

Dear Chapter Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer and finding some time to relax and spend time with family and friends. It's hard to believe we are already halfway through 2026. The first six months have been busy and rewarding for the WyDak Chapter, and I wanted to take this opportunity to provide a mid-year update.

We started the year with an in-person educational offering in Casper, Wyoming. In addition to several quality education courses, we held our chapter meeting and installation of officers. It was a great way to begin the year, connect with members, and continue building relationships across Wyoming, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

In April, the Appraisal Institute held its Annual Conference in Nashville. This exciting three-day event was a great reminder of the value of being part of an organization that brings appraisers together for quality education, networking, and focus on the future of the profession. The PAC Chapter Challenge also concluded in connection with the Annual Conference, and the WyDak Chapter was one of the top-performing chapters in the country, ranking second in both fundraising and member participation rate. A special thank you to all who participated and helped make that effort such a success.

In May, one of the true highlights of my year was representing the WyDak Chapter at the Appraisal Institute's Leadership Development and Advisory Council (LDAC) and Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. This was my first time attending, and while I had heard many great things about it, I was not entirely sure what to expect. I can honestly say I now understand why so many people speak so highly of the experience.

LDAC brought together approximately 120 appraisers from across the country, along with leadership from the Appraisal Institute, to discuss the future of the appraisal profession, advocacy, and emerging issues such as artificial intelligence. The roundtable discussions included engaging topics about leadership, accountability, building trust, strengthening the Appraisal Institute, and what each of us can do to help move the profession forward. It was energizing to be surrounded by so many appraisers who care deeply about where our profession is headed.

The advocacy portion of LDAC was especially meaningful. As part of the conference, I participated in meetings on Capitol Hill with staff members from our congressional offices. Those conversations focused on issues that directly impact our profession, including modernization of the appraisal licensing process through the Portal for Appraisal Licensing (PAL) Act, preserving the integrity of VA appraisals, and appraisal-related provisions in the 21st Century Road to Housing Act. These meetings are a great reminder of the importance of being present and engaged in the conversations that impact our profession.

I want to thank WyDak Chapter Vice President Amy Frink, who teamed up with me for multiple congressional meetings. Also, thanks to Amy, we had the opportunity to tour the U.S. Capitol, guided by Representative Dusty Johnson of South Dakota. It was a memorable experience that I'll never forget.

I left Washington, D.C. with a much deeper appreciation for the Appraisal Institute and the work being done on behalf of appraisers at the national level. I am very grateful that the WyDak Chapter made the commitment to send a representative to LDAC, and I believe it is vitally important that our chapter continue to be represented there each year.

Our chapter continued its educational offerings in June with a joint WyDak and North Star Chapter event in Fargo. This was a unique two-day event that included a guided walking tour of downtown Fargo's historic redevelopment, a chapter meeting, and an artificial intelligence course. This creative event gave members an opportunity to learn, connect, and see real-world redevelopment firsthand.

Looking ahead, we will continue working on fall education offerings, member outreach, and ways to strengthen communication throughout the chapter. A survey was recently sent to membership, and I encourage you to take a few minutes to complete it so we can better understand your interests and priorities for future education courses. Your feedback is important as we plan future events across our three-state chapter.

When I wrote my inaugural letter in January, I shared that my focus for the year would be growth, engagement, and education. Looking back over the first half of the year, I am encouraged by our progress, but the continued success of the chapter depends on member involvement. Whether serving on a committee, attending a meeting, participating in education, or simply sharing your thoughts and ideas, your involvement matters.

Thank you for your continued membership and support. I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer, and I look forward to seeing many of you at future chapter events.

Sincerely,
Wade Becker, MAI
2026 President
Appraisal Institute – WyDak Chapter

