

To Begin, I would like to thank the 2024 president, Christian Smith, MAI, AI-GRS, for his leadership and ability to "expand the tent." He was instrumental to guiding our chapter through turbulent waters last year. I would also like to thank our Board of Directors and Committee Chairs for their work in 2024. I am looking forward to working with our new Board and Committee Chairs in 2025.

Our chapter is working hard to deliver value to our members, and I was thrilled that Governor DeWine signed HB 238 on January 9th, 2025, changing the appraiser license renewal period from one year to two years. This change will take effect for any license renewed after April 9th, 2025, making state licensing compliance a little less onerous going forward.

2024 was a year of transition for the chapter, region, and National Appraisal Institute. Many issues remain unresolved, but it is imperative that we continue to have our voices heard and that we all push for progress, for the betterment of our profession. Appraisers play a pivotal role in maintaining the soundness of our financial systems and providing valuation guidance to clients for various non-lender uses of appraisals/appraisal services. We are a profession that deserves a seat at the table when banking and valuation questions arise. I will do my best to be that voice for our chapter but hope you will all speak up as well.

The year ahead poses many challenges and changes for appraisers nationwide, both in the residential and commercial sectors. We must all strive to do our best for new compliance but also make sure that we advocate for our industry and businesses. It is vital that appraisers work together to adjust to the new normal and make sure that we have the tools and procedures in place to continue to provide reports that comply with our clients' requirements while also continuing to operate as a financially viable industry and profession. Our chapter is working on educational opportunities that will help all appraisers comply with the new regulations and business discussion opportunities to consider best practices for appraisal operations.

On another positive note, I am excited about several items our chapter is already implementing. We have selected our new women's initiative project team, led by Lisa Meinczinger-Gulden, SRA, AI-GRS and the team has already held an event! We are all excited to share their early successes throughout 2025.

I am also grateful for our university relations team, headed by Kelly Fried, MAI, and the progress we are making in bringing more students into the chapter and encouraging them to pursue their appraisal designations. Bringing on the students

is vital to the future health of our organization. We look forward to engaging additional higher educational institutions this year to expand the breadth of opportunity to engage the student population throughout the State.

In addition, my goal this year is to increase the value proposition of being an Appraisal Institute member. I want to bring appraisers together in more social situations and build additional camaraderie among appraisal professionals throughout the state. We will soon be announcing several exciting events that I believe will be great for networking, creating business engagement opportunities, gaining knowledge, and giving back to the community.

It's never too early to ask, so we are starting to look for sponsors for the 48th Annual Economic Seminar, which will be held on December 12th in Dublin, Ohio. If you are interested in sponsoring, please reach out to Nancy Linton-Hall at Nancy.Linton-Hall@appraisalinstitute.org.

We will also be organizing several fundraisers, including a 50-50 raffle at the Economic Seminar and an opportunity to make donations for our newly established standalone scholarship fund. The scholarship fund will be available to all appraisers throughout Ohio. We hope this will not only generate additional exposure for the individuals or companies making donations but also encourage appraisers throughout the state to pursue their designations.

I hope this all sounds as exciting to you as it is for me! If you are interested in becoming more involved in the chapter or would like more information about events or education, please email me at jeff@AlphaAppraisalGroup.com.

Thank you again for trusting me with the opportunity to serve as your chapter president in 2025. I look forward to a fun, productive, and meaningful year ahead.

Sincerely,

Jeff Shoykhet, MAI, CCIM
President
2025 Ohio Chapter of the Appraisal Institute
Alpha Appraisal Group, LLC
12026 Mayfield Road
Cleveland, Ohio
44106
P: 216-258-8980

E: jeff@AlphaAppraisalGroup.com
W: www.AlphaAppraisalGroup.com