



Columbia Society News and Views

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Outgoing President Bids Farewell and Hope for Success in 2011

By Jeffrey J. Beal, CSA-G

It has been an honor to serve as President of your Society for this past year. With the end my term, I am glad to pass the torch to a new management team.

It is my hope that the Society will be able to successfully continue the innovative changes implemented this year. With the advent of the new licensing laws, the onslaught of AMCs and the HVCC, the requirements of Dodd-Frank, the turbulence in the real estate market and the weak economy, your Society is facing challenges unlike any in its history.

After an extensive search and evaluation of numerous venues, we moved from Koenig's where we had suffered from a declining standard of service to the first class Fox Hollow Inn. It is a superior facility more convenient to our Nassau and Suffolk County members. The initial meetings at Fox Hollow proved to be a success, with markedly improved attendance over the last few meetings at Koenig's. It is my expectation that being in a high profile venue will allow us to attract both more attendees and better speakers, which in turn will provide a better CE experience for all.

We now have an expanded newsletter, well received by the members, that is being published on a regular basis, with significant editorial contributions by the members. The newsletter provides a means to showcase both the Society and the members who contribute articles. It also contributes towards raising the profile of your designation. It is my hope that members will continue to contribute and demonstrate the insightful thinking our members are

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Send Questions, Comments,
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capable of. We have also endeavored to turn the newsletter into a revenue source by creating the paid position of Advertising Coordinator. We have had some early success with the sale of advertising to both local and national companies.

In the face of declining membership, we created the paid position of Membership Director. The job entails contacting unaffiliated appraisers to promote the benefits of Society membership and encourage them to join. The more members we have, the stronger we are and the more valuable your designation.

We updated the Bylaws and re-wrote all the job descriptions for the Duties Manual to bring the Society into the 21st century. We have a new Secretary and Treasurer that came up from the membership. It is my hope that members will continue to step up and volunteer. We are only as good and as strong as our members. The importance of your involvement cannot be understated.

This year we had our first Holiday Party, something I hope becomes a regular event for the Society. The party provided a wonderful opportunity for Society members and their guests to socialize in a warm and festive atmosphere. It was a chance to turn professional relationships into personal friendships and to enjoy first class food, a top shelf bar and delightful music. Everybody attending had a fabulous time. It is my hope that more of you will be able to attend next year.

Survival of the Society will require from the Officers, Board, and members hard work, creative thinking, risk taking and a vision of the Society role in this new environment. As members of the Society, your involvement is crucial to the making the Society more successful. It is your Society, so make sure it works for you; with you, and by you; otherwise, it won't work at all.