



## Message from the President....

Greetings Everyone:

What a great conference in Tulsa! I hope everyone had a great time. Thanks to the OTC for putting together this conference. I don't think they missed a beat, even being short handed. As is stated in my last article, our conference is well known throughout the US. I want to give a big thanks to Monica for organizing the evening activities. I think we all had a great time bowling and go-carting.

Speaking of the go-carting, we will have to make some adjustments for next year regarding the use of the go-carts. Cathy Hokit, Stephens County Assessor, will be forced to have an individual monitor because of her rough driving tactics on the track. We may need to install a restrictor plate on her go-cart to limit her speed or maybe some softer bumpers that won't shove innocent people out of her way. She must be taught a lesson that you can not shove the President into the wall with no repercussions!

We are moving from one conference to planning another. Our Annual Assessor's Conference will be October 28 – 30 at the Biltmore in OKC. Monica will be sending the registrations soon. Last week the officers met by phone conference to divide the responsibilities of planning the conference. You might not realize what goes into planning a conference, but our checklist was 32 items long.

We are working on the CEU part of the conference with OSU and OTC. The topic will be "Due Process and Protest Procedures". This will be an in-depth overview of the appeal process from printing notices all the way thru going to District Court. It is our plan to invite the County Clerks to attend this presentation too. I would like to develop a handout from this presentation that you can take back to the office and use each year. We need to make sure that each assessor's office is uniform in the process. This will insure that every taxpayer will be treated the same, both in the ability to file an appeal and their responsibility once an appeal is filed.

We will also have the candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor speaking on the afternoon of the 29<sup>th</sup>. I have received confirmation from most saying they plan to attend. Each candidate will have 10 to 15 minutes to address the audience.

The fall CODA Meeting will be this month from the 16<sup>th</sup> thru the 18<sup>th</sup> at the Biltmore in OKC. Our agenda will be pretty generic which will give us plenty of time to discuss any topic

necessary. This would be a great time to start discussing what we need to act on during our October Assessor Conference.

I have several new directories left, so give me a call if you would like an additional copy. We have found several errors in the printing, but please send me an email if you find something we need to correct.

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If you need anything, let me know at [lwade@garfieldcountymail.com](mailto: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."*

God Bless, **Wade**

## The Ad Valorem Division Director's Notes

We were in Tulsa again for our Annual Conference 2009. This was the 65th anniversary of the educational conference, which has been held every year during the summer since before WWII. Historically, the conference has been held continuous all those years except for one year during the war years.

Despite budget shortfalls facing every aspect of state government, the conference was a success. As we predicted, the week had a somewhat different look. We recruited lots of volunteers who helped our short-handed staff distribute hand-outs, assist with roll calls, and "sticker" the CEU credit sheets. Things were perhaps a little unusual in appearance, but by all reports everything went well for 2009.

County attendance was again very strong. By Teresa Strawther's head count, we had 479, actually up from last year's 456 hard working students. We had nearly 82 "day trippers" who came up for one or two days to attend part of the conference. The conference had some great instructors, new technology demos, good introductory track, and two great social events sponsored by the County Assessors' Association.

Members of the State Board of Equalization were well represented. Attorney General Edmondson talked with the group on state financial issues facing the State Board of Equalization. State Auditor Steve Burrage was represented by Ricky Branch, a member of his staff. We also had Layne Wroblewski of Devon Energy who attended as President of the Oklahoma Association of Tax Representatives.

For the second year in a row, Tulsa County Assessor Ken Yazel arranged for an appearance by the Marine Junior ROTC Color Guard. The high school age men and women in the Color Guard added a lot to the ceremony. (The two young ladies in the Color Guard are daughters of Ken Yazel.)

Assessor initial and advanced accreditation is a significant accomplishment. The latest "graduating class" of initial and advanced accreditation students were honored in a brief ceremony. As those of you know who've completed the classes and the tests, accreditation involves work and dedication especially as the ad valorem system changes, grows, and often becomes more complicated.

Thanks also to the state agencies that helped us with the conference. Greg Hodges and Nancy Grantham from State Auditor and Inspector's office, Center for Local Government Technology including the computer assistance group, the officers of the County Assessors' Association and Jim Kelley for his presentation on legislation, Vicky McCartney with Oklahoma Tax Commission Motor Vehicle, Dr. Mike Sharp with the Conservation Commission, Scott March with the Center for Spatial Analysis, and Darryl Williams with USGS. Thanks to Gary Snyder and Doug Warr once again for their excellent classes. I attended their sessions on income statements and trouble-shooting appraisals.

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The conference also featured an in-depth review of wind power facilities by the NextEra Energy personnel. Judy Cummings and Susan Odom from BNSF did an excellent job in their discussion of railroad right-of-way issues affecting county assessor land records.

The success of the conference was primarily to the credit of the County Assessors' Association officers and those county assessors and deputies who worked so hard throughout the week. It is challenging for everyone to juggle back-to-school plans, family vacations, and travel to Tulsa during a busy time of year. We appreciate the effort, and I know all of county government does, too.

Now that the conference is over, the Ad Valorem Division anticipates a busy fall with public service distributions, CODA and County Assessors' Association meetings. We'll also be completing software updates, compliance visits, last of the equalization study work and training as well as preparing for the County Assessors' Association Annual Convention. On behalf of the Ad Valorem Division, thank you for the hard work during the conference.

Sincerely,

Jeff Spelman, CAE

P.S. "If a friend is in trouble, don't ask if there is anything that you can do. Figure out what would help him or her and do it." Quote from Stanley T. Cimarron and Anwar Caddo, famous Ad Valorem Philosophers who borrowed the quote from Edgar Watson Howe.

P.S.S. We have not received any information on the "incident" at the bowling alley when Judy Wilson (King Ralph's wife) was electronically credited with a strike instead of a spare. Must have been a software glitch. Efforts to convince the OSBI to look into this have not occurred.

## Legislative News

Dear Assessors,

Just a reminder, 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.

Jim

## From the Secretary-Treasurer:

## REMINDER TO DISTRICT SECRETARIES

Would each District Secretary please email their minutes to Monica so they can be included in registration packets at the Fall Conference in October? [monica@woodscounty.net](mailto:monica@woodscounty.net)

Monica

## Reporter's Corner

Hope everyone has had a great summer. I enjoyed seeing everyone at the Tulsa school and meeting several new assessors and deputies. The go-carts were pretty exciting, but I would caution you. If you're on the course with Cathy Hokit or any of the Stephens county group you need to watch your back. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the fall CODA conference in a couple of weeks.

The association board has started planning for the annual October Assessor's conference. Our president and CLGT have come up with a very good program for the conference; I think it will prove to be very beneficial to all of us. Also we have a couple of assessors that are working on entertainment for one of the nights of the conference. If you can't make it to CODA, then we will look forward to seeing you in October.

I have started e-mailing the newsletter to several retired assessors. We only have a few of the retired assessors' e-mail addresses. If anyone has e-mail addresses for former assessors that you think might like to receive the newsletter please forward them to me or one of the other officers and I will add them to the e-mail group for retired assessors. We have e-mail addresses for the following: Denise Heavener, Duane Carter, Cynthia Holtwick, Glenda Kirk, Janell Ezell, Joe Forbes, Loretta Hall, Pat Daniel, Rosemary Neely, Saundra (Sam) White, Susan Tallchief and Wayne Spears.

If anyone has something to place in the newsletter just e-mail or call me with the information. [murrayco@brightok.net](mailto:murrayco@brightok.net) or phone (580)-622-3433

Scott

## NEW ASSESSOR INFORMATION

We have added another new assessor this month. The new county assessor for Garvin County is Beverley Strickland. Beverly officially took over the reins from Evelyn Bradley on Tuesday September 1, 2009. All of the contact information for Garvin County will remain the same.

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](mailto: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 again in last month's newsletter. The correct address is [marhof@oklahomacounty.org](mailto:marhof@oklahomacounty.org).

Cathy Hokit, Stephens County Assessor, has a new e-mail address. [chokit@cablone.net](mailto:chokit@cablone.net)

# IMPORTANT DATES

- Sept. 16-18, 2009    Fall CODA Conference in OKC at the Biltmore
- Oct. 28-30, 2009    Assessors Annual fall conference in OKC at Biltmore
- Nov. 20, 2009        Retirement Party for Debbie Gentry, Woodward County Assessor



<u>Dates</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Location</u>
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
10/15/2009	<i>Excel for Assessors</i>	CLGT Building Stillwater
10/20/2009 - 10/23/2009	<i>Unit 3 (Mass Appraisal)</i>	Hilton Garden Inn Norman
11/04/2009 – 11/06/2009	<b>Advance Income Approach</b>	Hampton Inn Tulsa
11/10/2009	<b>IAAO Residential Construction and Design</b>	<b>TBA</b>
11/17/2009 - 11/20/2009	<i>Unit 4 (Income Approach)</i>	Hilton Garden Inn Norman
11/17/2009 - 11/19/2009	<b>OTC, ARCView Map Training with Troy Frazier</b>	CLGT Building Stillwater
12/01/2009 - 12/04/2009	<u><a href="#"><b>Unit 6 (Cadastral Mapping)</b></a></u>	<u><a href="#">Hilton Garden Inn Norman</a></u>
12/16/2009 - 12/18/2009	<b>Unit 5 (Business Personal Property)</b>	Holiday Inn Ardmore
01/14/2010 - 01/15/2010	<b>Unit 7 (Ag Land Valuation)</b>	Hilton Garden Inn Norman



***CCAP 2009 Fall Schedule***

The GPS classes are one day. Go to the CCAP website, <http://ccap.okstate.edu>, to enroll. Please indicate your County Name, the Name of who will be attending and verify which date. Class size is limited to 24 attendees.

09/22/2009	<b>GPS (Global Positioning System)</b>	CLGT Building Stillwater
09/23/2009	<b>GPS (Global Positioning System)</b>	CLGT Building Stillwater
10/21/2009	<b>GPS (Global Positioning System)</b>	CLGT Building Stillwater
10/22/2009	<b>GPS (Global Positioning System)</b>	CLGT Building Stillwater



The IAAO Oklahoma Chapter will meet during the Assessor’s Fall Conference at the Biltmore Hotel in OKC. We have scheduled our annual “dutch” luncheon for Thursday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009 inside the Blue Ridge & Cumberland rooms. This year we have 2 rooms so we can spread out a bit and not be so cramped. I’ll send out an email as time draws near with details of our guest speaker. So mark your calendar and bring a co-worker or associate and introduce them to a great group of folks and a wonderful buffet style lunch. We love new faces. ☺

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Reporter Note: The August Birthdays had the wrong month header. The dates were correct in last month's edition. So I have included last month's birthdays also. Sorry for the mistake.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS	SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS
Debbie Collins- 1	Kelly Minson-3
Scotty Cosby- 1	Thyra Grounds-4
Dayla Pugh- 5	Gail Hedgcoth-6
Eloise McCully- 12	Patty Hiner-12
Nikki Wedel- 12	Donna Graham-13
Billy Parks- 17	Gerald Sherrill-16
Gayla Gillie- 27	Judie Thompson-17
Bari Firestone- 29	Ronnie Funck-18
Francis Joslin- 30	Teresa Tallon-20
Todd Mathes- 31	Cathy Carlile-22