

Training Advisory Group Meeting Minutes September 19, 2017 – Albany and Teleconference

Present: Dan Martonis, Cathy Conklin, Patricia McVee, Gene Monaco, Roger Tibbetts, Denise Trudell, Christine Bannister, Dave Ange, Sean Fitzsimmons, Meg Keleher, Colleen Sheehan

Get organized

The previous advisory meeting minutes were approved and posted to the web with no comments received.

Training needs report

Needs reports were distributed prior to the meeting. The reports were updated to include Cornell and all recent training except for the Commercial/Industrial course in Syracuse (25 students). Noted reports not drastically different from in April 2017. Pat suggested emailing students from lists. Discussion occurred around Mass Appraisal enrollment and pre-requisites being a limiting factor. ORPTS will offer Mass Appraisal as a web course in March of 2018. Farm Appraisal has 10 enrolled. Farm available in classroom or as self-study, no online training option. Tax mapping and code enforcement will be offered.

A greater balance of web and classroom training was suggested to meet the needs of all learners. The group noted that while many students prefer the convenience of web training a segment of students may prefer and get more out of classroom instruction. Reimbursement implications of web vs. classroom training were also discussed. The pot of money is not growing. Ethics re-cert years costlier, 2019 will be a concern for reimbursement availability. Impact of training sites and regional locations. Re-visit reimbursement trimester funding setup? Further discussion on this topic suggested at next meeting.

Statewide Learning Management System (SLMS)

Two Assessment Administration online courses were held using SLMS in May and August of 2017. Sales Data Management (CE training) was also made available for self-enrollment in the training portal. Online training program is going well. A great deal learned and overall improvement from early offerings with additional experience gained in administration of the program. Some procedural changes and availability of self-help resources have eliminated many previously reported issues. Timeliness of issue recognition and resolution also improved. The new training schedule offers all courses, Assessment Administration, Data Collection, Mass Appraisal and Sales in online training format.

ORPTS began surveying online class participants for feedback of the online training experience. We will review results when the survey is closed at the end of the month. Continued evaluation for additional classes. Review results by individual class? Additional discussion topic suggested for next meeting.

Training in New York City

Dave spoke with Office of Counsel about offering credit for training without reimbursement. The response was that if we offer credit, we must reimburse for training expenses. Training at NYC sites is considerably more expensive. Cathy explained this issue arose because of one day seminars offered in conjunction with the AOT conference. They (NYSAA) determined they would make it clear that upstate assessors who attend sessions in NYC would not receive credit or reimbursement. Doesn't make sense to open this up further, too few students impacted.

Exemption Training

Roger brought this issue from the June 7th RPTAC meeting. Read IAO memo suggesting combination of new 5-day exemption course, plus one day Assessment Administration class as a basic recertification requirement in place of the current 6-day class. Group discussed and agreed with the need for additional exemption administration training. Multiple legislative updates including STAR program changes, veteran's exemption and cold war vet's changes. Information on how to pass an audit is also now needed.

The 5-day Exemption class created by Tom Frey and taught by Denise at Cornell went well. Could easily add an exam to 5th day. Contains specifics on how to pass an audit and what information must be in the report. Status of exemption training in Assessment admin course (6-day class) is equivalent to one day of training presently. Primarily covers how to use the exemption admin manual to apply exemptions.

ORPTS legal did not think this could be added as a certification requirement to assessors who are already certified. Discussion returned to reimbursement implications for an additional basic training requirement. Adding a new basic certification requirement would be very expensive. Limited funds, additional funds needed. Need for legislature to increase training funds. Cathy mentioned this is a slippery slope as assessors are one of the only populations reimbursed for their training requirement. Suggestion for one day seminars to cover exemption training need. Costs are considerably less for one day training and could be reimbursable for CE credit. Pat believed assessors would sign up even if it was not a requirement. Cathy does not see this in the same vein as Ethics. Roger noted the consensus of the group was that this training was not feasible as new basic training requirement, it may be better served as CE training.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be tentatively scheduled for 10:30 am on Tuesday, March 13, 2018.

Possible Agenda Items

- Reimbursement update and disbursement of training funds
- Survey results for online training evaluation