



The Bondsman  
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Oklahoma City, OK 73105

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April

# THE BONDSMAN

2008



*OBA OFFICERS UP FOR RE-ELECTION JUNE 2: (Seated from left) Gina LeBoeuf, Secretary; Anita Baker, Treasurer; Dudley Goolsby, Jr., President; Jerry Dowell, Vice President. (Standing from left) Joe Bob Nelson, Director SW Region; Bill Chenhall, Director NE Region; and Rusty Roberts, Director at Large.*

## IF THE OBA HELD A GOLF TOURNAMENT, WOULD YOU COME?

An OBA member-and-friends golf tournament is being considered by the Associations Board of Directors. Tentatively set for Monday morning, June 2, the same day as the OBA membership meeting in the afternoon, the tournament would be held at Oklahoma City's Silverhorn Golf Club.

Members interested in the golf tournament should contact the OBA office as soon as possible. We must have 50 golfers signed up in order to have a shotgun start. Please call the office at (405) 524-5920.

As soon as it appears that we will reach the 50 player mark, the golf tournament will be finalized. At this time it appears that the entry fee would be \$100 per player for green fees, golf cart, lunch, etc.

## OBA MEMBERSHIP MEETING SET FOR JUNE 2

OBA's annual membership meeting is scheduled for 3:00 pm Monday afternoon June 2 in the Association's offices in Oklahoma City. In addition to the regular reports on the affairs of the Association, an election of officers and Board members for 2008-09 will be conducted.

The offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are all up for election or re-election, in addition to three director positions. All current members of the Board have indicated they will stand for re-election as follows:

Dudley Goolsby, President; Jerry Dowell, Vice President; Gina LeBoeuf, Secretary; Anita Baker, Treasurer; and Bill Chenhall, Joe Bob Nelson, and Rusty Roberts for the three director positions.

Anyone interested in serving on the Board should begin their campaign now by making their interest known and arranging for a member to place their

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## WATCH WORDING ON VACATE ORDERS

Oklahoma courts have the discretion to vacate forfeiture orders for good cause shown. However, if such an order is requested, the judge should be asked to state that it is an order to "vacate" and "exonerate" the bond.

In Oklahoma law "vacate" means to wipe away the forfeiture order, as if it never occurred. However, this only does away with past liability to pay. "Exonerate" means the obligation under the bond has been lifted completely and the bondsman is not liable for any future failure to appear.

While the Oklahoma Insurance Department can help bondsmen in many situations, it cannot question court orders, whether they are forfeitures, stays or exonerations. If you think such an order is incorrect, it must be appealed to the court, not to the Department.

To get completely off a bond, the order must contain both words, "vacate" and "exonerate".

## ARE YOU ON THE EMAIL LIST?

OBA is developing an email list of as many members as possible. It will be used to get news and important announcements out to the membership on short notice. It will not replace THE BONDSMAN newsletter, but will be used when rapid notification is needed.

Please email your name and email address to the OBA: cathy-guyeroba@coxinet.net. And we do need your name. Some email addresses alone are difficult to identify.

## TULSA CHRISTMAS PARTY A HUGE SUCCESS

The Tulsa county bondsmen's association, ABAT, hosted a very successful Christmas Party for Tulsa County Court Clerk Sally Howe-Smith and other elected officials and their staffs on December 19. Over 400 friends of the courthouse were fed. The goodwill generated by ABAT's generosity will pay great dividends for the entire profession. Thanks ABAT!!!

### PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THE FOLLOWING DATES IN 2008!

**Monday, June 2, 2008**  
General Membership Meeting & Elections  
OBA Building/ OKC  
3:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, June 3, 2008**  
CE#1 - Oklahoma City  
Clarion Meridian Convention Center  
737 South Meridian  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
405/942-8511  
OBA Room Rate \$64.00 + tax  
Room Rate Cut-Off Date 05/20/08

**Tuesday, June 10, 2008**  
CE#2 - Catoosa  
Cherokee Casino Hotel & Resort  
I-44E & Exit 240-A  
Catoosa, Oklahoma  
800-760-6700  
OBA Room Rate \$78.00 + tax  
Room Rate Cut-Off Date 05/09/08

## 2008 DUES REMINDER

2007-08 DUES SCHEDULE  
CE/DUES..... \$550.00  
Legal/Bldg ..... \$25.00  
Total Dues..... \$575.00

Dues paid January 1, 2008  
or later, NO DISCOUNT ALLOWED  
Pay ..... \$575.00

OBA bylaws provide that for dues not paid by March 31, OBA membership shall be suspended with loss of voting and educational program attendance rights.

## "NO COST" OBA LIFE INSURANCE

If any member has failed to return a reply card designating their beneficiary of the NO COST Accidental Death and Dismemberment Policy from American Income Life Insurance Company, it is not too late to do so. This is an OBA membership benefit.

The local AIL representative working with the OBA is Tim O'Conner. He can be contacted at (405) 848-9304.

unsecured website on the Internet, from business or personnel records at your work place or personal information in your home;

By posing as someone who legitimately needs information about you such as landlords, insurance agents, banks, etc.; or

Buying personal information from "inside" sources. As an example, an identity thief may pay a store employee for information about you that appears on a credit or service application.

In addition, there are organizations that specialize in the theft of personal identification data from national and international companies. LexisNexis recently announced that personal information on 310,000 U.S. citizens had been fraudulently obtained. Florida Blue Cross and Blue Shield admitted that a contract employee had illegally downloaded names and Social Security numbers on 27,000 former and current employees. The theft at the Department of Veterans Affairs compromised personal data on 26 million veterans. This latter is probably the biggest single breach in history.

The federal and state governments have passed laws and established regulations to try to protect the public from these huge personal information breaches, but it is still up to the individual to protect themselves.

What can you do to protect yourself? The Federal Trade Commission recommends the following:

Shred financial documents and paperwork that contains any personal information before you discard them.

Protect your Social Security number. Do not carry your Social Security card in your wallet or write it on a check. Give it out only if absolutely necessary or ask to use another form of identifier.

Do not give out personal information on the telephone, through the mail, or over the Internet unless you know whom you are dealing with.

NEVER click on links sent in unsolicited emails; instead type in a web address that you know is correct. Use firewalls, anti-spyware, and anti-virus software to protect your computers, at home and in your office. Then keep the software up-to-date. (Visit OnGuardOnline.gov for more information.)

On your computer, or where ever you use or need a PIN number, do not use an obvious password like your birth date, mother's maiden name, or the last four digits of your Social Se-

curity number. Use a number or combination of alpha characters and numbers that would only mean something to you and no one else: your first pet's name as an example.

Keep all of your personal information in a secure place at home or in your office that only you can access, such as a safe, fireproof/lockable cabinet, or scatter it throughout your home or office so that it cannot be easily collected by a thief.

Be alert to signs that there may be a problem: bills that do not arrive as expected, that appear to be incorrect or with charges that you do not remember making, new credit card statements for cards you do not remember having, denials of credit for no apparent reason, or calls or letters about purchases you did not make.

Obtain your credit report and look it over very carefully for accounts you do not remember. The law requires the major national consumer reporting companies --- Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion --- to give you a free copy of your credit report each year IF YOU ASK FOR IT. Visit www.AnnualCreditReport.com or call 1-877-322-8228, a service created by these companies, to order your free report.

Review all financial accounts and billing statements regularly, looking for charges you did not make.

There is no way that you can absolutely protect yourself from identity theft, so you need to defend yourself as soon as you suspect that you may be a victim. Close any accounts that have been tampered with or established fraudulently. Notify the fraud department of each company where an account was opened or used without your permission. Ask for verification that the disputed account has been closed and the fraudulent debts discharged. Keep copies of all documents and records about the theft. Use the ID Theft Affidavit that you will find on the Internet at ftc.gov/idtheft to support your written statements about fraudulent transactions.

Report the identity theft to the Federal Trade Commission at the Internet site in the paragraph above.

File a police report with local law enforcement officials to help you with creditors who may want proof of the crime.

If you think someone is using your Social Security number, you can report it via the Internet at www.consumer.gov/idtheft.

the Oklahoma Bondsman Political Action Committee, known as B-PAC, comes into play.

Contrary to popular belief, by those not really involved in the political-legislative process, the purpose of a political election contribution is not to "buy votes for self-serving legislation or regulation". Its real purpose is to allow an individual or organization to "be heard" by the official after their election. A gentle reminder of a political contribution is all it takes to get a hearing with the official on a piece of legislation or regulation. It does not guarantee the official will do what you or the organization wants, but they will listen to your argument or presentation. In short, as a political contributor

name in nomination at the membership meeting.

All members wishing to participate in the annual membership meeting should be in the OBA building no later than 3:00 pm on June 2.

## WELCOME NEW BONDSMEN FOR 2008

- Ashcraft, Rod - Tulsa County
- Borg, Ted - Custer County
- Brancheau, Marie - Rogers County
- Dehart, Lena - Pontotoc County
- Huls, Sarah - Tulsa County
- Jackson, Jr., James - Tulsa County
- Lawson, Victoria - LeFlore County
- Mayfield, Shantay - Comanche County
- McAfee, Darin - Tulsa County
- McCoy, Loretta - Pontotoc County
- McKeen, Donald Gene - Coal County
- Miller, Robert Keith - Carter County
- Stafford, Katina - Oklahoma County

## 2007-08 GRANDFATHERED BONDSMEN\*

- C.D. Hamit
- Eddie Inman
- Ivan Kelly
- Earl Snyder

\*We now have 41 grandfathered bondsmen/women!

## IN MEMORIAM

Vaughn Taylor  
December 2007

Kenneth Hart  
February 2008

## WHY A B-PAC?

An OBA member recently asked, "Why do we need a political action committee? Isn't it best for individual members to contribute directly to their local candidates?"

The answer to the second question is easy: Yes, it is always best for individual bondsmen to make political contributions directly to their local candidates. These are the contributions that the candidate will remember longest and appreciate the most.

But while these individual contributions are very important, there will be times when candidates in other parts of the state will need help for election or re-election and there are no local bondsmen to help them out. This is where

.... either as an individual or through a PAC .... you and/or your organization will be heard.

In this election year it is very important that we, as bondsmen, get politically active. Each legislative year we face more and more bills that can be detrimental to our profession.

The most important thing you can do right now is to write a check and mail it to B-PAC in care of the OBA in Oklahoma City. We recommend at least \$100 for each person. (Remember, we cannot accept B-PAC contributions on corporate checks, so your check must be on your personal account.) Our mailing address is 222 NE 27th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

# "DOG" ING THE HEADLINES

Duane "Dog" Chapman calls himself a bounty hunter. Even though he is not a licensed bail agent, most people think he is and his activities reflect poorly on the bail bond industry. He is very adept at grabbing space in newspapers and time on radio and television. Here's a quick recap of his recent public career.

In 2003 Dog captured fugitive rapist Andrew Luster in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, and rushed him back to the United States. The problem was, Dog did not have any authority to make such an arrest and was accused by the Mexican authorities of violating Mexico's federal kidnapping laws by "unlawful seizure". Dog and his crew were jailed by Mexican authorities, but released on bail with the condition that they had to check in every week. But they returned to Hawaii, claiming their lawyer would meet with the Mexican officials.

Andrew Luster, the Max Factor cosmetics heir, had fled California after being convicted of drugging and raping three women. Chapman used the publicity around his seizure of Luster to promote his own "reality" television show about himself, his family and friends as bounty hunters.

August 21, 2004: Dog's reality television show starts on A&E network. One commentator termed the first installment a "Bad Hair of the Dog" day and went on to point out that Dog's mullet hair-do was so out of date and "badly conceived that it looks like it was cut by Ray Charles and dyed with melted Crayolas."

September 15, 2006: U.S. Marshals arrested Dog on charges related to his 2003 capture of Luster on orders from Mexican authorities. Mexico alleged that Dog and his crew had jumped bail after being charged with illegally detaining Luster. It is unclear why Mexican authorities had waited so long to have Chapman arrested.

September 16, 2006: Dog alleges that the U.S. government sold him out in exchange for a Tijuana drug lord wanted in the states. The Justice Department denied there was any connection, but it was noted that the drug lord had been transferred to U.S. custody just two days before Marshals took Dog into custody. Chapman was released on \$300,000 bond.

February 1, 2007: A woman sued Chapman alleging that a member of his team threw her down a flight of stairs and broke her back while her boyfriend was being apprehended. The injury occurred January 26, 2005 during the filming of a segment of Dog's TV show.

February 16, 2007: A U.S. federal court said that Chapman could be extradited to face charges in Mexico. In the mean time a court in Guadalajara, Mexico had determined to prosecute Dog under Mexico's kidnapping law. The U.S. court decision was appealed and Dog remained free on bail.

April 10, 2007: Under a headline in the New York Post newspaper reading "Barking 'Dog' 'Bounty Hunter' Talks Trial" Chapman alleged that he was either the victim of a vast conspiracy, or just some sort of cosmic joke. He pointed out that he was originally charged with "deprivation of liberty", a misdemeanor in Mexico, but that the "Wanted" poster carried by the U.S. Marshals during his arrest in Hawaii showed the charge as "kidnapping and conspiracy", a felony.

While Chapman alleges that he is guilty of no wrong doing in the Luster case, bounty hunting is illegal in Mexico. Under Mexican law only the police can detain or arrest someone.

August 3, 2007: Mexican authorities announced they were dropping all charges against "Dog the Bounty Hunter" and they will not have him extradited. But .....

August 10, 2007: A U.S. Federal judge

refused to drop the \$300,000 bond against the TV bounty hunter. The bond was kept in effect at the request of the U.S. Office of International Affairs so that federal prosecutors could evaluate the case for possible U.S. charges.

If Dog didn't have enough problems, on October 31, 2007, The National Enquirer ran a story saying Chapman had been capture on tape spewing foul-mouthed racist slurs while talking with his son about his girlfriend. The story stated that on two different occasions Chapman "unleashes a filthy bigoted attack, littered with the N-word and other disgusting racial insults." The actual tapes were posted on the Internet.

November 1, 2007: The Rev. Al Sharpton attacks Dog in the national press and alleges that he should not have a show on television. A&E announced it was suspending production, but would continue to broadcast finished programs.

January 30, 2008: The Washington Post ran a story announcing that the Federal court had determined that Chapman cannot be extradited to Mexico and that his \$300,000 bail was lifted. In the meantime Chapman had been apologizing to the black community by appearing with various black leaders on television and radio talk shows.

February 20, 2008: The 'Dog' Is Back! After all his tribulations, A&E announced that Chapman's popular TV series "Dog The Bounty Hunter" would resume production. A statement from A&E said, "Since the premise of 'Dog the Bounty Hunter' is about second chances, we have decided to give him one." (One late night comedian commented that he was sure that the fact that 'Bounty Hunter' was the most popular show on A&E had nothing to do with the decision.)

What's next for Dog? Just watch the headlines, he can't seem to avoid them.

## OBA EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS SET FOR OKC & TULSA

The OBA's annual educational programs for 2008 are set for June 3 in Oklahoma City and June 10 in Tulsa. Both programs will start promptly at 8:00 am and should be complete by 5:00 pm.

Again this year the Clarion Meridian Convention Center will host the OKC program and the Cherokee Casino Hotel & Resort in Catoosa, Oklahoma will host the Tulsa program. (Note: persons planning on spending the night in the Cherokee Hotel need to make room reservations as soon as possible: 800-760-6700.)

Special guest speaker for this year's programs will be Russell "Gene" Newman, currently serving as Secretary to the Professional Bail Agents of the United States (PBUS). He is a bail agent from Pearl, Mississippi, and owns and operates AAA Bonding Company in

Jackson, Mississippi. Newman has served on the Board of PBUS for many years and was President from 1996 to 1997. In 2007 he was elected to the PBUS Hall of Fame.

His topic will be "Preparing for Death, Disability or Incapacity". He describes his presentation this way: "What would happen to your bail agency if today was your last day to live? How would the liability left behind affect your loved ones? Would the agency survive? Would your family suffer financially? What if you didn't die but were totally disabled? The affects of death, disability or incapacity on a bail agency is usually devastating without proper preparation. This session is designed to show what can happen and how to prepare for the inevitable."

Other speakers this year include representatives from the Oklahoma City and Tulsa

sheriff's offices and two members of the Oklahoma legislature have been invited to make presentations. Leamon Freeman, Attorney at Law, an administrative law judge for the State Insurance Department, will speak on Department disciplinary procedures for bondsmen.

Ed Kelsay, Education Director for the OBA, will give two presentations. He will cover the OBA Code of Ethics and the new Federal law regarding the destruction of records containing any personal identifier information, know as FACTA. He is an attorney and association executive.

Persons wishing to spend the night at the Clarion Hotel in Oklahoma City should call 405-942-8511 for reservations before May 20. The cut-off date for the Cherokee Hotel in Tulsa is May 9.