

The Assessment Files

Volume 10

September 2007



Pioneers are a special breed of people. They take the world as it exists and begin to transform it into what it could become. It requires confidence in one's unique perception, vision, or hunch (which detractors call madness), the courage of one's convictions (which detractors call stubbornness), perseverance, persistence, and 'stick-to-itiveness' (which detractors call pigheadedness), and confidence in one's ability to succeed (which detractors call arrogance). Udo Erasmus

From the President's Desk...

Hello Everyone,

It was nice to see everyone at the CODA meeting; we had a great turnout for the breakout session. We discussed several important issues. The Tax Commission is going to have a short 2-day class Oct. 11th and 12th on how the public service equity rates and valuations are done.

I've been working on the agenda for our conference coming up on Oct. 24th, 25th and 26th at the Biltmore. Remember this is mandatory for all Assessors unless you give advance notice to the Tax Commission otherwise. The membership dues are also mandatory whether you attend or not. Wade will be sending the registrations out within the next week.

Hope to see everyone in a few weeks.

God Bless,

Cathy Hokit

Stephens County Assessor
President, County Assessors Association
chokit@texhoma.net

Vice President's News

Well, here we are again. It's almost time for the assessors' fall conference in OKC and thoughts have already turned to football and tax rolls. It's sad that we have to associate such a fun time (football season and fall conference) with such a trying and hectic time in the assessor's office (tax roll season). It also has reminded me that I have just a few short months (dare I say, weeks?) to enjoy the time I've been able to spend as your vice-president. For those of you who have gone through this experience before, you know what I'm talking about when I say that your v.p. year is almost like taking a vacation. 😊 That will all end too soon, as I prepare for my role as association president for 2008.

Looking into the next year, I see that public service valuations will be a hot topic as we roll into 2008 and you can safely bet we'll see more legislation pertaining to the oil and gas industry's attempt to receive some more exemptions from their respective tax loads. I am preparing for the best because I know I have a good group of officers working with me and the best organization in the state behind me 100%.

Thank you for all of your support over the years. It's hard to believe that a 37-year-old assessor from Washington County who was once the youngest in the state at 30 years of age (before Scott Kirby came along to claim that most dubious honor) is now one of the "veterans" of the state's assessors in terms of tenure. With over half of the assessors (43) coming on board after my start in the assessor's office back in 2001, that leaves me in the minority (one of 34) as an assessor who has been in office for a period of more than six years. We've had lots of turnover across the state, but we remain as strong as ever as an organization. Thanks again to each and every one of you.

See you at the Biltmore!

Your vice-president,
Todd Mathes
tmathes@countycourthouse.org

The Ad Valorem Division

I enjoyed seeing many of the county assessors and deputies who attended the County Officers' and Deputies' meeting last week although I was just back from the

IAAO Convention. Nothing like a 4 a.m. wake-up call and two time zones to get a person at their sharpest condition.

Remember if you did not get a copy of the new HUD income levels for the Senior Valuation Freeze that was handed out at the meeting, we will be mailing copies in a bulletin sometime this week.

We enjoyed attending the IAAO Conference this last week. I always learn something, and we never cease to be impressed with the quality and depth of their classes. We find lots of new things to incorporate into our annual conference.

Dr. Grayson Dawson taught a class on how adults learn new material. He's an IAAO staff member who lives in Kansas City now, but just happens to be from Oklahoma. (He is also a long-suffering OSU football fan.) Dr. Dawson presented some new studies on how adults learn material that has application to training and education whether it is a new field person or a new assessor. Gary Snyder, attending an IAAO conference for the first time, said that some of these learning strategies may be included in future CLGT training efforts.

Boiled down to a nutshell, Dr. Dawson says that mature men and women process information differently. Everyone has different learning styles. Traditional school classroom methods don't always work best for adults.

His best example was teaching an adult who's never played basketball how to shoot the ball. Some people want to observe someone shoot a basketball before they try it. Other people learn best by having the shooting technique and its importance explained. Other students don't want an explanation, but learn by experience. They just grab the basketball and start shooting. No learning method is right or wrong. All methods can work, but Grayson says that adults learn differently and the best teaching methods have to include all learning styles to reach all of students.

On behalf of our staff who works with public service, we appreciate everyone who called in with questions about their valuations. It helps us when you put it in writing and we also appreciate the help from the company representatives in tracking down answers. At the county level, valuations always vary from year to year, but overall, public service valuations were up from last year.

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 everyone who has made it happen.

Jeff Spelman, CAE

Director, Ad Valorem Division

jspelman@tax.ok.gov

P.S. "Even a two-car parade gets fouled up if you don't decide ahead of time who's going to lead." Stanley T. Cimarron, Ad Valorem Philosopher who allegedly stole the quote from Zig Ziglar.

*Love is not blind -- it simply enables one to see things
others fail to see.*

Anonymous

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				
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

*Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith. They keep it
awake and moving.* Frederick Beuchner

County Training Program

Fall class schedule:

Class	Date	Place
Open Meetings	10/3/07	Lawton
Open Records	10/4/07	Lawton
Tax Roll Corrections	10/10/07	El Reno
Managing Personnel in an At-Will Organization	10/10/07-10/11/07	Ardmore
Personal Property Tax Warrants	10/11/07	El Reno
Court Clerk Handbook Review	10/17/07-10/18/07	Chickasha
Land Records	10/23/07-10/24/07	Western Hills
Assessors Association School	10/24/07-10/26/07	OKC
Title VII, Laws Affecting Employment	10/30/07	Enid
Court Clerk Confidential Records	11/6/07	Enid
Court Clerk Bail Bonds/Forfeiture	11/7/07	Enid
Basic Accounting	11/6/07-11/7/07	Stillwater
Interviewing for Success	11/8/07	Pryor/Claremore
Documentation and File Building	11/9/07	Pryor/Claremore
ACCO Fall Conference	11/13/07-11/15/07	OKC
Grammar Skills	11/27/07	Stillwater
Supervisory Skills I	11/27/07-11/28/07	OKC
Fundamentals of Administration/Management	12/5/07	Ada
Statute Reference/Legislative Process	12/6/07-12/7/07	Ada
Basic Mapping	12/12/07-12/13/07	Enid

<http://www.agecon.okstate.edu/ctp/index.asp>

***Our greatest glory is not in never falling
but in rising every time we fall.***

Confucius

October Birthdays

Birthstone: tourmaline

Meaning: hope

Flower: calendula, cosmos

Melissa Anderson (Rogers)	October 1
Cathy Hokit (Stephens)	October 1
Scott Kirby (Murray)	October 4
Erlene Luper (Cherokee)	October 20
Lavinda Smith (Harmon)	October 25
Rosemary Neely (Blaine)	October 28

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