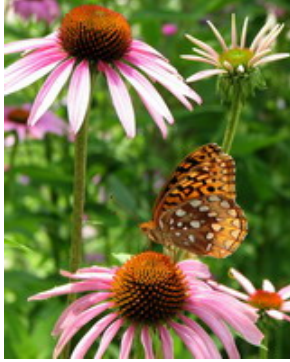


The Assessment Files

Volume 9

August 2007



A good man is not a perfect man; a good man is an honest man, faithful, and unhesitatingly responsive to the voice of God in his life.

John Fischer

From the President's Desk...

Hello Everyone,

Things have kinda slowed down for me, I hope it has for everyone else also. I had a new grand baby born 2 weeks ago and got my daughter off to college at OU. I have only had to make 4 or 5 trips in the last 2 weeks to Norman, but things are getting better.

I hope to see everyone at the CODA meeting next month. I look forward to touring the History Center, each time I have been there we haven't gotten to go through it.

I have been working on the program for our Assessors Conference, on Wednesday, Oct. 24th. The Lt. Governor will be our keynote speaker, and then on Thursday we will have a special presentation from the oil and gas industry. Later that night the hypnotist will be coming again, so I hope we will get a few volunteers.

See you all at CODA.

God Bless,

Cathy Hokit

Stephens County Assessor

President, County Assessors Association

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The Ad Valorem Division

Thank you Tiger Woods. Since we had to move the Annual Conference dates because of Mr. Woods and his friends with the PGA golf tournament, things happened earlier this year, but it worked out very well. The Oklahoma Centennial version of the Tulsa Conference is wrapped up and in the record books. By all measures, the 63rd educational conference was another successful session, and if you happen to watch the golf tournament on TV this year remember that we would be in Tulsa this week if it hadn't have been for the golfers.

We had excellent attendance. Our final count was like last year, a little under 500 students. Our opening session went well which I was really pleased. Jeff McMahan, State Auditor and Inspector and Treasurer Scott Mecham's Chief of Staff, Amy Sparks, were able to attend the opening session as well as Marion Johnson, a Kansas appraiser who is this year's President of IAAO. We also had Daron Fredickson of Chesapeake representing OATR, Cathy Hokit, President of the County Assessors' Association, Tony Mastin, the new Administrator of the Oklahoma Tax Commission and Larry Wilson, Deputy Administrator attending the session. Special thanks are in order for Wayne "Pawnee Bill" Spears in full costume who gave us his perspective on serving as an Oklahoma representative of our state's Centennial Commission and Ken Yazel for the appearance by the Bixby Marine Junior ROTC Color Guard. The young people in the Color Guard added a lot to the ceremony.

The recognition of the latest "graduating class" of initial and advanced accreditation students went well. 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's Mike Hughes and especially Gary Snyder and Doug Warr for their efforts in accreditation as well as their class on oil field equipment identification. (We're all hoping that Gary and Doug do not package up their teaching presentations and start using them as Sonic commercials. Their classes are getting better every year.)

We thank the "team" members: the officers of the County Assessors' Association, State Auditor and Inspector, Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma Tax Commission Motor Vehicle, Department of Veterans' Affairs, and Oklahoma Tax Commission Legal Counsel's Office. Thanks to Jim Kelley for his presentation on new legislation, and Wade Patterson for his presentation on farm implement stamps.

We again appreciated the assistance by Tulsa, Oklahoma and Cleveland Counties with the advanced topics on high value residential appraisals. I also received good reports on the SPSS advanced class on neighborhood analysis. The class is numbers intensive, but our instructors were pleased with the technical effort of the class.

We are also happy for the eighth 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.

Now that the conference is over, the Ad Valorem Division anticipates a busy fall with the election. We'll also be completing more public service work, training, and five-year inspections as well as preparing for the County Assessors' Association Annual Convention.

The Assessors' Association is to be commended for a great job in planning the evening activities. Everyone enjoyed the trip to Discoveryland to see the play of "Oklahoma!" We couldn't have asked for better weather for an outside evening activity, and the bus ride gave all of us more time to visit with each other. The timing coincided perfectly with the State's centennial celebration.

On behalf of the Ad Valorem Division, we'd like to thank all the county assessors and deputies for their hard work during the conference. We appreciate all that they do for taxpayers across the state. We appreciate the effort, and I know all of county government does too. 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
jspelman@tax.ok.gov

P.S. "Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn."
Quote from Stanley T. Cimarron, famous Ad Valorem Philosopher courtesy of Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Persistence is to the character of man as carbon is to steel.
Napoleon Hill

September Birthdays

Birthstone: sapphire
Meaning: wisdom and love
Flower: aster, morning glory

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
Ronnie Funck (Canadian)	September 18
Teresa Tallon (Jefferson)	September 20
Cathy Carlile (Love)	September 22

ATAP (Assessor Training and Accreditation Program)

Dear County Assessors and Deputies,

Please see our class schedule below:

Course	Date		Time	City	Hotel	Location
	Beg	End				
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.

Doug & Gary

County Training Program

The County Training Program at OSU will celebrate its 25th anniversary on September 12th at the CODA Conference. A brief history and presentation will follow the General Session. Then refreshments will be served – all in the South Ballroom. The celebration will honor two founders of the County Training Program: Jim Shamblin and Charlie Burns. An invitation will be included in the CODA registration packets. We hope to see you all there.

Judy Rudin

judy.rudin@okstate.edu

(405) 744-6168

***One way to get the most out of life is to look upon it as
an adventure.***

William Feather

Reporter's Corner

I know I've written this several times in past articles: "Just about the time you think you've seen everything in your office, something new comes along." Well, after one August weekend I find myself saying it again. The rains on the weekend of August 19, 2007 have to fall into that category. We have had isolated weather events in our county but none which encompassed the majority of our county in such a short time frame. As I toured the county with our Emergency Manager, I saw areas flooded that I have never seen flooded, and I can't tell you how many of the old timers echoed those same sentiments. They say that a picture can paint a thousand words so I'll let a few pictures tell some of the story (see below). As bad as it was here, there were some areas hit harder. We need to send our thoughts and prayers to the neighboring counties around us because the damage was widespread. One of the great things about Oklahoma is when trouble comes along you can always depend on your neighbors and friends to lend a hand.

I thought the July Annual Conference was very informative, and I especially enjoyed the weather right before the August heat. The CODA conference will be coming up in a few weeks, hope to see some of you there.

Ronnie Funck
Reporter
funckr@canadiancounty.org

Flooding in Canadian County August 19-21, 2007



2007 Annual Assessors Conference





Note to new assessors:

Please call or email me with your birthday--I know we are leaving out new assessors' birthdays from our newsletter.

Thanks, Amy

Please send your comments, suggestions, and submissions including photos from your office or event to Amy Brandley, brandleya@canadiancounty.org, (405) 262-1070 x260