



## THE ASSESSMENT FILES

COUNTY ASSESSORS ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA

JUNE  
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2006

### News From the President

Hello Everyone,

I attended the State Board of Equalization meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup> and all 77 counties had their abstracts in on time, and they were all accepted by the State Board. We are now getting ready for the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Educational Conference in Tulsa. Yes, August is almost here already. We have received our registration packet from OTC, and Todd Mathes has sent the Assessor registration out on email and snail mail. The classes being offered sound informative, and the evening activities should fun. In addition to the normal activities, this year we are going to have a modeling show presented by Giddens Enterprises. It should be a lot of fun.

We would like to encourage everyone to register with the Assessor Association this year. This registration fee not only pays for the evening activities, but also supports the Association for the entire year. During the legislative session February through May, and possibly through extended special sessions like we have this year, we have mileage reimbursements we pay to the members of our Legislative Committee. They make many trips to the State Capitol making sure legislation that would adversely affect our organization doesn't slip through. They do a tremendous job watching out for us. It's essential we keep ourselves informed and make our voice known to our Senators and Representatives. Contacts we have made with our Legislators at the last hour have stopped potential harmful legislation from passing on many occasions. The money we collect from the registration pays for these trips as well as all other Association business throughout the year.

In a final note, please remember to pray for our dear friend, Teresa Tallon, Jefferson County Assessor. She is undergoing treatment for acute Leukemia. She is in the Comanche County Memorial Hospital in Lawton, Oklahoma. She may be in the hospital for several weeks. I'm sure she would love to hear from her Assessor family. If you would like to send cards, flowers, or contact her, the address and phone number will be included in Wade's reporter news.

Have a great 4<sup>th</sup> of July and be safe.

Ralph Wilson,  
President

## Ad Valorem Update

June's been a busy month. We've had election filings for the office of county assessor, abstract filings and the completion of the public service valuations for 2006, which are keeping things busy around here. And we're expecting the special session of the Legislature to fire up in the next week or so.

Congratulations to the county assessors who had the courage and dedication to step forward again. As I've often said, it is a tough job that turns out sometimes to be a thankless one, but the public appreciates someone who does a good job for the community.

We had 53 assessors who have already been elected by virtue of the fact they were the only person to file for the office. That is a victory by any account in itself. Several great assessors who've been in office a long time did not file. We'll miss Wayne Spears AKA "Pawnee Bill", who did a super job at President back in the last century (1999) and is riding into the sunset again. (Some of you may recall that Wayne brought his horse "Y" into the ballroom at the Biltmore on the last day he was Assessor President and rode out through the door.)

Loretta Hall, Beckham County, (Her version of "Stand Up for America" is the best ever done in my opinion.) Francis Johnson, Caddo County, Sam West, Carter County Assessor, Glenda Kirk, Roger Mills County Assessor, Mike Reynolds, long-time Pontotoc County Assessor, Mary Moore, Noble County, Eugenia Woods, Johnston County, Charles Edwards, Tillman County, Tom Porton, McCurtain County, Jack Matthews, Pushmataha County Assessor, and Shirley Bryant, Choctaw County Assessor have all left their posts. We enjoyed a great working relationship with every one of these county assessors, and we're going to recognize them at the Annual Conference right before the accreditation awards. On behalf of the Ad Valorem Division, I'd like to wish each of them well in their future endeavors and thanks for their service to the taxpayers of Oklahoma.

I was also pleased that a couple of our newest assessors who'd been appointed in the last year or so--- Leon Hurt, Delaware County, Kathy Ladlee, McClain County, Troyce King, Pottawatomie County, B.J. Parks, Seminole County, and Donna Graham, Sequoyah County are ready to settle in for their first complete term since their appointment. None of them drew opponents. For everyone else, good luck, and we'll hope that the voters make the right decision.

Choctaw County, incidentally, did scare some folks because the newspaper reported that no one filed. Becky Harris, a deputy in Choctaw County did file shortly after press time and has been elected.

Finalization of the Annual Conference is proceeding. Everyone should have received a Bulletin letter with all conference information. As those of you know who've attended the conference in the past, the Bulletin includes your information for the first two rooms that each county is assigned. The block of rooms has been opened, and you can finalize your reservations as soon as you can do so. If anyone new has any questions (or if you just want to chat), please give Cathy Gibson a call. Remember, if you are going to cancel any rooms, please do so by calling Cathy or Cyndi in our office so we do not lose them from our block.

Special note: We've added one session called "What to do if you have to give a Deposition" by Larry Patton. It will be on "do's and don'ts" if your county is involved in a court case. He is a new Oklahoma Tax Commission lawyer who served as a Federal District Attorney and has had extensive court room experience. He might even cross examine a "volunteer" from the audience.

Remember that we will have the photographer at the meeting again this year for the group picture of all the county assessors. This has really been a nice historical record. We think this is the eighth or ninth year in a row that the county assessors have all had their picture taken together.

Have a good month. If we don't see everyone at the June SBOE meeting, we'll see you at the Annual Conference in Tulsa.

Jeff Spelman, CAE  
Director  
Ad Valorem Division

P.S. "It's wonderful what we can do if we are always doing." Anwar Caddo, Famous Ad Valorem Philosopher courtesy of George Washington.



### July Birthdays

Jack Matthews (Pushmatah)	July 8
Kathy Ladlee (McClain)	July 8
Monica Schmidt (Woods)	July 19
Jim Kelley (Pittsburg)	July 20
"King" Ralph Wilson (Major)	July 21

## Secretary/Treasurer Update

The Executive Committee of the County Assessors' Association of Oklahoma met on Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, in Oklahoma City to discuss final plans for the August OTC annual school. Most of the discussion centered on the finances of the Association and where we're at financially in comparison to last year. Due to the fact that mileage rates have increased and the fact that our legislative committee has been so busy with legislation this year, our travel reimbursements have seen a significant increase. With that in mind, the Executive Committee unanimously voted to increase the registration fees for the annual school from \$35 per person to \$40.

On that note, most of you have been faithful in sending in your registration fees in a timely manner each and every year. And for that, we want to say "thank you." For others, the payment has come in a little more cautiously. The thinking has been that "if we don't attend the evening activities, then we shouldn't have to pay." That's true if the \$40 registration fees only went to support those evening activities in August. But the truth of the matter is that all registration monies help support the Assessors' Association for the entire year. Every time that Jim Kelley or one of the other members of the legislative committee makes the trek to Oklahoma City to fight for or against a piece of legislation that affects all of us as county assessors and deputies, your money paid to the association in the form of registration fees helps defray that cost. We couldn't do what we do as a successful organization without all of your help.

So please, if you plan to attend the conference this year, send your registration fees in with your enrollment form. More information concerning the activities surrounding the OTC school is on its way to your e-mail inboxes and mailboxes as we speak.

Thank you and sincerely,

*Todd Mathes*

Washington County Assessor,  
Secretary/Treasurer

## Reporter's Notes

Hello Eveyone:

In case you have not heard, Teresa Tallon, Jefferson County Assessor, is in the hospital in Lawton. Teresa has been diagnosed with Acute Leukemia. I spoke with her office this week and they think she will be in the hospital at least a month. I know she would appreciate hearing from everyone. She is in room 274 and the phone number is 580-250-5274. You can send cards, letters, and flowers to:

Teresa Tallon  
C/O Comanche County Memorial Hospital  
3401 Gore Blvd.  
Lawton, OK 73702

The annual OTC School is fast approaching. I would like to encourage everyone to register for the Assessor's Association events as well as the OTC registration. As Todd pointed out in his article, it is very important that all assessors contribute to the Assessor's Association fund. These funds not only pay for the fun events at this conference, but fund the Association's expenses throughout the year. During the year we have expenses for postage, printing, mileage reimbursement, meeting rooms, etc.

The legislature is in Special Session as this newsletter is printed. I encourage you to call you Senator and Representative just to make contact. Remind them to contact you if any legislation concerning the county or ad valorem is discussed. Now is not the time to sit back and assume that all is well. We must remain vigilant, or strange things can happen at the Capital. If any questions arise that you do not feel confident responding to, give one of the legislative committee members a call.

Congratulations to everyone that did not have an opponent and good luck to those who do. A call of support would probably be appreciated. I am attaching a spreadsheet from the OTC that lists all 77 assessors and their election status.

I have added a new article to the newsletter this month. The County Training Program (CTP), which will be administered by Notie Lansford and the staff at Oklahoma Cooperation Extension Service (OCES) Welcome aboard and we look forward to the future educational offerings.

Lets all remember to say a prayer for Teresa and help her recover as soon as possible.

*Don't forget; "The best part of being a public servant is serving the public"*

[lwade@garfieldcountyemail.com](mailto:lwade@garfieldcountyemail.com) phone 580-237-0220 fax 580-249-5989.

God Bless,  
Wade

## **2006 Legislative Session Update**

Dear Assessors,

We are still going through some of the last minute legislation. We have not found any surprises so far.

At the moment we are still working on getting the funding for reimbursement of revenues that are lost due to double homesteads and exempt manufacturing.

We are in the middle of the Special Session and watching everything as close as we can. The bills are all in shell form and you really don't know what they are voting on until it hits the floor.

We will try to keep you posted.

Sincerely,

Jim Kelley  
[jimkelley46@yahoo.com](mailto:jimkelley46@yahoo.com)

P.S. Dave Herbert is always willing to help with legislators or legislation. Dave can be reached at [dherbert@logixonline.com](mailto:dherbert@logixonline.com) or by phone at (405)733-3345.

## **IAAO Update**

Greeting:

I hope things have settled down for you now that the Abstract is history! Isn't it a great feeling of relief when everything finally comes together? As you read this, some of us will be attending the IAAO course in Oklahoma City. If you hurry, there's still time and a couple of spots left to enroll in the next course. Course 102, Income Approach to Valuation, will be July 17-21 in Tulsa.

Don't forget the chapter dues are due now and are \$10. Mail the money to Gary Snyder.

If you have any questions, email me at [Monica@alvaok.net](mailto:Monica@alvaok.net)

Monica Schmidt  
2006 IAAO Oklahoma Chapter President

## OSU/CLGT Upcoming Course Schedule

Unit 7 (Ag. Land Valuation)	June 8-9	Tahlequah
Unit 6 (Cadastral Mapping)	June 19-22	Tahlequah
IAAO Unit 101 (Real Property)	June 26-30	Oklahoma City
IAAO Unit 102 (Income)	July 17-21	Tulsa

You can download the registration forms on line at <http://clgt.okstate.edu> and email it to [clgt@okstate.edu](mailto:clgt@okstate.edu) or you can fax the form to 405-744-7268. If you have any questions please contact Doug Warr or Gary Snyder at 405-744-6049.

## News from OCES/CTP

Effective July 1, the County Training Program at Oklahoma State University is being administered by the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service (OCES) in the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Notie Lansford, Agricultural Economics Professor and Extension Economist, is coordinating the program. Local Government Specialists Ann Embree, Don Sporleder, and Judy Rudin and other instructors will teach classes and offer technical assistance to county offices.

Rene Flasch has been hired as the program's Unit Assistant and she will update and maintain the database of courses and students. She is responsible for entering registrations, tracking courses, updating transcripts, and generating reports.

The new County Training Program website is: <http://www.agecon.okstate.edu/ctp>. The new training schedule for August through December, 2006, is located on the web site along with a registration form. Officers and their deputies can enroll by mail, email, or fax. We invite all County Assessors to attend any of the classes.

The web site also includes information about county offices, certification programs, and contact information for County Training Program personnel. All inquiries, registrations, and other communications can be made to:

County Training Program  
 Department of Agricultural Economics  
 Room 313, Ag Hall  
 Oklahoma State University  
 Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078-8088  
 405-744-6555 FAX: 405-744-8210 or [ctp@okstate.edu](mailto:ctp@okstate.edu).

Course Schedule for the next three months:

ACCO Summer Conference	July 18-20	Oklahoma City
Building Your Budget	August 3	Roman Nose Lodge
Cash Flow Management	August 4	Roman Nose Lodge
Court Clerk Record Keeping I	August 9	Woodward
Court Clerk Record Keeping II	August 15	Woodward
Court Clerk Confidentiality	August 16	Woodward
Purchasing Procedures	August 16-17	Ardmore
Tax Sale Procedures	August 23-24	Pryor/Claremore
Basic Finance	August 24-25	Stillwater
CODA Conference	September 13-15	Oklahoma City
Fundamentals of Administration	September 19	Duncan
Statute Reference/Legislative Proc.	September 20-21	Duncan
Communications Skills	September 27	El Reno
Public Speaking Skills	September 28	El Reno

**God Bless America!**



**Have a Wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> of July**