Worcester County Assessors Association Newsletter

December 2026 www.wcaa-ma.org

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Happy Holidays From WCAA

We always welcome your ideas and input



President's Message

Justice Graves, MAA
Templeton

It is hard to believe, yet again, that another year has passed. As year end is approaching fast, I want to wish you all swift and efficient tax rate settings. By the time this newsletter is sent out, the middle of November will have come and gone, and other responsibilities will soon crest on the horizon.

I want to take the time this year to sincerely thank several members of our association for their work this past year. First, thank you to Ruth Anderson of Shrewsbury for joining and helping our Executive Board for this past year, it has been greatly appreciated by every-one. Lee Keomanivong, formerly of Northborough, stepped up with helping on our website and mailings. Those roles have been taken over by Amy Evanowski of Rutland, which has been much appreciated. Finally, Sarah Chase of Spencer, our Vice President and Chair of our Education Committee, has done a great job pulling the small things together behind the scenes to make the educational offerings we had this past year happen. If you see her, please thank her for her time, along with the rest of the Education Committee members.

Speaking of the Education Committee, have you ever thought you had a good idea for an event? Has volunteering for the association interested you in the past? We are always looking for more people to bring a new voice to the table, introduce an unexplored topic the forefront, or suggestions for how to improve our offerings. The educational opportunities we provide are done with the objective of making them engaging and done at a quality price for the amount of information you will receive. More importantly, they only happen because of assessors like you, who directly determine what is of most importance during this time of transition in the profession. So think about it, and we would welcome you to consider joining.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your President this year. The expertise and comradery we bring to this profession from all our members and associates truly makes this career worthwhile and always in-

(Cont'd on Page 2)

teresting. I look forward to another year of meeting new faces and seeing what our membership does in the coming year. We are trying some new things with the annual meeting this year: a new location and an earlier time. Please join us on Wednesday, December 9, 2026, at the Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge. Reception will be from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM this year, with a buffet dinner and annual meeting program after the reception. We wish to see you all there.

For those who know me I've never been one for quotes, but there are few that stand out over time. Coming from the poet Ovid from the work *Amores*, "prefer et obdura, dolor hic tibi proderit olim… be patient and tough; someday this pain will be useful to you." The end of the year may be a busy time with tax rate setting, billing, exemption & chapterland applications, but in the end it all serves its purpose and the next year al-



Information from November 1, 2025-October 31, 2026

Annual Meeting (December 2025)	
$85 Mem/$95 Non Mem (67)	
Collected	$5,360.00
Trophies	$ 127.50
Baskets (13)	$ 193.60
Scholarships	$ 0.00
Salem Cross	$4,556.00
Total Cost	**$4,877.10**
Difference +/-	**$ 482.90**
3/18/26 Workshop $80 Mem/ $100 Non Mem (43)	
Collected	$3,826.84
Cyprian Keys Golf Club	$2,443.59
Scholarships	$ 0.00
Speakers	$ 0.00
Gifts	$ 57.16
Total Cost	**$2,500.75**
Difference +/-	**$1,326.09**
June Clerks Meeting $30 (37)	
Collected	$1,110.00
Gifts	$ 71.74
Food	$ 661.34
Speaker	$ 0.00
Scholarships	$ 0.00
Total Cost	**$ 733.08**
Difference +/-	**$ 376.92**

Expenses/Miscellaneous	
Host Rocket	$ 224.06
50/50 Worcester Cnty Food Bank	$ 235.00
Zoom	$ 169.89
Bond	$ 125.00
MAAO Scholarship	$ 50.00
Amy Evanowski (Website)	$ 250.00
MAAO Scholarships Used	$ 100.00
Tracey Tardy (Treasurer)	$ 500.00
Tammy Kalinowski (Secretary)	$ 500.00
Lisa Berg (Newsletter)	$ 250.00
Survey Monkey (Annual Mtg Location)	$ 105.19
Annual Meeting Deposit 12/9/2026 (Next Yr)	$ 400.00
Justice Graves (Computer)	$ 392.06
Check Order	$ 32.79
Total	**$3,333.99**
State Fees & Tax Return Cost	
Commonwealth of MA (Annual Report)	$ 37.00
Pan Nydam (Prepare & Submit 2024 Tax Rt'ns)	$ 125.00
Total	**$ 162.00**
Postage	$ 0.00
Postmaster	$ 0.00
Total	**$ 0.00**
Bylaw Meeting	$ 0.00

Information from November 1, 2025-October 31, 2026

Income Items	Income Totals
Dues 2026	$ 3,175.00
50/50 Raffle	$ 235.00
Annual Meeting	$ 5,360.00
Meetings	$ 9,486.84
Advertisements	$ 50.00
TOTAL INCOME	**$18,306.84**

WCAA Treasurers Report 10/30/2026

Account Balance as of 8/1/2026	$ 7,620.08	
Income 8/2/2026-10/30/2026	$ 4,490.00	
TOTAL	$12,110.08	
Less Expenses 8/2/2026-10/30/2026	$ 4,654.47	
Available Checking Account funds as of 10/30/2026	$ 7,455.61	
Certificates of Deposits (Only Rec. Statement Qtly (Mar/		Sept/Dec)
Milford Federal Savings & Loan Association (Mature Date 3/15/228)	9/30/2026	$13,994.18
Savings Account (Will not Rec the Statement Until Nov) Milford Federal Savings and Loan Association Account	9/30/2026	$ 2,001.57
Total CD and Savings Value		**$15,995.75**
Total Available Cash as of 10/30/2026		$23,451.36



Education Committee Report

Sarah Chase - Education Chairman



WCAA offered a full schedule of educational programs in 2026, that provided members with opportunities to earn continuing education credits, learn about topics directly affecting assessors' offices, and connect with colleagues from throughout Worcester County and beyond.

Our Spring Meeting was held on March 18 at Cyprian Keyes in Boylston. The morning session featured **Chip Davis** of Cidare Modern Data Collections for Assessors, who presented on Industrial and Commercial Data Collection. The afternoon session was presented by **Daniel Marrier**, Senior GIS Specialist and Database Architect with the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security, who discussed the MassGIS Addressing Standard and its relationship to local CAMA databases, including ADU addressing, sub-addressing, and the Master Address Database.

The annual Clerks Meeting was held on June 2 at the Grafton Public Library. **Melissa Couture Rimbold**, M.A.A., Associate Assessor for the Town of South Hadley, opened the day with a presentation on the Assessors Monthly Calendar of Events, providing a month-by-month look at the cyclical workflow of a Massachusetts Assessors' Office and the related Department of Revenue requirements.

The afternoon focused on the RMV ATLAS system. Representatives from the Registry of Motor Vehicles — **Susan Butler**, **Jodie Belcher**, and **Felicia Okonkwo** — provided an overview of ATLAS, including navigation, recommits, overvaluations, and other common issues that are encountered by assessors' offices. **Tammy Kalinowski**, M.A.A., Principal Assessor for the Town of Grafton, then led a forum-style question-and-answer session focused on practical, day-to-day issues involving the RMV.

Our Fall Meeting returned to Cyprian Keyes on September 15 with a full day covering several timely assessment topics. **Mary Oliver**, M.A.A., and **Rebecca Boucher**, AAS, M.A.A., of the Bureau of Local Assessment opened the program with a session on classifying property, use codes, and the timing of class changes. **Mike Downey** and **Chris Capone** of the Department of Conservation and Recreation followed with an overview of Massachusetts Current Use Programs under Chapters 61, 61A, and 61B.

The afternoon continued with **Andrea Filipkowski**, CAA, Town of Belchertown, presenting best practices for the administration of Chapter Land, including applications, liens, rights of first refusal, rollbacks, and other annual responsibilities. The day concluded with **Justice Graves**, M.A.A., Town of Templeton, discussing real abatements and special situations to abate, including significant damage, exempt-property sales, and unique billing situations.

A sincere thank you to this year's Education Committee — **Randi Bjorlin** of Athol, **Joanne Dillon** of Milford, **Lori Esposito** of Southborough, **Tammy Kalinowski** of Grafton, **Valerie Leonardo** of Upton, and **Cuong Tran** of Millbury — as well as the WCAA Executive Board and everyone who helped organize and support our programs throughout the year.

As always, thank you to everyone who attended our meetings and educational programs throughout the year. In 2026, WCAA offered a total of 17.5 continuing education credits through our Spring Meeting, Clerks Meeting, and Fall Meeting. These programs provide not only valuable educational opportunities, but also a chance to share ideas, ask questions, and learn from one another.

Members are also reminded that WCAA offers educational scholarships to help offset the cost of continuing education. If your town has limited funding available for training, we encourage you to consider applying for scholarship assistance.

We appreciate your continued support of WCAA education and look forward to another great year of programs in 2027.

WORCESTER COUNTY ASSESSORS ASSOCIATION

WCAA ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, December 9, 2026

Publick House Historic Inn
277 Main Street (Route 131)
Sturbridge, Massachusetts

RECEPTION 4:00 – 5:00 PM
Cash Bar
International Cheese Display with Crackers, Garnished with Fresh Fruit
Fresh Vegetables with Bleu Cheese & Parmesan Peppercorn Dips

DINNER BUFFET
New England Clam Chowder
Spinach Salad with Dried Cranberries, Candied Pecans & Crumbled Goat Cheese
Caesar Salad with Parmesan Cheese
Roasted Native Turkey with Cranberry Sauce, Gravy & Cornbread-Sausage Stuffing
Yankee Pot Roast with Pan Gravy
Pan-Roasted Salmon with Raspberry-Thyme Beurre Blanc
Chef's Choice of Potato and Vegetable
House-Made Pecan Sweet Rolls & Dinner Rolls with Butter
Warm Deep-Dish Apple Pie with Whipped Cream
Carrot Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting

This is our Annual Meeting; the program will include the Election of Officers and Executive Board for 2027, Legislative Updates, raffles and awards.

REGISTRATION: Please register by November 29th, 2026

$90.00 PER PERSON

Register by October 29th and you will be entered into a raffle to win a special basket!

Registration is now ONLINE for all of our events.

You will need to refresh the page and please submit a separate registration for each person within your office. Once you have registered, you will be emailed your receipt to process for payment.

REGISTRATION WITHOUT PAYMENT AND ANY NO-SHOW WILL BE BILLED ACCORDINGLY. CANCELLATION – NO REFUND.

If you have any questions or do not receive your confirmation, please contact Tracey Tardy at: t.tardy@town.sutton.ma.us or by phone (508) 865-8722.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting
December 3, 2025

President Valerie Leonardo called the meeting of the Worcester County Assessors Association to order at 6:13 P.M. at the Salem Cross Inn, Spencer, MA on December 3, 2025, with approximately 66 members registered for this meeting.

A motion was made, seconded and voted by a majority to accept the Annual Meeting Minutes of December 3, 2024, as written in the December Newsletter.

A motion was made, seconded and voted by a majority to accept the Treasurers Report of October 31, 2025, as written in the December Newsletter.

A motion was made, seconded and voted by a majority to accept the Budget for 2026.

A motion was made, seconded and voted by a majority to make Linda Swadel an honorary member of the Worcester County Assessors Association.

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to accept the slate of officers for 2026 as written in the December Newsletter.

President:	Justice Graves, MAA - Templeton
Vice President:	Sarah Chase, MAA - Spencer
Treasurer:	Tracey Tardy, MAA - Sutton
Secretary:	Tammy Kalinowski, MAA - Grafton

Executive Board:

Kathy M. Stanley, MAA – Charlton
Amy Evanowski, MAA - Rutland
Lee Keomanivong, MAA – Northborough
Ruth Anderson, MAA - Shrewsbury
Ken O'Brien, MAA - Uxbridge

Past President: Valerie Leonardo, MAA - Upton

Bill Mitchell presented a short talk on legislative updates.

Ken O'Brien extended this appreciation to all that attended the Legislative Breakfast.

Awards Committee Member Kathy Stanley presented the Outgoing President Award to Valerie Leonardo.

Members had a choice of many outstanding door prizes. The winners of holiday baskets were Erica Crea, Holden;April Iannacone, Ayer; Hanna Aron, Littleton; Pam Murphy, Sturbridge; Tom Welch, Foxboro; Don Clarke, Ashland; Ted Ledgard, Athol and David Manzello, Harvard. Winners of the $50 WCAA Scholarship Awards were Alex Sendzik, Robert Nunamacker, Sutton; Helen Townsend, East Brookfield; Kathy Miller, Littleton; Jamie Kerbel, Grafton; Joyce Saedgnik; Ken Valdulas; Robert Heckman, Amy Evanowski; Rutland and Lee Keomanivong, Northborough. The winner of the $50 gift card from RRG was Tracey Tardy, Sutton.

Ryan Brosseau, Leominster won the 50/50 raffle in the amount of $235.00. The charity picked by President Valerie Leonardo is The Worcester County Food Bank for the 50/50 Raffle proceeds. The donation totaled $235.00.

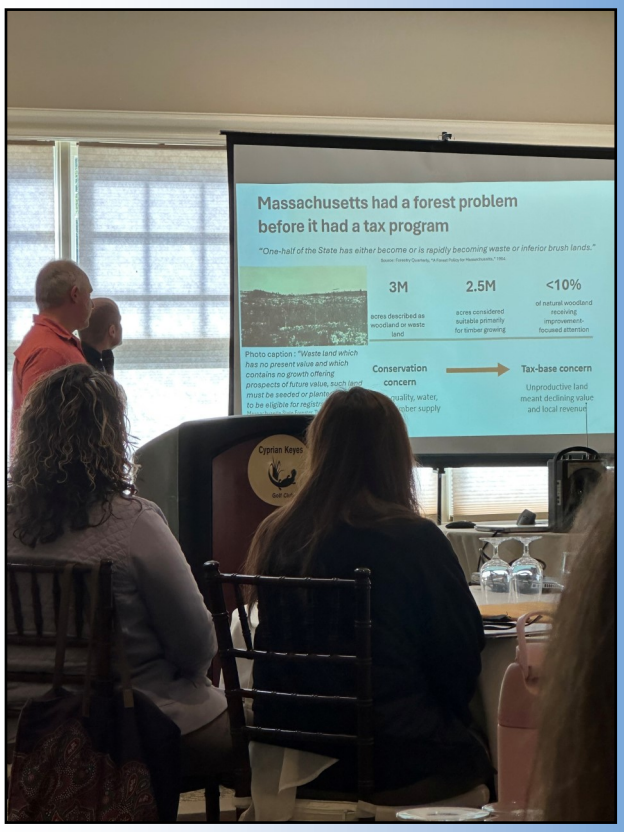
Congratulations to all!

With no further business, a motion was made and seconded to dissolve the meeting at 6:28 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tammy M. Kalinowski, Secretary



(l-r:) Jodie Belcher - Manager of Vehicle Services Programs, RMV
Felicia Okonkwo, Assistant Registrar of Vehicle Services, RMV
Sarah Chase - Town of Spencer
Tammy Kalinowski—Town of Grafton



Fall Meeting



Melissa Couture Rimbold - Town of South Hadley Clerk's Meeting June 2, 2026



Clerks Meeting June 2, 2026

✦ REPORT OF THE AUDIT / BUDGET COMMITTEE ✦

2026 | WCAA

WCAA had a successful year, and our budget remains unchanged at **$8,655**. The proposed adjustments are reallocations that support the continued expansion of our scholarship program and strengthen our investment in members.

Respectfully submitted, *Kathleen Stanley · Ruth Anderson · Tammy Kalinowski · Tracey Tardy*

BUDGET CATEGORY	2027 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET
E-Board	$750	$750	$1,000
Audit	$250	$250	$250
Meetings	$2,500	$3,500	$2,500
Education Committee	$500	$500	$750
Awards	$250	$250	$500
Scholarships	$1,500	$750	$750
Misc. / Postage	$305	$305	$305
Secretary	$500	$500	$500
Treasurer	$500	$500	$500
Website	$250	$250	$250
Newsletters	$250	$250	$500
Web / Zoom / Rotary	$450	$450	$450
Bond Renewal	$200	$200	$140
Fees & Taxes	$200	$200	$200
TOTAL	**$8,655**	**$8,655**	**$8,655**

REMINDER: SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!



The Worcester County Assessors Association has available funds for scholarships. To apply you only need to be a paid member of the WCAA, the scholarships are available to new and seasoned office staff and Assessors. A community may not receive more than one scholarship in a given year. The maximum amount of any awarded scholarship cannot exceed $250. The scholarships are available for conferences and classes being applied toward achieving a designation. However, a scholarship can only be used for tuition not room and board.

If you have a financial need for a scholarship, please complete an application (**found on WCAA's web site www.wcaa-ma.org) and send the completed application to the address listed at the bottom of the application. The on-line application is a fillable form.**

Continuing education is important to Assessors and the office staff. By attending workshops, meetings, and conferences you gain an opportunity to share your knowledge and experiences, as well as learning various ways to deal with some of the unique and sometimes interesting problems that we encounter.

The WCAA Board would like to thank all the members for their participation in our Association.

Education is not only important to and for the members, it is also important to the public. Education and updated information help make our jobs easier.

WORCESTER COUNTY ASSESSORS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

The Worcester County Assessors Association Scholarship Fund was established to help Assessors or their office staff, who are members of the WCAA further their knowledge in the field of assessing when they have no funding available to them in their own budgets. These scholarships are available for all courses that offer credits towards a designation or recertification, including IAAO courses.
Scholarships cover the cost of tuition only. Scholarships are awarded during the year and are based upon financial and educational need.

Scholarship Conditions:

- Applicants must be employed by a town/city participating in the WCAA
- Scholarships are open to new and seasoned office staff and Assessors • Scholarships are for course tuition only, not room and board
- Only one scholarship will be available per community
- $250.00 will be the maximum amount an applicant will receive

Please Complete the Following:

Last Name:_____ First Name:_____M.I.:_____

Business Address:_____ City/Town:_____

Business Phone:_____ Position:_____

Home Address:_____ City/Town:_____

State:_____ Zip:_____ Home Phone:_____

How long have you been in the Assessing Field? _____

Do you have your MAA designation? _____

Which course do you wish to take? _____

What are the course date(s) and location(s)?_____

What is the cost of tuition/registration?_____

How much money is budgeted for educational purposes in your dept.?_____

Why do you wish to take this course and why do you need a scholarship?_____

_____

_____

I hereby certify that the above information is accurate & complete

Applicant's Signature _____ Date_____

Supervisor's Signature_____ Date_____

Mail to:

WCAA Scholarship Committee
Attn: Tracey Tardy
Sutton Assessors Office
4 Uxbridge Rd
Sutton, MA 01590
t.tardy@town.sutton.ma.us

WCAA Slate of Officers - Executive Board 2027

The nominating committee is pleased to present the following Slate of Officers and Executive Board Members to be voted on at the Annual Meeting of the WCAA to be held at The Publick House on December 9th, 2026.

Officers:

President:	**Justice Graves, Templeton**
Vice-President:	Sarah Chase, Spencer
Treasurer:	Tracey Tardy, Sutton
Secretary:	Tammy Kalinowski, Grafton

Executive Board:

Kathleen Stanley, Charlton

Joanne Dillion, Milford

Amy Evanowski, Rutland

Tiffany Peters, Shrewsbury

Ken O' Brien, Uxbridge

Immediate Past President:

Valerie Leonardo, Uxbridge

Sincerely,

The Nominating Committee,

Kathleen Stanley, Charlton

Worcester County Assessors Association

2026 Officers

President: Justice Graves, MAA - Templeton	978-894-2760	jgraves@templetonma.gov
Vice President: Sarah Chase, MAA - Spencer	508-885-7500	schase@spencerma.gov
Treasurer: Tracey Tardy, MAA - Sutton	508-865-8722	t.tardy@town.sutton.ma.us
Secretary: Tammy Kalinowski, MAA - Grafton	508-839-5335	kalinowskit@grafton-ma.gov

Executive Board:

Kathleen M. Stanley, MAA - Charlton	508-248-2233	kathleen.stanley@townofcharlton.net
Amy Evanowski, MAA - Rutland	508-886-4100	aevanowski@townofrutland.org
Lee Keomanivong, MAA - Northborough		
Ruth Anderson, MAA - Shrewsbury	508-841-8501	randerson@shrewsburyma.gov
Ken O'Brien, MAA - Uxbridge	508-278-8600	kobrien@uxbridge-ma.gov

Past President:

Valerie Leonardo, MAA - Upton	508-529-1002	vleonardo@uptonma.gov