



News From The President

School is over and we are all back at work. I hope everyone had an enjoyable week. I know I did. It was great to see everyone and visit with all my friends. The Tax Commission did a great job of organizing everything. It is a lot of work to plan and carry off an event like that. I want to thank Denise Heavner and her staff for a great job on registration and planning the evening activities for the Assessor's Association.

Speaking of a big event, be sure and send in your registration for the September CODA meeting. The CODA Board has planned an informative meeting. Our Assessor's Association meeting will be Thursday, September 11th at 1:30 p.m. Please try to attend. We will be discussing legislative issues for 2004. I am looking forward to Jeff McMahan's Fish Fry. It will be held at the Governor's Mansion on Wednesday, September 10th at 5:30 p.m. Everyone will need to use the parking lot located west of the mansion and east of the Capitol building. Be sure and turn in any deputy's names that have twenty years of service. They will be honored with a reception on Thursday night.

Plans are being made for our Ninety-Second Annual Convention. We are going to have a great meeting. I promise it will not be boring. Clear your calendars for October 29th, 30th, & 31st. We are going to have some new activities this year. I will tell you all about it in next month's newsletter.

See you at the CODA meeting!

Sincerely,
Kathi Mask



September Flower - Aster
September Gemstone - Blue Sapphire

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<i>Kelli Minson</i>	<i>Craig</i>	<i>Sept 3</i>
<i>Thyra Grounds</i>	<i>Texas</i>	<i>Sept 4</i>
<i>Gail Hedgcoth</i>	<i>Osage</i>	<i>Sept 6</i>
<i>Patty Hiner</i>	<i>Cimarron</i>	<i>Sept 12</i>
<i>Judy Barnes</i>	<i>Kay</i>	<i>Sept 14</i>
<i>Judie Thompson</i>	<i>Wagoner</i>	<i>Sept 17</i>
<i>Ronnie Funck</i>	<i>Canadian</i>	<i>Sept 18</i>
<i>Teresa Tallon</i>	<i>Jefferson</i>	<i>Sept 20</i>
<i>Cathy Carlile</i>	<i>Love</i>	<i>Sept 22</i>
<i>Sandra Stanley</i>	<i>Nowata</i>	<i>Sept 27</i>

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Reporter News

Greetings Everyone ...

The Annual School at Tulsa this year was great. I look forward to August each year because I enjoy seeing and visiting with everyone. It's like a big family reunion.



As in the past, the classes this year were very informative. Even with budget constraints, I felt the Oklahoma Tax Commission's Ad Valorem Division, along with the State Auditor & Inspector's office, the Center for Local Government Technology and the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension, put on an excellent school. With Jewette Farley and Steve Sutterfield offering their services at no charge this year, VLS, ESRI and some of the Assessors pitching in, we had a great variety of training. This just goes to show the quality of educators we have at our disposal. We are very fortunate to have them.

The vendors also put on some informative demonstrations. With increasing knowledge and technology, we have the ability to do so much more than in years past. It amazes me what can be done with the digital information we've entered over the past twelve years. Many of you old timers may still remember entering everything by hand; and the yards and yards of calculator tape on the floor making sure we "balanced". Looking back, it took a lot of time to enter all the data in the computer, but it was definitely worth all the hard work..

Of course, the evening entertainment offered by the Association was great. I know a lot of work goes into the preparation, planning and implementing of each event. We appreciate all the hard work put into making sure we all have a great time. Next year as Secretary of the Association, my staff and I will find out just how much work is involved.

I hope all of you had a safe return home, and I'll see you in the Fall.

Your Reporter,

Ralph Wilson



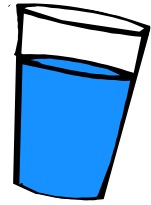
In Our Prayers

On Saturday, August 16, Camellia Turner, a deputy of Evelyn Bradley's in Garvin County had a son-in-law and grandson drown from a boating accident on Thunderbird Lake. Camellia's daughter and other grandson had second degree burns from the same accident. They were treated and released. Anyone wishing to send cards may send them to Camellia Turner, P.O. Box 341, Wynnewood, Oklahoma 73098.

Also, William Mack with the Oklahoma Tax Commission lost his mother earlier this month and was unable to attend the conference. He may be reached through the Oklahoma Tax Commission.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

This is really an eye opener Water or Coke? We all know that water is important, but did you know how important.



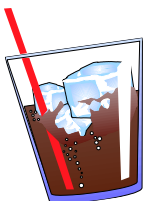
WATER:

1. 75% of Americans are chronically dehydrated.
2. In 37% of Americans, the thirst mechanism is so weak that it is often mistaken for hunger.
3. Even MILD dehydration will slow down one's metabolism as much as 3%.
4. One glass of water will shut down midnight hunger pangs for almost 100% of dieters studied in a Washington study.
5. Lack of water, the #1 trigger of daytime fatigue.
6. Preliminary research indicates that 8-10 glasses of water a day could significantly ease back pain.
7. A mere 2% drop in body water can trigger fuzzy, short-term memory, trouble with basic math, and difficulty focusing on the computer screen or on a printed page.
8. Drinking 5 glasses of water daily decreases the risk of colon cancer by 45%, plus it can slash the risk of cancer by 79%, and one is 50% less likely to develop bladder cancer.

AND NOW FOR THE PROPERTIES OF COKE:

1. The active ingredient in Coke is phosphoric acid. Its PH is 2.8. It will dissolve a nail in about 4 days. Phosphoric acid also leaches calcium from bones and is a major contributor to the rising increase in osteoporosis.
2. The distributors of coke have been using it to clean the engines of their trucks for 20 years.
3. In many states (in the USA), the highway patrol carries two gallons of coke in the trunk to remove blood from the highway after a car accident.
4. You can put a T-bone steak in a bowl of coke and it will be gone in two days.
5. To clean a toilet: Pour a can of Coca-Cola into the toilet bowl and let the "real-thing" sit for one hour, then flush clean. The citric acid in Coke removes stains from vitreous China.
6. To remove rust spots from chrome car bumpers: Rub the bumper with a rumped-up piece of Reynolds Wrap aluminum foil dipped in Coca-Cola.
7. To clean corrosion from car battery terminals: Pour a can of Coca-Cola over the terminals to bubble away the corrosion.
8. To loosen a rusted bolt: Applying a cloth soaked in Coca-Cola to the rusted bolt for several minutes.
9. To remove grease from clothes: Empty a can of coke into a load of greasy clothes, add detergent, and run through regular cycle. The Coca-Cola will help loosen grease stains.

NOW THE QUESTION IS WOULD YOU LIKE A COKE OR A GLASS OF WATER?



COSTUME CONTEST

!! ATTENTION EVERYONE !!

Start hunting for that Halloween costume. We will be having a Halloween Costume Contest during the Assessors' meeting in October. I want lots of participants. I promise it will be fun!

Watch for the September newsletter for more information on the contest. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Giddens, Greer County Assessor at 580-782-2740.

We have our first two participants already!



King Ralph's Alter-Ego



King Anwar Caddo

??? DID YOU KNOW ???

Delores Warren from the Murray County Assessor's Office is retiring effective September 1st, 2003. She has been in the Assessor's office for 19 years and 8 months. During that time she has worked with four Assessors. Her plans for retirement include spending time with her grandchildren. Congratulations Delores ... we wish you well.

Ad Valorem Update

Hello everyone from the Ad Valorem Division ...

Taking risks is good. That's what everyone says. Every year at the Ad Valorem Division we take a risk with our Division newsletter when we report that we had a good annual conference before it's actually over. That's just part of the process to get it printed on time, but it is always a risk our biggest headline will read, "Great Conference" after we had a massive riot in Remington, a disaster in the computer lab, a fight breaking out in the mapping track or like one year we had the hotter than Hades BBQ or the great power outage of 2002. That's what so great about the County Assessors' Association newsletter. It actually comes out after the conference.

But we're happy to report that nothing terrible happened as far as anyone knows. Tulsa 2003 worked out very well. We had 496 registered with few subtractions and a few additions, we're calling it 500 which is a terrific number. We're really pleased. Five hundred fifty has been our average over the last several years so with all the budget problems, it's even better. Our budget cuts, fewer meeting rooms, no buses, smaller breaks, good negotiation with the hotel, and help from our speakers, were a challenge, but we got through. Thanks for the county assessors and deputies for being understanding about the registration fee change. And super thanks again to our friends from Arkansas and Louisiana, Jewette Farley and Steve Sutterfield, for teaching classes for no fee.

My only regret which happens every year is the fact the Ad Valorem Division staff is sometimes so busy we don't have time to talk to everyone since it is such a hectic week.

Thanks again to the County Assessors' Association officers and members for their support and participation all week as well as Oklahoma State Center for Local Government Technology (CLGT) and Cooperative Extension, and State Auditor and Inspector (SA&I). I was also pleased that for the third or fourth year in a row that the CODA Board held their monthly meeting at the conference. It is always good for the other county officers see what the county assessors have to go through!

As I said at the Opening Session, it is a real part of being a public servant that many of our county assessors and deputies have to put aside family responsibilities and school start-ups to attend the Annual Conference. We appreciate it very much.

As I usually do, I went around to many sessions--Mapping, TerraScan training, Administrative, Appraisal, and drove out to Oklahoma State Tulsa campus for the CAMA sessions. It really is remarkable all the materials, changes and complexity of the work that county assessors and deputies perform on a daily basis. It has always been by far one of the most complicated jobs in the county court house.

The only session that might have been questionable was the appearance of the great and wise Professor Homestead in the Administrative Track. Ron Sosbee, State Auditor and Inspector (SA&I) Chief of Staff aka professional actor allegedly starred as Reynaldo T. Marvelous, a man with a homestead problem. I think Rick Sanchez and Atta Baka tried to steal the show with their portrayal of the Blues Brothers before the arrival of Professor Homestead. I'm just glad that Kenny Chuculate wasn't there to see this travesty of his beloved homestead exemption rules and regulations.

Well, we're looking forward to a busy fall. I've already talked with Kathi Mask about the CODA meeting and the County Assessors' Association Convention. I hope everyone has a good school start-up and we'll see everyone for CODA.

Jeff Spelman, CAE Director Ad Valorem Division

P.S. "Did you ever notice that the guy that preaches "Change is Good" doesn't understand why the old way worked, has the most to gain by the new system, and gets the maddest if you suggest a change to his change?" Anwar Caddo.

FOR YOUR INFO

Mary Moore, Assessor from Noble County and Karen Perkins, Ellis County Assessor have new email addresses. Also, Dewey County Assessor, Lennet Pisacka's email address was incorrect in the directory. Please note these in your directories.

mary@noblecountyassessor.com

ellisassr@pdi.net

deweycoassessor@talogatv.com

**COUNTY ASSESSORS ASSOCIATION
OF
OKLAHOMA**

500 East Broadway
Fairview, Oklahoma 73737

Phone: 580-227-4821
Fax: 580-227-2736
Email: rwilson@auroraok.org



YOUR KNOW YOU'RE IN OKLAHOMA IN AUGUST WHEN ...

The birds have to use potholders to pull worms out of the ground.

The trees are whistling for the dogs.

The best parking place is determined by shade instead of distance.

Hot water now comes out of both taps.

You can make sun tea instantly.

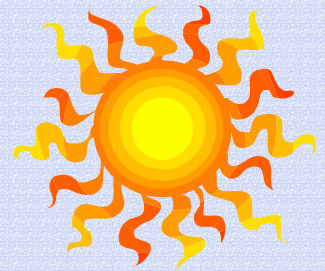
You learn that a seat belt buckle makes a pretty good branding iron.

The temperature drops below 95 and you feel a little chilly.

You discover that in August it only takes 2 fingers to steer your car.

You realize that asphalt has a liquid state.

Your biggest bicycle wreck fear is, "What if I get knocked out and end up lying on the pavement and cook to death?"



Submitted by Donna Giddens, Greer County Assessor