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## **Wyoming North Dakota & South Dakota Chapter**

**TO:** Members of the Wyoming, North Dakota, and South Dakota (WY/DAK) Chapter of the Appraisal Institute (formerly known as the “*Wyoming and Western South Dakota Chapter*”) AND Members of the North Star Chapter of the Appraisal Institute

**FROM:** Sherry Bren, WY/DAK Chapter Executive Director

**SUBJ:** Realignment of Chapters to Form a Three-State AI Chapter

**DATE:** June 23, 2023

Congratulations to all the individuals that contributed to the efforts to formulate the realignment of the boundaries of the Wyoming and Western South Dakota Chapter and the North Star Chapter of the Appraisal Institute. Effective April 3, 2023, the AI National Board of Directors approved the formation of the Three-State AI Chapter by passing a motion to realign the boundaries of the chapters and to realign the boundaries of Region II and Region III. The WY/DAK Chapter will remain in Region II. The AI Professionals in eastern SD and ND will soon be contacted by the National staff to decide which Chapter they will choose for their primary affiliation. AI Professionals may have membership in more than one Chapter.

### **Background**

There was discussion for several years to expand the boundaries of the WY/WSD Chapter to include eastern SD and ND. AI Professionals residing in eastern SD and ND are members of the recently formed Dakotas Branch Chapter of the North Star Chapter of AI. The idea for realignment originated from financial and organizational challenges that the WY/WSD Chapter has experienced due to its smaller membership size. Other considerations include a close professional relationship between most of the AI Professionals in the three states, a challenging economic climate, administrative and minimum reporting requirements imposed by the Appraisal Institute, and difficulties in providing effective government relations, especially for the split-state of South Dakota.

### **Benefits**

- Maintain an active AI presence in WY, SD, and ND that is organizationally and financially sustainable.

- Expand and diversify AI educational offerings in the three states.
- Expand the number of AI Professionals and volunteers to serve the organization.
- Allow volunteers to concentrate their efforts on providing quality events and support to AI Professionals and reduce the burden of maintaining current minimum Chapter criteria by spreading the overhead among more AI Professionals.
- Provide more effective government relations, especially for South Dakota by removing it from its current split-state status.
- Provide for an increase in the individual opportunities for AI Professionals to serve at the regional and national levels of the Appraisal Institute, particularly those in the current Dakotas Branch Chapter.
- Facilitate potential cost-sharing of governance between the Appraisal Institute and non-AI affiliated but feeder organizations like the Professional Appraisers Association of South Dakota (PAASD) and the North Dakota Appraisers Association (NDAA). These two coalitions have a significant presence in these states.

### ***What Comes Next***

As stated earlier, AI Professionals in eastern SD and ND will soon be contacted by the National staff to decide which chapter they will choose for their primary affiliation. While members of the Dakotas Branch Chapter of the North Star Chapter of AI should consider the benefits of membership to join the WY/DAK Chapter; those members wishing to stay with the North Star Chapter due to existing relationships and proximity to educational offerings and/or Chapter meetings can choose to do so by simply notifying National staff of your intent. Under either option, both Chapters are working hard to do what is best for each individual members' needs. I look forward to working with our current members and all new members.

Please feel free to contact any one of the below listed individuals with questions.

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