

Ten hours annually, that's what the statutes prescribe. It's the minimum number of hours needed to allow you to recertify. Speaking for myself, in this market, it's tough to say that 10 hours sufficiently prepares me to be the best assessor that I can be.

However, there are various factors to consider. There's the **TIME** to devote to education. Both personal schedules and our municipalities' support of our educational efforts play into this. Then there's the **AVAILABILITY** of courses. Location, timing and cost are the major concerns. There is the issue of dealing with the **CONTENT** of courses. We're not just trying to meet the "statutes hourly requirement", we're trying to blend our various educational "needs" with the challenges specific to our jobs. And then there's the ever-present issue of **COST**, an issue of personal finance and again, municipal support.

We realize your **Time** is precious. It prompts us to make available to you the best content at the least cost. As to **Availability**, we've varied the location of our Annual Conference, while maintaining other offerings in convenient locations (such as the Monmouth Conference in Eatontown, the Tax Appeal seminar in Monroe, the League classes in Atlantic City). Addressing availability (and cost), the Conference Site Committee had venues compete to host next year's Conference which will run March 13-16 (that's right, March) in Eatontown, and requests for locations for 2012 and 2013 will soon begin. While discussing availability, and with an eye to content, the education committee is ready and willing to put together offerings relevant to specific topics in convenient locations. We plan to continue to offer more hours annually. We're striving to deal with **Content**. It's difficult in light of the diversities of the membership itself, the municipalities we serve and the issues that diversity presents ... but we're open to input. While an Education Committee exists to plan our offerings it actively seeks the suggestions of those it serves. This letter is an example of our desire to involve you in the process. We've underwritten the offerings to reduce and / or maintain their **Cost** to our members. Our thanks goes out to both our generous sponsors and you who, in filling the seats, continue to support our efforts and, in so doing, minimize the cost per credit hour of our offerings. ***In the year ahead, we want to optimize the quality of your time, by making readily available the most topically relevant content at the least possible cost.***

Without your involvement this task is far more difficult. So ... ***Speak up*** ... Let us know what you "need". Let us know what would assist you in performing your job better. Speaking for myself, in my transition from appraisal, I needed the things many of you take for granted ... more practical applications of the "basics". For some among us it's the present tough "value" times, as markets decline, appeals loom ahead, and "maintenance" issues abound. For others it's COAH, the non-residential development fee act, equalized assessments ... enough said. ***Your turn*** ... Once appointed by our next president, the Education Committee member's names and contacts will be posted on AMANJ.org. Contact them with your ideas ... ***the best way to help us to deal with the issues of time, availability, cost and content is to contribute*** ... you could be helping us all as you help yourself.

P.S. Education details continue to be posted on the *amanj.org* website.