



**Appraisal
Institute**

**Greater Oregon
Chapter**

Field Notes May 2026

2026 Chapter President's Message

Jon Banz, MAI, AI-GRS
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For those who don't know me: my name is **Jon Banz, MAI, AI-GRS**, and I am your 2026 Chapter President. I have been a practicing commercial real estate appraiser in Oregon for the last 23 years. **Chad Plaster, JD, MAI** asked me to serve on the board a few years ago, and it was an honor to be asked. I took some time to consider it and ultimately decided it was time to give back to the profession that has treated me so well.

The Institute is not perfect, but there are committed people throughout the organization—especially at our chapter and region levels—who genuinely care about our members and are dedicated to righting the ship financially. I am proud to be among them.



My main goals for the chapter this year are the following:

- Migration to a modern chapter website
- Procurement of an Owl smart conferencing device
- Continuing our annual Spring Conference series
- Development of homegrown education offerings, beginning with a four-hour Timberland Appraisal Seminar presented by **Sam Romanaggi, MAI** and **Paul Wagner**, scheduled for Wednesday, June 17, 2026. The seminar will be held at Clackamas Community College in Wilsonville and also offered on Zoom using our new Owl Camera. We're excited about being able to offer a class in person and synchronously. A special thank you to **Jennifer Neitzel** for developing this offering.

As we move into spring, I am energized by the momentum building within our chapter. There is much to share, and I am grateful for the dedication of our members, volunteers, and sponsors who make GOCAI such a vibrant and resourceful organization.

Fifth Annual Spring Real Estate Conference — May 14, 2026

Mark your calendars! We are thrilled to announce our Fifth Annual Spring Real Estate Conference, taking place on May 14, 2026. This event continues to grow in scope and quality, and that does not happen by accident. A heartfelt thank you to all of our sponsors and supporters—your generosity and commitment to the chapter make this conference possible and allow us to deliver professional development to our membership. We hope to see a great turnout and encourage you to spread the word.

Welcoming New Chapter Leaders

I am pleased to welcome several individuals who have stepped into leadership roles within our chapter. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to:

Kelli Clark, SRA –2026 Government Affairs Committee, Chair in 2027

Jason Donaldson, MAI — Director, three year term

Brent A. Johnson, SRA, AI-RRS — Region 1 Representative, two year term

Jennifer Neitzel — Education Chair

Each of these individuals brings experience and enthusiasm to their roles, and I look forward to working alongside them as we continue to serve our membership.

Our New Website is Here!

After many years with our current online presence, I am excited to share that a fully updated GOCAI website has launched. Check it out here

<https://www.appraisalinstitute.org/chapters/greater-oregon>.

Our Chapter Executive Director, **Vicki Champ**, has worked diligently with National to bring this vision to life. The new site has modern functionality designed with our membership in mind—making it easier than ever to access resources, register for events, and stay connected with chapter news. Best of all, the costs associated with the new website is covered by National, so there is no additional burden to the chapter.

Expanding Education Access with New Technology

Vicki has also shown perseverance in procuring an Owl—a smart conferencing device—with the support of National and **Darwin Ernst, SRA, AI-RRS**, our Region 1 Chair. This technology will meaningfully expand our reach for homegrown education offerings and will allow members to attend board meetings, and classes virtually should they wish to participate from afar. Similar to the website, the cost of the Owl is reimbursed by National—a real win for the chapter.

Darwin Ernst, SRA, AI-RRS Nominated for Appraisal Institute Vice President

Circling back to Darwin—we are proud to share that our very own Region 1 Chair has been nominated to serve as Vice President of the Appraisal Institute. This is a significant honor and a testament to his leadership and dedication to our profession. Please see questionnaires for both [2027 Vice President Candidates](#). I encourage all members to be actively involved in the election process by voting to support the candidate of your choosing. Your voice matters, and this is a meaningful way to engage with the future direction of our national organization.

Looking Ahead: Education and Social Events

It is shaping up to be a strong year for chapter programming. We have multiple education offerings on the horizon, and I encourage you to take advantage of the professional development opportunities as they are announced. Additionally, stay tuned for a Q2 social gathering—details are still being finalized, but we look forward to creating another opportunity to connect, network, and enjoy each other's company outside of the classroom.

Thank you for your continued membership and involvement in GOCAI. I am honored to serve as your president and look forward to a productive and rewarding year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan B. Banz, MAI, AI-GRS

2026 Chapter President

Greater Oregon Chapter, Appraisal Institute

On January 23, 2026 the Chapter held the annual Installation of Officers at Langdon Farms Golf Club in Aurora. The dinner and installation program was held immediately following a 2-hour seminar on the Oregon economy by local economist Dr. Eric Fruits, Portland-based economist, President and Chief Economist at Economics International Corp., and a Senior Scholar at the International Center for Law & Economics. Twenty-seven appraisers attended the seminar and/or the installation.

Your newly sworn-in officers for 2026 are:

President: Jonathan Banz, MAI, AI-GRS

Vice President: Matthew Call, MAI

Treasurer: Justin Weeks, MAI

Secretary: John Gill, MAI

Immediate Past President: Kurt Plaster, MAI

Directors: Joel Jorgensen, AI-GRS, Jeffrey Buono, MAI, Jason Donaldson, MAI



Meet our new Chapter Education Chair, Jennifer Neitzel
jneitzel@powellbanz.com



I recently retired from the Salem-Keizer School District after more than 30 years in education, including the last 20 years as an elementary school principal. Following my retirement in June 2024, I began a second career as an appraiser assistant with Powell Banz Valuation, LLC in Salem...

[Read Full Article](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 14

2026 Oregon/SW Washington Spring Real Estate Conference

8:30am-3:30pm

Holiday Inn, Portland 1-5 South

25425 SW 95th Avenue.

Wilsonville, OR

[\(register here\)](#) Classroom

[\(register here\)](#) virtual offering

June 17

Timberland Appraisal Seminar(4 hours)

8am-Noon

Clackamas Community College, Wilsonville Campus

29353 SW Town Center Lp. E.

Wilsonville, OR

[\(register here\)](#) Classroom

[\(register here\)](#) virtual offering

October 8

2026-27 7 Hour USPAP

8:30am-4:30pm

Clackamas Community College, Wilsonville Campus

29353 SW Town Center Lp. E.

Wilsonville, OR

[\(register here\)](#) Classroom

[\(register here\)](#) virtual offering

We're always adding to the calendar. Check our website often, or email Vicki in the chapter office at aioregon@oregonappraisers.org.

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Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Storm', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karen Storm, MAI, AI-GRS
Newsletter Editor,
Greater Oregon Chapter of the Appraisal Institute
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