



THE ASSESSMENT FILES

COUNTY ASSESSORS ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA

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News From the President

Greetings Everyone,

This is my final letter to you as your Association President. I have passed that torch on to Kathy Hokit at our 2006 Fall Conference. I know Kathy will do a great job, and she has three awesome fellow officers to support her in the coming year.

Todd Mathes did a great job as our Secretary/Treasurer this last year and will be our Vice-President for the coming year. Wade Patterson was elected as the new Secretary/Treasurer, and I have complete confidence in his abilities to serve our Association in any capacity. He greatly improved our reporter news by the addition of reports from IAAO, CLGT/ATAP, and the CTP.

The newly elected Reporter for the coming year is Ronnie Funck. I hope all goes well for him in his first roll as an officer. Ron, feel free to contact myself or any of the officers for help or advice. We've all been where you are and will assist you any way we can.

We are fortunate to have such dedicated and competent people to serve as officers for our Association.

The Annual Conference went off well without too many hitches. The hotel is still in its remodeling phase which contributed to problems with room availability and maintenance problems. The hotel was quick to work out those problems in a timely manner. The meetings ran short this time, but no one seemed to mind much.

Thanks to Donna Giddens and her ghoulish friends for entertaining us Thursday night with the Halloween contest. A slimmer, trimmer Maggie Mae made an unexpected appearance and has apparently set her sites on a new love interest, Ron Sosbee. Look out Ron!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my staff for all their hard work while I was out of the office running around doing Association business. The last four years have added extra work for my staff as any of the past officers know is true. I couldn't have done it without them.

I want to thank all the Assessors and Deputies for allowing me to be their president for this past year. It was a great pleasure and don't regret having the opportunity to experience it.

As president of the Assessors Association I represented you on the CODA Board and got to work with and know some fine people I wouldn't normally get to meet. I got a closer look at some of the other Associations represented on the CODA Board, and I've decided we really do have the best group around. You truly are like family.

Although it's over, in some ways I will miss being your president. Thank you for a wild ride.

Sincerely,

Ralph Wilson,
Major County Assessor,
President (soon to be just "King")

Ad Valorem Update

We're enjoyed seeing everyone at the County Assessors Association Convention. We marked one of the best times of the year in Oklahoma—great weather, football, and finally a little rain—with another good convention with lots of participation from everyone involved.

I know for the county assessors with tax bills on the street or in the final process of preparation this is a busy time of year. The Ad Valorem Division also has lots of activity ahead of us this fall. Equalization Studies are almost wrapped up for the year. We're close to completing the inspection of the five year exemption projects in the forty-five counties with projects. Larry Rawlings and Doug Brydon will be completing the last of the projects helping Patti Heath in Texas County in the next week or so. We also are completing some work with the Department of Commerce reviewing the five year exemption and the T.I.F projects which Kenny Chuculate discussed at the Convention.

In addition to that, the Ad Valorem Division has reviewed some office space for a possible move of the offices to another location close to the Capitol. We may have more news on our progress later in the year.

As you heard at the convention, the big news for October was the IAAO Chapter's success in being named Outstanding IAAO Chapter of 2006 in the small Chapter category. Monica Schmidt, Woods County Assessor and Chapter President accepted the award for Oklahoma.

We had a lot of competition in the selection. I talked with the Awards Committee Chair and she said that picking Oklahoma's application was a "no brainer" since the Chapter had done a lot. Much of the credit for the winning application goes to Monica Schmidt, Wade Patterson, Garfield County Assessor, Doug Warr and Gary Snyder, Oklahoma State, Tom Henry, Larry Stein, and Mike Morrison of Oklahoma County as well as many other Chapter members for their work, hosting the IAAO courses, hosting Lisa Daniels at our Annual Conference, taking hundreds of pictures of Chapter activities and developing the web site.

When I first talked with Monica Schmidt and Wade Patterson about submitting the Chapter for nomination, I don't think that everyone realized we had a secret weapon in Cathy Gibson. She put the final application together and organized all the materials. Cathy once served on the IAAO Awards Committee so she knew the drill, and I think that we were all extremely pleased since reflects on Oklahoma and all the county assessors in the state.

The last time Oklahoma won the Chapter Award was in 1988. This was only a few years after the Chapter was established and incidentally the first year that there was an award for outstanding Chapter. At that time, we had to compete directly against some of the bigger Chapters. (The Florida Chapter and the Kansas City Chapter are large and put on dozens of IAAO Courses every year.) I worked on putting Oklahoma's nomination together then, and we were delighted then, but this has been even more satisfying for the entire Oklahoma Chapter.

Finally, as King Ralph joins the exclusive and important "Past President's Club", I'd like to express my appreciation to Ralph Wilson, Major County, for all his hard work this year as President of the County Assessors Association. Ralph is terrific to work with and his office staff has been really helpful. Unless you've served as an office in the County Assessors Association or watched it from the Ad Valorem Division perspective, it's hard to realize how much work and travel the leadership positions require. He's attended countless CODA meetings, County Assessor District meetings, OATR meetings, and this year, many extra meetings as the county training process underwent lots of discussion and debate. Ralph was always a good solid presence and a great representative for the county assessors and deputies.

Thank you for all your help this year. Have a good month. We appreciate all you do for your taxpayers and all the hard work of county assessors and deputies every where. It's a tough job, but ad valorem is an extremely important part of local government in Oklahoma. We're all working to pass the system on better than it was given to us.

Recent Winners of IAAO Chapter Award

2002	Kentucky Central Arizona
2003	Kansas City Florida (One of the largest Chapters in the nation)
2004	Minnesota Kentucky
2005	Florida Kentucky Kansas City
2006	Kansas City Oklahoma

Jeff Spelman, CAE
Director, Ad Valorem Division



November Birthdays

J.C. Brooks (Jackson)	November 2
Loretta Hall (Beckham)	November 9
Phyllis Ray (Grady)	November 25

IAAO Update

I'm sure you all have heard by now that we won the **Chapter-of-the-Year Award** at the IAAO convention held in Milwaukee! It was such a great honor for our Chapter and our state. There are 13 countries in IAAO, so this truly was an international competition. I want to thank everyone who helped make this possible. It took a lot of work from many of you to organize the activities throughout the past few years that enabled us to win. I also want to thank those who helped with the extensive application process. It took several months to get the information into the professional look that enabled us to receive this award.

I have really enjoyed being your President this year and thank you for making it a great year. Everyone has been so helpful. I think there are more exciting things ahead for our chapter. I hope this shared enthusiasm will continue to spread and help us to grow and do bigger things in the future.

Thanks again,

Monica Schmidt
2006 Oklahoma IAAO President

ATAP (Assessor Training and Accreditation Program)

Dear County Assessors and Deputies:

We would like to thank all of you for the warm welcome you gave Dean Karl Reid from the College of Engineering, Architecture & Technology and Gary Sherrer from the College of Agricultural Science & Natural Resources. Both of these gentlemen were instrumental in helping to retain the Assessor Training Accreditation Program at CLGT. The plaques which you presented to them at the Assessors Fall Conference to show your appreciation for their hard work was very much appreciated by them.

We are currently working on our spring class schedule with classes beginning February in Tulsa and the surrounding areas. Classes being scheduled are the basic seven (7) Accreditation units, Board of Equalization, and Mini-Storage valuation. Additional courses may be added. When the class schedule is finalized we will notify you.

We will be mailing transcripts in the next several weeks showing current employees, job titles, classes attended, etc... When you receive your transcript please review it carefully and notify us of any errors or changes. Your help keeping our data base current and error free is greatly appreciated.

We wish everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Doug & Gary

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 (unless you just want to).

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 call 405-744-6049.

News from OCES/CTP

Listed below is the course schedule for the CTP for November and December.

Course Schedule for the next two months:

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
New County Officer Orientation	December 6-7	Oklahoma City
Supervisory Skills I	December 12-13	Western Hills
December 13-14	Pryor/Claremore	Basic Accounting

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:

I apologize for the newsletter being so late this month. The Assessor Conference kind of put me behind.

Just in case you have not done it yet, please remember to visit with our friends that will be retiring soon. (I have made it easy for you)

Loretta Hall	Beckham County	580-928-3329
Frances Johnson	Caddo County	405-247-2477
Sam West	Carter County	580-223-9594
Shirley Bryant	Choctaw County	580-326-2358
Eugenia Wood	Johnston County	580-371-3465
Mary Moore	Noble County	580-336-2185
Mike Reynolds	Pontotoc County	580-332-0317
Jack Matthews	Pushmataha County	580-298-3504
Glenda Kirk	Roger Mills County	580-497-3350
Charles Edwards	Tillman County	580-335-3424

Here is a list of the receptions we are aware of so far:

- Pawnee County held a reception for Pawnee Bill on Monday. It is safe to say that we will never be able to replace him or his horse!
- Tom Porton, McCurtain County Assessor was honored with a retirement reception on October 5th at the McCurtain County Courthouse.
- Roger Mills County will host a reception for three retiring officers, Assessor Glenda Kirk, Commissioner Larry McGlothlin, and Treasurer John L. Smith, at 11:30 to 1:30 on December 1st in Cheyenne. The reception will be held in the Ag Pavilion on the west side of Cheyenne, please RSVP to the assessor's office at 580-497-3350.
- Beckham County will honor Loretta Hall on her retirement December 8th from 2:00 to 4:00 at the Beckham County Courthouse in Sayre.
- Tillman County will host a retirement reception for Charles Edwards on the 15th of December from 1:00 till 3:00 at the Tillman County Courthouse.

Loretta Hall had a great idea. She suggested that anybody that is leaving the assessor's office, but would like to stay in touch, get me an email address at home and I will continue to send you the newsletter. What a wonderful idea. Too often we lose track of the folks that retire. This will give us an opportunity to stay connected.

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.

Please remember to have your newspaper print the information about State Question 734. We must educate the voters if we want this amendment to pass. The Enid News and Eagle ran an editorial supporting SQ 734 and I sent them a "Letter to the Editor" that they printed Tuesday. I have received about 10 calls thanking me for clarifying the issue. Your constituents really trust your opinion on these issues.

I will be starting a new column in the newsletter next month. The Oklahoma Association of Tax Reps (OATR) will have the opportunity to give a monthly update. I visited with Marshall Mungle of Oneok and he thought it would be great idea.

Finally, I want to welcome Ronnie Funck, Canadian County Assessor, to the executive board as our new reporter for 2007. Congratulations Ronnie, I know you will serve the association well.

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

News From Around the Association

I wanted to update everyone about my 2nd Deputy, Tammie Mitchell. Tammie has breast cancer and has already had to have one breast removed and is now going thru chemotherapy every two weeks in Oklahoma City. Please keep her in your prayers along with our dear friend, Teresa Tallon.

I would like to thank everyone that dressed up for the costume contest. You were wonderful and made the night a blast. Some of you enjoyed chasing Cathy Hokit too much (Evelyn). If you missed the show you really did miss seeing Evelyn in action.

First Place Winner was Queen of Hearts:

Debbie Gentry, Kathi Mask, Monica Schmidt, & Karen Perkins

Second Place Winner was The Headless Horseman:

Scott Kirby

Third Place Winner was "3 sheets in the wind":

Nancy Hill, Lanie Ridgeway, Darlene Orr, & Lisa Garrett

I would also like to thank the ladies that helped decorate, Linda Coleman, Letitia Stockton, Sherri Smith, & Lavinda Smith. I couldn't have done it without your help.

Thanks so much,

Donna Giddens

Greer County Assessor

Hello Everyone:

I recently learned that Wayne Brinkley, former Latimer County Assessor, is battling cancer. He is taking chemo and radiation treatments in Ft. Smith during the upcoming month or longer.

His address is:

Wayne Brinkley
169 Sunset St.
Wilburton, OK 74578

I know he would appreciate hearing from some of his old assessor friends. Please keep Wayne and Teresa in your prayers.

Sincerely,

Kathy Mask,

Hughes County Assessor