

## CONTINUING EDUCATION JUNE 7 & JUNE 14

Continuing Education classes are just around the corner! The June 7 session will be in Midwest City's Reed Center, and the June 14 session will be at Catoosa's Cherokee Casino & Resort.

The welcoming speaker in Oklahoma City will be Kim Holland, the newly appointed Insurance Commissioner for Oklahoma. In Tulsa, participants will be welcomed by Joe Grayson, Jr., Deputy Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. David Hamilton will be giving the President's Speech.

The keynote speaker at both sessions will be Representative Richard Morrisette, from House District 92. In Catoosa, Senator Brian Crain will be speaking on Senate Bill 772 and its impact upon the bonding industry.

Linda Braswell, the first woman president of the Professional Bondsman of the United States (PBUS), will be speaking on national legislation in Oklahoma City. Melinda Pourciau, Executive Vice President of the Professional Bondsman of the United States, will be speaking on national legislation in Catoosa.



## PBUS Elects Braswell President

The Professional Bail Agents of the United States (PBUS) has elected Linda Braswell as their first woman president.

Braswell is MCBA of Braswell Surety Services in Stuart, Florida, a family-owned business.

Braswell has been involved with the local and state bail agents' associations, and is a past president of the Florida Surety Agents Association. She has been active in the industry for more than 20 years.

"I have accepted the presidency of PBUS with degrees of anticipation and appreciation," she recently wrote in the *PBUS Now* newsletter. "Receiving the gavel in mid-term is a challenge to complete the work of my predecessors as together we plan for the future. I promise to remain committed to PBUS, our profession and the mission that has guided us over the years."



*Representative Richard Morrisette, Democrat from House District 92, attended the OBA meeting in April.*

## Please mark your calendars for the following dates in 2005

### 2005 Scheduled Board Meetings

OKC June 6 OBA Building 3:00 pm

### General Membership Meeting

OKC June 6 OBA Building 4:00 pm

**DO NOT MISS THIS MEETING! WE WILL BE ELECTING OFFICERS!**

Membership Reception to follow at 5:00 pm

### Continuing Education

OKC CE #1 June 7 Reed Center, MWC 8:00 a.m.

Catoosa CE #2 June 14 Cherokee Casino & Resort 8:00 a.m.

### Midwest City - CE #1

Reed Center  
5800 Will Rogers Road  
405-741-7333  
Holiday Inn Express  
1700 S. Sooner Road  
405-736-1000

### Tulsa/Catoosa - CE #2

Cherokee Casino & Resort  
I-44 & Exit 240-A  
Catoosa, OK  
800-760-6700  
OBA Rate \$79.00 + tax



## Stranded on a Desert Island

There was a man who was stranded on a desert island for many, many years. One day, while strolling along the beach, he spotted a ship in the distance. This had never happened in all the time he was on the island, so he was very excited about the chance of being rescued.

Immediately, he built a fire on the beach and generated as much smoke as possible. It worked! Soon, the ship was heading his way. When the ship was close enough to the island, a dinghy was dispatched to investigate the situation. The man on the island was overjoyed with the chance to be rescued and met his saviors as they landed.

After some preliminary conversation, the man in charge asked the man on the island how he had survived for so many years.

The man replied by telling of his exploits for food, and how he was able to make a fine house to live in. In fact, the man said, "You can see my home from here. It's up there on the ridge."

He pointed the men in the direction of his house. They looked up and saw three buildings. They inquired about the building next to the man's house and he replied, "That's my church - I go there on to worship on Sundays."

When asked about the third building, the man replied, "That's where I used to go to church."

## Meet Your Board

Barry Tucker, president of Barry Tucker Bail Bonds, is the OBA's new Director At large. He has taken the place of Bruce Baldwin.

Twenty years ago, while running a small loan and pawn business in Indiana, Barry saw an opportunity in the bonding industry. "There's an opportunity here for anyone who wants it," Barry said. "It's a challenging business, but is also a 'helping' business. You have the chance to help a lot of people who have found themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Barry has been married to Debbie (also a bail agent) for 32 years, and is the proud father of four daughters, and is grandfather to four more girls. One daughter, Amber Brook Tucker, is also a bail agent.

Born and raised in Wewoka, Barry enjoys the country life, and even runs some cattle. He is also a representative for American Communications Network, an international telecommunication and energy network marketing company that provides services in 18 countries.

## Government Relations

**SB 772** - Brian Crain and Randy Terrill - relating to professions and occupations; relating to bail bondsmen; modifying procedures for surrender. This has been signed by Governor Henry, and will be effective this November. This bill says that bondsmen don't need a certified copy of the bond to surrender a defendant.

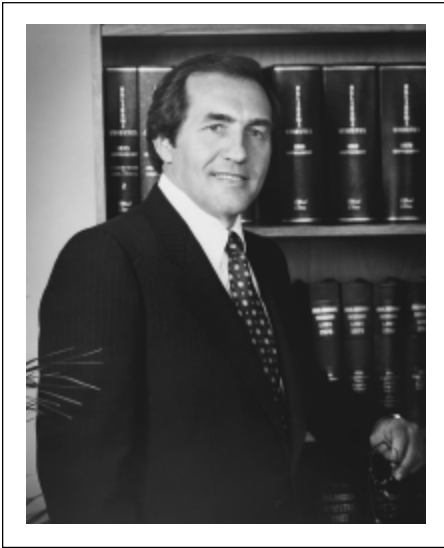
**HB 1226** - Relating to fees; relates to court costs in criminal cases; increasing sheriff's service fee. This case is now dormant for this session.

**HB 1242** - Expands the Pretrial Release Act by authorizing placement of a monitoring device. Requires payment of supervision fee as a condition of pretrial release. Bill passed.

**HB 2057** became dormant in committee, but indications are that the issue will be reconsidered in interim study.

**HB 2017**, which dealt with unfair and deceptive trade practices, was also killed in committee, because the scope was too broad. It is now dormant.

## Former Oklahoma House Speaker Jim Barker, “A Friend to the Bondsmen of Oklahoma”



Jim Barker, state business and political leader and the only person ever elected four times as Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, died Monday, April 25, 2005 after a sudden illness. He was 69.

Jimmie Lee Barker was born June 20, 1935, in Muskogee. He attended Muskogee public schools through his sophomore year. He graduated from high school and junior college at Oklahoma Military Academy in Claremore and received his B.S. degree in business administration with minors in psychology and accounting from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah. He was the second inductee into the Oklahoma Military Academy Hall of Fame, cited for his state and national leadership as House Speaker and his exceptional academic and extracurricular record while a cadet. Northeastern State University named him a Distinguished Alumnus.

He served as company commander in the 69th Armored Tank Battalion of the 1st Infantry Division (The Big Red One) with the rank of first lieutenant and was awarded several military awards and honors. He

returned to Muskogee and was one of three incorporators of Muskogee Restaurant Supply, Inc., a regional company of which he was president and C.E.O. for 28 years.

Jim was first elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in 1968 and elected Speaker in 1983. He was consistently strong advocate for the bonding industry. He authored many bills that became national role models, among them five pieces of legislation titled the Victim Bill of Rights. As Speaker he was one of the early authors of the state's Rainy Day Fund legislation, which established a set-aside for state emergencies. He was a leader in the National Association of legislative leaders.

When he left the House, he became owner of Jim Barker Consulting Company. Throughout his career he received hundreds of awards and honors, among them the National Organization for Victim Assistance Award, the Public Health Association President's Award, the Higher Education Alumni Council Outstanding Service Award, the Oklahoma Association of Public Employees Legislative Service Award, the Walter Neustadt Award from the University of Oklahoma Student Association, Young Democrats Appreciation Award, and the Bright and Shining Star Award from Governor Brad Henry, sponsored by the Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, recognizing his 25 years work in that area.

### Dues Schedule

CE/Dues	\$550.00
Legal/Building Fund	\$ 25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$575.00</b>

**PLEASE NOTE THAT CE  
DUES ARE NOW \$575.00!**

### Problems in Port Arthur

PORT ARTHUR, Texas (AP) \_ Bail bond companies in the Port Arthur area say they're reluctant to issue bonds to people with local addresses because the police department isn't helping them arrest fugitives.

Port Arthur police officials deny the criticism, saying bond jumpers are the sheriff's responsibility, but that they try to help when they can.

Representatives of five local bond companies said Port Arthur police refuse to pick up people with warrants for bond revocation.

These are people who have been accused of a felony or misdemeanor crime who failed to appear for their court dates and a judge has issued a warrant for their arrest.

The bondsmen say southeast Texas criminals are becoming aware of the reputation Port Arthur has, making it an attractive haven for fugitives from justice.

Police officials say they aren't aware of the problems bond companies are reporting.



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## Bobservations

*from Bob Rollins*



### New OBA Website Coming

Local Internet development company Netplus, Inc. is busy working on a

new website for the OBA. The first phase of the new site, [www.okbondsman.com](http://www.okbondsman.com), should be up by June 7, in time for the Continuing Education seminars.

The website will help to increase communication between our members across the state, and provide a resource of information on matters of concern to the bonding industry.

Features of the website will include a calendar of events, an archive of OBA newsletters, education forms and schedules, meeting agendas and minutes, an email management program, and the text of laws and rules on bonding.

One other feature of the site will be a bondsman database, which will allow the public to search for bondsmen by name, city and county. The list will be acquired from the Oklahoma State Insurance Department.

Netplus is a 10-year-old Oklahoma Internet company, specializing in website and software development, marketing, dial-up access, and virus and spam protection. They can be found at [www.netplus.net](http://www.netplus.net). If you have any recommendations for the website, send an email to [stafford@netplus.net](mailto:stafford@netplus.net).

### “And you thought GAS was expensive?”

In Hamilton Township, PA, the high price of gasoline got a man into trouble. The man was running low on gas in his Firebird, and decided to steal some from a 300-gallon overhead gas tank that a local resident used to fuel his farm vehicles. Our man filled his tank and took off, but he didn't get very far. The tank's owner was tired of people stealing his expensive gas, so he filled the tank with water. Our man's fines totaled \$458.28. Add that to what it'll take to repair his car, and that was the most expensive tank of gas he never purchased.