

Crossing the Divide Between Old and New:

I have recently observed that our Chapter and indeed our industry are currently comprised of a combination of the old guard and the new. We are primarily comprised of two factions: established appraisers - elder statesmen and elder stateswomen making their mark at the top of their game as leaders within the litigation space, diminution in value, eminent domain, mediation and trust and estate assignments. Additionally, we have an impressive cadre of up-and-coming gen-x appraisers, cutting a path in the mortgage appraisal world, litigation and a myriad of additional appraisal types and consulting specialties. One of these groups may think that perhaps we spend too much time on social media and the other is quite certain that we spend too little. One feels that our Chapter events have devolved into something “unprofessionally casual” and the other feels that we are still a bit too stuffy for their taste.

Our Chapter has lost four past presidents in the past several months: Vince Maher, MAI, Rolland Stephens, MAI, George Hamilton Jones, MAI and Skip Ogle, SRA. All four gentlemen enjoyed successful multi-decade careers in the appraisal industry. I have been privileged to attend memorial services for three of these impressive leaders. At each of them, I was humbled by their dedication to service. Most recently, at Skip’s service, I was impressed, and in truth, a bit tearful, to see both Skip’s *SRA Designation* and his *Volunteer of Distinction Award* prominently displayed among his treasures.

At the relatively younger end of the spectrum, I was proud to take part in the Appraisal Institute’s annual Leadership Development and Advisory Council in Washington, D.C. last month. Our large So Cal contingent took part in discussions with impressive appraisers from across the continent. Collectively, we took a stab at solving timely issues within our profession. We discussed modernization of technology, improving the way we market ourselves as professionals, addressing the gap between appraised value and contract price and rethinking the Institute’s professional development programs. After the conference, I am pleased to report that both Ryan Hargrove, MAI, SRA, AI-GRS and I were selected as 2024 Discussion Leaders. Additionally, Matthew Van Eck, MAI was selected as an Alternate Discussion Leader.

Among these two sub-groups, the seasoned appraisers with decades of experience and the up-and-comers blazing their own trail in valuation, I have observed commonalities that bode well for the future of our profession. On both sides of the spectrum, I see dedicated educators, willing mentors and tireless volunteers. I see impressive brainpower, staggering, newsworthy experience and a willingness to serve at all levels of accomplishment. Change within our profession is inevitable. However, from my vantage point, I have great confidence in the ability of our membership to successfully navigate the winds of change, both now and in the future.