



# NALTEA

The National Association of Land  
Title Examiners and Abstractors

## Message from the President

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Pat Scott, President  
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### Message from the President *Front Cover*

It has been an honor and a pleasure serving as the NALTEA president over the past year. The Board of Directors and officers have been consistently outstanding in their initiatives and efforts on behalf of NALTEA. The committee members, who have worked so hard to make this a productive year for NALTEA, also deserve our gratitude. As unpaid volunteers, their donations of time, effort and brainpower to the betterment of our industry is nothing short of impressive.

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Please visit our website at:  
[www.naltea.org](http://www.naltea.org)

Two of our officers have announced that they will be stepping back from their current positions following the October conference. Both are charter members of NALTEA, and both have been consistently active in the workings of the association.

Wanda Steudel is retiring from the office of treasurer, a position she has held since 2007. Wanda has also served well as board member and NALTEA president. One of my fondest memories of NALTEA is the time back in 2006 when I drove up to meet Wanda in Lansing, Michigan, to testify against a proposed change to Michigan's recording laws. NALTEA was made aware of the committee hearing on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006, and Wanda, Jarrod Clabaugh (our press corps from

Source of Title) and I were in Lansing by the evening of June 27<sup>th</sup>. My account of the experience can be found in the July, 2006, NALTEA newsletter – it's posted with the other newsletters on our website.

Doug Gallant, our current vice president, has decided to hang up his printing press after a long stint as editor and publisher of the NALTEA newsletter. It can't be an easy job, acquiring content from people like me, who are suffering from perpetual writers block, finding other articles interesting to the membership, and often providing his own articles. Look back through all of the newsletters Doug has produced and distributed to us in the past few years, and you will certainly join me in congratulating Doug - and his sister/technical advisor, Traci - on a job well-done.

We have a new editor/publisher-in-waiting. Joel Kissell, of A-1 Abstracting & Research, LLC, will take over the newsletter operations following the conference in Dallas. We wish Joel success and good luck with the job before him.

Following the elections at the Dallas conference, the new board of directors will meet to appoint officers for the current year. The offices are: President, Vice President, Treasurer and

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Secretary. Any members wishing to be considered for an officer position should contact the board at [info@naltea.org](mailto:info@naltea.org) to make your interest known. The association president must also be elected to the board of directors. So, if you want to be NALTEA president, it's time to start campaigning for a board seat.

In addition to appointing officers, the board will also appoint committee chairpersons. It's critical that our members step up and offer their talents to increase our reach and influence over the next year. At this time, most of the committees are in the hands of board members, and most committees could use more help.

There is much to be done this year. Your participation will be vital to our success.

## Membership Committee

Pat Scott, President  
Email: [president@naltea.org](mailto:president@naltea.org)

NALTEA proudly welcomes our newest members:

**Elizabeth Helman, Berry-Helman Abstract**  
**Kimberly Price, DES Resource Groups, Inc.**

NALTEA now has 98 active members.

Why the sudden decrease in membership? The NALTEA membership cycle runs from September 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup> each year. Those who have not renewed their membership by paying their dues by September first are no longer considered active members.

Dues invoices are sent initially via email. Unfortunately, there is always the possibility that our email messages may end up in the spam folders of some members. If you are a NALTEA member and have not received our email communications recently, please check your spam folder and take the necessary steps to ensure that NALTEA communications are welcome in your email box.

The Membership Committee will soon send a letter via the US Postal Service to all members who have yet to renew, given the possibility

that their dues invoices were not received electronically. After a reasonable opportunity to respond, the committee will send a list of still-delinquent members to the board of directors with a recommendation that the memberships be terminated.

We look forward to the busy year ahead bringing in new members and welcoming back those who have yet to renew.

## Education Committee

Debi Merrill  
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It has been another exciting year for the education committee. Our own Ed Gunther along with Quanah Rhodes, Tim Korzen and Dustin Duncan presented one-day seminars based on the NALTEA "Principles of Abstracting" manual. Many individuals have attended these courses and then proceeded to take and pass the NALTEA certification exam. We currently have 42 members who have achieved the NCA or NMA designations.

If you are one of the few that have taken and passed the exam, we invite you to sit in on our Train the Trainer Session at this year's conference to learn how to present a 'Meet and Greet' in your area. This one-day seminar could include a review session and exam. Members of the NALTEA Board are willing to come to your city to assist with this function to help spread the word about NALTEA and our Certification Program.

If you have not obtained your NCA or NMA Certification, please check out the current requirements for becoming certified, which are posted on the Education page of the NALTEA website. Then join us at the Conference for review sessions and the exam!

## NPRRA Conference

Jill Kissell  
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Hi all. This is the last newsletter before our annual conference in Dallas, Texas on October 22-24, and I wanted all of you to know that your Board and all of the

committees (most particularly the Events Committee) have worked very hard to bring you a quality conference this year. And I believe our efforts have been recognized. Registration is definitely up over last year. In addition to the dynamic industry speakers and educational opportunities that will be provided, we have been focusing efforts on providing new networking opportunities for all of you.

The Board has talked with several abstracting companies in the Dallas area; we have extended "drop in and meet us" invitations to numerous companies; and we have invited the entire NPRRA to stop in and get to know NALTEA. For those of you not familiar with the NPRRA (National Public Records Research Association), it is an organization composed of members who work in the field of public records research. I belong to this association as well as NALTEA, and I have found there to be some similar interests and goals between the two organizations and the members they represent. Earlier this year NPRRA extended an invitation to NALTEA members to attend their annual conference at the NPRRA member rate, and NALTEA returned the invitation. I attended the NPRRA conference which was held in New Orleans on October 6-10 (along with Joel Kissell, my office Project Manager and invaluable public relations specialist. You should have seen him - golfing on Wednesday with the NPRRA and working from his cell phone on the golf course to put out fires and handle business for our clients - he impressed not only our clients but me as well! Great job Joel!) Our own NALTEA member Blair Wagner from Advanced Corp Agents in Chicago is also on the NPRRA Board, and is the Conference Committee Chair. Blair organized a fantastic conference, and he made certain that NALTEA had an opportunity to speak to the membership and get all the exposure it wanted. My goal for NALTEA in attending the NPRRA conference was two-fold:

(1) Introduce NALTEA, explaining our mission to the NPRRA membership and

providing the members with NALTEA directories, providing them an invaluable source of qualified abstractors to meet their national search needs;

(2) Invite NPRRA members to discover NALTEA by attending our annual conference in Dallas which will also provide a fantastic networking opportunity to both NALTEA and NPRRA members.

I accomplished these goals and more. I handed out almost 100 membership directories; and several NPRRA members told me personally that they were going to stop in at our conference and/or join NALTEA themselves. Another topic of discussion was the possibility of the NPRRA and NALTEA holding a joint conference at some point in the future. The NALTEA Board would love to see you come to the conference and give us your input on this topic. So if you haven't registered already, go to the website and do so. Or you can always register at the conference. There is lots of business to be discussed this year, and new and exciting networking opportunities for all who attend. Don't miss this opportunity to be active in your organization and expand your business exposure as well. We hope to see you on the 22nd!

## **Publications Committee**

Doug Gallant

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It has been fun doing the newsletter the last couple of years after assisting Robert Franco from the start of the organization. I know Pat has already mentioned this in his President's message, but I must repeat that I could not have done this without the assistance, or I should say direction of my sister Traci. I am sure Joel Kissell will do a fine job with the newsletter moving forward. I look forward to just writing the occasional article on things I think might be of interest to the members, rather than dealing with editing. I encourage all the members to submit articles for publication. It will make Joel's job easier, and the newsletter better.