



COUNTY ASSESSORS ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA
THE ASSESSMENT FILES
VOLUME 3 FEBRUARY 2010

Message from our President...

During the fall of this past year I was talking to some of the other officers about the winters I'd seen as a child and all the big snows I remembered seeing. I commented that all we've seen in the past winters was ice storms and very little snow. Fast-forward to today and we've experienced record snow for most areas of the state. Being a warm weather person I was ready for spring after the first snow but there is more snow on the way so I guess I'll have to wait a while for the warmer weather.

Just wanted to provide an update on a couple of the issues we discussed during the recent CODA meeting. The Forms Committee has already met several times and is moving forward to try to ensure everyone is provided with the most recent forms, revisions, and information concerning those forms to prevent any compliance issues in the future. This process is going to take several more meetings and we will try to keep everyone updated on this process and progress made through the newsletter and in future meetings.

The second issue is I want to remind everyone to keep in contact with your legislators during the next several months. Legislative breakfasts in your area are an excellent way to spend one on one time with your legislators and voice concerns or answer questions about issues affecting your office. Please review your email from Jerry Stone as often as you can as he provides daily updates on all the legislative issues at hand. Hope this letter finds everyone well and be safe as the winter storms continue.

Ronnie Funck
President



Irish Trivia

The Irish who immigrated to the United States brought the traditions of the homeland with them. Many who fled the poverty, famine and unrest landed on the shores of North America. In the US today, there are 33.7 million residents who claim Irish ancestry. This number is almost nine times the population of Ireland itself.



CONCERNS: Grant County Assessor, Phil McCoy's wife, Terri, has been in the middle of her 2nd battle with cancer for the past 7 months. They just recently put her under Hospice care. PLEASE keep both of them in your thoughts and prayers as they are trying to deal with this difficult time.

Dwight Argo, former Field Analyst for OTC in the Southeastern portion of Oklahoma, has had two brain aneurisms. He successfully had surgery but is not out of the woods yet. Dwight is still in need of our thoughts and prayers.

Please continue to pray for both of these families.



The Ad Valorem Bore 'Em: Stuff to Exciting for the Forum

Here's the stuff that didn't quite make it into the monthly Ad Valorem Forum newsletter.

Most Popular Telephone Topic:

Luke Weese, our administrative assistant, handles most of the calls, and he's in the mail room, so no one is answering our phone this month. Just kidding. We're still getting veterans calls, and this month we've had a real rise in income tax refund and income tax lien questions. (They call us because ad valorem is listed first in the telephone book.) We are getting lots of homestead questions and a big rise in mobile home questions. As always, we route those to the correct department in the Tax Commission or the county if the taxpayer is sure where the property is located.

Health Advice:

According to The Week Magazine, cussing is good for you if you're in pain. Richard Stephens says people feel less pain if they swear, so he recommends if you hit your thumb with a hammer to let it rip. "I would advise people if they hurt themselves to swear."

Best/Worst Telephone Call of the Month:

I got a call from an 85-year-old surviving spouse who told me that she had closed on her house, which had a veteran's exemption on the property. She told me that her county assessor's office had been helpful in getting the exemption, but the closing company had charged her for the property tax. She got a letter from the county informing the closing company that there was no tax on the property, but she was charged anyway.

Kenny Chuculate reports that he's gotten several calls like this.

Tulsa Trivia:

Everyone that I've talked with seems delighted that we're going to Tulsa again this year. To test your trivia knowledge, how many consecutive years has the Annual Conference been held in Tulsa? That's a trick question. Where was the Annual Conference held in 1992? What years was the volleyball tournament(s)?

The 300 Degree Club:

According to a story on National Public Radio, scientists at the South Pole have a club for those few people on earth who have experienced a 300 degree change in temperature in one hour (other than those of us who grew up in Cimarron County).

Members of the 300 degree club wait until the outside temperature is -100 below zero which happens quite often in Antarctic. They then sit in a sauna which has been heated to 200 degrees and stay there as long as they can stand it. Then they exit the sauna into the -100 degrees cold (that's a 300 degree change) run a quarter mile to the official South Pole, make one lap around the marker, and then return to their quarters to get warm. (For those who have to know during their lap, they wear gloves, shoes, a warm hat, and little else. All the sweat on their skin from the sauna freezes in a thin layer on their entire body in approximately four seconds.)

Best Advice from an Assessor:

During the CODA meeting, I talked with McIntosh County Assessor Trina Williams. Her county has been finishing up her Business Personal Property CAMA. She said it has really saved her a lot of time. She doesn't have to re-enter her data the next year other than new property or name changes, and when new taxpayers come in they're entered quickly. It has saved them a lot of work. (Ask Trina about her laptop from a pawn shop.)



*May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks
that grow,
and may trouble avoid you wherever
you go.*

February 10th, 2010 Meeting Overview:



It is with great excitement that I announce the IAAO Oklahoma Chapter has reached a milestone. We are officially celebrating our 25th Anniversary.

Educational Opportunities:

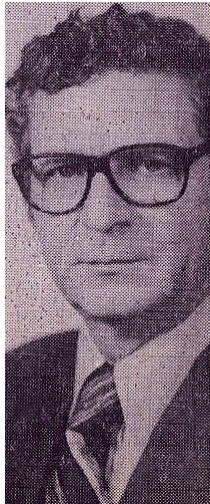
During our recent meeting at the Winter CODA conference in Oklahoma City, the local chapter discussed several continuing educational offerings provided through IAAO. Our summer class offerings will be based upon the results of a survey conducted of the local chapter members. If you are looking to further your education or acquire additional

continuing education hours be sure to check the local chapter's website for the latest information

<http://OK-IAAO.OklahomaCounty.org> .

Come Celebrate with us:

The chapter also discussed some special ways we'll be celebrating our 25th anniversary such as the 1st "George Keyes Award".



This award is named in honor of our chapter's 1st President, Mr. George Keyes. The intent is to show the chapter's appreciation by acknowledging a person/group/entity for their professional integrity within the assessment field. A committee is currently being formed to layout the details/qualifications and create an official nomination form. The nomination form will also be available for downloading on the local chapter's website.



Do you recognize these "Charter Members"? Twenty-five years ago they were part of a group that founded our chapter and they are still active members today. The chapter will honor them at our annual fall conference by showing our "Appreciation" for their dedication and loyal service.



Jeff Spelman

Linda Rogers

James Mallory

Tim Smith

Doug Warr

Mark your calendars:

Plan now to attend the 76th IAAO Int'l Conference.

Orlando Florida – Walt Disneyworld Resort

Sunday August 29th, 2010 through Wednesday, Sept 1st, 2010

Hotel reservations are now open through

<http://www.IAAO.org/Events/AnnualConference.cfm>. Be sure to book early and check for flight specials. As of last week they ranged from \$270 to \$305 per person round trip.

The local chapter will hold its next meeting in Tulsa during the Oklahoma Tax Commission's Annual School.

Become a member today:

If you're not already an IAAO member I encourage you to join their organization and our local chapter and become part of a highly experienced group with a solid assessment foundation.

President – Mike Morrison
Vice President – Keith Hulsizer
Treasure/Sec – Daniel Jenkins



Irish Trivia

9 are the Number of places in the United States, which share the name of Dublin, Ireland's capital city. Dublin, Ohio was the most populous, at 31,392, followed closely by Dublin, California at 29,973.



The CCAP staff presented a Webinar February 18th with 43 attendees and covered importing values from the Cama system to the AA system. But it wasn't all work, we've always known the Assessor's group has many people that have a sense of humor, some of which we got to see in the Webinar, and who better than Scott to be on the receiving end of those jokes. Shout out to Donise for giving me a hand on that.

A Webinar is a great format that is both a quick and visual aid to get information out to the CCAP users. Counties that were not able to attend can always go to our website <http://ccap.okstate.edu> and then to the Assessor Access section and view any of our Webinars. If you have any suggestions for further webinar subjects please email me a carol.bomhoff@okstate.edu and we will see what we can put together.

I feel it is never too early to start preparing for the Annual Assessor's Conference so if you have a subject that you want covered email me that also. Don't know about you but right now I'm looking forward to the warm conditions we experience in 'August at Tulsa'.



MARCH BIRTHDAY'S

Dan Ashwood – 3
Sandy Crumm – 5
Troyce King – 5
Lisa Melchoir – 19
Debbie Sturdivant – 22
Shari Todd – 27
Beverley Strickland - 31



THE LEGISLATIVE CORNER



In the separate attachment to this newsletter is a list of bills. Please remember this list is changing by the minute. Also note the number of bills that continue to show up from last session and still new ones showing up as committee subs. PLEASE help us watch the bills. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of us on the legislative committee.

Thanks,
Jim

P.S. Before printing out the legislative list, change your printing options to landscape, legal paper, and margins set as small as possible.



Irish Trivia

Almost a quarter of the people who live in the state of Massachusetts descend from Irish immigrants. With 23 percent of the population of Celtic ancestry, Irish, Massachusetts has a higher proportion of residents of Irish descent than any other state, edging out New Hampshire (20 percent) and Rhode Island (18 percent). The remaining New England states -- Connecticut, Vermont and Maine -- also rank among the top 10 in this category, as does Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Montana.

Irish Trivia courteous of the US Census Bureau



CTP (County Training Program)

The County Training Program oversight commission, the Commission on County Government Personnel Education and Training held its first semi-annual meeting on February 17 in Stillwater to discuss this fiscal year's activities and budgets.

Some of the items discussed include The County Training Program working with the County Assessors Education Committee to develop a certification program for County Assessors; the completion of the County Treasurers Handbook revision and the placement of the handbook on the web; writing a County Sheriffs handbook, and alternate methods of delivering training such as on-line training and distance education through technology centers.

EVER WONDER WHO HE WAS . . .



The Real St. Patrick

The Patron Saint of Ireland was born into either a Scottish or English family in the fourth century. He was captured as a teenager by Niall of the Nine Hostages who was to become a King of all Ireland. He was sold into slavery in Ireland and put to work as a shepherd. He worked in terrible

conditions for six years drawing comfort in the Christian faith that so many of his people had abandoned under Roman rule.

Patrick had a dream that encouraged him to flee his captivity and to head South where a ship was to be waiting for him. He traveled over 200 miles from his Northern captivity to Wexford town where, sure enough, a ship was waiting to enable his escape.

Upon arrival in England he was captured by brigands and returned to slavery. He escaped after two months and spent the next seven years traveling Europe seeking his destiny. During this time he furthered his education and studied Christianity in the Lerin Monastery in France.

He returned to England as a priest. Again a dream greatly influenced him when he became convinced that the Irish people were calling out to him to return to the land of his servitude. He went to the Monastery in Auxerre where it was decided that a mission should be sent to Ireland. Patrick was not selected for this task to his great disappointment. The monk that was selected was called Paladius, but he died before he could reach Ireland and a second mission was decided upon.

Patrick was made a Bishop by Pope Celestine in the year 432 and, together with a small band of followers, traveled to Ireland to commence the conversion. Patrick confronted the most powerful man in Ireland Laoghaire, The High King of Tara, as he knew that if he could gain his support that he would be safe to spread the word throughout Ireland.

To get his attention Patrick and his followers lit a huge fire to mark the commencement of spring. Tradition had it that no fire was to be lit until the Kings fire was complete, but Patrick defied this rule and courted the confrontation with the King. The King rushed into action and traveled with the intention of making war on the holy delegation. Patrick calmed the King and with quiet composure impressed the King that he had no other intention than that of spreading the word of the Gospel.

The King accepted the missionary, much to the dismay of the Druids who feared for their own power and position in the face of this new threat. They commanded that he make snow fall. Patrick declined to do so stating that this was Gods work. Immediately it began to snow, only stopping when Patrick blessed himself.

Still trying to convince the King of his religion, Patrick grasped at a shamrock growing on the ground. He explained that there was but one stem on the plant, but three branches of the leaf, representing the Belssed Trinity. The King was impressed with his sincerity and granted him permission to spread the word of his faith, although he did not convert to Christianity himself. Patrick and his followers were free to spread their faith throughout Ireland and did so to great effect. He drove paganism (symbolized by the snake) from the lands of Eireann.

Patrick died on March 17th in the year 461 at the age of 76. It is not known for sure where his remains were laid although Downpatrick in County Down in the North of Ireland is thought to be his final resting place. His influence is still felt to this day as Nations the world over commemorate him on March 17th of every year.

Source...

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Add Some Variety to this St. Patrick's Day meal! Green food coloring is a very popular way to make your meals reflect the holiday. You can use the food coloring in pancake batter, any type of drink (especially beer!), mix a small amount into cream cheese and have a St. Patty's Day bagel with cream cheese! There are limitless possibilities! Be creative.

Do you need something fun for the little ones to do? Here is one idea...



How to Catch a Leprechaun

You can make a trap with common household items. Take a net, a cardboard box, green paint, green tissue paper, some pennies and an old shoe. Firstly, paint the cardboard box green and place the old shoe inside. Cover the opening with thin green tissue paper. Carefully lay the pennies on the tissue paper. (If you don't want to use real money, you can easily substitute chocolate gold- wrapped coins or make your own by cutting circles out of cardboard and painting them gold). Place the trap near some trees or hedgerows. Make sure it's disguised well and blends into the surroundings. When the Leprechaun sees the coins he will try to collect them. He will step onto the tissue paper, it will break and he will fall into the box. Now quickly throw the net over him.

You can also try to lure a leprechaun with some poteen instead of an old shoe. When he falls into the box he will drink the brew, get drunk and then you can grab him.

No one has yet caught a leprechaun, but don't be discouraged. Start looking today. Good luck !!



An Old Irish Blessing

May love and laughter light your days,
and warm your heart and home.
May good and faithful friends be yours,
wherever you may roam.
May peace and plenty bless your world
with joy that long endures.
May all life's passing seasons
bring the best to you and yours!

HAPPY
ST. PATRICK'S DAY

