



THE COUNTY TAX \$STATEMENT

Volume 18, Issue 2—August 2018

President's Message

By Michelle French, Denton County Tax Assessor-Collector



Hello Friends!

I hope everyone is doing well and has had a chance to rest up from our wonderful TACA Conference. I would like to congratulate Teri Garvey Hanks on a fantastic conference. In addition, I would like to thank John R. Ames, Allison Getz, Amy Lawson and Texas Association of Counties, Sarah Lazarowitz and County Progress, and all of the teams and committees that helped to make this year's conference such a success. Of course, we have our sponsors and exhibitors to thank for such great support. Thank you everyone for all that you did to support in so many ways to make this conference so great.

I would also like to congratulate the new 2018-2019 Board. Additionally, we had several who earned their professional designations. Congratulations to all who achieved their designations. It is a lot of work and we are so proud of you all.

We have a busy year ahead of us. You are each extremely important and integral to the success of this association. I am so grateful for all

the years of wisdom and experience that is embodied by this association and I look forward to working beside all of you.

I truly believe we are all invested in the progress we have seen over the years. I have seen many changes to the way we do business, but we still get to the same result: Service to our communities, counties, local governments and most importantly our constituents. To that end, my theme this year is "Waves of Progress". We will continue to see progress in the way in which we do business and I look forward to our association helping to lead the way. I have a saying: "I would much rather be driving the train than to be drug by the caboose". We can lead the way and make sure that we do all we can to be of service to everyone that we work with and work for. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity and let's take a ride on those Waves of Progress!

In Service To You,

Michelle French
Denton County Tax Assessor-Collector
President-Tax Assessor-Collector's Association of Texas

Greetings to all.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve as your president for the past year. It was both an honor and a privilege that I will always look back on with fond memories. Congratulations to your new president, Michelle French, and all of the new board members. I look forward to serving with you.

As we move forward with our "WAVES OF PROGRESS" I would like to encourage you to participate in whatever capacity you can. We need boots on the ground this legislative year and you all CAN make a difference. It truly takes a village.....and there is strength in numbers.

Thank you again for your confidence in allowing me to serve this great association.

Teri Garvey-Hanks



2017-2018 President
Teri Garvey-Hanks



The County Tax \$tatement

The County Tax Statement is the official publication of the Tax Assessor-Collector's Association of Texas and is published four times each year for the benefit of its members and interested contributing parties. The purpose of the 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.

The 2018/2019 Board of Directors

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Linda Bridge, PCAC
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Angelina County

Donna Willis
Lynn County



2018/2019 Board: (Left to right) Kevin Kieschnick, Larry Gaddes, Donna Willis, Randy Riggs, Bruce Stidham, Tammy McRae, Linda Bridge, Cathy Talcott, Terry Garvey-Hanks and Michelle French

From the Editor

By Billie Page, Angelina County Tax Assessor-Collector, PCC, CTOP

Greetings to everyone. I am so proud to be presenting our first newsletter for the 2018-2019 TACA year. Teresa McCoy has worked very hard getting this together for us, so be sure to thank her for her work.

Last year, Teri Hanks did such a wonderful job as President, and this year Michelle French will do an equally awesome job. This association is so blessed to have such active members, many of whom are more than willing to go above and beyond to make it great for all of us.



I thought the June conference was wonderful, and thank you to the Program Committee's John Ames and Allison Getz, as well as Teri Hanks for a job extra well done! Also, TAC's Amy Lawson and Adrienne Bethke worked so hard to make our conference the best. And our sponsors.. We have the most generous and amazing sponsors EVER! There are so many people to thank and acknowledge, I will just have to say one great big **THANK YOU!!!**

It's effective tax rate calculation time, so many of us have our noses to the grindstone, getting the very important figures and documents to our taxing jurisdictions. I am blessed to have such great people to work with at all of my jurisdictions (15) and hope that you are as lucky.

Please enjoy our newsletter. God has blessed us all, so be sure to give Him the thanks and the glory He deserves.

Until next time...

Billie Page

Dates to Remember

2018 TAAO Conference
August 26-29, 2018
Omni Fort Worth Hotel—Fort Worth

Labor Day
Monday, September 3, 2018

Columbus Day
Monday, October 8, 2018

Daylight Savings Time Ends
Sunday, November 4, 2018

Election Day
Tuesday, November 6, 2018

36th Annual V.G. Young
School for County Tax
Assessor-Collectors
November 13-15, 2018
Waco Convention Center—Waco

THE OFFICE OF THE TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE

Submitted By: Betsy Schonhoff, Voter Registration Manager

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SUMMER MONTHS

2018 is proving to be just as busy of a year as any other. While we may never truly encounter the elusive “down time” in the Election Industry, we do experience some slower times. It is important, then, that we take advantage of those times to evaluate the voter registration rolls and list maintenance activities. With this in mind, here are a few things you can do to take advantage of the Summer Months:

1. Identify and work Possible Duplicates – Our office will be running the Duplicate Batch process again in June. Be sure to schedule time this summer to process all of the tasks. We recommend working these from June through August 7. After August 7, 2018, any unworked Possible Duplicate Notifications should be put on hold until after the November 2018 General Election.
2. Be sure to work your tasks & voter applications - Working the tasks on your dashboard or posted on the County Data Website will help ensure your voter rolls are ready for November. In addition, you should work all
 - DPS applications,
 - Texas Online applications, and
 - SC91 applications

Be sure to be caught up processing all tasks and applications by September 1 and process any new applications as quickly as possible after that. Also, for any DPS application or physical application, remember that you are required to forward any application in which the application clearly indicates that the applicant resides in another county to the other county's registrar not later than the second day after the date the application is received.

3. Verify the maps for local entities conducting elections in November – If you have a local entity conducting an election in November, we recommend that you coordinate with them to ensure that you have the most up to date map and have coded the street index accordingly.
4. Be sure to check your login for the Web Portal – As a reminder, voter registrars are required to investigate provisional ballots in which the voter indicates he or she attempted to register with DPS. In preparation for provisional ballot inquiries, be sure to check your login to the Web Portal to make sure you can access the location.
5. Run and work your Suspense Voting History Report – Voters who have voted since being placed on Suspense are not eligible to be cancelled as part of the Mass Cancellation scheduled to take place after the November Election. As such, we recommend that counties run their Suspense Voting Activity Report for Voting Activity, and where you are unable to locate a Statement Of Residence (which is returned in Envelope #4) for a voter, reissue a Notice of Address Confirmation to update the Status Change Date on the voter records and place the voter in the proper sequence for the next available Suspense Cancellation process (which would occur in 2020 for these voters).

As a reminder, we have a number of mini-manuals on the DocShare site. If you do not have access to this site, please contact your Senior Administrator. Senior Administrators should contact our office if the county needs assistance accessing this information.

As always, we here at the Elections Division are on hand to assist you in your success.

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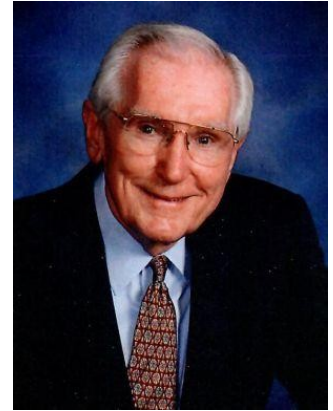
With Sympathy & Prayers...

“A LIMB HAS fallen from the family tree that says Grieve not for me

Remember the BEST TIMES, the laughter, the song

The good life I lived while I was STRONG”

William (Bill) Wiginton passed away on April 15, 2018. Bill served as the Matagorda County Tax Assessor-Collector for 14 years until his retirement in December of 2000.



June Knepper Garrison, 92, passed away Tuesday, June 12, 2018. June served as the Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector from 1984 to 2002. She was the first woman to hold the office.



Teri Garvey-Hanks, Anderson County Tax A/C and John R. Ames, Dallas County Tax A/C representing our association at the Sunset Advisory Commission meeting in Austin in May as the Texas Dept. of Motor Vehicles was under review.

Region News

EAST TEXAS LUNCH BUNCH

Submitted by Billie Page

Angelina County TAC

Hello to all fellow TACA members. The East Texas Lunch Bunch (or ETLB) has had 2 meetings so far this year, with 2 more scheduled for the year. We don't really fit a DMV region, since we are mostly compiled from the Beaumont and Longview Regions. In March, Tammy McRae hosted a meeting in downtown Conroe. She used an Easter theme and had Easter decorations and door prizes. We played homestead exemption family feud, heard from bankruptcy attorneys, had a good active shooter presentation and finished the day with a 2 hour ethics course.

In June, we met again in Chambers County, hosted by Denise Hutter. We had plenty of neat door prizes and presenters on trailer fraud, TNT refresher, active shooter, and a very interesting session on sovereign citizens. We enjoyed seafood and some awesome banana pudding with a twist.

In September, we will meet in Angelina County and we will meet in Jefferson County in December. We are thankful for Tammy McRae resurrecting our ELTBs.

You Need To Know....

Welcome and congratulations to Bowie County Tax Assessor-Collector, Ramona Dawson, who was appointed on February 1st of this year. Ramona was an employee of the Bowie County Tax Office for 20 years and replaces Treva Bailey, who resigned due to some health concerns.



Sandy Cagle, long time Tax Assessor-Collector for Eastland County, retired on March 31st; she was Tax A/C for more than 21 years as she was first sworn in on January 1, 1997. Per a March 26th email from Sandy, she wanted each of us to know what a pleasure it was to serve with everyone in our association and that she will continue to pray for each of us as we continue to serve in our counties for this great state of Texas. Sandy said she will miss all of us but was very excited to see what new adventures God has in store for her and her family.

Congratulations to Andrea May, the newly appointed Eastland County Tax Assessor-Collector. Andrea was appointed and sworn into office on April 1, 2018 to finish the term of her predecessor, Sandy Cagle.

Continued on Page 7

You Need To Know....

(Continued from Page 6)

Lorri Garcia-Ruiz was sworn in as the Edwards County Tax Assessor-Collector on April 9, 2018. Lorri was appointed to the position following Mark Bean's resignation due to health issues. Congratulations Lorri!

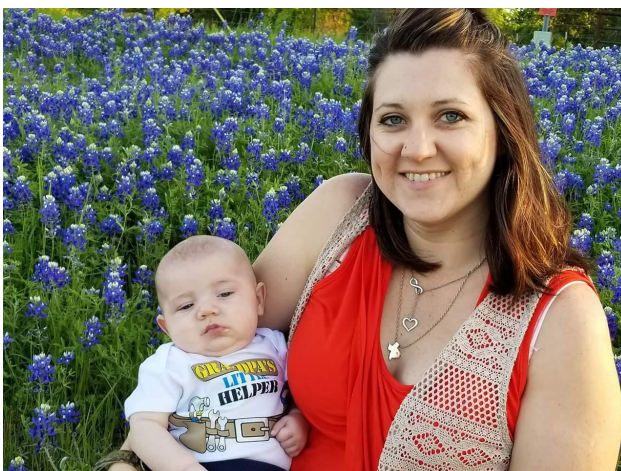


Wood County Tax Assessor-Collector, Carol Taylor, celebrated her 25 year anniversary with her county on April 19, 2018. Carol has been the Tax A/C for ten of those years.

Carol's oldest grandson, Ethan Prather, recently won first place in the Midlothian's Got Talent contest in Midlothian, TX with his artwork. Ethan also placed 3rd in another contest and has entered several others. Congrats to Ethan!



Other exciting things have happened in Wood County this year. Cee Jay Champion, Wood County Chief Deputy-Motor Vehicle, had her first child, a beautiful baby boy, in January of this year. Diesel Joe Champion was born on January 18th; he weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. and was 20" long. Diesel was welcomed by proud parents, Michael & Cee Jay and his two older sisters, Morgan, age 7, and Sterling, age 2. Congrats to the Champion family on this new addition!



A Heartfelt Note From Wichita County...



TACA Family

On behalf of our office family I wanted to take a moment to thank you to so many of those who took the time to send us an email or card or a text with trying to help us move forward with an untimely tragedy involving the loss of Shawn Ramone our Asst. Motor Vehicle Supervisor earlier this month in a motor vehicle accident. It has been an ongoing task of some sense to set down and very respectfully say thank you to so many who have expressed their condolences or provided resources to Shawn's Family and our office family in the aftermath of this life altering event. I certainly want to thank on behalf of our office our TACA Board Officers & Directors, John Ames, Kevin Kieschnick, Allison Getz, Jeri Cox and Amy Lawson with (TAC) all of whom extended our office their condolences or consideration with a host of last minute logistics that came into play with our staff not being able to attend the recent conference as well as changes in task that we were responsible for at this conference.

Our office very tragically lost someone whom was extremely loved, immensely liked and very well thought of. Shawn's loss will be felt on so many levels as she was a loving mother to her two boys, she was a devoted wife to her husband and loved her parents and her sister immensely. And to our county office she was just a very dear friend just as her mother Lynette had been during her 33 year tenure of county service. Shawn was a 2nd generation county staff member and had built a very in-depth resume of county service within our office in just ten years. As I have told so many since her passing that Shawn could have went as far as she wanted to go in county service. Shawn was extremely smart, witty and most of all she was assertive. Some people go an entire life time side stepping or backing up from responsibility. Shawn ran towards it she never backed up from anything. Shawn had a very defined sense of who she was and what she expected out of herself. When Shawn felt strongly about something she did not leave a lot of room for misinterpretation and I can tell you that so many of us admired Shawn for her candor, her straight forwardness and her sense of deliberation. Shawn engaged the public with a degree of confidence that I and so many others were so fortunate to watch every day. Shawn simply brought something to every room she walked into as she had an infectious smile. She had an inherent genuineness, sincerity and warmth that we all admired and respected her for. Shawn brought these virtues to work with her every day and she brought them to every friendship she had. Shawn leaves a very large indelible thumbprint on our office as her work was well respected not only by her peers but elsewhere. Very shortly after taking office I told Shawn that I had plans for her someday and we were very fortunate to promote her in Jan. of 2018 and that will always be one of my best moments since taking office. Shawn was a dandy and I reserve that distinction for a very select few. We all miss her immensely and we will all miss her in so many different ways.

The grief from such an untimely loss will not soon pass as there is distinct difference in getting past a loss like this and eventually getting over a loss such as this. We have a great staff and we are all trying to get back to only what can be described as a new sense of normalcy and for those of you who have been there, you know what I am talking about. I had the absolute privilege of speaking at Shawn's services and as I said then and as I will say now, it is always an honor to have the opportunity to say some good things about a very fine person for the very last time.

We Very Simply and Most Sincerely Thank You,

Tommy Smyth, Wichita County Tax A/C

TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

Working Better Together



84th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL, FRISCO | June 3-7, 2018



***2018 Distinguished Service Award
Linda Bridge, Bee County
Tax Assessor-Collector***



Congratulations Linda!



***Congratulations to all who received their
Professional Designations!***







TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

Working Better Together

84th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL, FRISCO | June 3-7, 2018

Dr. Pepper Ballpark and Banquet

Offsite Event

6:15 p.m. **TAC Photo – ALL Elected Tax Assessor-Collectors should be in this Photo**

6:30 p.m. **Installation of Officers, Presentations & Awards**

7 p.m. **Dinner**

7:30-9 p.m. **Lawn and Field Games**

