

County Assessors Association of Oklahoma

The Assessment Files

Volume 6

May 2010

From the President's Desk...

It's hard to believe we are nearing the end of May and the last District Meeting and moving toward the end of another Protest Period. It seems like it was just April. The District Meetings continue to amaze me, as they are all so very unique. My hats off to the host districts this year, and to all the hard work to make the meetings a success. It's been fun even if I have to get up in the middle of the night depending on the location.

As of this writing I'm a little disappointed with some of the last minute legislation but as I've voiced at every District Meeting, "Don't take anything for granted keep in touch with your legislators and keep them informed".

I want to take a minute to send our condolences to Kathy Mask at the passing of her mother and we send our prayers and love to her and to her family. Kathy has always been a vital part of not only the Assessors Association but also CODA and we appreciate her so much.

Hope everyone has a safe and a very relaxing Memorial Day Weekend.

Ronnie Funck
President



June Birthday's



Mr. Randy Wintz – 54

Donna Giddens – 7

Sonya Booher – 14

Roger Ballard – 16

Letitia Stockton – 24

David Tinsley - 24

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Dear Assessors,

The session is about over, however, I am afraid that damage will be around for a long time. How much damage is unknown at the time of this writing?

I appreciate all of you for the phones calls and support through this session. I will give you a complete update and report soon.

Jim

The Ad Valorem Bore 'Em (May 2010)

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

Most Frequent Telephone Call

With the wild Oklahoma weather the first part of last week, Kenny Chuculate received many telephone calls about storm damage. The statutory authorization to make storm damage adjustment is 68 O.S., Section 2817 K.

It allows the assessor and county board of equalization to make appropriate adjustments for fire, lightning, storm, winds, flood waters, overflow of streams or other cause when value of land or improvement is impaired, damaged or destroyed. Questions?? Call Kenny Chuculate.

Most Unusual Telephone Call

No unusual telephone calls this month, but we did have one that was interesting. Someone called and asked the person who answered the telephone in our office how she voted in the last election. She told them diplomatically that wasn't something she wanted to discuss.

A history teacher of mine in high school had the best answer for that question that I've ever heard. He was asked by a nosy school board member how he voted and he said, "I voted exactly the same way you voted."

The man looked at the teacher and said, "How could you vote exactly the same way I did?"

The school teacher said, "I voted Secret Ballot just like you did."

Trivia fact: Although some ancient Greek elections were secret ballot, the modern practice of keeping the voter's ballot secret started in Australian elections. A secret ballot used to be called an Australian ballot because they started that practice in the 1850s to keep voters from being intimidated and the practice was adopted in American shortly afterwards.

Oklahoma County's Mapping Department Does it Again

Oklahoma County did a great job in reviewing their taxpayer's storm damage. Leonard Sullivan's troops mapped the location and extent of damage of the unwelcome EF-3 visitors. The map shows a clear pattern that traces the physical destruction of the storm's passage. Good records and good maps are a great combination. Mike Morrison has posted the maps, damage percentages, and photographs out on their web site. Good job by James Mallory. (Check out the article in the Ad Valorem Forum.)

Best Two Meals of the Month (So Far)

At the Southeast District meeting we ate at the famous Pete's Place in McAlester. The building is a lot larger than it used to be, but it is still as good as the first time I ate there back when I was just out of school and worked for the Legislature.

The history of Pete's Place makes the experience more interesting. Pete Pritchard, his name changed by immigration officials when he arrived, was injured in a mining accident and started several meals and drinks (probably some Choc beer) to miners and others.

Southwest District also did a good job in Chickasha. We drove through some rain to get there, but missed the hail storm later that weekend. Bari Firestone did a great job at her first hosting job for a District meeting and they had great meeting and meal.

Camillie Harp, who was the entertainment, will be the opening act for Tanya Tucker's concert later this year.

Interesting Situation

The Wall Street Journal (April 6, 2010) had an article on the TV series "Extreme Makeover". You know the show where they find a struggling family with a story that tugs at your heart strings and then they fix up their property?

Oklahoma has had three of those as far as we can determine, one in Comanche, one in Cleveland County, and one in Washington County. We're working on an article for the Ad Valorem Forum on the "Extreme Makeover Oklahoma Style".

Having a sister is good for you.

A sister increases your chances of being well-adjusted and sane. According to a study, sisters often are the glue that holds siblings together and encourages more open communication. Tony Cassidy, the author of the study, says that family connections lead to better mental health. So if you claimed that your sister drove you crazy when you were a kid, it wasn't her. It was your own fault.



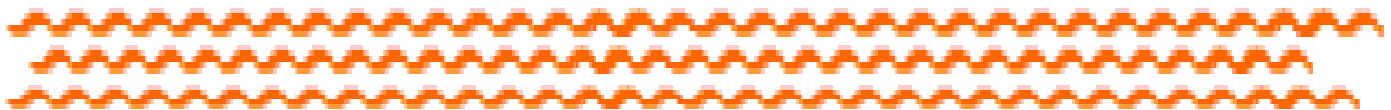


ASSESSOR TRAINING ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

We are looking forward to a long Memorial weekend. Not going to the lake, probably won't play golf, maybe a little BBQ and some sittin around. Just relaxin and enjoying being home a day.

We have Unit 6 coming up on June 8 in Tulsa and Unit 7 will be June 29 at Western Hills lodge and that will wind up our teaching calendar for this fiscal year. But we'll be starting over with Unit 1, July 27 in Norman. Our training schedule will be complete and on the web site soon, promise.

Everyone have a safe and enjoyable Memorial holiday and remember the reason for the season.
As always, Gary and Doug



CCAP

I had the pleasure to attend the SE District Assessor's Meeting hosted by Pittsburg County. Thank you to Jim Kelly and his staff for their hard work and a great call on having the meal at Pete's. You certainly have a hard time staying on a diet plan there. Rick Mask and his family were super in the gathering at their home and he proves to be quite a good cook.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the golf team I played with at Arrowhead. Where to start...hmmmm? Team member Trina Williams, McIntosh Co. Assessor what a quick learner, never having played REAL golf before she was quite good and we used several of her shots. Now for the guys, Troyce King, Pottawattamie County Assessor and Roger Crawford of East Central Oklahoma Appraisal, LLC.,..... ***they had their own clubs and they looked appropriately dressed for the game***, that's all I'm saying.

Grady County hosted the SW District Assessor's Meeting at their fairgrounds building that has some interesting history as a German prisoner of war camp established in 1944. During World War II Chickasha was home to the Wilson and Bonfils Flying School, where in October 1941 cadets began training to become U.S. Army Air Force pilots. More than eight thousand aviators trained there during the nearly four years that the school was active. The facility and fields are now a part of the Chickasha Municipal Airport. In 1942 the Borden General Hospital was established and used by the army. These grounds are currently home to the Grady Memorial Hospital, Chickasha High School,

and Borden Park. Chickasha was founded in 1892 with the arrival of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway. The town's post office opened in June of that same year, and incorporation came in 1902.

The Oklahoma Industrial Institute and College for Girls was established in Chickasha in 1908. Land for the college was donated by local rancher J. B. Sparks in memory of his daughter Nellie, who had died while at college in Missouri. In 1965 the college became coeducational and was designated the Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts. In 1975 another name change was made to the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, as it is presently known.

Thanks to Bari Firestone and her staff. The entertainment was phenomenal. I hope to be able to catch Camille Harp at some of her upcoming events. As always, it is great to be able to visit with the people in the assessor's office.

CCAP Heads Up Alert

Donise Rogers from Major County sent me a link to a CBS story that has already aired. Some of you may have seen this but I had not and was very surprised. Please take time read the story below. Also there is a link to the YouTube video from CBS.

Tuesday May 18, 2010

[FTC Warned: Digital Copiers Hide Hard Drives, Copied Documents](#)



The Federal Trade Commission has responded to [a letter](#) released by Congressman Ed Markey, who wrote to the agency over concerns that copiers may be hiding digital copies of scanned documents.

Most high-end digital copiers sold today store the scanned documents on flash memory or hard drives, which can pose a security risk if the drives themselves are either lost or resold.

Last month, CBS News [filed](#) an investigative report noting that many digital copiers hide hard drives inside of them, which in fact store the documents users copy on them: medical records, pay stubs, even details of narcotics operations.

Most copiers and even fax machines store images in local memory, then, over time, the buffer becomes overrun. Companies like Xerox also supply utilities that can overwrite the drive's contents. CBS, however, visited a warehouse where previously owned copiers could be purchased for under \$400. And those copiers contained hard drives, which stored the images until the drive itself was removed.

CBS nabbed a major insurance company as well as Buffalo, N.Y. law enforcement agencies with data stored on the drives.

"The FTC is aware of reports regarding the privacy risks associated with the use of digital copiers," Jon Leibowitz, the FTC's chairman, responded to Markey. "Like you, we also are concerned that personal information can be so easily retrieved from copiers, making it vulnerable to misuse by identity thieves. As you point out, businesses and government agencies should ensure that the information on the hard drives in digital copiers are wiped clean of personal information after the conclusion of use. The FTC is now reaching out to copier manufacturers, resellers and retail copy and office supply stores to ensure that they are aware of the privacy risks."

The FTC said that government agencies "acquire ownership of the hard drives" and subsequently destroy them.

Although I seem to recall a similar story from a few years back, this is a wakeup call to a potential back door into many of our most personal documents. And here's a scary thought: April 15 wasn't too long ago. How many of you copied your most personal records and tax documents at a public copier?

<http://www.flixxy.com/copy-machines-security-risk.htm>

This article taken from GEARLOG.com

This certainly made me think of the security of my personal information from whole different perspective. CCAP would suggest that anytime you trade or dispose of any copier that you either have the manufacturer tell you how to "wipe clean" the hard drive or have their technicians do that for you.

As always, please contact us with any problems you may be experiencing with your system.

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FROM THIS REPORTER'S NOTES

I would like to say: "THANK YOU" to everyone who drove in the pounding rain and storms and showed up at the capital on the 19th of May to work on SB 1589 (AT&T). That was one of the bigger turnouts we have had in quite some time! We were able to get the handouts passed out to every Representative and Senator in no time at all and also work on HB 2573 and 2041 for the Sheriff's and County Government. I was aware of a Commissioner and a couple of County Clerk's who also pitched in to help. THANK YOU!!! It's great that we can all work together for the betterment of County Government.

Please take a few minutes and contact our Governor on SB1589. It is our last chance.

Gail



International Association of Assessing Officers
OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

Educational Opportunities: (details coming soon)

Well, we are still trying to provide two (2) 1-day forums back-to-back to give everyone the opportunity to “double up” on your educational needs. Rick Stuart, CAE was already booked for the entire 2010 year. Therefore we are trying to acquire the services of instructor Marion Johnson. So far his only teaching window is November 2010 and we’ve asked for a list of available classes. Hopefully we can pick two that will help provide the instruction we need. If you are looking to further your education or acquire continuing education hours be sure to check the local chapter’s website for the latest information
<http://OK-IAAO.OklahomaCounty.org>.

George “Keyes” Nominations are now open:



We’ve already received some nominations and so far the feedback is very positive. If you would like to make a nomination you may download the 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.

Next Chapter Meeting:

The local chapter will hold its next meeting in Tulsa during the Oklahoma Tax Commission’s Annual School. (August 2010) Bring a friend or co-worker and introduce them to a great group.

Become a member today:

If you’re not already an IAAO member I encourage you to join their organization and our local chapter to provide your professional life with a solid assessment foundation.

President – Mike Morrison

Vice President – Keith Hulsizer

Treasure/Sec – Daniel Jenkins

Preparation for Memorial Day



It is the **VETERAN**, not the preacher, who has given us freedom of religion.

It is the **VETERAN**, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the **VETERAN**, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.

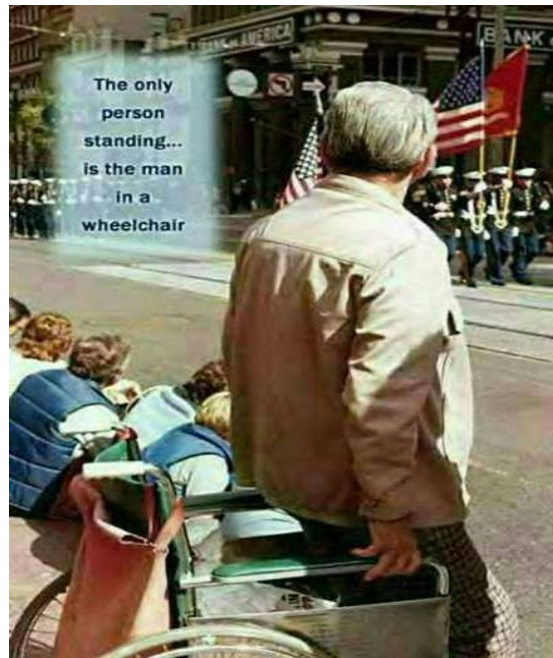
It is the **VETERAN**, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to assemble.

It is the **VETERAN**, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the **VETERAN**, not the politician, who has given us the right to vote.



It is the **VETERAN** who salutes the Flag,



It is the **VETERAN** who serves under the Flag,



**ETERNAL REST GRANT THEM O LORD,
AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM.**

God Bless them all!!!



Flag Day



When : Always June 14th

Flag Day, is a day for all Americans to celebrate and show respect for our flag, its designers and makers. Our flag is representative of our independence and our unity as a nation...one nation, under God, indivisible. Our flag has a proud and glorious history. It was at the lead of every battle fought by Americans. Many people have died protecting it. It even stands proudly on the surface of the moon.

As Americans, we have every right to be proud of our culture, our nation, and our flag. So raise the flag today and every day with pride!

Properly Display Our Flag

There is a right way and a wrong way to display the flag. The American flag should be held in the highest of regards. It represents our nation and the many people who gave their lives for our country and our flag. Here are the basics on displaying the American flag:

- The flag is normally flown from sunrise to sunset.
- In the morning, raise the flag briskly. At sunset, lower it slowly. Always, raise and lower it ceremoniously.
- The flag should not be flown at night without a light on it.
- The flag should not be flown in the rain or inclement weather.
- After a tragedy or death, the flag is flown at half staff for 30 days. It's called "half staff" on land ,and "half mast" on a ship.
- When flown vertically on a pole, the stars and blue field , or "union", is at the top and at the end of the pole (away from your house).
- The American flag is always flown at the top of the pole. Your state flag and other flags fly below it.
- The union is always on top. When displayed in print, the stars and blue field are always on the left.
- Never let your flag touch the ground, never...period.
- Fold your flag when storing. Don't just stuff it in a drawer or box.
- When your flag is old and has seen better days, it is time to retire it. Old flags should be burned or buried. Please do not throw it in the trash.

Did you Know? There is a very special ceremony for retiring the flag by burning it. It is a ceremony everyone should see. Your local Boy Scout group knows the proper ceremony and performs it on a regular basis. If you have an old flag, give it to them. And, attend the ceremony.

Famous Flag People:

Betsy Ross was a seamstress who made clothes for George Washington. In June, 1776, Washington approached her to make the country's first flag and the rest is history.

Francis Scott Key Inspired by the British bombardment of Fort McHenry, Francis Scott Key penned the lyrics to our national anthem as he witnessed the event as British rockets whizzed in the air while our American Flag flew in the breeze

Did you Know? If you like to study flags, then you are a Vexillologist!

Flag Day recognizes the June day in 1777 when the Continental Congress adopted the "Stars and Stripes" as the official flag of the United States. Following are classroom activities to recognize and celebrate Flag Day--June 14.

THE LESSON

Collect a variety of books and other resources on the subject of the U.S. flag. In the days leading up to June 14, invite students to use the Internet and the other resources you've collected to learn more about the [U.S. flag](#). Ask students to record in their notebooks any facts they find that they didn't know before about the flag or Flag

Day. Set aside a special time a day or two before Flag Day for students to share the facts they've collected. Those facts might include a few of the following:

- In 1814, Francis Scott Key wrote a poem, "Defense of Fort McHenry," when he saw the flag still flying the morning after an attack by the British. Today, that poem is known by another name: "The Star-Spangled Banner."
- The Flag Act of 1818 states that a star be added for any new state on the Fourth of July following that state's admission.
- [Flag Day](#) was observed for the first time in 1877, the 100th anniversary of the adoption of our country's red-white-and-blue banner.
- Students first said the Pledge of Allegiance in 1892, the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in the Americas.
- In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson established Flag Day as an annual national celebration.
- Congress officially recognized Flag Day by passing the National Flag Day Bill in 1949, during President Harry Truman's administration.
- In 1983, the world's largest flag was displayed in Washington, D.C. The flag, which measured 411 feet by 210 feet, weighed 7 tons! Each star measured 13 feet across!



The Great Debate: Who Designed the U.S. Flag?

Who designed the U.S. flag? Ask that question of your students, and chances are they'll say Betsy Ross designed the U.S. flag. But did she?

No one knows for sure who designed the U.S. flag or who created the first one. Today, most experts agree that Francis Hopkinson, a delegate to the Continental Congress from New Jersey, designed the flag. But, in 1870, William J. Canby claimed that his grandmother, a seamstress from Philadelphia named Betsy Ross, made the first U.S. flag.

Challenge students to use the Internet and other resources to learn more about this debate and to come to their own conclusions about who designed the first U.S. flag.

FATHERS DAY JUNE 20

The idea for creating a day for children to honor their fathers began in Spokane, Washington. A woman by the name of Sonora Smart Dodd thought of the idea for Father's Day while listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909.

Having been raised by her father, William Jackson Smart, after her mother died, Sonora wanted her father to know how special he was to her. It was her father that made all the parental sacrifices and was, in the eyes of his daughter, a courageous, selfless, and loving man. Sonora's

father was born in June, so she chose to hold the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane, Washington on the 19th of June, 1910.

In 1926, a National Father's Day Committee was formed in New York City. Father's Day was recognized by a Joint Resolution of Congress in 1956. In 1972, President Richard Nixon established a permanent national observance of Father's Day to be held on the third Sunday of June. So Father's Day was born in memory and gratitude by a daughter who thought that her father and all good fathers should be honored with a special day just like we honor our mothers on Mother's Day. The excerpt below is from the Silver Anniversary Book on Father's day published in 1935. I would like to thank William Jackson Smart's great granddaughter, Bonnie, for sharing this with me.

"This year, 1935, the Silver Anniversary of Fathers' Day is being observed. Thirty-seven years ago, in the Big Bend hills of Washington, the day had its nativity in a lonely farm dwelling. There Sorrow ministered amid the moaning of the March winds.

A father sat with bowed head in his aloneness. About him clung his weeping children. The winds outside threw great scarfs of powdered snow against the window panes, when suddenly the last born tore himself from the group and rushed out into the storm calling for his mother. Yet even his baby voice could not penetrate the great silence that held this mother.

Hurriedly, the father gathered him back to his protection and for more than two decades, William Jackson Smart, alone, kept paternal vigilance over his motherless children.

This poignant experience in the life of Mrs. John Bruce Dodd of Spokane, Washington, who was then Sonora Louise Smart, was the inspiration for Fathers' Day which materialized through the devotion of this father and the father of her own son, John Bruce Jr., born in 1909. Through the observance of the love and the sacrifice of fathers about her everywhere, her idea of Fathers' Day crystallized in 1910, through a formal Fathers' Day petition asking recognition of fatherhood."

Daddy's Hands by Holly Dunn

I remember daddy's hands folded silently in prayer
And reachin' out to hold me, when I had a nightmare
You could read quite a story in the callous' and lines
Years of work and worry had left their mark behind

I remember daddy's hands how they held my mama tight
And patted my back for something done right
There are things that I'd forgotten that I loved about the man
But I'll always remember the love in daddy's hands

Daddy's hands were soft and kind when I was cryin'
Daddy's hands were hard as steel when I'd done wrong
Daddy's hands weren't always gentle but I've come to understand
There was always love in daddy's hands.

I remember daddy's hands workin' 'til they bled
Sacrificed unselfishly just to keep us all fed

If I could do things over, I'd live my life again
And never take for granted the love in daddy's hands

What Makes A Dad

God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so, He called it ... Dad

Author is unknown

Gift Kids Can Make For Dad

Fill a jar with Hersheys Hugs and Kisses. Take one pair of new sports socks and one pair of gloves (gardening gloves, work gloves, etc.) Tack the socks together toe to toe. This makes a pair of arms. Tack one glove to the the open end of each of the socks. Now you have arms and hands. Wrap the arms and hands around the jar a couple of times, crossing the hands at the front and tack together. Attach this poem:

*DADDY,
If all these Kisses aren't enough,
There's two hands to help with garden stuff.
If all these hugs don't work their charm,
There's two arms to help keep you warm.
If this gift doesn't show how much we care,
We have REAL hugs & kisses to share!*