



THE ASSESSMENT FILES
COUNTY ASSESSORS ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA
July 2009
VOLUME 8

Message from the President....

Greetings Everyone:

I am writing this article from beautiful Miami. That's Florida, not Oklahoma, not that my hometown isn't beautiful, but this Miami is something to see. It reminds me of Enid, but with palm trees, beautiful skyline, cruise ships, the Atlantic Ocean, etc.

I know that you are getting ready for a great week in Tulsa. I know that we have one of the best educational conferences in the nation. When I visit with our peers in other states, they are amazed at our conference content and how we accomplish in 3 days.

Monica has everything organized for the evening activities in Tulsa. The response to the evening activities has been outstanding. The response has been so good that she had to reorganize the bowling/go carts. It does my heart good to see us all together at these events because it is a great time to network with each other. I hope we have as much fun as I anticipate.

Please remember to give Monica a call if you have any questions regarding the annual dues or the conference registration.

Last month I mentioned the educational offering we have planned for the October conference. The focus of the session will deal with "Due Process and Protest Procedures" or something to that effect. I believe there is a need to give ourselves a refresher course on this issue. Since last month I have received even more calls from assessors, taxpayers, and attorneys asking for clarification regarding this issue.

We are putting together the agenda for our breakout session at the CODA Meeting in September. Please let me know if you have anything you would like to discuss as a group at the meeting. This would be a great time to start discussing what we need to act on during our October Assessor Conference. We have a lot of issues on the burner this year.

We have the new directories printed and ready to distribute in Tulsa. We will need to limit the number of copies per county so everyone can receive at least 2 copies. Our associate members and vendors will receive 2 copies as well. Once everyone has their 2 copies, we will hand out the remainder.

As always, if you need anything, let me know at lwade@garfieldcountymail.com or you call (c) 580-541-6011 or (w) 580-548-2435.

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

See you in Tulsa!

God Bless, **Wade**

The Ad Valorem Division Director's Notes

Tulsa may look a little different this year. We're finishing the last of the arrangements for the Sixty-fifth Annual Conference, and all of the preparations have been made with the focus on making the conference as good as can be within budget constraints that everyone is facing. We've been in contact with Wade Patterson, County Assessors' Association president and Gary Snyder, CLGT to discuss the final arrangements. I've appreciated their help and assistance. Wade has volunteered to enlist a few classroom monitors to assist our staff which will be short handed.

That having been said, it's our belief that we'll have a really good conference with lots of content and the energy that the county assessors and deputies bring to the meeting. It just might appear somewhat different, but we believe we've improved the conference.

We'd really like to thank CLGT for stepping up as usual and assisting with classes and organization. They're always of great help and we will again have CCAP conducting their usual computer training at OSU-Tulsa.

Hotel reservations have been coming fairly steady and we expect it to pick up shortly. Please be sure to turn any unused rooms to Cathy Gibson, so we can keep all rooms in our block for other conference attendees.

We've invited all the members of the State Board of Equalization. So far, despite their busy schedules, we have State Auditor Steve Burrage and Attorney General Drew Edmondson who will attend, along with Oklahoma Association of Tax Representatives' Layne Wroblewski. That is a good turn out of State Board of Equalization members considering all the demands on the time of state elected officials and we're looking forward to the opening session.

As has been our practice for several years, we will recognize those County Assessors and Deputies who've completed their initial and advanced accreditation programs. Oklahoma's program is one of the best and most rigorously tested programs in the nation. To recognize that achievement, the Center for Local Government Technology and the Ad Valorem Division will present accreditation certificates at the opening session.

Conference Highlights:

We have an excellent program planned. We'll have sessions on conveyance instruments with Marsha Rayborn and Kalee Jantzen again by popular demand. Kenny Chuculate will moderate a session on TIF Districts. We will have Florida Power and Light presenting a session on Wind Power. I'll do a session on the "State of the State, The Oklahoma Ad Valorem Tax System." We'll have our usual session on legislative issues with Jim Kelley, as well as veterans' exemptions and manufactured homes. Troy Frazier will conduct the mapping track as he has for many years in a row with sessions on MIMS, GIS Council Update, and ARCGIS. We'll also have a session on dealing with foreclosures, reviewing appraisals, and an update on public service. Joe Hapgood, CAE has prepared an interesting session on "rules of thumb" for appraisals that will provide information to

ensure that appraisals are reasonable and complete. A special session will be held on Railroad Right-of-Ways issues with personnel from Burlington Northern Santa Fe.

Patty Heath will conduct a session on the five-year exemption program, and Larry Rawlings will discuss personal property issues and work with the basic auditing class. Glen Blood, Larry Martin, Greg Harmon, Cheryl Graham, and Kalee Jantzen will conduct training out at Oklahoma State University at the Tulsa campus.

Doug Warr and Gary Snyder along with Fred Argo will conduct the introductory session again as well as a class on Income and Expense Reports.

Also, don't forget that we will have computer user group meetings for the State System as well as TerraScan, Colorado Customware, and our newest addition Landmark.

It's been a challenging year for everyone and we're looking forward to getting on Tulsa Time. Hope to see everyone there. I appreciate the effort of all of you in rearranging your schedules and family time to come to the Annual Conference. It is a testament to the dedication and hard work of assessors and deputies in keeping current on new developments and increasing their professionalism for the taxpayers of the state.

Sincerely,

Jeff Spelman, CAE

P.S. "You can make more friends in two months by being genuinely interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you." Stanley T. Cimarron, Ad Valorem Philosopher Quote borrowed from Dal Carnegie.

Legislative News

Dear Assessors,

Please be thinking about any legislative issues that we need to bring before the legislature. Please be prepared to present them for discussion at the CODA conference in September.

See you at Tulsa for a complete legislative update.

Jim

From the Secretary-Treasurer:

Don't forget to pay your annual association dues by August 17.

IMPORTANT DATES

Aug. 4-7, 2009 OTC Annual conference in Tulsa at Southern Hills Marriott

August 17, 2009 Annual dues for Assessor Association due to Secretary

Sept. 16-18, 2009 Fall CODA Conference in OKC at the Biltmore

Oct. 28-30, 2009 Assessors Annual fall conference in OKC at Biltmore



<u>Dates</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Location</u>
08/25/2009 - 08/28/2009	<i>Unit 1 (Introduction to the Assessor's Office)</i>	Hilton Garden Inn Norman
09/02/2009 - 09/04/2009	<i>Data Collection of Residential Property</i>	CLGT Building Stillwater
09/22/2009 - 09/25/2009	<i>Unit 2 (Real Property Appraisal)</i>	Hilton Garden Inn Norman
10/20/2009 - 10/23/2009	<i>Unit 3 (Mass Appraisal)</i>	Hilton Garden Inn Norman
November 2009	<i>Unit 4 (Income Approach)</i>	TBA
November 2009	<i>Unit 5 (Business Personal Property)</i>	TBA



Hello all,

CCAP will have an AA system user group meeting for a very short time on Thursday August 6th at 4pm. The location has yet to be determined. It will be at the Marriott and we will be done in time to go get some dinner.

We will discuss remote management and the things you need to look out for and be concerned about. We will also be answering questions about the OSU remote backup server "farm". After all what would you call a bunch of backup servers at an AG school?

See you at the school and I hope in our class.

Scott Warren

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IAAO Oklahoma Chapter to meet in Tulsa

The Oklahoma Chapter of the International Association of Assessing Officers will meet on Wednesday, August 5, 2009, at the Tulsa Marriott Southern Hills. The meeting time will be at 4:30 p.m. Special guest speaker for this occasion is IAAO President-Elect Bill Carroll.

Bill has served in many and varied capacities in the IAAO organization. As the retired chief appraiser for the Williamson County Appraisal District in Texas, he has hands-on working knowledge of the assessor's office. His involvement with IAAO is a direct result of the educational tools and networking needed for his position with the appraisal district. Bill will provide insight as to how IAAO can provide a myriad of services to assist in the appraisal/assessment process at the county level. He will also give an update on the current events taking place with IAAO.

Whether you are an IAAO member or guest, come and take advantage of this opportunity to visit with the incoming President of IAAO. It will be well worth your time.

We'll also discuss:

- IAAO Course 101 offering that was held July 6-10, 2009 in Norman, Ok which was taught by Marion R. Johnson
- Finalize possible IAAO Workshop offering for Fall
- hand out new member certificates
- provide receipts for any new members
- collect upcoming dues
- review dates & times for our next meeting during the October Assessor's Conference in OKC

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News from the County Training Program at OSU

The County Training Program class schedule for July through December 2009 is now on the program's website at <http://www.agecon.okstate.edu/ctp>. The CTP welcomes County Assessors to their classes (for which there is no charge) and encourages them to sign up on line.

If you would like a printed copy of the schedule, call the CTP office at 405-744-6160, or email ctp@okstate.edu.

Former Wagoner County Assessor's Son

Former Sooner and NFL player Rick Bryan has ties to Oklahoma Assessors

Most of you probably heard that Rick Bryan died of a heart attack last week. You may remember that he was an All-American for OU while playing football for the Sooners from 1981-83. He later went on and had a 9 year NFL standout career with the Atlanta Falcons.

A few of us remember him because Rick's mother was Sandra Bryan, who worked for Wagoner County for over 30 years and was the Wagoner County Assessor from 1995-2002. Our association sends our condolences to her and her family during this time. Cards may be sent to the Wagoner County Assessors office and they will see that Sandra receives them.

Wagoner County Assessor's Office
Attn: Sandra Bryan
307 E. Cherokee
Wagoner, OK 74467

ANNUAL OTC CONFERENCE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have personnel who are due to receive Accreditation Certificates at the Opening Session of the Annual Conference and **have not** contacted the Oklahoma Tax Commission, we need you to do so as soon as possible. We are in the process of determining the number of chairs required for everyone who plans to attend and need to know whether or not your staff will be present.

Please contact Teresa Strawther at (405) 319-8200 with this information if you have not yet done so.

Also, if you do have staff attending, please let them know to find their reserved seats in the front left section of the room **BEFORE** the Opening Session begins.

4-C MEETING AT TULSA

The regular "4-C" meeting will be in Tulsa next Tuesday, August 4th at the Southern Hills Marriott. The meeting will follow the opening session and County Assessor group photo. Due to the large group that has been attending with the value transfer subcommittee work, we will probably meet in one of the classrooms rather than the Cypress Board Room. We will announce the meeting room at opening session.



NEW

JULY BIRTHDAY'S

Debbie Collins- 1
Scotty Cosby- 1
Dayla Pugh- 5
Eloise McCully- 12
Nikki Wedel- 12
Billy Parks- 17
Gayla Gillie- 27
Bari Firestone- 29
Francis Joslin- 30
Todd Mathes- 31

ASSESSOR INFORMATION

New Washita County Assessor is Clayton Twyman. Clayton is to take over as assessor the first of August. Retiring assessor, Janie Bellah, last day will be Friday July 31, 2009. Contact information, such as e-mail and mailing addresses will remain the same.

New Creek County Assessor is Nikki Wedel. Her e-mail address is vswedel@sbcglobal.net.

New Blaine County Assessor is Ronda Greer. Ronda has been appointed to take over July 1. Rosemary's last day is/was June 30. The e-mail and other contact information for Blaine County will remain the same.

UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION

Oklahoma County's e-mail address was incorrect in last month's newsletter. The correct address is marhos@oklahomacounty.org.

Retiring Blaine County Assessor Rosemary Neely's personal e-mail is rosemary@pldi.net.