



"Connecting Elected Officials throughout the state."

The KCOA Connection

President's Message

By Nancy Weeks, KCOA President



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The Kansas County Officials Association is committed to upholding democratic principles which allow Kansans to determine their constitutional right of self-governance including the election of all local officials.

Can you believe another year is just about gone? This has been an exciting year. We were able to continue the fight for dual majority before consolidation can occur. We also reached an agreement with the County Commissioner's on the Memorandum of Understanding. The County Clerks, Register of Deeds, Sheriffs and County Treasurers have all signed on the dotted line along with the County Commissioners.

The next step is getting each association to send the names of those who will serve on the Conflict Resolution Committee and the Peer Review Team. There will be some training involved for the members serving for their associations. Each association needs to get this done so the training can be scheduled.

With the New Year quickly approaching, the 2007 Legislative year will be here before we know it. There are going to be several new faces as well as new leadership in the Legislature. Each session always promises to have many bills introduced and laws passed.

The KCOA's second conference was a success. Michael White and Kari Presley did a great job putting it all together. We can always use ideas for the conference, so if you have any suggestions please let us know. Next year's conference is set for September 12-14, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita. Mark your calendars.

The success of the conference depends on you attending and your input to the process. Again thank you to Steve and staff for a great conference.

If you have something exciting going on in your county that could benefit the entire association, please let Steve, Michael or myself know. It may be something we can include in our next newsletter. We can always learn from each other. Kansas has top notch elected officials. Many have implemented different processes in their county that could benefit each one of us. No matter how many years you have served in County Government we can always learn something new or a better way of doing things. Who better to learn from than our peers?

I know that this is a very busy time of the year for everyone. I pray you each had a very Blessed Thanksgiving. May God bless you with a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

The Mission of KCOA is
*APPLE: Advocate,
Protect, Provide, Lead
& Encourage.*

**Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association
Kansas County Treasurer's Association
Kansas Register of Deeds Association**

Affiliate News

Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association

- We all survived November Elections (some with wounds), but hopefully those will heal. Clerks and Election Commissioners will have Spring Elections for City/School candidates in February and April 2007.
- KCC&EOA is gearing up for 2007 Spring Conference, which will be held May 1-4, 2007 in Manhattan. The executive committee met on December 7-8 in Manhattan to make plans.
- The Sanborn Institute will be having third year classes in April 2007. Those clerks will graduate after this year from the institute.
- KCC&EOA also has become

incorporated, thanks to the help of Kearney and Associates. We are in the process of updating our bylaws to reflect the change. They will be presented at the May Conference for approval.

Also of importance:

- Sharon Hinkle, Haskell County Clerk, lost her husband after Thanksgiving. Our condolences go out to her and her family.
- Linda Buttron, Jefferson County Clerk, became a Grandmother. Congratulations to her.

We all look forward to a happy and prosperous new year.

Sherrie Riebel, president KCC&EOA

Kansas County Treasurer's Association

The Kansas County Treasurer's Association is working on legislation that we would like to propose to the legislature for the 2007 session. Last year Congress passed the Federal Real ID Act that could have serious ramifications for Kansas counties. The legislation is mandating certain requirements for driver's licenses to be a form of national ID. This has caused concern that our County Treasurers may not be able to continue to perform the driver's license services for our constituents. Therefore we have been working with our congressmen to alleviate our concerns, but in the meantime, we will propose legislation to designate our offices to be official agents of the State for driver's license purposes. This has been a very enlightening process, but we are aware of the potential problem of time to help influence the rules and regulations at the federal level.

We are also planning our February legislative meeting where we discuss potential legislation with our Association, and we have a reception for the legislators in Topeka. We have done this several years now, and it seems to open the communication lines between the Treasurers and the Senators and Representatives. All of the affiliate Associations will be invited to attend the reception also. It will be held at the Topeka Holiday Inn on Feb. 8, 2007.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the raffle for the quilt and the nametags at KCOA. This is how we fund our reception with personal donations and no County Funds. It is always nice to bring some fun into raising money. We also have raffles at each of our meetings to raise funds. Since the KCOA meeting replaced our fall meeting, we were able to still raise funds to continue the reception this year.

I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2007.

Eileen King, president KCTA

Kansas Register of Deeds Association

The Kansas Register of Deeds Association is currently working with other individuals to set standards for electronic recording. SB 336, Uniform Real Property Electronic Recording Act, was passed during the 2006 Legislative Session, which created a 15-member Electronic Recording Commission to develop electronic recording standards. This commission consists of three register of deeds representing small, medium and large counties, two title industry persons, one Kansas Bar representative, one oil and gas representative, one mortgage broker, one banker, one State Historical Archivist, one surveyor or engineer, one realtor, one agricultural representative, one construction industry and one representative of the Secretary of State's Office. Representatives from the Register of Deeds Association include: John Bartolac (Johnson County), Rebecca Seeman (Saline County), and Sally Akers (Morton County). John Bartolac has been elected Chairman of the recording commission, with Rebecca Seeman serving as Vice-Chairman.

During 2007, the Register of Deeds Association will hold their annual conference in Colby June 6-8, 2007. There will also be two additional educational sessions held, one in the spring and another in the fall, to further the continuing education program our association provides.

Suzanne Simon, president KROD



Keep Your Eyes on Topeka!

By Michael White, Vice President of Association Operations

Every year in December we prepare ourselves for the most exciting holidays of the year. Christmas and New Year's are a special time to gather with family and friends. It is also a time for political junkies like myself, to prepare for another grueling and busy legislative session. It is a time for each of you to get ready for what is about to happen in Topeka!

I'd like to re-emphasize to all of you that after the calendar turns January 8, 2007, it is important to keep an eye on Topeka. This is the first day of the 2007 legislative session and the first day that you need to be listening to what is coming out of the state capitol.

The House of Representatives have reorganized and named Melvin Neufeld as Speaker of the House. Many agree that the Speaker is the most powerful legislator in the House and can dictate what legislation makes it through the legislative process. We will be updating everyone on the com-

mittee assignments as we learn them from the Speaker's office.

Remember, it is critical that you get to know your legislators. Talk to them about issues important to not only elected officials as a whole, but also about issues important to treasurers, register of deeds and clerks. Legislators work for you, so make a point of getting to know them. You can be a much better lobbyist with your legislator than anyone in Topeka.

You might be asking yourself by now, what am I expecting from the 2007 legislative session? As of this writing, there has not been a single defining issue emerge for this session. Education will continue to be discussed but largely in the context of how to fund the 3-year plan from last session. With no pending lawsuit to continue the controversy, education as the global issue may be put to bed for the time being.

The pending budget deficit in FY '09 created at least in part by last year's

education funding package will certainly be a hot topic this session. Even with the increased revenues that the state has been experiencing, FY '09 is still looking like a deficit year for Kansas. Most of you know it is very difficult to pass tax increases in Kansas. Without a tax increase, the only other real option is cutting expenditures, which normally results in reduced services to someone. Neither is a popular option with the voters creating avoidance scenarios like transferring more unfunded mandates to local units.

No matter what happens this legislative session, it is sure to be a session unlike any other. Each session seems to take on a life of its own with characteristics far different from previous sessions. Rest assured that whatever discussions take place that ultimately lead to public policy, your lobbying team at Kearney and Associates will be there to represent the best interests of elected officials.



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2007 INFINITEC USER CONFERENCE

May 15-17, 2007 at the Topeka Holiday Inn West

Join Us May 16 for Hypnotist Tony Lucero!



Calendar of Events

3rd Annual

**KCOA CONFERENCE
SEPT. 12-14, 2007
HYATT REGENCY
WICHITA, KANSAS**

*Mark your calendars and watch the
website for more information as it
becomes available,
www.kscountyofficials.org.*

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