



# NALTEA

The National Association of Land  
Title Examiners and Abstractors

## Message from the President

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

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

I couldn't be more pleased to introduce to you our newest officers. Our Vice President, Doug Gallant, was one of the first to become a member of NALTEA and has been active in the association throughout its existence. I had the pleasure of meeting Tamikio Veasley, our new Secretary, at the May 22nd NALTEA meet & greet in Deerfield, Illinois. After a short conversation about the position, I knew we would be fortunate to gain such a dedicated addition to our core group of NALTEA volunteers. See Jill Kissell's article in this issue for more on Doug and Tamikio.

I've been thinking lately about trade associations and how they benefit (or not) their members. Prior to joining NALTEA in 2006, I had been somewhat active (meaning I attended meetings and functions, sat on a committee) of two such organizations: The National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) and the Midwest Bankers Association (MBA).

Although I really enjoyed the latter and benefited from the networking aspect, it occurs to me that networking and keeping up with the latest regulations may have been the extent of the now-defunct organization. The members were mostly bank employees. A member once commented to me that the only reason he attended the meetings was to make contact with the right people at competing banks in case he were to lose his job where he was then employed.

NARI, on the other hand, was (and still is) made up mostly of smaller independent remodeling contractors – 'mom and pop' businesses. There, the

members worked diligently to support each other by trying to improve the environment under which they competed for business. Giving back to the industry that supported them and their families was an important aspect of the association's success.

NARI also had a certification program to recognize the most accomplished among their ranks. At each month's meeting, they would announce two or three more who had achieved a level of excellence in the field. When I think of certification, I think of this kind of recognition.

Contrast that with the certification program of a large organization for notaries public – a program that effectively recruits notaries to take their class to become mobile loan signing agents. With class completed and test passed, the notary, who may or may not have ever completed a loan signing, receives the same designation as one who has a decade of real world experience. When the designation is the same for the expert as it is for the entry level, it becomes almost meaningless. I guess it's sort of like those cheap diploma factories whose offers of prominence-for-less arrive in our email inboxes now and then.

Trade associations come in all sorts of different shapes and sizes. There are those through which the members work together to support their common interests. There are others that take an active role in shaping their industries. Some merely provide networking opportunities. In the end, an association is just what its members make it. NALTEA is no different.

### Contact:

NALTEA  
7490 Eagle Rd.  
Waite Hill OH 44094  
Fax: 216-771-7077  
E-mail: [info@naltea.org](mailto:info@naltea.org)

# Board of Directors Report

Jill Kissell

Email: [jillkissell@a1abstracting.com](mailto:jillkissell@a1abstracting.com)

The Board met by telephone conference for their monthly meeting on June 21, 2010. Present were Pat Scott, Ed Gunther, Jill Kissell and Dave Pelligrinelli. Also present were our Treasurer, Wanda Steudel, and our new secretary, Timikio Veasley.

The Board has appointed two new officers this month, and they have both graciously accepted the appointments.

Our new Secretary, Timikio Veasley, joined NALTEA in 2010, and shortly after joining she tested and received her NCA designation. Timikio is the Production Manager for the title department at Infotrak Information Services in Deerfield, Illinois, where she has been employed since 2004. She is enthusiastic about her membership with NALTEA and her new position as Secretary. Welcome aboard Timikio!

Doug Gallant is our new Vice President. Doug is the owner of Independent Title Services, Inc., of Columbus, Ohio. He started abstracting in 1972 and formed his company in 1978. Doug was one of the founding members and was instrumental in the organization of NALTEA. We are lucky to have Doug's historical knowledge to tap into. He is also currently the chairperson of the Benefits and Publications Committee and has put uncountable hours of hard work into the publication of our newsletter. Thank you Doug for all your committed effort, and welcome aboard!

NALTEA's membership has continued to grow. The Treasurer's report, which was reviewed and approved, showed that we gained 7 new members this month. Way to go Membership Committee! And as always, thank you Wanda for your continued hard work as Treasurer.

Work continues on the annual meeting scheduled for October in Dallas. Ed Gunther and the Planning and Events Committee have moved forward on securing the Crowne Plaza Dallas Near The Galleria. Look for more details each month in the Planning & Events Committee update.

As you know, in late May, Ed Gunther and employees from InfoTrak sponsored a certification class in Deerfield, Illinois. This class was coupled with a Meet & Greet event sponsored by NALTEA, which Pat Scott graciously hosted. Although attendance was not as high as we hoped for, the

smaller number of attendees allowed the setting to be casual and more personal, and the experience was certainly a positive one. As a result of the Meet and Greet, a Chicago Law Firm, Pierce & Associates, was impressed enough with NALTEA's certification process that they have asked Ed to present four separate certification classes for their employees. We are all excited that our testing process continues to gain the recognition it deserves.

We would certainly like to see many more such events in all parts of the country. If you have taken the "Train the Trainer" course, we encourage you to sponsor a certification class in your area. Coupling the class with a Meet & Greet sponsored by NALTEA is a great way to gain recognition in your neck of the woods, both for NALTEA and for your own business. If you are interested, please contact any member of the Board who will be glad to help you coordinate the event that is right for your area.

The NALTEA printed directories have been mailed. All members should have received one by now. If you have not received one, please contact Dave Pelligrinelli on the Public Relations Committee. Also, if you would like to see the directory distributed to businesses in your area, we can probably make that happen. Just let Dave Pelligrinelli know.

The Public Relations Committee is working on some press releases and position papers that will keep NALTEA's name in the forefront of the title industry. We believe it is important to educate the public, and especially related industries, of the need use abstractors who will pursue the highest degree of care and quality in the work we do. Using a NALTEA certified abstractor is one step businesses can take to assure that they receive a quality service. You can read more about the press releases and position papers in the Public Relations Committee update. Thank you Dave Pelligrinelli and Public Relations Committee for all your hard work.

All in all it was a positive, productive month for NALTEA. Your Board of Directors looks forward to continuing to serve you. Please let us know if there is anything you would like to see us working on for you. And remember, an organization is only as effective as its membership makes it. Please consider joining a committee or sponsoring a Meet and Greet in your area.

## Congratulations!

CONGRATULATIONS go out to our newest NALTEA Certified Abstractors. Teri Carro, Melissa Shutz and Eduardo Carrillo have passed the NALTEA National Certified Abstractor Exam this month. They will each be awarded a certificate and can now use the NCA designation after their name. In addition, if they have a listing on the Source of Title website, their name will have a star by it, indicating they are a NALTEA Certified Abstractor. Again, congratulations to each of you. We are proud to count you among the elite NALTEA members to have achieved this prestigious designation.

## Public Relations Committee

Dave Pelligrinelli  
Email: [daveafx@gmail.com](mailto:daveafx@gmail.com)

The NALTEA public relations committee is moving forward with many exciting projects this month to gain better exposure and boost interest in our one of a kind organization. The first project was the review of the printed membership directory. The final product received from the printer was not exactly what was expected, and we are working to improve this.

In the coming weeks you will see position papers on various issues important to our industry. The first release deals specifically with maintaining a documented chain of ownership of all property interest. Position papers are used to make public the official beliefs and recommendations of the organization and they are also a great way to bring awareness to NALTEA and its members and benefits. The paper will be posted on the NALTEA website for member review before distributing it to legislative contacts

Also we will be releasing a press release to all media outlets very shortly. We definitely want to highlight the significant member growth we've experienced in 2010 to encourage those on the fence about the benefits of membership to join up and see what a valuable resource NALTEA is and can be for their business. It will also detail the NCA and NMA designations and certification process to build upon the dozen new certifications accomplished since January. This release will go to all news outlets as well as be available on Twitter.

We are excited for the new upcoming projects and also happy to announce a new member to the

PR committee membership. Kathy Gibbons has been participating in helping the committee for the past month, and has been invaluable in getting more production. Kathy comes from the event management industry, and is based in Chicago. Thanks go to Kathy for her assistance.

The public relations and all other NALTEA committees welcome suggestions, comments, and feedback from NALTEA members, so that we can address the specific needs you have.

## Racial Restrictions

Doug Gallant  
Email: [dougernaut@columbus.rr.com](mailto:dougernaut@columbus.rr.com)

As you all are aware, President Pat was recently contacted by a reporter with USA Today regarding racial restrictions. The reporter seemed particularly interested in a legislative proposal in California to require redaction of racial restrictions from the public record. Pat sent an e-mail to the members on July 12 asking for input, specifically regarding how the matter is handled in various parts of the country. The responses are being forwarded to the reporter, with contact information if desired.

These type of restrictions have been unenforceable since the passage of the Fair Housing Act in 1968. I would assume in some states they were unenforceable under state law prior to that. Pat was kind enough to sent me copies of some of the responses from the members. In some areas, the restrictions are just reported as a matter of record, with the understanding that the portion relating to race is unenforceable. Agencies in some states seem to favor showing the restrictions with a notation on the commitment and policy affirming that the restrictions are not enforceable. It seems in Minnesota that the restrictions are insured over, but an exception is taken to the cost of removing said restrictions from the registered land certificate. Here in Ohio, I've seen several ways of dealing with this issue. Some agencies put affirmative language on all of there commitments and policies. Others read the restrictions and follow with language insuring over the unenforceable sections.

Thanks to everyone who responded to Pat's request for information. It has made for informative reading and I believe it will reflect well on the organization when USA Today receives our information.