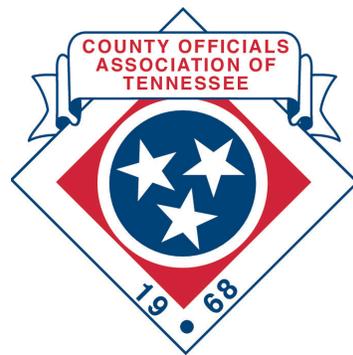


# COAT QUARTERLY



## Executive Director, Rodney Archer - Year in Review

The past several months have been filled with both new opportunities and change. June marked the end of the first year since I took the helm at the County Officials Association of Tennessee. Many of you know, prior to taking this role, I spent 15 years working in county government. I believed then - and still believe today - that my experience as an elected official gives me the unique ability to represent you in a way only someone who has walked in your shoes can. I am so grateful to have been given this opportunity and I am looking forward to moving your association forward in the coming year.

One of my first initiatives was to get out and meet folks. To date, I have made it to almost half of our counties. If I have not made it to your county yet, I hope to be paying you a visit soon. I think all counties, both urban and rural, deserve to have a voice in Nashville. Additionally, I am sensitive to the financial constraints many counties are under. For this reason, I asked the Board of Directors to consider hosting a set of regional meetings to replace County Government Day this year, hoping to encourage more participation. My hope was that those with limited staff would be able to attend because it would be closer to home and less time away from the office. Plus, a nominal registration fee and more affordable lodging options would help you not break your annual budget. To our complete astonishment, our attendance was up over 240% from the previous year! Next year, I hope to continue to enhance the value you get from these meetings. We want to provide you and your employees with a low-cost way to receive training and an opportunity to network with your peers.

I've heard from many of you throughout my visits and, based on your concerns, we underwent a major website transformation this year and reinstated the COAT newsletter. Also, we're now "social"! You can follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Up until now, we have used the Facebook platform almost exclusively. This year we plan to make a real effort at spreading our message through all three platforms to keep all our members, employees, and legislators more informed on what we are doing to make counties better. If you haven't started following us yet, I encourage you to do so. Since we live in such a fast-paced world, you may often find the latest information there - not to mention all the beautiful photos of our great state.

I am looking forward to this year and the additional changes we have in store. We see ourselves as not only the legislative arm of your office, but also your advocate. Now more than ever, it is important to tell our story and make sure that County Government is well represented, not just in the legislature, but in the public. There are some great county officials in this state and we want to help you showcase the excellent job that you do for our citizens everyday!

Thank you for all you do,  
Rodney

*Top 10 reasons you should be happy summer is almost over:*

1. No more sweat in places you shouldn't be sweating!
2. No more mosquitos!
3. You don't have to make excuses about why you *can't do anything* outside.
4. You don't have to feel guilty about *not wanting to be* outside.
5. Swimsuit anxiety goes away.
6. All the good TV shows come back.
7. No more sunburn or weird tan lines.
8. You don't have to feel bad about not getting to go on vacation. Everyone is staying home!
9. The good holidays are just around the corner.
10. FOOTBALL!!!!



## 50th Anniversary COAT Convention



Don't forget to book your room and register for the convention - November 5-7! Book your room by calling 800.429.5673 and ask for the "Mini Hotel Discount Code" - COA. If you didn't receive an email with a link for the registration form, contact Lori at [Lori@TNCountyOfficials.com](mailto:Lori@TNCountyOfficials.com)!

**Please do not delay!** The hotel will book up quickly and we need a good count of attendees so we aren't charged additional (or unnecessary) money!! See you in November!!!

## COOP Conference

Please join CTAS and your COAT Team at the 2018 County Officials Orientation Program (COOP) to be held on August 21-22 at the Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro! Newly elected officials will receive some excellent information about your new position and seasoned elected officials can meet the new folks and offer them a helping hand! You can access the COOP website here:

[www.ctas.tennessee.edu/coop2018](http://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/coop2018)

You will NOT want to miss it!

## We are coming to see you!

You may be seeing Rodney, Carol, and/or Lori at your offices in the next few weeks and months. We are trying very hard to get to all 95 counties, so if you haven't seen us yet - we are on our way! Can't wait to visit with you!