

THE BULLETIN

A Publication of the Texas School Assessors Association
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all!!

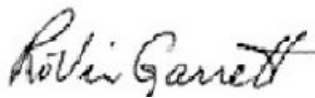
I want to officially thank everyone for allowing me to hold the office of President of TSAA. It is my honor to serve this organization and my hope is to do it proud.

What a great conference Past President Colette Ballinger and the entire TSAA board put together this year. I know the board worked hard in planning a relevant and informative program. From all indications we were quite successful. I will definitely be more careful when bringing my left hand anywhere near my nose!! (lol)

Take note of the names of your board of directors and the list of committees and members as mentioned in the pages to follow. It takes everyone to make TSAA a successful organization and your participation is needed and appreciated.

The legislature seems to be heating up and goodness knows what the final outcome will be. You will find a great article on HB 1903 in this edition of "The Bulletin". We can be rest assured our jobs as school assessor-collectors will, whether we are the elected county version with multiple districts or work for a stand alone school office, become even more important in collecting the dollars to fund the education of Texas' school children. Let us all remember it is important to do our jobs diligently with honesty and integrity. As assessor-collectors we were bound by an oath when we first registered and began our career working to complete the RTA (or RTC) certification to do just that. I know we will all step up to the plate and handle whatever they throw at us, just as we always do.

Enjoy the summer and try to stay cool.



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FORTY FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPONSORS

We Extend A Sincere **Thank You** To All Our Sponsors. Your Continued Support Allows This Organization To Thrive!

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PRIZES AWARDED AT FORTY FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

There were about 30 cash and gift door prizes given out in the general sessions this year. The Big Winner was:

Flat Panel TV - **Paul Villarreal, Jr.** from Hidalgo County

A special Thank You to Gay, McCall, Isaacks, Gordon & Roberts for donating the TV.

Also a great big Thank You to Laura Boatright & Beth Buck for acquiring and bringing all the door prizes!

Bundle Up, Baby, It's Cold Outside

R. Bruce Medley & Lynn Stavinoha
Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott

“Bundling” in early American usage denoted a practice of allowing two people of different genders to share a bed as long as they both were wrapped up tightly in bedding (“bundled”) or there was a bundling board placed to separate the couple. This was thought to decrease the chance of “hanky-panky” while allowing the conservation of bed space and warmth in the winter months. The reason behind the concept made sense, but its efficacy is questionable. The “bundling” referred to in this article is perhaps less colorful, but still uses a dubious mechanism to achieve what it’s sponsors believe to be a positive result.

HB1903, still in committee, would allow schools and other districts to “bundle” up delinquent tax receivables and sell them at a discount to investors. The duty to collect the tax would remain with the taxing unit’s collector, but any money received (including penalties and interest accrued) would be then turned over to the investor. This is not the first time this has been brought before the Legislature and its avowed goal is to allow early access to funds by the taxing unit. Although early access may be a laudable goal, a number of local government associations oppose it for two main reasons – it actually decreases revenue to the taxing units and it is bad public policy.

Revenue

As stated, the bill would allow the units to sell groups of receivables to investors at a discount yet to be determined. The investors will almost certainly be interested only in those accounts with a high chance of being paid – “low hanging fruit” if you will. This leaves the taxing unit with those accounts that actually cost more to collect – the taxpayers in shaky financial situations that need multiple letters or litigation to collect from. Also, many taxing units derive substantial revenue in penalties and interest which would be turned over to the investors under the Bill. The Fiscal Note for the Bill estimates a loss of 480,000,000 state-wide in P&I revenue and that’s real money.

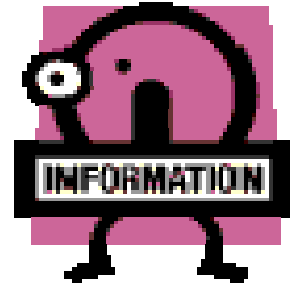
Public Policy

The duty to pay taxes is engrained in our culture as part and parcel of the responsibilities of property ownership. All property derives from the Sovereign and paying taxes back to the Sovereign is part of the link between the government and the governed. That public responsibility that ties the land owners to the community is vital and is lost when the tax is treated just like another commodity. (Good-Bye Junk Bonds, Hello Junk Taxes). Also, the duties of the collector are diminished when they are told they must not only collect for their local government, they must also collect for the investors.

This Bill may or may not make it out of Committee and it may or may not spring back up as a substitute Bill, but if it fails to pass, it will almost certainly show up again at a later session. It is our responsibility as informed members of the electorate to let our representatives know what we feel will and won’t work. It may be a cold financial climate, but don’t burn down the bed.

FORTY FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS

We would like to give a Thank You to the Exhibitors.



Spindlemedia, Inc.
Technique Data Systems
Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP.
Wells Fargo Real Estate Tax Service
Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, LLP.
LPS True Automation, Inc.
Zytron, Inc.
Official Payments Corporation
Certified Payments
Appraisal & Collections Technology
Government Capital Corporation

***Also, we have their contact information on our website at
www.tsaatx.org***



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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TSAA

Thanks so much for the scholarship and for your kindness and exceptional attentiveness. I had a great time and really enjoyed getting to see you and meet new people. Thanks again.

Kathy Hull
Martin County TAC

TSAA

Just a note to express my appreciation for the Scholarship to the recent TSAA Conference in Austin. I can honestly state that it was one of the very best conferences that I have attended in my 10+ years as a Property Tax Professional. The program was interesting, informative and practical. The quality of the speakers was outstanding. Their presentations were "topnotch". The meals, hotel and entertainment were also great.

Dexter Sagebiel
Llano County TAC

2012 & 2013 TSAA CONFERENCE SITES

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND INCLUDE THIS IN YOUR BUDGET

2012	Hilton Austin Airport	March 25 - March 28
2013	Hilton Austin Airport	March 24 - March 27



PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What an amazing conference we had this year!!! Many thanks to the Board, the sponsors, the vendors and our members for their hard work ensuring our conference was the best. It would not have been the success it was without each of you!!!

Thank you for allowing me to serve as President of TSAA. It truly has been an honor and privilege. I look forward to seeing you next year.

Have a Safe Summer!
Colette



CSTA 2011 - 2012 BOARD



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NEW CSTA'S

Congratulations to this year's new Certified School Tax Administrators.

Thelma "Midget" Sherman - Angelina County
Kristie L. Hill - Hill CAD
Jeri D. Cox - Aransas County



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SCHOOL
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"WE PROMOTE PROFESSIONALISM, SERVICE AND EDUCATION"