

THE ASSESSMENT FILES

COUNTY ASSESSORS ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA

VOLUME 4

MARCH 2010



It seems every time it's time to put articles together there is a snowstorm in the news. It's no different this time except this storm didn't last very long and hopefully we can say it's the last storm as far as this winter is concerned, **because I'm ready for spring.**

The legislative session is in full swing and up to this date we've only had a few issues, which relate to Ad Valorem instead of a lot, which is good news. Hopefully things will stay that way but please continue to check your email as Jim and the rest of the committee along with Dave Herbert are good about sending out alarms on last minute issues which surface.

The Forms Committee has had a couple of meetings with OTC on what I see as positive changes concerning the forms we use. Wade and his committee have been doing a great job compiling information and putting together some of those changes. Hopefully in the next few months those will be in final draft format and those revised forms with changes will be ready for final comments and available for future use. OTC has been very receptive to the changes, as it should make it easier to gather data for reports for not only their use but also data for legislative requests.

Please remember to stay in contact with your legislators as these final weeks for new bills comes to a close to make sure they know where we stand as an association on those issues which affect our office and other offices in the Court House. Remember to keep those in the association who have had illnesses or are recovering from illnesses and those who have lost loved ones in your prayers. Have a great Easter.

Ronnie Funck,
President

The Ad Valorem Bore Em (March 2010)

We sometimes have left over news items are too good or too exciting for the Forum so they're printed in our new paper blog: The Ad Valorem Bore Em: Stuff Too Good Enough for the Forum. It's our version of a **blog** except it's not on the internet.

Most Unusual Telephone Call This last month Luke Weese was in the mail room so he didn't have many calls, but we did get an interesting one. A woman from Norman called and asked if the Ad Valorem Division had anything to do with dog licensing. Luke told her we didn't, but he learned that the City of Norman requires an \$8 annual license for dogs. He gave her the correct telephone number. The real question, is if I were looking for information about a dog license, why would the first place I'd call be the Ad Valorem Division?

Forms, Forms, Forms We've had two meetings with the Forms Committee. I thought the process has been good. Many of the forms are in pretty good shape. The committee worked on a couple of forms, decided not to open certain cans of worms, and then decided to leave them alone. I'm hoping that at the end of the process the forms will be improved and we'll have room for some accommodation for computer forms, particularly for some of the high volume counties. The purpose of this process, in our view, is to get more standardization in the forms used.

Doodling? Sign of a Bad Employee? Doodling because you're bored? Most people would say a doodler was not paying attention, a sign of a bad employee. According to some recent studies, doodling actually keeps your mind alert rather than going off into a daydream. One study showed that people who were doodling while listening to a telephone call were able to recall 30 percent more than those who did not. According to Jackie Andrade, a psychologist, it helps keep you mind focused.

Multitasking is a waste of time People who like to do several things at the same time think that they're getting a lot done. A Stanford study showed that they're actually worse. They have poorer memory and are more distracted. Professor Clifford Nass says, "High multitaskers are lousy at everything that's necessary for multitasking." Yeah, tell that to a new mom who has to multitask to survive.

Best Tip Yes, everyone gets frustrated working with mobile homes, right? I had a couple of questions last week, and I discovered that, really, the best source of information (not calling Kenny C, that is.) is in the pink paper Quick Reference Guide to Manufactured Homes. This was distributed at our recent assessors educational conference in 2009. Kenny C worked on that project, along with help from county assessors, Tax Commission Motor Vehicle, Treasurers, and Department of Public Safety. It is a really good place to start on answering mobile home questions, particularly if you don't work with them everyday. Paula Gibson has been the mobile home wizard in-training so she's becoming our mobile home back-up person. The mobile home guidelines are on the web if you need it.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

In the attachment with this newsletter is a current list of bill's we have been tracking. It is up to date at this point, but changes are happening daily. We will continue to watch them. Please review the bills that are still alive and contact your legislator(s) and let them hear from you. If you have any questions or thoughts concerning legislation, please contact anyone of us on the legislative committee. We will be happy to help you.

Jim

P.S. Remember to set your margins to .5, change from portrait to landscape, and if you can use legal paper.



Dear ALL;

The upcoming Advanced Income Class has a few seats waiting for someone to fill.

This class is a Continuing Education class and will let you brush up n the income approach to value; a common approach used by protesting taxpayers. We'll discuss incomes, expenses, and cap rates. If you or anyone in your office would like to attend, please register n the website at: <http://clgt.okstate.edu/atap.htm>

The class will be held in Poteau beginning on Wednesday, April 7th.

Thanks,

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Latest info on the George Keyes Award:

The awards committee consisting of Larry Johannes (Chairman)-OK County, Cyndye Porter- Ok County, Ann Scott- Ok County, & Tina Burden-Cleveland County, has been hard at work to deliver a nomination form by the end of March. They have done a great job; one that tackles the eligibility & guideline requirements as well as making it fun & easy for the association members.

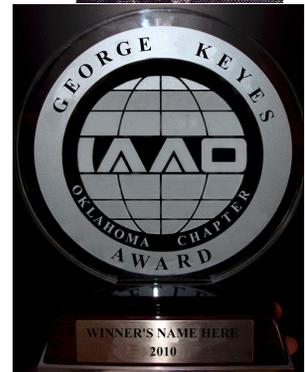
Once the final version is complete, members of our local IAAO Chapter will be able to download the nomination form from our website <http://ok-iaao.oklahomacounty.org/> . The deadline for nominations will be **July 31st, 2010**.



Mark your calendars:

Plan now to attend the 76th IAAO Int'l Conference.
Orlando Florida – Walt Disneyworld Resort
Sunday August 29th, 2010 through Wednesday, Sept 1st, 2010

Hotel reservations are now open through <http://www.IAAO.org/Events/AnnualConference.cfm> . Be sure to book early and check for flight specials. Frontier Airlines has been running specials as low as \$89 each way and are non-stop flights.



Become a member today:

If you're not already an IAAO member I encourage you to join their organization and our local chapter and become part of a highly experienced group of professionals with a solid assessment foundation.

President – Mike Morrison
Vice President – Keith Hulsizer
Treasure/Sec – Daniel Jenkins

Next Chapter Meeting:

The local chapter will hold its next meeting in Tulsa, Ok during the Oklahoma Tax Commission's Annual School. Bring a friend or co-worker and introduce them to our wonderful chapter. ☺

COUNTY GOVERNMENT DAY AT THE CAPITAL

APRIL 7TH IS COUNTY GOVERNMENT DAY AT THE CAPITAL. Pictures will be taken at 8:45 am on front steps of the Capital. Come and visit with your legislator and let them know where you stand on the bills that are still alive, and let them know we appreciate all the help they have given us.

A Message from Wade Patterson:

The Forms Committee will meet on Wednesday, April 7th at the Ad Valorem Division Offices, located at 3700 N. Classen Blvd. in OKC. The meeting will begin at 1:30 and end by 3:30. We will be reviewing numerous OTC and SA&I forms. If you have any questions please call Wade Patterson at 580-548-2435 or email at lwade@garfieldcountyemail.com.

Thanks a million.

Wade

District meetings are as follows:

MAY 7TH: SE - Pittsburg County

Jim Kelley-Chairman

May 14th: SW - Grady County

Bari Firestone-Chairwoman

May 21st: Creek County

Nikki Wedel - Chairwoman

May 28th: Logan County

Jackie Gooch – Chairwomen

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Jackie Gooch – 5th

Lisa Smart – 15th

Debbie Croasdale – 19th

Jacquie Rose – 23rd

CONGRATULATIONS TO SCOTT MARSH !!! He was appointed April 1st as the Rogers County Assessor. Melissa retired on March 31st after 30 years of service to Rogers County. Congratulation to you Melissa! And welcome aboard Scott! Scott's e-mail is scott@rogerscouny.org

The Everlasting Light

Those we love must someday pass beyond our present sight...must leave us and the world we know without their radiant light. But we know that like a candle, their lovely light will shine to brighten up another place more perfect...more divine. And in the realm of Heaven, where they shine so warm and bright, our loved ones live forevermore in God's eternal light. May you find in all your memories a constant source of comfort and may it comfort you to know Cathy Hokit and Phil McCoy that your loved one is safe in God's care and that friends are praying for you in your time of sorrow.

Our condolences go out to Cathy Hokit with the passing of her mother, and Phil.