



**Appraisal
Institute**

**Greater Oregon
Chapter**

Field Notes September 2025

2025 Chapter President's Message

Kurt Plaster, MAI
kplaster@bbgres.com

President's Message:

Greetings everyone. We are well over half way through the year and transitioning out of summer and into autumn, with more routines and less travel. I hope all of you have had a wonderful summer filled with great memories.



As we step into activities of autumn I am excited about football, cooler days and harvest season. As I think about harvest season I have fond memories of going to various pumpkin patches over the years with my family around our beautiful Willamette Valley area. At these events, various aspects of the harvest are on full display, such as corn mazes, livestock, fruits, vegetables, grains, etc.

I love seeing the results of all the hard work from months prior being realized in this harvest season.

As it pertains to us in our profession.... Generically....The Law of the Harvest is a principle rooted in the concept of sowing and reaping: the idea that the effort and actions you put into the world will determine what you receive in return. You reap what you sow.

In our profession and business I invite you to consider how that applies to you individually. What we harvest in our profession directly corresponds to the seeds we plant. If we consistently sow kindness and hard work, we can expect to reap positive relationships and success. If we sow bitterness and deceit, we can expect to reap negative consequences.

In my previous message earlier this year to our membership I mentioned focusing on the following this year. I reemphasize these here now.

- Connection
- Professionalism
- Service
- Learning
- Invitations

As we head into autumn please look for ways to connect, be professional in all you do, provide service, learn new things and invite others to join you in all of these endeavors.

We have a few things planned in the coming months that I invite you to come and be a part of. They are the following:

- Appraisal Institute Class on **September 10** (Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain and the Metaverse: Implications for Valuation (7 hours) (Registration link below)
- On **October 23** (Appraisers Guide to the New URAR (7 HRS). (Registration link below.)

We will also have a social activity and a service activity:

- The social activity will be an after-hours event in North Portland on Thursday **September 18th** from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. This a chance simply to connect and network/socialize. There will be food and a no-host bar at this non-educational event. [Please RSVP here.](#)
- The service activity will be at the Oregon Food Bank in NE Portland on the afternoon to early evening of **Thursday October 9th**. We will get to rub shoulders and provide meaningful service there while also socializing and connecting with each other. Please come and join us for these events. And bring a friend or other associates!

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt K. Plaster, MAI

I witnessed something remarkable...and you should know about it....

Hillary H. Peterson, MAI, AI-GRS

hillary.peterson@wellsfargo.com

On May 6, the GOCAI officers and directors met for their regularly scheduled board meeting. I am not part of the board, but as the chapter's current Education Chair I am expected to provide education-related updates at these meetings. For the May 6 meeting, I updated the board on efforts to bring the Appraisal Institute's new URAR course to Portland, and I recommended that we engage Craig Steinley to teach the course in mid-July, noting that he was already scheduled to teach the course in Seattle that same week. The board approved that recommendation.

Two days later, on May 8, the New York Times published an article about various accusations, allegations, and lawsuits against the Appraisal Institute and some of its leaders, including Craig Steinley, MAI, SRA, AI-GRS, AI-RRS.

Less than 30 minutes after the article appeared, emails started flying among the GOCAI board members, first directed to me to assert that we should not bring Mr. Craig Steinley, MAI, SRA, AI-GRS, AI-RRS to Portland in July, and then to discuss with each other what action our chapter should take in response to the potential issues exposed through the New York Times article. The conversation continued in the original email chain and, as a result, I had the privilege of watching how our chapter leaders reacted over the next week and a half.

Here is what I saw and what I think you should know:

- Kurt K. Plaster, MAI, our chapter President, who was at the time in Europe on a family vacation, was in regular communication with other chapter presidents. He provided our board with information from those conversations and gave direction and approvals for how our chapter should go forward.
- Jordan R. Lee, MAI our immediate-past-president, worked with leaders from other chapters to help formulate a unified response.
- Katie Powell Banz, MAI, Jon B. Banz, MAI, AI-GRS, Region 1 Representative and chapter Vice President, respectively, drafted the communication that went out to our chapter on May 19 and the separate communication that went to Appraisal Institute national leadership and Darwin R. Ernst, SRA, AI-RRS, our Region 1 Chair, ahead of the Appraisal Institute's Board of Directors meeting on May 21.
- John Gill, MAI, GOCAI Director, was in Washington, D.C. attending LDAC. From there, he joined with other LDAC attendees in meetings with National leadership. He sent invaluable insights and recommendations back to our GOCAI leadership in real time.
- Vicki Champ, our Executive Director, who was in Hawaii on a personal vacation, prepped and distributed the communication that our board sent to all GOCAI members on May 19.
- Other GOCAI officers and Region 1 Representatives, including Justin M. Weeks, MAI, Matthew Call, MAI, Joel K. Jorgensen, AI-GRS, Daniel P. Harms, MAI and Jon Kline, MAI, AI-GRS, gathered reactions from our GOCAI members at large and provided content for and feedback on the draft communications.

In short, I witnessed an extraordinary display of passion and professionalism from our chapter leadership. They exhibited a sharp sense of duty to do the work they had been elected to do in the moment when it needed to be done, and the vision of being part of a unified voice with chapters across the country in calling for specific and decisive action. They acted quickly but not impulsively, giving themselves overnight time to consider their position, listening to one another, and seeking insights from other chapters.

Katie Powell Banz, MAI, ended one of her emails to the group with this note: *"I am so proud to be part of our Oregon Chapter!"*

I agree with Katie. Thank you, GOCAI leadership, for rising to this occasion.

Hillary H. Peterson, MAI, AI-GRS
hillary.peterson@wellsfargo.com

As was previously communicated, GOCAI members will receive three short surveys during 2025. Please [click here](#) for the results from our first Chapter Survey:

"How can GOCAI provide value to its members?"

A couple of notes about the two upcoming education opportunities referenced in this newsletter:

1. The Artificial Intelligence seminar is being offered on Wednesday, September 10 at Clackamas Community College. This is being offered because members of our chapter specifically requested it, which goes to show that the best offerings are those suggested by you! I hope to see many of you there, and please keep the suggestions coming.

2. The “Appraisers Guide to the New URAR” course on October 23 is important for two reasons: a) it is mission-critical for residential appraisers preparing to transition to the new Fannie/Freddie report, and b) registration is available for both in-person attendance and remote participation. Just select the applicable link (the “classroom instruction” link or the “virtual class” link).

As always, reach out to [Vicki](#) in the chapter office if you have questions about registration. The links to register are below.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 10

Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain and the Metaverse: Implications for Valuation

Clackamas Community College, Wilsonville Campus
29353 SW Town Center Lp. E.
Wilsonville, OR
([register here](#)).

September 18

Chapter Social-

Double Mountain Brewery, hors de oeuvres provided, no-host bar
1700 N. Killingsworth St,
Portland, OR
([register here](#))

October 23

Appraisers Guide to the New URAR

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 the website often or email Vicki in the chapter office at aioregon@oregonappraisers.org.

[Visit Our Website](#)

[Education/Events](#)

[Newsletter Editor](#)

[Appraisal Institute](#)

[Oregon ACLB](#)

Sincerely



Karen Storm, MAI, AI-GRS
Newsletter Editor,
Greater Oregon Chapter of the Appraisal Institute
karen.storm@cushwake.com

Greater OR. Chapter of the Appraisal Institute | PO Box 573 | Salem, OR 97308 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)