

For What it's Worth!

Central California Chapter
Of the Appraisal Institute

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Membership Mourns Loss of Past President Thornton

The Appraisal Institute is mourning the loss of Appraisal Institute past President Bert L. Thornton, MAI, who passed away on February 24, 2004, in Pasadena, CA. Thornton was president of the organization in 1999. More recently he served on the Education Trust (2000-2003), and was presently serving as representative to the Pan Pacific Congress of Real Estate Appraisers, as a trustee and vice chair of the Real Estate Appraisers Group Insurance Trust, and as an advisor to the Governance Restructure Project Team.

"Bert was retired Navy and instilled a sense of duty in all of us," commented Brian Glanville, MAI, who served as president two years after Thornton. "During Bert's watch, we began governance restructure; international education and designations; Val 2000 and alliances with the North American appraisal organizations, among other programs. We all owe him a great deal." Added Woodward Hanson, MAI, who succeeded Thornton as president in 2000, "Bert was the bridge between the old guard and the new at the Appraisal Institute. He passed on Knowledge to those who followed, but also encouraged new ideas, and always had the organization's best interests at heart."

Donations may be made in his name to the American Cancer Society or Appraisal Institute Education Trust. Donations to the Trust should be sent to the Appraisal Institute national office to the attention of Olivia Carreon (550 W. Van Buren St., Ste 1000, Chicago, IL 60607). The Trust plans to establish a scholarship in Thornton's memory.

Governance Restructure Update

The Governance Restructure project team met in Chicago February 24-25 to discuss in detail a first draft of a restructure proposal. Development of the proposal follows the Board of Directors' adoption of Best Practices for Governance and Best Practices for Board Leadership last year, which serve as the foundation for the proposed new structure. The plan is being shared first with the Board of Directors and then will be presented in detail, via PowerPoint presentations, at both the national committee meetings being held in Chicago April 15-18 and during the spring Regional meetings. Both will provide opportunities for further discussion on the proposed plan.

President Gary P. Taylor, MAI, SRA, has stated that "the success of this project will enable us to concentrate and better focus our resources and energies on our primary mission: that of serving the professional and business needs of our membership in the most effective and efficient ways possible."

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Why should I get Involved?

The local chapter doesn't need me, or does it?

By: James L. Henderson, SRA

Each year the local chapter looks to its membership for new ideas and new leadership, and it's that time again. The Board of Directors and nominating committee is searching for members of the institute that are interested in taking a roll in one of several leadership positions. We will need to replace an at large board member this year, as his term ends in December. Also, we need to find members that are interested in serving as officers so we can replace those that have already served.

In many respects, our chapter is strong. We have grown over just the past several months from 83 members in November to 115 currently. Financially we are also in good condition and with our upcoming educational offerings we should remain that way for some time. We also have a good cross section of membership on the board, at the present time, but we will need replacements very soon.

In November of 2002, the chapter was very close to closing its doors, not because of a lack of money or members but because most designated members had already served as president and we had a hard time finding someone willing to step up to the plate. Randy Merriman, MAI, SRA stepped forward and served in 2003 and I was able to complete my designation and take over in 2004, so we were able to keep the chapter afloat and weren't forced to merge into another chapter. While it is true that, for the time being we have officers in place and will be able to keep the chapter going for a few years to come, we still need your help.

As the nominating committee begins its task of selecting the leadership for 2005 I would like to think that they have several options for the leadership positions rather than just filling in the blanks with the usual suspects.

For this reason, I am asking each of you, designated or not, to get involved with the local chapter. It is truly eye opening when you see exactly what the board goes through, and what is involved in providing services to the membership and it is refreshing to have new ideas and different perspectives that can only come from having new people working on the board.

According to the Appraisal Institute by-laws. The office of president is the only office that requires a designated member. Further, the at large members of the board of directors can be affiliate or associate members, so there is really no reason not to get involved.

This is, after all, your chapter. It belongs to the membership not the leadership and the best way to voice your opinion as to what the chapter offers is to be on the Board of Directors or serve as an officer. It does not require that great of a commitment, in terms of time, and the rewards far outweigh the cost.

In closing, if you have an opinion on how the chapter operates, how we spend your money, what educational offerings we offer, what kind of meetings we hold, who should serve as an officer, or anything else pertaining to the local chapter, think about including you name as a potential candidate for the board or as an officer in 2005.

The local chapter does need your help!



James L Henderson, SRA
2004 President
Central California Chapter
of the Appraisal Institute

Meeting Schedule

APRIL

Scope of Work Seminar Apr. 1
BOD Meeting Apr. 6
General Membership Apr. 22

MAY

BOD Meeting May 11
No Membership Meeting

JUNE

BOD Meeting June 8
USPAP Update Course June 11
General Membership June 17

JULY

BOD July 6
No Membership Meeting

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President

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Vice-President

Steve Magar
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Secretary

Linda Wallace
661-716-2066

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Directors

Skip Ogle

Robert Balsom

Carl Tomlinson, SRA

Past President

Randy Merriman, MAI, SRA

OFFICE STAFF

Wendy Henderson

Executive Director

NEWSLETTER NOTES

Articles may be submitted to the
Chapter Office at:

P. O. Box 21352,
Bakersfield, CA 93390-1352

First Annual Halloween Cruise to Mexico

OK! We know everyone is busy, which is the EXACT reason we all need a break!! This is a cruise to Ensenada, Mexico that departs from Long Beach, CA. We leave at 5:00p.m. Friday night October 29th and return on Monday November 1st at 9:00 a. m. We are hoping to have an "appraisal seminar at sea" too.

So . . . pack your bathing suit, some sun screen and your Halloween costume (no fair coming as an Appraiser!) and join us for what promises to be a lot of fun. This cruise is open to any one, not just members of the Appraisal Institute.

Please e-mail admin@ai-bakersfield.com for more information



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