

HAPPY 2012!!

What a year this has been for the Oklahoma Abstractors Board. We have lost one Board member, Dennis Hall, and Earl "Corky" Heard has taken his place as the Realtor member. Corky is the Owner of Heard-Knight Auction & Real Estate in Clinton, Oklahoma. He has been in the Real Estate business for over 25 years and an Auctioneer for approximately 10 years, conducting real estate and personal property auctions and is the principal broker and auctioneer for the firm.. He graduated from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in 1987 and then established his home in Clinton. Corky has been married for 23 years to his wife Missy. They have two daughters; Jessica who is a sophomore at SWOSU and a member of the Lady Bulldogs Golf Team, and Harley who is a freshman at Clinton High School.

We will also have two openings on the Board effective this summer, beginning July 1, 2012. They are for District 1, now held by Linda Carpenter, which encompasses Alfalfa, Beaver, Blaine, Cimarron, Custer, Dewey, Ellis, Garfield, Grant, Harper, Kingfisher, Major, Roger Mills, Texas, Woods, and Woodward counties. The second opening is for District 3, now held by Monica Wittrock. That district encompasses Canadian, Cleveland, Logan and Oklahoma Counties. The requirements and duties of a Board member may be found in Title 1, Section 22. These positions are for a four year term. If you would like to serve on the Board, a link to the application is on our front page and you should send your resume and application to the Governor's office, not to the OAB. You should apply as soon as possible so that the Governor has time to consider all the applications and make the appointment before terms of the other Board members have expired.

Also new to the agency is Mitzi Combs, our inspector. Mitzi is married and has two sons and one adorable grandson. She has over 30 years experience in the industry, working first for American First and then for First American in Cleveland County. Mitzi has been with us for six months now and is a great asset to the office. If you have any questions for her, please give her a call.

Rules - The Rules and Regulations Committee has met several times and has proposed that the Board not propagate any new rules this year. Instead, they will suggest policy and procedural changes to the Board for any areas they think the Board may need to address.

On-line licensing - As I explained last year, in 2010 the Legislature passed HB 1032 - On-line Licensing, requiring all agencies in the State to provide this service. OK.Gov, the agency that is in charge of revamping our website to allow this procedure, has made great strides this year. Everyone who wishes to participate will be given a password and will be able to log in to a secure site. All original applications and renewals will be available to be processed on-line. For the documents that must be sent in as attachments to these applications, such as rate sheets, schedule of certificate holders, OESC reports, etc., you should be able to scan them in and forward them to us as well. If you have no scanner, you can mail or fax them instead. Just remember, there will be detailed instructions on our website for use of the portal as well as contacting our office and letting us help you through the process until you are comfortable with it. We are presently set to "go live" with this application for March 14th but that can always change again. When Mitzi comes to inspect your plant, she will also bring a short power point presentation to show you how easy it will be to use on-line licensing.

There will be fees of \$2.00 per document as well as an approximate 2.1% estimated merchant fee on the total associated with these services which you will pay by credit card at the end of the process, along with the regular charges for your application or renewal. Visa and MasterCard will be the card types which are accepted by the OAB. You will also be able to use electronic funds transfer (on-line checking) so that you may use your company bank account. If you use that option, you would eliminate the merchant fee.

Problems arose when it was discovered that some owners used the same FIEN numbers for all of their companies instead of each separate company having a separate FIEN number. The login to the application will now use the Certificate number. To make all certificate numbers uniform, they have been changed to a four digit number by adding one or two zeros in front of the original number i.e., certificate number 24 is now 0024 and certificate number 136 is now 0136. All certificate owners will be notified of this change as well as having verbiage explaining it on the on-line application.

You are not required to utilize this service and all of our forms will still be on the website for you to download, print out and mail in with your fees if that is what you wish to do. As I said above, the State does require that we offer the service.

License test dates: Testing will be held at 1:00 p.m. on the following dates at the Board office in Oklahoma City: January 5, February 29, May 3, July 5, September 6, and October 31. We will also be giving tests during the OLTA Regional meetings held statewide in September at all locations (Oklahoma City is September 6th). As soon as we receive that schedule, we will post it on our website calendar so you will know all the particulars for each test.

TexasFile update: Many of the County Clerks have received e-mails from a company from Texas named TexasFile requesting copies of all their records. At first, the requesting e-mail said it was for the purpose of building an abstract plant. The OAB sent them a letter explaining the process of obtaining a permit and building a plant. Their response indicated that they did not intend to provide abstract or title services in Oklahoma, contrary to their earlier request. The Board will keep monitoring this company.

Rate Forms: There have been two corrections on the rate sheet forms for Time Based Filing, Form No. OAB-016. Both Section 1D and Section VI have been changed. Please download the new forms before sending your rate sheets in.

If you would like to attend a Board meeting, they are held on the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. They are held at the OAB office, 2401 NW 23rd St, Suite 60B, Oklahoma City, OK. If the meeting looks to be extremely large, then an alternate place will be posted on the agenda as well as our website calendar as to the location the meeting will be held. The Board appreciates and values your input. If you are in the Oklahoma City area, we would love to have you drop in for a visit.

I look forward to working with you all and eventually meeting you all. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Glynda Reppond
Executive Director