

# Happy Independence Day

COUNTY ASSESSORS ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA



THE ASSESSMENT FILES



VOLUME 7

JUNE 2010

## From the President's Desk...

Well time to exhale as protests and hearings are over and all is left is to put the pieces back together and get ready for another year. It seems like I was just saying the first of June is here and as I look up the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday is upon us. Thought I'd do something different in this letter and not even mention work. I will mention as we approach this 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, you take a minute and voice a collective prayer not only for our nation but for the troops and their families. They contributions, which sometimes require the giving of their lives to allow us to enjoy our everyday freedoms, which we too often take for granted, are what allow us to celebrate on Independence Day. I hope everyone takes advantage of the next month or so to get away and just relax and enjoy some quality family time. What a special group I have, to have the privilege of working with and serving as your President. Have a Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July week end and please be safe.

Ronnie Funck,



## The Ad Valorem Bore 'Em (June 2010)

We sometimes have leftover news items that didn't make the cut for the Forum, so we print it in the "Ad Valorem Bore 'Em: Stuff Not Quite Good Enough for the Forum". It's our version of a blog, except it's not on the Internet."

### **Best Ad Valorem Question of the Month**

This is one of my favorite ad valorem stories. At Oklahoma County we had a nice young lady from Chicago who worked in the personal property section. She was very helpful but had never lived in Oklahoma previously. She was helping a farmer with a rendition (yes, there are farmers in Oklahoma County) and was going through the man's property as he listed it.

She listed all his equipment, but she couldn't find the line item for one of the livestock, so she called across the bull pen, "I can find cattle and sheep, but where's the line for his brush hog?"

If you're not sure what a brush hog is, call the Ad Valorem Division. We know.

### **Pictures, Pictures, Pictures**

Remember that we will have the photographer at the meeting again this year for the group picture of all the county assessors. This has really been a nice historical record. We think this is the eleventh year in a row that the county assessors have all had their picture taken together. Cyndi Heath helped me get it started years ago by tracking down the photographer. I thought it was a great idea since we used to take periodic pictures of all the staff at Oklahoma County, and it is really fun to look back on all of us and see how we've all aged so gracefully. Yeah, right.

### **Last of the District Meetings (It's all good)**

Creek County's Nikki Wedell hosted a great Northeast District meeting at Camp Loughridge, a rustic lodge just a few miles from downtown Tulsa or Sapulpa depending on which direction you're coming from. Camp Loughridge was Tulsa's first YWCA camp offering summer camps there more than 80 years ago. In 1959, First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa acquired the Camp, and changed its name to Camp Loughridge, in memory of the Reverend Robert M. Loughridge, a pioneer missionary to the Creek Indian Nation.

We enjoyed a great meal and a wonderful entertainment by Mike Pahsetopah, who is a Native American Fancy Dancer and Story Teller. Mike, his wife, and his seven-year-old daughter did a super job for the group. His daughter practically stole the show. It was a great example of the beauty and complexity of Oklahoma's Native American culture.

We also had good meeting with the Northwest District whose assessors are always cheerful except for certain days during personal property rendition filings in May. You can tell that you've been here a long time if you remember the last time that Logan County hosted the NW District meeting. Actually, in those days the counties met as the Northwest/North Central district at the suggestion of Joe Forbes and others. Thank heavens we've finally gone to four districts, not the old five district system.

Jackie Gooch and her staff did a great job, and we had a good meeting with a great lunch.

Monica Schmidt and Gail Hedgcoth taught the women in the Northwest District the Indian women's "lulu" call in the authentic way, not the Hollywood version. They'd learned it the week before at the NE District entertainment by Mike Pahsetopah's wife. I'm sure you'll hear the call in Tulsa several times.

### **Positive Thinking: Not Always Good.**

Positive thinking sometimes makes depressed people feel terrible. Researchers found that repeating affirming statements (like "I'm a positive person and people like me.") do not really help. The people compare themselves to the ideal, and they don't feel like they can live up to such a high standard that just makes them more depressed. Psychologist Joanne Wood said "positive self-statements, despite their widespread endorsement, may back fire for the very people who need them the most."

I know if I had to walk around saying "I'm a positive person and people love to pay taxes", it sure wouldn't help my mood.

### **Thanks for County Assessors in this election season**

I'm proud of the people who step up and are willing to run for county assessor. As I always say, it's a difficult, sometimes thankless job, but it is absolutely essential. It's a real service to your county, and it is appreciated more than you might know.



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

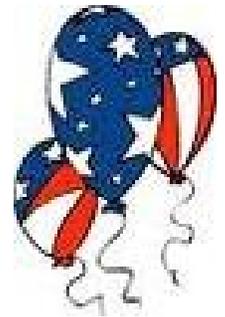
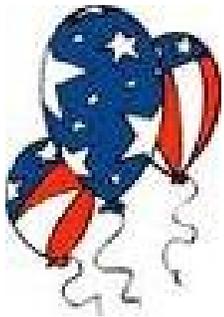
Hi Assessors & Deputies,

Kenney & I are preparing to give a complete update on all new laws at the conference in August. Kenney has prepared a good power point presentation and we will bring you up to date at that time.

I am attaching a copy of our tracking list that should have all of the bills on it. However, if you have any question concerning any current law please let me know.

See you in August,

Jim



**Marilyn Swift - 2**  
**Tim Trent - 6**  
**Kathy Ladlee - 8**  
**Leon Hurt - 12**  
**Monica Schmidt - 19**  
**Jim Kelley - 20**  
**Ralph Wilson - 21**  
**Linda Coleman - 25**



# ASSESSOR TRAINING ACCREDITATION PROGRAM



Center for Local Government Technology  
Assessor Training and Accreditation Program

5202 N. Richmond Hills Rd.  
Stillwater, OK. 74078  
Ph. 405-744-6049  
Fx. 405 744-7268  
clgt@okstate.edu

## Class Schedule June – December 2010

Course	Date		Time	City	Hotel	Location
	Beg	End				
Unit 7 (Ag Land Valuation)	6/29/10	6/30/10	8:30 - 4:30 Tu 8:30 - 12:00 Wed	Hulbert	Western Hills Lodge Sequoyah State Park 17131 Park 10 Hulbert OK 918-772-2545	Western Hills Lodge Sequoyah State Park 17131 Park 10 Hulbert OK 918-772-2545
Unit 1 (Intro.to Assessor's Office)	7/27/10	7/30/10	1:00 Tues 8:30 4:30 W, Th 8:30 12:00 Fr	Norman	Hilton Garden Inn Norman 700 Copperfield Drive Norman, OK 73072 (405) 579-0100	Hilton Garden Inn Norman 700 Copperfield Drive Norman, OK 73072 (405) 579-0100
Unit 2 (Real Property Appraisal)	8/24/10	8/27/10	8:30 - 4:30 Tu, W, Th 8:30 12:00 Fr	Norman	Hilton Garden Inn Norman 700 Copperfield Drive Norman, OK 73072 (405) 579-0100	Hilton Garden Inn Norman 700 Copperfield Drive Norman, OK 73072 (405) 579-0100
Data Collection (Residential)	9/8/10	9/10/10	8:30 - 4:30 W, Th 8:30 - 12:00 Fri	STW	Cimarron Hotel & Suites 315 N. Husband Stillwater, OK 74074 (405) 372-2878	CLGT 5202 N. Richmond Hills Rd. Stillwater, OK. 74078 405-744-6049
Unit 3 (Mass Appraisal)	9/28/10	10/1/10	8:30 - 4:30 Tu, W, Th 8:30 12:00 Fr	Norman	Hilton Garden Inn Norman 700 Copperfield Drive Norman, OK 73072 (405) 579-0100	Hilton Garden Inn Norman 700 Copperfield Drive Norman, OK 73072 (405) 579-0100
Unit 4 (Income Approach)			1:00 Tues 8:30 4:30 W, Th 8:30 12:00 Fr	TBA		
Unit 5 (Business Personal Property)			8:30 - 4:30 W, Th 8:30 - 12:00 Fri	TBA		
Unit 6 (Cadastral Mapping)	11/30/10	12/3/10	1:00 Tues 8:30 - 4:30 W, Th, 8:30 - 12:00 Fri	Norman	Hilton Garden Inn Norman 700 Copperfield Drive Norman, OK 73072 (405) 579-0100	Hilton Garden Inn Norman 700 Copperfield Drive Norman, OK 73072 (405) 579-0100
Unit 7 (Ag Land Valuation)				TBA		





Hello everyone,

It's time for our next Oklahoma IAAO Local Chapter meeting.

**Where/When:**

- Tulsa, Ok - Annual Oklahoma Tax Commission Education Conference
- Marriott Southern Hills – 1902 E. 71<sup>st</sup> Street
- Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- Immediately following the close of Wednesday classes (approximately 4:45 PM)
- Salons D & E

I am currently working on the agenda for the meeting and wanted to inquire with the chapter members to see if there are any issues you would like addressed. If you have anything you would like to add the agenda please send them to me and I'll make sure we cover them.

Also, you still have time to nominate a chapter member for the 1<sup>st</sup> ever "George Keyes Award". The final deadline is July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010 so don't delay, it will be here before you know it. Get your nomination form here <http://ok-iaao.oklahomacounty.org/KeyesAward.htm>. The recipient will be announced at the local chapter's meeting during the Fall Conference in OKC.

Hope to see you in Tulsa.

**Mike Morrison**

**IAAO Oklahoma Chapter President**

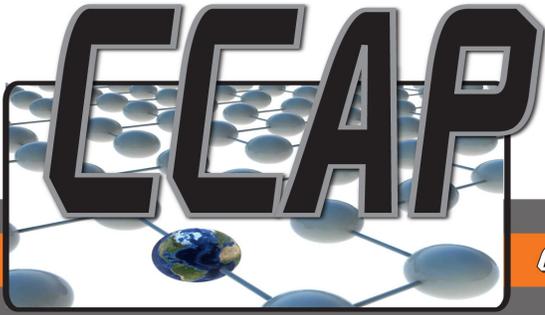
**Oklahoma County Assessor's Office**

**Comptroller & Web Designer**

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**<http://www.oklahomacounty.org/assessor>**

Email: [MicMor@OklahomaCounty.org](mailto:MicMor@OklahomaCounty.org)



*COUNTY COMPUTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM*  
*OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY*

## Assessor's Annual Conference August 10-13, 2010

This is a list of what we will be covering in our classes at OSU/TULSA University.

Wednesday and Thursday classes are the same.

- Data Entry—Tips and Tricks
- PDF Creator—How to utilize this great tool for emailing documents and reports-- to archiving those reports for quick access from your computer
- Picture Resize Program—New cameras create very large files that eat up server storage-this lowers those files sizes ---VERY user friendly and a must for many counties.
- Server Backups—How to understand the backup report
- Offsite Backups—required by State Auditor and how we are handling that for you
- Group Address Changes
- Reports you may not realize are on the system and how they can help you.
- Timeline—When to do what you need to for rolling values from CAMA
- New Assessor- New Deputy training—Upcoming plans for training at Stillwater
- How to utilize a flash drive (if time permits)
- E-Mail--Dealing with it (if time permits)

If you have any questions about the classes please call Carol at 405.313.5183. See you in August!





## Forms Committee Update

Hello All:

I wanted to give you a brief update on the primary objectives of the Forms Committee and the work progress so far this year.

It is a goal of the Association, OTC, and SA&I to have all assessors across the state using the same forms. The goal is for the Forms Committee to meet every year, starting in the spring, to review the forms and apply any changes needed due to legislation, rules changes, or other reasons.

The Forms Committee has met several times since February and reviewed all OTC and SA&I forms used in the assessor's office. We will have one last meeting in July to finalize all changes to the forms for 2010 in time for the August OTC School in Tulsa. There will be a session at the school pertaining to the forms changes and future year revisions.

Most of the changes deal with adding additional fields we need on the forms. Many of the forms will have a similar appearance and be easily identified as the current version by the "Revised" date in the corner of each form. Some of the backgrounds have been changed so not to use as much ink when printing. Other minor changes have been made as well.

All OTC forms are available on the OTC website and can be downloaded. The updated forms will be available after the OTC school.

We really appreciate everyone that has participated in the Forms Committee meetings. It is great to have so many ideas and opinions on this mission. Although only 5 people can be on a committee, we encourage anyone interested to attend and participate in the meetings.

See you in Tulsa,



Wade

## From the Secretary – Treasurer

Just a quick reminder to everyone: The Annual Dues were e-mailed a couple of week ago to each county assessor. Associate dues for the associate members will be e-mailed or snail mailed this week.

### Dues need to be paid by August 20<sup>th</sup>.

If you did not receive your dues invoice via e-mail, call me and I'll resend it. Plans for the evening activities in Tulsa, at the annual school, have been finalized. The Registration/Event Flyer will be an attachment to this newsletter and will also be e-mailed to everyone.

I hope everyone is having a great summer. Congratulation to those that are unopposed!! For the ones that have drawn opponents, remember we are thinking of you.

Scott



Pontotoc County, Shari Todd lost her mother the end of May.  
Carter County, Kim Cain lost her father the first part of June.

Please keep both of these ladies and their families in your prayers.