

Oklahoma
ad valorem

Volume XI, Issue VIII
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FORUM

A LOOK AHEAD...

- September 2
Labor Day
- September 4-6
Unit I, Intro. To Assessor's
Office, OKC
- September 11-13
CODA Fall Conference,
OKC
- September 23-25
ACCO Fall Conference,
OKC
- September 29-30
Oil and Gas II, Income
Approach, TBA

DIRECTOR'S NOTES...

THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE

Tulsa 2002 is over. It was definitely a success story. There were a few moments during the "night the lights went out in Tulsa" when I thought we were in trouble. "Back to basics" never was supposed to include no electricity. But when the lights in the hotel came back on after only an hour or so, I knew we were going to make it. The temporary power outage just added to the adventure. We had excellent attendance, lots of good instructors, hard working students, good new technology demos, and some good stories from the County Assessors' bowling tournament.

I feel somewhat like one of those people accepting an Academy Award: Thanks to everyone. Once again the secret to that success is the partnership spirit of the county assessors and deputies, State Auditor and Inspector (SA&I), Oklahoma State, and the Ad Valorem Division working together.

President Jim Kelley, Kathi Mask, Debbie Collins, and Denise Heavner have done a great job this year. Thank you officers. The County Assessors' Association has been great to work with this year. We'd also like to thank Center for Local Government Technology, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension and State Auditor and Inspector for their great "partnership" in putting on the training program. Dr. Mike Hughes, Anne Embree, Doug Warr, Gary "Bill Basic" Snyder, Darla Hisey, Dr. Notie Lansford, and Don Sporleder did a wonderful job in organizing and teaching classes. Scott Warren, Johnny Caldwell, and Carol Bomhoff lead another excellent session on the latest improvements in the AA software out at OSU/Tulsa. The session on Board of Tax Roll Corrections with the surprise appearance of "Bill Basic" asking some questions about State Auditor and Inspector (SA&I)&I Forms was one of many conference highlights.

I'm still surprised and grateful that Jewette Farley and Steve Sutterfield volunteered to come over for the Annual conference.

Thanks also to Lynn C. Rogers, Assistant Attorney General, as well as Dr. Paul Bendt, MIMS, Danny Spillmann, ESRI, Mary Banken, OU Geo Information, David Kinney, Lana Swad, Royce Cowley, and Vicki McCarteny, Oklahoma Tax Commission, and Carolyn Ownings and Gene Fitzpatrick with the Department of Public Safety. As well as Chris Mask, Gary Mask, Terry Wood, Dr. Mike Sharp, and Jeff Holliday for their assistance in the mapping program.

A special thanks to Greg Veitch from the Oklahoma Association of Tax Representative for attending the opening session and coordinating the companies who met with county assessors and deputies on Tuesday. Good communications is the key to seeing all sides of issues. Thanks to the Board of the County Officers and Deputies Association Board who held their monthly meeting at the conference.

But most of all thanks to the county assessors and deputies who worked so hard throughout the week, juggling back to school plans, and traveling to Tulsa. We appreciate the effort and I know all of county government does too.

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SEE "THANKS..."**

PUBLIC SERVICE UPDATE WITH MIKE ISBELL

Counties received public service values some time ago, and many of you will have contacted us with concerns. Hopefully we have been of some help. Now I would like to make everyone aware of those Public Service Companies who have filed a notice of protest to the State Board of Equalization and the Oklahoma Tax Commission, Court of Tax Review, State of Oklahoma.

As identified below, there were fifteen (15) Public Service Companies filing protests this year. Of these protests, two (G345) MV Pipeline Co. and (T054) C3 Communications Company, were not value related. The protest listing is as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| T054 C3 Communications Company | T365 Pathnet Telecommunications, Inc. |
| A040 Continental Airlines, Inc. | F219 Shamrock Logistics Operations, L.P. |
| F240 Emerald Pipeline Corporation | F430 Shamrock Pipeline Corporation |
| A041 Expressjet Airlines, Inc. | F443 Skelly-Belvieu Pipeline Co., L.L.C. |
| R070 Kansas City Southern Railway Co. | T460 Southwestern Bell Telephone, L.P. |
| T264 MCI Metro Access Transmission | F520 TPI Pipeline Corporation |
| T265 MCI Worldcom Network Services | T497 Vartec Telecom, Inc. |
| G345 MV Pipeline Co. | |

Principally the fair cash and assessed value amounts being protested for those Public Service Companies with valuation issues has a wide range of a few thousand to several million dollars.

A time frame for when these will be resolved is unavailable; some will be quickly handled while others drag. Speculation regarding where these values will end up would just be a guess. Know that we are working hard and doing all things possible to support our numbers and to facilitate an acceptable resolution for each of these protests.

OKLAHOMA TAXES COMPARED TO NATION

Oklahomans pay less in state and local taxes per capita than most other Americans, according to a recent report.

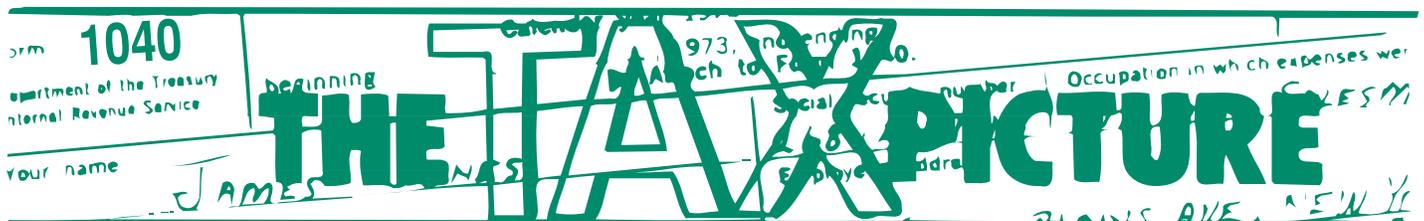
The report, issued by the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources of Oklahoma State University and authored by Notie Lansford, Jr. and Judith Stallmann, reveals Oklahoma's comparative rankings.

Oklahoma is 44th in state and local taxes per capita. For every \$1,000 of personal income, the average Oklahoman pays \$102 in state and local taxes, or about 10.2% of personal income.

Oklahoma is 47th in property taxes per capita (\$331) and 48th in property taxes per \$1,000 of personal income (\$15.68).

Oklahoma ranks 30th in sales taxes, including all general and selective sales taxes per capita (\$868) and 18th in sales taxes per \$1,000 of personal income (\$41.19).

Oklahoma ranks as a lower tax state in most respects, according to the report, which is good news for the taxpayers of the state.



GIS CLASSES OFFERED AT MOORE NORMAN VO-TECH

Several ArcView classes will be offered during the next several months at the Moore-Norman Vo-Tech facility.

A GIS Refresher for ArcView 3.x is scheduled for November 1-8 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Class cost is \$179, with lunch included. This class is designed for those who have learned ArcView 3.x but have not used the software for awhile. It's also for those who may need a refresher on the tools to analyze data and enhance layouts.

GIS ArcView 3.2 Advanced will take place December 3-5 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Class cost is \$239. This class is a continuation of the ArcView 3.2 Introduction class. This workshop will give ArcView 3.2 users an opportunity to enhance their GIS skills using a variety of techniques. Students will perform spatial analysis by utilizing the software's full functionality. Elementary usage of ArcView will not be repeated during this course.

GIS ArcView 8.2 introduction is scheduled September 6 through October 4 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. This class is designed for those who are new to ArcView 8.2 and to GIS. The course will cover GIS basics as well as using geographic data to create maps and conduct analysis.

Students will also learn the unique language of ArcView 8.2 and how to use the major components of the software such as ArcMap, ArcCatalog and ArcToolbox.

County mappers who are interested in these courses should contact Julie Parker of the Moore-Norman Vo-Tech at (405) 364-5763, extension 7386.

If you are interested in other custom courses not listed above, you can talk with Troy Frazier of the Ad Valorem Division to discuss the possibility of designing another course to address your specific needs.



MAPPING MINUTE WITH TROY FRAZIER

When you look back at the last two years, it is amazing the amount of information that we have been able to find to give the counties.

The counties were provided with digital aerial photography, pre-2000 TIGER railroads, roads, and water, updated municipal and school district boundaries, and NRSC digital soil maps last year. This year we provided counties with vo-tech boundaries, U.S. Congressional district boundaries, State House and Senate boundaries, precinct boundaries, county commissioner district boundaries, and updated municipal and school district boundaries.

The redistricting that occurs after each census set most of the boundaries that were given out this year. The boundaries that were set by redistricting should not change for the next ten years. Since the municipal and school district boundaries change frequently, I will probably continue to give those out each year.

If you need updates for the information that I have been able to give you so far, please let me know. If you need the mapping layers converted into other projections or formats, let me know. If I run across any additional mapping layers that may be useful to you, I will let you know.

Remember: Knowledge is only dangerous if you do not know how to use it or use it improperly.

CONFERENCE OFFERS MANY OPPORTUNITIES

Murray County Assessor Don Hilliard died recently after a battle with cancer. Hilliard had served unopposed as County Assessor for 18 years, after first being elected in 1984.

According to local leaders, Hilliard's length of service without opposition was a testament of his dedication to his job and to his community.

Hilliard also served in many capacities at the Murray County Stock Show, which was dedicated in his honor in 1996. Don was also a member of the County Officers and Deputies' Association and was a longtime supporter of Murray County youth and agricultural programs.

Hilliard served in the Oklahoma National Guard for six years. A graduate of Sulphur High School in 1960, he married Allene Moss in 1964 in Sulphur.

Don was known around the courthouse for his quick wit. County Commissioner Bill Lance said that Hilliard was known as "the courthouse kidder." He was all the time pulling stuff on other courthouse employees. He was always joking."

The Ad Valorem Division extends its condolences to Hilliard's family and friends, as we remember and celebrate his life and our opportunities to know and work with Don. He will be deeply missed by many.



THANKS... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

The Ad Valorem Division anticipates a busy fall. We'll also be working on some of the new legislation and working with county assessor on their Visual Inspection Plans also with the County Assessors' Association throughout the fall preparing for the Association's Annual Convention.

Have a good month. We appreciate all you do for your taxpayers and all the hard work of county assessors and deputies every where. It's a hard 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. Like Tom Cusack says, "keep in mind, we are the guardian of fairness."