



THE ASSESSMENT FILES

COUNTY ASSESSORS ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA

VOLUME 6

MAY 2004

News From The President

Hello Assessors and Deputies,

May in Oklahoma is great! The grass gets greener everyday, the days get longer, and the sun gets warmer and warmer. We have already had 100 degree temperatures in western Oklahoma this summer. I hope that is not a sign of what is to come in August.

May also brings district meetings. The district meetings give us a chance to get together and address important issues that affect our Association. I hope everyone attends your local district meeting. I am really sorry I missed the Northeast District meeting. My son, who is now a graduate, had an FFA banquet that I needed to attend that week. I heard the meeting was very good and the strawberries were delicious. The next meeting was in Garfield County, which is in my district. The talk from the Commander at Vance Air Force Base was very enlightening. The impact that base has on Enid and Garfield County is tremendous. Next I traveled to Hughes County for the Southeast district meeting. Kathi Mask was a very gracious and fun hostess. Her crew, along with the crew from VLS, organized a cookout at Kathi's house that was one of the best I've attended. Lots of thanks to VLS and Kathi for all the hard work they put in on the cookout. Friday I will go to my last district meeting in Beckham County. I have enjoyed traveling around the state and visiting with all the assessors and deputies.

The legislature will adjourn on Friday of this week and we have made it through without much damage. It seems we spend most of our time with the legislature trying to change bills so we can live with them or trying to kill others that would hurt county government. We are still closely watching a few bills, but are hopeful they will die.

The officers are starting to make plans for school in August and would appreciate any suggestions you have to make our association activities a success.

Abstracts will be due in a few weeks and then hopefully we will all have a little down time in our offices. I hope everyone has a safe and happy summer.

Debbie Collins



June Flower - Rose

June Gemstone - Pearl or Alexandrite

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

<i>Randy Wintz</i>	<i>Lincoln</i>	<i>June 4</i>
<i>Donna Giddens</i>	<i>Greer</i>	<i>June 7</i>
<i>Wayne Spears</i>	<i>Pawnee</i>	<i>June 8</i>
<i>Sonya Booher</i>	<i>Alfalfa</i>	<i>June 14</i>
<i>Roger Ballard</i>	<i>Haskell</i>	<i>June 16</i>
<i>Tom Porton</i>	<i>McCurtain</i>	<i>June 21</i>
<i>Letitia Stockton</i>	<i>Kiowa</i>	<i>June 24</i>

" In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: IT GOES ON."

-Robert Frost

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AD VALOREM UPDATE

Ad Valorem Division Road Tour 2004

We've enjoyed seeing everyone during our traditional road tour for the Annual District and OATR meetings. We were in Adair County just in time for the strawberry festival last week (Nothing like a eating some strawberries that were growing in the field an hour earlier.) Wade Patterson hosted a great meeting at Enid last week. Highly organized and we all enjoyed hearing about what's going on at Vance Air Base. No pressure for Kathi Mask and Loretta Hall during the last of May. I'm sure they'll have great district meetings also, and I know how much work that a well organized meeting takes. We appreciate the effort and the County Assessors Association officers deserve a tip of the hat for all the miles that they've racked up in May traveling across the state.

We had a good session with the Oklahoma Association of Tax Representatives at their spring meeting in Tulsa, and we always appreciate an opportunity to discuss their issues and concerns. The OATR membership has lots of experience and knowledge in the process.

The Legislative session is getting pretty exciting as the last two weeks wrap up. It seems that there's always some drama in the last few days of the session. In the next few weeks, there will be some additional discussion as the legislative session concludes. We'll get everyone up to date on new legislation after the session is over.

The Ad Valorem Division will be sending out reminders on the abstract submission dates later this month. Please remember that the abstracts are due on June 15. Statutes are pretty strict on the deadline so please let us know. We'll be sending a bulletin reminder out shortly.

State Board of Equalization (SBOE) has scheduled June 7 for a review of the new public service guidelines, and its regular meeting is scheduled for June 21 which should give everyone time to complete their abstracts. Check those dates for any change as we get closer to the date.

Public Service is working overtime trying to get our valuations completed since we are several staff positions short.

Annual Conference planning is in progress. Debbie Collins and our staff will meet with the County Assessors' Association officers shortly. (We're behind a month from last year.) Gary Snyder and Doug Warr from Center for Local Government Technology (CLGT) are also invited to the session. With help from Cooperative Extension, we should have another outstanding conference.

We'll see everyone at the district meetings. Have a good month. We appreciate all you do for your taxpayers and all the hard work of county assessors and deputies every where. It's a tough job, but ad valorem is an extremely important part of local government in Oklahoma. We're all working to pass the system on better than it was given to us.

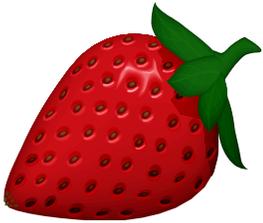
Sincerely,

Jeff Spelman, CAE
Director, Ad Valorem Division

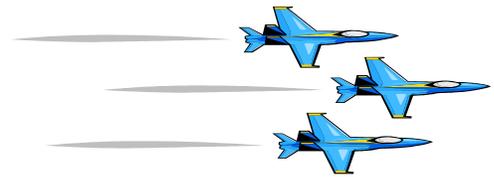
P.S. "Put your mind on whatever is true, honest, just, or pure. And if you hear good things about someone or something, think about the good instead of the negative. Positive thoughts are easier on your brain." Anwar Caddo borrowed from his friend Paul Tentmaker.

REPORTER'S NEWS

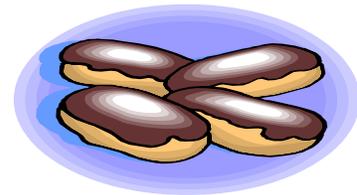
We wanted to thank the following Counties for hosting the District Meetings this year.



Northeast District, Rhonda Pritchett, Adair County had a great meeting. It was our first time to Stilwell. We found out ALL about the strawberry, since the Strawberry Festival is held in Stilwell each year. We had a Berry good time!



The Northwest District was hosted by Garfield County, Wade Patterson. Wade Patterson and his staff had a great set-up for us. We learned how vital Vance AFB is to Enid and to our state. By the way, Wade, can you get us the recipe for those long-johns? If not, can you invite us back for another meeting?



The Southeast District Meeting was hosted by Hughes County. Kathi and Gary Mask hosted the Thursday evening get-to-gather at their home, sorry I missed it. It was a total success. Thank you Kathi and Gary for being such brave souls. Kathi and her staff made sure the meeting the next day was top notch. I've learned that's the only way Kathi does things.



Beckham County had not yet had their Southwest Meeting by this newsletter. We will report on their meeting in next month's newsletter.

Again, thanks to all of you for your hard work and dedication; it was greatly appreciated!

Joy Anderson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Glenda Cypert,
McLain County Assessor,
will be retiring.

The retirement party will be
June 30th, at the
McLain County Assessor's Office.



In Our Prayers

Donna Giddens' (Greer County Assessor) sister passed away on May 5th. She had battled cancer from a brain tumor for two and a half years. She was fifty six years old.

Sharon Lane's (Delaware County Assessor) father, Tom Duffield, passed away.

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FATHER'S DAY JUNE 20TH



“ If the new American father feels bewildered and even defeated, let him take comfort from the fact that whatever he does in any fathering situation has a fifty percent chance of being right.”—Bill Cosby

T L A U G H N K O R
E Y M N O S V R T K
A K O H L S T E R N
C F N C F E H T S V
H G E O N V S H P H
E L Y K W O F G O O
R E D A E L I U R D
S T R O N G E A T O
H N V E R S P D S P
K G O T R F H P G F
S P R O V I D E R E

Can you find these words?

DAD LOVE
DAUGHTER MONEY
FISH PROVIDER
GOLF SON
HUG SPORTS
KNOWLEDGE STERN
LAUGH STRONG
LEADER TEACHER

