



Southern California Chapter

3rd Quarter 2025 Newsletter & Updates

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



***Ernesto Lopez, MAI, AI-GRS
2025 SCCAI President***

Dear Southern California Chapter Members,

Our Chapter has had a remarkable past two months, highlighted by successful educational programs and networking events that brought members together in meaningful ways. These opportunities reflect the continued commitment of our community to both professional excellence and genuine connection. We also extend a sincere thank you to our sponsors, whose support makes these programs possible and strengthens the value we can offer to our members.

Looking ahead, we are excited to host our upcoming Chapter Bowling Night that will be held in December, a fun way to connect outside the classroom/webinar as well as a slate of impactful education courses to sharpen our skills. We are also proud to invite you to Heritage Night, where we will be honoring Steve Fontes for his exemplary leadership, service, and dedication to the profession.

In a time when topics such as artificial intelligence and new technologies are being discussed in our field, it is important to remember that relationships remain at the heart of what we do. Our Chapter's Monthly Membership Spotlight continues to highlight individuals who exemplify this principle, showing how personal connections and shared experiences drive both our professional growth and the vitality of our community.

We look forward to welcoming you to these upcoming events and to continuing to strengthen the bonds that make our Chapter such a special place within the Appraisal Institute.

58th Annual Litigation Seminar

November 6, 2025
Sheraton Cerritos Hotel
12725 Center Court Dr.
Cerritos, CA 90703

Fee includes continental breakfast and lunch buffet
Parking: Free

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EASTERN BRANCH



Alex Liu, MAI
Eastern Branch Chair

The Eastern Branch had a productive summer, hosting two engaging events that brought valuable insights to our members.

Exploring Artificial Intelligence in Valuation

In what will likely be the first of many discussions on artificial intelligence (AI), **William (Bill) Jones, MAI, AI-GRS** led a virtual presentation on the practical applications of AI for appraisers. Guest speakers **Justin Gohn, MAI, SRA** and **Chandra Mast (Candidate for Designation)**, both recognized leaders in the AI movement within the valuation profession, shared cutting-edge insights. Even for those familiar with large language models and prompting, the session offered fresh perspectives and practical takeaways. As AI continues to shape our daily lives, we encourage members to suggest future topics or speakers related to this evolving field.

Temecula Valley Guided Tour

In Southwest Riverside County, **Alex Liu, MAI** coordinated a joint SoCal/San Diego Chapter guided tour of the Temecula Valley. **Brad Brassi, SRA**, our guest presenter, led residential and commercial appraisers on a walking and bus tour with stops in **Old Town Temecula**, **Vail Ranch Headquarters**, and the growing **Temecula Valley Wine Country**. With over 41 years of experience in the region, Brad provided a unique perspective on Temecula's transformation from a small valley of fewer than 2,000 residents to a thriving community of over 110,000. We're

grateful for his expertise and hospitality. If there are other Southern California areas you'd like to explore, please reach out to a branch member.

Looking Ahead

The Eastern Branch is planning future events focused on:

- Updates from the Palisades/Altadena fires
- Valuations for tax and financial reporting purposes
- Continued exploration of AI
- The use of drones in appraisal practice

We welcome your ideas for additional topics or speakers!

Welcome New Committee Members

We're excited to welcome two new committee members who will begin serving in January:

- **F. Eric Cross, MAI**
- **Kevin Lincoln, SRA**

We look forward to their contributions and the continued growth of the Eastern Branch.

**Sincerely,
Your 2025 Eastern Branch Team**

Eastern Branch Members:

Chair Alex Liu, MAI (714)307-6249 alexliu714@yahoo.com

Vice Chair Julian Uribe, Candidate (909) 509-2898 julian.uribe@cbre.com

1st Advisor Carson M. Leonard, MBA, Candidate (818) 281-5370
cmleonard09@gmail.com

2nd Advisor William Jones, MAI, AI-GRS (909) 240-3700 wejpasadena@hotmail.com

3rd Advisor Damian Albrycht, MAI (213) 977-8750 damian.albrycht@ey.com



Temecula Valley Guided Tour

SOUTHERN BRANCH



Jason Borrás
Southern Branch Chair

Thank You for a Successful Intuit Dome Tour and URAR-UAD Webinar

Intuit Dome Tour – July 23rd

On July 23rd, Southern Branch members had the unique opportunity to tour the Intuit Dome, the new state-of-the-art home of the Los Angeles Clippers. Attendees explored the arena's design and development features while gaining perspective on the real estate, construction, and economic factors driving such a landmark project. The tour was both educational and inspiring, offering members a firsthand look at how large-scale developments shape communities and markets.

URAR and a la mode Update with Joel Baker – Hosted by Cotality, August 21st

Thank you to everyone who joined us on August 21st for our webinar with Joel Baker, Senior Professional of Product at a la mode, a Cotality company. Joel delivered a timely presentation on the upcoming Uniform Residential Appraisal Report (URAR) and UAD updates, how they will affect appraisal workflows, and the steps a la mode is taking to support a seamless transition. His insights offered appraisers valuable guidance on staying ahead of industry changes while adapting to evolving tools and standards.

Upcoming Events

- Holiday Breakfast – Tentatively scheduled for December

We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events and thank you for your continued engagement and support!

Southern Branch Members:

Chair: Jason Borrás, Affiliate

Vice Chair: Stephen Lee, Candidate

1st Advisor: Maria Luisa M. Storti, SRA

2nd Advisor: Michael Tachovsky, Candidate

3rd Advisor: Ryan Neal Young, SRA



NORTHWESTERN BRANCH



***Norman Chung, MAI, AI-GRS
Northwestern Branch Chair***

- Northwestern Branch did a zoom meeting on 7/25/2025. Attendees: Jose Hernandez (Vice Chair), Carlos Andrade (1st Advisor), Daniel Lee (2nd Advisor), and Norman Chung (Chair). Topic: discussed the upcoming September seminar.
- Northwestern Branch hosted an in-person seminar on 9/18/2025 at Tamayo Restaurant in Los Angeles (Visible Value and Invisible Risk on Industrial and Multifamily). Two guest speakers were Juan Huizar, CCIM and Gary Martinez, CCIM.

Chair: Norman Chung, MAI, AI-GRS
Vice Chair: Jose Hernandez, Candidate
1st Advisor: Daniel Lee, MAI, AI-GRS
2nd Advisor: Carlos Andrade, MAI
3rd Advisor: OPEN



Left to Right: Juan Huizar, CCIM; NWB Chair, Norman Chung, MAI, AI-GRS and Gary Martinez, SIOR, CCIM



SCCAI Past President Steven Fontes, MAI and
SCCAI Current President Ernesto Lopez, MAI, AI-GRS

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2025 CLASSES / EVENTS

09/30/2025
7-Hour National USPAP Update Course
Fullerton, CA
[REGISTER HERE](#)

10/09/2025
2025 Heritage Night and Program
Honoring: Steven Fontes, MAI
Downey, CA
[REGISTER HERE](#)

10/23/2025
Federal and California Statutory and Regulatory Law Course
Virtually - Via Zoom
[REGISTER HERE](#)



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

2025 Chair:

Alden M. Katagihara, MAI, MRICS

Aloha SCCAI members,

As the days get shorter and the weather gets “cooler” in Southern California, fall is officially about to make its grand entrance. That means baseball playoffs are in full swing (sorry Angel fans), football season has kicked off, and pumpkin spice is popping up in everything from lattes to candles and even twinkies. Fall is also a great time to sharpen those appraisal skills. Throw on that favorite sweater, hoodie or jersey and attend one of our upcoming continuing education courses! This quarter we’re proud to offer our membership the following courses:

- 7-Hour National USPAP Update Course at Fullerton Marriott at California State University on September 30th,
- Business Practice and Ethics at the CBRE office in Ontario on October 2nd,
- Federal and California Statutory and Regulatory Law via Zoom on October 23rd, and
- Litigation Appraising: Specialized Topics and Applications at Veros Real Estate Solutions in Santa Ana from October 29th through 31st.

For more information about these offerings and other chapter courses and events, please visit <https://www.sccai.org/education/course-listings/>.

The website also has a link explaining how to apply for the Chapter’s Mason-Thornton Scholarship Program. In addition, if you’re looking for a new opportunity, you can peruse the Jobs Board.

Finally, if you have any questions, comments, feedback, etc., as to what classes you would like to see or locations that you think would be beneficial to our membership, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me, Matthew VanEck, or Carlos Andrade.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mahalo,

Alden

MEET OUR NEWLY DESIGNATED MEMBERS

Daniel Blakely, SRA
Emily McAtee, MAI
Noble W. Tucker, MAI, SRA
Yue Wang, MAI, AI-GRS

Kioren D. Moss, MAI, AI-GRS
Ian P. Fewel, MAI
Quinn Matthew Hazard, MAI

Invest in Your Future – Apply for a Mason – Thornton Scholarship Today!

The **Mason – Thornton Scholarship Committee** would like to remind all **Southern California Chapter Appraisal Institute (SCCAI) Members** that valuable financial assistance is available to those pursuing their professional designations.

Through the **Mason – Thornton Scholarship Fund**, **active Candidates** in good standing can receive up to **75% of the total course fee** (Yes, you read this right, 75%!!!! 😊) for required courses leading to their designation. Whether you are taking **in-person, synchronous, or online** courses, this scholarship is designed to help ease the financial burden and keep you on track toward achieving your professional goals. This includes in-person classes anywhere in the country!

How to Apply:

- ☐ **Eligibility:** SCCAI Members with active Candidate status in good standing
- ☐ **Coverage:** Up to 75% of course fees for required designation courses
- ☐ **Application Deadline:** Submit your application at least **30 days prior** to the course start date
- ☐ **Where to Apply:** Applications are available on the **Chapter website**
- ☐ **Contact:** Send completed applications to **Lianna**
- ☐ **Pre-requisites:** None—just be an awesome person seeking to achieve **one of the four most epic designations in the world!**

Now is the perfect time to invest in yourself by investing in your career and continue working toward your designation! Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity for financial support. For more details and to access the application, **visit our website today!**

Application and Information

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