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Inside this issue:

Bonding Legisla- 2
tion Dies Again

Profile: Webster 2
County's Mary
Clair

MCTA's Soapbox 3
Discusses
Summer Plans

Annual 5
Conference
Update

Interview with 8
Joan Pearl,
DeKalb County

Southwest 9
District Members
Enjoy Meeting

Message from 11
President Smith

MCTA eNews

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Hello, Treasurers -

Welcome to MCTA eNews - Your quarterly snapshot
of the latest association news and information to enjoy, share, and use!

MCTA eNews

Spring 2016

Pie Day 2016...another MCTA success story!

Once again MCTA members walked the halls of the Missouri State Capitol in early March, leaving good will and images of green shirts scurrying from office to office. Pie Day 2016 was clearly a success. Organizer Treasurer Tom Darrough (Boone) said, "The feedback I got from legislators was all very positive. Everyone loves the pies." Treasurer

Becky Schofield (Dallas) and MCTA lobbyist Fred Dreiling provided preparatory

assistance for the roughly 25 county treasurers who traveled to Jefferson City to distribute the tasty pies to state legislators and statewide officials, and to let everyone know MCTA members appreciate the efforts their legislators exert on their behalf.

Former Treasurer and current State Auditor Nicole Gallo-way (Boone) visited with



Pie Day participants. State Senator Brian Munzlinger gave the group its formal introduction on the Senate floor and State Representative Nate Walker took a picture with MCTA members on the Capitol steps. The number of MCTA members participating this year was encourag-

(Continued on page 6)



Positive Pay? ACH Filters? Ask Your Banker!

[The following article was provided by Emily Kampeter, Government Affairs Division of Central Bank in Jefferson City]
Fraud is everywhere. It comes in many forms and a variety of channels. If you're wondering if you can do more to protect your county's funds, you may want to

check with your bank. Your bank can be an important defense in fighting and recognizing fraud with two important fraud prevention tools: debit filters/blocks and positive pay.

Positive Pay - American businesses and banks will lose \$50 billion due to check

fraud this year. You can detect and prevent this fraud with Positive Pay. Positive Pay is an automated check-matching service. *Here's how Positive Pay works:* 1) The county prepares and transmits a file of all checks written and issued

(Continued on page 5)

Bonding Legislation Dies Again *by Becky Schofield*



If you're going to file for an office that is responsible for millions of dollars, wouldn't you make inquiries into the qualifications first?

**-Becky Schofield
(Dallas)**

Way back in 2013, I approached Representative Sandy Crawford about sponsoring a bill that would require proof of bonding for Treasurers, Collectors & Treasurer/Collectors. I worked with Fred (our lobbyist), Rep. Crawford and Senator Parson on getting it passed in the House and Senate. It passed....no problem. Fast forward to 2015. Senator Emery files SB92 requesting an extension period so that a candidate would be able to get the bonding affidavit. Doesn't matter if the filing date is closed or not. One of his constituents went in to file for Collector on the last day, at the last minute, and was told that he would need the bonding affidavit. So, back to Jefferson City with Fred to testify...against the bill. We did this a couple of times. Fred also did a lot of talking with other Senators and Representatives ex-

plaining why we opposed it. The bill did not pass. Story over? Not so fast...like a rising phoenix, in 2016 Senator Emery files SB 679 requesting an extension AGAIN. So, once again, Fred and I go to the hearing. The bill was assigned to the Jobs, Economic Development and Local Government Committee. The questions and remarks at this hearing were much more intense. I spoke against the bill, and answered many questions - good questions from the committee members. Fred and I felt good about it when we left. Fortunately, the bill never went anywhere. Hopefully it is gone for good. If not, we will go back and work against it! My main argument against an extension is...if you are going to file for an office that is responsible for millions of dollars, wouldn't you make inquiries into the qualifications first?

Profile: Webster County's Mary Clair

Years serving as County Treasurer: Tenth year.

How I came to run for office: Actually appointed in February 2007 after Treasurer elected in November 2006 could not be bonded (hence the legislation requiring an affidavit proving bondability!)

My favorite politician is: Fellow county elected officials working for the best for Webster County.

What I like most about being a treasurer is: I really enjoy working with numbers and balancing 45 funds at the end of every month, and working with and serving the other entities around the county.

Most difficult thing about being a treasurer is: I am the only one in my office, so I feel guilty taking time off and not being available if the other officials need me. Of course, I am only a phone call away.

Away from office, my favorite pastime is: Traveling with my husband - we want to see all of the National Parks in the United States, and have visited 14 of the 58 so far! Also enjoy spending time at the lake with kids and grandkids, reading and attending to church activities at the First Baptist Church (Marshfield), serving on the Board of Choices Pregnancy Center and helping young mothers facing unplanned pregnancy (which does the heart good), and encouraging them to choose life!

My favorite book is: I read the Bible every day, learning all of what God wants me to know about how I am to serve Him.

Something most people don't know about me is: I'm an Air Force brat, having lived in several different foreign countries and several different states.



Family Clair



Soapbox...a MCTA forum for friendly views and opinions...

“What I plan on doing this summer...”



Judy Thomas
Ste. Genevieve County

In April I took a girlfriend vacay with 7 old classmates. We were all turning that magical number within the year and wanted to continue our tradition of every 10 years planning a getaway. We just made it a little special and all flew together to a Florida beach for 5 days. What fun and oh the memories!!!

Summer plans are in the making. The past few years' vacations have been all about family and this year we are heading back to Santa Rosa, Florida. It is so much fun to spend a week in a beach house with my husband (Pear), our two grown kids (Jerry & Jenna), their spouses (Kathy & Wilbur) and our three lively grandkids (Aidan-14, Ian-11 and Hanna-4). You know it has been a great vacation when at the end of the week they all want to know if we can go back next year, which is why we are heading back to the same place this summer.

Can't wait!
As far as the rest of the summer—maybe a little rest and relaxation, along with my flower gardening and love of swimming.



Wanda Corder
Reynolds County

What I plan to do this summer – my husband Kim and I have lived in Reynolds County all of our lives. We have all the beautiful rivers and parks in and around our area. We intend to enjoy this with our grandchildren Brycen and Kaylee. We love watching them tubing and paddle boarding on Clearwater Lake. We follow them playing AAU basketball and volleyball. Traveling to St. Louis and Springfield for tournaments and then to Columbia for the Show Me State games. When we have a free weekend we usually take off to find some place new that we haven't seen. My family is quite large and we have our get-togethers during the summer around the 4th of July. I hope all the treasurers and their families have a wonderful summer. We truly have a beautiful state to live in.



Marty Smith
Saline County

This summer I plan on visiting my daughter who moved to Boulder, Colorado, last year to manage a retail store that specializes in imported home furnishings and decor. While out in Colorado one of the things I hope to do is to visit Estes Park & Rocky Mountain National Park. My family loves to hike and some of our favorite spots to hike include Bear Lake, Sprague Lake, and Alberta Falls. Another of our favorite activities is to drive up Fall River Road to the top of the Continental Divide and then drive back down Trail Ridge Road. Photography is one of my hobbies and Colorado and the Rocky Mountains provide an endless source of photo opportunities. My wife, Debbie, and I ride bikes – last year we rode the Katy Trail from Jefferson City west to Clinton – this year we plan on riding the trail east of Jefferson City.



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Ask Your Banker (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

on a daily basis. The check data include amount, check number and payee name; 2) The bank matches the information on the issued file provided by the county to the checks presented for payment; 3) If the present-



ed check does not matched the check issued information, the check is flagged as fraudulent or altered; 4) Upon review by the bank's processing staff, the validity of the check is determined. If the check is not valid, it

will not be paid and it will be returned to the bank of first deposit.

Positive Pay provides the following benefits: 1) Reduces or eliminates the potential for fraudulent or altered checks; 2) Prevents encoding errors by only paying the checks for the written amount; 3) Ensures stale-

dated, voided or stop pay checks are not paid; 4) Allows users to inquire on the status of checks, place stop payments, print the image of a cleared check or add checks to the issued file. Additionally, some banks provide another layer of protection with Payee Positive Pay. This tool increases your level of defense against check fraud by verifying not only the amount and check number, but it also checks the payee name against the issue file.

Debit Filters/Blocks – While Positive Pay helps stop fraudulent checks written on county accounts, most banks also have tools to combat electronic funds transfer from your accounts. One way to limit access to the county's funds is to use debit filters and blocks. A bank can block all ACH transactions (debits and credits), return only ACH debits or provide debit fil-

tering. Debit filtering allows only those ACH debits authorized by the county to post to the account. The filters can be set for specific companies with no dollar limit or a dollar limit can be placed on each approved company.

When an unauthorized item tries to clear the county's account, the bank will contact the county to see if it should be approved or denied. Some banks offer online systems, so customers can setup and manage all debit filters and blocks themselves and decision items that attempt to post to an account.

Fraudsters will continue to be creative and come up with ways to scam individuals, businesses and potentially your county, but with the proper fraud prevention tools in place it's certainly going to put your county ahead of the game.

Reservations and Registration Deadline Gets Closer!



By now, you have received your annual conference registration form. You've either

completed the form and returned it to Karen Matthews (Christian) or you

haven't. If you haven't, please note that Karen needs to receive your completed registration form with your association dues and conference registration fees by August 10th. Meanwhile, your hotel reservations with The Holiday Inn Executive Center (573.445.8531) in Columbia needs to be made by August 25th. MCTA President Lori

Smith (Adair) has said the Wednesday speaker, "...is really looking forward to speaking to our organization and will be joining us for our banquet." Doesn't sound like we need to worry about our wallets and necklaces. Please contact Lori Smith if you need any additional information.

Pie Day 2016 *(continued)*

(Continued from page 1)
ing. Darrough said,



“Personally, I was really impressed with how many of my fellow Treasurers showed up and participated. It ended up being a fun experience.”

MCTA President Lori Smith (Adair) said, “It is good to be known for bringing something good to our legislators and their staff. We are

known and remembered for the pies.” Following the fruitful event MCTA members congregated at McAlister’s Deli to celebrate.



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Interview with DeKalb County's Joan Pearl



Joan never saw herself as an elected official. She was perfectly contented with her position as Deputy Clerk. She even said she'd never run for office because of the uncertainty of that kind of job. But then her boss, the County Clerk, encouraged her to campaign for County Collector/Treasurer. The County Clerk said she'd make a very good collector/treasurer. So she thought and thought. Joan's kids were getting older and she realized she was ready for the challenge – and she won in 2004.

And after all these years, Joan Pearl, DeKalb County Collector/Treasurer, is

now on the cusp of retiring and three candidates have filed to be her replacement.

What has she enjoyed most in her years as collector/treasurer? Balancing. Balancing her accounts at the end

of each month. Joan said, "I've enjoyed the challenge of finding the errors and then the rush one gets when I solve it!" She said she also has derived great joy from the many friendships that have grown through the years in the courthouse and with the public.

And her least favorite part of her job? Dealing with the August delinquent tax

sales. It won't come as a surprise that for Joan the work associated with the sales takes almost as much time as all the other county parcels in December.

Being both a collector and a treasurer has not been troublesome for Joan. "Being both you learn to switch hats," Joan said. The only snag has been regarding annual conferences. She has her choice of which conference to attend and, lucky for MCTA, she has missed only a few MCTA conferences in her years as both.

In her life outside of work, Joan belongs to her county Democrat club, serves on the county's central committee, and spends time researching her lineage for acceptance into the Daughters of the American Revolution. When

asked what she looks forward to do in retirement Joan quickly said, "I'm not going to set my alarm clock!" And she recently started quilting, including baby quilts for her future grandchildren. Her three sons apparently did not receive her memo to hurry up. But she takes the situation well, like any well-tempered collector/treasurer would, "I tell my sons, 'Here, you can

tell your kids here's a quilt from your dead grandmother.' " Wake up, Brian, Kendall and Justin!

Joan's vegetable and flower gardens will also be getting a lot more love and attention.

Her free time has always been about reading,

riding bikes, riding horses and spending time with her family.

Her husband, Ronnie, is in



In the Rockies



Son Brian & wife Elizabeth, son Justin, Joan, lastly son Kendall with girlfriend Rachael

the cattle mineral business and his retirement will come later.



Southwest District Meets in Half Way

The Southwest District Treasurers' meeting was held June 8th at the attractive Church House Banquets in Half Way (Polk County). Treasurer Vonna Jones (Polk) said, "This was a friendly, useful meeting well worth our time." Their guest speaker, Senator Mike Parson (R-28), spoke on the legislation he'd worked on effecting MCTA members. Parson also stated that the most rewarding and humbling elec-



tions have come at the county level where state and county officials have, "... earned the trust of the people we live next to, work with, worship with, and spend time with on a daily basis." He believes some of the greatest problems facing Missouri emanate from the federal government and the regulations they are placing on businesses and individuals. State Representative Sandy Crawford (R-129) spoke to the treasurers about legislation that had taken place during the just-completed legislative session while Becky Schofield (Dallas), MCTA Legislative Chair, gave an update on legislative committee hearings she had attended and provided testimony on behalf of MCTA members. Jim Platt (Bates) gave an update on CERF matters.

Southwest District meeting attendees were pleased to have their special guest in attendance – retired Polk County Treasurer Judy Mackey.



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MCTA eNews

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The purpose of the **Missouri County Treasurers' Association** is to bring about a closer and more cooperative relationship among Missouri's County Treasurers, and to afford opportunities for its members; to obtain a broader and more practical knowledge of the duties and powers of their offices; to study and discuss questions and laws relating to their offices; to thoroughly investigate any contemplated legislation that in any way affects the office of County Treasurer; and to strive at all times to give to the office of County Treasurer the high standing among the county offices of the State to which it belongs.

Message from President Smith




Fellow Treasurers,

I'm sure you all are busy with the day to day operations of your office. Some of you are preparing for upcoming elections and auditors! I am currently one of those that has her hands full with a financial audit! We all enjoy those don't we? There are several things that have been happening since the first of the year. I attended my first MAC Legislative conference and found it very interesting. Of course we had another successful Pie Day at the Capitol. Becky has been updating us on legislation that has an impact on our office and registration has begun for our yearly training! I remember thinking earlier in the year that I had all kinds of time for preparing for training and all of a sudden I woke up and half of the year has almost passed me by! I remember Steve made a comment one time that the Treasurer's were like an "All Star Team, they step up to the plate and take on projects" and I agree with and have seen this first hand. I appreciate all of the help, well wishes and positive thoughts you are sending my way! Preparations are still underway for training, hopefully you all have received the registration and reservation information. We have a key note speaker who I am really looking forward to hearing, and it is always great to get together as an organization and discuss issues that we deal with daily. I will keep working on preparations for training and you all keep suggestions and comments coming my way on any issues or concerns that we need to address. I think it is great as an organization how we use our e-mail system to ask questions, seek information, or just pass on words of wisdom.

- Lori Smith
MCTA President

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