

## TREASURER ANNOUNCES HIRING OF NICEWANDER AS INTERNAL AUDITOR

### From Oklahoma State Treasurer

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) State Treasurer Robert Butkin Tuesday announced the hiring of the Oklahoma City Auditor Susan Nicewander as the Treasurer's internal auditor. She will leave her current position with Oklahoma City government and assume her new duties with the State Treasurer on July 8.

Nicewander will fill the vacancy created by the departure of Brenda Bolander, internal auditor since February 1995. Bolander is moving with her family to the northeastern Oklahoma community of Fairland.

Butkin thanked Bolander for her service to the state. "I wish Brenda didn't have to leave us. She will be missed," he said. "Through Brenda's professional counsel, we have established a premier internal auditing program where none existed before. Her service to the state has been invaluable."

The Treasurer's internal audit monitors all Treasury financial operations which handle some \$9 billion each year. The internal auditor ensures that all laws and rules are properly followed and that appropriate safeguards are in place to protect the people's tax dollars. She answers directly to the Treasurer.

Nicewander, Oklahoma City Auditor since 1988, developed a comprehensive audit plan for the municipal government and

she developed and established the city's first performance auditing program. She also served as trustee to the Oklahoma City Employee Retirement System and the Emergency Medical Services Authority.

Oklahoma City Mayor Ron Norick said, "Susan will be missed by the entire City Council because of the professional skills she brought to Oklahoma city's auditing department. However, because of her leadership, she leaves behind a very well trained staff to assist with a smooth transition."

"I will miss her personally because she has been a steady force in the city. Susan always delivers competent work in every job or project," Norick said.

Butkin said he looks forward to working with Nicewander. "Susan brings with her a sterling reputation and very high professional and ethical standards," he said. "I know she will serve the state well as internal auditor."

Prior to becoming City Auditor, Nicewander served as controller and corporate treasurer for United Satellite Antenna Television Corporation and as an audit manager for Coopers & Lybrand. She is a Certified Public Accountant and a member of the Government Finance Office Association. Nicewander holds a Bachelors of Science degree in Business Administration from Oklahoma State University.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS HONORED IN STATE SENATE

### From Senate Media

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The late Joseph Lewis "Jody" Latimer and all other law enforcement officials who have given their lives to protect Oklahoma's citizens were honored in a resolution passed by the state Senate on Monday.

"In our busy day to day lives it is easy to forget the law enforcement officials who work so hard to keep us safe. These men and women go to work every day and put their lives on the line to ensure that ours are a little safer," said Senator Sam Helton, author of **Senate Concurrent Resolution 65**.

Latimer served as deputy sheriff in Cotton County until he was killed in an auto accident as he rushed to the scene of a drive-by-shooting to assist another officer.

"I knew Jody. He was an outstanding young man and a fine deputy. Nothing gave him more pleasure than being able to help others. All of those who knew him miss him deeply," said Helton, D-Lawton. "Men and women like Jody are special people. By wearing a badge they put themselves in harm's way and show that they are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for the citizens they serve."

Representatives Loyd Benson and Bill Smith, the resolution's House authors, said they were proud to sponsor a resolution honoring Oklahoma's lawmen and women.

Latimer's family has been recognized at the National Police Officers' Memorial in Washington DC where Deputy Latimer's

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### **Freon**, continued from page 8 planter."

Sloan pointed out that government action put most fix-it men out of business due to the high cost of equipment. The required equipment includes expensive machinery to re-clean and clean old Freon taken out of units to be repaired.

"Recycle, that's the American way," said Sloan. "But now, they have to put new refrigerant in the system because warranties on new replacement parts will be voided if recycled Freon is put back in the system."

The farmer told the committee the fix-it shops now have to store old Freon in steel containers due to government regulations. Different types must be kept separate. When a container is full, the fix-it shop must return it to the place of purchase and that dealer gives him an empty container. The Freon then is shipped to be incinerated.

"A lot of cost is involved," Sloan said, who lives in Vian and farms about 1,1000

acres, producing primarily black-eyed peas and green beans.

He said the cost of the new coolant is \$13 to \$20 a pound compared to the 98-cents-a-pound cost for Freon.

"The mechanic will charge me \$40 to put his gauges on my machine, and my machine is in the field, impossible to road to town. If the mechanic will come to my field, he has to shut his shop down and irritate his regular customers."

Sloan said the scenario worsens if he calls his equipment dealer to come to his field to repair the machine.

"He charges me \$1.25 per mile, both directions, 100 miles, \$250. Plus \$40 an hour from the time he leaves his shop 'til he gets back. Minimum three hours, \$120 plus mileage \$250, equals \$370 plus parts."

"I may have been able to fix the problem myself for less than \$1 before regulations," Sloan said. "But now it is illegal for me to purchase Freon."

He suggested that Freon should have been phased out gradually, since most pre-1993 vehicles and farm equipment use old Freon.

"Those vehicles will not be around forever. Most of what is left would be farm and construction equipment."

Sloan said he has seven pre-1993 vehicles that use Freon. The cost to convert is about \$1,000 per vehicle.

"This is what we in agriculture mean when we say compare the cost to the benefit. This is a great problem for us in agriculture because some of these tractors and combines will be around for a long time."

"All my representatives that have been made aware of the problem agree that the government acted in haste, but nothing gets done."