



# THE ASSESSMENT FILES

COUNTY ASSESSORS ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA

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## News From the President

Hello Assessors and Deputies,

Well, we finally know that we won't be camping out in tents in Tulsa in August! The Tax Commission was very happy that the bid for the hotel was awarded to one they were familiar with – it would be hard to start over with a new location with only a few weeks to plan. It has also made it easier for us to finalize the evening plans. We still plan on bingo and a dance on Tuesday, bowling on Wednesday and 'on your own night' on Thursday. We may have dropped off slightly in attendance at bowling last year. So if anyone has any suggestions for other indoor activities next year, I'm sure King Ralph would love to hear them. Cathy Hokit said that registrations are coming in every day. Sorry we had such a tight timeline this year. Luckily assessors have lots of practice overcoming obstacles!

The 3 P (Public Service, Petroleum, Pipeline) and Legislative Committees are meeting this week to talk about legislation for next year. We plan to stay alert and proactive. At the annual conference in October we will discuss concerns and issues in depth. If you have any ideas about needed legislation, please share them with me or any members of those committees.

Also, if anyone has any questions or concerns about the changes to our by-laws, please contact me or any member of the Board of Directors. I have talked with Nancy Bryce, the President of the County Clerks Association, about the change that relates to travel claims. She ran it past her Board and they agreed the change as written was the easiest way to handle the county clerks' involvement. The plan is to take a vote on the changes at Tulsa and if the resolution passes we will hand out amended copies at the annual conference in Oklahoma City in October. If anyone feels we need to discuss the changes in depth, we can delay the vote until the annual conference and hand out amended copies in February at CODA.

We were all sorry to hear of the passing of Vernon Crumm. There were about a dozen assessors and deputies at the funeral service in Anadarko. It was a very nice service and our prayers and thoughts are with his family and his work family.

Try to stay cool and enjoy the rest of your summer!

*Denise Heavner*

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## Ad Valorem Update

Greetings from the Ad Valorem Division!

Hey, I don't know about you but I was delighted that we got our hotel for the Annual Conference. Thanks for your patience. We were stressed out waiting on the final arrangements and we're looking forward to another excellent conference...thanks to the help from everyone involved. See you in Tulsa.

Just read an article that the typical office worker is interrupted every three minutes by a phone call, e-mail, or other distraction. That's not to mention Internet and walk-in taxpayers. The problem is that the human brain needs about eight uninterrupted minutes to really think something over.

Carl Honore, journalist and author of "In Praise of Slowness," says that computer communications that were supposed to make working lives run more smoothly are actually preventing people from getting critical tasks done. Honore, who cited the estimate of an interruption every three minutes, acknowledges that he would not part with his laptop or phone. But he adds that "it's possible to get too much of a good thing. As a society, that's where we are at the moment."

Many people are coming up with low-tech strategies to get away from all their technology such as "Slow e-mail movement" by only checking your e-mail twice a day. One company has even instituted "E-mail-free Fridays" for one department when it was discovered they were getting as many as 400 e-mails a day, many from within their own department.

And in addition to sapping our creativity, some studies suggest that we may not even be getting anywhere by trying to send an e-mail, talk to a co-worker and send instant messages to our boss at the same time. Russell says humans just aren't that good at doing many things at once.

The problem, Russell said, is that there are only certain types of tasks that humans are good at doing simultaneously. Cooking and talking on the phone go together fine, as does walking and chewing gum (for most people). But try and do three math problems at once, and you are sure to have a problem.

"The paradox of modern life is that multitasking is, in most cases, counterproductive," Russell said.

Remember to call Cathy Gibson if you have any hotel problems. See you August 9th at the Marriott in Tulsa.

## Reporter's Notes

The Grady County Assessor's Office has four computers for sale for any county that can use them. County Assessor Phyllis Ray says if anyone is interested, they should call her office at (405) 224-4361.

As Denise mentioned, longtime Caddo County Assessor Vernon Crumm passed away July 16<sup>th</sup>, just two days after his birthday. Vernon was assessor for the past 18 years in Caddo County after working for nearly two decades in the office as a deputy. We'll sure miss him and we send out our prayers to his friends and family.

Also, McClain County Assessor Kathy Ladlee lost her father at the age of 77 on June 26<sup>th</sup>. He was a farmer all of his life and, Kathy, we all are very sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and our prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Please note that there will be a legislative discussion/update on the Friday, the last day of the OTC school. Any new ideas for legislation need to be passed along to the legislative committee as soon as possible. Please call or visit with Jim Kelley about your issue.

A quick reminder about the upcoming IAAO course to be held August 22-26 in Tulsa. Course 300, Fundamentals of Mass Appraisal, will be conducted at the AmeriSuites Hotel near 71<sup>st</sup> and Yale and will be instructed by IAAO's Marion Johnson, CAE. Hope to see you there!

Lastly, I hope everyone enjoys this year's annual education conference next week in Tulsa. Glad we're not moving to a new site this year. Some of us are quite fond of the Marriott! Until then...

Your Reporter,  
*Todd Mathes*



### August Birthdays

<b>Debbie Collins</b> (Custer)	August 1
<b>Scotty Crosby</b> (Harper)	August 1
<b>Charles Edwards</b> (Tillman)	August 1
<b>Eloise McCully</b> (Kingfisher)	August 12
<b>Shirley Bryant</b> (Choctaw)	August 16
<b>Todd Mathes</b> (Washington)	August 31

## Oklahoma is fourth cheapest state in per capita property tax burden

### Per capita property-tax burdens by state

State	Tax per capita	Rank	State	Tax per capita	Rank
All States	\$968	NA	All States	\$968	NA
Alabama	\$329	1	Montana	\$937	29
Alaska	\$1,295	41	Nebraska	\$1,012	36
Arizona	\$782	18	Nevada	\$786	19
Arkansas	\$371	2	New Hampshire	\$1,703	48
California	\$864	21	New Jersey	\$1,872	50
Colorado	\$925	26	New Mexico	\$408	3
Connecticut	\$1,733	49	New York	\$1,402	46
Delaware	\$496	8	North Carolina	\$653	13
Florida	\$944	30	North Dakota	\$840	20
Georgia	\$777	17	Ohio	\$933	28
Hawaii	\$496	7	<b>Oklahoma</b>	<b>\$425</b>	<b>4</b>
Idaho	\$714	15	Oregon	\$892	24
Illinois	\$1,261	40	Pennsylvania	\$885	23
Indiana	\$971	32	Rhode Island	\$1,369	44
Iowa	\$980	34	South Carolina	\$754	16
Kansas	\$931	27	South Dakota	\$879	22
Kentucky	\$483	6	Tennessee	\$596	11
Louisiana	\$434	5	Texas	\$1,128	38
Maine	\$1,477	47	Utah	\$612	12
Maryland	\$993	35	Vermont	\$1,337	42
Massachusetts	\$1,358	43	Virginia	\$921	25
Michigan	\$975	33	Washington	\$954	31
Minnesota	\$1,038	37	West Virginia	\$499	9
Mississippi	\$574	10	Wisconsin	\$1,189	39
Missouri	\$684	14	Wyoming	\$1,387	45

Source: The Tax Foundation