



July

THE BONDSMAN

2004



Members of the 2004-2005 Board of Directors - top row: Scott Waugh, Bruce Baldwin, ???, David Hamilton, Dudley Goolsby, ???, ???. Bottom row: Gina LeBoeuf, Anita Baker, Suzy Sturgeon, ???

The Oklahoma Bondsman Association has elected its Board of Directors for 2004-2005. We will be featuring their stories over the next few issues...

Upcoming...

August 5 - Continuing Education Video. 8 a.m. at the OBA offices.

September 2-3 - Pre-Licensure School. Cost is \$1,200 at the OBA offices.

December 2-3 - Pre-Licensure School. Cost is \$1,200 at the OBA offices.

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Bill Pipher at June's Pre-Licensure School

Meet Your Board

David Hamilton - President

David Hamilton, OBA President, was born in Muskogee, Oklahoma and graduated from Muskogee High School in 1966. For two years, he played baseball at Bacone College. He was drafted into the US Army in 1969, and served with the 15th Military Police Brigade, Headquarters Division, until receiving an Honorable Discharge in 1970.

David earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management/Banking from Northeastern University in 1973. After working for Nevada National Bank and Avis Rent a Car in Las Vegas, he moved back to Tulsa, Oklahoma and received his bail bond license on October 17, 1975. He has been a practicing bondsman in Tulsa since that time.

David has been married to Sammie for 23 years, and has three sons,

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Commissioner's Corner

License Renewal and the Oklahoma Tax Commission Title 68 §238.1

Recently, several bondsmen have asked questions regarding the enforcement of a 2000 law that prohibits the Oklahoma Insurance Department from renewing bail bond licenses for individuals who have not paid their state income taxes.

When Senate Bill 1040 became law, about 15 percent of our Oklahoma bail bondsmen had issues that slowed the renewal of their licenses. Fortunately, since the law has been in effect, that number has dropped significantly. Last year, we had no bondsmen whose renewals were slowed because of the law.

The law, which became effective in 2000, provides that state licenses cannot be issued or renewed until the Oklahoma Tax Commission verifies that the individual applying is in compliance with state income tax laws. This was cumbersome both for bondsmen and the Oklahoma Insurance Department.

Senate Bill 9, which became effective a year later, amended the law by requiring the tax commission to notify any licensee who is not in compliance with state income tax laws. If after notification, the licensee does not respond to the notice or fails to come into compliance with the state income tax laws,

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... Commissioners Corner

the commission notifies the Oklahoma Insurance Department, and the department is not allowed to renew the license.

The Oklahoma Tax Commission has established a Professional License Compliance Unit (PLCU) that will contact those who are not in compliance with SB 1040. If the PLCU has notified the department of a licensee who is non-compliant, it will also notify the department once the licensee comes back into compliance. However, if the licensee is not tax compliant when the licensee submits an Application for Renewal of License, the department is not allowed to process the renewal.

Basically, the tax commission still checks for tax compliance, but the procedure has been improved. As a result, the bail bondsman is no longer required to submit a tax compliance letter with the application for renewal of license.

... Meet Your Board

Shawn, Jackson and Jeffrey, and two grandsons, Samuel David and Jackson, Jr.

Anita Baker - Treasurer

Anita began her education in accounting with Southwestern Bell after graduating from high school. She has been the comptroller for one of the largest law firms in New Mexico, an industrial construction company, and Tom's Markets and Happy Foods. She established ACTS Tax Service while still raising four daughters. This quickly grew into a successful business that has gathered clients across 15 states.

After becoming seriously ill several years ago, she discovered a better method of healing through proper nutrition and care of the body. Today, Mrs. Baker is president of

Dean of Health and Beauty, Inc. which she acquired in 1990.

Scott Waugh - Vice President

R. Scott Waugh, Vice President, was born in Las Vegas, Nevada. After moving to Oklahoma in 1976, he attended the University of Oklahoma, then Oklahoma State University, graduating from there in 1989 with a bachelors degree in Geography/Physical Sciences. He entered the bail bond business in the fall of 1994, and founded the Tulsa Bailbond Society in 1998. Scott is married, with two children. This is his third term as Vice President of the OBA.

Gina LeBoeuf - Secretary

Gina LeBoeuf, Secretary, grew up in Oklahoma and graduated from Northwest Classen High School in 1973. She received her BA degree in English from Oklahoma City University in 1979. After working ten years in the oil business as a land man and division order analyst, she was brought into the bonding business in 1992 by her mother and Carol Carson. She has been married for 19 years, and has one son, three stepchildren, and two wiener dogs.

Who's In Charge?

Oklahoma Senate

President of Senate - Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin
President Pro Tempore - Cal Hobson
Majority Leader - Ted Fisher
Asst. Majority Leaders - Herb Rozell, Gilmer Gapps and Angela Monson
Majority Whips - Jeff Rabon and Sam Helton
President Pro Tempore Emeritus - Stratton Taylor
Minority Leader - James Williamson
Minority Whips - Owen Laughlin and Jim Reynolds
Appropriations Chair - Mike Morgan

Government Relations

-- Dudley Goolsby

Senate Bill 1419 went into effect July 1, 2004, and immediately caused problems across the state. This bill amended 59 OS 1316 F, related to the \$10 fee assessed to the defendant.

The only change made was to increase the \$10 fee to \$35. Language was then added to instruct the Court Clerk on the disbursement of the \$25 increase. Nothing else was changed. Several Court Clerks have had trouble with how to collect this money. It is to be collected from the defendant as a court cost. A judge in one Judicial District issued an Advisory Order instructing the Court Clerk to collect it from the Bail Agent, adding a \$2.50 revolving fund fee. Where this came from is not clear, since no mention of this was in the Senate Bill. Efforts are being made to remedy this situation.

On the national front, the **Bail Bond Fairness Act** is sitting in Congress awaiting Tom DeLay's blessing. The Texas bail agents have inundated his office phone calls. Former Judge Ted Poe even called Congressman DeLay and talked to him personally, urging him to move this bill forward. This bill would remove conditions from federal bail and made a federal bail bond for appearance only. This is important because whatever happens at the federal level tends to trickle down and affect us at the local level.



It was a packed house at the Reed Center in Midwest City. An estimated 420 people attended in both Midwest City and Tulsa.

2004 Continuing Education Conference

The Oklahoma Bondsman Association's Annual Continuing Education Day was held in early June in both Midwest City and Tulsa. Combined attendance at these two events was estimated at 420 people.

Feedback from evaluations turned in after the events have been 98% positive. People especially liked the Reed Center, the new convention center in Midwest City.

This year's Continuing Education Day topics included:

- Welcome from District Attorney Wes Lane
- "How to Recognize Credit Card Fraud" by Sgt. Detective Tony Cellino
- "How to Properly File Mortgages" by Robert J. Nichols
- "Taxes Related to the Bail Industry" by Anita Baker
- "Upcoming State Legislation" by Gary Huddleston
- "Upcoming Federal Legislation" by Gene Newman, CBA
- "Global Positioning Monitoring Systems" by David DeGeorge
- "How to Detect and Protect Your Identity" by Jeff Shelton and Alan Dotter



Wes Lane, Oklahoma County District Attorney, gave the welcome message



Sgt. Detective Tony Cellino gave a talk on how to recognize credit card fraud

Even if you haven't turned in your evaluation forms yet, your suggestions are always welcome. We want to know the things you want to learn, the speakers you would like to hear, and the issues you want to see addressed.





The Bondsman
222 Northeast 27th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Bobservations

from Bob Rollins

How to write your elected officials

Since this is an election year, it's more important than ever to get politically active and let your elected representatives know the issues that affect the bailbond industry.

One of the most important things you can do is write a check to support the B-PAC. We recommend \$100 for each person - make sure that it is NOT on corporate checks! Send your contribution to 222 NE 27th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

The next important thing to do is write your elected officials. Here's a quick list of guidelines to make your efforts successful:

- Make it YOUR letter. An original letter carries more weight than a form letter. Do NOT use company stationery.
- Thank them for the good things they do. Offer constructive criticism when they are in error.
- Letters should be dignified, respectful and sincere.
- Be brief, but don't leave out important information.
- If you are writing about specific legislation, refer to the proposal by its document number and briefly describe its topic in the first paragraph. Make sure you say whether it is for federal or state legislation.
- Clearly state whether you are FOR or AGAINST the bill or resolution.
- Give them the local viewpoint - how it affects your community, industry or home.
- Be courteous and reasonable. Don't ask the impossible.
- Request action - your representative was elected to do something.
- Request an answer. You've told them where you stand, now ask them where they stand.

