

Calendar of Events

- January 17-19
CAE Workshop
- February 26-March 2
IAAO Course 102
- March 5-9
IAAO Course 400
- March 15
Challenge Exam
- March 19-23
IAAO Course 300
- April 5, 12, 19
Assessor
Recertification
- April 23-27
IAAO Course 601
- May 7-11 & 21-25
2018 Certified
Appraisers School
- May 31
AEI, AEII, MAE
Deadline
- June 14
MAE Exam
- July 8-12
MACA Summer
Conference



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information.



Across County Lines



2018 Mississippi Legislative Session Preview

By: Bryce Yelverton

Over the last nine Mississippi legislative sessions, Yelverton Consulting has had the great privilege of representing the Mississippi Assessors and Collectors Association. The 2018 Legislative Session, although challenging, looks to be one that could be very positive. The session is scheduled to last 90 days beginning on January 2nd, 2018. It bears mentioning that the next session (2019) will signal the beginning of an election season; mud will be slinging from both sides of the aisle. For now we hope to see a fairly quiet session when it comes to major headlines; or not.

A few of the major topics that are likely to take center stage in the 2018 Legislative Session include:

Medicaid – Medicaid will be up for renewal this year. The question is how much will be allot-



ted for the program and will there be an expansion?

Transportation Infrastructure – Last year there was a massive push from economic development groups to pass a transportation infrastructure bill to improve our roads and bridges around the state. This funding could be in the form of a gas tax, lottery, or some other funding mechanism not yet identified. There will be a bill dropped this year again, but the likelihood of it passing is unknown.

Education – Always a hot button topic is education funding. Will this year be the year that the legislature rewrites the education funding formula known as MAEP? Also talk of a larger school voucher program has surfaced over the last few weeks.

The State Flag – Over the last few years we have seen multiple bills

dropped that would change the State Flag of Mississippi. Some of these bills call for a statewide vote, some suggest a replacement flag, and even one gave the option of flying the current state flag or a new state flag whichever the entity preferred.

Mystery Issues – We never know what might crop up during a session. Every year it seems that there is some issue that pops up and takes center stage.

Of course of these issues above SHOULD NOT affect the Tax Assessor office. Yelverton Consulting is constantly monitoring legislation that might have an adverse (or positive) affect on your specific office. Our biggest agenda item this year for the Tax offices is:

Salary Bill – Mississippi Assessors and Collectors Association voted to move forward with joining other county official associations in seeking a base salary increase starting in 2020 (next term). We hope that with the support and

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Gary Beech, President
MS Ch. IAAO, Tax Assessor/
Collector, Pearl River County**

I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as your MS Chapter IAAO president. Although this time of year is our busiest, at work and at home, it can also be our most fulfilling in that we do accomplish a lot at work while still spending precious time with family.

Implementing MARVIN has been quite a task, but will be much more efficient than the old system as we get accustomed to using it. As always, after

mailing tax bills, we are answering for the taxing authorities as to why taxes may have increased. And then there are all the many other things that come with running an office.

With all that we have to do at work, it's a lot to ask of someone to get involved in IAAO, but if you would like to get involved please contact me or Jason Camp. We may have a place for you. IAAO is the professional designation organization for our profession. Their plaques can serve as visual proof to your constituents, and to yourself, of your progress in education in the assessment field. I would like to encourage everyone to continually be seeking that next designation. By being involved in your State Chapter you can help schedule the classes that are most needed to accomplish your designation.

I recently saw where Mr. Bobby Fant passed away. When I was elected and went to my first meeting in Jackson and didn't know a soul, Bobby, Guy Dale Shaw and John Greco made a point of introducing themselves, spending time with me and offering to help with any questions I may have. I should be more aware of opportunities to help like these guys did with me.

I would like to thank Tal Flurry for agreeing to serve as Executive Director and Jack Smith for agreeing to serve as State IAAO representative.

Life is precious and time is going by quickly. So take time to enjoy your time with friends and family and remember those no longer with us. May God bless you and yours.

Gary Beech

IAAO President

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unity of all county elected officials that this bill will move through the legislature this year.

Now that you have an idea of how the session will look and feel, it is time for you to get involved. Call your legislator and wish them a successful 2018 session. Bring to them your concerns, but always try to make your first contact with your legislator as just a greeting. If you are around Jackson during the session, stop by the Capitol and sit in the galleries of the House and Senate.

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Congratulations

**MS IAAO Lifetime
Achievement Award**

Gerald Barber

&

Kempe Hodges

Pictured: Gerald Barber being presented MS IAAO Lifetime Achievement Award by MS IAAO President Jimmie Ladner (Kempe Hodges not pictured)



IT PAYS TO BE A MEMBER OF IAAO



By Nick Elmore, MAE, RES, AAS, Jackson County Assessor

Some may ask the questions... "Why should I join the IAAO? What will it do for me?". The short answer to these questions can be stated in one word - PLENTY. IAAO members have access to a wide array of benefits that will help you increase your professional knowledge and value to your organization. The most important benefit is unlimited access to the IAAO website where you will find a wealth of resources on virtually any topic you can imagine. The IAAO library allows you access to thousands of books, articles, research projects, surveys and other sources of information related to property valuation and tax policy. If you can't find the exact answer you are looking for in the library, you also have a complete listing of members and instructors with years of experience who are more than willing to discuss options with you. IAAO also offers its members free online classes in management and productivity to enhance your personal skills on the job as well as regular publications full of timely, information filled articles. The magazine *Fair & Equitable* will be sent to you monthly along with the biannual publication *The Journal of Property Tax Assessment and Administration*. As a member of IAAO you also have the opportunity to add to your resume through the attainment of multiple types of appraisal certifications. These designations are recognized around the world as a symbol of your dedication and expertise. There are so many other valuable assets to IAAO membership that I can't list here. I encourage you to check out the website at www.iaao.org and explore for yourself. If I can ever be of any assistance to you in the future, please don't hesitate to contact me. I hope all of you have an amazing year!



A NEWSLETTER OF THE MS
CHAPTER IAAO & MACA

MS CHAPTER OF
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
ASSESSING OFFICERS
P.O. BOX 462
GULFPORT, MS 39502

We're on the web!

MSTAX.org

Mississippi IAAO Chapter 2017-2019 Officers

President: Gary Beech, Pearl River

Vice-President: Nick Elmore, Jackson

Treasurer: Paula Ladner, Harrison

Secretary: Whitney Hodges, Lauderdale

Executive Committee, Positions 1-4

1. MACA: Delbert Dearman, Forrest
2. Department of Revenue: Jimmy Donald
3. Non-government: Bruce Templeton
4. Gov. Training Specialist: Jason Camp



New from IAAO

- Commercial Big-Box Retail: A Guide to Market-Based Valuation
- Online Course 101 - Fundamentals of Real Property Appraisal March 2018

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