

The Official Publication of the Tax Assessor-Collectors Association of

THE COUNTY TAX \$TATEMENT

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Tax Assessor-Collectors Association of Texas

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Your View!

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THE
DATE!



88th Annual Tax Assessor-Collectors Association Conference
Amarillo Civic Center, Amarillo | June 11-16



The County Tax Statement

The County Tax Statement is the official publication of the Tax Assessor-Collectors 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.

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Hello Friends from East Texas.

In just about 3 weeks, many of us will be gathering in Amarillo for our 88th Annual Conference! It will be good to be back together for a few days. Our association is much more than a group of individuals; we're family and some of our best friendships have come from this group. I love the feeling of support and how we work together to make our association one of the best of its kind.

May notices have just gone out, and our phones and lobbies are pretty busy right now. Vehicles are still selling like crazy in our area, despite how empty most of our car lots look these days. Locally, the economy seems energized, despite the huge increases at the gas stations and grocery stores. Houses are being built despite the cost and scarcity of materials. I'm no economist or anything, and don't know where this is heading, but I am definitely a "Jesus take the wheel" kind of person. Regardless of how everything is going, Jesus is constant and strong.

Thanks to those of you contributing to this newsletter. You are very appreciated. This is my last newsletter as editor as I am stepping down and President-Elect Bruce Stidham has asked Jennifer Gentry of Parker County to take over. Please make her job easier by contributing articles for her, sharing events from your office, sending her photos you have taken at conferences, etc. I will, of course, sign up to be a committee member and help her all I can.

God bless you all!

Billie Page, Editor



News from our Associates

TxDMV Content for TACA Newsletter – May 2022

Temporary Tag Enhancements

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) continues to implement various system enhancements to prevent the misuse of temporary tags.

In early April, the department eliminated the practice of recycling temporary tag patterns. This helps law enforcement officers who come across duplicate records when checking tags. To assist in this effort, TxDMV updated the pattern for temporary tags issued through eTAG. This enhancement ensures tag patterns are not duplicated in the future.

Another April enhancement requires applicants of 72-Hour and 144-Hour Permits to provide a USDOT number. The USDOT number prints on the permit and permit receipt, and is captured in a newly required USDOT number field in the Registration and Title System (RTS), as well as the internet portal for online applications. The internet portal for these permits is also no longer available to online applicants from midnight to 6 a.m.

The issuance of 30-Day Permits now requires proof of a passing vehicle inspection along with insurance and current, government issued photo identification. A 30-Day Permit may not be purchased more than 60 days prior to its effective date.

The department's Vehicle Titles and Registration Division (VTR) distributed various law enforcement and county tax assessor-collector communications, a Registration and Title Bulletin (RTB), and created a new form for 30-Day Permit applicants. Additionally, VTR held webinars to discuss the changes to 30-Day Permits. Updates to the TxDMV website and the Motor Vehicle Registration Manual are in the works.

VTR and the Enforcement Division conducted various liaison meetings with law enforcement agencies and associations to discuss system enhancements and progress on investigations. VTR also provided an overview of the department's temporary tag enhancements to the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority task force commanders.

87th Legislative Session Bill Implementation

Initial RTS programming changes to implement Senate Bill (SB) 876 took place February 28, 2022. SB 876 allows title applications, initial registrations, and renewals to be processed in any county willing to accept the transactions. SB 876 was effective March 1, 2022.

After the initial programming release in February, VTR provided additional webinars for all stakeholders to discuss the programming impacts and continued to meet with county

tax assessor-collectors to identify and streamline programming processes. As a result of these conversations and continued VTR internal review, several system enhancements are in development, and testing with county tax assessor-collector staff is ongoing.

Recognizing Outstanding Dedication and Service

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles established the [Performance Quality Recognition Program](#) (PQRP) to recognize county tax assessor-collectors who go above and beyond in complying with Texas laws, agency rules, and exceeding customer service expectations. The department is statutorily charged with establishing standards for uniformity and service quality for counties. This program determines the best practices applicable to county tax assessor-collectors and recognizes them and their offices for outstanding performance and efficiency in processing title and registration transactions. This is a voluntary program available to all 254-counties. The three levels of recognition for the program are Bronze, Silver, and Gold. This year's winners are:

Gold

Galveston County – Cheryl Johnson, Tax Assessor-Collector
Montgomery County – Tammy McRae, Tax Assessor-Collector

Bronze

Bexar County – Albert Uresti, Tax Assessor-Collector
Williamson County – Larry Gaddes, Tax Assessor-Collector

Special recognition to Tammy McRae who is the first tax assessor-collector to be awarded the gold level in two consecutive years. Congratulations to the recipients of this year's PQRP awards, and thank you for your outstanding service!





Boat Titling & Registration Updates

Peak boating season is upon us so here are a few reminders to get us through another successful season:

US Coast Guard (USCG) Documented Vessels

USCG Registration Renewals: USCG documented vessels must have proof of current documentation to renew registration. (USCG documented vessels are not eligible to renew registration online due to this requirement.) The current documentation certificate must be provided as proof by the customer.

DO NOT Title a USCG Documented Vessel: If a vessel has current or expired USCG documentation, TPWD (and all participating agents) should not title the vessel unless a Letter of Deletion from the USCG Vessel Documentation Center is presented. USCG documentation is the equivalent of a title issued by the federal government.

Processor Errors

A processor error is a transaction in BRITS used to make correction(s) at “no fee” due to a data entry error or when problems occur with or at fulfillment (the wrong month punched on a decal, for example).

Use a processor error only when the error has been confirmed to have been on the part of the processor (TPWD or participating TAC agent), and only when the correction does not affect fees (such as vessel length affecting the registration fee – a void would be required in this case). If copies of the original transaction documents are needed to confirm a processor error, contact your TPWD Boat Liaison.

All processor errors must be fully documented with justification for why the transaction is being processed at no fee. Documentation should include the reason for the transaction (which may include copies of the original transaction to show the error), the processor's name, date, and agent location. (For example: *Correcting customer's name – see attached supporting documentation.* *Jaronow TPWD HQ 5-11-22.*)

DO NOT USE A PROCESSOR ERROR TRANSACTION FOR AN ADDRESS CHANGE. Please use section G on the Vessel/Boat Maintenance Application form PWD 143M or section D on the Outboard Motor Maintenance Application form PWD 144M to correct an address.

Submitting Processed Transactions to TPWD

All processed transactions should be bundled and mailed to TPWD headquarters weekly, in accordance with the TPWD document packaging procedures located in the BRITS User's Manual, for compliance audit and imaging. Bundles should include:

- All transactions processed the prior week (Monday – Friday).
 - The appropriate Transaction Activity Reports (TAR) for each day transactions were processed (if there were no transactions processed on a particular date a TAR is not required for that date).
 - The cover sheet that includes the Agent Location name and number, and the date range of the transactions in the bundle.
 - A Transaction Receipt for every boat or outboard motor transaction processed (make sure the Transaction Receipt is first, followed by the supporting documentation for that transaction behind it).
 - Please **do not** include Order Receipts, Account Notices, or Agent Activity / Clerk Activity Reports.
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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 Liaison at (512) 389-4393 for assistance.

Property Tax Assistance Division of the State Comptroller's Office

The Property Tax Assistance Division (PTAD) is currently finalizing seven 2022 Truth-In-Taxation (TNT) tax rate calculation worksheets, including the Emergency Revenue Tax Rate Calculation Worksheet. The projected online posting date is late spring. PTAD will also post the TNT notices, ballots, and petitions for tax rate elections on its website soon thereafter. Be on the lookout for the PTAD's email notification when it posts the TNT forms on its website.

Other updates include the PTAD TNT webpages, online videos, and the one-pager (TNT Basics, Notices, Hearings and Elections on Tax Rates, De Minimis Rate and Unused Increment Rate) as informational resources for your offices to use.

PTAD is also exploring the possibility of hosting a TNT online forum (hot topics) about 2023 potential legislative changes and other TNT topics. Contact Craig Williams or Catie Burleigh with questions or suggested topics at

PTAD.TNT@cpa.texas.gov. Stay tuned.

Special thanks to our Partners/Associates who contribute to our newsletter:

Adam Shaivitz, TxDMV

Craig Williams, PTAD

Julie Aronow, TPWD

HB 2723/HB 1118
TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 2054.5191

- Limits people who must take cybersecurity training to people who use a computer to perform at least 25% of their required duties.
- Governing body, or its designee may deny access to its computer system to any person who has not taken cybersecurity training.
- Must report compliance with cybersecurity training to the State.
- Effective immediately



mvba



The **Bluebonnet Region** held a meeting on Wednesday, April 27th. Fayette and Williamson Counties co-hosted the meeting that was held at the historic Casino Hall in La Grange, TX. We had a laws and rules update from Matthew Tepper with the MVBA law firm. Roslynn Hopkins with Tx DMV provided red flag title fraud training and our DMV regional service center manager, Rachel Vasquez, presented information on recent RTBs and RTS updates. We also had a panel presentation from Matt Johnson, Williamson County Chief Deputy, and Liz Shahan, Hays County Chief Deputy. They led a discussion with the group on customer service and staffing best practices.

Regards,
Larry Gaddes PCAC, CTA
Williamson County Tax Assessor/Collector

Dallas County Tax Assessor/Collector John R. Ames presented Dallas County Asst. Court Administrator Charles Reed with the 2021 TACA Legislative MVP Award on May 3, 2022. Mr. Reed was extremely helpful to Texas Counties, especially County Tax Assessors, in the 87th Legislative Session and subsequent special sessions. Mr. Reed's activity in the Texas Capitol assisted TACA by informing Legislators, and staff, of issues and concerns with filed legislation. Past TACA President and Montgomery County Tax Assessor/Collector Tammy McRae worked directly with Mr. Reed on many issues involving Tax Assessors. Ms. McRae recognized Mr. Reed's efforts in her out going speech to the TACA membership and asked Mr. Ames to present this award at an appropriate time. During the presentation, Mr. Ames stated "Charles Reed is a champion for great legislation and a road block for bad legislation. His diligence in working on behalf of Dallas County supported all Texas Counties and County Tax Assessors during the multiple 87th sessions."



Longview Regional Meeting

The Longview Region had a meeting on April 13th in Quitman, Texas. Carol Taylor, Wood County Tax Assessor-Collector hosted the meeting. The LGBS law firm sponsored the meeting and provided the meal. The meeting was held at the Anconna Italian Restaurant on Hwy 37.

Five education credits were approved for the meeting and the topics and speakers were:

Trailers – Chuck Lee, Longview Regional TxDMV Manager

Title Fraud – Patrick Ervin, Compliance Specialist, TxDMV Enforcement

Titles and Stolen Vehicles – Gary King, TxDMV Task Enforcement

Special Inventory – James Guest, Attorney for Linebarger, et al

More than 30 people attended the event. Many thanks to Carol Taylor, her staff and Richard Brand from LGBS Tyler office for making this happen.

By the way, newly appointed Tax Assessor-Collector Michelle Terry from Gregg County was in attendance.

Congratulations to Michelle in her new position, and to the previous Tax Assessor-Collector Kirk Shields in his retirement. Best wishes to both of them!

Coastal Bend Regional Meeting



This regional meeting took place in February at the Beeville Country Club. It was a huge turn-out for the first meeting of 2022. Presentations were made by the Coastal Bend DMV Regional Office, the Texas State Comptroller's Office and by Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson.

Monica Foster, Jackson County Tax Assessor-Collector



Prayer for the Government Leaders

O God, the Father of Nations, the Ruler of Heaven and Earth, I pray today for the government leaders. I pray for the leaders of the nation to know you first, to lead through your wise counsel and guidance. I pray for them to lay aside selfish desire and petty grievances, instead focusing always on the best interests of the people. May they lead through humility and love, leading us to peace and unity. Lord, keep our leaders grounded in what is good and true, protecting them from the temptations and distractions of power and influence. May they know and follow you, leading through faith, ever working for the good of the people they serve. Amen.

Thank you to all of our loyal sponsors. You are all appreciated and we would not have the great association that we have without you.

Almighty God, send down upon those who hold office in this State the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice; that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices to promote the well-being of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—based on Book of Common Prayer, p. 822