



"Connecting Elected Officials throughout the state."

The KCOA

Connection

Summer 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 Nancy Weeks, KCOA President



We have seen another year go flying by. Can you believe it is May already? It will soon be time for the 3rd Annual KCOA Conference. The conference will be held Sept. 11-14, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita. The KCOA Broad of Director's meeting is the evening of Sept. 11. If you have not reserved your sleeping rooms, you need to get that done.

The conference committee has met and put together a plan for the education part of the conference. These are the members of the conference committee:

- Charlotte Shawver, Riley County RODS
- Susan Lucas, Stanton County RODS
- Rhonda Hunt, Rice County RODS
- Sherrie Riebel, Allen County Clerk
- Donna Zimmerman, Barton County Clerk
- Sonya Stohs, Marshall County Clerk
- Jeannine Bateman, Marion County Treasurer
- Diane Gentry, Greeley County Treasurer, Committee Chair
- Jo Ann Raaf, Coffey County Treasurer
- Nancy Weeks, ex-officio member

They are planning another great conference so plan now to attend.

Service Awards

The Board of Directors also has approved to give KCOA Service Awards. These awards will be given to honor the years of service as an elected official, with any years of appointment to fill out a term counted. The years of service are 8, 16, 24, 32, and 40. The 8 and 16 years will be given in the individual group meeting. The 24 and 32 will be given during the KCOA luncheon. The 40-year award will be a plaque and be considered a Lifetime Achievement Award. It will be presented at the luncheon also. More information will be available at a later date.

Board Retreat

The KCOA Board of Directors is having a Board Meeting and Board Retreat in Topeka June 28-29. I hope you all remember what APPLE stands for in our organization. To refresh all our memories I wanted to include a portion of the article Michael White wrote shortly after the last retreat, which was published in the fall 2006 issue of the newsletter. To view the entire article, go to www.kcoa.org.

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

President's Message

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“What does APPLE mean to you?”

As with any retreat, the purpose is to set the course for future regarding the short and long term. The board adopted the following vision, mission and values for the KCOA. The vision of the KCOA is to **“Be the Leading Association of Elected County Officials.”**

The mission of the KCOA can be summarized in one word, APPLE:

KCOA will

- **Advocate for responsible County Government**
- **Protect Kansans' Rights to elect local officials**
- **Provide guidance, education and support to our members**
- **Lead by example**
- **Encourage innovation in county government**

APPLE: Advocate, Protect, Provide, Lead & Encourage

The Board also identified several core values for the association:

- **Be Professional and Honest**
- **Treat others with Respect and Fairness**
- **Lead with High Standards and Ethical Conduct**
- **Create an Environment of Trust**
- **Communicate Openly and Responsibly**
- **Recognize and Value Diversity**

The board is also committed to short and long term goals for the association. One of the most important short-term goals is the commitment to make the Memorandum of Understanding with KCCA a process that works and is respected. One of the long-term goals discussed for the association is to continue to develop higher standards for all elected officials.

Obviously, the KCOA is only as good as it can live up to its vision, mission and core values. I can tell you from the leadership retreat the KCOA board of directors is committed to see that the Kansas County Officials Association and its

members make the vision, mission and values a part of everyday life in county government.”

That last paragraph says a lot. We have a vision, mission and core values that we must live up to. We must all be committed to this goal. It does need to be a part of our everyday life.

Storms Affect Members

This year we have seen storms that have taken lives, destroyed property and devastated many communities. There have been losses to some of our members. I know that each of us have been praying and thinking of them through this difficult time in their lives. Many have volunteered to help pick up debris, move and help staff offices or do whatever needs to be done. Our hats are off to each one of you that have been there for these folks. Melody Vieux, Hodgeman County Treasurer lost her home to a tornado the last of March. The tornado that wiped out Greensburg took everything from Evelyn Grimm, Kiowa County Clerk, Brenda Osborne, Kiowa County Treasurer and Galen Marble, Kiowa County Sheriff. Sharren Thach lives in Mullinville so she was safe. These are remarkable people who will survive this, and I look forward to seeing Greensburg rebuilt. I always stop there on my way to Wichita. May God bless everyone in that community and to those who have lost property or been affected by a calamity in your area of the state.

I also know that we have had some that have lost property to flooding. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you clean up the mess that was left in your homes and businesses.

I would like to thank all of you for allowing me to serve as your President. This association has made great strides in its first three years of existence. With all of us working together we will become even greater and stronger in the next couple of years.

I would also like to thank Kearney and Associates and staff for their excellent guidance to KCOA. I know everyone of us appreciates all you have done for us.

I look forward to the conference in September. I hope to see you there.

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

Affiliate News

Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association

Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials survived their annual conference "Puttin' on the Ritz" May 2-4, 2007. We had several good speakers and presentations. We graduated 31 individuals who had completed the three year 100-hour certification school. Congratulations to those who received their Clerk's Certification: Lori Augustine, Linda Bogart, Stephanie J. Brake, Karen Brooks, Sheila Brown, Crystal Clements, Melody K. Fulton, Elsa Garcia-Ulrich, Janet Hale, Vickie J. Hall, Shelly A. Harms, Sharon Hinkle, Vienna M. Janis, Nita Keenan, Renee Kerr, Angie M. Kirchner, Sherry Kruse, David L. Lamb, Donna J. Maskus, Carol D. Noblit, Jameson D. Shew, Alicia Showalter, Sonya L. Stohs, Christine Treaster, Joyce Trus-

kett, Kayla Wang, Janet White, Rhonda Willard, R.J. Wilson, Brenda Winger, and Sharon K. Wolters. We also congratulate Master County Clerks who completed their 48 contact hours. They are: Rhonda Beets, Rebecca Bossemeyer, Susan Figge, Shari Gagnebin, Mary C. Gilmore, Karen Hartenbower, Leann M. Jones, Janet Klansinski, Alberta Klaus, Joanne Long, Stacia Long, Inge Luntsford, Linda McDowell, Don Merriman, Rebecca Mishler, Debbie Parker, Ron Roberts, Gina Schuette, Ruth Searight and Debbie Wyckoff.

KCC&EOA elected new officers at their spring conference in Manhattan. The new officers will be Shane Shields, Sumner County Clerk-President, Stacia Long, Seward County Clerk-Vice Presi-

dent, Linda Buttron, Jefferson County Clerk-Secretary and Don Merriman, Saline County Clerk-Treasurer. The office will be effective Sept. 1, 2007. Congratulations to the new officers.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Barbara Smidt, Hodgeman County Clerk. She passed away May 21, 2007.

Congratulations on retirement to Wayne B. Gibson, Jr., Neosho County Clerk and Simone Ginther, Russell County Clerk.

There are several clerks throughout the state doing Special Elections for various reasons. Clerks will be gearing up for budgets and July Abstracts.

Sherrie Riebel, president KCC&EOA

Kansas County Treasurer's Association

On May 4, 2007 the Treasurer's had a Press Conference with Congressman Jerry Moran, presenting him with over 81,500 signatures from Kansas residents requesting that County Treasurers be retained by the State to do Driver's license processing. We also presented him with 73 County resolutions passed by their respective county commissioners. All of the Kansas Congressional delegation has been very supportive. In addition to these efforts, we responded to the Department of Homeland Security proposed rules and regulations and got State legislation passed that officially makes us agents of the state. We appear to be in a good position to retain the driver's license function in our offices. It has been quite a battle and learning process when dealing with the Federal Government, but they tell us that we are stronger for it.

This has been a very unusual year. We have had two County Treasurers lose their homes to tornadoes this year. Melody Vieux in Hodgeman County on March 28 and then Brenda Osborne in Kiowa County on May 4. I'm sure they would appreciate your thoughts and prayers.

Since the tax deadline day was moved to May 10, we now have our "Spring" meeting in June. This year it is at the Wichita Marriott June 20-22. At this meeting, we will be awarding our Outstanding Treasurer of the Year Award and presenting Certification Awards. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the KCOA conference in September.

Eileen King, president KCTA

Kansas Register of Deeds Association

- The Electronic Recording Commission (established by SB 336), is nearing the completion of the Kansas Electronic Recording Standards. John Bartolac (Johnson Co.), Rebecca Seeman (Saline Co.), and Sally Akers (Morton Co.) have worked diligently on behalf of our association and the State of Kansas to make this a very viable set of standards for counties of all sizes, as well as the potential users of electronic recording. The standards are set to be in place July 1, 2007.
- The 2007 Legislative session was a long and crazy session. Our legislative committee diligently worked on getting SB 73 passed. This bill concerned mortgage registration tax exemption being valid only on an unreleased mortgage. The Senate passed the bill unanimously, but unfortunately, there was no action following the bill's hearing in the House. With 2007 being a carry-over year, we are in hopes that this bill will continue on track in the 2008 session.
- The KROD annual conference was held in Colby June 6-8th. A variety of topics, issues and speakers proved to be very educational to our members.
- Our hearts and thoughts go out to everyone affected by our Kansas weather extremes. The disaster at Greensburg has shown first-hand why it is so important to have disaster plans in place. KROD is working on a plan for disaster response to aid our counterparts in the time of need.

Suzanne Simon, president KROD

Committee Assignments

KCOA Conference Committee

Charlotte Shawver, Riley County RODS
Susan Lucas, Stanton County RODS
Rhonda Hunt, Rice County RODS
Sherrie Riebel, Allen County Clerk
Donna Zimmerman, Barton County Clerk
Sonya Stohs, Marshall County Clerk
Jeannine Bateman, Marion County Treasurer
Diane Gentry, Greeley County Treasurer
JoAann Raaf, Coffey County Treasurer
Nancy Weeks, ex-officio member

KCOA Legislative Committee

Mike Billinger, Ellis County Treasurer
Eileen King, Riley County Treasurer
Mark Schemm, Smith County Treasurer
Marilyn Nichols, Shawnee County RODS
Delia Heston, Jefferson County RODS
Susan Hubbell, Kingman County RODS
R. J. Wilson, Crawford County Clerk
Jamie Shew, Douglas County Clerk
Rebecca Bossemeyer, Geary County Clerk
Nancy Weeks, ex-officio member

KCOA Outreach Committee

Jennifer Savage, Wabaunsee County Clerk
Joanne Long, Bourbon County Clerk
Rich Vargo, Riley County Clerk
Brenda Siemsen, Saline County Treasurer
Larry Wilson, Shawnee County Treasurer
Joe Grisolano, Crawford County Treasurer
Bill Meek, Sedgwick County RODS
Linda Finchman, Marshall County RODS
Christy Grant, Cherokee County RODS
Nancy Weeks, ex-officio member

Budget/Audit Committee

Mary Morrow, Cheyenne County RODS
Karen Brooks, Cowley County Clerk
Kathy Tremont, Geary County Treasurer
Nancy Weeks, ex-officio member

Governance Committee

David Lamb, Linn County Clerk
Cheryl Remington, Gove County Treasurer
Marilyn Calhoun, Montgomery County RODS

KCOA Conflict Resolution Committee

Nancy Weeks, Haskell County Treasurer
Ron Estes, Sedgwick County Treasurer
Linda Buttron, Jefferson County Clerk
Crysta Torson, Lane County Clerk
Lisa Robertson, Greeley County RODS
Betty Jo Abitz, Pottawatomie County RODS

KCOA Peer Review Team

County Clerks

Sherrie Riebel, Allen County Clerk
Marcia Ashmore, Hamilton County Clerk
Inge Luntsford, Kingman County Clerk
Shane Shields, Sumner County Clerk
Stacia Long, Seward County Clerk

Register of Deeds

Lisa Robertson, Greeley County RODS
Rebecca Seeman, Saline County RODS
Katie Forck, Miami County RODS
Betty Jo Abitz, Pottawatomie County RODS
Guyneth Snyder, Comanche County RODS
Lillian Swartz, Wallace County RODS

County Treasurers

Jeannine Bateman, Marion County Treasurer
Nancy Weeks, Haskell County Treasurer
Kathy Tremont, Geary County Treasurer
Eileen King, Riley County Treasurer
Dena McDaniel, Anderson County Treasurer
Cheryl Remington, Gove County Treasurer
Clark Miller, Reno County Treasurer

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.

KCOA Board of Directors

Nancy Weeks, President
Sublette
hkcotrea@pld.com

Missie Gerritzen, Vice-President
Lakin
keksrod@hotmail.com

Stacia Long, Secretary-Treasurer
Liberal
countyclerk@swko.net

Board Members

Dena McDaniel
Garnett

Shane Shields
Wellington

Mike Billinger
Hays

Sherrie Riebel
Iola

Eileen King
Manhattan

Diane Taylor
Tribune

Linda Buttron
Oskaloosa

Suzanne Simon
Alma

Bill Meek
Wichita

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