeltzer, SRA, Education Chair is to be congratulated for bringing in 3 top-notch instructors. See all other offerings listed on the web site (www.pghai.org).

As a reminder USPAP has been updated as of the first of the year. Make it a point to attend our next offering on Thursday, July 22nd and hear the latest changes. Application has been made to the PA Real Estate Commission for Real Estate CE (cycle 6/10—5/12). If the course is approved an additional \$20 is required for the Real Estate CE.

Between now and the end of the year I will initiate a few events just for Chapter Associate Members. Are you starting or in the process of completing your designation, please don't hesitate to call Sara Gaskill, MAI, General Guidance Chair (phone 724-742-3352 or email at

sgaskill@irr.com) OR contact Dave Mueller, SRA by at (email at davemueller3@yahoo.com or by phone 412-494-0229) Residential Guidance Chair. They are anxious to help!!

Regulation 8 of the Appraisal Institute was amended to create a Chapter Associate Member Committee Chair. The Chapter Associate Member Committee shall discuss issues impacting Associate Members and provide recommendations to other bodies as appropriate, and work to enhance communications among Associate Members of the chapter, region and national levels, and to work to develop future leaders for the chapter and the organization as a whole. Associate members see the enclosed ballot for the candidates' names and cast your ballot for your choice.

Tom Frederick, SRA, Golf Chairman has planned a great golf outing. As many of you know, Tom is a Pro on and off the course. Keep the date open.....

Monday, August 30th at Edgewood Country Club, 12:30 pm Shotgun!! \$150 (cash lunch).

I encourage all members to attend and bring a *FEW* golfing buddies. (Watch for more information)

Sincerely,
Brian P. Kelly, MAI, SRA
2010 President



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Computer Stuff *n'at*

by Tom Cornelius



OK, so where were we? Here's few geek tips I've found over the years:

Google Earth and Tool Bar:

The google earth maps are free and can give you a good aerial photo if you want to dress up your report. The Toolbar works great and comes with a spill checker.

Msnap:

This is a free download that allows you to snap a photo of anything on your computer screen. Works great. http://download.cnet.com/MWSnap/3000-2072_4-10524228.html

Picassa 3:

A free program from Google that organizes all your photos. Good price. I have three.

HP-12 Program:

Just hit the Google button on your internet machine and you'll find the HP program to download onto your desktop. I installed it on my Palm Treo along with the MLS Lock Box opener. It eliminated at least two things from my utility belt.

CAMERAS



Sad to say I remember pulling out the photo from the Polaroid and either warming it up on the dashboard or sticking it in my armpit to make it develop. Glad those days are over, ruined too many shirts.

My first Digital Camera was the Sony Mavica, as big as a brick but good results. (I use it now as a door stop, my old Disto as a paper weight).

My current camera is the Panasonic Lumix, DMC FX35 model. It comes with a 25 MM wide lens, which comes in handy inspecting homes in Lawrenceville. The new wave of cameras at the very least have a 28mm lens, don't settle for anything less.

I do miss the aerobic work out I used to get with 1 hand carrying the Disto and the other the Mavica.

Ah, better than walking with a wheel

Speaking of wheels **Measuring Devices:**

I got into this biz back in the late 70's, and even then anyone that used a wheel was considered old. Amazingly, 30 plus years later some people are still using them. My first boss, Robert "Buck" Nell, MAI, started me out using this. I don't want to say that Bob is old, but when he appraised the White House, he used plans and specs. Bob is so old that when he started there were only 2 approaches to value. He's so old that he had to wait until the wheel was invented to be an appraiser.



I've been using a Disto for about 8 years now. My current model is the A-3, costs around \$229 bucks and worth every penny. No walking through bushes, rewinding the tape through mud, or looking like Batman with that measuring tape on your hip. I'll never go back to a tape, let alone a wheel. I

consider it money well spent. And it's great for making dogs and cats go crazy

An informal survey at the Hofbrau revealed 85% use a tape, 10 percent use a Disto, and 5% use a wheel. Those using a wheel recall appraising during the Great Depression. Except for Terri Love, who recently bought a new measuring wheel. Said Terri: "The new measuring device has dual wheels which increases

stability and accuracy. And if you purchase the warranty, they will rotate the wheels every year and install Winter treads for free." * Sounds like a deal to me! Disto-Mania, it's running wild!

**Hey, Terri, the 70's called, they want your wheel and 8-tracks back!*

PITTSBURGH METROPOLITAN CHAPTER OF THE APPRAISAL INSTITUTE

2010 SCHEDULE— PA Appraisal Cycle 7/1/09—6/30/11

ALL CLASSES WILL BE HELD AT 1427 W. LIBERTY AVENUE, PITTSBURGH, PA 15226 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Basic Appraisal Procedures – 30 hrs (initial education for trainees) July 7, 8, 9, 10, 2010 - \$410

15 hr. National USPAP – July 12 & 13, 2010 - \$250 —(initial education for trainees)

7 hr. National USPAP Update – Thursday, July 22, 2010 + \$20 for Real Estate CE Application has been made to the PA Real Estate Commission for Real Estate CE cycle 6/10—5/12.

Separate payment must be made for the real estate CE.

Residential Sales Comparison & Income Approaches – 30 hrs –Aug. 25, 26, 27, 28, 2010 - \$410 – (Initial education for trainees)

Residential Appraising Update 2010: Staying competent in a new decade –Friday, September 17, 2010 -- 4 hrs. –Tuition: \$65 Instructor: Mark V. Smeltzer, SRA - 8:00am – 12:30 pm

PA. Rules & Regulations – 3.5 hrs. – Friday, September 17, 2010 – Tuition: \$65 – Instructor: Elaine Kirsch, MAI, SRA – 1:00 – 4:30 pm

Valuation by Comparison–7 hrs–September 24, 2010 –Tuition: \$145 –Instructor: Mark Smeltzer, SRA

The following is a list of classes to be held in Grove City/Mercer PA:

7 hr. National USPAP update - October 8 – Holiday Inn Express, 21 Holiday Boulevard, Mercer, PA (near Grove City outlets) -\$145.00 plus \$20 for real estate continuing education (October 7, 21, 2010- 7hr class will be held at the Holiday Inn Express and/or Hampton Inn & Suites, Mercer, PA– Topic to be determined

October 22, 2010 - Residential Appraising Update 2010: Staying competent in a new decade – - 4 hrs. –Tuition: \$65 Instructor: Elaine G. Kirsch, MA, SRA - 8:00am – 12:30 pm – Hampton Inn

PA. Rules & Regulations – 3.5 hrs. — Tuition: \$65 – Instructor: Elaine Kirsch, MAI, SRA – 1:00 – 4:30 pm

7 hr. National USPAP – November 12, 2010 - \$145

PA Rules & Regs. – 3.5 hrs. – November 19, 2010 - \$60

Course: Business Practices & Ethics

–(required for designated members and Associates)

Date: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2010 TIME: 8-8:30 am CHECK IN –CLASS BEGINS AT 8:30am

Instructor: ELAINE G. KIRSCH, MAI, SRA Tuition: \$140.00

STATE BOARD OF CERTIFIED REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS UPDATE:

HB2334 has been introduced. The Bill would create registration parameter for Appraisal Management Companies (AMC's) in Pennsylvania and would allow the Board to regulate AMC;s.

APPRAISER TRAINEES: The Board has currently set an implementation date of October, 2010 for a Trainee License to be implemented 90 days following publication date. Watch for notice of this implementation.

APPRAISAL INSTITUTE ASSOCIATE MEMBER CE REQUIREMENT CHANGES TAKE EFFECT JULY 1, 2010.

The Appraisal Institute Board of Directors recently amended the regulation to require that all practicing Associate members complete 70 hours of continuing education every five years. The 70 hrs. must include USPAP (7 hr or 15hr course), Business Practices & Ethics and the new "Appraisal Curriculum Overview". Cycles begins July 1, 2010. Also Associate members must begin to add a statement to appraisal reports when they are compliant with standards and ethics requirement beginning July 1, 2010.

Registration for all offerings can be made at the chapter's web site at www.pghai.org or by completing the registration form below.

-----REGISTRATION FORM -----

Event/Course/seminar title _____ Date _____

Event/Course/seminar title _____ Date _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Firm: _____ Cell phone # _____

Address _____ Firm FAX _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

State certification/license #. _____ Email address _____

Please charge my credit card: ___ Visa ___ Master Card ___ American Exp. Expiration date _____

Credit card # _____ Signature _____

Name on credit card _____

Your address for credit card _____

OR My check in the amount of _____ is enclosed. (PAYABLE: PITTSBURGH CHAPTER-APPRAISAL INSTITUTE) and Mail form to: **1427 W. Liberty Avenue – Pittsburgh, PA 15226-1101** or FAX to **412-563-0255**

Phone: 412-563-1900

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