



**Appraisal  
Institute**

**Greater Oregon  
Chapter**

## Field Notes February 2024

### 2023 Chapter President's Message

**James F. Kurasz, MAI, AI-GRS**

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#### President's Message:

Dear Appraisal Institute Colleagues:

As we wrap up the year and transition into 2024, I would like to thank the Executive Board and all of the members that were involved with making our Fall Real Commercial Real Estate Conference a success. The conference was kicked off by John Gillem from CoStar, who touched on each of the market sectors in the Portland Metropolitan area as well as some submarkets and the City of Portland. The Retail Panel was moderated by Jay Booth, MAI, and featured Cameron Pittman, JLL Capital Markets, Anne Hecht, Cushman & Wakefield, and Rea Nomura, MAI, CCIM, SVN Imbrie Realty. Following was the Office Panel, led by Joel Jorgenson, MAI and featured Joe Kappler, Macadam Forbes, James Childress, Newmark, Bob Muravez, JP Morgan Chase, and Owen Bartels, MAI. The event closed out with an outlook on the Industrial market, led by Paul Moscato, MAI and the panel included Gabe Schnitzer, Norris & Stevens and Tom Knecht, Colliers International. I wanted to thank both Kurt Plaster, MAI and Chad Plaster, MAI for their active roles as well as overall coordination by our Executive Director, Vicki Champ. Thanks again to all of those who participated to make this a profitable event for the Greater Oregon Chapter.



The Chapter put on a successful 2024-2025 USPAP Update course in December, that was held at the Clackamas Community College - Wilsonville Campus. We are currently starting to work on a homegrown Spring Conference, and would appreciate any ideas or help. Also, our education calendar is going to need some additions.

I would also like to thank Bonnie Tanamor, MAI, for working hard as the Education Chair this year. Bonnie will be handing these duties off to our new Education Chair, Hillary Peterson, MAI, AI-GRS. Hillary has worked with our chapter in the past and it is great to have her return. Hillary plans to team with a residential appraiser so they can plan a well rounded class offering for the next year. I am sure she would be more than open to help and/or suggestions for courses.

In closing, I have to say thank you for the honor to serve our chapter as President this year, and I look forward to serving as Past President next year as I pass the torch to Jordan R. Lee, MAI, 2024 Chapter President. Kurt K. Plaster, MAI will serve as Vice President, Jonathan B. Banz, MAI, AI-GRS will serve as Treasurer, and Matthew Call, MAI will serve as Chapter Secretary.

Finally, I would further like to thank Joel K. Jorgensen, AI-GRS, John Gill, MAI,

Chris J. Hartman, MAI, Greg LaMunyan, SRA, AI-RRS, and Jon Kline, MAI, AI-GRS for their participation as Chapter Directors and Regional Representatives.

Jamie Kurasz, MAI, AI-GRS  
2023 GOCAI President

**James F. Kurasz, MAI, AI-GRS**  
**2023 Chapter President**

## Recently Designated

### Congratulations to Austin Wiesner, MAI, here's a little bit about our newest designee

**Submitted by:**  
**Austin Wiesner, MAI**  
[austinwiesner@live.com](mailto:austinwiesner@live.com)



#### 1. Where did you grow up? go to school? How did you end up where you live now?

I grew up outside of Silverton/Mt. Angel and now live in Silverton with my wife and two daughters. Although I lived in the Bend, Portland, and Seattle areas early in my career, I ultimately knew I would always end up “home”. I went to college and earned my degree at the University of Oregon. Go Ducks!

#### 2. What is your “appraiser story?” (How did you end up becoming an appraiser?) and what do you enjoy most about your job?

My college degree is in Landscape Architecture. After about ten years in the landscape and horticulture industry, I realized I was interested in pursuing a career in something more analytical and related to real estate. Appraisal was a perfect fit. My initial interest was in agricultural properties having worked and lived in a farming community while growing up. Today I work for Rabo AgriFinance writing and reviewing farm appraisals for properties throughout OR, WA, and parts of CA. The inspections and analysis are what I enjoy most. It is always interesting to see what folks are up to and how their property sits within the market.

#### 3. What kinds of non-appraisal things do you like to do? (hobbies, travels, etc).

My wife and I have grown our family to four in the past few years and we enjoy sharing the outdoors with our girls and dog. Some of our “go to” places in the PNW include the coast, Cascade Range, Central OR, and the Redwoods. Our favorite activities include hiking, fishing, and camping. And we always try to travel somewhere warm in the winter. When we are near home we enjoy spending time with family and friends. Any additional free time I spend working on projects around the house including landscaping, constructing outbuildings, and erecting play structures.

#### 4. Favorite things list:

- a. **Favorite food:** BBQ, or Pizza
- b. **Favorite kind of music:** That’s always a hard question for me, I find myself listening to podcasts more than anything. They are generally about boring things like finance and markets.
- c. **Favorite sports team:** Oregon Ducks Football and Basketball
- d. **Favorite place to visit:** We really enjoy Costa Rica, but anywhere warm in the winter. And it’s hard to beat the PNW in the summer time.
- e. **Favorite movie or book:** I really liked the first Avatar. However, something from my youth would be The Princess Bride.
- f. **Favorite quote:** “Whether you think you can or you can’t either way you are right”. - Henry Ford

## 5. What would be your first choice for a second career?

Appraisal became my second career and has been a great move. If I had to choose another career I would probably remain in real estate somehow. However, the fun answer is... I would want to be a CSI in a rural area or a treasure hunter.



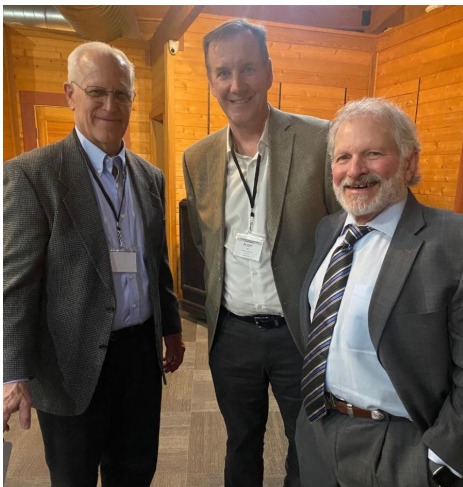
## 6. What advice would you give to someone who is currently working towards a designation?

Stick with it and put in the time. I have heard appraisers say how daunting it is but it is a great sense of accomplishment once completed. It is well worth it for the advanced training, experience, and professional recognition.

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**We held our 2024 Installation of Officers Banquet last week at Langdon Farms in Aurora, OR. The installation was held in conjunction with a two hour seminar, Technology for Commercial Real Estate Appraisers with Mark Vella, Valcre as our presenter.**

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Steven C. Bottemiller, MAI, AI-GRS,  
Thomas D. Boyle, MAI, 1998  
Chapter President, Dean Potter,  
MAI, SRA, AI-GRS,



Brent A. Johnson, SRA, AI-RRS,  
Michael Hinnant, SRA, 2021  
Chapter President



Powell Banz Valuation, LLC staff  
and guests



Powell Banz Valuation, LLC staff  
and guests

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2024 Chapter President,  
Jordan R. Lee, MAI



2019 Chapter President, Jeffrey L. Grose, MAI reading the oath of office to the incoming 2024 Chapter Officers.



# Upcoming Events

**TBA**  
**Case Studies in Hotel Valuation (7 hours)**

**TBA**  
**7 Hour USPAP Update-**

**TBA**  
**Business Practices and Ethics-ZOOM**

**\*\*\* We're working on a few home grown seminars, watch for emails from me as soon as they are firmed up.**

*We're always adding to the calendar. Check the website often or email Vicki in the chapter office at [aioregon@oregonappraisers.org](mailto:aioregon@oregonappraisers.org)*

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Sincerely



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