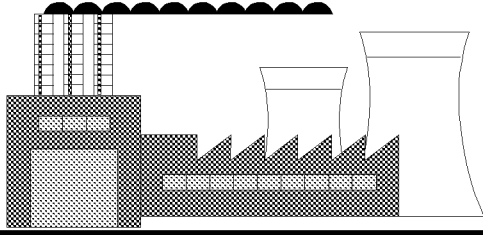


# PROPERTY TAX NEWS



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## 2002 CONFERENCE AGENDA FINALIZED

Final preparations are being made for the 2002 Conference on Assessment Administration being held December 2-6 at the Executive Inn Rivermont in Owensboro.

Registration will begin Monday afternoon at 1:00 and Tuesday morning at 9:00.

The conference will officially begin with a general session at 10:00 Tuesday morning featuring Bob Arnold, Executive Director of the Kentucky Association of Counties (KACO). The morning session will be followed by a luncheon and roundtable sessions.

Concurrent workshop sessions will begin Wednesday morning and continue until Thursday afternoon. Twelve different topics will be offered in eight sessions at this year's conference.

The Kentucky Chapter of IAAO will meet Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. followed by a reception and silent auction. Music during the reception will be provided by *The Shining*.

The conference will conclude Thursday night with the traditional banquet and dance. Music will be provided by *The Sensations*.

Staff from the Division of Technical Support will be available to scan maps Monday - Thursday in the Illinois Room. Counties who have not had their maps scanned should take advantage of this opportunity. Please contact Daniel Logan, Director of the Division of Technical Support, or Ron Johnson, Branch Manager, if you are bringing your maps so they know how many to plan for.

Pictures for the 2003 PVA Directory will be taken on Tuesday and Wednesday in the Missouri Room, so be sure to wear your best smile.

Registration materials have been mailed and should be returned no later than October 25 in order to avoid late registration fees. If you have not already made your reservations at the Executive Inn, you must do so by October 25 to guarantee the conference rate of \$66.00. Be sure to mention that you are with the PVA Conference. The number for the Executive is 800-626-1936 or 270-926-8000.

Questions regarding the conference can be directed to Stacey Ewalt at (502) 564-8340.

## TAX AMNESTY RECEIPTS EXCEED \$41 MILLION

Preliminary receipts from the tax amnesty program indicate that the program was a big success. Preliminary receipts for amnesty, which ended September 30, were \$41,489,591.

More than 12,800 individuals and businesses took advantage of the opportunity to pay back taxes without interest or penalty. Taxpayers in 46 states, the District of Columbia, and five foreign countries, along with all 120 Kentucky counties, participated in the program.

Sales tax leads in receipts with more than \$10,486,000, followed closely by corporation license with more than \$10,284,000 and corporation income with more than \$10,165,000. Individual income receipts were \$3,791,614.

The Cabinet is still working to process applications postmarked September 30 and will announce the total program receipts October 11.

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## INTERNET VEHICLE REGISTRATION GOES ON-LINE

Kentuckians can now register their vehicles and pay their property taxes over the Internet. KYRENEW went on-line July 24 and in the past two months approximately 133 people have renewed their vehicle registrations over the Internet.

Currently, only vehicles insured with companies who have elected to provide proof of insurance to Kentucky are eligible for this program. These companies are: Kentucky Farm Bureau, Hartford, Prudential, USAA and GEICO. As this program expands, more insurance companies will provide this information to the state, enabling more people to register their vehicles over the Internet.

Other requirements include that vehicles must have unexpired registrations and the owner cannot have overdue property taxes on any other vehicles. The registration fee and taxes can be paid with Visa or MasterCard and a \$5.00 fee is charged for each vehicle being renewed.

Taxpayers can simply go to the website: [www.kyrenew.com](http://www.kyrenew.com) and click on Registration Renewal. The taxpayer must enter the license plate number and title number, which should be on the certificate of registration received the previous year. The taxpayer should receive their registration renewal certificate and decal through the mail within 3 - 5 days.

## NEWS FROM THE DIVISION OF LOCAL VALUATION

by Tom Crawford

Division of Local Valuation personnel are currently winding up the sheriff collection settlement process for the 2001 tax year and the tax roll certification process for the 2002 tax year. The end result of the efforts of the PVA, sheriff, and Department personnel is the issuance of the 2002 property tax bills and the vast majority of the counties will once again have their tax bills out by November 1 of this year.

The 2002 assessment year was the last year covered in the current quadrennial inspection plan. A memorandum was recently mailed to all PVAs asking them to submit new inspection plans that will cover the 2003 - 2006 assessment years. Your inspection plan can divide the field work up by property class, by geographic area, or a combination of those two methods; however, you must justify the method chosen. Also, if it becomes necessary to deviate from your inspection plan, an amended plan must be filed with the Department. Finally, please keep in mind that it may be necessary to revalue properties that are outside the area scheduled to be physically inspected. More details on developing your quadrennial inspection plan and how to properly conduct your property inspections are contained in the memorandum sent to your office. If you have any questions concerning your quadrennial inspection plan, do not hesitate to contact your field representative or myself.

Another project looming on the horizon is the 2002 performance audits of each PVA office. These audits will be conducted in a manner similar to the 2000 audits. A memorandum has been sent to each PVA office which details the specific procedures that will be followed. The field representatives have been instructed to meet with each PVA to discuss the sample selected for audit prior

to beginning their field work and another meeting will be held after the work has been completed to discuss the results. In addition to these scheduled meetings, please feel free to communicate with the audit team anytime you have a question or concern. It is anticipated that these audits will begin this fall and our goal will be to have the majority completed by the spring of 2003.

The Governor's Office for Technology is currently working on a program change for the TRIM and SACS software that will allow them to handle the fees that volunteer fire departments will be able to add to property tax bills beginning in 2003. It is anticipated that this programming work will be completed by the end of this year and the TRIM staff can begin a rollout of the new version of TRIM and SACS by the Spring of 2003. Greg Bell is working closely with the programmers on this project to ensure that this enhancement is implemented correctly.

We have had some recent personnel changes in the Division. Lundy Cress, a field representative in the Southern Branch retired on July 31. Mike Wagner, a field representative in the Northern Branch, resigned effective August 31 to take a position with the Campbell County Sheriff's office. We wish Lundy well in his retirement and hope Mike enjoys his new position. Effective August 16<sup>th</sup>, Agnes Roberts rejoined the Division. Agnes will be working with the field staff again in various support capacities. We are glad to have her back on the staff!

Thank you for your continued hard work in ensuring that the property tax is administered fairly throughout the state.



**PERSONNEL CHANGES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PROPERTY VALUATION**

Lundy Cress, a longtime employee of the Department's field staff, retired July 31st after 36 years of service. Lundy was honored at the Department's picnic July 9th and again at a Cabinet reception July 30th.

Anna Guion retired from the Division of Technical Support after 11 years of service. Guion joined the Department in 2000 when severance tax became a part of Property Valuation.

Mike Wagner, a field representative in the Northern Branch, has resigned to take a position with the Campbell County Sheriff's office.

Agnes Roberts has rejoined the staff of the Department of Property Valuation as staff assistant to Commissioner Vince Lang. She will be working closely with the field staff.

Jerry McCarty has joined the staff of the Division of Technical Support, filling the vacancy in severance tax created by the retirement of Anna Guion.

**AWARDS PRESENTED AT PVA SUMMER CONFERENCE**

Fleming County PVA Connie Crain was named PVA of the Year during the PVA Summer Conference in Bowling Green. The Gold Service Award was presented to Lewis County PVA Betty Ripato. McCracken County Deputy Melinda Mathis was named Deputy of the Year. Stacey Ewalt was named Department Employee of the Year. Crittenden County, under the leadership of PVA Ronnie Heady, won Outstanding Assessment Jurisdiction.

contributing PVAs and golf hole sponsors for being part of this special day.

Another successful event, "Bowling for a Cause", hosted by the Franklin County PVA Office, brought together 57 bowlers and raised over \$400. Thanks to the following counties for their participation: Anderson, Boyle, Butler, Fleming, Franklin, Fulton, Lewis, Logan, Mercer, Todd, Trigg and Woodford, and special thanks to Franklin County PVA Patsy Conway and chief deputy Mike Whitaker for all their hard work. Thanks also to Revenue Secretary Dana Mayton and KRC employees for making this event such a success. Congratulations to the Revenue Cabinet team consisting of Bert Becker, Bill Bode, Allison George and Jay Yale (The Keglers) for being the highest scoring team and to the Mercer County Misfits (Virgil Monroe, Danny Noel, Jeff Noel, Stephen Terhune and John Tudor) for being the highest scoring PVA team.



**KECC UPDATE**

by Cyndi Abrams

The Kentucky Employee Charitable Campaign (KECC) kicked off on August 6, 2002. PVAs and their employees have always been a very important part of the annual campaign and this year is no different. As of September 25, 2002, 28 counties have participated by our payroll deduction program or have given one-time donations for a grand total of \$9,834. Two counties - Henderson and Mercer - have had 100% participation from their office staff. In addition, three counties - Henderson, Jefferson, and McLean - have had an employee donate 1 percent of their salary, making them a part of the exclusive Leadership Circle.

Someone has generously donated two UK basketball tickets for a game at Rupp Arena to KECC. These tickets will be given away in a drawing of all payroll deduction forms in the amount of at least \$48.00 received before October 30th. All forms received previously will be eligible for this drawing also.

Secretary Mayton will be sponsoring a KECC-Revenue Golf Scramble October 24<sup>th</sup> at the Shelbyville Country Club. There is a \$45.00 per person entry fee. The fee includes greens fee, cart, and dinner at the Country Club. A shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. will get the golf clubs swinging. PVA offices should have received a brochure (with registration form) on this event with the September 30<sup>th</sup> checks. For more information call Mike Baker at (502) 564-8175 or e-mail him at MichaelA.Baker@mail.state.ky.us. Please register no later than Monday October 14<sup>th</sup>.

To date, a total of \$40,664.36 has been raised by the Revenue Cabinet and its employees. Thanks again for all the support you have shown during this year's Kentucky Employee's Charitable Campaign.

**NEW E-MAIL ADDRESSES FOR FOUR COUNTIES**

Four new counties have been added to the wide area network and now have e-mail. The counties and their e-mail addresses are:

- Lewis: BettyF.Ripato@mail.state.ky.us
- Lincoln: DavidK.Gambrel@mail.state.ky.us
- Martin: TimmyG.Robinson@mail.state.ky.us
- Owen: LeeN.Cochran@mail.state.ky.us

Webster County has joined the list of PVAs with websites. Check out their new site at [www.webstercountypva.com](http://www.webstercountypva.com).

The PVA Association hosted a golf scramble September 5 in Elizabethtown for KECC. Congratulations to Clark County PVA Karen Bushart and the rest of her team (Mack Bushart, Pitt Fisher, and Tom Williams) on their first place win. The day concluded at the Stone Hearth in with a retirement dinner for 13 retiring PVAs. During the dinner, Bushart presented KECC with a check for over \$1,600. A "BIG" thanks to Hardin County PVA Teri Bennett, her chief deputy Lisa Owen, and supporting staff, for spearheading such a successful event. In addition, a special thanks to all the



**PVA OPEN ENROLLMENT SCHEDULED**

By the time you receive this, Open Enrollment for Health Insurance and Flexible Spending Accounts for Property Valuation Administrators (PVAs) and Deputies will be over except for the following counties: **Anderson, Edmonson, Green, Hart, Owen, Owsley and Powell.** The insurance options have changed for the 2003 plan year since we received the original open enrollment information, along with the employer contribution for some counties. These counties now have until **October 18, 2002, to make a decision.** All applications from the seven counties listed above must be postmarked by October 18<sup>th</sup>.

This year the state is again increasing the defined contribution in certain counties where there are limited providers and the lowest price of single coverage is higher than \$234.00 a month (the state contribution this year). This information is included in your Health Insurance Handbook.

Remember that even though the state contribution may be more than **\$234.00** per month, that is the maximum amount allowed to put into the flexible spending account for the employer.

If you have any questions, contact the PVA Administrative Support Branch at (502) 564-5620.

**Working Towards Progress...**

Currently, 39 counties are keying their payroll into the PTL (Payroll, Time and Labor) System. We are planning to add more counties to this list as soon as possible. There will be a workshop during Fall Conference. Come on and join the FUN!

**Saying Goodbye...**

The PVA Administrative Support Branch: JoJuana, Donna, Cyndi, Kim, and Karen want to take this opportunity to say "Goodbye and Good Luck" to all of the PVA's and Deputies that will be making changes this year. We wish all of you the best.

**IAAO CHAPTER NOTES**

The results of the 2002 Chapter election are in and Nick Kearney will assume the role of Vice-President for the 2002-2003 year. Susan Bailey was elected Secretary and Mike Whitaker won his second term as Treasurer. The members of the Executive Committee are: Stacey Ewalt, Ron Johnson, Melinda Mathis and Ann Riley.

The Chapter will have their annual meeting Wednesday, December 4 at 6:00. New officers will be installed and several issues, including proposed changes to the bylaws, will be discussed. We will also have the drawing for the winner of the Kentucky lap quilt. If you need more tickets, please contact Nancy Bock. With everyone's help we will have a generous donation to help the United Way as well as the chapter scholarship fund.

The Chapter will again sponsor a reception and silent auction on Wednesday night. Every county should bring an item to donate to the auction. Last year's auction raised over \$2,000.

The Chapter's charitable project involves Radio Station WBKR/Telephone Pioneers Christmas Wish. Every year the station collects wish lists from families in the Owensboro community and attempts to fulfill their Christmas wishes. Due to the timing of this program, we are unable to obtain the lists for specific families. Members of the Kentucky Chapter can help by donating any of the following items:

- childrens toys
- childrens clothes
- books
- non-perishable food items

These items will be used to fill as many lists as possible. Chapter members should watch the next edition of "Frontline" for more information.

**OFFICES CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS**

Pursuant to KRS 18A.190 state offices will be closed on the following days:

Monday, November 11, 2002, in observance of Veteran's Day.

Thursday, November 28, and Friday, November 29, 2002, in observance of Thanksgiving.

Tuesday, December 24, and Wednesday, December 25, 2002, in observance of Christmas.



**EDUCATION UPDATE**

Anyone eligible to receive a professional designation (CKA, SKA) at the Fall Conference in December should submit an application to the Education and Research Branch by November 15, 2002. Anyone submitting an application after this date may have to wait until next year to receive their designation. Persons waiting on the outcome of a class to determine if they meet the requirements should submit an application with "pending" written beside the class. This allows the Department to anticipate the number of designations to be awarded and to identify those individuals waiting on test results.

*Property Tax News* is a quarterly publication of the Revenue Cabinet's Department of Property Valuation dedicated to increasing communication among professionals involved in the field of assessment administration in Kentucky.

Comments and suggestions for future articles should be addressed to Cindy Meholovitch, Editor, 200 Fair Oaks Lane, Frankfort, KY 40620, (502) 564-8340.

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