



*"Connecting Elected Officials  
throughout the state."*

# The KCOA

# Connection

**Spring 2008**

## **Inside this Issue**

**President's Message**  
Page 1

**Affiliate News**  
Page 2 & 3

**President's Message  
(cont.)**  
Page 3

**2008 KCOA  
Conference**  
Page 3

**Calendar of Events**  
Page 4

**KCOA Board of  
Directors**  
Page 4

## **Kansas County Officials Association**

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[www.kscountyofficials.org](http://www.kscountyofficials.org)**

*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*



First things first. The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual KCOA Conference is September 17-19, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita. Mark your calendars and join us for some education, conversation, and fun!! Kari and the committee are working hard to make this the best one yet. Reservations can be made by calling the Hyatt Regency Wichita hotel directly at (316) 293-1234. Registration forms will be available later in the summer.

Another legislative session has come and gone, and thanks to the BIG BAD coal plants, not much got done! There was a consolidation bill that passed out of the Senate, but stalled in the House committee. The good news about this bill is that it contained most of the provisions that we have been fighting for. The main thing not included, was the dual majority provision. This provision is important to ensure that all residents have a voice in the vote.

The fact that most of the things we have been fighting for from the beginning are now being included in these bills is a testament to how far we have come in a short amount of time. It was just four years ago that we were a fledgling association that no one had heard of or gave any thought to if they had heard of us. I can remember being asked on a weekly basis when we were going to give up and go back to KAC. I was as sure then as I am now that we made the right decision and with hard work and dedication, we would become a force to be reckoned with. KCOA

definitely has a strong voice at the Capital. Now, when there is an issue or question regarding legislation that affects the counties, the senators and representatives seek us out, not just KAC. We have Steve Kearney and his staff to thank for this.

The Board is continuing its efforts to build a strong foundation for the continuing growth of this great association. Last year, the Outreach Committee was formed to begin the process of putting together educational materials for all members to use. From that Committee, a Task Force was formed. This Task Force was put in charge of putting together a brochure and powerpoint presentation that highlights the importance of elected officials and the involvement of the public in the electoral process. Pat Sharp, Lane County Treasurer and Cheri Remington, Gove County Treasurer were instrumental in getting both of these things done. They did a wonderful job, and we will forever owe them a debt of gratitude. This was no easy task, and they did an excellent job. Once the Board gives final approval, both of these tools will be available on the KCOA website ([kscountyofficials.org](http://kscountyofficials.org)) for all members to use in their counties to further our mission.

*continued on Page 3*

**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***

Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials survived their annual conference "The Main Event," May 6-9, 2008 in Salina. We had several informative speakers and presentations. Juli Burney's presentation Friday morning was both informative and entertaining. Her presentation served as a great end to the conference and an excellent stress reliever.

The Secretary of State's Office provided the Help America Vote Act training on Thursday of the conference. There are several pieces of legislation that will impact future elections. Legislation relating to city/school primary elections and when they are required based on the number of candidates was passed. Legislation was passed by both the House and Senate relating to voter identification. However, Governor Sebelius vetoed this bill. Certainly a positive point this year, there was no major Federal legislation passed that impacted the conduct of elections. We all know, especially since the year 2000, what impact Federal changes can have.

At our conference, officers for KCC&EOA were elected for the upcoming year. The officers are Stacia

Long, Seward County Clerk – President; Linda Buttron, Jefferson County Clerk – Vice-President; Don Merriman, Saline County Clerk – Secretary; and Janet Rumpel, Sherman County Clerk – Treasurer. The new officers will assume their positions effective September 1, 2008. Congratulations to the new officers.

We also learned at the conference that there will be a number of clerks leaving our ranks after this year. Some are retiring and some are simply not choosing to run for another term of office. We wish everyone the best in retirement and/or other endeavors. We will certainly miss everyone, and we encourage you to keep in touch.

An important item of news since the last newsletter is that we have had two of our ranks receive special recognition. Kathy Peckman, Miami County Clerk, and John Bartolac, Director of the Johnson County Department of Records and Tax Administration, were both recognized by Kansas Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh as 2007 NASS Medalion Award winners. The awards, which are given by the National Association of Secretaries of State, are given for outstanding efforts to promote or advance

elections, civics education, or other functions of the secretary of state's office.

Kathy's service on the HAVA advisory council, the electronic voter information work group, the evaluation subcommittee, the pilot county group and the enhancement committee were noted as being extremely helpful during the implementation of the new federal election law. John Bartolac's service and leadership as chairman of the Kansas Electronic Recording Commission were noted. Under his guidance, the committee was able to develop recording standards for the electron notarization of mortgage filings. Congratulations to Kathy and John as 2007 NASS Medalion Award winners.

This is a very busy year for almost all of our offices with not only the Presidential Election, but the election of our own positions. Voter turnout this year may very well be increased from years past. We all need to prepare to meet that possible increase in voter participation as best as we possibly can. We wish everyone smooth sailing in the fast approaching waves of voters and election tasks.

-- Shane Shields, *KCC&EOA president*

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### **Kansas Register of Deeds Association**

To say it's been a slow year would be an understatement.

First of all, I want to remind everybody about the Register of Deeds Seminar in McPherson, KS coming up June 3-6. We will have our very first golf outing, and I have asked my County Attorney to present at the seminar. The topics he will be talking about will be Tech Fund Collecting and Spending, IRBs, "when mortgage fees are due," multi-county mortgages, and limited language mortgages. You'll be receiving a note from Tonya Buckingham asking for questions in advance so we can give them to Bob.

I want to thank everyone who helped at Kiowa County. Guyneth Snyder from Comanche County coordinated the efforts of the Register of Deeds. The Register of Deeds members

helped find books and put them in order. Many Registers of Deeds helped them get caught up, balanced their monies, and answered many questions. The end is near, because in two or three weeks Kiowa County could be self-reliant. However, if help is needed, we will still be there. The last phase of our help will be training in their office. Some Register of Deeds will spend two or three days there. So, we are looking for volunteers. I will be going down Wednesday, May 21 to visit with the new Register of Deeds and help her in any way I can.

I am so proud to be in an association with such a great group of professionals. See you in McPherson.

-- Bill Meek, *KROD President*

## Affiliate News

### Kansas County Treasurer's Association

KCTA's first meeting of the year included a Legislative reception, which was attended by a large number of our senators and representatives along with other state officials. This provided an excellent opportunity for us to visit with and become better acquainted with our state representatives.

We were successful in our "lienholder" bill being passed this year. This will allow us to charge the lienholder fee for all lienholders at the time of the title application, instead of having a monthly billing.

Another important bill that passed was HB2542 "Vehicle Modernization Project 2010." This bill will allow a \$4.00 surcharge on vehicle registrations starting Jan. 1, 2009 and sunsets Jan. 1, 2013. This surcharge collection will be placed in a dedicated fund for a new VIPS program.

Our next state treasurer's meeting will be in June at Junction City. Along with our meetings, we will be having a banquet, and will honor the "Betty McBride" Outstanding treasurer recipient and present plaques to those treasurers who have completed a certification level.

-- Sharon Utley, *KCTA President*

## President's Message

*continued from Page 1*

The Outreach Committee is also working on a brochure that will educate the public about local government and the jobs of the elected officials who represent them. This brochure, along with the one put out by the Task Force, will be great additions to all of our front counters. Education of our members, as well as the public, is one of the fundamental principles that KCOA is based on. Please continue your efforts daily, to be the best representative you possibly can be for the people you serve on a daily basis.

The KCOA Board of Directors will be meeting in Topeka on June 26 & 27 for a retreat. We use these sessions to reflect on where we have been, where we are going as an association, and what we need to do to make sure that we get there!!! It was during earlier retreats that the plans were made for the education program that the Outreach Committee is now working toward implementing. If any of you have ideas or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or any other board member. This association will continue to grow only if we all stay involved.

In September, KCOA will be electing new officers. Then the incoming president will be appointing members to the different committees. If you have any interest in serving on any of these committees, please contact one of the current board members and let them know. We need as much involvement from our membership as possible. New ideas are the driving force behind the growth of every organization.

Lastly, to those who are running for re-election, I wish you the best. To those who will not be running, you will be missed. It takes a special person to dedicate their life to serving the people of not only your community, but the rest of the state as well. A simple thank you does not seem to be enough, but sometimes, it is what means the most, so THANK YOU!!!

Hope to see all of you in Wichita.

## **Mark your calendars for the 4th Annual KCOA Conference September 17-19, 2008**

Although it seems far away, the 2008 KCOA conference is right around the corner. We will be at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita, September 17-19, 2008. If you have not already done so, mark your calendars for this exciting conference! The board and conference committee have put their heads together and decided to change the format of the conference to include an exhibitor luncheon on Thursday with a solid time for all attendees to visit the exhibitors without running through the exhibitor area as quickly as possible. Other changes include break-out sessions with issues relating to all members of the KCOA. More specific information will be mailed as it is available. So make your reservations and pack your bags! We'll see you in September!

Calendar of Events

KCOA Board of Directors

*4th Annual*

**KCOA CONFERENCE  
SEPT. 17-19, 2008  
HYATT REGENCY  
WICHITA, KANSAS**

**Missie Gerritzen, President**  
Kearny County, Lakin  
keksrod@hotmail.com

*Eileen King, Vice-President*  
Riley County, Manhattan  
eking@rileycountyks.gov

*Stacia Long, Secretary-Treasurer*  
Seward County, Liberal  
slong@sewardcountyks.org

**Board Members**

Linda Buttron  
Jefferson County, Oskaloosa

Diane Taylor  
Geary County, Junction City

Don Merriman  
Saline County, Salina

Marilyn Nichols  
Shawnee County, Topeka

Shane Shields  
Sumner County, Wellington

Sharon Utley  
Allen County, Iola

Bill Meek  
Sedgwick County, Wichita

Dena McDaniel  
Anderson County, Garnett

Cristy Tuttle  
Gove County, Gove

Nancy Weeks  
Haskell County, Sublette

*Watch the website for more  
information as it becomes available,  
[www.kscountyofficials.org](http://www.kscountyofficials.org).*

**Kansas County  
Officials Association**

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