



## THE ASSESSMENT FILES

COUNTY ASSESSORS ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA

JULY  
VOLUME 8  
2006

### News From the President

Greetings to All .....

Wow, this summer has been like a tropical paradise in Major County. The rainfall is exceeding our greatest expectations. Plants and crops are flourishing and the temperatures have been perfect! ..... Wait a minute ..... was I dreaming ??? Alright, who woke me up. It's hotter than Hades, the ponds are drying up, and the pastures are turning brown. We are in desperate need of some rain. I hope your county hasn't suffered as much as ours has the past few months. Let's all pray for rain for Oklahoma.

On a brighter note, the Annual Conference is right around the corner. I always enjoy getting to see and visit with my assessor family. I hope you feel the same. I try to make the most of my time in Tulsa. For some of us, it's the closest thing to a vacation away from home we get. I realize there are schedules to meet and classes to attend, but we can also find time to relax and enjoy ourselves. The Association has planned some of the usual evening activities such as bingo and a dance on Tuesday. Wednesday evening will be a night of fun. We will have bowling, pizza, salad, and soft drinks. On Thursday evening Donna Giddens has organized a modeling show which should be very interesting and entertaining. I hope you plan to attend some or all of the evening activities with your fellow assessors and deputies. As we always say, the more the merrier. But for you diehard shoppers, there are several malls close by.

Good news!!! Teresa Tallon had a good report July 24<sup>th</sup>. She is doing much better. I spoke with her today and her leukemia appears to be in remission. She still has one more round of treatment, but she is planning on going into work a little each day until she gains her strength. Continue to lift her up in prayer. I know she enjoys all your cards and phone calls. If you would like to send her a card, her home address is Rt. 2, Box 20, Waurika, Oklahoma 73573. Her home phone number is 580-228-3549.

See you all soon,

Ralph Wilson, President

## Ad Valorem Update

We're preparing for the Sixty-second Annual Conference August 8-11, 2006. We've lined out most of the final program and met last month with the County Assessors' Association officers and CLGT to discuss the last arrangements. As always, we appreciate the "partnership" with those groups and the State Auditor and Inspector (SA&I) that makes the Annual Conference a success year after year.

The other good news is the checks are in the mail. The partial payment of the five-year exemption county reimbursement was mailed out last week. The payment was approximately \$30 million with the provisions for payment of the schools' share first.

We have a steady stream of reservations coming into the hotel and conference registrations. Things appear to be going smoothly with the hotel. (They have the routine down to a fine art.) Be sure and remember to turn any designated rooms back to Cathy Gibson, so we can keep reservations in our block to be used for other attendees at the conference.

We've invited all the members of the State Board of Equalization and the President of the Oklahoma Association of Tax Representatives. We will also recognize all those who've completed their initial and advanced accreditation programs last year. Oklahoma's program is one of the best and most rigorously tested programs in the nation. To recognize that achievement, the Center for Local Government Technology and Ad Valorem Division will present accreditation certificates at the opening session.

Two special program items are on the agenda. We have the Executive Director of IAAO, Lisa Daniels, and next year's IAAO President, Marion Johnson, a county appraiser from Kansas, scheduled to attend. The Ad Valorem Division and County Assessors' Association are also going to recognize all those county assessors who have retired this year or have not filed for re-election. It's a significant milestone in someone's life when they leave public service, and we'd like to honor those county assessors who are leaving the profession and fellowship of county government.

Our conference theme is "Discovering Value in Assessment Education," so we will focus on material and classes that have a direct application to the work that county assessors and deputies perform every day.

The conference profile is elsewhere in this newsletter, but here are a few highlights:

We'll have a special session on Veterans Exemptions with Phillip Driskill of the Veterans Affairs Division to answer questions in that area. Kenny Chuculate will moderate a session on "Indian Law". Mark Tygert, a senior staff analyst with the

House of Representatives, will discuss Oklahoma's tax system and tax policy. William Mack will present an update on Public Service, and Larry Patton, Deputy General Counsel for the Tax Commission, will discuss "What to Do if You've Got to Do a Deposition."

A comprehensive session will be conducted on Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal. We'll also have another great mapping program with Troy Frazier, and as always, State Auditor and Inspector and the Oklahoma Tax Commission will teach their computer classes again out at OSU-Tulsa. State Auditor and Inspector will present training on the new Windows version of the Administrative Assessment package that they've updated.

Doug Warr and Gary Snyder will help with the introductory session again. They'll also conduct a session on "How to Value Mini-warehouse Storage Facilities." Don Sporleder and Ann Embree will present a session on adding omitted property. We'll also have sessions on personal property, and the five-year exemption program, as well as other items.

Long-time instructor Jewette Farley will present two presentations. His first presentation is on the income approach and the other on CAMA.

We're looking forward to getting on Tulsa Time. Hope to see everyone there.

Jeff Spelman, CAE  
Director  
Ad Valorem Division



### August Birthdays

Debbie Collins (Custer)	August 1
Scotty Crosby (Harper)	August 1
Charles Edwards (Tillman)	August 1
Eloise McCully (Kingfisher)	August 12
Shirley Bryant (Choctaw)	August 16
B.J. Parks (Seminole)	August 17
Todd Mathes (Washington)	August 31

## 2006 Legislative Session Update

We have just about completed the review of the Legislation. As of today we have not found any surprises.

We lost HB 2755; it was the land reimbursement bill. We will run it again next year.

We are also still working on the reimbursement for Exempt Manufacturing and Double Homesteads.

Kenny and I plan to give a complete update at the August Training Conference. I hope you are all having a great summer. See you at the Conference.

Jim Kelley

[jimkelley46@yahoo.com](mailto:jimkelley46@yahoo.com)

P.S. Dave Herbert is always willing to help with legislators or legislation. Dave can be reached at [dherbert@logixonline.com](mailto:dherbert@logixonline.com) or by phone at (405)733-3345.

## IAAO Update

Hello Everyone:

We had a great turnout at our two IAAO courses held within the past 4 weeks. I think everyone found the classes interesting and enjoyable. We were fortunate to have two excellent instructors, Rick Stuart and Marion Johnson. Both happened to be from Kansas. (Not that I'm biased, but I grew up as Jayhawker!)

We are looking forward to a good Chapter meeting in Tulsa, Wednesday afternoon, August 9. Lisa Daniels, the Executive Director of IAAO, will be our guest speaker and Marion Johnson will also be attending. He will be the next IAAO President, so we feel honored to have him in our presence.

The executive board plan to meet earlier and discuss some business details which should shorten the Chapter business meeting. That should leave plenty of time for our guest speaker. We would like to have a large attendance, so please come to the meeting.

If you have any questions, email me at [Monica@alvaok.net](mailto:Monica@alvaok.net)

Monica Schmidt

2006 IAAO Oklahoma Chapter President

## ATAP (Assessor Training and Accreditation Program)

As of July 1, 2006, the Center for Local Government Technology (CLGT) is no longer administering the County Training Program (CTP). CTP is being administered by the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service (OCES), with Dr. Notie Lansford serving as the contact person.

The Assessor's Accreditation Program is still being administered by CLGT and Doug and Gary are still conducting the training, and by the way a great big Thank You goes out to you folks for helping out during the legislative process to keep the program at CLGT and fund the program sufficiently.

We live in a world of acronyms and the new one the assessor program is ATAP, Assessor Training and Accreditation Program. This also includes training for County Board of Equalization members, which are also required to attend training designed for them.

Assessors and deputies are still welcome to attend training provided by OCES as in the past and will continue to count towards continuing education credit hours.

The schedule for Assessor training is being developed; we had problems finding classroom space because we waited for the legislature to fund the program, therefore we will not be presenting any classes until September 26, in OKC. All seven units will be presented in OKC in the fall with Unit 5 falling over into January 2007. We will mail out schedules and they will be available at the OTC Conference in Tulsa.

Our Website has a new look and new photos. You'll want to check out the photos often, as you know how we are with the camera. You never know who will be on the big screen.

The class schedule will also be on the website at: <http://clgt.okstate.edu/clgt> and you can email us at [clgt@okstate.edu](mailto:clgt@okstate.edu), or [gary.snyder@okstate.edu](mailto:gary.snyder@okstate.edu), or [doug.warr@okstate.edu](mailto:doug.warr@okstate.edu).

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at Tulsa.

*Gary and Doug*

If you have any questions please contact Doug Warr or Gary Snyder at 405-744-6049.

News from OCES/CTP

## **New Unit Assistant Joins County Training Program**

Renee Flasch has been hired as Unit Assistant for the County Training Program. She is responsible for maintaining the database of courses and student records. Her duties include entering registrations, tracking courses, updating transcripts, generating reports, and assisting customers.

Before coming to the County Training Program, Renee was a Data Entry Operator in Undergraduate Admissions at OSU for four years.

Renee was born and raised in Mulhall and she has been in Stillwater since 1993. She graduated in December, 2000, with a BA in Sociology. She worked at OSU throughout her college studies.

Renee says she is excited about this new opportunity where she will have more contact with clients. She is looking forward to meeting and working with new people. According to Renee, working in a department is a new and different atmosphere for her. She is anxious to learn and grow in her new position.

## **Senior Secretary Continues to Assist With County Training Program**

As she has done for the past two years, Gloria Cook, Senior Secretary in the Department of Agricultural Economics continues to work as a part of the County Training Program team. She will help Renee update and maintain the program database, plus oversee the production of course handbooks, and handle correspondence and other duties.

Gloria has worked for Agricultural Economics for 25 years. She took a short retirement in 2003, but came back to work in 2005. She is a native of Orlando, Oklahoma. She was born and raised on her grandfather's homestead, located outside of Orlando in Noble County, and she still lives there today.

Gloria says she really enjoys the work she does on the County Training Program and is looking forward to working with more of the county offices.

County Training Program  
Department of Agricultural Economics  
Room 313, Ag Hall  
Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078-8088

405-744-6555 FAX: 405-744-8210 or [ctp@okstate.edu](mailto:ctp@okstate.edu)

**Course Schedule for the next two months:**

Building Your Budget	August 3	Roman Nose Lodge
Cash Flow Management	August 4	Roman Nose Lodge
Court Clerk Record Keeping I	August 9	Woodward
Court Clerk Record Keeping II	August 15	Woodward
Court Clerk Confidentiality	August 16	Woodward
Purchasing Procedures	August 16-17	Ardmore
Tax Sale Procedures	August 23-24	Pryor/Claremore
Basic Finance	August 24-25	Stillwater
CODA Conference	September 13-15	Oklahoma City
Fundamentals of Administration	September 19	Duncan
Statute Reference/Legislative Proc.	September 20-21	Duncan
Communications Skills	September 27	El Reno
Public Speaking Skills	September 28	El Reno

## Reporter's Notes

Hello All:

Can you tell that the election process is in full swing? I am already tired of the "less than positive" ads and the pre-recorded phone calls. It seems like they get worse every year. What ever happened to telling people about yourself, and what you plan to do if elected to the position?

I appreciate when a candidate comes to my office and asks questions about the county. I always take them to every office in the courthouse so they can shake hands and answer questions. This may be the only opportunity you have to form an opinion of the candidate. You can tell a great deal about someone by their attitude, hand shake, and body language.

I think the candidates are realizing the far reaching impact county government can have on an election. Consider for a moment, there are 77 counties with 8 elected officers, that is 616 elected officers. In Garfield County there are approximately 175 employees. Those employees may be married and have kids that are of voting age. How may people do each one of those people talk to about the candidates? Because I work for the county, people ask me questions about the candidates all the time. We can have a great impact on elections, not only locally, but on the state level as well.

I encourage everyone to get involved in the campaign and election process. It is very important to county government who gets elected to certain offices. For instance,

the Governor, Lt. Governor, State Auditor and Inspector, Attorney General, and State Treasurer all sit on the State Board of Equalization. The SBOE is responsible for making numerous decisions that have a great impact, both legally and financially, on county government. We need to support those people who are good for county government.

There are still many local races to be decided. If you are in a race, we wish you the best and our prayers are with you. A call of support from you may be the encouragement one of the candidates needs today. Financial contributions will probably be accepted as well. I will try to provide a list of the assessor races in the August issue of the newsletter.

I have not yet reprinted the Assessor Directory. Our Career Tech is purchasing a new printing press and we wanted to wait until they had everything ready in their shop. I anticipate starting reprinting by next month. If you find any errors or corrections, please send me an email and I will make the changes before reprinting. I have several corrections to make already, so don't worry about being the only one with changes.

If you would like an article included in the newsletter, just send it to me by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month and I will try to fit it in. Please let me know if you have any ideas of how to improve the newsletter. Remember, this is our monthly connection to each other.

*Don't forget; "The best part of being a public servant is serving the public"*

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God Bless,  
Wade

