



THE ASSESSMENT FILES

COUNTY ASSESSORS ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA

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News From the President

Greetings to All

I must say we had a nice CODA Conference again this year. I enjoyed listening to the candidates speak. There was a good turn out, but it never seemed too long or boring. Dave Hubert did a good job keeping the candidates within the time limit.

Jeff McMahan and staff hosted the Annual Fish Fry again which was held at the ACCO building this year. Thanks to Jeff and his staff for hosting that event for us. They have the process down to an art. The food is always good. Many of you missed the free BBQ Thursday night. The BBQ was tasty, and there was an all girls band playing that night with a “questionable” female drummer. We enjoyed their playing and of course free food!

The Annual Assessor’s Conference is set for October 25th through the 27th at the Biltmore Hotel. Todd Mathes is working on the registration packets and should have them sent out by the time you read this. Please send back your registration and membership dues as soon as possible.

Instead of a guest speaker this year we are having the candidates for state offices speak briefly again. If you didn’t get an opportunity to hear them at the CODA conference, you get another change on Thursday afternoon. We have already had some of the candidates confirm their attendance so it looks like we will have a good turnout.

Evening events scheduled for entertainment start Wednesday night with the usual Bingo. Thursday night will be a Halloween costume contest with cash prizes for the best costumes. So get your creativity going and join in the fun. If you have any questions about the contest, contact Donna Giddens, Greer County Assessor.

Most of us have finished up the Four Year Visual Inspection Plan and have already mailed it off to the Oklahoma Tax Commission. This time there was additional information required. I’ve heard many comments concerning the changes. If you have any comments or suggestions you would like to address, we will be discussing this at the conference.

See you there!

Ralph Wilson,
Major County Assessor,
President

Ad Valorem Update

We enjoyed seeing many of the county assessors and deputies who attended the County Officers' and Deputies' meeting last week. We had a good turn-out at the CODA meeting, and I thought our county assessors' meeting was a good session.

The CODA conference was just after the fifth anniversary of the September 11 bombing, and as I told the county assessor session, I was struck by how the passage of those five years seems warped. On one hand, it feels like a long-time ago, and other days, it speaks to us with such clarity that seems like yesterday. There are so many parallels between the way the human soul handles tragedies like the Oklahoma City bombing and the World Trade Center in New York City. I think that this has made us all more appreciative of the sacrifice and courage in America still needed to move us past that terrible event.

I appreciated everyone's comments, evaluations, and suggestions on the Annual Conference in Tulsa last month. We had 469 who registered, but it was probably close to 500 with special guests and speakers who attended. I was pleased that the Commission on County Officer Training scheduled their session at our conference, and we were also glad to welcome the County Officers and Deputies Association Board. We're always happy to see them at our meetings.

Regarding the Annual Conference, Tulsa County had the most in attendance with 38 staff members, closely followed by Oklahoma County with 30. Our average county registration per county was 5.75, and we also had 38 "day trippers," who were county folks who came in for one day. Our biggest session, as usual, was 176 in administrative, 96 in mapping, 97 in appraisal, and 60 in the overview. The computer lab for AA and CAMA had 77 students, and it continues to be well attended and high maintenance since we are using computer software "live" thanks to Oklahoma State University/Tulsa IT department.

Based on some of the feedback that we received from conference evaluations, next year we will be adding some classes at the advanced level for some of the experienced staff. We're looking at several topics in the area of appraisal, statistics, and audit. Let us know if you have any suggestions. We are planning to host the conference a week or so earlier next year because of the PGA golf tournament. If possible, we'll announce the date at the County Assessors Association meeting in October.

Every assessor registered and attended the Annual Conference except for Teresa Tallon, who's undergoing treatment, and Tom Porton, who's dealing with some cardiac problems. We wish them both success and progress in their recovery.

Again, I don't think that we overdo it to remind everyone that the success of our efforts rests on the partnership of the County Assessors' Association, Center for Local Government Technology, County Cooperative Extension, State Auditor and Inspector, and the Oklahoma Tax Commission, Ad Valorem Division.

Finally, we appreciate all the hard work of the county assessors and deputies this year. We all share a responsibility to make the ad valorem system better than it was when it was given to us. Efforts to constantly improve taxpayer service are extremely important, and we appreciate the efforts of the members of the County Assessors' Association who've made that happen.

Jeff Spelman, CAE
Director, Ad Valorem Division

P.S. "As a former panhandle guy, I enjoyed seeing Hooker, Oklahoma's new slogan: "It's a location, not a vocation." Anwar Caddo, Ad Valorem Philosopher.

Treasurer's Report

Hello Fellow Assessors:

It's time again for the Oklahoma Assessors' Association Fall Conference, which will be the 95th annual event in the association's long and storied history. Registration packets are in the mail and some of you may have already received yours as we speak...others will be getting theirs via snail mail in the next few days.

The conference this year is back at the Biltmore Hotel after a one-year hiatus for "remodeling" purposes. I think we all agree that the folks at the Biltmore have worked hard to fix things up and they, without a doubt, go out of their way to make us feel comfortable each year that we are there.

I wanted to provide you all with a quick synopsis of the August OTC School held in Tulsa. We had 259 attendees register with the Assessors' Association for the evening activities held in conjunction with the school and conference. The income generated from those 259 registrations totaled over \$10,000, which is one of the highest amounts received from the OTC school. Of course, expenses associated with the school and conference totaled a shade over \$4,000, but it still left the Association with over \$6,000 in profit. I would call this a good conference overall for the County Assessors' Association.

Enjoy the fall-like weather we are starting to get here in the great state of Oklahoma and make your plans now for the up-coming Fall Conference in Oklahoma City. See you there!

Secretary/Treasurer
Todd Mathes



October Birthdays

Melissa Anderson (Rogers)	October 1
Cathy Hokit (Stephens)	October 1
Scott Kirby (Murray)	October 4
Vickie Hamm (McIntosh)	October 11
Maxine Elston (Beaver)	October 16
Erlene Luper (Cherokee)	October 20
Stephen Spleth (Grant)	October 21
Francis Johnson (Caddo)	October 23
Lavinda Smith (Harmon)	October 25
Rosemary Neely (Blaine)	October 28

IAAO Update

We are planning our annual banquet and installation of officers beginning at noon, on Thursday, Oct 26, 2006, during the County Assessor's Fall Conference. We will be located at the Biltmore, in the north building. If time allows, plan to come a little early and begin going through the buffet line in the restaurant, as in previous years. I look forward to seeing a large group!

If you haven't joined yet, now would be a good meeting to attend. If you have any questions about our chapter, please email me at Monica@alvaok.net

Sincerely,

Monica Schmidt, Woods County Assessor
2006 IAAO Oklahoma Chapter President

ATAP (Assessor Training and Accreditation Program)

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>. We encourage you to check out the website. You will be amazed at how easy it is to register online. No more faxing or mailing in registrations.

If you plan to attend a course this fall you need to register very soon because the classes are filling up quickly. Someone from our office will contact you if the class is full. You can still email us at clgt@okstate.edu, or gary.snyder@okstate.edu, or doug.warr@okstate.edu or you can call 405-744-6049.

Sincerely,

Gary and Doug

News from OCES/CTP

County Officer Training Program Provides Training at CODA Conference

The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service County Training Program provided multiple training opportunities for people attending the CODA (County Officers and Deputies Association) Conference held last week in Oklahoma City. Over 350 county officers and deputies, representing all elected offices in the courthouse were present for the training.

Three of the program's regular courses were offered: *Tax Warrants*, taught by Ann Embree; *Open Records: Public's Right to Know*, taught by Suzanne Spears and assisted by Notie Lansford, Extension Economist and Professor of Agricultural Economics and Jan Preslar, Assistant Attorney General; and *Court Clerk's Reports/Forms*, taught by Karin Ragsdale. Ann was assisted by Greg Hodges of the Office of the State Auditor and Inspector; Bonita Stadler, Payne County Treasurer and Gary McKinnis, Payne County Deputy Sheriff; Sandra DeSelms, Cleveland County Treasurer and Bob Stuart, Cleveland County Deputy Sheriff; and Barbara Melvin, Canadian County Treasurer and Randy Edwards, Canadian County Deputy Sheriff.

Helping Karin with her class were Brenda Warren, Office of the State Auditor and Inspector, and Tammy Reaves of the Oklahoma Administrative Office of the Courts.

Mike Woods, Extension Economist and Professor of Agricultural Economics, and Suzette Barta, Assistant Extension Specialist, taught a course on *Economic Development: The Role of County Officials*. Four county commissioners provided input from their counties: Buck Day, Pottawatomie County; Linda Herndon, Washington County; Gene Wallace, Muskogee County; and Jim Hargrove, Wagoner County.

In addition to CTP training, a workshop on "Soil Loss Mitigation on Low Volume Roads" was presented by Doug Wright and Mike Hinkston of the Local Technical Assistance Program, CLGT. They were assisted by Mike Smolen, Professor of Bio Systems and Agricultural Engineering and Extension Water, Quality Specialist, and Don Turton, Associate Professor of Forest Hydrology.

Course Schedule for the next two months:

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

Continued

Basic Mapping	November 2-3	El Reno
Documentation/File Building	November 8	Oklahoma City
Purchasing Procedures	November 8-9	Enid
ACCO Fall Conference	November 14-16	Oklahoma City
Court Clerk Orientation/Overview	November 15-16	Stillwater
Cash Flow Management	November 21	Lawton
Investment and Collateral	November 28	Tulsa

For more information about the county government personnel training program contact Notie Lansford, State Extension Specialist at 405-744-6555, FAX: 405-744-8210 or ctp@okstate.edu or notie.lansford@okstate.edu

Reporter's Notes

Hello All:

The time is quickly approaching when we will say goodbye to some wonderful friends. If you have not taken the time to call and wish the retiring Assessor's congratulations, please do so, here is the list of those retiring:

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

I will try to let you know when and where their retirement receptions are going to be held.

Along with the retiring assessors, we will have a large group of new assessors taking office. Please make yourself and your office available to the incoming assessors. I am sure they will be asking a lot of questions, and we need to be there for them. I wonder how many new assessors Glendel Rushing has seen in his 43 years as assessor. We will have to do some research on that one.

We have decided to wait until the elections are complete before we reprint the assessor's directory. You still have some time to let me know about any corrections or changes you would like to make to the directory.

If you have any good used equipment you would like to get rid of, please let me know and I will put an ad in the next newsletter.

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

lwade@garfieldcountymail.com phone 580-237-0220 fax 580-249-5989.

God Bless,
Wade

Now, For the Important Stuff!!!

Come one, come all, and enjoy the fun on Thursday, October 26th, at the Assessor's Convention in Oklahoma City.

Please join in and be a part of the Halloween Costume Contest. There will be money and prizes! 1st Prize is \$100, 2nd Prize is \$75, and 3rd Prize is \$50. I KNOW YOU ALL LIKE MONEY!!!

Find you favorite self, whether it might be Spiderman or Cat woman. Just remember, there is lots of fun to be had.

I promise, I am not dressing any man for this contest to look like a woman (ha ha). But, you can never tell where or when the "Ladies from Tulsa" may make an appearance. (Maggie Mae really likes to be noticed by Kenny)

Get your costume while there are plenty to pick from or dig in your closets and have even more fun. If you have any questions, please call me at 580-782-2740.

Looking forward to seeing everyone dressed up,

Donna Giddens

