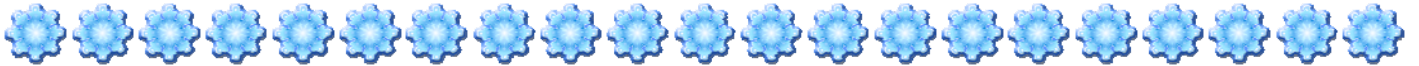


THE ASSESSMENT FILES

VOLUME 1
DECEMBER 2007

COUNTY ASSESSORS ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA



President's Memo...

Hello and Happy New Year to all!

Hope your Christmas holiday was a great time for you and your respective families. We're gearing up for a big year in 2008 within the County Assessors Association. I, personally, am excited about the prospect of serving as your president for the next 12 months. I am very confident that we can make 2008 a memorable year if we continue to work together as both leaders and members of this organization.

I am encouraged by what I am hearing coming from the state capitol regarding pending legislation for this year. Usually at this time we are a little cautious about things because we are none too sure about the legislators we will be faced with in Oklahoma City. But we have become a little bit more familiar with some of the new faces in the legislature and have a better feeling about 2008 than at this time last year. If you have any specific legislative concerns, please let either me or one of the legislative committee members know.

Wade is placing the finishing touches on the 2008 directory for county assessors and you can look forward to receiving them in the very near future. I apologize as I have been part of the hold-up on the printing of the directories while waiting on a few of the assessors to confirm or deny their interest in being placed on various committees for 2008. Again, sorry for the wait. Some of you may have to re-take your pictures as some appearances have changed in the meantime. Alright, just kidding.

Have a great year!

Your president,
Todd Mathes

Success is never wondering what if.
-Karrie Huffman



The Ad Valorem Division

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Best Wishes from the Ad Valorem Division.

Now, I'd call that an ice storm. We're had lots of battles with the ice and snow here the last week or so in central Oklahoma. The trees in front of our building were decimated by falling branches and it's the same way across much of the state. We were out of power for a couple of days, pretty cold in the office for the next day or so, but things are back to normal. The Ad Valorem Division doesn't have much to complain about after what some lots of people have gone through over the past week or so. It certainly puts things in perspective when we take things for granted like laptops, office computers, and phones and forget about heat, water, light and garage door openers.

That doesn't distract from 2007. It's been a good year starting with the New Assessors Orientation in February. It's been quite a year—some excellent memories, lots of accomplishments in the ad valorem world, but also some very difficult challenges for those new county assessors and deputies.

December has been a busy month. The State Board of Equalization (SBOE) had a good meeting right on schedule with county compliance on the agenda. We're making good progress in resolving some of the compliance issues. I appreciate the efforts of the counties involved and it's our hope that we can get at least two of those resolved by the June State Board of Equalization (SBOE) meeting.

We've sent out for publication our Personal Property Guide for 2008 and our Personal Property Schedule. It will be a full document this year again as it was in 2007 rather than just updated pages. We felt this will make the manual easier to use and keep current.

I've talked regularly with Todd Mathes, the new County Assessors Association President. He's a quick learner and we'll be keeping him updated in the upcoming year.

We appreciate the hard work of all county assessors and deputies working to improve the Oklahoma ad valorem system. We've accomplished some good things this year, but we can always do better and achieve more. That's the challenge for the coming year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Jeff Spelman, CAE
Ad Valorem Division

P.S. "There is nothing final about a mistake unless you give up trying to correct it." Stanley T. Cimarron, Ad Valorem Philosopher. Quote borrowed from Phyllis Botomse.

Sandra White (Mayes)- January 4

Kathi Mask (Hughes)- January 4

Denise Heavner (Cleveland)- January 20



Cherry Hefley (Coal)- January 14

Lennet Pisacka (Dewey)- January 22



IAAO News

The preliminary 2008 IAAO elections results were released. We are pleased to announce that our friend Kim Lauffer, from Kansas, won the Region 3, Midwest board position. Many of us have become good friends with Kim and are confident that she will do a good job. Barry Couch, a former OTC employee and former CLGT instructor, won unopposed for Region 4, West board position. Bill Carroll, another friend to some, won the Vice-President's position. The constitutional amendment all passed. We want to thank all of you for taking time to vote.

Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out
-Robert Collier

Important Notice

It is very important that your staff be advised of the proper mailing address for the Ad Valorem Division. We received a new post office box when our division moved to the new office at 3700 N. Classen.

Address your correspondence to the Ad Valorem Division as follows:

Oklahoma Tax Commission
Ad Valorem Division
P. O. Box 269060
Oklahoma City, OK 73126-9060

The forwarding order with the U.S. Postal Service will expire soon. At that time, any misaddressed mail will be returned to the sender automatically. Please take a moment to ensure all your records have been changed and your staff advised, so no delays will be experienced.

Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.
-John Wooden

Secretary-Treasurer Report

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and hope you have a great New Year. Remember to pray for all our troops until the time when they can all return home to friends and family. Happy New Year!

Ronnie Funck
Treasurer



Reporter's Corner

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and is ready for a great new year. I know I always look forward to this time, and yet also know that some of the most difficult times of the year are just ahead. That's what makes this job so fun! It's just hard to believe we are ready to begin a whole new cycle.

I would like to invite anyone who has news to share to please submit it to me for the newsletter. We all enjoy hearing about an experience or situation that you have faced. Maybe you have a problem that you thought was unique only to your county. I would gladly pass it along.

My email address is monica@woodscounty.net; phone is 580-327-3118; and fax 580-327-6230.

Have fun assessing!

Monica

County Training Program Report

CTP recently mailed the course schedule for January through June 2008. The icy weather caused cancellation of Basic Mapping in Enid, so it is rescheduled for April 1-2 in El Reno. This is not shown on your paper schedule but it is on the website (<http://agecon.okstate.edu/ctp/schedule.asp>). The mix of county officers at recent courses has been terrific. Thanks for your participation.

Hope you had a very merry Christmas and we wish you an outstanding New Year. Please do not hesitate to call on us if we can be of assistance. Notie, Ann, Don, Judy, Karin, Suzanne, Renee, and Gloria. (405) 744-6555

Notie H. Lansford, Jr.

Professor and Extension Economist

CTP Program Leader

Dept. of Agricultural Economics

311 Ag Hall, Oklahoma State University

Stillwater, OK 74078

(405) 744-6555 notie.lansford@okstate.edu

<http://agecon.okstate.edu/ctp/index.asp>

The dictionary is the only place where success comes before work.

-Mark Twain



ATAP (Assessor Training and Accreditation Program)

I would like to thank everyone who made it to my retirement party. I consider you my friends and it meant a lot to have you share this day with me. I also want to thank everyone who called, sent gifts, or cards. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Be sure to check out the ATAP spring 2008 class schedule which is now posted on the website. I'm sure Doug and Gary will continue to provide you quality education that you have come to expect.

I'll be around so I look forward to seeing you in the future.

Dr. Mike Hughes



These pictures were taken at the retirement party for Dr. Mike Hughes, Director for the OSU/CLGT program.

