

The Assessment Files

Volume 7

June 2007



Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.

Inscription on the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from Leviticus 25:10

From the President's Desk...

Hello to Everyone,

I guess you guys are getting plenty of rain, just as we are. I don't want to complain, because the drought starts after the rain stops. It's amazing I have seen a rainbow almost everyday that it has rained.

Please remember to send your registrations into Wade for the Tulsa conference. It makes the treasurer's job a lot easier to get them early. We look forward to seeing everyone, the trip to see "Oklahoma" is promised to be a good one. The manager of the facility is going to make sure we have a good time, with the bucking bull, line dance lessons, horseshoes, and a number of other things he wants to make sure we are entertained.

Our education committee and the officers that can attend are going to meet with Notie Lansford on Wednesday, July 18, 2007 at 1:00pm in room #202, at the Biltmore to discuss any input we might have with respect to the training that they provide to us. This is in conjunction with the ACCO Conference. Any of you are invited to attend if you have any concerns or questions.

See you at Tulsa,

Cathy Hokit
Stephens County Assessor

President, County Assessors' Association
chokit@texhoma.net

The Ad Valorem Division

Things can always get worse. What a year for the Centennial. When I looked at last year's newsletter, I saw that most of director's letter was about the drought, the wildfires, and the election filings for the office of county assessor. Maybe things aren't so bad. I'm sure everyone is relieved that the elections are over, and I'll take the rain over the fire anytime. However, I do hope that the rain quits shortly before we set a 100-year record, and so we can get a few small roof leaks fixed in our new space.

June has been unbelievably busy for both the county assessors and the Ad Valorem Division. The counties have been working on their abstracts non-stop. We are settled into our new offices, and they have worked out pretty well. Public Service has been really loaded up with a full work schedule getting all the centrally assessed properties completed.

The first State Board of Equalization (SBOE) didn't make quorum at the regular meeting, but we were able to re-schedule the meeting and it went well.

Finalization of the Annual Conference is proceeding. Everyone should receive a bulletin letter shortly with your room information and all conference schedule information.

For you new assessors and as a reminder for the rest of us, the bulletin letter will provide the information for the first two rooms that each county is assigned. (We automatically assign rooms for the counties to make sure no one is left out in the rain. No pun intended.) The block of rooms will open in a few days, 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.

Our opening session will focus on the Centennial Celebration. We're excited about the State's birthday. We'll feature appearances by some special Centennial figures, including our own Pawnee Bill aka Wayne Spears. No, he will not ride his horse "Y" into the lobby, but it should be interesting and a nice kick-off to the conference.

Program Notes: We have some really great programs and activities planned for the Annual Conference. Here are a few of the featured classes that we've got lined up.

CAMA Valuation Case Study: Joe Hapgood and Glen Blood.

Five-Year Exemption: Patty Heath and Doug Brydon.

Introduction to County Assessors' Office: Dwight Argo, Gary Snyder and Doug Warr. Gary and Doug are also doing sessions on Data Collection, Oil and Gas Equipment Identification.

Tax Incremental Financing (TIFs) Kenny Chuculate and Dan Batchelor.

Big Box Retail Issues: Jeff Spelman, CAE

Subsidized Housing with Darcy Green and Darrell Beavers.

AA Instruction Scott Warren, Carol Bomhoff, Johnny Caldwell and Jimmy Duke.

State system software training: CAMA staff

ArcView 8+ as well as the mapping track: Troy Frazier.

Personal Property Review: Larry Rawlings
Deeds and Trusts: Larry Patton and Leisa Weintraub, Tulsa County.
Exemptions and Manufactured Homes: Kenny Chuculate
Agricultural Equipment In-Lieu Stamps: Gala Bowman and Wade Patterson.

In the past several years, we've had comments requesting advanced topics. We're adding an advanced two-day appraisal class on use of SPSS software that will be limited to about fifteen to sixteen people. (Instructor to be announced.) And we'll have another advanced appraisal session on appraising high value residential properties that will be moderated by Larry Rawlings.

In addition to all this, we'll have our usual sessions on Public Service Update, Legislative Update with Jim Kelley, Computer Users Group meeting, and other reports.

The County Assessors Association is working on a fun round of evening social events. One of the activities in the works will be a visit to Discovery Land for a centennial presentation of "Oklahoma!" President Cathy Hoklit guarantees a good time.

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
jspelman@tax.ok.gov

P.S. "Everyone needs recognition for his accomplishments, and this is clear in the story about the four-year-old boy who asked his dad, "Let's play darts together. I'll throw the darts. You do the part where you say "Wonderful!" Stanley T. Cimarron, Famous Ad Valorem Philosopher quote borrowed from Arthur Lenahan.

Economic advance is not the same thing as human progress.

John Clapham

July Birthdays

Birthstone: ruby

Meaning: love and contentment

Flower: larkspur, water lily

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

ATAP (Assessor Training and Accreditation Program)

Dear County Assessors and Deputies,

Please see our new class schedule below:

Course	Date		Time	City	Hotel	Location
	Beg	End				
MiniStorage (ceu class)	6/27/2007	6/28/2007	9:00 - 4:30 W, Th	Stillwater	Hampton Inn & Suites 717 E. Hall of Fame Av. Stillwater, OK. 405 743-1306	CLGT 5202 N. Richmond Hills Rd. Stillwater, OK. 74078 405-744-6049
Unit 1 (Intro.to Assessor's Office)	8/14/2007	8/17/2007	1:00 Tues 8:30 4:30 W, Th 8:30 12:00 Fr	OKC	Four Points Sheraton 6300 East Terminal Dr. Okla. City, OK 405-681-3500	Four Points Sheraton 6300 East Terminal Dr. Okla. City, OK 405-681-3500
Unit 2 (Real Property Appraisal)	9/18/2007	9/21/2007	8:30 - 4:30 Tu, W, Th 8:30 12:00 Fr	OKC	Four Points Sheraton 6300 East Terminal Dr. Okla. City, OK 405-681-3500	Four Points Sheraton 6300 East Terminal Dr. Okla. City, OK 405-681-3500
Data Collection (Residential)	10/3/2007	10/5/2007	8:30 - 4:30 W, Th 8:30 - 12:00 Fri	STW	Hampton Inn & Suites 717 E. Hall of Fame Av. Stillwater, OK. 405 743-1306	CLGT 5202 N. Richmond Hills Rd. Stillwater, OK. 74078 405-744-6049
Data Collection (Residential)	10/10/2007	10/12/2007	8:30 - 4:30 W, Th 8:30 - 12:00 Fri	STW	Hampton Inn & Suites 717 E. Hall of Fame Av. Stillwater, OK. 405 743-1306	CLGT 5202 N. Richmond Hills Rd. Stillwater, OK. 74078 405-744-6049
Unit 3 (Mass Appraisal)	10/16/2007	10/19/2007	8:30 - 4:30 Tu, W, Th 8:30 12:00 Fr	OKC	Four Points Sheraton 6300 East Terminal Dr. Okla. City, OK 405-681-3500	Four Points Sheraton 6300 East Terminal Dr. Okla. City, OK 405-681-3500
Unit 4 (Income Approach)	11/6/2007	11/9/2007	1:00 Tues 8:30 4:30 W, Th 8:30 12:00 Fr	Roman Nose	Roman Nose Lodge 580-623-7281	Roman Nose Lodge 580-623-7281
Unit 5 (Business Personal Property)	11/27/2007	11/29/2007	8:30 - 4:30 Tu, W 8:30 - 12:00 Th	OKC	Four Points Sheraton 6300 East Terminal Dr. Okla. City, OK 405-681-3500	Four Points Sheraton 6300 East Terminal Dr. Okla. City, OK 405-681-3500
Unit 6 (Cadastral Mapping)	12/11/2007	12/14/2007	1:00 Tues 8:30 - 4:30 W,Th 8:30 -12:00 Fri	Lake Murray	Lake Murray State Lodge 1-800-257-0322	Lake Murray State Lodge 1-800-257-0322
Unit 7 (Ag Land Valuation)	1/10/2008	1/11/2008	8:30 - 4:30Th 8:30 - 12:00 Fr	OKC	Four Points Sheraton 6300 East Terminal Dr. Okla. City, OK 405-681-3500	Four Points Sheraton 6300 East Terminal Dr. Okla. City, OK 405-681-3500

You may enroll at: clgt.okstate.edu or fax in your registration at 405-744-7268. If you have any questions you can call us at 405-744-6049 or e-mail us at doug.warr@okstate.edu or gary.snyder@okstate.edu.

Sincerely,
Doug & Gary

That some good can be derived from every event is a better proposition than that everything happens for the best, which it assuredly does not. James K. Feibleman

Legislative Report

Dear Assessors,

I attended the State Board Meeting June 27, 2007. All of the County Abstracts were certified and the Counties that have compliance issues were reported to be making great progress toward being in compliance.

Kenny and I will be making a complete legislative update at the training conference in Tulsa.

See you all there,

Jim
Jimkelly46@yahoo.com

The only thing worse than being talked about is not being talked about.

Oscar Wilde

Reporter's Corner

I would like to begin this month's commentary with a thank you. This has been one of the most challenging months mentally and emotionally that I can ever remember. I was reminded once again that our group is much more than people working together. We are family and with the death of my grandson, only the cards, notes, emails and more importantly all the prayers enabled me, and my family, to get through this most difficult time. I was reminded that none of us are guaranteed a certain number of years on this earth so every second is precious. Time is the only thing that once lost can never be recovered. Justin and I had previously talked about how fast the previous years had flown by and I told him I couldn't believe he was graduating from high school this year. He commented that he remembered all the times we spent playing catch, throwing the football and fishing. He never mentioned any of the presents he'd been given through the years. It was all about time spent together. Remember to tell your loved ones how much you love them on a regular basis and give them your time. Thanks once again and I love all you guys and gals and look forward to seeing everyone at our annual school in Tulsa.

Ronnie Funck

Reporter

funckr@canadiancounty.org

The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved -- loved for ourselves, or rather, loved in spite of ourselves.

Victor Hugo

Please send your comments, suggestions, and submissions including photos from your office or event to Amy Brandley, brandleya@canadiancounty.org, 405.262.1070 x260