

CROAA *Advisor*.....

*Official quarterly newsletter of the County Revenue Officers Association of Alabama
Fourth Quarter 2009 and Legislative Conference Issue*

CROAA 2009-10 Board of Directors

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CROAA is on the move?

CROAA is on the move? Where to? Will we be setting up permanent offices somewhere in the state? In a perfect world, we would be setting up an Association office somewhere along the Gulf Coast, or for some of us we would prefer a location overlooking a ski hill in the Rockies. In reality though, CROAA is on the move in a difference sense – we are growing our membership.

On Sept. 25, the Board of Directors met in Montgomery to discuss a number of very important issues facing our organization – business license reform, SST and the 2010 Legislative Session. These are big issues the CROAA Board and ACCA staff will be working on in the months ahead.

Another topic discussed at the board meeting was growing the CROAA membership. In the last couple of years, CROAA has grown by about 25 percent, so now the question is can we keep growing? There were a lot of good ideas taken from the meeting, including compiling data about self-collection and in-house auditing, as well as conducting a meeting of the minds for all of Alabama's License Inspectors.

In 2008-09, CROAA had 122 members in good standing. Our members consisted of License Inspectors, Revenue Examiners, Directors, Managers, Compliance Officers and many others. Although CROAA is diverse in its members, the one common thread we all have is that we are in the field of "Revenue Compliance" and "Revenue Enforcement" for county government.

Since the Board of Directors meeting, I have made two committee appointments to help CROAA achieve its goal of growing the membership. **Tom Whitacre** of Baldwin County has been appointed as Audit Committee Chair and **Teri Henderson** of Montgomery County is now chairing the Membership Committee. These individuals and their committees will be working on

compiling data on CROAA members and their offices. This information will be used in a presentation next May to the County Administrators at their annual conference.

Another step taken to grow the CROAA membership was to conduct a meeting of statewide County License Inspectors. On Oct. 30, License Inspectors from across the state descended on the ACCA office looking for information on all things CROAA and business licensing. When the meeting began, there were about 40 individuals packed into the ACCA board room.

ACCA Association Counsel Mary Pons presided over the meeting with **CROAA Immediate Past President Kirk Keith**, **License Committee Chair Ronnie Armstrong** and myself representing CROAA. Also in attendance were **Monica Vaughn**, **Will Martin** and **Brenda Coone** from the Alabama Department of Revenue.

The two-hour meeting covered a number of topics including CROAA educational opportunities and the advantages to becoming a member of CROAA. However, a good portion of time was spent asking questions of our DOR guests. The questions covered the ins-and-outs of manufactured homes, the new rules affecting the licensing of vehicle trailers, online access to the Alabama Vehicles Information System (ALVIS), e-citations for manufactured homes, and more. The initial feedback on the meeting has been very positive.

During the next weeks, a CROAA member may contact you for information. The information you provide will certainly help CROAA move forward in growing its membership. Who knows...maybe someday we'll be located somewhere along the Gulf Coast!

*Kevin Caputo
CROAA President, Madison County*

Membership Has Its Privileges...

As a member of the County Revenue Officers of Alabama, membership has its privileges! And, one of the benefits of membership is this newsletter, which will be published quarterly and jam-packed with information we think will be useful to you. CROAA is a statewide organization of professionals just like you. Through the Association, you will be provided educational opportunities to further your skills as a leader in your profession, all the while making important contacts that can prove most useful in the future.

Not a member of CROAA? If you would like to learn more about CROAA, log on to www.acca-online.org and look for CROAA in under the **Affiliates** section.

Not sure if your membership dues are up-to-date? Please e-mail **Marcia Collier** at mcollier@acca-online.org.

Membership dues are \$10 annually. Make checks payable to County Revenue Officers Association of Alabama and mail with completed form, which can be found online, to:

CROAA
100 N. Jackson Street
Montgomery, Ala. 36104
Phone: (334) 263-7594
Fax: (334) 263-7678

Members recognized for all their hard work!

Several CROAA members received special recognition and awards during ACCA's Annual Convention in August.

Sandra Hodo (right), who officially retired from Tuscaloosa County at the end of March 2009, received an honorary membership to CROAA as a symbol of her hard work and dedication to the organization.

Sandra, you may have retired from Tuscaloosa, but you're still one of us, and we are extremely grateful for everything that you have done for our organization. Thank you for all your hard work!



Also during the CROAA Breakout Session, **ACCA Executive Director Sonny Brasfield** also received an honorary membership for his work with our organization. Sonny has continued to diligently work for the betterment of our association, as well as the counties, particularly on the legislative level, and his hard work has certainly not gone unnoticed. Thank you, Sonny!

Sandra and Sonny weren't the only CROAA members to receive special recognition for their dedication to our organization.



At the September 2009 Board of Directors meeting, CROAA honored its first three Presidents with the Outstanding Contribution to CROAA award.

Butch Burbage of Shelby County (left), **Betty Peterson** of Madison County (center) and **Ed Sims** of Morgan

County (right) have not only served the revenue offices and their constituency in their counties with honor and dignity, but they have done much to further CROAA's causes both back home and legislatively, helping to educate their colleagues on new laws and processes and to make our organization a stronger one along the way.

Members like Sandra, Butch, Betty and Ed are standouts in our group, and we continue to applaud their continued success in their endeavors. We also thank them for their support of our organization. It's member like these, with strong professional standards, that will allow our organization to continue to grow and prosper.

2009 LEGISLATIVE Conference

Dec. 9-10 • Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Conference Center • Montgomery, Ala. • REGISTER TODAY!

OPENING GENERAL SESSION

- **Preview of the 2010 Legislative Session**
Hon. Seth Hammett, Speaker of the House
- **Financial Challenges for the 2010 Session**
Rep. John Knight (D-Montgomery)
- **Projections on the Federal Highway Trust Fund**
Speaker TBA
- **A Health Care Reform Update**
Paul Beddoe, NACo Associate Legislative Director
- **An Unemployment Forecast**
Tom Surtees, Director of Alabama Department of Industrial Relations
- **A Forecast for the Coming Election Year and a Focus on Overseas Absentee Voting**
Beth Chapman, Alabama Secretary of State

CROAA BREAKOUT AGENDA

- **Alabama Department of Revenue Update**
Wade Hope, Assistant Counsel, Alabama Department of Revenue
- **An Overview of Legislative Reference Service**
Frank Caskey, Legislative Analyst, Legislative Reference Service
- **ALTIST Report**
Betty Peterson, Director, Madison County Sales Tax Department
- **President's Report**
Kevin Caputo, President, CROAA

For more details, log online at www.acca-online.org.

HOW TO REGISTER ONLINE FOR ACCA'S LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

- Registrations will not be accepted via any other method. You **MUST** register through the online system.
- Think about assigning the duty of registering everyone in your office to one staff member. That staff member would be responsible for registering each person for all ACCA events and keeping up with everyone's login and password.
- Go to www.acca-online.org.
- Click on the **Conferences and Events** tab on the top left side of the menu bar. Scroll down to the **ACCA Legislative Conference**. Click on the tab to register online. *(This will bring you to a welcome page.)*
- Your first step is to login. You must be logged in to register for an event. Click on **Login** on the left side of the page.
- Enter your primary e-mail address. *If you have never registered before, your default password is **Password1**.* After you login for the first time, it will prompt you to change to password. After you change your password, click on **Click Here to Continue**. This will bring up all of your current account information.
- **If it says incorrect e-mail or password**, we must not have you in the system. Go up to **New Visitor Registration** to create an account. You'll need to enter your contact information and hit **Create Account**. From there continue on to the next step.
- From here click **Upcoming Events** on the left side of the page. This will bring up a list of all upcoming events. There will be several pages. Scroll through the pages to find the Legislative Conference.
- Click on the **Legislative Conference** and click **Register for this Event**. Look over the badge information provided and click on **Add to Cart**.
- When you click on Add to Cart you might see a button at the bottom of the page that says **Group Registration**. Click on this to register multiple people from your county at once.
- When you are ready, hit the **Checkout** button in the shopping cart. Enter your billing information if necessary. Click **Next**. Then choose your payment option. You have the option of being billed for the event or paying with a credit card. **If you choose Bill Me, please print your receipt and use that as an invoice for payment.** Please make all checks payable to ACCA, 100 N. Jackson Street, Montgomery, AL 36104.
- Once you complete your registration, you will receive a confirmation e-mail detailing your purchase.
- Questions? Please call (334) 263-7594 or e-mail Jennifer Datcher (jdatcher@acca-online.org) or Donna Key (dkey@acca-online.org) in the ACCA Office.

