



THE ASSESSMENT FILES

COUNTY ASSESSORS ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA

VOLUME 9

AUGUST 2004

News From The President

Is it really August in Oklahoma? The weather this year at Tulsa was beautiful! Anytime we can have temperatures in the high 70's and low 80's during August we should be thankful.

Our conference was a success, I have attended 21 and they get better and better every year. The Ad Valorem division deserves a huge pat on the back for all the hard work they put into planning and conducting the conference. The classes were very interesting and I learned something in every session I attended. I also want to thank King Ralph and his staff for all the work getting the evening activities planned and everyone registered.

The evening activities provided plenty of fellowship and fun. I listened to the band and thought they sounded great, and everyone seemed to be enjoying the music. The attendance at bowling was great. It's fun to watch everyone's unique style. My office always enjoys our bowling session. This year we were next to some people who brought their own shoes and their own bowling ball. We had fun seeing how many of us it took to beat one of their scores! The aquarium was a BLAST and the Taste of Tulsa was an added bonus. It was fun to see all of the creatures. The fish and other creatures are so interesting, they almost seem unreal.

I appreciate everyone's participation in the activities. The association goes to a lot of work to help entertain the group and it's good to see so many people participating.

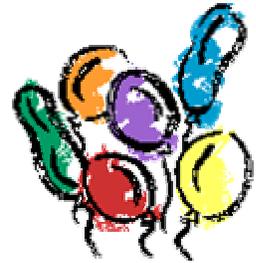
I always feel that when the conference is over it's time to gear up my office for tax rolls. And eventually get ready for a new year. For 2005 my county has repealed household personal and livestock. We can't wait to delete all of those accounts from our computers and finally do away with a lot of headaches!

I hope everyone has time to get out and enjoy the beautiful evenings we have had. I have already set through 4 evenings of softball and the weather has been wonderful!

See you at CODA on September 15-17!

Debbie Collins

PS. Please send me the names of deputies or assessors who will complete their 20th year of service to the county. They will be recognized during our breakout at the September CODA conference.



September Flower - Aster
September Gemstone - Blue Sapphire

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<i>Kelli Minson</i>	<i>Craig</i>	<i>Sept 3</i>
<i>Thyra Grounds</i>	<i>Texas</i>	<i>Sept 4</i>
<i>Gail Hedgcoth</i>	<i>Osage</i>	<i>Sept 6</i>
<i>Patty Hiner</i>	<i>Cimarron</i>	<i>Sept 12</i>
<i>Judy Barnes</i>	<i>Kay</i>	<i>Sept 14</i>
<i>Judie Thompson</i>	<i>Wagoner</i>	<i>Sept 17</i>
<i>Ronnie Funck</i>	<i>Canadian</i>	<i>Sept 18</i>
<i>Teresa Tallon</i>	<i>Jefferson</i>	<i>Sept 20</i>
<i>Cathy Carlile</i>	<i>Love</i>	<i>Sept 22</i>
<i>Sandra Stanley</i>	<i>Nowata</i>	<i>Sept 27</i>

Inside this issue:

President's News	1
Ad valorem Update	2
Weird facts	3
Olympics	4
Announcements	5

Ad Valorem Update

Good Job Everyone. Tulsa Conference 2004, the 60th Anniversary, is in the history books now. We had excellent attendance, lots of good instructors, hard working students, good new technology demos, and some good stories from the County Assessors' visit to the really beautiful new Aquarium at Jenks. The Jenks aquatic complex is fast becoming one of the "must see" sites in Oklahoma. We were fortunate the aquarium had no shark escapes or other disasters during our visit. The Taste of Tulsa event that was going at same time was also a plus. The County Assessors Association officers have come up with some really good social events over the years and this was one of the best, along with famous bowling tournament.

We were really pleased that Lt. Governor Mary Fallin, State Treasurer Robert Butkin, and Jeff McMahan, State Auditor and Inspector were able to attend the opening session. William Mack won't probably forget the opening ceremony when he got this 25th anniversary certificate subject to a humorous review of his "time" sheets.

We were very pleased that the State Board of Equalization (SBOE) members got to see the latest "graduating class" of initial and advanced accreditation students, including a "graduate" from Stephens County who just happened to have his own cap and gown! Accreditation is not a minor accomplishment. It takes a lot of work and dedication to complete and it becomes more complicated every year as the ad valorem system changes and grows.

As we say every year the success of the educational conference is the result of teamwork. Just like Oklahoma football, the conference rests on the work of a team. We'd like to thank the "team" members: the officers of the County Assessors Association, State Auditor and Inspector (SA&I), Oklahoma State University, Jewette Farley and Steven Sutterfield and all the speakers and instructors and of course all the county assessors and deputies who attended classes all week. We again appreciated the presentations by Garfield and Oklahoma Counties as well as the assistance in the mapping classes.

We were also happy for the fifth year in a row that the CODA Board held their monthly meeting at the conference. As I've said before, it's a great opportunity for the other county officers to see the extent and quality of the training that the county assessors have to go through. The county assessor still has one of the most complicated and technical jobs in county government.

But most of all thanks to all the county assessors and deputies who worked so hard throughout the week, juggling back-to-school plans, and traveling to Tulsa. We appreciate the effort, and I know all of county government does too.

Now that the conference is over, the Ad Valorem Division anticipates a busy fall. We'll also be watching with interest the two State Questions affecting ad valorem and working with county assessors if those measures pass. We'll also be completing more software updates, training, and the Equalization Study as well as preparing for the County Assessors' Association Annual Convention.

Have a good month getting settled into the fall and catching up after the conference. On behalf of the Ad Valorem Division thank you for hard work during the conference. We appreciate all that the county assessors and deputies do for taxpayers across the state. It's a tough job, but it's never been more important, as Tom Cusack says, to be "the guardian of fairness."

Thanks to the all the County assessors and deputies who attended. We couldn't do it without you.

P.S. "According to the sign at the Jenks Aquarium, the average fish has a short term memory of three seconds. Human beings have a much longer short term memory except on Monday mornings." Quote from Anwar Caddo, famous Ad Valorem Philosopher.

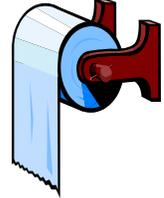


WEIRD FACTS



Lemons contain more sugar than strawberries do.

A dime has 118 ridges around the edge of it and a quarter has 119 ridges.



On an average there are about 333 squares of toilet paper on a roll.



The average human eats 8 spiders in their lifetime at night.



If you keep a Goldfish in the dark room, it will eventually turn white.



The strongest muscle in the body is the tongue.

Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.

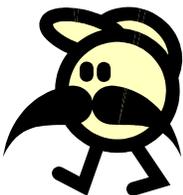


There are 336 dimples on a regulation golf ball.

The name of all the continents end with the same letter that they start with.



$111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321.$



The world's longest mustache is more than eight feet long.

OLYMPICS



OLYMPIC TRIVIA

1. What do the five rings of the Olympics mean?



- A. Five Cities
- B. Five Countries
- C. Five Continents



2. What does the Olympic Motto, "Citius, Altius, Fortius" mean?



- A. Harder, Stronger, Faster
- B. Swifter, Higher, Stronger
- C. Better, Bigger, Bolder



3. How many athletes participated in the first Olympics?

- A. 500
- B. 312
- C. 200



4. What year were women first allowed to compete in the Olympics?

- A. 1900
- B. 1920
- C. 1890



5. If you come in third in an event you receive which medal?



- A. Bronze
- B. Silver
- C. Gold



6. How old is the oldest contestant in this years Olympic Games?

- A. 39
- B. 44
- C. 56



ANSWERS:
1. C
2. A
3. B
4. B
5. A
6. C

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary, Noble County, asks that if anyone has someone they would like mentioned in the Memorium (Fall Conference), please contact her with a list of the names, position, and years of service.

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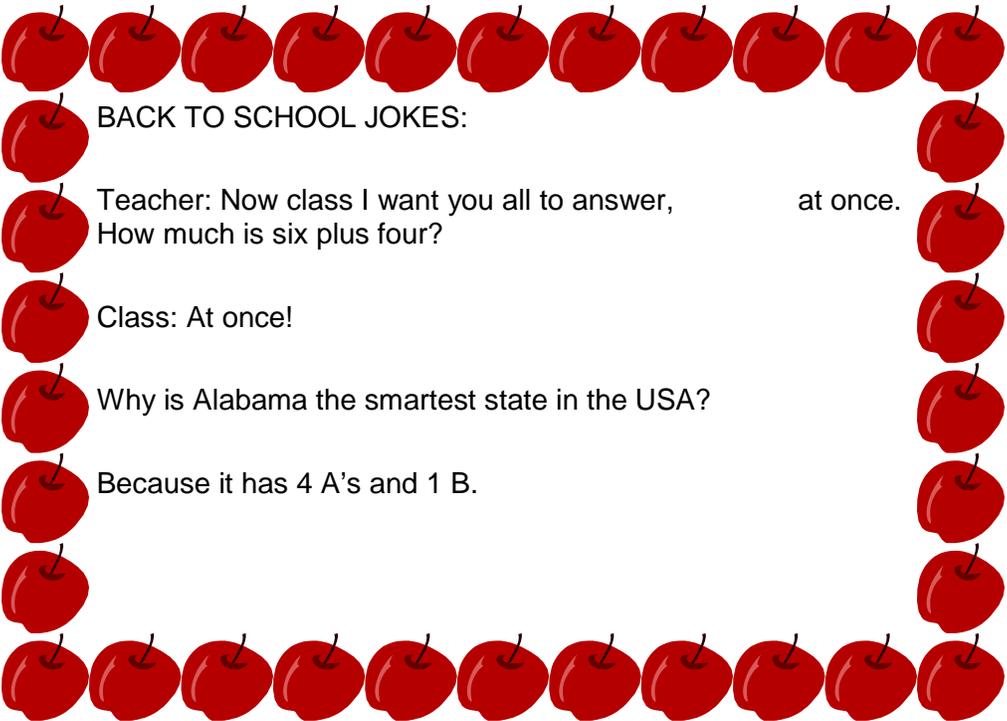
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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

During the class, led by Wade Patterson on Valuation of Billboards, the question was asked to whom one calls for information on signs located in the county. Loretta Hall, Beckham County wanted to pass along that she calls, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Registration and Permits (405)-521-3005.



BACK TO SCHOOL JOKES:

Teacher: Now class I want you all to answer, at once.
How much is six plus four?

Class: At once!

Why is Alabama the smartest state in the USA?

Because it has 4 A's and 1 B.

