



Southern California Chapter

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## 4th Quarter 2025 Newsletter & Updates

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### ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

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

As we wrap up another busy and rewarding year, the Southern California Chapter of the Appraisal Institute wants to send a heartfelt thank you to all our members, sponsors, and friends for making 2025 such a memorable one.

This year was filled with energy and connection—from our educational programs and lively networking events (bowling, wine tour, stadium tour) to those outstanding chapter gatherings (Litigation seminar, WIN networking event, market trend seminars) that brought us all together. None of it would have been possible without our amazing committee members and volunteers, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to plan, coordinate, and carry out events that truly reflect the spirit of our chapter. You make everything we do possible, and we're so grateful for your dedication!

We also want to give a big shout-out to our chapter sponsors. Your continued support helps us create opportunities for professional growth, learning, and collaboration throughout the year. Your partnership means the world to us.

Also a big thank you to our members that participated in our Member Spotlight this year — it's always inspiring to learn more about the great people who make up our community. Their stories remind us that our chapter isn't just about education and networking—it's about connection, camaraderie, and shared pride in our profession.

From all of us at the Southern California Chapter, we wish you a joyful holiday season and a bright start to the new year. May your days be filled with peace, laughter, and good company.

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### ***33rd Annual LA/OC Market Trends Seminar***

*January 22, 2026*  
Sheraton Cerritos Hotel  
12725 Center Court Dr.  
Cerritos, CA 90703

***Fee includes continental breakfast and lunch buffet***  
***Parking: Free***

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***FOLLOW US:***



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***EASTERN BRANCH***



***Alex Liu, MAI***  
***Eastern Branch Chair***

As the Eastern Branch winds down its 2025 calendar, we extend our gratitude to Chapter members for their support this year. We cover a large geographic footprint and appreciate that folks explored events that are a bit further afield than normal. We realize that the current economy is a mixed bag of results for members and appreciate that individuals spent their hard-earned dollars with the Chapter, where possible. We also want to shout-out our Chapter sponsors that helped offset costs of chapter events (Worth Valuations, CBRE, Cushman and Wakefield, VALCRE, Colliers, CoStar, and Walker & Dunlap).

We look forward to continuing to meet members where they are located. If you work or reside in the further reaches of the Inland Empire and have an idea for an event, please contact one of the members listed below. We can help organize a “simply social” event geared towards meeting peers working in your region.

For events offering continuing education credits, the Branch is committed to providing distinctive opportunities that feature local expertise and timely topics, enabling Chapter members to deepen their understanding of real estate markets and enhance their effectiveness as valuation professionals.

For 2026, the Eastern Branch is planning events focused on:

- Updates from the Palisades/Altadena fires
- Tax strategies
- Continued exploration of AI

- The use of drones in appraisal practice

We welcome your ideas for additional topics or speakers! If you would like to participate on the Branch or with the Chapter, please contact one of the Branch members or the Chapter's Director, Lianna Ayala at the Chapter Office.

Finally, we extend our best wishes for a safe and joyous holiday season and hope it brings you renewed inspiration and anticipation for the opportunities that 2026 will offer.

**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

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## ***SOUTHERN BRANCH***



***Jason Borrás  
Southern Branch Chair***

## **Reflecting on a Successful Year and Welcoming New Leadership!**

As the year draws to a close, we want to take a moment to celebrate the Southern Branch's successful year of engagement, learning, and growth. Your continued participation in events such as the wildfire seminar hosted jointly by the Northern California Chapter, the Intuit Dome Tour, and the URAR "a la mode" webinar has made this year a truly enriching experience for our members.

We thank our entire leadership and our outgoing chair, Jason Borrás, for their service and dedication in guiding the branch through another productive year.

## **Welcoming Stephen Lee as Chair and Norman Chung as the new 3rd Advisor for the Upcoming Year!**

We are thrilled to announce and officially welcome Stephen Lee as our chair and Norman Chung, MAI, AI-GRS as our new 3rd Advisor for the upcoming year!

Stephen and Norman bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the leadership team, and we are confident their insights will be invaluable as we plan events and initiatives for

the Southern Branch. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to them.

### **Southern Branch Leadership (Upcoming Year)**

**Chair:** Stephen Lee, Candidate

**Vice Chair:** Maria Luisa M. Storti, SRA

**1st Advisor:** Ryan Neal Young, SRA

**2nd Advisor:** Michael Tachovsky, Candidate

**3rd Advisor:** Norman Chung, MAI, AI-GRS

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## ***NORTHWESTERN BRANCH***



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

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Advisor:** Daniel Lee, MAI, AI-GRS

**2<sup>nd</sup> Advisor:** Carlos Andrade, MAI

**3<sup>rd</sup> Advisor:** OPEN

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***Ariana Arredondo, MAI***  
***WIN Committee Chair***

Dear SCCAI Members:

It is surreal to reflect on all that 2025 brought – truly a busy whirlwind – and the Women's Initiative (WIN) Committee accomplished a lot. The monthly meetings brought discourse and camaraderie to our participants. Our wonderful speakers encouraged and challenged our attendees to push forward professionally. We are thankful to California BRE Chief Angela Jemmott, Scott De La Hooke MAI, SRA, Gazelle Wichner, MAI, AI-GRS, ASA, CCIM, Jeanine Kraus, MAI, SRA, AI-GRS, Brittany Marrow, MAI, Nicole Gilbert, Marian Lamb, and A.I. President Paula Konikoff JD, MAI, AI-GRS and National A.I. Education Chair Stacey Thoyre, MAI, WELL AP, LEED Green Associate, for joining us as speakers.

2026 is shaping up to be an exceptional year for the Appraisal Institute at a national level,

with a female-majority executive board on the horizon. Ashley Johnson, MAI, SRA will join 2025 President (and SCCAI Chapter Member) Paula Konikoff JD, MAI, AI-GRS, to bookend a year that brought about unexpected changes to the A.I. national board. Amidst those unexpected changes, I am humbled by the strength and character of this SCCAI chapter executive team. Ernesto Lopez MAI, Ryan Hargrove MAI, SRA, AI-GRS, R/W-AC, William Jones, MAI, and Jeffrey Hogan, SRA, AI-RRS supported our chapter's WIN with authenticity. Jacinto Munoz, MAI, SRA, AI-GRS, AI-RRS serves on national AI leadership as Region VII chair and I am grateful for his service. Mr. Munoz, you have an inspired commitment to fairness, and we are always glad for your continued participation at our meetings.

SCCAI WIN Committee members Jennifer Hsu, MAI, ASA and Linda Whittlesey, SRA have shown enduring leadership toward the WIN objective: the advancement of women in the appraisal profession. Beyond their command of appraisal technical, they regularly go above and beyond their own work to deeply think and tinker about what it looks like to bring more problem solvers into our professional spaces. Their effort enhances our SCCAI chapter. Linda and Jennifer, I thank you both for quarterbacking good outcomes on this committee.

For 2026, our eyes are set on professional development opportunities for the next generation of appraisers. To kick off the year, Jacinto Munoz will speak on the practical ways in which we can protect our professionalism when the pressure is high. The first in-person meeting, set for Q1 2026, will be mentor/mentee speed networking event. Please stay tuned, stay engaged, and take care as we enter the new year!

In gratitude,

Ariana



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**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2025/2026 SPONSORS:**

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**BRONZE SPONSORS:**

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## ***2026 CLASSES / EVENTS***

01/10/2026

94th Annual Installation Dinner and Program

Orange, CA

[REGISTER HERE](#)

01/22/2026

33rd Annual LA/OC Market Trends Seminar

Cerritos, CA

[REGISTER HERE](#)

01/29/2026

7-Hour National USPAP Update Course

Santa Ana, CA

[REGISTER HERE](#)

02/12/2026

7-Hour National USPAP Update Course

Santa Barbara, CA

[REGISTER HERE](#)

02/19/2026



***EDUCATION COMMITTEE***  
***2025 Chair:***  
***Alden M. Katagihara, MAI, MRICS***

Aloha SCCAI members,

As we wrap up this year with gratitude and good cheer, I'd like to say it's been a pleasure serving as the Education Chair for 2025. I want to thank Lianna and my fellow committee members Matthew VanEck and Carlos Andrade for all their hard work, great ideas and support. As my time comes to a close, I'll be passing the baton over to Matthew VanEck. Matthew and the education committee will continue to be a wonderful resource should any of our members have questions or concerns about the education offerings of our chapter. Just as a friendly reminder, classes and seminars that will be poppin off in the new year include:

- The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual LA/OC Market Trends Seminar in Cerritos on January 22<sup>nd</sup>
- 2026-2027 7-Hour National USPAP Update Course in Santa Ana on January 29<sup>th</sup>
- 2026-2027 7-Hour National USPAP Update Course in Santa Barbara on February 12<sup>th</sup>
- Federal and California Statutory and Regulatory Law (virtual) on February 19<sup>th</sup>

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

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. a

Finally, I hope everyone has a joyful and festive holiday season and wonderful New Year! Mahalo,

Alden

***MEET OUR NEWLY DESIGNATED MEMBERS***

***David Hideo Shioji, MAI***  
***Sevak Tsaturyan, MAI***  
***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**

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## **2025 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED**

We are proud to announce that four scholarships have been awarded for 2025, reflecting our continued commitment to supporting the next generation of professionals. This year's recipients include one female and three male awardees. Of the four scholarships, three were granted at 75% and one at 25%, ensuring meaningful opportunities for each recipient to advance their career goals.

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### ***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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