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Appraisal Institute™
Seattle Chapter

Emerald City Quarterly

June, 2026

President's Letter

Dear Members,

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the Seattle Chapter of the Appraisal Institute! Your engagement, participation, and commitment are what make this chapter such a strong and vibrant community!

It has already been an exciting and productive year for the Chapter, and there is still much more ahead. We've launched a fresh new website, built a full calendar of educational programming and social events, and created even more opportunities for members to connect, learn, and stay engaged throughout 2026.

In March, we had a fantastic turnout for our first Happy Hour at Reuben's Brews in downtown Seattle. It was a great opportunity to reconnect and meet new colleagues. If you weren't able to make it, there's still another chance—we'll be gathering again on July 15th at Stoup Brewing in Capitol Hill, and I hope to see many of you there.

We've also hosted two outstanding Walk & Talk events this year, one at Seward Park and another at Green Lake. These have been a new way to casually connect with fellow appraisers, enjoy some sunshine, and start the day with good conversation and community. We have one more Walk & Talk planned for August and we would love to have you join us.

As we look ahead to fall, one of the highlights of our year will be the September Chapter Meeting at the beautiful Inglewood Golf Club in Kenmore. This event is always a special occasion and we are especially pleased to be welcoming Scott DiBiaso, Director of Government Affairs for the Appraisal Institute. Scott will join us for dinner and provide an update on important national legislative and advocacy developments affecting our profession.

On the education side, I'm also excited to share a new regional collaboration that will expand USPAP access for our members. The Seattle Chapter has partnered with the Alaska, Northern California, Greater Oregon, and Washington-Idaho-Montana Chapters to offer regularly-scheduled USPAP classes across the Pacific Northwest. Our chapter will host an in-person class at least once per year and members will have access to classes hosted by our partner chapters via Zoom—all scheduled in our time zone. This partnership is a great example of what we can accomplish when chapters work together to better serve membership.

Earlier this year, we also asked members what educational topics they most wanted to see offered, and one request stood out above the rest: practical guidance on how to use artificial intelligence in your appraisal work. In response, I'm pleased to share that **Justin Gohn, MAI, SRA** will return to Seattle in November to teach an advanced course on artificial intelligence in appraisal. We hope many of you will attend in person, but for those who need flexibility, the course will also be available via Zoom.

And of course, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the crown jewel event of the year: the 20th Annual Fall Conference, happening this October. This milestone conference will feature an exciting lineup of speakers and panelists who will bring the latest insights on our industry, our profession, and the markets we serve. It promises to be an outstanding event, and I encourage you to mark your calendars now. Details about it and everything else I've shared are outlined in this newsletter.

Thank you again for being part of the Seattle Chapter of the Appraisal Institute. Your support and involvement are what keep this chapter moving forward. I hope to see each of you at one or more of our events in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

Bob Hartner, MAI
Board President

Chapter News

Spring Chapter Meeting

In May, we held our Spring Chapter Meeting at the University of Washington's Gould Hall. We had a great turnout and enjoyed connecting with so many members.

Without a doubt, the highlight of our meeting was hearing from the UW student team that our Chapter sponsored traveling to Nashville for the AI National Conference, to participate in the first-ever University Valuation Case Challenge, which we shared about in our first **Emerald City Quarterly Newsletter**. We enjoyed hearing their first-hand accounts of the experience and appreciated the opportunity to see their presentation on a full investment and valuation analysis, including highest and best use, design and development concepts, construction assumptions, financing strategy and valuation model for a mixed-use project on a proposed site, which they had just ONE WEEK to prepare for the competition. Impressive!

Scholarship Fund

Sending this student team to Nashville was made possible by our Chapter's scholarship fund, which is utilized for university outreach efforts and to help students from our region to further their knowledge and support learning by facilitating their participation in activities like this.

We invite you to help us continue this momentum and invest in the future of the appraising profession by supporting the scholarship fund, in benefit of more students who are pursuing careers in the valuation profession.

CLICK HERE or scan the QR code if you'd like to contribute. Any amount is welcome and greatly appreciated.

We held our first ever Walk & Talk gathering last month at Seward Park. These were started to create an opportunity for a quick, casual meet-up during the week before beginning our work days.

It's been a great motivator to get out early and enjoy some fresh air while connecting with fellow Chapter members.

The early Spring sunshine did not disappoint at Seward Park in May and our walk at Green Lake this past week could not have been better timed with some cooler weather after a late June mini heat wave.

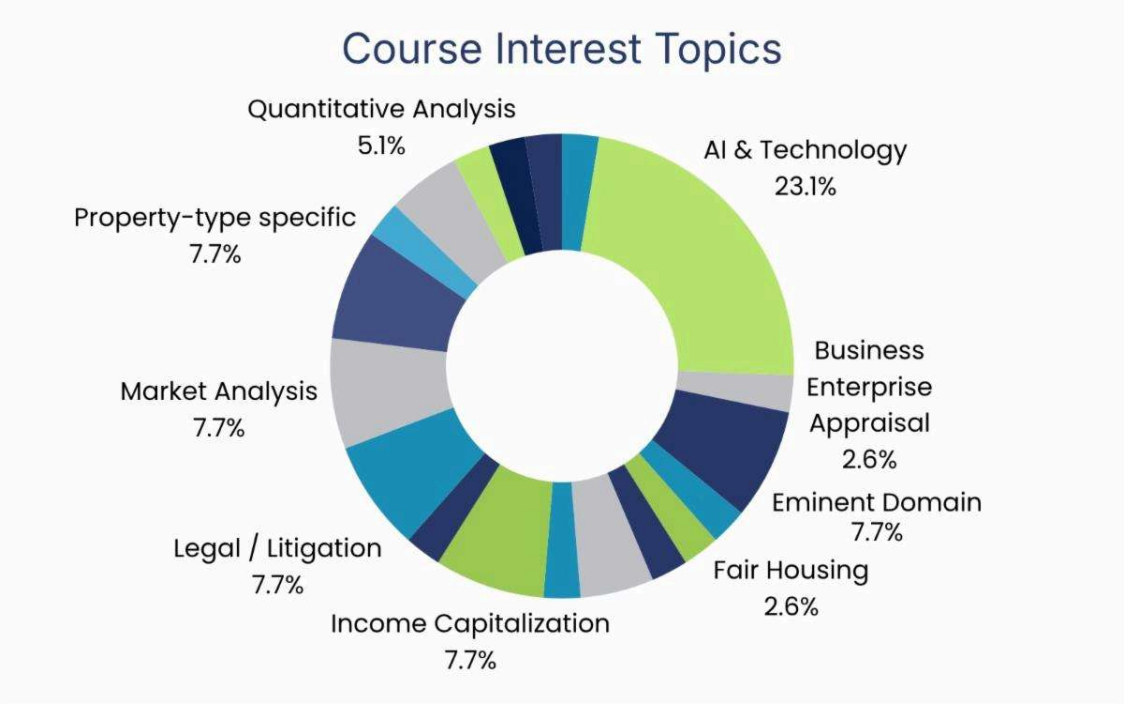
What a wonderful way to set some intentionality for the day to get outside and enjoy some great company and beautiful views.

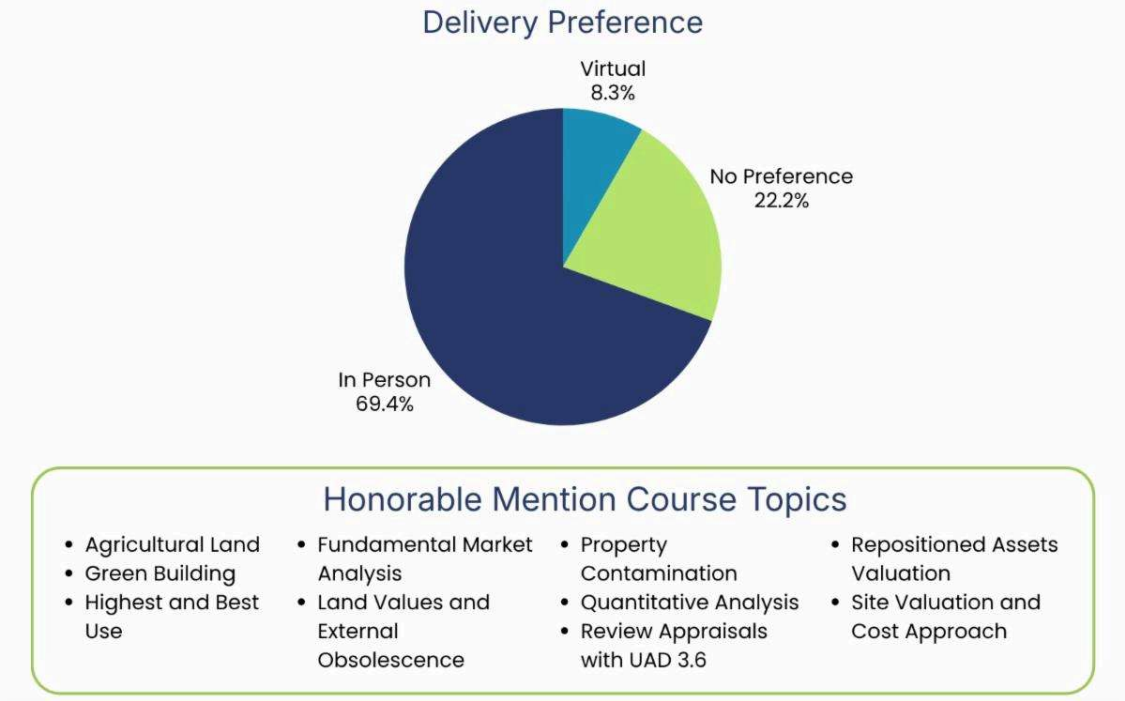
Details about our final Walk & Talk event in August are below.

We hope you'll come out and join us!

Course Interest Survey Results

Last quarter, we asked you to help us shape the content of our upcoming courses and here are the results from those responses. Thank you to everyone who participated!

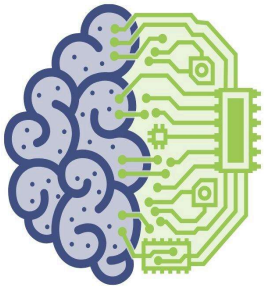




Key Takeaways

We had 36 survey participants. Among the responses, 22 unique course topics or subject areas were suggested. The most frequently mentioned were required CE for renewal and designation tracks. Outside of those, Artificial Intelligence and Technology was the most popular request.

Nearly 70% of you said that you prefer to attend classes in person while 22% have no preference and 8% prefer virtual.



What's Next?

We've got Artificial Intelligence and Technology on our radar and planning is underway for a course in November.

You'll have the option to attend in person or virtually.

Stay tuned for more details soon.

Chapter Elections

Keep an eye on your inbox for more information about electing new officers for 2027 in the coming weeks.

Upcoming Courses & Events

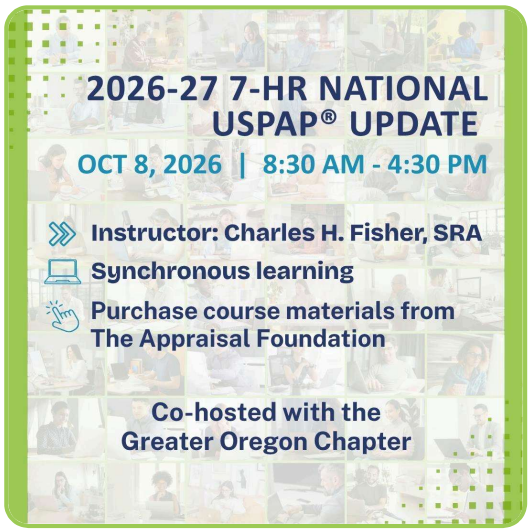
Registration is now LIVE!

Join us for the 20th Anniversary of our Fall Conference!

Check it out!

While you're there, we invite you to take a look at our **Sponsorship Proposal brochure**. There are some special member-only sponsor levels available.

What else is on our Chapter's calendar?



AI National News & Education

2026 Leadership Development and Advisory Council

Over 100 appraisal professionals gathered in Washington D.C. for the 2026 Leadership and Advisory Council (LDAC) conference this past May. We are proud to have been represented by two members with unwavering support of the appraisal profession, **Grace Kim, MAI, AI-GRS** and **Julian Rondello, MAI**, who served as this Discussion Leader this year.

Seattle Chapter

Click or tap to play

Alongside colleagues from across the country, Grace and Julian spent several days in structured discussion groups covering topics like Appraisal and Artificial Intelligence, Leadership and Accountability, Playing to Win and Building a Better Future, and the Stability and Sustainability of Non-Profits.

As a testament to his dedication and commitment to the appraisal profession, Julian was also elected Vice Chair of LDAC for 2027 and we look forward to the progress that is yet to come.

Beyond the sessions, the greater Pacific Northwest contingent teamed up to lobby Congress and meet with senator offices from both Washington and Oregon to advocate for issues, including the Portal for Appraisal Licensing Act. We appreciated the exciting opportunity to have **John Gill, MAI**, representing the State of Oregon, join and work with us, in these advocacy efforts with Congress and sharing this wonderful experience.

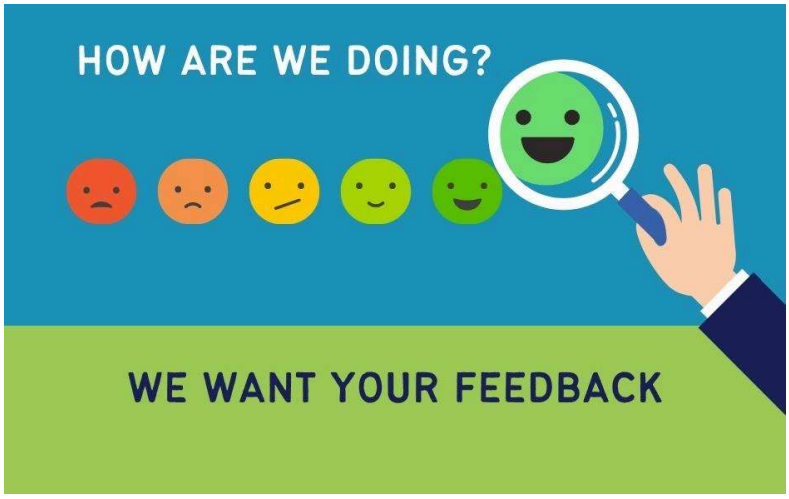
We are looking forward to more progress and what the 2027 LDAC event will bring.

Did you know?

For over 90 years, the Appraisal Institute has been bringing the Gold Standard in appraisal education to the profession. Whether you are just starting out on the path to becoming an appraiser or you're a seasoned professional, we offer practical courses for every stage of your career.

Click below to browse our online programs.

Call to Action



We're halfway through the year and would like to hear from members as we plan for the rest of 2026. Please take this short survey to let us know your thoughts on any recent changes you've noticed. We want to know what's working, what isn't working, how we can improve, and anything else you'd like to share.

5-Minute Survey

Click below to follow us on LinkedIn or visit our website for more Seattle Chapter information.

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