

County Assessors Association of Oklahoma

The Assessment Files

Volume 8

July 2007



Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude.

Thomas Jefferson

Editor's Note:

Due to hectic schedules and planning activities for the Annual Conference next week, this month's newsletter is shorter than usual. We hope to see everyone in Tulsa, and be sure to smile if a newsletter editor happens to be taking photos for next month's Assessment Files!

From the President's Desk...

Hello to Everyone,

I hope everyone has a safe trip to Tulsa and hope you find our conference very educational and informative. Also, I hope you enjoy the fellowship and fun.

See you there,

Cathy Hokit

Stephens County Assessor

President, County Assessors Association

chokit@texhoma.net

Vice President's News

Just a quick hello to let everyone know that we're excited about the upcoming OTC conference next week (actually, this week if you're just now reading it). Not only are we anticipating some new learning opportunities, but we're also excited about getting to see "Oklahoma!" again after a short hiatus.

Not much new to report, other than I hope everyone's having a great summer and staying high and dry (a reference to last month's flooding here in Washington County). The report to the excise board is looming in each county upon our return from the OTC conference...so get ready. Hope to see you all in Tulsa!

Your vice-president,

Todd Mathes

tmathes@countycourthouse.org

***Never tell people how to do things.
Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with
their ingenuity.
George Patton***

The Ad Valorem Division

Once every one hundred years!! Yes, it's Oklahoma's birthday and this year it will be the Centennial Edition of our Annual Conference. It's not our 100th conference, but we hope to recognize Oklahoma's heritage at the Sixty-third Annual Conference July 24-27, 2007. We've had to move our date earlier in the year because of Tiger Woods and some of his golfing friends in Tulsa for the PGA tournament. Our theme this year is "Remembering Our Past...Assessing Our Future."

Things are pretty hectic as we finish up with a lot of the last minute details. We've been in contact 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.

Reservations have been fairly steady. Things are going nicely with the hotel and conference registrations. All have been doing a good job of returning unused rooms, so they can be reassigned. We've invited all the members of the State Board of Equalization and the President of the Oklahoma Association of Tax Representatives. We have this year's IAAO President, Marion Johnson, a county appraiser from Kansas, scheduled to attend.

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.

You have already received the agenda profile in your packet which tells the various classes being offered. The classes were designed around the feedback we've gotten from the assessors as to what would be most useful at this time. Perhaps you noticed a subject we've not discussed in a while that will be presented in the Personal Property Track. It's captioned "Agricultural Equipment In-Lieu Stamps." Gala Bowman and Wade Patterson will provide some helpful insight as to how this program works and what you can do as an assessor to audit the farm equipment dealers.

We have a session scheduled on the use of SPSS software. It is a class for advanced appraisal personnel who hopefully have the software in their offices. Enrollment has to be limited and we are trying to hold it to 15-16 students, but we may go slightly bigger.

Another advanced class will be offered on Friday morning in the Appraisal Section. This class is titled "Appraising High-Value Residential Properties." Several counties have expressed an interest in this topic.

One highlight of the conference occurs after hours with a trip to Discoveryland to see the play "Oklahoma!" I commend the Assessors Association for planning this event during our State's centennial celebration year. This should prove to be an entertaining and enjoyable event.

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

Sincerely,

Jeff Spelman, CAE
Director, Ad Valorem Division
jspelman@tax.ok.gov

P.S. Note on How Things Change: Here is the quote used in the July 2006 Newsletter when last year was so dry.

"We used to talk about Noah and the Ark, but now in Oklahoma no one remembers enough about what rain looks like, he's just a crazy guy building a boat." Anwar Caddo, Famous Ad Valorem Philosopher

***Suburbia is where the developer bulldozes out the trees,
then names the streets after them. Bill Vaughn***

ATAP (Assessor Training and Accreditation Program)

Dear County Assessors and Deputies,

Please see our class schedule below:

Course	Date		Time	City	Hotel	Location
	Beg	End				
MiniStorage (ceu class)	6/27/2007	6/28/2007	9:00 - 4:30 W, Th	Stillwater	Hampton Inn & Suites 717 E. Hall of Fame Av. Stillwater, OK. 405-743-1306	CLGT 5202 N. Richmond Hills Rd. Stillwater, OK. 74078 405-744-6049
Unit 1 (Intro.to Assessor's Office)	8/14/2007	8/17/2007	1:00 Tues 8:30 4:30 W, Th 8:30 12:00 Fr	OKC	Four Points Sheraton 6300 East Terminal Dr. Okla. City, OK 405-681-3500	Four Points Sheraton 6300 East Terminal Dr. Okla. City, OK 405-681-3500
Unit 2 (Real Property Appraisal)	9/18/2007	9/21/2007	8:30 - 4:30 Tu, W, Th 8:30 12:00 Fr	OKC	Four Points Sheraton 6300 East Terminal Dr. Okla. City, OK 405-681-3500	Four Points Sheraton 6300 East Terminal Dr. Okla. City, OK 405-681-3500
Data Collection (Residential)	10/3/2007	10/5/2007	8:30 - 4:30 W, Th 8:30 - 12:00 Fri	STW	Hampton Inn & Suites 717 E. Hall of Fame Av. Stillwater, OK. 405-743-1306	CLGT 5202 N. Richmond Hills Rd. Stillwater, OK. 74078 405-744-6049
Data Collection (Residential)	10/10/2007	10/12/2007	8:30 - 4:30 W, Th 8:30 - 12:00 Fri	STW	Hampton Inn & Suites 717 E. Hall of Fame Av. Stillwater, OK. 405-743-1306	CLGT 5202 N. Richmond Hills Rd. Stillwater, OK. 74078 405-744-6049
Unit 3 (Mass Appraisal)	10/16/2007	10/19/2007	8:30 - 4:30 Tu, W, Th 8:30 12:00 Fr	OKC	Four Points Sheraton 6300 East Terminal Dr. Okla. City, OK 405-681-3500	Four Points Sheraton 6300 East Terminal Dr. Okla. City, OK 405-681-3500
Unit 4 (Income Approach)	11/6/2007	11/9/2007	1:00 Tues 8:30 4:30 W, Th 8:30 12:00 Fr	Roman Nose	Roman Nose Lodge 580-623-7281	Roman Nose Lodge 580-623-7281
Unit 5 (Business Personal Property)	11/27/2007	11/29/2007	8:30 - 4:30 Tu, W 8:30 - 12:00 Th	OKC	Four Points Sheraton 6300 East Terminal Dr. Okla. City, OK 405-681-3500	Four Points Sheraton 6300 East Terminal Dr. Okla. City, OK 405-681-3500
Unit 6 (Cadastral Mapping)	12/11/2007	12/14/2007	1:00 Tues 8:30 - 4:30 W,Th 8:30 -12:00 Fri	Lake Murray	Lake Murray State Lodge 1-800-257-0322	Lake Murray State Lodge 1-800-257-0322
Unit 7 (Ag Land Valuation)	1/10/2008	1/11/2008	8:30 - 4:30Th 8:30 - 12:00 Fr	OKC	Four Points Sheraton 6300 East Terminal Dr. Okla. City, OK 405-681-3500	Four Points Sheraton 6300 East Terminal Dr. Okla. City, OK 405-681-3500

You may enroll at: clgt.okstate.edu or fax in your registration at 405-744-7268. If you have any questions you can call us at 405-744-6049 or e-mail us at doug.warr@okstate.edu or gary.snyder@okstate.edu.

See you in Tulsa,
Doug & Gary

Happiness is where we find it, but rarely where we seek it.

J. Petit-Senn

August Birthdays

Birthstone: peridot

Meaning: family happiness

Flower: poppy, gladiolus

Debbie Collins (Custer)	August 1
Scotty Crosby (Harper)	August 1
Eloise McCully (Kingfisher)	August 12
B.J. Parks (Seminole)	August 17
Todd Mathes (Washington)	August 31

Reporter's Corner

Have a safe trip to Tulsa. Remember this is a great time to network with other offices and get new ideas that could save time and improve efficiency in your office. It is also a great time to put names with faces. See you there.

Ronnie Funck

Reporter

funckr@canadiancounty.org

Note to new assessors:

Please call or email me with your birthday--I know we are leaving out new assessors' birthdays from our newsletter.

Thanks, Amy

Please send your comments, suggestions, and submissions including photos from your office or event to Amy Brandley, brandleya@canadiancounty.org, (405) 262-1070 x260