

# THE COUNTY TAX \$ STATEMENT



Volume 14, Issue 2 September 2014

## President's Message

By John R. Ames, Dallas County Tax Assessor-Collector



Thank you to the Association and its members for having the confidence in me to lead TACA this year. It is truly an honor to serve as your President. I also want to recognize our Immediate Past President for the time he spent last year making sure he traveled the state to visit with many of you personally and explain the benefits of TACA and the new education process for County

Tax Assessor/Collectors. Great job Bobby Biscamp!

What a great conference in Fort Worth Texas! Thank you to our Host TAC, Ron Wright, for being so hospitable and providing us with a true Cowtown experience! Program Chair, Jeri Cox, and Secretary/Treasurer, Michelle French, did an amazing job planning and executing the conference. You would not believe the amount of man hours and emails that go into a successful conference. This year, the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) assisted us with logistics and planning for the first time. Their assistance was much appreciated. County Progress facilitated our vendors this year allowing Jeri to focus on other conference issues, what a great assistance they were also. Additionally there were dozens of other helpers, speakers, facilitators and more who made the conference a success...Thank You all for all your hard work and commitment to TACA!

The 2014-2015 TACA theme is **Bridging the Gap**. When determining what the theme should be this year, I was reminded of all the new members we have and all the members who have retired in the past four years. It is imperative that we work together, **Bridging the Gap**, to ensure that this Association is not only

successful now, but ready to grow with the changing environment that we all live and work in. Additionally, we all have areas in our lives where we can work towards **Bridging the Gap** with our business partners, fellow elected officials, staff and citizens in our counties. Stop and think for a minute if there are some areas in your life where you can **Bridge the Gap**. Remember, once you start the effort, the gap is closed quicker by meeting in the middle of the bridge!

We've hit the ground running with the 2014-2015 TACA Year. I'm excited to announce that we had a record number of people sign up for our committees this year. You can access a complete list of our committee's including the contact information for each of the Chairs, Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members on the TACA website at [www.tacaofexas.org](http://www.tacaofexas.org). This year, I will be working with the committee chairs to develop written committee procedures that will assist with **Bridging the Gap** for our members as we grow and get our new members involved.

Please mark your calendars now for the VG Young School for County Tax Assessor/Collectors at the Hilton College Station & Conference Center, November 17-19, 2014 and the 81st Annual TACA Conference in Lubbock, June 14-18, 2015.

I'm looking forward to visiting each of the Regions this year and bringing a TACA update to the members. Please remember to invite me to your regional meetings! Here's to hoping the summer heat doesn't stick around much longer and the fall breezes come soon!

Humbly Serving You,  
John R. Ames



Submitted by: Marcus Kellis, Program Specialist  
Vehicle Titles and Registration Division

Welcome to the TxDMV On-Ramp! We appreciate the continued partnership between our agency and the Tax Assessor-Collectors Association, and we were glad to see so many of you at the TACA Conference in Fort Worth. We continue to move forward with NMVTIS, webDEALER, RTS updates and many other projects, so please keep reading for updates.

(continued on page 4)

### Dates to Remember

**Columbus Day**  
Monday, October 13, 2014

**Daylight Savings Time Ends**  
Sunday, November 2, 2014

**Election Day**  
Tuesday, November 4, 2014

**V.G. Young School for County  
Tax Assessor-Collectors**  
November 17-19, 2014  
Hilton, College Station

THE COUNTY TAX STATEMENT

The County Tax Statement is the official publication of the Tax Assessor-Collector's Association of Texas and is published quarterly beginning in January each year for the benefit of its members and interested contributing parties. The purpose of this 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.

Advertisements in this publication are paid and in no way imply endorsement by this association of products or services.

Articles for printing or information on obtaining display ads of rates should be directed to TACA Newsletter, Teresa McCoy, Hood County Tax Assessor, 1410 W. Pearl St., Granbury, TX 76048, by the 10th day prior to the month of publication. Statements of fact and opinion are the responsibility of the authors alone and are not necessarily the opinion of the editing staff or TACA Board.

**The 2014/2015 Board of Directors**

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Teresa McCoy, Hood County

# From the Editor

**By Teresa McCoy, Hood County Tax Assessor-Collector**

Hello Everybody. Happy fall; I know it doesn't seem much like fall in some areas of the state but it almost here.

I'd like to start by saying "Thank You" to Mr. Bobby Biscamp and the rest of the 2013/2014 Board for all of their hard work last year. Also, "Thank You" Jeri Cox, for putting together such a wonderful T.A.C.A. Conference in Cowtown, superb job! We all greatly appreciate our host, Ron Wright, and everyone who made such a great conference possible.

It's nearly time again for the V.G. Young School for County Tax Assessor-Collector's; this seminar will be held at the Hilton in College Station November 17-19, 2014. If you haven't yet registered you can do so online at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/VGYI> using a credit card or being invoiced. Early registration is \$155 for county officials and staff but for this rate your registration must be received by October 24th, otherwise, the rate will be \$170. This is a very good educational opportunity that you won't want to miss out on.

Speaking of educational opportunities, there are numerous ways for Tax Assessor-Collector's and deputies to earn CE's so there is really no reason everyone shouldn't be able to get their twenty for the year. Don't forget, these 20 CE's are now required by law every year for Tax A/C's; even though we are no longer under TDLR (YAY!!), we must continue to get our education. Please see the T.A.C.A. website for information about what courses and webinars are currently being offered. Also, I'd like to take this opportunity to say "Congratulations" to Ro'Vin Garrett as she has officially been chosen as Education Director for our association. Thanks Ro'Vin; we appreciate all you do for us!

There is more information in this issue but here's a quick reminder to all of you that it's time to nominate someone from your region for the Tax Assessor-Collector of the Year award. The nomination forms have been mailed to each regional coordinator and must be postmarked no later than September 24, 2014. It would be great to have someone nominated from every region of the state so please take the time to submit a nominee.

In June, the new 2014/2015 board made the decision to begin sending this publication out digitally to save the cost of mailing hard copies. The next couple of issues will be printed and mailed only to the lifetime and honorary members who I have addresses for; after that, it will be digital only. If you are a life or honorary member and you want to continue receiving this newsletter, please submit your email address to me at [tmccoy@co.hood.tx.us](mailto:tmccoy@co.hood.tx.us) or 1410 W Pearl St - Granbury TX 76048 so that I can add you to my newsletter contact list or plan to view it on our website, [www.tacaoftexas.org](http://www.tacaoftexas.org).

Well this is it for me for this time but if you have any news you'd like to share with the rest of us, want to brag about something or have information or photos from your regional meetings please send it to me via email, [tmccoy@co.hood.tx.us](mailto:tmccoy@co.hood.tx.us), and I'll do my best to get it in the next issue. The deadline for the next issue is October 10th as I want to be sure it goes out in time for VG Young updates to get to everyone before that event.

My apologies for this issue being a little late but I hope you enjoy it just the same. Happy fall....



*2014-2015 Board: (Left to right) Directors, Paul Villarreal Jr (Hidalgo County) & Linda Bridge (Bee County) - Secretary/Treasurer, Michelle French (Denton County), Pres Elect, Midget Sherman (Angelina County) - President, John R Ames (Dallas County) - Director, Cathy Talcott (Comel County) - Vice Pres Internal, Teri Garvey (Anderson County) - Past Pres, Bobby Biscamp (Jasper County) - Director, Monte Shaw (Wise County) - Not pictured, Vice Pres External, Ronnie Keister (Lubbock County)*

# The Office of the Texas Secretary of State

**Submitted By: Betsy Schonhoff,  
Voter Registration Manager  
July 2014**

The longest election season occurring in any two year period has just come to an end. Between primary, local, primary runoff and local runoff elections, not to mention a special election and now runoff for that election, the state of Texas has had a busy 2014. On top of all of that, the Elections Division moved locations the last weekend in May.

For those of you who were at the Seminar, we enjoyed getting to see you all and meet some of you in person for the first time. This Seminar was one of the largest attended Seminars in history!

One of the items mentioned at the Seminar is that we will continue to offer Training webinars on a variety of topics. We are sending out an email once a new class has been posted. If you are not receiving emails from our office, it may be because we do not have a current email address for you. Please email [elections@sos.state.tx.us](mailto:elections@sos.state.tx.us) to be sure we have the most up to date information on file.

Here is sneak peak of current and future targeted trainings:

- August will feature the Task Summary
- September will feature Voting History/Clerical & Statement of Residence & Events After the Election
- November will feature a Suspense Purge Refresher

In addition, the project of providing counties with the information scanned into the TEAM system is going well. Most counties have received their information so far and have been able to access the data provided. Should you have any questions regarding this process or what you need to know, please contact our office.

Finally, as we prepare for the November Election, keep in mind that the Elections Division is here to help. We look forward to working with each of you to make 2014 the best year yet!

We here, in the Elections Division, stand ready to assist you and hope that you will contact us should you need to do so.

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Keith Ingram  
Director



*Mr. and Mrs. President*



*Passing the gavel:  
2013-2014 Pres.  
Bobby Biscamp,  
Jasper County  
(left) passing the  
gavel to 2014-  
2015 Pres. John  
R. Ames, Dallas  
County (right)*

# The TxDMV On Ramp (continued from page 1)

## Houston Regional Service Center Heads North By Northwest

The Houston Regional Service Center (RSC), supporting Austin, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Harris, and Waller counties, will soon relocate. The Texas Facilities Commission has approved the lease of a new facility at 2110 East Governors Circle in Houston, about four miles from the existing service center. TxDMV will complete the move by September.

TxDmv Enforcement will share the building with Vehicle Titles and Registration (VTR). No interruption in service is anticipated, but the Houston RSC and its employees will receive new phone numbers. The new numbers will be provided to you once they are assigned.

## VTR Hires New Beaumont Manager & Dallas Assistant Manager

Idalia Illa-Lopez has been named the manager for the Beaumont Regional Service Center. Debby Johnson has been named the supervisor for the Dallas Regional Service Center. Please welcome them to their new roles.

## New Investigator Office Aids Response Time

Investigator Darrell Adams recently set up shop in the Longview Regional Service Center. Darrell will be able to respond more quickly to motor vehicle enforcement issues in Northeast Texas than before. Please welcome him to the region!

## TxDmv.gov Updates

### TAC Hub now has app icons!

You may have noticed that the Motorists, Dealers, and Motor Carrier portal pages include app icons that provide quick access to applications and

other services in one easy click. We have added some app icons to the TAC Hub to provide quick access for you as well. To start, we have included Title Check, webDEALER, Specialty Plates, and that's not all. Before the end of the year, we will add icons for the Learning Center and Continuing Education Credits.



### TxDmv Materials at TACA 2014

For those of you that didn't get a chance to go to the TACA Conference, we have posted all the TxDMV materials presented or handed out at the conference on the TAC Hub under 'Take Note.'

### Latest Communication

TxDmv has made a big change in our communications with the addition of GovDelivery. If you are not getting the new communications from TxDMV, go to the footer of the TAC Hub and click on the GovDelivery icon to sign up. You may also click on the 'Full list of Communications' button to see the new look of archived messages. It is now much easier to follow and use.



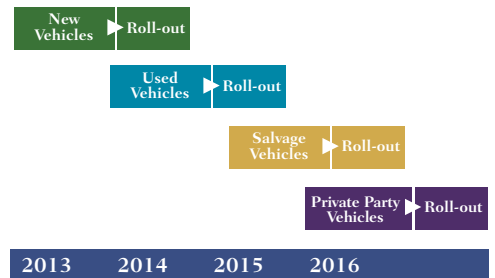
We are continuing to expand webDEALER, and we're excited about our future plans for it. WebDEALER provides counties and dealers an exceptionally smooth experience through paperless title and registration transactions, online county review and approval, complete transparency in dealer transactions, and a reduction in returned transactions.

### What happens when?

webDEALER is being rolled out in phases over several years. It started with the franchised dealers currently using Dealer Title Application (DTA) systems to process title and registration transactions for new cars and trucks. We began in the Austin region, followed by the Waco and Dallas regions. From there, we are expanding quickly to the rest of the state.

Since early August, participating counties have been able to set up any new vehicle dealer to use webDEALER – no inventory required (stickers and plates can be distributed by the counties). In November, we expect to start our pilot for used cars and trucks. Statewide rollout for used vehicles will begin in early 2015.

### webDEALER-eTitles Phased Approach



### Sign up now!

Sixty-five counties signed up for webDEALER at TxDMV's booth at the TACA Conference. Those counties are now able to set up dealers on webDEALER. If you still need to enroll, contact your local TxDMV Regional Service Center; the process takes only minutes!

### Regional Rollout

The TxDMV regional service centers are coordinating the webDEALER rollout to counties and your dealers. As it expands to your region, regional staff will contact you and walk you through the process. There are user guides and other materials to help support bringing dealers on board.

### NMVTIS/Title Check

We want to thank all of you for your help and support as we successfully rolled out the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS) on May 12, 2014. This was a huge undertaking and involved working closely with the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) and the U.S. Department of Justice.

We simultaneously began a public education initiative to encourage the use of Title Check to investigate used vehicles before purchase. Your help in passing out brochures and push cards, showing the video in your offices, as well as explaining Title Check to your customers has been invaluable.

We thought we would share some statistics related to the NMVTIS/Title Check rollout:

- **Page Hits.** The main Title Check page is among our top ten most viewed pages.

- Total Title Check page views: 223,232
- Average time spent on the page: 2 minutes
- Most visitors were from the large Texas metro areas
- Title Check video views: 2,531
- **Devices.** People accessed the main Title Check page using the following devices:
  - Desktop computers: 73%
  - Smartphones: 21%
  - Tablets: 6%
- **TAC Hub.** NMVTIS Resources page views: 1,399
- **Toll-Free Phone Calls.** Calls to the TxDMV 888 number: Only 117 Total!

\* Statistics from 1/17/14 – 6/15/14

One of the many benefits of NMVTIS is to greatly increase the amount and quality of vehicle title history information available to both the

public and to government agencies. This helps prevent the improper issuance of Texas titles and will ensure value-limiting brands on titles are retained.

Don't forget, the NMVTIS Guide, the 7.4.0 Release Notes, as well as many other support materials such as Job Aids, RTBs, and webinar recordings are available via the "NMVTIS Resources" button in the TAC Toolbox on the TAC Hub. These resource materials will provide support to county staff as they implement the changes with NMVTIS.

If you need more Title Check handout materials, they can be reordered through your regional service center.

# Region News

## CENTRAL TEXAS REGION

Submitted by Karen M. Lane

### Madison County Tax A/C

The “newly” reactivated Central Texas Region is now up and in full swing. We are pleased to have enjoyed a TREMENDOUS amount of interest and support in reactivating our region and holding meetings once again. We held our first meeting since reactivation in November of 2013 at the VG Young Conference in College Station. We elected officers and set a schedule for future meetings at that time. Since then, we have held two more meetings.

The first meeting of 2014 was on February 19th in McLennan County and was hosted by Randy Riggs, McLennan County Tax Assessor/Collector. Discussions covered the new education tracks, officer job descriptions & duties, upcoming nominations of TACA distinguished service nominees, and suggested topics for future meetings. We were very pleased with a large turnout for our first meeting.

Our speakers were Gary Gradel, Manager of the Waco Regional Service Center for TxDMV, along with Trey Lusk, Chief of Regional Services for TxDMV, presenting information on Bonded Titles. Also speaking was Russell Hudson, Navarro County Tax Assessor/Collector, who presented information on Tax Assessor/Collector Hearings. The presenters also hosted discussions on their presentation topics to assist in answering remaining questions.

Lunch was graciously provided by Linebarger, Goggan, Blair, & Sampson and prepared by La Fiesta of Waco. The afternoon presentation was performed by Jake Battenfield, Attorney at Law with Linebarger, Goggan, Blair,

& Sampson, covering Mandatory Homestead Installment Agreements and Notice of Delinquency.

Our second meeting of 2014 was on May 15th in Centerville. Robin Shaffer, Leon County Tax Assessor/Collector, and her staff hosted the meeting with the assistance of Karen M. Lane, Madison County Tax Assessor/Collector. There were 29 attendees present representing 10 Counties.

The meeting started with Kristy Roe, Brazos County Tax Assessor/Collector, conducting a brief session to take care of some business-related items. The group then participated in many different discussions, included education versus certification, TAC numbers, the annual mandate, the upcoming 80th Annual TACA Conference, and the Legislative focus for 2015.

The morning session featured Robert Myers from McCreary, Veselka, Bragg, & Allen, presenting a review of various current Property Tax Litigation cases. Lunch was graciously provided by McCreary, Veselka, Bragg, & Allen. The afternoon session featured Detective Alton Neeley of the Montgomery County Auto Theft Task Force. Detective Neeley performed a presentation on how to identify fraudulent title transactions and fraudulent license plates.

Finally, our next meeting is scheduled for August 21st in Hillsboro. We greatly appreciate Marchel Eubanks, Hill County Tax Assessor/Collector, volunteering to host this event.

## DFW REGION

Submitted by Teresa McCoy

### Hood County Tax A/C

The DFW Region (Dallas & Fort Worth Combined) met on May 15th at Tarrant County's Arlington Sub-

Courthouse. The meeting was hosted by Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector, Mr. Ron Wright. The gathering started off with coffee and donuts at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting began at 9:00 with a welcome and introductions by host, Ron Wright.

Dallas County Tax A/C and T.A.C.A. President Elect, John Ames, and Secretary/Treasurer, Michelle French, Denton County Tax A/C, gave a conference update and explained the 50/50 raffle and the “pie in the face” challenge.

Dallas County's John Ames and Norman Kasal thought the T.A.C.A. Ethics Class. John and Norm done a wonderful job with teaching this class and they made it very interesting and fun.

Following the Ethics class, Executive Director of Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, Whitney Brewster, Deputy Director, Shelly Mellot, and Interim Director of the Vehicle Titles and Registration Division, Tim Thompson joined the meeting and each spoke to the group. The big topic of discussion was the upcoming single sticker program which was explained in detail; this was very informative and greatly appreciated. It was wonderful to have these DMV representatives attend the meeting.

Attendees enjoyed lunch which was graciously sponsored by the law firm of Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott.

After lunch, the attendees wishing to stay spent the afternoon working on conference centerpieces and stuffing the tote bags for the quickly approaching conference.

While CE's were not available for the work done after lunch, meeting attendees who were present for both the Ethics class and the DMV update, were awarded a total of three CE's.

# Region News (continued from page 6)



*DFW Region TAC's – (Left To Right) Monte Shaw-Wise County, Randy Wineinger-Hunt County, Tonya Ratcliff-Kaufman County, John Ames-Dallas County, Tim Thompson, Whitney Brewster & Shelly Mellot with TxDMV, Teresa McCoy-Hood County, Ron Wright-Tarrant County, Michelle French-Denton County and special guest John Bridges-Ellis County*



*Putting on the final touches....you know it's serious when tools come out!*



*Stuffing the tote bags....what a great team effort!*

# TACA Board of Directors Meetings - June 2014

## TACA Board of Directors Meetings - June 2014

Two board meetings were held at the Worthington Renaissance Hotel in Fort Worth during the TACA Conference in June.

The 2013/2014 Board met on Saturday, June 7, 2014 - President Bobby Biscamp called the meeting to order and Director, Monte Shaw, gave the invocation and the group said the American and Texas pledges. Introductions were given; all board members and fourteen guests were present. President Biscamp gave a brief report on the past year, expressed how much he enjoyed serving and said thank you to the board and committee chairs and a special thank you to Tavie Murphy.

During this meeting Secretary/Treasurer, Michelle French, presented the minutes from the previous board meeting and financial reports; both were approved.

Secretary/Treasurer, Michelle French, announced the following: There were 422 total conference registrations, 407 of which were full registrations. There were 171 Tax A/C's pre-registered for the conference along with 236 deputies.

The 2014/2015 budget was presented, discussed and considered and the board made the decision to recommend it for approval by the new Board at their meeting on July 12, 2014.

Ashley with Texas Association of Counties reported that ours is the largest conference they have assisted with. She advised that it was a big learning year but that all had gone well.

TAC worked with the exhibitors and vendors this year; all 46 booth spaces were sold and that process went very well also.

As part of the discussion of old business, Program Committee Chair, Jeri Cox, reported to the board that everything was ready for the conference and briefly went over the agenda.

In the discussion of new business, By-Laws Committee Chair, Donna Atzenhoffer, explained the proposed changes to the by-laws at the annual business meeting on Wednesday. The Life Membership Committee Chair and Honorary Membership Committee Chair was not in attendance; there was not a report for Life Membership but the President read the Honorary Membership report which recommended an honorary membership be given to Randy Elliston, former Director of DMV's Titles and Registration

Division. The Board approved the recommendation to be voted on at the annual business meeting.

The Membership Committee report was given by Secretary/Treasurer, Michelle French as provided by Committee Chair, Valerie McAlister. The report advised that twenty-one TAC's would be receiving their 20 Year Awards and that there were currently 35 counties who had not paid their dues for TACA membership. Some of the counties who had not yet paid dues were supposed to pay them at the conference.

Legislative Committee Co-Chair Scott Porter, Johnson County Tax A/C, reported to the board that the Legislative Committee had already met and discussed the suggestions that had been received and has started working on the TACA platform. Scott advised that an official report would be given at the business meeting.

Education Chair, JR Moore Jr, Montgomery County Tax A/C, reported on the new courses that are being offered; he also discussed the accomplishments made by the Education Committee over the last year. JR advised the board that he feels the association should take action to create the position of an Education Director and that he would like to recommend Ro'Vin Garrett for that position.

Ro'Vin spoke to the board and complimented JR on how he pushed and successfully got the new education program off the ground. She advised that a lot of TACA members, and non-members, are getting CE's now via webinars, the new courses and at regional meetings across the state. Ro'Vin stated that the education program accomplishments would not have been made without JR's hard work and dedication to make it happen. Ro'Vin also advised that education transcripts will go out after the conference so that association members will know where they stand with CE's for this year so far. Also, 115 people had pre-registered for the leadership course offered after the conclusion of the conference.

The Advisory Committee Chair, Lewis Scott Porter-Wheeler County Tax A/C, and Co-Chair, Scott Porter-Johnson County Tax A/C, gave a recommendation to the board to create a position for an Education Director and to make the appropriate changes to the bylaws and constitution. The Advisory Committee presented an outline of what the director will do. The board voted to create the position of Education Director.

The Advisory Committee recommended that Ro'Vin Garrett be named as the Education Director and that she



continue doing what she's already been doing and that she be reimbursed for her expenses and that the job duties presented be accepted on a temporary basis. The committee also recommended two changes to the By-Laws Committee. The board voted to approve the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

President Biscamp gave each of the board members an appreciate gift and the meeting was adjourned.



*2013/2014 Board - June 7, 2014*

The new 2014/2015 Board met on Thursday, June 12, 2014 - The meeting was called to order by new President John R Ames. The invocation was given, pledges were said, and introductions made. All board members and ten guests were present.

Secretary/Treasurer, Michelle French, presented the 2014/2015 proposed budget for approval by the board. The board voted to approve the budget as presented and recommended by the previous board.

The board discussed the scheduling of an internal audit and decided that it will be scheduled during the VG Young School for County Tax A/C's in College Station in November.

The Board discussed who will be chosen to attend the Texas Association of Counties Leadership Class and chose Linda Bridge and Michelle French.

The Board ratified the Presidents Committee Chair Appointments and extensions as recommended. The board approved allowing Linda Gunstream, Historical Committee and Valerie McAlister, Membership Committee staying on as chairs so that they may finish projects they are currently working on.

Under the discussion of old business, President Ames gave a TIADA update, Bobby Biscamp spoke to the board about his year as TACA President and how much he enjoyed serving the association. A VG Young school update was given as well.

With the discussion of new business, there was a TAC/ County Progress wrap-up, the board discussed the approval of the Site Committee's recommendation to hold the 2017 TACA Conference in Houston. The conference will be held in Lubbock in 2015, Waco in 2016 and in Houston in 2017.

The board made the decision to hold its next meeting in August at either the TAAO or TAC Conference with a date and time to be chosen after some research on the two conference times.

The board decided to draft an official letter to the TxDMV about the posting of rules without first contacting the Tax Assessor-Collectors.

Teresa McCoy-Hood County Tax A/C, Publication Information Committee Chair and Editor of TACA's newsletter, The County Tax Statement, made a recommendation to the board that the publication begin being sent out digitally to save the association a lot of money annually on postage. Teresa recommended that only a few hard copies be mailed, with the hard copies going to those who have life and honorary memberships. The board voted to approve the recommendation and it was decided that the publication will be posted on the TACA website and an email containing a link to it go out via list serve so that all members can read it online or print it themselves if they so choose.

Teresa also advised the board that the previous Public Information Committee Chair had passed on to her twelve years of old issues of the newsletter and asked the board for guidance on what to do with them; she said that she felt like these documents should be treated as historical records of the association. The board decided that the old issues of the newsletter should be scanned by the Historical Committee and preserved digitally.

There was no other new business to be discussed so the meeting was adjourned.



*The new board gets down to business....*

# From the Comptroller of Public Accounts

## Sales Tax Policy Division

Submitted by Lavonne Key, Tax Specialist, Sales and Motor Vehicle Tax Section

### Salvage Vehicles and Motor Vehicle Tax

A salvage motor vehicle (salvage vehicle) has a salvage certificate or a non-repairable motor vehicle certificate of title issued pursuant to the Certificate of Title Act; or a certificate of authority for an abandoned motor vehicle; or is a unit declared a total loss by an insurance company.

The purchase of an unrepaid salvage vehicle is subject to limited sales and use tax ("sales tax"), not motor vehicle tax (Texas Tax Code, Chapter 152). Sales tax is paid by the purchaser to the seller at the time of purchase.

The state sales tax rate is 6.25 percent. Local taxing jurisdictions can impose up to an additional 2 percent tax for a maximum combined rate of 8.25 percent.

### Transferring Title and Collecting Tax

#### Unrepaid Vehicle—Salvage Title to Salvage Title

Transferring the title of an unrepaid salvage vehicle from salvage title to salvage title:

- Title applicant has purchased an

unrepaid salvage vehicle.

- The transaction is subject to sales tax, not motor vehicle tax.
- Tax Assessor Collector (TAC) will not collect motor vehicle tax.

#### Repaired Vehicle – Seller Performed Repairs; Seller is a General Distinguishing Number(GDN) Dealer

Transferring the title of a repaired salvage vehicle from a salvage title to a blue title with a rebuilt remark:

- TxDMV Form VTR-61 indicates the seller performed the repairs.
- Title applicant has purchased a repaired vehicle; motor vehicle sales tax is due.
- TAC should collect tax based on the sales price.
- GDN dealer will collect and remit the motor vehicle tax to the TAC at the time of title transfer.

#### Repaired Vehicle – Seller Performed Repairs; Seller is not a GDN Dealer

Transferring the title of a repaired salvage vehicle from a salvage title to a blue title with a rebuilt remark:

- TxDMV Form VTR-61 indicates seller performed the repairs.
- Title applicant has purchased a repaired vehicle; motor vehicle sales tax is due.
- TAC will collect motor vehicle sales tax using Standard Presumptive Value (SPV).

#### Repaired Vehicle – Purchaser Performed Repairs; Seller is or is not a GDN Dealer

Transferring the title of a repaired salvage vehicle from a salvage title to a blue title with a rebuilt remark:

- TxDMV Form VTR-61 indicates purchaser performed the repairs.
- Title applicant has purchased an unrepaid salvage vehicle. It is subject to sales tax, not motor vehicle tax.
- TAC will not collect motor vehicle tax.

Sales taxes are transaction taxes. Knowing what the vehicle was (for example, a motor vehicle or tangible personal property) at the time of transaction (sale/purchase) determines its taxability. Taxability and title administration do not always coincide when dealing with salvage vehicles. For tax purposes, a salvage vehicle includes both an unrepaid salvage titled vehicle and a vehicle declared a total loss by an insurance company.

If you have any questions, contact us at 1-800-803-2573, or email [www.window.state.tx.us/taxhelp/](http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxhelp/).

# 2014 Distinguished Service Award

The recipient of this year's Distinguished Service Award is Jeri Cox, Aransas County Tax Assessor-Collector. This Award is presented to someone who has demonstrated outstanding service to the Tax Assessor-Collectors Association. Nominations are made by members of the TACA Board of Directors and/or the Chairs of the TACA Committees. This award was presented to Jeri Cox on June 10, 2014 during TACA's 80th annual conference held this year in Fort Worth. Last year's award winner, Ro'Vin Garrett, Brazoria County Tax Assessor-Collector, presented the award.

Jeri Cox was appointed as Aransas County Tax Assessor-Collector on February 1, 1995 and has worked in the Aransas County Tax Office for 33 years. She served as a Director on the TACA Board for three years prior to becoming the Program Committee chair in June, 2012 where she continues to serve our association. Jeri was a member of TACA's Education Committee for 8 years and is in her ninth year on the By-Laws Committee. She is active in TACA's Coastal Bend Region and she represented her region as a nominee for the Tax Assessor-Collector of the Year in 2006, 2010 and again in 2013.

"What an honor it is to be nominated and chosen to receive the Distinguished Service Award for this great association. TACA is great because of the members who are all so TREMENDOUS! WOW, THANK YOU, and it is an honor to serve you!", said Cox.

On behalf of the TACA family, "Thank You Jeri" for your service and commitment to this association and all you do for everyone in our profession. Congratulations on receiving this award; you are most deserving!!



*Jeri & Ro'Vin*



*2014 Distinguished Service Award Winner, Jeri Cox, Aransas County Tax A/C*

# 2014 President's Award

The winners of the 2013-2014 President's Award are Ro'Vin Garrett, Brazoria County Tax Assessor-Collector and JR Moore Jr., Montgomery County Tax Assessor-Collector. This award is sponsored by the Tax Assessor-Collector's Association and is presented at the sole discretion of the President of the association. It is awarded to an individual(s) who has provided invaluable effort and assistance, to the President, during the past year.

Pictured are Ro'Vin and JR receiving their awards from 2013-2014 President, Bobby Biscamp, Jasper County Tax Assessor-Collector, at the 80th annual Tax Assessor-Collector's Association conference in Fort Worth.

Congratulations Ro'Vin& JR!!!



President Bobby Biscamp (right) presenting the annual President's Awards to Ro'Vin Garrett, Brazoria County Tax A/C and JR Moore Jr, Montgomery County Tax A/C



2014 President's Award Winners Ro'Vin Garrett, Brazoria County Tax A/C and JR Moore Jr, Montgomery County Tax A/C

## TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

As Chairman of the TACA Awards Committee, Donna Atzenhoffer-Jackson County Tax A/C, wishes to remind us that it is time, once again, to begin thinking about nominations for the Tax Assessor-Collector of the Year nominees. The Tax Assessor-Collector of the Year Award will be presented at the VG Young School for County Tax Assessors in November. Nominations for this award are submitted by a region or Tax A/C in the nominees region of the state. The award is presented to a Tax Assessor-Collector who conducts county business with high ethical standards, and continues his or her education to improve the operations of the tax office. Nomination forms will be mailed to the regions the end of August or early September, pending TACA board approval of the criteria updates to the forms.

Nomination forms will be due in September so watch for the form and be sure to nominate someone from your region. There are usually only a few regions that submit a nominee; however, there are very deserving Tax Assessor-Collectors in every region of the state so ***please*** take the time to nominate someone. It's an honor to be nominated and/or to receive this award so let's make it a goal to have someone nominated from every region this year.

# Dear TACA members,

I didn't want to motor away from the TxDMV without making a stop to thank the tax assessor-collectors and many of your staff members whom I've gotten to know over the years.

It was truly a privilege to work with all of you. I cannot tell you how much I appreciated being adopted into the TACA family. I always looked forward to the TACA conference and V.G. Young where I could usually count on seeing many of you in person and thank you for your dedication to customers on behalf of the TxDMV. More than anyone else, you are the faces of the TxDMV for the agency's customers. Thank you, too, for indulging me by playing the booth games I came up with every year. Nothing was more thrilling and fun than to see you win, and, of course, to try to make sure no one ever left feeling like a loser.

So much of my success hinged on all of you sharing your ideas and embracing our public education initiatives, including Put Texas in your corner; Protect your title, Texas; and the new Title Check campaign. Many of you have expressed to me how happy you are with the Don't Buy a Wreck, Do a Title Check campaign and that means a lot to me. It's always been my goal to help and support you any way I can to assist customers on behalf of the agency as well as making sure we were empowering customers with the information they need to protect themselves and to easily accomplish their business with the agency.

One example is the Vehicle Transfer Notification. We began that campaign as You're En-titled, which morphed into Protect your title, Texas. Before the campaign, we were only receiving a little more than 8,000 transfer notifications a month, and after, it quickly ramped up to more than 30,000 a month. You made that happen. True, we took off the \$5 charge, but the biggest complaint I received from our staff was how many people were sending in the notification with \$5 (old titles still had the \$5 charge noted on them), which illustrates that you were so good at promoting this campaign to protect consumers that they sent in the \$5 to make sure they were covered. Thank you for going out of your way to protect Texans.

I could give many other examples of your successes on the agency's behalf, but I mostly want to focus on how wonderful it was to work with all of you. You are the most down-to-earth, warm- and big-hearted human beings, and Texans are so fortunate to have you as their tax assessor-collectors. I am fortunate to be able to consider many of you my friends.

All the best,  
Kim Sue Lia Perkes

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*Kim Sue Lia Perkes began her state career with TxDOT as the public information officer for the Vehicle Titles and Registration Division. She became the TxDMV public information officer, and later, the agency's communications strategist in the Government and Strategic Communications Division. She left the agency in June.*

# 80th ANNUAL T.A.C.A. CONFERENCE COWTOWN STYLE

The 80th annual Tax Assessor-Collectors Association Conference in Fort Worth set records ....

433 Attendees consisting of 168 Tax Assessors, 2 Sheriff/Tax Assessors, 223 Deputies/Clerks, 35 Non-County Attendees, 44 Speakers/Facilitators - 41 Vendors with a total of 46 booth spaces - 83% of this year's attendees had attended a previous conference and 17% were first time attendees. WONDERFUL!!!

This conference was great from the board meeting to the pies!!! Thank you to everyone who attended and a special thank you to everyone who played a part in making it such a terrific event!!!



*Welcome by Tarrant County TAC, Ron Wright*



*Swearing In 2014-2015 Board*



*Presenting of the TACA Cowboy Frisbee*



*Ron Wright, Tarrant County TAC Awarded A Special Gift*



*Special Guest - Ft. Worth Mayor & Prior TACA President, Betsy Price*



*20 Year Certificates*

### *Historic Ft. Worth Stockyards*



*Longhorn Cattle Drive*



*Billy Bob's Texas - Worlds Largest Honkeytonk*



*Rodeo Action A Crowd Pleaser*



*Ride 'Em Cowboy*

# 80th ANNUAL T.A.C.A. CONFERENCE COWTOWN STYLE (cont.)

*Thank you to our wonderful speakers*



*Mr. Patrick O'Dooley*



*Ms. Kristin Jaworski, Trail Boss, Ft. Worth Heard*

*Raffle drawing*



*50-50 drawing*



*Oh so excited!!!*



*Happy - Happy - Happy*



*Raffle Participants With Winner Shirley Chisham, Van Zandt County*





*Thank You*  
All 4,000 Tickets Sold!



**50/50 RAFFLE**

\$1=1 Ticket    \$5=6 Tickets

**Raffle**

Denton    Dallas    Tarrant

Sponsored by

*Thank You 50-50 Raffle*



*Michelle French takes a pie in the face for the number of 50/50 drawing tickets sold*



*Ron Wright, Tarrant County*



*John Ames, Dallas County*



*Pie Recipients - What great sports! Thanks Michelle, John & Ron*

*Pictionary - A huge success on game night*



*Having fun at Bingo*



*We'd like to extend a special thank you to the vendors who purchased booth spaces at this year's conference; your support is very much appreciated. Thank You for making it possible for us to have such a great conference!!*

**Air Communications**  
**Southwest Data Solutions, LLC**  
**Appraisal & Collection Technologies, LLC**  
**RT Lawrence Corp**  
**Lawrence Auto Title Service**  
**Sturgis Web Services**  
**System Innovators**  
**Texas State Parks**  
**AIB, Inc**  
**Bike Texas**  
**Texas Parks & Wildlife Department**  
**Creditron**  
**Technique Data Systems, Inc**  
**Nemo-Q**  
**L D Enterprises**  
**Computer Information Concepts, Inc**  
**Texas Department of Insurance**  
**Texas Department of Motor Vehicles**  
**CollectorSolutions, Inc**  
**Auto Data Direct, Inc**  
**Hunter-Kelsey of Texas, LLC**  
**Harris-True Automation**  
**Envision Payment Solutions**  
**VariVerge**  
**The Masters Touch**  
**Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP**  
**McCreary, Veselka, Bragg & Allen, PC**  
**NET Data**  
**SpindleMedia**  
**Texas Association of Counties**  
**Gov-Pay**  
**Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott**  
**Certified Payments**  
**Texas County and District Retirement System**  
**Texas.gov**  
**Silpada Designs**  
**Cogniserv**  
**Tyler Technologies**  
**Propel Financial Services**  
**The Gift Solution**  
**Forte Payment Systems**

# Tax Assessor–Collectors Association

80th Annual TACA Conference

We wish to thank all of our sponsors:

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## Tax Assessor–Collector Association of Texas

P.O. Box 2242

Denton, TX 76202

### TACA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

For TACA Use Only:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Amount Paid:  
\$85    \$40    \$0

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Year Taking Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

BTPE Cert. #: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Certified: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Certs.: \_\_\_\_\_

TACA Dues:	Regular Member (Elected tax assessor–collector)	\$85
	Affiliate Member (tax related business vendor)	\$85
	Associate Member (Deputy tax assessor–collector)	\$40
	Life Member (Retired with 12 years in office)	\$0
	Honorary Member (invitation only)	\$0

Enclosed is my check payable for \$\_\_\_\_\_annual dues for a\_\_\_\_type of membership.

Please make check payable to TACA and mail to:  
TACA, c/o Ro'Vin Garrett, P.O. Box 2242, Denton, TX 76202