



*"Connecting Elected Officials
throughout the state."*

The KCOA

Connection

Fall 2007

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Kansas County Officials Association

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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.*

President's Message

By Missie Gerritzen, KCOA President



Well, another year is flying by. I can hardly believe that it has been three years ago that we made the decision to split from KAC. Through the hard work and dedication of many, we have made great strides in becoming a functional, independent, and respected organization. With everyone continuing to work together, we will continue to grow.

We had another successful and educational conference in September. I think we all need to thank Steve, Richard and Kari for the planning and hard work. For those who couldn't attend, we missed seeing you and hope that you will be able to fit next year's conference into your busy schedule. The 2008 conference will be held September 17-19 at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita.

As you might recall from an earlier message from Nancy, the KCOA mission is: APPLE – Advocate, Protect, Provide, Lead & Encourage. The Outreach committee and the Task Force, which is an arm of the outreach committee, are both working toward meeting some of the goals the Board set to further our mission. They will be providing all of us with education materials that we can use to educate our citizens about the impor-

tance of keeping our positions elected. These materials will include pamphlets, talking points, and a power point presentation. Once all of this material is completed, it will be posted on the KCOA website for all of our members to utilize. We want to encourage our members to not only continue educating themselves and their staff to better serve the public, but to also educate the public. These materials will be an invaluable tool that will move us toward this goal.

Lastly, I want to take a moment to thank Nancy Weeks. Three years ago when we all voted to leave KAC, she had the vision and the determination to take all of us to the next level and form KCOA. She has worked tirelessly over the last three years to make sure that we started out with a solid foundation on which to build this great organization. We will forever owe her a debt of gratitude. The best way that I know of to pay her back is to continue the work she has started. I am excited and humbled that all of you have entrusted me with this great opportunity.

**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

There are several items of news to mention for those who were not able to attend the KCOA annual conference in September. Our association renewed its contract with Wichita State University for our continuing education program. The renewal is for a four-year period and ensures that the Sanborn Institute and the Master County Clerks Academy will continue to be offered. Everyone is encouraged to avail themselves of the training.

Another topic discussed at our meeting was reinstatement of our Property Valuation Department committee. It was determined a couple of years ago there was no need for the committee. With the new ORION system beginning to replace the CAMA system, everyone was in consensus that a need for the committee exists. One purpose is to ensure that our needs as County Clerks are known and understood by the State in relationship to the ORION system and how it will impact some of our processes.

Another bit of news is one I suspect everyone will be pleased to hear. The Secretary of State's Office has been asked to give a presentation on Election Canvassing for the County Commissioners at the Kansas Association of

Counties Conference in Wichita. Brad Bryant and Melissa Wangeman will be giving the presentation. They have asked if I would be willing to participate and I have agreed to do so. My hope is that we can explain and clarify the procedures according to our Election Standards with the goal of making the canvassing of elections an orderly and understood process for all Commissioners. Accomplishing that should also help us in completing the canvass as Election Officers.

This also has been the first year to implement our Policy on Legislative Procedure that was adopted at our May meeting. We have worked through the process to this point. There are a couple of areas where a refinement to the procedure may be considered. Our legislative initiatives for 2008 were adopted at our meeting at the KCOA annual conference. With regard to our policy procedure, it calls for ideas of proposed legislation to be heard by members at our February meeting associated with County Government Day. A number of our members attended last year, and we hope to increase attendance for 2008. Last year we met on Monday evening in the Secretary of State's Office Building. A presentation was made regarding the

legislative process and legislative issues were discussed. The evening ended with a tour of the Capitol building. It was encouraged for the next day that everyone visit the offices of their respective legislators. The intent was to not only meet with legislators, if they were available, but also to meet and greet their secretaries. It can sometimes be very helpful to get acquainted with them in order to get contact through to the legislators. Everyone is urged to participate for 2008.

With 2007 drawing to a close, we have 2008 approaching very fast. We all know a Presidential Election year leads to some of our busiest times. And, we certainly cannot forget that, for most of us, it is the election year for our own office. Just remember we are all here to support each other and help get through those busy and trying times. A positive note, as it appears at this point in time, there will be no mandated significant changes in the conduct of elections that we will have to implement for 2008. With everything over the past couple of years that is certainly a relief.

I wish everyone a very happy Holiday Season!

--Shane Shields, *KCC&EOA president*

Kansas County Treasurer's Association

- KCTA elected officers at the September. KCOA meeting. Elected were:
President - Sharon Utley, Allen Co.
Vice-President - Cheryl Remington, Gove Co.
Secretary - Sherri Wilson, Seward Co.
Treasurer - Mark Schemm, Smith Co.
- Jenneth Karlin, Treas. of Barton Co., retired. Kevin Wondra was sworn in as the new treasurer on Oct. 1.
- The next KCTA state meeting will be January 30-February 1, 2008 in Topeka.

-- Sharon Utley, *KCTA President*

Affiliate News

Kansas Register of Deeds Association

As of October 9, 2007, I still have tomatoes.

All of the new officers were installed at the KCOA meeting in September. The Vice President is Diana Briestensky, Cristy Tuttle is the secretary, and Marilyn (Toots Jr.) Nichols is the Treasurer. If you were not able to attend, you missed a great conference. I know budgets are tight, but if at all possible, please plan to attend next year.

The Register of Deeds Executive Board and Linda Paul are planning the summer 2008 conference in McPherson. We are trying to have an old fashioned ice cream social. Please let me know what your favorite ice cream flavor is. Hopefully everyone will be able to attend.

What's New

The Register of Deeds voted to set up a committee to send

help for Register of Deeds that need assistance. The members of the committee are the presidents of each district. We have not had any meetings yet, but are planning to do so in November or December to set up a working plan. The committee is designed to help during natural disasters or for those just getting behind and needing help.

We are currently meeting and making plans for the Register of Deeds school for new Registers in 2009. The School Committee has already met.

I want to thank all of the Register of Deeds for allowing me to be president of such a great group of ladies and a few good men. I will do my best to represent the Register of Deeds in the best possible light. I welcome any help or advice you wish to give me.

-- Bill Meek, *KROD President*

Reminder: The Legislative Committee Conference Meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2007 at the KCOA Office, 1200 SW 10th Ave., Topeka from 2:30-4:30 p.m.

**Mark your calendars for
the KCOA 4th Annual
Conference in 2008.**

**September 17-19, 2008
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Wichita, KS**

**Watch for information to
come out in the Spring
of 2008.**



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Calendar of Events

4th Annual

**KCOA CONFERENCE
SEPT. 17-19, 2008
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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