THE COUNTY TAX \$TATEMENT

Volume 19, Issue 3-August 2019



2020 Vision

Preparing for the Future



The Four Faces of Cathy Talcott Page 1 of 19



Message from the President:

by Cathy Talcott, Comal County Tax Assessor-Collector

Greetings Colleagues!

Thank you for placing your trust in me to lead our association into an exciting year of 2020! What an awesome honor!

Your Board of Directors and I have hit the ground running! On August 14 we attended a Board Retreat which included an intense day of strategic planning for the future of TACA! See the enclosed article for photos and details. (pg 18)

Our next Board Meeting will take place on September 6, immediately following the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) Legislative Conference. It's from 11:00-2:00, and will take place at the TAC building in Austin, 1210 San Antonio Street, 4th Floor in the Board Room. You are all welcome to attend, and parking in their garage is free for our members.

One of my pledges as your new President is to attend as many Regional Meetings as possible. Our Regions are the grassroots of TACA, and I am enjoying getting to know more and more of our members. So far I have had the pleasure of attending the San Antonio Regional Meeting in Bandera, the Big Country Meeting in Abilene, and the Central Texas Regional Meeting in Bryan. Coming up in the next few weeks I will be at the East Texas Lunch Bunch in Livingston, the Coastal Bend meeting in Edna, and the Bluebonnet Meeting in Gonzales. Please be sure to let me know when your region will be meeting. I would love to drop in and say hi!

Be sure to reach out to me and let me know your thoughts about TACA and how your Board and I can help meet your needs. My email address is talcoc@co.comal.tx.us. And don't forget about the VG Young Conference in San Marcos coming up November 12-14. Hope to see you all there!

I look forward to working with each of you as we focus on this year's theme, "2020 Vision: Planning for the Future!"

Cathy

The County Tax Statement

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 2019/2020 Board of Directors

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Shay Luedeke, CTOP

Nueces County Bell County

Donna Willis Lynn County

Albert Uresti, CTOP Bexar County

2019-2020 TACA Board of Directors

From left: Donna Willis, Director
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From the Editor

Billie Page, Angelina County Tax Assessor-Collector, PCAC

Greetings to everyone. I pray you have been healthy, well, and blessed. It's August and school is already back in session. Please be careful and cautious while traversing in school zones. It is tax rate calculations time and many of us are very busy in that. I pray it's going smoothly for you and that God guide us as we work to perform every calculation correctly.



We had such a super time in June at our 85th TACA Conference in Galveston. What a fantastic conference! Thank you to everyone who made that conference what it was. Special thanks to Allison Getz, our Program Chair, Amy Lawson and Texas Association of Counties, Sarah Lazarowitz and County Progress and our 2018-2019 Board of Directors. And, of course we cannot do without or thank enough our:

Diamond Sponsors: <u>McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen, PC</u>

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Linebarger, Goggan, Blair, Sampson LLP

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God Bless you, everyone, may you be safe and healthy. Until next time...

Billie Page

New Feature This Volume: Dates to Remember Sep 2 Labor Day Oct 31 Halloween **Sep 4-6 Texas Association of Counties** Nov 3 **Daylight Savings Time Ends** Legislative Conference, Fairmont Hotel, Austin Sep 23 First day of Fall Nov 5 **Uniform Election Day** Oct 8 Yom Kippur Nov 11 Veterans Day Oct 14 Columbus Day Nov 11-14 V G Young School for Tax Assessors, Embassy Suites, Oct 16 Boss's Day San Marcos Who Am J? Nov 28 **Thanksgiving**

Each volume of the <u>County Tax \$tatement</u> will feature a different TACA member. A few clues will be given so you can guess who our featured member is. Each following volume will reveal our "Mystery Member" from last issue.

This volume's Mystery Member says:				
I'm in my first term I like to grill	I do not collect I'm a fan of Texas A&M football	I like to hunt I'm a Star Wars/Star Trek/Stargate /Sci Fi fan		
l'm	from the County of			



Submitted By: Adam Shaivitz, Public Information Officer

86th Legislative Session Update

The Vehicle Titles and Registration Division (VTR) is working to implement 33 bills that passed during the legislative session. Eleven bills require the department to adopt administrative rules and eight require programming changes to the department's automated systems. There were also 12 specialty license plate bills that passed. Nine new plates will be available September 1, as shown below.

VTR is actively working on Registration and Title Bulletins, making updates to the TxDMV external website, forms and manuals to inform stakeholders of the changes and impacts of these bills.

SB 604, the department's Sunset Bill, created new training requirements for counties that are currently being developed for implementation during FY 2020. We will provide more information as the details and timelines are finalized.

Performance Quality and Recognition Program (PQRP)

TxDMV recognized seven counties for outstanding performance in FY 2019! PQRP is a voluntary, multi-level recognition program available to all 254 county tax assessor-collectors. The program recognizes achievements in providing quality registration and titling services to the motoring public. The three levels of recognition for the program are Gold, Silver and Bronze. Each level requires achievement in the following four categories: Business Process, Fraud Prevention, Customer Service, and Training. Congratulations to the FY 2019 recipients:

GOLD LEVEL: Bee County, Williamson County SILVER LEVEL: Galveston County, Grimes County

BRONZE LEVEL: Austin County, Madison County, Waller County



June 24, Madisonville: At a meeting of the Madison County Commissioners Court, Waco RSC Manager Gary Gradel presented Madison County Tax Assessor-Collector Karen M. Lane with the Bronze Level PORP award.



July 8, Bellville: Houston RSC Manager Charlotte Kirk presented the Bronze Level PQRP award to Austin County Tax Assessor-Collector Kim Rinn.

DMV, continued



July 11, Hempstead: At a meeting of the Waller County Commissioners Court, Houston RSC Manager Charlotte Kirk presented the Bronze Level PQRP award to Waller County Tax Assessor-Collector Ellen C. Shelburne.



July 16, Georgetown: At a meeting of the Williamson County Commissioners Court, TxDMV Executive Director Whitney Brewster and VTR Director Jeremiah Kuntz presented the Gold Level PQRP award to Williamson County Tax Assessor-Collector Larry Gaddes.

July 22, Beeville: At a meeting of the Bee County Commissioners Court, TxDMV Executive Director Whitney Brewster and Deputy Executive Director Shelly Mellott presented the Gold Level PQRP award to Bee County Tax Assessor-Collector Linda G. Bridge. (no photo provided)



July 24, Anderson: At a meeting of the Grimes County Commissioners Court, TxDMV Executive Director Whitney Brewster and Deputy Director Shelly Mellott presented the Silver Level PQRP award to Grimes County Tax Assessor-Collector Mary Ann Waters.



Tax Assessor-Collectors Association

Of Texas

"2020 Vision: Preparing for the Future"

Scholarship Application

V.G. Young Institute of County Government School for County Tax Assessor-Collectors November 11 - 14, 2019 San Marcos Embassy Suites

Instructions and Information

Completed applications must be received by October 1, 2019. Please send the completed and signed application to Scott Porter at scottp@johnsoncountytx.org. Applications received late may not be considered for this scholarship opportunity.

The TACA Scholarship Committee is a sub-committee of the Advisory Committee. Once received, your application will be reviewed for consideration. The committee may contact you for additional information. You will be notified of the committee's recommendation by October 15, 2019.

The purpose of the scholarship program is to increase membership activity for the Tax Assessor-Collectors who are not provided with a conference travel allowance. This year's scholarship is for a first-time attendee of the V.G. Young Institute of County Government School for County Tax Assessor-Collectors. The scholarship will include a full school registration and a hotel room.

The scholarship does not include mileage or meal reimbursement.

Qualifications

- · Current active member of TACA in good standing
- · Current elected or appointed County Tax Assessor-Collector
- · First time attendee to the V.G. Young Institute of County Government School for County Tax Assessor-Collectors

Applicant Information						
Name:		Phone:				
County:		Date you took Office:				
Address:	City:		Zip:			
Designations Currently Held: PCC CTO	P PCAC	Designations Working Toward:	PCC CTOP	PCAC		
Does your county pay for your required classes for certification or continuing education hours? Yes No						
Does your county pay for any of the classes	or conferences that you des	sire to attend? Yes	No			
Please attach a brief explanation of why you are applying for this scholarship and how it would benefit you.						
Affirmation						
I affirm that the information provided in this application and all attachments, if any, is true and accurate.						
Signature:		Date:				
Return Completed Applications no Later t	han October 1, 2019 to:	scottp@johnsoncountytx.org				
TACA Use Only						
Approved for Recommendation: Yes	No .	Authorized Signature:				



From Left:

Teri Hanks, Ronnie Keister, Midget Sherman, John Ames, Bobby Biscamp, Gary Barber, Tavie Murphy, Luanne Caraway, Ro'Vin Garrett, Bea Westbrook, Kristy Roe and Mark McClelland

Past Presidents' Breakfast, June 2019



The Piney Woods Republican Women of Cass County hosted "Pizza & Politics" on July 29th with Republican State Chair James Dickey as the honored speaker. James Dickey was elected to replace Tom Mechler as Chairman of the Republican Party of Texas in June of 2017 by the State Republican Executive Committee. He was re-elected at the 2018 State Convention in San Antonio.

The evening's focus was to encourage participation at the local and county level, and to discuss measures to increase the number of registered voters in the State of Texas. County officials attending included Cass County Tax Assessor Collector Angela Young; Atlanta's Mayor Travis Ransom, and Amy Varnell-Cass County Clerk.

submitted by:Angela Young, PCC CTOP Cass County Tax Assessor-Collector



"In these difficult times we are currently facing, I thought it would be good to share this quote I read today by Daniel Gomez: 'You are a life jacket to someone drowning; Help them'.

Thank you for electing me to the TACA Board of Directors."

Albert Uresti, MPA, PCC Bexar County Tax Assessor-Collector Gayala Askew Retired after 29 years of service to Shackelford County. She was the former 7ax Assessor-Collector

L Scott Porter Retiring

Yes, I am retiring at the end of June. It's been an adventure for the past 20 years.

Lots of changes, lots of old friends and new friends. I will do my best to keep in touch. But it's time for me to move on and take care of myself.

Love you all and TACA

Lewis Scott Porter PCC Wheeler Co TAC





East Texas Lunch Bunch

(Longview and Beaumont Regions)

The East Texas Lunch Bunch met in Kilgore on Wednesday, May 22, 2019. The event was co-hosted by Gary Barber of Smith County and Kirk Shields of Gregg County. Jim Lambeth of Linebarger, et al sponsored the delicious lunch provided by Country Tavern BBQ.

Approximately 50 attendees received information from Chuck Lee, Longview Regional DMV Supervisor, about Military Plates; Agent Michael Dawson, U.S. Secret Service, about Local Trends in Fraud; and Jim Lambeth, Attorney, about Current Bills in Legislation. Participants received up to 3 hours in CE units.



Michelle French receives outgoing President's Commemorative Plaque From New President Cathy Talcott



Representative Hugh Shine receives a plaque from Bell County Tax Assessor Shay Luedeke (see press release next page)



THE TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

An Association to secure the benefits of organized ideas and discussion of mutual problems that will advance and maintain proper efficiency and dignity of the County Tax Office.

www.tacaoftexas.org

"2020 Vision: Planning for the Future"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 1, 2019

SHINE RECONIZED BY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS FOR REPRESENTATION DURING LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BELTON, TX -- This year marked the 86th Legislative Session and it was met with its challenges. "The Tax Assessor-Collectors Association saw much needed bills adopted, and they saw good bills unfortunately not make through committee. This year the Tax Assessor-Collector Association worked closely with all the Legislators and would like to publicly thank them for their service," said Shay Luedeke, Bell County Tax Assessor-Collector.

"Prior to the Legislative session, many meetings and conference calls were made after Hurricane Harvey in over a year's timeframe that helped write an important piece of Legislation, HB492," Luedeke said. "The purpose of the bill is for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxes of a portion of appraised value of property damaged by a disaster. There were countless hours spent constructing this bill with Representative Shine and Tax Assessor-Collectors along the coast. This bill was actually renamed by the Tax Assessor-Collectors as the Shine bill."

Representative Hugh Shine of House District 55 was recognized by the Tax Assessor-Collectors Association of Texas for his exceptional efforts during the 86th Session of the Texas Legislature. Representative Shine was instrumental in assisting County Tax Assessor-Collectors across Texas in crafting and ultimately passing legislation to benefit the citizens of Texas.

About Shay Luedeke – Shay is currently serving his 1st term as Tax Assessor-Collector for Bell County. He is in his second year as Vice Chair on the Legislative Committee for the Tax Assessor-Collector Association of Texas as well as the second year as Vice Chair on the Technology Committee. In June 2019, Shay was elected to serve a two-year term as a Director on the Board of Directors for the Tax Assessor-Collector Association of Texas.

About Hugh Shine - Hugh Shine is a retired United States Army Colonel, financial advisor, and politician. He is a Republican member of the Texas House of Representatives, representing the 55th District. Shine defeated incumbent Molly White in the 2016 Republican primary and went on to win the November 2016 general election.



Tax Assessor Angie Young, Cass County, Tax Assessor Veronica King, Harrison County, Dist. 9 State Representative Chris Paddie, and Tax Assessor Karen Jones, Marion County. Paddie received the TACA Legislative Leadership Award. Please use the link below to view the newspaper article:

https://www.marshallnewsmessenger.com/search/?l=25&sd=desc&s=start_time&f=html&t=article%2Cvideo%2Cvountsearch/?l=25&sd=desc&s=start_time&f=html&t=article%2Cvideo%2Cvountsearch/?l=25&sd=desc&s=start_time&f=html&t=article%2Cvideo%2Cvountsearch/?l=25&sd=desc&s=start_time&f=html&t=article%2Cvideo%2Cvountsearch/?l=25&sd=desc&s=start_time&f=html&t=article%2Cvideo%2Cvountsearch/?l=25&sd=desc&s=start_time&f=html&t=article%2Cvideo%2Cvountsearch/?l=25&sd=desc&s=start_time&f=html&t=article%2Cvideo%2Cvountsearch/?l=25&sd=desc&s=start_time&f=html&t=article%2Cvideo%2Cvountsearch/?l=25&sd=desc&s=start_time&f=html&t=article%2Cvideo%2Cvountsearch/?l=25&sd=desc&s=start_time&f=html&t=article%2Cvideo%2Cvountsearch/?l=25&sd=desc&s=start_time&f=html&t=article%2Cvideo%2Cvountsearch/?l=25&sd=desc&s=start_time&f=html&t=article%2Cvideo





What is New at the Comptroller's Office?

86th Texas Legislature Updates: Exemption for Religious Purposes, Use Tax on Off-Highway Vehicles, and Boat and Boat Motor Taxes

TALIEA POCAIGUE | TEXAS COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS | TAX POLICY DIVISION

With the 86th Texas Legislature session at an end, there were a few House and Senate Bills that passed; some of which will affect Texas county tax assessor-collectors (TACs). Below are the House Bills (HB), a description of the law changes, and their effective dates that may affect how TACs process related transactions.

Motor Vehicles Used for Religious Purposes HB 2338 Effective Date: Sept. 1, 2019 Motor Vehicle Sales and Use Tax – Chapter 152

HB 2339 amends Tax Code Section 152.001 and redefines "motor vehicle used for religious purposes" to mean a motor vehicle used by a church or religious society not used primarily for the personal or official needs or duties of a minister. A motor vehicle used for religious purposes is no longer limited to a certain number of passengers; it can also be a trailer.

Impact: TACs will no longer be required to verify the amount of passenger seats in a vehicle purchased exempt by a church or religious society.

Off-Highway Vehicles Purchased Out of State HB 1543 Effective Date: Sept 1, 2019 Limited Sales and Use Tax – Chapter 151

HB 1543 requires purchasers of off-highway all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, and utility vehicles to present to a county TAC acceptable documentation that shows use tax paid to the Comptroller's office, upon the submission of an application for Texas title.

The HB also requires manufacturers licensed under Texas Occ

upations Code, Chapter 2301, file a report with the Comptroller's office indicating new off-highway vehicles purchased out of state, with warranties in Texas. A manufacturer's first report is due on or before March 1, 2020.

Impact: Taxpayers are required to submit proof of use tax paid (to the Comptroller's office) when they present an application for Texas title and registration (Form 130-U) to a TAC. We are currently implementing a process for this, and will have more information once a process is set in place.

Use Tax Exemption for Certain Boat and Boat Motors HB 4032 Effective Date: Sept. 1, 2019 Boat and Boat Motor Sales and Use Tax – Chapter 160

HB 4032 amends Parks and Wildlife Code Section 160.003 and redefines a boat to include all vessels 115 feet or shorter in length, measured from tip to bow in a straight line to the stern. This includes commercial and noncommercial boats, with no regard to who sold the boat.

The HB also creates an exemption for boats and boat motors sold for use in another state if the boat or boat motor:

Is removed from this state within 10 days of purchase;

Is placed in a repair facility for repairs or modifications within 10 days of purchase, and removed from this state within 20 days of completion of the repairs or modifications; or

displays a temporary use permit and removal from this state within 90 days of purchase.

Temporary Use Permit

A temporary use permit may be issued for a taxable boat or boat motor purchased outside of Texas. The fee for the permit is \$150 and the permit is valid for 90 days. An owner can only obtain two permits per calendar year; a second permit cannot be issued before the 30th day after the expiration of the first permit.

The HB further limits the amount of boat sales tax on the sale of a taxable boat and boat motor to \$18,750 (this limit does not affect use tax due). It also changes the due date for boat and boat motor sales and use tax from 20 to 45 working days after delivery of a taxable boat and boat motor to the purchaser, or when brought into Texas for use. Impact: Participating TACs who collect boat and boat motor tax can issue temporary use permits.

We know that change can, oftentimes, be a bit intimidating. We are available, however, to try to make any transitions as smooth as possible. If you have any questions regarding these law changes, you can contact our dedicated TAC Taxpayer Services line at 800-803-2573, or you can send an email to tax.help@cpa.texas.gov.

As always, the Comptroller's office appreciates county TACs, and looks forward to our continued working relationship serving Texas and its residents.

From the Membership





TACA President Cathy Talcott Attending the Central Texas Regional Meeting in Bryan on August 15

Achievements:



PCC and **CTOP** Certificates



PCAC and **PDAC** Certificates



Distinguished Service Award Michelle French, Denton Co. TAC awards Gary Barber, Smith Co. TAC

Thank you for your outstanding service to our association.



Michelle French
Denton County Tax Assessor/Collector
and Immediate Past President

Hello Fellow TACs and Deputies. We are well into summer and looking forward to the "brrrr" months: SeptemBER, OctoBER, NovemBER and DecemBER. I hope you are doing well in your respective offices. We have much to look forward to as we prepare for the tax collection season and looking toward the TxDMV Board as they discuss upcoming proposed rules. If you haven't done so yet, please do try to get to a TxDMV Board Meeting. Our attendance provides the Board with a chance to hear from one of their major stakeholders, the Tax Assessor Collectors of Texas.

I wish you much success as we prepare for the coming months and as always, your TACA Board are here to help you.



Property Tax Assistance Division

Andrew Belcher

Education and Communications Project Specialist

PTAD updated its truth-in-taxation (TNT) <u>website</u> for 2019, including immediately effective changes from the 86th Legislature. The website provides calculation forms, election petitions, ballots and other comprehensive information for taxing units regarding their legal responsibilities to taxpayers and setting tax rates. PTAD continues to provide videos pertaining to the truth-in-taxation process, which allow continuing education credit for registrants with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). These videos and instruction for requesting TDLR credit is located on the <u>Property Tax Videos</u> webpage.

Taxing units can expect more changes to the TNT process for 2020. PTAD is reviewing legislation with a Jan. 1, 2020 effective date to update TNT materials for next year. We hope to have the 2020 materials updated earlier than normal to allow time for taxing units to familiarize themselves with the changes.

Craig Williams of the Information and Customer Service team is the TNT subject matter expert (SME) for our division. If you have any questions regarding the TNT process, contact Craig by <a href="mailto:ema



Changes related to HB 4032

HB 4032 was passed this past legislative session and is scheduled to go into effect on September 1, 2019. This legislation included some key changes to both Parks and Wildlife Code and the Tax Code (all changes apply to vessels and outboard motors purchased on or after September 1, 2019 – vessels and outboard motors purchased prior to September 1 remain subject to the laws in place at the time of

purchase):

PARKS AND WILDLIFE CODE

- The time period applicants have to title and register their boat is changing from 20 days to 45 days.
- The time period marine dealers have to submit title/registration applications for their customers is changing from 20 days to 45 days.
- The validity time period for the temporary placard provided to purchasers by marine dealers is changing from 15 days to 90 days.

TAX CODE

- A new temporary use permit will be available to owners who meet certain eligibility requirements. The permit may be purchased in lieu of paying tax when the vessel will be in Texas for a limited time period.
- The date tax is due is changing from 20 working days to 45 working days after the date of sale.
- The definition of a taxable boat is changing to include vessels up to 115 feet in length. (Previously vessels greater than 65 feet were required to pay tax directly to the Comptroller of Public Accounts. Vessels greater than 115 feet remain exempt from boat tax and registration requirements.)
- The tax for vessels and outboard motors purchased in Texas will be capped at \$18,750.00 (equivalent to a \$300,000.00 sales price). Vessels and outboard motors with a combined sales price greater than \$300,000.00 must report tax separately (the sales price for both assets may not be combined on the vessel application for tax payment purposes).

The Boat Registration Information and Titling System (BRITS) is being reprogrammed to incorporate these changes, with a scheduled implementation date of September 1, 2019.

All program resources, including all information and forms available on the TPWD website, will be updated and available to processing staff and the general public by September 1, 2019.

Updated Vessel/Boat Application (PWD 143) and Outboard Motor Application (PWD 144) forms will begin shipping to all participating Tax Assessor-Collector agents on August 19, 2019. <u>Effective September 1, 2019, please recycle any remaining copies of old versions of these application forms and begin using the new forms.</u>

Additional information regarding these changes will be provided to all participating Tax Assessor-Collector agents prior to the September 1, 2019 rollout.

If you have any questions about any of the information provided by TPWD in this newsletter, or about any other aspects of the Boat Titling & Registration Program, please contact a TPWD Boat Field Liaison at (512) 389-4393 for assistance.

Contributed by Julie G. Aronow Program Manager Boat Titling, Registration & Marine Licensing

First TACA Board of Directors Retreat

What an Amazing Retreat!

On August 14 your TACA Board of Directors met for a very unique event – a Board Retreat, which to our knowledge is the first of its kind! The idea came to mind at our New Board Meeting breakfast at the Galveston conference. Since our theme this year is "2020 Vision – Planning for the Future," we decided it was time to focus on the future of TACA.

What better way to plan for our association's future than to discuss challenges and brainstorm ideas, complete with a professional facilitator from Texas A&M AgriLife! Dr. Rebekka Dudensing was generous to offer her services for the day at a location in Austin. Even during this busy time of TNT, every Board member attended, which shows the dedication we feel towards our association.

The first task at hand was to study TACA's years-old Mission Statement, as well as determine a Vision for our association. We tossed around lots of words and ideas that we felt would be more pertinent to the TACA of today, and will continue to mold and shape them into a possible final product. We will keep you posted!

Next, after considering our association's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, Dr. Dudensing helped guide us towards 5 main goals which your Board feels we should focus on, both now and in the future. In alphabetical order, these 5 goals are:

Culture of Professionalism (i.e. ethics, integrity, excellence, etc.)

Legislative Initiatives

Membership Engagement

Organizational Growth & Direction

Strengthening External Relationships with Industry Partners

Our process of formulating the best methods to accomplish these goals is a work in progress. But after a very intense and rewarding day, we have a terrific structure with which to begin our work. Your Board is working hard for you, so stay tuned for updates as we focus on an exciting future for TACA!

Cathy Talcott





And finally, here are the sponsors who help make our conferences the wonderful experiences that they are:

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