

News From The President

Assessor's and Deputies

This is my final newsletter and I want to thank everyone for your support during the year. I have really enjoyed representing our association across the state. The other officers were wonderful to work with, and anyone I asked for help always came through for me. It takes a lot of support from our members to keep our association strong.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Debbie Collins
Past President



December Flower—Narcissus (Daffodil)
December Gemstone—Blue Zircon

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<i>Mike Reynolds</i>	<i>Pontotoc</i>	<i>Dec 1</i>
<i>Glendel Rushing</i>	<i>Bryan</i>	<i>Dec 5</i>
<i>Mary Moore</i>	<i>Noble</i>	<i>Dec 5</i>
<i>Peggy Williams</i>	<i>Okfuskee</i>	<i>Dec 10</i>
<i>Wade Patterson</i>	<i>Garfield</i>	<i>Dec 12</i>
<i>Leonard Sullivan</i>	<i>Oklahoma</i>	<i>Dec 12</i>
<i>Rhonda Pritchett</i>	<i>Adair</i>	<i>Dec 22</i>



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AD VALOREM UPDATE

Greetings from the Ad Valorem Division. It's Thanksgiving Time again. That's pretty amazing that 2004 is about over.

There are several big-time retirements this month. We have appreciated working with the three county assessors who have or will shortly retire after many years of service. Bill Schultz, Grant County, Cheryl Hall, Payne County, and Sharon Butler, Seminole County. Just for the record, that's a combined 66 years of experience walking out the door, particularly since all those assessor's must have started working at age twelve. As I said in the Ad Valorem Forum, we've all appreciated Bill Schultz's calmness under stress, Cheri Hall's steady good job, and Sharon Butler's upbeat approach to everything.

Tax bills are on the streets in many counties with others working to get joint district millages settled so the bills can get out the door. This is a busy time of year and I know at most of the county assessor's offices this is a stressful month when everyone gets lots of calls about tax bills. Good taxpayer service and assistance is a tough job, and sometimes the "thanksgiving time" part of the effort comes later.

We enjoyed the County Assessor's Association Convention and the Oklahoma Association of Tax Representatives (OATR) meetings. I was glad that Mike Kemp of Conoco Phillips who is the new President of the Oklahoma Association of Tax Representatives (OATR) attended the convention. Mike Kemp gave a very positive and informative presentation to the County Assessors Association on the new Sarbanne Oxley law (SOX) and its impact on corporate governance.

We also had a good session with John Driskill from the Veterans Affairs Administration attended the meeting to discuss the new Veterans State Question. (I personally like Mr. Driskill's suggestion that we start a policy that any cell phone that goes off during a meeting is an automatic \$25 contribution to the charity of your choice.)

I don't know how many years, until she retired, Betty Price, Coal County Assessor, used to call all the people that she worked with on the day before Thanksgiving. The Ad Valorem Division was always on the list. What a great tradition. It's always nice to get a thank-you, especially since those are rather rare in our business. We should all remember how much a "thank-you" can mean. Have a good Thanksgiving. We'll see everyone at the State Board of Equalization (SBOE) meeting.

Sincerely,

Jeff Spelman

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Just a reminder . . .

If anyone is still interested in ordering the name badges offered by the County Assessor's Association at the Fall Conference, they are \$3.00 each. The Association will pay the cost for the Assessor's name badge, but you must contact Ralph Wilson, Major County Assessor to order one. We will not automatically order one for each Assessor. The Assessor name badge is gold with black writing, and the deputy name badge is silver with black writing. They have magnetic fasteners which work well with any clothing. We will accept cash, personal checks, or county purchase orders. The deadline for taking orders is December 3rd, 2004.

Contact information below :

**Ralph Wilson
Major County Assessor
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Fairview, Oklahoma 73737**



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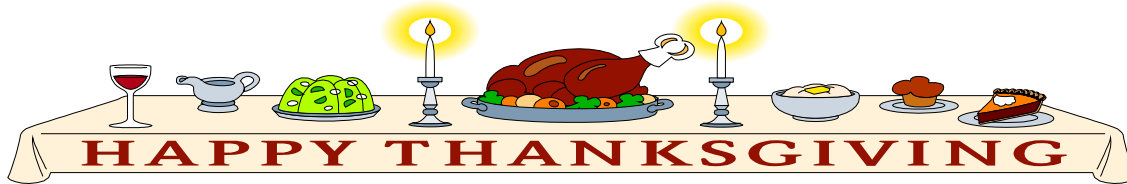
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An industrious turkey farmer was always experimenting with breeding a better turkey.

His family was fond of the leg portion for dinner and there were never enough legs for everyone. After many frustrating attempts, the farmer was relating the results of his efforts to his friends at the general store get together. "Well I finally did it! I bred a turkey that has 6 legs!" They all asked the farmer how it tasted. "I Don't know" said the farmer. "I never could catch the darn thing!"



Nap Time

Many people report drowsiness after eating Thanksgiving dinner. While turkey often receives the blame, recent studies suggest that carbohydrate-rich meals may cause sleepiness by increasing the number of tryptophans in the brain.

Therefore, the unusually large, multi-coursed, carbohydrate-rich meal most people eat on Thanksgiving is more likely the cause.

