



COAT News

Legislative Update

As many of you know, the 111th TN General Assembly adjourned sine die early Friday morning of last week. The chambers met well into the early morning hours of Friday discussing a number of issues, including tele-healthcare, C.O.N (Certificate of Need) and pro-life legislation.

Although, many of our bills were tabled this legislative session, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to successfully execute a number of our initiatives. First, early on, we were able to secure an extension on a number of renewal deadlines for the County Clerks, including: car tag renewals, marriage licenses, handgun carry permits and driver's licenses. In addition to that, we were also able to ensure that our Trustees received an extension on the tax relief and freeze deadline, which provided much needed timely relief. We were also able to successfully pass a bill in both chambers for our Registers of Deeds, which helped to codify current index record keeping requirements.

There are still a number of items in our legislative package that were not able to be taken up this session, largely in part, due to the narrow list of legislation the Senate had agreed to take up. We intend to bring back our bills that were not heard this session next year, along with any other new initiatives for all of our affiliates. Especially, our bills for the Court Clerks, which were not able to be heard this legislative session. Much remains to be seen regarding state budget shortfalls in coming year.

This session was and continues to be one to remember. As the world, and our institutions within it, began to understand and implement the social distancing requirements by the CDC, everything began to change. Lobbyist were no longer allowed access to members offices, or the top seven floors of the Cordell Hull Building. The Senate banned the public all together from attending their committee meetings, while in contrast, the House allowed a limited number of attendees. Temperature checks and face masks became a prerequisite to enter the capitol. It surely has been an odd year in any way that you look at it, but it is because of you, and our COAT membership as a whole, that we were able to accomplish what we accomplished this legislative session, in spite of all the chaos and challenges we faced.

A very special thanks to all of those COAT members who were able to make themselves available to speak on any particular bill. To all of those who served in any kind of leadership capacity, THANK YOU. It is your presence and perspective that is vital to this process.



House members now divided by plexiglass shields on June 1, 2020.
(Erik Schelzig, Tennessee Journal)



Mary Gaither, TACIR Chair



Teresa Gupton, Lisa Crowell, Bill Kemp with Rep. Littleton



Nick McBride, Speaker Sexton, Exec. Dir. Rodney Archer, and Lt. Gov. McNally



Heather Duncan, 2020 COAT President

June COAT Board Meeting & 2020 COAT Conference

Our COAT Board met on June 9, 2020 to discuss a number of items related to our legislative agenda, and to determine our priorities moving forward with our scheduled events this year. The meeting was led by our COAT President, Heather Duncan in her home county of Coffee County. After a bit of discussion, and analyzing what other state associations across the country are doing, the board has decided to move forward with our 2020 COAT Conference in Hamilton County at the new Westin Hotel. We will have more details to follow, and plan to have information on registration sent out by July 1. **The COAT Conference is scheduled for November 16th-18th.**

UT CTAS Online

Training

Our partners at UT CTAS have several credit hour opportunities coming up that we encourage you to take advantage of, if you are able:

- June 25 - 3:00-4:00 PM CT - a virtual workshop discussing COVID-19 & Employee Mental Health in the Workplace
- June 26 - 9:00-2:30 PM CT - Virtual Training; Understanding Our Implicit Bias



Please visit UT CTAS Facebook page for more information on registration on either of these two events, at <https://www.facebook.com/UTCTAS/>.

In addition to these two events this week, UT CTAS is also offering a number of other options, including:

- COCTP Core Online Courses
- County Government Online Training
- LinkedIn Learning

For more details on any of these options please visit their website, at <http://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/content/training>.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of county officials who remained working on the front-lines during this global pandemic. Your hardwork and dedication does not go unnoticed. We are proudly serve each of you, and look forward to when we can all gather in one place again.

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