

Training Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2020 – Teleconference only

Present: Dan Martonis, Cathy Conklin, Gene Monaco, Anne Sapienza, Denise Trudell, Bill Film, Warren Wheeler, Dave Ange, Sean Fitzsimmons, Erica Foley, and Andrew DiMartino.

Get organized

Christine Bannister was unable to call in. Today would have been her last meeting. ORPTS would like to congratulate her on retirement and thank her for many years of service including on this training team.

IAO Training Update – Anne Sapienza

- A) Cornell 2020 (Canceled):
 - a. Was to be held at Hotel Ithaca from July 13-July 17.
 - b. Would have included courses on appraisal principles, three approaches, RPS, solar farm and self-storage valuations, Mass Appraisal and more.
 - c. CARDI was planning to teach an Advanced Agricultural Valuation class

Verifying Rosters

ORPTS asked the IAO to send rosters for the two five-day courses, Appraisal Principles & Procedures and Application of the Three Approaches to Value, to make sure people are not taking the same class twice or repeating within 3 years. This is not currently needed since Cornell is canceled, but it remains important to continue this practice.

Needs Report

There was some concern regarding the Northern Regions needs assessment report with the amount of people needing classes and the availability. ORPTS mentioned the North has upcoming classroom sessions of Assessment Administration and Mass Appraisal. Farm Appraisal will also be held in Delaware County for the fall session.

NYSAA will offer some additional courses this year and ORPTS is looking into an extension for Ethics due to the Coronavirus.

There was a discussion centered around the concept of co-teaching between the assessment community and ORPTS to help instruct ORPTS basic training courses. The team noted this has been done successfully in the past but has been utilized less frequently in recent years. ORPTS will bring this idea to regional management for additional consideration when scheduling courses. The assessment community will look to identify interested instructors from among their ranks as potential co-instructors for basic training courses.

Concerns were raised about assessors who are out of compliance and the implications of an assessor who is signing the roll that is out of compliance. ORPTS explained our procedure and mentioned that the town supervisors are also notified by us of the assessor's noncompliance status. ORPTS will bring these concerns to legal.

Candidate for Assessor Qualifications

Anne inquired about the qualifications for the candidate for assessor program and if each candidate is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. ORPTS responded that they do look at individuals on a case-by-case basis and take their specific education and experience into consideration for each individual. It was reiterated that those with only real estate experience often do not meet qualifications.

Reimbursement Update

All requesting reimbursement for 2018-2019 were paid in full.

Statewide Learning Management System (SLMS) Survey Results

The team reviewed the survey results from the last two Assessment Administration Online Training Surveys. The first was sent in November without a follow-up reminder. There was a 50% response rate. The second survey was sent in February and there was survey reminder sent out. This class had a 68% response rate.

Assessment Administration Course Review

ORPTS gave an overview of what the team has been working on. Many of the units have been transferred to a new template to help with future updates. The Exemptions administrative unit still needs the most work. Stephen Harris sent some suggestions. Two ORPTS staff are working on STAR exemptions/credits and "what is income." Overall the team is progressing. ORPTS also wanted to highlight how helpful Teri Ross has been with this work.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be tentatively scheduled for 10:30 am on Tuesday, September 15, 2020.