

# OBA BOARD VOTES TO INCREASE FEES !PLEASE NOTE!

The OBA Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, January 18, voted to increase the fees for two of the association's activities: pre-licensure schools and video playbacks.

Beginning with the **September 2018 Pre-licensure School**, the fee for attendance will be **\$1800**, with a pre-registration for the class of **\$300** to reserve a seat. Balance of the fee will be due before class begins must be paid (and personal checks cleared) before a certificate of attendance will be issued. Please pay by cashiers check or money order if you want your certificates to test as quickly as possible.

The Board also increased the fee for viewing of the video playbacks of the annual education program. **Beginning with the 2018 CE video playbacks the fee will be \$250 per viewing session.** In addition, the Board limited the number of playbacks that will be offered after August of each year. Multiple playbacks will be available in August, but beginning in September the **playbacks will ONLY be offered once per quarter at the \$250 fee.**

Information about the new fee structure will be posted on the OBA web site at [okbondsman.com](http://okbondsman.com).

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

In order to run for an office or directorship during the 2018 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 1<sup>st</sup> (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".

*Additional information can be found in the election article in this issue of the newsletter.*

## 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. SO, pass your suggestion on to the OBA's Education Coordinator, Ed Kelsay, by calling (405) 720-9800 or emailing [ekelsay@cox.net](mailto:ekelsay@cox.net). Any and all suggestions will be given serious consideration.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS SET FOR 2018

**Monday, June 4, 2018**

Annual OBA Membership Meeting @ OBA

**Tuesday, June 5, 2018**

CE#1 @ Reed Conference Center in Midwest City

**Tuesday, June 26, 2018**

CE#2 @ Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Catoosa

### New Grandfathered Bondsmen in 2017 – Congratulations!

Linda Askins • James Cowles

Karen Fields • Brenda Rowe

Bob Taylor

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS UP FOR NOMINATION & ELECTION IN 2018

The following OBA offices and directorships are up for nomination and election this year, 2018:

The offices of Vice President, Treasurer, and the Director At Large board positions will stand for election or re-election in 2018. The Treasurers position is currently held by Wayne Holder.

In addition, even numbered Director positions will stand for election in June. The NE Region Director #2 is currently held by David Hamilton. The SW Region #4 is currently held by Joe Bob Nelson.

Following the untimely death of Past President Dudley Goolsby, the OBA named Raymond Merrill of Sallisaw, as President of the Board for the remainder of Goolsby's unexpired term. Merrill was serving as the OBA's elected Vice President.

Following his election to President, Merrill appointed Rusty Roberts of Tulsa to fill the role of OBA Vice President. Roberts previously served on the board as Director at Large for 11 years.

President Merrill then appointed Ken Boyer, Jr., of Oklahoma City to the Director At Large board member position.

Because they are filling unexpired terms by appointment, both Roberts as Vice President and Boyer as Director at Large will stand for election during the June OBA educational conferences in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. President Merrill will stand for election during the 2019 conferences.

As per the OBA Bylaws, any currently serving officer is automatically nominated for re-election unless they specifically announce their intention not to run.

Merrill was elected president of the board after previously serving as the vice president for the past five years. He began his career in the bail industry in 1989 when he opened Merrill Bonding Company in Sallisaw. He operates numerous other businesses throughout Oklahoma and Arkansas, including Merrill Self Storage and Merrill

Properties. He also serves as a partner for multiple local abstract and title companies, as well as sits on the board for Stone Bank in Mountain View, Arkansas. Merrill is an active member of the Sallisaw Airport Commission, Sallisaw Improvement Corporation Board and the Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce.

Rusty Roberts has been a licensed bail bondsman for more than 20 years, including serving as an instructor in the OBA's pre-licensing school for 10 years and as an active member of the Association's legislative committee. He currently serves as the president of the Associated Bail Agents of Tulsa (ABAT), in which he works with local judicial and legislative branches of government.

Ken Boyer has been a licensed bail bondsman for more than 10 years and serves the Oklahoma City metro area, including south Oklahoma City and Midwest City. He owns and operates Ken Boyer Bail Bonds, a venture formed by his father that has served Oklahoma City for more than 40 years.

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 .....**"

If interested in running for one of the positions up for election this year, please see the short article "Running for OBA Office or Director" in this issue of THE BONDSMAN.

## 2017-2018 DUES ARE DUE!

Your OBA dues for 2017-2018 are due NOW! Dues paid after January 1, 2018, 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!

### 2017 BPAC Contributors – Thank You!

Connie Allbritton • Barry Tucker  
Brooke Tucker

### PRE-LICENSE SCHOOLS SET FOR 2018

March 1 & 2, 2018  
May 31 & June 1, 2018  
September 6 & 7, 2018  
December 6 & 7, 2018



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January

# THE BONDSMAN

2018

## THE OKLAHOMA BONDSMAN'S LAST PRINTED ISSUE

This will be the last printed issue of THE BONDSMAN, OBA's membership newsletter. In keeping with modern communications technology, future issues of THE BONDSMAN will be posted on the OBA web site and available electronically to all interested persons.

By going to an electronic publication the Association can publish updates to the newsletter faster and more frequently than it can in a printed format. In addition, electronic publication is more cost effective, saving not only the printing cost, but also the cost of postage.

Another advantage of electronic publication is the rapidity with which the OBA can get news and special announcements out to its membership and the general public. While it may take up to 15 to 20 days to get a printed newsletter written, composed, printed, mailed, and delivered, an electronically published newsletter can be written and transmitted to the Association's web site within a matter of three to four hours. The longest delay is in reducing the information to writing. After written it can be sent to the internet within a matter of minutes.

However, for the system to work, all members need to remember to check your email or the OBA website for newsletter updates.

The OBA's web site can be found at [www.okbondsman.com](http://www.okbondsman.com).

The association also has a Facebook page found at [www.facebook.com/OKBondsman/](http://www.facebook.com/OKBondsman/)

## 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 11-14	PBUS Winter Conference at Luxor in Las Vegas
Monday, February 26	11:00 a.m. Associated Bail Agents of Tulsa (ABAT) @ David L. Moss Center/ Training Room
Thursday – Friday, March 1 & 2	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Pre-Licensing Education #1 @ OBA
Thursday, March 22	10:00 a.m. OBA Board Meeting @ OBA
Monday, March 26	11:00 a.m. Associated Bail Agents of Tulsa (ABAT) @ David L. Moss Center/ Training Room
Thursday, April 18	10:00 a.m. OBA Board Meeting @ OBA

[www.okbondsman.com](http://www.okbondsman.com)

## NEW BONDSMAN LICENSES

Ashley Bullard..... Tulsa County  
Lawrence Burris ..... Haskell County  
Courtney Colbert ..... Cleveland County  
Cheresse Denson ..... Oklahoma County  
Warren Franks..... Oklahoma County  
Jonathan Gregg..... Pott. County  
Teri Jacobs ..... Tulsa County  
Patti Nix ..... Haskell County  
Bobby Mefford..... Wagoner County  
Brooke Mefford..... Wagoner County  
Jason Pino ..... Marshall County  
Kacy Presnell ..... McClain  
Kalie Smallwood..... Mayes County  
Randy Squires ..... Kiowa County

### *In Memoriam*

Michael Capps (10/09/17)  
Marty Daggs (10/26/17)  
Tommy Ferguson (12/06/17)  
Jimmy Goodnight (12/09/17)



The first official meeting of the OBA's new officers took place on December 21 during the annual Christmas Lunch for Tulsa Courthouse workers sponsored by the Associated Bail Agents of Tulsa (ABAT). The OBA's new Director At Large Board member, Ken Boyer, Jr. (left) talks with the association's new President Raymond Merrill and new Vice President Rusty Roberts. (Note: the Tulsa bondsmen fed nearly 500 court house workers at the annual lunch.)