



THE ASSESSMENT FILES

COUNTY ASSESSORS ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA

VOLUME 3

FEBRUARY 2004

News From The President

Hello friends,

The legislature is in full swing and the CGLC is working hard watching legislation that effects county government. I think Jim Kelley said there were approximately 100 bills filed effecting county government. There will be considerably less by the end of the week. Anything not heard in committee by Friday is dead for this session. (Unless it shows up in a shell bill.)

The main focus at CODA last week was on the retirement bill. This is very alarming to me. I worked for the county for 16 years before becoming an officer. I could have gone into private industry and found another job, but, I love what I do and knew one day I could run for Assessor and the retirement was my main reason for staying at the county. I know there are lots of deputies just like me all across the state. This bill will probably come to a vote on the house floor sometime this week. If it does we will email and start the calling chain as soon as we have the date. This is HB 2234.

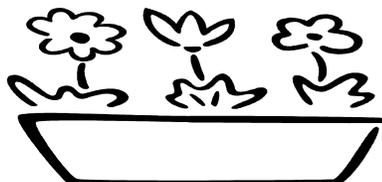
There are several senior freeze bills ranging from the HUD income to \$50,000, also several cap bills ranging from 1% to 2.5%. There are bills changing the Exempt Manufacturing and our visual inspection budget. Also mobile homes and personal property are also subjects of bills. Our legislative committee is staying on top of all of this and hopefully a lot of the bills will die by the end of the week. I want to thank Jim Kelley and Gail Hedgecoth for all the hard work they do for our association

I have sent the phone call list to Joy to be included in the newsletter. Please be sure to follow the list if you are notified. It is the quickest way to notify every one of urgent issues. The work our association does on legislation is very important to everyone and I appreciate all your interest across the state.

The subcommittee of the State Board has heard presentations from all industries and assessors. Wade Patterson did a great job presenting our association views at the last meeting. The committee is now going to consider the recommendations made and will make a full report to the State Board.

I am really having a good time as president. I see my assessor friends A LOT. I have also learned a lot sitting in on the CGLC meetings and getting to know other county officers on the CODA board has been a great experience. Thanks again for your confidence in me.

See you soon,
Debbie



*March Flower—Daffodil
March Gemstone - Aquamarine*

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------|
| <i>Cheri Hall</i> | <i>Payne</i> | <i>1st</i> |
| <i>Sam West</i> | <i>Carter</i> | <i>3rd</i> |
| <i>Dan Ashwood</i> | <i>Muskogee</i> | <i>6th</i> |



“Midlife crisis is that moment when you realize your children and your clothes are about the same age.”

— Bill Tammus in Kansas City Star

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Ad Valorem Update

Hi from the Ad Valorem Division.

We're off to a good start to the year. It looks as if it is going to be another challenging twelve months. If you thought we went through lots of changes last year, get ready for 2004. It's a great opportunity for some good positive changes. Make that lemonade whenever you can. Besides with all the colds going around, Vitamin C is good for you.

February's biggest event for all of us is the opening of the 2004 Oklahoma Legislature. The budget situation will be top priority, and the County Assessors' Association Legislative Committee is closely following events under the "Dome." This should be one of our busiest seasons in several years. We have had a great deal of questions on the Five-Year Exemption, changes to the cap, senior freeze, and additional homestead exemption reimbursements.

The Geographic Information Council legislation as drafted would place a county assessor on the GIS Council, but some discussion has occurred to change that the CODA Board.

Mark your calendars. We have a complete schedule now of the 2004 District meeting dates:

Northwest: May 7 (Adair County)
Southeast: May 14 (Garfield County)
Northeast: May 21 (Hughes County)
Southwest: May 28 (Beckham County)



We've assigned our Equalization and CAMA staff for 2004 with some changes to make up for a retirement and medical leave. Thanks for your patience. Our A&E Analysts are the best in America. I know the county assessors and deputies share our appreciation of our group.

The 4-C Committee is working with Oklahoma Tax Commission MIS on a project to make mobile home information available on the web. Debbie Gentry, 4-C Chair, says we making progress. We hope to complete it in March with some training shortly thereafter.

On the five year program, The claims for payment are about \$48 million and with \$6.2 paid out of this year's funds, a rough projection would be about \$31 million not including the additional homestead exemption.

The State Board of Equalization (SBOE) subcommittee has worked extremely hard over the last month or so reviewing all public service guidelines. We expect them to complete their effort some time in March.

We appreciate the hard work and conscientious effort of all county assessors and deputies out there working to improve the Oklahoma ad valorem system and make it better than it was given to us for taxpayers everywhere.

Jeff Spelman, CAE
Director, Ad Valorem Division

P,S. "For all those Sooners and Cowboys fans out there, the word "Bedlam" comes from St. Bethlehem's Hospital in Medieval London. It was the hospital where the mental unbalanced were sent. Draw your own conclusion." Anwar Caddo.





FOR YOUR INFORMATION



OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE 101 TERM LIMITS

Term Limits to “Kick In” in 2004: State Question 632, passed in 1990, limits legislators to 12 years total service. However, it applies to legislators “elected after the effective date of this amendment, therefore to those elected after January 1, 1991. Years served to complete a vacancy are not counted.” Contact HEACO to receive a copy of an excellent article on this topic, “Oklahoma Term Limits: Reflecting a National Movement,” (Rausch and Farmer, authors; The Almanac of Oklahoma Politics, 2002).

SENATE LEGISLATIVE TERM LIMITS

Senators who will be forced out of office in 2004 by term limits: James Dunlap, Mike Fair, Charles Ford, Sam Helton, Maxine Homer, Rick Littlefield, Bruce Price, Ben Robinson, Herb Rozell, Jerry Smith, Mark Snyder, Dick Wilkerson, Penny Williams.

Senators who will be forced out of office in 2006: Bernest Cain, Gilmer Capps, Kevin Easley, Ted Fisher, J. Berry Harrison, Cal Hobson, Robert Kerr, Jim Maddox, Angela Monson, Frank Shurden, Stratton Taylor.

Senators who would be forced out of office in 2008 if re-elected in 2004: Owen Laughlin, Robert Milacek, Mike Morgan, Jeff Rabon, Kathleen Wilcoxson, James Williamson.

Senators who would be forced out of office in 2010 if re-elected in 2004 and 2008: Charles Laster, Richard Lerblanc, David Myers, Jonathan Nichols, Jim Reynolds, Nancy Riley.

HOUSE LEGISLATIVE TERM LIMITS

Representatives who will be forced out of office in 2004 by term limits: Larry Adair, Jack Bonny, Carolyn Coleman, Kevin Cox, Frank Davis, Randall Erwin, Larry Ferguson, Bill Graves, Joan Greenwood, Jerry Hefner, Danny Hilliard, Joe Hutchison, Ron Kirby, Ron Langmacher, M.C. Leist, Elmer Maddux, Billy Mitchell, Bill Paulk, Richard Phillips, Larry Rice, Larry Roberts, Dale Smith, Fred Stanley, Leonard Sullivan, Gary Taylor, Opie Toure, Mike Tyler, Ray Vaughn, Robert Worthern.

Representatives who will be forced out of office in 2006 if re-elected in 2004: Jari Askins, Debbie Blackburn, Bill Case, Forrest Claunch, Odilia Dank, Abe Deutschendorf, Joe Eddins, Chris Hastings, Todd Hiatt, Mike Mass, Doug Miller, Fred Morgan, Fred Perry, Wayne Pettigrew, Bob Plunk, Clay Pope, Barbara Staggs, Dale Wells.

Representatives who would be forced out of office in 2008 if re-elected in 2004 and 2006: David Braddock, James Covey, Mary Easley, Darrell Gilbert, Terry Ingmire, Al Lindley, Mark Liotta, Ray McCarter, Jim Newport, Hopper Smith, Dale Turner, Mike Wilt.

Representatives who would be forced out of office in 2010 if re-elected in 2004, 2006, and 2008: Chris Benge, Kevin Calvey, Tad Jones, John Nance, Bill Nations, Greg Piatt, Curt Roggow, Mike O’Neal, Joe Sweeden, Susan Winchester, John Wright.

Representatives who would be forced out of office in 2012 if re-elected in 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010: Dennis Adkins, Thad Balkman, Lance Cargill, Dale DeWitt, Stuart Ericson, Ray Miller, Ron Peters, Paul Roan, John Smaligo, Kris Steele, Sue Tibbs, Purcy Walker, James Wilson, Ray Young.



REPORTER NEWS



Remember, let's keep on top of House Bill 2234 Retirement Bill, and get this thing defeated!!
If your state legislator voted no, please call him/her and thank them for their support and their continued support since this bill can be reconsidered. If they voted yes, you need their support if this bill is reconsidered.

AYES—45

Adkins-r; Balkman-r; Beng-e-r; Calvey-r; Cargill-r; Case-r; Claunch-r; Coleman-r; Dank-r; Ericson-r; Ferguson-r; Graves-r; Greenwood-r; Hastings-r; Hiett-r; Jones-r; Lamons; Liotta-r; McClain; Morgan, Fred-r; Nance-r; Newport-r; O'Neal-r; Paulk; Perry-r; Peters-r; Peterson; Pam-r; Peterson, Ron-r; Pettigrew-r; Phillips-r; Piatt-r; Reynolds-r; Roberts; Roggow-r; Smaligo-r; Steele-r; Sullivan-r; Tibbs-r; Trebilcock-r; Vaughn-r; Wilt-r; Winchester-r; Worthen-r; Wright-r; Young-r

NAYS—55

Adair; Armes-r; Askins; Blackburn; Blackwell-r; Bonny; Boren; Braddock; Brannon; Carey; Covey; Davis-r; DeWitt-r; Deutschendorf; Dorman; Easley, Mary; Eddins; Ellis; Erwin; Gilbert; Hamilton; Harrison; Hefner; Hilliard; Hutchison; Ingmire-r; Kirby; Langmacher; Leist; Lindley; Maddux-r; Mass; McCarter; McIntyre; Miller, Doug-r; Miller, Ray; Mitchell; Morgan, Danny; Nations; Plunk; Pope; Rice; Roan; Smith, Dale; Smithson; Staggs; Stanley; Sweeden; Taylor, Gary; Toure; Turner; Tyler, Walker; Wells; Wilson

PRESENT-NOT-VOTING- 0

Absent—3

Cox; (vacant); (vacant) -r



Attention Newsletter Readers:

This edition of the Newsletter was a little later than normal. We were waiting on the vote for the Retirement Bill. Future Newsletters will be available on the website around the 20th of each month. If you have any problems receiving the Newsletter, just give us a call. Pott. Co. 405-275-4740



- A Honey Bee can fly 15 mph, but during windy March 50mph.



- Remember you have not failed, just found 10,000 ways that won't work.



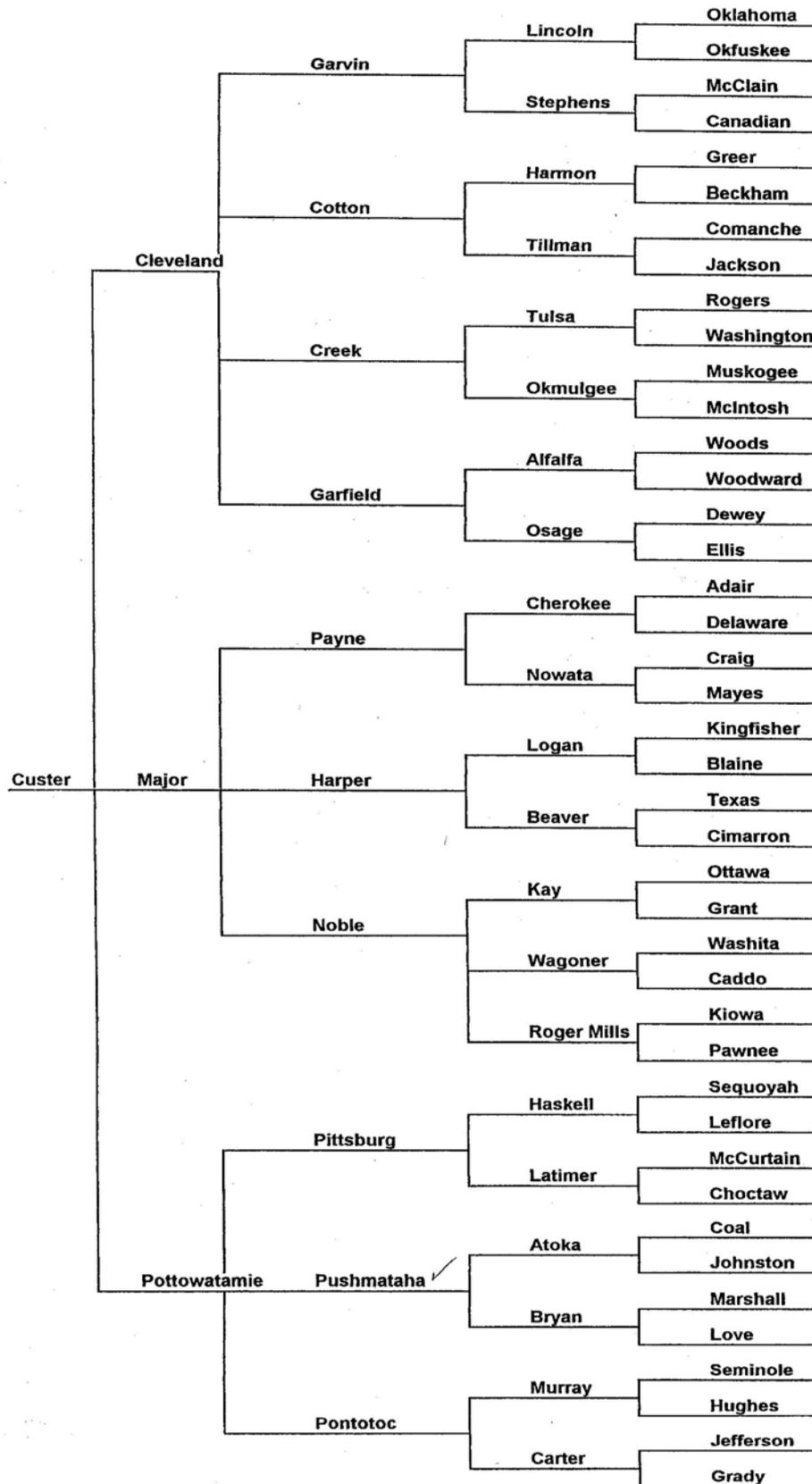
- In doors or out, no one relaxes. In March that month of wind and taxes. The wind will presently disappear. The taxes last us all the year.



- When March goes on forever, and April twice as long, who gives a darn if spring has come as long as winter's truly gone.



CALL CHAIN



Zo Anne Britton, first deputy in Washita County, passed away January 31st after a long battle with cancer. Zo Anne began working in the Assessor's Office in 1993 and became first deputy in 1997. Anyone wishing to send cards, may send them to Jim Britton,
904 S. 8th Kingfisher, OK. 73750



DONNA GIDDENS
(GREER COUNTY)
REQUESTS YOUR
PRAYERS FOR HER
SISTER WHO HAS A
BRAIN TUMOR. LET'S
REMEMBER THEIR
ENTIRE FAMILY IN
PRAYER.

COUNTY ASSESSORS ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA

325 N. Bdwy
Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801

Phone: 405-275-4740
Fax: 405-273-6450

Email: newsletter@okassessor.com



CLEVELAND COUNTY UPDATE

The Cleveland County Assessor's Office in Norman has moved to a temporary location for several years so that 2 new floors may be added to the County Office Building. After the 2 floors are added, the building will be connected to the Court House with additional stairs and elevators. The Assessor, Treasurer and County Clerk moved to one building which previously housed the County Health Department. The Commissioners moved next door to us leasing space from the fair board. The District Attorney's Office and Election Board moved across from the Court House into a recently purchased former bank building. It has taken about one month to get everyone moved and settled in again.

When we were moving, we had several fun adventures. When we were trying to move our computer servers which are mounted on a 7 foot tall rack, the elevator got stuck between floors with one of the movers inside. I called the maintenance supervisor to come open the elevator, but someone else called 911. While the maintenance men were working to get the door open, 2 paramedics and 10 firemen pull up outside with lights flashing! We got the man out within 15 minutes—but it was 24 hours before we could get the sever out.

Then 2 days later when I came into my 'new' office in the morning, the ceiling had fallen and was lying on top of my chair and desk. Again the maintenance men came to our rescue! But all in all, no one got hurt and nothing was broken—except for 1 pencil in the pencil holder on top of my desk.

We're all very glad we are done with this for at least 2 years!

Our new address is : 641 E. Robinson Ste. 100
Norman, OK. 73071

The phone number, fax number and email address did not change.

DENISE HEAVNER

