

THE COUNTY TAX \$ STATEMENT



Volume 18, Issue 1 January 2018

Letter from the President



Mrs. Teri Garvey Hanks

Hello every from cold, cold East Texas. I hope everyone enjoyed the V.G. Young conference as much as I did. I would like to give a big thank you to all who served to make it such a successful conference. I know it looks easy but there are so many working in the background, unseen that make it what it is.

I would like to congratulate the 2017/2018 board members. I am looking forward to serving with these great people for the next year. There were a number of people earning their certifications at the V.G. Young conference and the Houston conference. Congratulations to these people who worked hard for this achievement.

I would also like to give a special thanks to the 2017 Legislative Committee, chaired by Kristy Roe, Ro'Vin Garrett and Bruce Elfant for the awesome job they did during this session an awesome job at keeping all of us informed as things developed. And thanks to everyone who served on this committee as members and the other committees. We could never do it without you. Kudos to all involved.

We are now in full swing of planning our 2018 conference in Frisco. I believe it will be one of the greatest conferences offered. This conference will be held on June 3-7, 2018 at the Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center in Frisco! Registration will open in March 2018! Please make plans to attend. You won't be disappointed.

Also, as you will notice below, I have a new name. Mike and I were married in September....of course, had to do it before tax season. He hasn't gotten used to the hustle and bustle yet, but he's catching on.

Lastly, my theme for this year is "Working Better Together." I know there are lots of good opinions on different issues that arise and while we need to consider each and every one of these opinions, we need to remember that we are all in this together with a common goal. Working better together is the ultimate goal in making this association great or greater than it already is. Thank you for doing your part in achieving this goal.

Sincerely,

Teri Garvey Hanks
Anderson County Tax Assessor
President, Tax Assessor-Collector's Assoc.

Texas Department of Motor Vehicles

Submitted by: Caroline Love, Division Director, TxDMV Government and Strategic Communications

2017 was a busy year at the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV). In the past year we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the license plate and launched a first-of-its-kind system that moved the motor vehicle and salvage dealer licensing system online. We replaced over 2,975 county workstations and 2,973 printers with a 97.7% county satisfaction rating. In addition, when Hurricane Harvey hit, the department coordinated with Governor Abbott on the suspension of certain statutes related to the enforcement of registration and title laws for 48 affected counties. Since Nov. 30, 2017, TxDMV has processed over 200,000 salvage and non-repairable titles, many of which were the result of damage caused by Harvey. As we begin a new

year, TxDMV is working to continue creating, developing, and enhancing tools, processes, and systems in order effectively partner with tax-assessor collectors in serving the motoring public.

Below is a summary of a few of the current areas in which TxDMV is focused as we begin 2018.

Registration And Titling System (Rts)

TxDMV continues to deploy new releases to the refactored Registration and Titling System (RTS) in order to accommodate new legislation and upgrade functionality. Soon TxDMV will

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THE COUNTY TAX STATEMENT

The County Tax Statement is the official publication of the Tax Assessor-Collector's Association of Texas and is published quarterly beginning in January each year for the benefit of its members and interested contributing parties. The purpose of this organization is to promote professional standards, to unify actions for the benefit of its constituents, to be aware and participate in the legislative process, and to provide a vehicle to educate its members in the proper conduct of the constitutional office of the Assessor-Collector of Taxes.

Advertisements in this publication are paid and in no way imply endorsement by this association of products or services.

Articles for printing or information on obtaining display ads of rates should be directed to TACA Newsletter, Teresa McCoy, Hood County Tax Assessor, 1410 W. Pearl St., Granbury, TX 76048, by the 10th day prior to the month of publication. Statements of fact and opinion are the responsibility of the authors alone and are not necessarily the opinion of the editing staff or TACA Board.

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Billie Page, PCC, CTOP, Angelina County

Texas Department of Motor Vehicles *(continued from page 1)*

deploy an update to RTS that will allow county users to include inactive and archived records when searching for records by customer name. This update also includes the new Package Delivery license plate, designed for package delivery service companies who want to utilize small vehicles such as golf carts, utility vehicles, neighborhood electric vehicles, etc., for package delivery. Additionally, there are new specialty license plates and voluntary contribution options. More information on this RTS release will be available in upcoming training webinars and release notes.

eTAG/webDEALER Update

Currently TxDMV is working to move eTAG (the system used for Buyer Tags) into webDEALER (the title application system). Once complete, dealers or other motor vehicle industry licensees will log into webDEALER to create Buyer Tags (or other tags). If they are also webDEALER users, they will be able to submit a title application without logging in to a different system. Additionally, users will be able to pay for Buyer Tags for out of state purchasers online via credit card. For more information visit www.TxDmv.gov/dealers/eTAG/resources.

New Division Coming To Txdmv

The department is pleased to announce the establishment of the new Compliance and Investigations Division (CID). The goal of CID is to strengthen our efforts to prevent and detect fraud, waste and abuse. CID will process complaints and investigate allegations of fraud related to motor vehicle title and registration, provide support for law enforcement, and work on compliance education and initiatives with our regional service centers and tax assessor-collectors' offices.

The department has hired Tim Menke to serve as the director of CID. Tim will start on Tuesday, January 2, 2018, and he brings over 25 years of experience in the field of fraud, waste, and abuse with him. One of his first orders of business will be to hire additional staff to help the department achieve its goals. Tim will also inherit several key staffers from the Vehicle Titles and Registration (VTR) division including the Field Service Representatives (FSRs) and the department's sole title investigator, Robert Foster.

Sunset Review

TxDmv is currently undergoing its first Sunset review. Over the past few months, department staff have met with Sunset staff to provide a more in-depth look at TxDMV's functions, look at the overall purpose, goals and objectives of each of our programs and how each of the programs accomplishes the department's goals. Sunset staff will also be reaching out to our stakeholders, including the tax assessor-collectors, in an effort to better understand TxDMV and how we serve the motoring public.

After gathering as much information as necessary, the Sunset review team will put together a Staff Report that makes specific recommendations for positive change. Sunset anticipates that the Staff Report will be published this spring, potentially as early as April. TxDMV has posted information about the Sunset review process on our website, including a link to Sunset's website where members of the public can view our Self Evaluation Report. We have also provided information about how individuals can contact the Sunset Commission directly if they would like to share their thoughts about the department.

Our Board of Directors

Where would we be without our wonderful board of directors? Our association is the great one that it is because of our leaders, as well as our dedicated membership. Our 2017-2018 TACA Board of Directors are:

Teri Garvey Hanks, PCC

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Our Board of Directors working for us at the board meeting prior to the V.G. Young Conference in San Marcos.



83rd Annual Conference of Tax Assessor-Collectors Association of Texas

June 5-8, 2017 • Houston

In June, we gathered in downtown Houston for our 83rd Annual Conference. The conference was held at the beautiful Hyatt Regency. Our off-site function was at the NASA Space Center.

Our host this year was the Honorable Ann Harris Bennet, Tax Assessor-Collector, Harris County.

The Tax Assessor-Collectors Association President for the Conference was the Honorable Ronnie Keister, Tax Assessor-Collector, Lubbock County.

Thanks to our Sponsors, without whom we would not be able to have such great conferences:

Diamond Sponsors: Linebarger, Goggan, Blair, Sampson LLP
Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, LLP

Platinum Sponsor: Texas Association of Counties

And, of course, our Gold, Silver, and Bronze Sponsors: **THANK YOU!**





Ro'Vin Garrett is Guest Speaker at the November Women Professionals in Government Luncheon

I serve on the Board and had the pleasure of asking and then introducing TACA Past President, Ms. Ro'Vin Garrett, TAC, Brazoria County, at our December 7, 2017 meeting. Her speech and Power Point presentation focused on the rich history of Texas County Government and the relationship with elected officials and the communities they serve. She was a hit!

Submitted by:

Vicki Brown-Sobecki, PCC

Staff Development

Compliance Division

Office of Ann Harris Bennett

Tax Assessor-Collector and Voter Registrar



Women Professionals In Government

Welcomes Brazoria County Tax Assessor-Collector Ro'vinGarrett as our November guest speaker. Ro'vin Garrett took office as Brazoria County TaxAssessor-Collector on January 1, 2001. Prior to beingelected, Garrett was employed by Brazoria CountyTax Office for 16 years. The daughter of a formercounty judge, for several years she served as theofficial "courthouse tour guide" for Brazoria County and has given numerouspresentations

to school children and adults on the history, function, andpurpose of county government. With 32 years of county governmentexperience, Garrett is uniquely qualified to talk about the office of tax assessor-collector and county government in general.



Distinguished Service Award

Mr. Lewis Scott Porter is the 2017 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award at the 83rd Annual Conference of the Tax Assessor-Collectors Association. He has served the taxpayers of Wheeler County for 18 years. He has served nine years on the TACA board of directors, many committees and as an instructor for TACA. In addition, he has served as General Chairman of his local St. Patrick's Day association. He is married to wife Lena for 37 years. His daughter is Amanda Porter Brown, his son-in-law is David Brown, and his granddaughter is Miss Hailey May Brown. We thank him for his service to our association.

Honorable Lewis Scott Porter
Tax Assessor-Collector
Wheeler County

91 TACA Members Receive Certificates of Completion at the 2017 V.G. Young Conference in San Marcos



A great big CONGRATULATIONS to all recipients of certificates of completion of the coursework designed to earn Professional County Assessor-Collector (PCAC), Professional Deputy Assessor-Collector (PDAC), County Tax Office Professional (CTOP), and Professional County Collector (PCC) designations.

Tax Assessor-Collector of the Year



*Mr. Bruce Elfant,
Tax Assessor-Collector,
Travis County*



Nominees for Tax Assessor-Collector of the Year

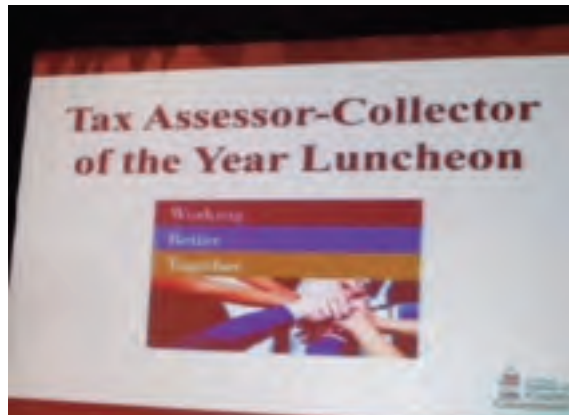
*Left to right, Gwenda Tschirhart, Bandera County, San Antonio Region
Kevin Kieschnick, Nueces County, Coastal Bend Region
Kim Sweet, Rockwall County, Dallas Region
Bruce Elfant, Travis County, Bluebonnet Region
Justin K. Carothers, Coryell County, Central Texas Region
Ron Wright, Tarrant County, Fort Worth Region*

V. G. Young Conference

Nov. 14-16, 2017 • San Marcos

Many thanks to V. G. Young Council of Governments for another amazing conference for Tax Assessor-Collectors of Texas. The V. G. Young staff and our TACA program committee put together an educational and informative program, and the keynote speaker was Mr. Jim Bearden, who spoke on Ethical Leadership and Heroic Service.

Again, our wonderful conferences would not be possible without our sponsors, whom were also honored at a luncheon during the conference.



Proud TACs Share the Same Grandbaby!



Does this baby look familiar? He is the much loved grandson of two awesome tax assessor-collectors: Luanne Caraway, Hays County (left) and Cathy Talcott, Comal County (right).

On July 26, Cord William Caraway was born to Cristina Talcott Caraway and Clayton Caraway. Clayton is the son of Hays County TAC Luanne Caraway and Cristina is the daughter of Comal County TAC Cathy Talcott. While discussing their children at an event several years ago, the two TACs came to the realization that their children have the same values, so they recommended their kids “check out” each other on Facebook. Three years later they were married, and just celebrated the birth of their first child! See what being tax assessor-collectors can get you? Two grateful and deliriously happy matchmakers who share the same grandbaby!

**Save the Date
for TACA's 84th
Annual Conference!**

June 3-7, 2018 | Frisco

Great continuing education topics.
Fun networking opportunities.
Stay tuned for more information.

Registration opens on March 1.

Working Better Together

Flash Mob in Austin



Just before the holidays our office lobby was “flash mobbed” by the McNeil High School Choir to the surprise and delight of our customers and employees alike. For several minutes all attention was focused on a wonderful holiday performance. Who says there is no joy in a tax office?

— *Bruce Elfant, Tax Assessor-Collector, Travis County*

Angie Young – Mother Passing

Mother passed away Christmas Day with each of her daughters beside her. What a blessing to watch her last breath as she gained her wings and what a glorious day to have walked hand and hand with her Father. All is calm as it can be here in Cass County. As you well know, I have been out for some days. It is still bitterly cold and we are keeping our water trickling to prevent bursting of pipes. Hope all is well with you and yours.

Hoping for a Happy New Year!

Angela Young, PCC

Cass County Tax Assessor-Collector

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Committee Reports from Cathy Talcott

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee met in August to conduct an internal review of the TACA financials for the FY 2016-2017. Per the TACA bylaws, the Committee is comprised of Internal VP Linda Bridge (substituted by Bruce Stidham), External VP Cathy Talcott, and TACA member-at-large Larry Gaddes. The committee reported to the Board of Directors that all financials were in order, and appreciated the good work of Secretary-Treasurer Randy Griggs.

Cathy C. Talcott, PCC, CTOP

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Comptroller Liaison Committee

Comptroller Liaison Committee Chair Cathy Talcott conducted a meeting at the V.G. Young Conference in November with 23 in attendance. Talcott walked the group through the Truth in Taxation portion of the Comptroller's website to gather input on ways the website could be more helpful for TACs during the TNT process. There was good feedback from the group with several suggestions offered. Following the holidays, Talcott and vice-chair Larry Gaddes will arrange for a meeting with the Comptroller, along with a few of the committee's members, to discuss these suggestions.

From Linda Bridge

There is some new information on the TACA webpage. Under the Association Committees tab, there is a new Committee Reports spreadsheet that committee chairs can access to complete their reports and turn them in to the appropriate officer. Also, there are Committee Procedure forms that provide a snapshot of what each committee does. These are useful tools for new TAC's coming in or even us old TAC's to see what these committees do.

I do have an update from the Bylaws committee. There will be a bylaws change that will be voted on at the June 2018 TACA business meeting. This change will be posted on the TACA website 30 days prior to the June conference.

Happy New Year!!

Linda

Linda G. Bridge, PCAC, CSTA

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Welcome New Tax Assessor-Collectors!

Jamie Jordan is the new Jones County Tax Assessor-Collector. She was sworn into office on January 1, 2018. Jamie replaces Mary Ann Lovelady who retired after 18.5 years of service. Please welcome Jamie!

TACA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

For TACA Use Only:

Circle Amount Paid:

\$85 \$40 \$0

Name: _____

Title: _____

Office Mailing Address: _____

Office Street Address: _____

Business Phone: _____ FAX: _____

County: _____

Year Taking Office: _____

Committee Interests: _____

TACA Dues:	Regular Member (Elected tax assessor-collector)	\$85
	Affiliate Member (tax related business vendor)	\$85
	Associate Member (Deputy tax assessor-collector)	\$40
	Life Member (Retired with 12 years in office)	\$0

Enclosed is my check payable for \$_____ annual dues.

Please make check payable to TAC and mail to:

Texas Association of Counties

Attn: TACA Membership

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