

The Official Publication of the Tax Assessor-Collectors Association of

THE COUNTY TAX \$STATEMENT



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Enhance Your View



Photo by Kevin Kieschnick

The County Tax \$tatement

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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A word from our President

Randy Riggs, CPA, PCC
McLennan County
Tax Assessor-Collector

Hello TACA!

I hope everyone who attended the 39th Annual V.G. Young School for Tax Assessor-Collectors had an awesome conference. For those of you who were unable to attend, I learned that I am a “C.” That means I’m a calculator. Focused on minimizing risk and aiming for success, I’m task-oriented. If you speak to a calculator, make sure you discuss facts – and make sure you’re correct because we’ll double check you! Now there were other personalities too, like the Driver. They are fast-paced and direct, and they want you to be too. They want you to get to the point. Inspirers view life as a party. Imagine my reaction when I determined that my entire management team were Inspirers. They want to keep it light, positive and enjoyable. Sounds just like a tax office, right? The fourth personality we learned about were the Supporters who are kind and loving and want you to treat them with kindness. They want to develop a relationship, so don’t be too blunt with them.

Betsy Allen-Manning who gave our keynote address helped us understand these different traits of people in our offices. It was a different perspective or viewpoint applying these traits to our line of work. This gives us the opportunity to enhance that perspective...Enhance Your View! Great sessions on Fraud, Human Resources, Communicating with the Public, and Honest Stress, Healthy Coping allow us to enhance our view of our offices and communities. Special thanks to Sherry Mueck and her committee for working with Dr. Peter McGuill and his staff resulting in this great conference.

How can you enhance your view? How can you enhance your perspective of yourself, your community, your office or your association? One way is to get involved. You don’t have to wait until the Annual Conference in Amarillo in June. You can get involved in a committee benefiting your association today. Speaking of Amarillo, June 11-16 are the dates for the 88th Annual Tax Assessor-Collectors Association Conference. It’s never too early to Enhance Your View!

Greetings and Brrrrr from East Texas.

Prayers that all of you are well and keeping warm. Congratulations on another successful year of tax collections. Our constituents kept us super-busy the week leading up to and on the 31st. Thanks to Covid, we worked 4 deputies short of a full staff. However, several of the clerks left smiling each day, saying “I love it when we’re busy like this!”.

For those of you who conduct elections... God bless you! I am only helping my EA in the background, doing only grunt work, and it is overwhelming. Our EA staff is terrific, working long hours 7 days per week. Again, TAC/EAs ... God bless you and your staff.

So, it’s February and we can rest easy, right? Not so much. People begin getting their income tax refunds and guess what our locals buy? Vehicles! Our registration and title clerks get slammed every February and March. As a matter of fact, our motor vehicle department stays very busy all year long now; for the last few years.

For those of us in Northeast Texas, at least, we are experiencing our first major winter weather of 2022. I just loved the photo Kevin took of cattails covered in snow a year or two ago, so I used it in the newsletter. I feel it also fits in with Randy’s theme this year, “Enhance Your View”, since it gives us an enhanced view of the cattails.

I just this week reminded my staff that instead of viewing our jobs with a broad view, to look at the people we serve individually. They are our purpose. They provide our jobs. One deputy remarked that she has no idea of what they have been through today, so she wants to make visits to our office as painless and pleasant as possible. I believe most of my staff feels the same. God bless you all!

Billie Page, Editor



News from our Associates

Comptroller of Public Accounts

Comptroller Glenn Hegar recently announced key changes to his executive leadership team. Effective Nov. 1, Korry Castillo, who served as the Property Tax Assistance Division (PTAD) Director for the previous three years, took over as Associate Deputy Comptroller for Agency Operations, which includes seven agency divisions including PTAD.

As part of the transition, Shannon Murphy took over as the director of PTAD, having served as assistant director for three years. Allison Mansfield moved into the role of assistant director of PTAD, after serving as the assistant director of Legislative Affairs for three years. Both are well-versed in property tax law and have served at the Comptroller's Office for many years.

PTAD is also pleased to announce the hiring of Shaunte Bryant as Education and Communications manager and the promotion of Lorraine Miller to Field Appraiser Operations manager. As part of these transition, PTAD also welcomes three new supervisors in the Field Appraiser Operations: Darlene Rippamonti, Residential West; Clay Potter, Commercial; and Holly Carpenter, Residential East.

By combining these individuals' knowledge and experience with the excellent staff and technical expertise at PTAD, the division is well positioned to continue the outstanding work it has performed through the years for the agency and the state. Please reach out to us with property tax questions at ptad.cpa@cpa.texas.gov or 800-252-9121 (press 2).

The Texas Comptroller's office ranked as a Top 10 large-sized employer in the *Austin American Statesman's* 2020 Top Workplaces of Greater Austin survey. The survey asked workers to rate their employers on issues such as leadership and direction, ethics and values and treatment of employees. If you have friends or family looking for employment, please direct them to our website where they can find positions across Texas of varying types and subject matters: comptroller.texas.gov/about/careers/opportunities.php.

Shannon Murphy



Shannon Murphy



Allison Mansfield



TxDMV Submission for TACA Newsletter

87th Legislative Session Bill Implementation

The Vehicle Titles and Registration (VTR) Division is implementing a total of seven bills in December 2021 and January 2022. The seven bills required programming of the department's Registration and Title System (RTS). Listed are bills with programming impacts and their ongoing implementation efforts:

- HB 1081 - Presidential Service Badge Specialty License Plate
- HB 912 - Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Specialty License Plate
- SB 791 - U.S. Navy Submarine Service Specialty License Plate
- HB 1123 - Family First Specialty License Plate
- HB 1863 - Make A Wish Specialty License Plate
- SB 792 - Disabled Veteran with the International Symbol of Access Specialty License Plate
- HB 2152 - Extension of Online Renewal Period for Vehicle Registration

Programming for the bills was implemented with RTS Release 11.0, deployed the weekend of December 18. Stakeholders were informed of the changes through RTS release notes. VTR distributed additional communications, including specialty plate guides, revised forms, a notification for HB 2152, and a Registration and Title Bulletin (RTB) for SB 792. VTR plans to host webinars to discuss the changes from the RTB.

VTR is updating its electronic learning modules affected by the bills. Once complete, we will send an additional communication notifying counties of the updates. Corresponding manual updates will be provided with the January quarterly revision. VTR continues work with the Office of General Counsel and the Information Technology Services Division (ITSD) to implement the remaining bills pertinent to vehicles titles and registration passed during the 87th legislative session.

2021 V.G. Young Conference

Thank you for the invitation to participate in the 2021 V.G. Young School for County Tax Assessor-Collectors on November 9-11. The VTR Division Director Roland D. Luna, Sr. and Deputy Division Director Clint Thompson addressed attendees during the general session regarding VTR's organizational changes, noteworthy legislative changes, operational planning for future legislation, and projects and initiatives. Enforcement Division Director Corrie Thompson led training sessions on title and odometer fraud, including what counties should look out for and how to submit issues to the department for review. Additionally, VTR and Enforcement staff participated in roundtable sessions and answered questions from county employees on a variety of topics impacting county operations. Finally, a big thanks to the Government and Strategic Communications Division for hosting the TxDMV booth during the event. TxDMV appreciates opportunities to engage with its county partners and looks forward to future events.

County Equipment Requests

November was the first opportunity during Fiscal Year 2022 for counties to request additional workstations to support their efforts in carrying out registration and title transactions. Requests were evaluated during December and then forwarded to ITSD for processing and fulfillment. The department updated its policy to add a second request period during March of each year and will send out a reminder communication in advance of the March 2022 request window. Thank you for your patience as we work to review, process, and fulfill requests received in November.

VTR County Support Liaison

VTR is excited to announce the creation of a dedicated position to serve as a county support liaison. This position will oversee the County Equipment Guide, interlocal agreements, lease agreements, workstation requests, invoicing, and a host of other equipment-related tasks. The position will liaise between our county partners and internal TxDMV stakeholders with the goals of enhancing customer service and improving communication. The position is expected to be filled in January 2022, so look for announcements in the new year.

VTR Staff Recognition for Outstanding Dedication and Service

Amarillo Regional Service Center

Congratulations to Patty Combs on her 40th Anniversary with the State of Texas! Awesome job, Patty! Thank you so much for your years of State service.





Happy Holidays!

From the

TPWD Boat Titling & Registration Program

- ✦ Reminder for the New Year:
Get them off your books! Return all unused expired decal inventory to TPWD, Attn: Boat Titling
4200 Smith School Rd, Austin, TX 78744
- ✦ Training classes available in January & February.
Contact your TPWD Boat Program Liaisons for more information and to sign up.



The TPWD Boat Titling & Registration Program would like to thank all participating Tax Assessor-Collector Agents for a successful 2021! We look forward to another successful year in 2022!



Tax Assessor-Collectors Association of Texas

2022 TACA Conference in Amarillo, June 11-16

Tax Assessor-Collectors Association of Texas

Enhance Your View!

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

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



REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 1!

KEEP A LOOKOUT FOR MORE INFORMATION IN FEBRUARY.

HB876

House Bill 876 has been on all of our minds of late. I took a very informal survey to see which counties will be participating and which will not. I received 39 responses. Thank you to all of you who responded.

Of the respondents, 33 counties will not be participating. Six counties responded that they would. Several webinars were made available by TxDMV in January. With so many questions and concerns even after the webinars, Bell County Tax Assessor, Shay Luedeke sent an email to the association. It was such good information that I am including it again right here.

Howdy,

I wanted to send this email out to explain SB 876 implementation.

When DMV pushes the programming changes for SB 876 on March 1st every county in the state will be defaulted to off. This means you are not “willing” to accept Dealer work or customer work from outside your county. If you want to accept work from outside your county there will be an option within Local Options that you can set to turn this on and be a “willing” county.

What does that mean for you?

Not “willing” (or statutory county) this is default on March 1st

It is business as usual. One of the dealers in your county brings you work, you process it, send it back. You get to keep the same fees you do today. Sales Tax, your County R&B and other optional fees, the P&H, and the \$5 title. The only thing you will see different is if a customer from an emissions county buys a car at your dealer the title fee that will show up will be \$33 instead of \$28 or vice versa, if you are a \$33 county and a customer from a \$28 county buys a car in your county you will see that difference. Otherwise, it is business as usual.

“willing” (if you go to local options and change the setting after March 1)

This means you are “willing” to accept work from customers or dealers from outside your county as well as your normal work you receive today. Now the

County R&B and other local fees you collect will be based off the customer's county of residence. Those fees will go back to DMV and dispersed to the customer's county of residence. The only fees you keep when processing work from dealers and customers from outside your county is the \$2.30 P&H and the \$5 title fee. If the outside your county dealers sends you customers that live in your county, you collect and keep all the fees like you do today. As a "willing" county it all depends on where the customer lives, which determines what fees you collect and where those fees are dispersed.

Reporting

After March 1st, the following reports will have additional information that will show up when "willing" counties process work for customers who live in your county.

- Funds Remittance Report
- Week/Month to Date Fees Report
- County Closure Sales Tax Report
- Vehicles Sold by Dealer Report (this one will show you dealers in your county that sent work to "willing" counties to process.

I hope this clears things up. Bottom line, if you don't do anything on March 1st, it's business as usual.

Some V G Young Photos

These annual conferences held in November are awesome! The speakers, subjects and content are timely and helpful. Dr. Peter McGill and his staff are amazing hosts and sponsors. Sherry Mueck, our VG Young coordinator and her committee members do a great service for our association. And let's face it, how fun was Kalahari Resort?

Following is a collection of photos showing association members teaching and learning, as well as some showing us having a little fun. Enjoy!





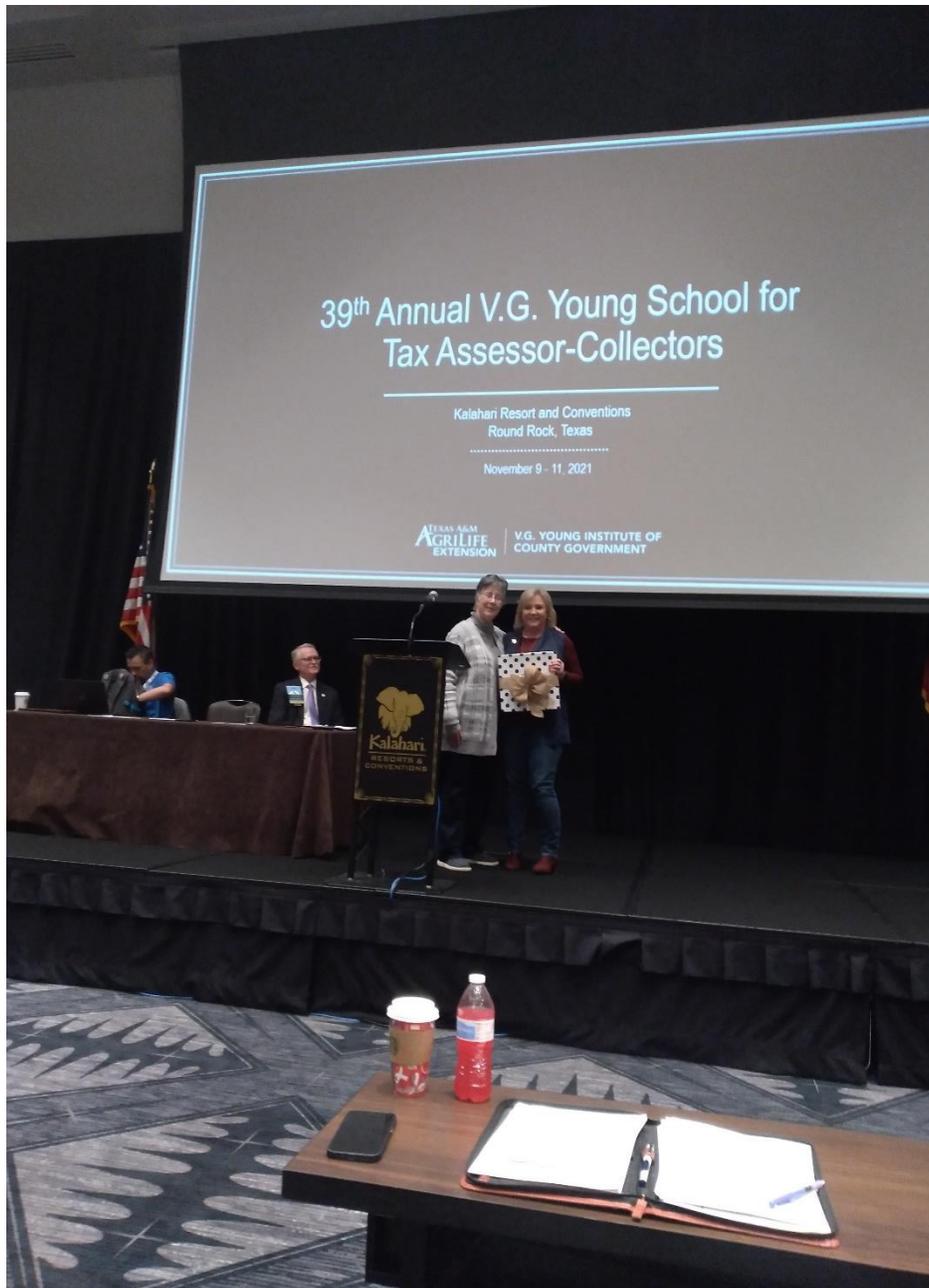






And then there were these photos...

This was the one I asked John Ames to take – Tammy McRae, Past President, receiving her memory book.



John did good, right? Well, here are the “bonus” shots John took, as well.



Speaking of John.....



This is a photo of John, catching me trying to take a snap of him snoozing on the balcony.... He was fast asleep just moments before.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Tax Assessor-Collector of the year:
The Honorable Allison Nathan Getz
Jefferson County Tax Assessor-Collector



Congratulations to all the nominees for this prestigious award. You are all deserving of this award.



**From: Cindy Martinez-Rivera
Former Zavala County Tax Assessor**

I will like to thank every single one of you for the nine precious years you were part of my life and career. I enjoyed serving as Tax Assessor-Collector. I had the pleasure to meet wonderful people. With a Broken heart I say Bye to you. I have plans to serve my County at a different level. I pray to God I'm Victorious!

God Bless you all. Joy to the World.

Cindy

Rest in Peace

Former Brazos County Tax Assessor-Collector and TACA Past President Gerald "Buddy" Winn passed away at his home on Saturday November 6, 2021. Buddy served as the tax assessor for Brazos County for 30 years, and served as the Chief Appraiser for 26 years. He worked diligently for TACA in the legislature and with state officials over the years to make things better for his constituents, for Texas, and for our profession.

Kristy Roe, Brazos County Tax Assessor-Collector

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newsletter without thanking
our wonderful sponsors.
Without them, our conferences
would not be quite the same.
And I'm just saying... We have
the BEST conferences!**

*He who kneels before God
stands before anyone.*