



## THE ASSESSMENT FILES

COUNTY ASSESSORS ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA

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### News From the President

Hello Fellow Assessors & Deputies ...

The Sixty-Second Annual Conference is now behind us, and we made it through one more year in Tulsa at the Marriott. I believe this was the 11<sup>th</sup> year for our conference being held at the Marriott. For the most part, everything went well, but there were a few mix-ups. Apparently there was confusion concerning the rooms and when they should be available. The Tax Commission and the Marriott staff met after the conference, and will be working on the problem before next year's conference.

We are losing some awesome people. Those retiring are:

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Loretta Hall    | Beckham County     |
| Frances Johnson | Caddo County       |
| Sam West        | Carter County      |
| Shirley Bryant  | Choctaw County     |
| Eugenia Wood    | Johnston County    |
| Tom Porton      | McCurtain County   |
| Mary Moore      | Noble County       |
| Wayne Spears    | Pawnee County      |
| Mike Reynolds   | Pontotoc County    |
| Jack Matthews   | Pushmataha County  |
| Glenda Kirk     | Roger Mills County |
| Charles Edwards | Tillman County     |

Make it a point to call and thank these folks for their service.

Best wishes to all of you. We will miss you and hope you enjoy your retirement.

I would like to thank Todd Mathes and his staff for handling the registration and organizing the evening events. There is a lot of work that goes into putting on bingo, bowling, and the dance. You don't realize it until you're the one who has to do it. Everyone had a great time. I would like to extend my gratitude to Donna Giddens for planning and presenting the Modeling Show, but I just can't bring myself to admit I enjoyed it. Unfortunately, Kenny and I will never be the same.

Plans are already underway for the CODA Conference September 13<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> at the Biltmore Hotel in OKC. Our breakout session will be Friday morning at 9:30.

We are also working on the Fall Assessor Conference. The conference is scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup>–27<sup>th</sup> at the Biltmore. Make your plans to attend.

Hope to see everyone at the CODA conference.

Respectfully,

*Ralph Wilson*, Major County Assessor  
President

## Ad Valorem Update

Tulsa Conference 2006, the 62nd Anniversary of the educational conference is now in the record books. By all measures, it was another successful session.

We had excellent attendance (A bit under 500 students) good instructors, hard working students, new technology demos, and two great social events and one “interesting” skit sponsored by the County Assessors Association.

I was really pleased that State Treasurer Scott Meachum and Jeff McMahan, State Auditor and Inspector were able to attend the opening session as well as Lisa Daniels the Executive Director of IAAO and Marshall Mungle of the Oklahoma Association of Tax Representatives. Lisa’s appearance marked the first time that an Executive Director has attended one of our Annual Conferences.

It was also great the State Board of Equalization (SBOE) members got to see the latest “graduating class” of initial and advanced accreditation students. Accreditation is a significant accomplishment. As everyone who’s taken the classes and tests knows, accreditation involves work and dedication especially as the ad valorem system changes, grows, and often becomes more complicated. Thanks to CLGT Mike Hughes and especially Gary Snyder and Doug Warr for their efforts in accreditation as well as their class on mini-warehouses.

We’d like to thank the “team” members: the officers of the County Assessors Association, State Auditor and Inspector (SA&I), Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma Tax Commission Motor Vehicle, Department of Veteran’s Affairs, Conservation Commission, GIS Council, and Oklahoma Tax Commission Legal Counsel’s office. Jewette Farley presented once again and did his usual super job. We again appreciated the presentations by Tulsa and Oklahoma Counties as well as the assistance in the mapping classes. I was also very impressed by Cimarron County, Custer County, Dewey County and Kay County for their contribution on the CAMA panel. Thanks to Jim Kelley for his presentation on new legislation.

We were also happy for the seventh year in a row that the CODA Board held their monthly meeting at the conference. 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.

The Commission on County Training also met in Tulsa during the week. The Commission which is supportive of all county training took steps to finalize its budget for next year. The Commission also recognized the continuation of CLGT's continued responsibility and funding to carry out county assessors accreditation and training in the future. We're glad that was resolved as a result of the work of the County Assessors Association Legislative efforts.

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 with the election. We'll also be completing more software updates and training as well as preparing for the County Assessors' Association Annual Convention.

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."

Jeff Spelman, CAE  
Director  
Ad Valorem Division

P.S. "It used to be that you had to be extremely lucky to hit a jackpot at the local casino. Now days it's lots harder to get a rain that lasts over five minutes." Quote from Anwar Caddo, famous Ad Valorem Philosopher.



### August Birthdays

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Kelli Minson (Craig)      | September 3  |
| Thyra Grounds (Texas)     | September 4  |
| Gail Hedgcoth (Osage)     | September 6  |
| Patty Hiner (Cimarron)    | September 12 |
| Donna Graham (Sequoyah)   | September 13 |
| Judy Barnes (Kay)         | September 14 |
| Judie Thompson (Wagoner)  | September 17 |
| Ron Funck (Canadian)      | September 18 |
| Teresa Tallon (Jefferson) | September 20 |
| Cathy Carlile (Love)      | September 22 |

## 2006 Legislative Session Update

Hello to all Assessors and Deputies,

You should all be well briefed on new legislation by now or at least a little bored with it. It is time to consider any legislation that we may want to propose for the 2007 session. If you have any thoughts on future legislation we need to consider, please write it down and bring it to the meeting. Now is the time to prepare for the upcoming legislative session.

Items we know about:

1. Language from SB1319 pertaining to extending the meeting times for the County Excise Board and the County Equalization Board.
2. Language from SB1319 pertaining to properties that may split taxing jurisdiction lines.

County Officers & Deputies:

1. Reimbursements for revenue loss from double homesteads, exempt manufacturing, and yes filter strips.

Please have your thoughts ready to share at the CODA meeting in September. If you do not want to present you ideas to the group, please send them to me and I will present them for you.

Have great day.

Jim Kelley, Pittsburg County Assessor  
Legislative Committee Chair  
[jimkelley46@yahoo.com](mailto:jimkelley46@yahoo.com)

## IAAO Update

Hello Everyone:

Great News, the Oklahoma Chapter of the IAAO has been nominated for "Chapter of the Year". I think the letter is a good way to get a snapshot of our chapter over the past 21 years. Enjoy...

Oklahoma's IAAO Chapter was founded January 23, 1985 with twenty-five members signing the Chapter Charter. The Chapter celebrated its twenty-first anniversary in 2005.

The late George Keyes, County Assessor of Oklahoma County, who served on several IAAO Committees, whose office won an Outstanding Jurisdiction Award, and ran for the IAAO Executive Board in 1988, was one of the founders and instrumental in establishing the Chapter. Keyes served as the first President and twenty-five Charter members of the Chapter were listed at the first meeting.

All seventy-seven counties are in the Chapter's jurisdiction. Jeff Spelman, CAE worked with IAAO staff to "recapture" several Oklahoma counties (Washington, Kay, Grant, and Alfalfa Counties) that were members of a Kansas IAAO Chapter. Kansas was kind enough to relinquish the four counties in question.

The Oklahoma Chapter played an important role in the Oklahoma Legislature's major \$26 million ad valorem reform package in the early 1990s. The Chapter contracted with IAAO to perform a \$50,000 study of Oklahoma's ad valorem system and prepare recommendations. A study team lead by Richard Almy, former IAAO Executive Director, prepared a comprehensive study and many recommendations for changes to the system were implemented over the next seven or eight years.

The Chapter meets four times a year in coordination with the Oklahoma County Assessors Association and the Oklahoma County Officers and Deputies Association or the Oklahoma Tax Commission Annual Conference.

The Chapter sponsors a number of activities each year. Chapter meetings feature a local appraiser, state agency official, homebuilder, financial or real estate professional at the fall luncheon. During the Oklahoma Tax Commission Annual Conference, nationally known IAAO staff or members visit the Chapter. Past Presidents or IAAO Board members the late William Diggs, CAE, Jewette Farley, CAE, Ed Crapo, CAE, Steve Sutterfield, PPS, Robert "Bud" Scribner, CAE have all taught or visited the Chapter along with local members William Mack, Past Chair of the Public Utility Council and Jeff Spelman, CAE, past Executive Board member and current Chair of the Communications Committee. The IAAO Executive Director Lisa Daniels attended this year and brought Chapter members up to date on activity in Kansas City at IAAO headquarters.

IAAO courses are regularly sponsored by the Chapter in Oklahoma. For the last five years, the Chapter has brought two IAAO courses to the state each summer using outstanding instructors such as Jewett Farley, Steve Sutterfield, Marion Johnson, and Rick Stuart. These courses are held to supplement Oklahoma assessor accreditation courses taught by Oklahoma State University Center for Local Government Technology (CLGT).

The Chapter also maintains a web site (<http://ok-iaao.oklahomacounty.org>) to communicate quickly with Chapter members with information on upcoming courses, past minutes and Chapter financial information and photographs from Chapter activities. Chapter web master, Mike Morrison, keeps the web site current.

For students or counties in financial need, the Chapter has created a George C. Keyes Scholarship fund which provides financial assistance to students to assist with registration and expenses for IAAO courses.

It's not all work. The Chapter has sponsored its annual world class river bank volleyball and barbecue tournament, which was abandoned after a couple of years of 106 degrees temperatures. The outdoor volleyball has morphed into a bowling tournament for the County Assessors Association as a recruitment tool and social event.

The Chapter won the IAAO Outstanding Chapter of the Year in 1988 at the Nashville Conference the first year that the Outstanding Chapter Year award was established. During one period after some staff changes, the record of Oklahoma's award was lost. Several IAAO publications showed the Outstanding Chapter Award not created until 1989. The Chapter's achievement was lost in the foggy history of the award, but fortunately the actual certificate of the award was displayed on the wall of the Oklahoma County Assessors' office for nearly twenty years. A digital photograph was sent to Chicago and as far as the Chapter knows, its award has been acknowledged and made part of the historical record that now resides in Kansas City.

In the last two years, the Chapter has grown twenty percent in its membership, our web site upgrade has been completed, and we've sponsored ten IAAO courses in the last six years. The future of the Chapter and IAAO looks like "we're doing fine in Oklahoma" since that day over twenty-five years ago when twenty-five people signed the Chapter Charter.

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

**Sincerely,**

**Monica Schmidt, Woods County Assessor  
2006 IAAO Oklahoma Chapter President**

## ATAP (Assessor Training and Accreditation Program)

Hello Everyone:

The course schedule is set thru mid-January. All the fall courses will be held in Norman at the Holiday Inn, 1000 North Interstate Dr. The phone number for the hotel is 405-364-2882. We will have the spring schedule completed soon.

Make sure you send you registrations in early. The classes will fill up fast!

### Course Schedule thru January 12, 2007

|                                                |                      |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Unit 1 (Introduction to the Assessor's Office) | September 26-29      |
| Unit 2 (Real Property Appraisal)               | October 17-20        |
| Unit 7 (Ag Land Valuation)                     | November 2-3         |
| Unit 3 (Mass Appraisal)                        | November 14-17       |
| Unit 4 (Income Approach)                       | November 28 - Dec. 1 |
| Unit 6 (Cadastral Mapping)                     | December 12-15       |
| Unit 5 (Personal Property)                     | January 10-12        |

The class schedule will also be on the website at: <http://clgt.okstate.edu/clgt> and you can email us at [clgt@okstate.edu](mailto:clgt@okstate.edu), or [gary.snyder@okstate.edu](mailto:gary.snyder@okstate.edu), or [doug.warr@okstate.edu](mailto:doug.warr@okstate.edu).

If you have any questions please contact Doug Warr or Gary Snyder at 405-744-6049.

Sincerely,

Gary and Doug

## News from OCES/CTP

Greeting To All:

The County Training Program will suspend the \$20 registration fee effective October 1. The Commission on County Government Personnel Education and Training met August 9<sup>th</sup> at the OTC annual school in Tulsa and approved suspension of the fee. The Commission will annually evaluate continued suspension of the fee.

At the CTP website (<http://www.agecon.okstate.edu/ctp/>), under the "Training Schedule" tab, county officials may download the new registration form to be used for classes scheduled after October 1.

CTP is partnering with CODA, LTAP, and Extension to offer five classes on September 14 during the CODA conference. The classes are: Public's Right to Know (Open Records), Tax Warrants, Economic Development: the Role of County Officials, Soil Loss Mitigation on Low Volume Roads, and Court Clerk Reports/Forms.

Economic Development: the Role of County Officials and Soil Loss Mitigation on Low Volume Roads are not CTP classes so the \$20 registration fee does not apply to them. Please see the information distributed by CODA for a description of each class.

Hopefully this offers something of interest to everyone.

#### Course Schedule for the next two months:

|                                       |                 |               |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 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       |
| Open Meetings                         | October 4       | Ponca City    |
| Public's Right to Know (Open Records) | October 5       | Ponca City    |
| Tax Roll Corrections                  | October 11      | Ardmore       |
| Managing Personnel in At-Will Org.    | October 11-12   | Woodward      |
| Court Clerk Juvenile Procedures       | October 17      | Roman Nose    |
| Court Clerk Destruction of Records    | October 17      | Roman Nose    |
| Land Records                          | October 17-18   | Stillwater    |
| Budget Process                        | October 24-25   | Woodward      |
| County Assessor's Assoc. School       | October 26-28   | Oklahoma City |

Please contact our office if you have any questions or suggestions. 405-744-6555  
FAX: 405-744-8210 or [ctp@okstate.edu](mailto:ctp@okstate.edu)

Sincerely,

Notie Lansford,  
Professor and Extension Economist, Oklahoma State University  
[notie.lansford@okstate.edu](mailto:notie.lansford@okstate.edu)

## Reporter's Notes

Hello All:

I will keep this one short! I know most of you don't believe that I can actually do that.

Cathy Hokit spoke with Teresa Tallon last week. She really appreciated the cards and letters we sent. She has been in and out of the hospital lately, but will be going home soon. Please keep her in your prayers and remember to call and send cards. She needs all the uplifting we can give.

Maxine Elston, Beaver County Assessor call to let me know that they have an Okidata 3410 printer to give someone. If you are interested, call her at 580-625-3176.

If you have any equipment you would like to list in the newsletter, send me the information and I will include it in the next edition.

Last thing, I know that several courthouses have been remodeled lately. If your courthouse is one that has been remodeled, please send me some digital photos so I can put them in the newsletter for everyone see.

If you have any news you would like to include, get it to me by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month and I will put it in the newsletter.

See you at CODA.

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

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

God Bless,  
Wade

