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## **President's Message: Meet challenges head on**

January 20, 2011 - Connecticut

As we begin 2011, I am encourage that the financial crisis of the past two years is finally behind us, and it appears that the economy is beginning to grow again. This is good news for our members. A stronger economy means job growth, more lending by our local banks, and therefore more work. It has been a difficult two years for all real estate professionals; however, I am optimistic that the Connecticut economy will improve at a faster pace than most other states.

Through upturns and downturns in the economy, the Connecticut Chapter of the Appraisal Institute has always been there for its members, offering the finest and most diverse courses, seminars, and dinner meetings.

This year will be no different, as a variety of courses are planned not only for the seasoned practitioner, but also young real estate professionals interested in a career in real estate appraisal.

At the present time we have approximately 325 members state wide, of which 140 or so are associate members. Our goal is to provide the education, leadership, and mentoring programs to help get these associate members designated. As our membership ages, it is imperative that we as a chapter help shepherd our young associates along, with the ultimate goal of a SRA or MAI designation.

Every year brings certain challenges on the legislative front, and this year will not be any different.

We intend to keep a watchful eye for issues which will negatively affect our profession and meet these challenges head on.

The Chapter continues to hold quarterly dinner meetings in different areas of the state, offering interesting programs, networking opportunities with others in the profession, and a chance to earn valuable continuing education credits.

Please try and attend meetings, as you will find them extremely worthwhile. Do not hesitate to bring a guest or someone in an affiliated profession such as an architect, banker, surveyor or environmental professional, as the more people who know about our organization the better.

The Connecticut Chapter is one of 91 chapters of the Appraisal Institute, whose mission is to advance professionalism, ethics and global standards.

In conclusion, it is an honor to have been chosen to lead this organization, which has a fine and distinguished history.

My board of directors and I look forward to serving you this coming year and seeing you at our meetings or seminars.

Please visit our web site [www.AI-CT.org](http://www.AI-CT.org) for current information regarding meetings, education, scholarships, and of course membership.

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