

## **Training Advisory Group Meeting Minutes March 15, 2016 – Albany and Teleconference**

Present: Dave Ange, Christine Bannister, Cathy Conklin, Tim Maher (facilitator), Dan Martonis, Patricia McVee, Roger Tibbetts, Denise Trudell

Others Attending: Sean Fitzsimmons and Colleen Sheehan (EDS)

Recorder: Meg Keleher

The September, 2015 meeting minutes were previously approved by the group and have been posted to the website.

### **Introduction of New Group Members**

Two new group members were introduced: Patricia McVee who replaced Suzette Booy, and Denise Trudell who replaced Nathan Gabbert. Welcome!

### **Statewide Learning Management System (SLMS)**

The current contract for on-line course delivery expires in June. Approximately 1,700 registered users have been loaded to the SLMS student database. Work continues on converting our on-line course content so that it can be moved to the SLMS system. Anticipated delivery date for the first course, Assessment Administration, is June, 2016.

### **Training Reimbursement**

The current reimbursement year will end on March 31, 2016. We believe there will be enough funds to pay all reimbursement requests in full. The training reimbursement budget has been set at \$176,000 for the past three years; we expect the budget for the upcoming 2016-17 year will remain the same. The NYSAA fall conference will be held in September this year. The conference will be posted on the EDS computer system with an October date so that continuing education credits for eligible participants can be applied to the 2016-17 CE year, which runs from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017. Remember, voucher submission to ORPTS is required within 30 days of the completion of training. In the future we need to be aware of this issue when conferences are scheduled; conferences are typically scheduled for October which is at the beginning of the CE year so there isn't a need for adjustments.

### **Industrial Course Options**

Several county directors currently need the week-long Industrial course for their certification. The course has several prerequisites that need to be completed before the Income course. No other courses have been approved as an equivalent to the Industrial course. Dave anticipates that the Industrial course will be offered at Cornell in 2018. It has typically been offered every three years at Cornell; all agreed that schedule is working out well. Dave has reviewed the training records and there is currently only one county director that needs to be certified just prior to the Cornell Seminar in 2018. He doesn't anticipate that this will be an issue for anyone.

### **Training Clarification**

ORPTS and DTF Training are currently working together to convert the on-line assessor training courses from the current Topclass software to the Statewide Management Learning System (SLMS) platform for course delivery. The contract for Topclass support will end on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Based on recommendations from the Price Waterhouse study, we believe that the most benefit would be realized by the integration of the current ORPTS on-line course delivery with the SLMS. This would provide more support for the delivery of our assessor training courses. Other than the software integration, we do not anticipate any other changes to the current ORPTS Educational Services unit staffing or training program.

Additional discussion topics included:

### **Continuing Education Program Credits**

Roger discussed his concerns that he addressed in a letter to this group dated March 2, 2016. He pointed out the need for continuing education credit to be carefully considered, and awarded for training sessions that provide assessors the ability to "value more complex properties and administer the office in a more professional manner". Pat McVee noted that she has scheduled a number of one-day seminars; many assessors do not want to travel to attend training and are only taking the minimum number of CE credits that they are required to complete each year.

**STAR Rebate Checks**

Denise asked if all the checks had been mailed out to taxpayers. Tim updated the group and explained that no, not all of the checks had been mailed yet. Please have taxpayers contact the STAR hotline for assistance.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on September 14, 2016; no agenda items were identified at this time.