



Message from the President....

Greetings Everyone:

I will keep it short this month, really short! I have been so busy that I forgot to write this article for Scott by last week. So the delay is totally my fault!

I really enjoyed visiting the district meetings for the Northwest, Southwest, and Northeast. I was not able to attend the Southeast district meeting. Three days before the SE district meeting I received a call from our Court Clerk requesting my presence in the east courtroom on that Friday. Since I had been granted one reprieve already I was denied a second request to be excused from jury duty. So I cancelled my trip to Idabel and prepared myself for the upcoming trial. Then, the evening before the trial started I received a call letting me know that the defendant had reached a plea agreement and the trial was cancelled. The lady then told me that it was ok for me to go to meeting. I don't think she is familiar with Oklahoma or considered the distance between Enid and Idabel. I told her that it is so far across the state that we even speak with different accents.

Needless to say, I missed a great meeting but I understand that Scott Kirby did a fine job of filling in for me. Several people have commented that I need to imitate Scott when I speak! I understand he is a man of few words, but great on wisdom!

The legislative session wrapped up last week and overall it was a very mild year. We accomplished several key things for the association. One of the most important was changing the law to move Scott Warren and the CCAP folks and programs from the State Auditor to OSU. Along with the move, we were able to secure the supplemental budget allocation for the remainder of this year as well as next year's budget. We really owe Rep. Mike Jackson a great deal of gratitude for his hard work on both issues.

I think the leadership of the Senate and House realized that it is going to be a tough year at all levels of government and chose not to pass any cap or limitation language this year. Next year may be a totally different animal and we need to be prepared to deal with cap and freeze language again. We will discuss next year's plans at the Assessor Conference, October 28-30 at the Biltmore in OKC.

We are starting the printing of the updated Assessor Directory today. Our plan is to have the directory available at the OTC August Conference. If you have an emergency and need a directory before August, we will get you copy early. We are printing 250 to 300 more copies, so we should have enough for everyone that needs a copy.

As always, if you need anything, let me know at wade@garfieldcountyemail.com or you call at (c) 580-541-6011 or (w) 580-548-2435. Don't forget, "*The best part of being a public servant is serving the public.*"

God Bless, **Wade**

[The Ad Valorem Division](#)

Ad Valorem Division Road Trip 2009

Despite the rain, which as usual in Oklahoma is desperately needed in some places and overdone in others, we're more than halfway through the traditional road tour for the Ad Valorem Division. Maybe, I'm just an ad valorem lifer, but I love traveling around the state, talking to county assessors and deputies, and seeing what's going on in different parts of Oklahoma. The variety in our state is really amazing.

Our staff attended the Oklahoma Association of Tax Representatives meeting in Oklahoma City earlier in the month. OATR is made up of tax representatives for several companies in the state. Traditionally, OATR was made up of large public service companies that filed centrally, but in recent years, the group has focused more on local assessment. We had a good meeting with them.

The County Assessors Association has hosted several super district meetings. Our first one was in Kingfisher County with the Northwest District hosted by Eloise McCully. It was a great, upbeat meeting with lots of discussion. Northwest is always active and many of the county assessors there work together as closely as any district in the state.

Evelyn Bradley, Garvin County, hosted the Southwest District meeting in Pauls Valley. This was her last time as a hostess for a district meeting in wake of her upcoming retirement. Evelyn has made many contributions to the County Assessors Association, serving as President in 1996. It was the first time that I have gone to a district meeting and been greeted by Batman himself, in full costume, with tough questions about his property tax assessment on the Bat Cave. Evelyn did a great job hosting a unique meeting in the National Action Figure Museum which is right across the street from the AMTRAK station.

McCurtain County hosted the Southeast District meeting last week. Assessor Stan Lyle always puts on a great meeting, and he planned another interesting and informative meeting. The Museum of the Red River, set in the middle of a grove of some beautiful Southeast Oklahoma pine trees, has a new, state of the art conference room with audio-visual systems, along with some really talented singers. Mitch Kelly, one of McCurtain County's appraisers and his daughters, Autumn and Anna Rose, did a great job singing. One of those girls may turn out to be the next Taylor Swift.

Newly appointed Mayes County Assessor Lisa Melchior went all out for the Northeast district meeting. The county hosted the meeting at Dry Gulch USA, a picturesque "old west" town overlooking Lake Hudson. The attendees also heard an excellent presentation from Michael Wallis, national known expert on Route 66 and voice of the sheriff in the movie "Cars." Mr. Wallis talked about his new book on the historical 101

Ranch covering parts of several counties in Northeast Oklahoma dating before statehood. Andy Hogan, a Will Rogers re-enactor, entertained assessors and deputies at their luncheon with rope tricks and wisdom from Will Rogers. It was a memorable district meeting and capped off a really successful group of district meetings in 2009

We enjoyed seeing everyone, including several retired assessors who showed up to visit. As I said last year, it is always fun to see the different offices and the assessors in their natural habitat. We appreciate the District Chairs and their deputies' hard work in hosting the meetings because it does entail extra effort and preparation time.

The Legislative session is in its last few weeks. It appears that the budget agreement is getting close to being settled. No one is sure entirely how everything will end up, but only a few significant ad valorem bills are still under consideration. In the next few weeks, there will be some additional discussion as the legislative session concludes. We're planning the usual update on new legislation after the session is over with Jim Kelley, Kenny Chuculate and members of the committee.

We'll send out a bulletin reminder on the abstract submission dates. Abstracts are due by statute on June 15 and as you know, the law is strict on the deadline which every county met last year. The State Board of Equalization has scheduled June 15 for its regular meeting which is early, so we encourage everyone to get their abstracts in early, so we can get those approved timely. Teresa Strawther has promised me that she can get all the abstracts checked in time for the meeting if you can get it in by Friday morning before the Monday meeting. However, the statute is June 15 so if you need to work on it until that date the county abstract would not be considered late. Check those dates for any change as we get closer.

Wade Patterson, County Assessors Association President, and his officers met with the Ad Valorem Division at the Garvin County meeting, and we'll have some more planning sessions for the Annual Conference. If you have any thoughts about the Annual Conference, please let us know. We need input from everyone involved in making the annual conference a good event.

We enjoyed seeing everyone at the district meetings. Have a good month. We appreciate all you do for your taxpayers and all the hard work of county assessors and deputies everywhere. It's a tough job, but ad valorem is an extremely important part of local government in Oklahoma. We're all working to pass the system on better than it was given to us.

Sincerely,

Jeff Spelman, CAE
Director, Ad Valorem Division

“Lots of your so-called friends want to ride in your new car with you, but what you really need are friends who will give you a ride or hitch hike with you when the bank forecloses on your new car and your back-up and dented 1998 Escort breaks down.” Anwar Caddo, Ad Valorem Philosopher. Quote stolen and improved on from Oprah Winfrey.

Legislative News

June 1, 2009

Legislative Update,

We made it through the session in pretty good shape.

We were successful in getting CCAP funded for next year and a supplemental to finish this year. We owe them a pat on the back for hanging in there and getting the job done without knowing where their next paycheck might come from or if it would come. We also need to thank the entire CLGT staff and the OSU Dean's that stood behind this program and made it work for us.

Also thanks to Dave Herbert and Bill Case for their hard work this year, they did an excellent job for us.

Be sure and thank your legislators that supported county government.

The bills listed are the ones that made it to the last hours of session and their status.

2009 BILL	STATUS	COMMENTS
HB 1347	Signed by Governor	Raises Limit from \$ 250.00 to \$ 500.00 for disposing of equipment - clean up language
HJR1016	Dormant	Language changed: 5% cap lowered to 3% on Homestead property and remove cap on income producing property
HJR1026	Dormant	Disabled Vets & surviving spouses full homestead exemption on manufactured homes assessed as personal property
HJR1029	Dormant	OK Highway Patrolman 100% disabled would be exempt from real estate taxes on homestead property
SB 0313	Sign by Governor	Extends time for gross production taxes
SB 0314	Signed by Governor	Creates a new class of public service corporations known as "video service providers" - it will be assessed at the local rate and valued by OTC
SB 0857	Signed by Governor	Technology switchover of computer support for assessors and treasurers from SA&I to OSU-CLGT
SB 0929	Signed by Governor	Exempt Manufacturing. Waives payroll requirements if facility has been in OK for 10 yrs & maintained an average of 250 employees
SJR0005	Dormant	changes the cap rate from 5% to the lower of 2.5% or the rate of inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price index for urban consumers

Thanks to all of you who supported the association's legislation.

Thanks to Gail Hedgcoth, Wade Patterson, Ken Yazel, Monica Schmidt, Ronnie Funck, Scott Kirby and others that went to the capitol so much this year, they made a difference.

Jim

IMPORTANT DATES

Aug. 4-7, 2009 OTC Annual conference in Tulsa at Southern Hills Marriott

Oct. 28-30, 2009 Assessors Annual fall conference in OKC at Biltmore

From the Secretary-Treasurer:

We have discussed at the past couple of association meetings how to charge counties for dues in our County Assessors Association. After visiting with the two largest counties, a fair solution was agreed upon. In order to maintain our association and to continue to operate efficiently, it is important that all counties participate. We voted at the February meeting to bill each county once a year at the start of each fiscal year. The cost would be \$100 per assessor and \$25 per deputy, as listed in the annual report to the state legislature, with a maximum cap of \$1,000 for any single county. Since I've had a couple of request to send the bills in June, I will be emailing those shortly to each county. We have set August 15 as the deadline to get this paid. That will allow plenty of time for each county to process a purchase order. I would appreciate your prompt cooperation so this does not drag on for months. If you do not receive an email bill by the middle of June, please let me know. We THINK we have all email addresses!

If you have questions, please call one of the officers.

Thanks,
Monica Schmidt
580.327.3118

Reporter's Corner

My article is going to be way smaller than Wade's. I'll be glad when things finally start to calm down. I have gotten most of the stacks of papers worked off my desk. Wish I could say the same for the stacks of work under the other hats I wear. May was a crazy month with wrapping up the protest period, planning and organizing the SE CODA meeting and attending the district meetings, as well as the other meetings. The district meetings were a good break and I really enjoyed each one. Sorry for the delay in getting the newsletter out. I'm looking forward to Tulsa as usual. The association board and I have been working on the association activities at the annual school. As I said I am keeping it short. I hope to see some of you at Rosemary's retirement, if not then, then at Tulsa. If anyone has anything for the newsletter just call or e-mail me.

Scott Kirby, Reporter
Oklahoma Assessor's Association
580-622-3433
murrayco@brightok.net



Dear County Assessors and Deputies:

We are in the office planning great things for you, if you need something call.
Have a great summer!!!

Doug & Gary

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Location</u>
06/30/2009 - 07/01/2009	<i>Unit 7 (Ag Land Valuation)</i>	Western Hills Lodge Hulbert
08/25/2009 - 08/28/2009	<i>Unit 1 (Introduction to the Assessor's Office)</i>	Hilton Garden Inn Norman
09/02/2009 - 09/04/2009	<i>Data Collection of Residential Property</i>	CLGT Building Stillwater
09/22/2009 - 09/25/2009	<i>Unit 2 (Real Property Appraisal)</i>	Hilton Garden Inn Norman
10/20/2009 - 10/23/2009	<i>Unit 3 (Mass Appraisal)</i>	Hilton Garden Inn Norman
November 2009	<i>Unit 4 (Income Approach)</i>	TBA
November 2009	<i>Unit 5 (Business Personal Property)</i>	TBA

[News from the County Training Program at OSU](#)

The County Training Program at OSU recently awarded 74 certificates to county officers and their deputies for completing various levels of certification. Twenty-five County Treasurer certificates were distributed, 17 basic and 8 advanced; 25 County Clerk certificates were issued, 17 basic and 8 advanced; and County Court Clerks and deputies received 24 certificates.

Suzanne Spears, who has been teaching classes in the program on a part-time basis, was recently hired as a permanent $\frac{3}{4}$ time employee. She will continue to teach supervisory and leadership classes and will assist other instructors.

Final revisions are being made to the County Training Program class schedule for the coming year. The next six months (July through December, 2009) should be finalized soon and will be published on the web site.

Judy Rudin

YOUR INVITED



*You are cordially Invited to a
Retirement Celebration
For Colleague and Friend*

*Rosemary Neely
Blaine County Assessor*

*Friday, the 26th of June
From 1:30 to 3:30 in the afternoon
Watonga Christian Church
Fellowship Hall
400 N. Noble*



ASSESSOR CLASSIFIEDS

FREE - MAPPING TABLE & LIGHT TABLE TO GIVE WAY TO ANY COUNTY INTERESTED. WE NO LONGER HAVE ANY USE FOR EITHER ONE. IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED PLEASE CALL DONNA, GREER COUNTY, 580-782-2740.

NEW ASSESSOR INFORMATION

New Creek County Assessor is Nikki Wedel. Her e-mail address is vswedel@sbcglobal.net.



June Birthdays

Randy Wintz- 4
Donna Giddens- 7
Sonya Booher- 14
Roger Ballard- 16
Letitia Stockton- 24