



The Bondsman
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January

THE BONDSMAN

2017

OKLAHOMA'S 56TH LEGISLATURE NOW IN SESSION

The first session of Oklahoma's 56th Legislature is now open and out of the first 2500 bills introduced for consideration, the OBA's lobbyist, Gary Huddleston, is tracking 131 that may have some interest to the OBA and Oklahoma Bondsmen. Many of these will fade away when the legislature reaches its' first bill consideration deadline. Any bill that has not had any movement up to that time will be dropped from consideration, and the list of bills of interest to the OBA will be cut down to a more manageable number. Although the rules say that no new bills may be introduced, there are several exceptions to the rule that allows the legislature to get new bills up for consideration. Most of these are declared to be needed emergency procedure bills and will be allowed by the leadership. In addition, there are a number of "shell bills" on the list. These are bills that have only a substance title, but no content. It is possible to use one of these to introduce new legislation at almost any point in the legislative year.

So, while the number of bills being followed will change, it is necessary to keep a close watch on all committee activities to catch these new bills as they are introduced. Of most immediate interest to the OBA are House Bill 1118 authored by Representative Kerby and its' companion Senate Bill 525 by Senator Leewright. These two bills are omnibus bills introduced at the request of the Oklahoma Department of Insurance and they do contain language of specific interest to bail bondsmen. Section 5 in both bills contains the OBA's desired change in the law regarding the exoneration of bonds by operation of law. Other bills of interest will be identified as Huddleston carefully reads each bill. With 2500 bills pending, this will take some time. As soon as a full review is completed, a new list of bills of interest will be made available to the OBA leadership and any interested bail bondsman.

COURT SYSTEM MODIFIES INTERNET RULES

The rules of the Court of Criminal Appeals were modified to become effective November 1st (2016) with regard to the use of the Internet. This change may be of interest to bondsmen when using the Oklahoma State Court's network to find and/or research court records for cases in either the District or Appellate courts.

The newly modified rule is found in the Rules of the Court of Criminal Appeals in Article Section II, Section Rule 2.6 – Internet, and reads as follows:

Rule 2.6 Internet

A. Effective Date. As of November 1, 2016, pleadings, documents and materials filed in criminal cases in the courts of this state shall be governed by the following guidelines. This rule shall have prospective effect only.

B. Online Database. The Oklahoma State Courts Network's case search feature provides the public a convenient way to search for court records in the district and appellate courts. This online database does not replace the case management systems used by the courts to file cases and documents. In the event of a discrepancy between the case management system and the online database, this Court will rely upon the record set forth in the case management system. Rules 1.13 and 2.2 govern the Record on Appeal.

C. Personal Identifier Information. If a filer includes personal identifier information such as Social Security numbers, Tax Identification numbers, Financial Account numbers, Driver's License numbers, dates

of birth, addresses or other sensitive information, in any document filed with the courts the document becomes a public record as filed. Filers should be aware that certain documents filed in a case file may be viewable on the Oklahoma State Courts Network or On Demand Court Records websites via the Internet.

D. Responsibility of Filer. The responsibility for following the guidelines set forth below rests solely with counsel, the parties, or any other filer. The Clerk of the Court shall not have any duty to review documents for compliance with this rule.

(1) Guidelines. Unless otherwise ordered or as otherwise provided by law, every filer shall limit the following information in all pleadings, papers, exhibits or other documents:

(a) Social Security Numbers. A social security number shall include only the last four digits.

(b) Taxpayer Identification Numbers. A taxpayer identification number shall include only the last four digits.

(c) Financial Account Numbers. A financial account number shall include only the last four digits.

(d) Credit Card Numbers. A credit card number shall include only the last four digits.

(e) Driver's License. A driver's license number shall include only the last four digits.

(f) Date of Birth. A date of birth shall include only the month, year and place of birth.

The new rules are reproduced here at the request of Marilyn Williams, Cleveland County Court Clerk.

OBA IS SEEKING A PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM

At the suggestion of our lobbyist, Gary Huddleston, and several members, the OBA Board of Directors is now actively seeking to enter into a contract with a media and public relations firm.

Its' primary function will be to use social media and other news outlets to influence public opinion and legislative interest in topics and/or activities of interest to the bail bond industry and to bail bondsmen specifically.

As President Trump proved, social media can be used successfully to influence public opinion and is proving to be the public communications media of the foreseeable future. The first effort of the contracted firm will be to analysis the OBA's situation and develop a social media program to help with our legislative and public programs.

One formal proposal has already been received by the OBA from KOCH ("cook") COMMUNICATIONS in Oklahoma City. Additional proposals should be received and reviewed before the February OBA Board of Directors Meeting.

NEW BONDSMAN LICENSES

Joy Carinder	Murray County
Adam Dement	Ottawa County
Shane Flashner	Sequoyah County
Bobby Ford	Comanche County
Shelly Hooper	Cotton County
Deborah Hopcus	Comanche County
Daniel Mosburg	Custer County
Sandra Northcross	Okmulgee County
Bree Owens	Pott. County
Jamie Parker	Mayes County
Charles Siess	McClain County
Patrice Simpkins-Riley ...	Tulsa County
Jacob Slocum	Logan County
Joseph Smith	Creek County

In Memoriam
Jennifer Emerson (01/19/17)

OBA CALENDAR

Note: While we will try to stay with these dates, they are tentative and subject to change. Please check the OBA website for updates.

February 12-15	PBUS Winter Conference at Luxor in Las Vegas
Thursday, February 23	10:00 a.m. OBA Board Meeting @ OBA
Monday, February 27	11:00 a.m. Associated Bail Agents of Tulsa (ABAT) @ David L. Moss Center/ Training Room
Thursday – Friday, March 2 & 3	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Pre-Licensing Education #1 @ OBA
Thursday, March 16	10:00 a.m. OBA Board Meeting @ OBA
Monday, March 27	11:00 a.m. Associated Bail Agents of Tulsa (ABAT) @ David L. Moss Center/ Training Room
Thursday, April 13	10:00 a.m. OBA Board Meeting @ OBA www.okbondsman.com

NEW GRANDFATHERED BONDSMEN IN 2016 CONGRATULATIONS!

Candise Adcock
Steven Charles
Linda Rich Harris
Brenda Rowe
Kozetta Woolley

PRE-LICENSE SCHOOLS SET FOR 2017

March 2 & 3, 2017
June 1 & 2, 2017
September 7 & 8, 2017
December 7 & 8, 2017

OBA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

In order to make the annual educational conferences as useful as possible to all bail bondsmen, the OBA is always looking for speakers and/or topics of specific interest to its' members.

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA for a speaker or topic that you would like to hear? If it is of interest to you, then other bondsmen will probably find it of interest or useful.

We'll take topic and/or speaker suggestions. SO, pass your suggestion on to the OBA's Education Coordinator, Ed Kelsay, by call (405) 720-9800 or emailing ekelsay@cox.net.

Any and all suggestions will be given serious consideration.

2016-2017 DUES ARE DUE!

Your OBA dues for 2016-2017 are due NOW! Dues paid after January 1, 2017, are not eligible for a discount. Dues NOT paid by March 31st shall result in suspension from membership and suspended members will have no accidental death & dismemberment insurance coverage until their dues are paid up to date. In addition, suspended members will also lose the right to vote in the Association's annual elections during the two educational conferences. Voting rights WILL NOT be reinstated until after the annual elections in June. Even if dues are paid in full before the voting date, the right to vote is lost on March 31st and not reinstated until after the annual educational conferences!

IT'S ELECTION TIME FOR THE OBA: RUNNING FOR OBA OFFICE OR DIRECTOR

In order to run for an office or directorship during the 2017 educational classes you must:

1. Be a current dues paid member of the OBA
2. In good standing with the Department of Insurance for at least 12 months.
3. Obtain an official nomination form by contacting the OBA office.
4. Be endorsed on the official form by three members of the OBA also in good standing.
5. File the completed nomination form with the OBA office no later than March 1st (so the nominations can be published in the association's newsletter before the two annual educational conferences).

NOTE: Nominations will only be accepted on the official form. No nominations will be allowed from "the floor" or by "write-in."

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS UP FOR NOMINATION & ELECTION IN 2017

The following OBA offices and directorships are up for nomination and election this year, 2017:

The offices of President, currently held by Dudley Goolsby, and Secretary, held by Tracey Halley-Terrell, will stand for election during the two OBA Educational Classes in June.

In addition, odd numbered Director positions will stand for election in June. The NW Region Director is number 1 and held by Zig Ziegler. The SE Region is number 3 and held by Curtis Pletcher.

The offices of Vice President, Treasurer, the even numbered Director positions and the At Large Board position will stand for election or re-election in 2018.

Note: The OBA Constitution provides, "(i)ncumbents in the positions of Officers and Directors shall be deemed to be candidates for their respective positions unless they expressly request not to be retained. All other candidates for these positions shall be nominated on forms to be provided by the Association and distributed upon request to the members. Any nominations not on the correct form will not qualify for election. There shall be no nominations from the floor, nor any 'write-in' candidates. The nominations must be provided to the Association no later than March 1 of the year in which that person is standing for election"

2016 BPAC Contributors

J. B. Askins
Kenny Boyer
Tracey Halley-Terrell
Marilyn Pledger

Thank You!

Don Sullivan
Barry Tucker
Francisco Villarruel Jr.
Kaitlyn Willis

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS SET FOR 2017

Monday, June 5, 2017

Annual OBA Membership Meeting

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

CE#1 at Reed Conference Center in Midwest City

Tuesday, June 20, 2017

CE#2 at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Catoosa