

Revenue Officers:

The Key to Protecting County Budgets

Betty Peterson, Madison Co. Sales Tax Director

Kirk Keith, Tuscaloosa Co. Special Tax Board Manager

Kim Creech, Baldwin Co. Clerk/Treasurer & CROAA President

1997: CROAA Organized

- **Founders**

- Betty Peterson
- Butch Burbage
- Roger Adams
- Ed Simms
- Janice Stewart
- Don Allen
- Sandra Hodo

Special thanks to ACCA!

- Sonny Brasfield, Mary Pons & Buddy Sharpless

1998: CROAA Education Program

- Center for Governmental Services at Auburn University began hosting education program

1998: Active Year in Legislature

- **Act 191 Local Tax Procedures**
 - Banned contingency fee auditing
 - Required private auditing companies to disclose client list, notify of refund

1998: Active Year in Legislature Cont'd

- **Act 191 Local Tax Procedures**
 - Created ALTIST (Alabama Local Tax Institute of Standards & Training), which oversees certification program for private auditing firms
 - Allowed state and locals to exchange tax information

Act 192 Local Tax Simplification

- Lowered fee to locals charged by state for tax administration (max 2%)
- Changed frequency of tax disbursements to locals from state (biweekly)
- Established interest rate charged on delinquent taxes

Act 192 Local Tax Simplification Cont'd

- Required all audits be conducted in accordance with Taxpayer Bill of Rights
- Allowed for quarterly tax filing
- Prohibited gross receipts tax in the nature of a sales tax after 2/25/1997

2003: Streamlined Sales Tax Project

- **CROAA worked to stop legislation that could have cost counties millions in sales tax collections**
 - Only allowed 2 tax rates
 - Changed point of tax from destination to origin
 - Eliminated many discounted rates for items such as automobiles, mining equipment and farm equipment
 - Potentially eliminated local collection of authority

2013: ONESPOT Legislation Passed

- **ONESPOT – Optional Network Election Single Point Online Transactions**
 - Allowed locals FREE use of State Department of Revenue MAT system
 - Provided subsidies to locals for ONESPOT adoption (software, hardware, etc.)
 - Reduced cost of collection for locals
 - Simplified tax filing requirements for businesses

2014: Alabama Tax Tribunal Legislation

- Previously known as Administrative Law Judge (Judge Thompson served more than 33 years)
- Set up 3-Judge panel to hear tax cases (locals were given option to opt out)
- Provides more consistency among taxing authorities
- Lowered costs of appeals for business and taxing authorities
- Created more independence

2015: Simplified Sellers Use Tax Act 2015-448

- Voluntary program for businesses currently without Nexus in Alabama to remit tax
- Flat 8% charged
 - State 4%, County 2%, City 2%
- Based on population from most recent federal census
- According to Alabama Retail Association, the Act has generated in excess of \$38,180,000 in tax collections
 - <https://alabamaretail.org/advocacy/action/state-issues/simplified-sellers-use-tax/>

What's Next?

- Ability to collect all revenue due based on Alabama law
- Taxation is changing, thus our laws need to adapt in order to keep collections at current levels.

CROAA Dues-Paying Members

- For the 2017 CROAA fiscal year (ending 11/1/17), **only 20 counties** had dues-paying members.

CROAA Dues-Paying Members Cont'd

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Baldwin | 8. Cullman | 15. Montgomery |
| 2. Bibb | 9. DeKalb | 16. Morgan |
| 3. Blount | 10. Etowah | 17. Russell |
| 4. Calhoun | 11. Lawrence | 18. St. Clair |
| 5. Chambers | 12. Madison | 19. Shelby |
| 6. Colbert | 13. Marshall | 20. Tuscaloosa |
| 7. Covington | 14. Mobile | |

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