



Carrie Stephenson, CAA
SDAAO President 2023-2024
Hyde County, Director
412 Commercial Ave SE – Highmore, SD 57345
hydedoe@venturecomm.net
605-852-2070

Greetings SDAAO members. I am honored to once again serve as your President. Our association is ever evolving as new faces join and we say farewell to others. In my two decades of membership in SDAAO, many changes have occurred from implementing the productivity system, to staff turnover, to numerous law changes and to updated software programs (seasoned folks will remember the SalesR program 😊) to name a few. Throughout the changes that come with time and technology, SDAAO has remained committed to serving our members and striving to provide quality education, support and most importantly, friendship. As it has been said numerous times over the years, the assessing world is an accidental profession as no one wakes up one day and says "I'm going to be an assessor!". Instead, we took the job not fully understanding what we were getting ourselves into and soon realized it is a profession that requires an aptitude for customer service and public relations, anger management, math and testing skills that need dusting off, public speaking, budgeting, staff management, an ability to interpret laws, to pivot quickly, and so much more. Thankfully, we don't have to navigate the sometimes uncharted and rough waters alone, SDAAO has well over 100 members that are in the same boat and collaborating with fellow assessors is the best way to learn and grow and to help keep our heads above water at times.

With so much change in our association, I also want to thank those that serve as officers, district chairpersons, committee members, teachers and mentors. It is important to take on these roles as that is how our association grows and remains strong. Stepping into one of these roles may seem daunting at first, but I promise you, you will have people helping you along the way and don't be afraid to jump in as a newer member, fresh ideas and perspectives energizes the association. I encourage each of you to become involved.

In closing, I would like to say welcome aboard to our newest members, a salute to the seasoned members for continuing on and best wishes to those retiring or switching gears. The executive board and committees work hard each year to serve the members of SDAAO and do not hesitate to contact me with concerns, suggestions or questions. I look forward to seeing everyone June 4-7, 2024 in Aberdeen for the 75th Annual Conference as plans are underway.

Sincerely,

Carrie Stephenson, CAA

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