



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

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It's official, so mark your calendars! Our 2010 conference is booked for October 22nd through 24th at the Crowne Plaza Dallas – Near the Galleria. No matter how you get there – fly, drive, train, bus, walk, crawl – we're researchers by nature and we'll find the most economical way. The rooms are only \$89.00 per night (includes the restaurant breakfast buffet). The number of rooms blocked at the special rate is limited, so register early!

For those planning to fly in, you should find it easy enough to find the right flight schedule to meet your needs. Dallas has two major airports – DFW International Airport (DFW), 17 miles from the hotel, and Dallas Love Field (DAL), 12 miles from the hotel – as well as a regional airport. If you rent a car, or if you plan to drive in, you'll be pleased to know that the Crowne Plaza has 725 free parking spaces available to guests. Be sure to arrive in time for the welcome reception on Friday, October 22nd, at 7:00 PM. The conference will begin at 8:00 the next morning.

This is not just a conference. It is also our annual meeting of the membership. It's an opportunity for all members to help shape the future of the organization – to voice our ideas and concerns, to choose board members to guide us through the next two years. It's not too early to think about your future in a leadership role with NALTEA. We will be electing (or reelecting, as the case may be) two board members this

year. The seats are currently held by Ed Gunther and David Pelligrinelli.

Having worked with Ed and Dave on the board for the past nearly two years, I have no doubts about stating that I hope they both run again to retain their seats. They have done a tremendous job advancing the interests of NALTEA members. I also hope they both have competition for the board seats. It's important to have fresh energy and ideas. Let the members decide whether the current direction is working or whether we would be better served by new leadership.

As one of the last tasks of the conference, after the board election winners are announced, the new board will meet briefly to appoint officers to serve through the year book-ended by the 2010 and 2011 conferences. The officer positions are: President (must be a board member), Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Anyone interested in being considered for an officer position or running for a board seat should send a short bio and a statement outlining your ideas for the future of NALTEA to info@naltea.org.

Please check in often to the Events page of our website (www.naltea.org) often as we will be adding to the agenda as presenters and programs are confirmed.

I look forward with excitement to seeing the friends I have gotten to know in the time I have been a member of NALTEA. And, I look forward to beginning new

friendships with many of you whom I have yet to have the pleasure of meeting. Look for a formal announcement to arrive soon in your email inbox!

Board of Directors Report

Dave Pelligrinelli

Email: daveafx@gmail.com

The July NALTEA Board of Directors meeting was held via conference call on 8/20, at 5 PM Central time. In attendance were President Pat Scott, Secretary Tamikio Veasley, along with board members Ed Gunther, and David Pelligrinelli. Jeanne Johnson was also in attendance representing the Education Committee.

After bringing the meeting to order, Pat announced that with the installation of Doug Gallant as Vice President, and the recent addition of Tamikio Veasley to Secretary, there is now a full complement of NALTEA officers and directors. After voting to approve the minutes from the prior meeting, and reviewing the treasurers report, the directors then moved on to new business.

From the Education Committee, Jeanne Johnson announced that there are now 42 NALTEA certified abstractors with either NCA or NMA designations. Another 10 abstractors are scheduled to sit for the exam within the next month. In addition, the successful NALTEA "Train the Trainer" program is creating a group of instructional leaders to more widely distribute the NALTEA training and certification program. The board also finalized the revised certification requirement that abstractors have 3 or 8 years prior experience for NCA or NMA designations, respectively.

Planning and Events committee chair Ed Gunther reported that planning for the 2010 NALTEA Annual Conference is coming together. With the dates firmly set, final arrangements have been made for the hotel contract. Ed is in the process of putting together an informative panel of speakers for conference attendees. The Planning and Events Committee also reports great success with the Meet and Greet events over the past months. This series is planned to be continued and expanded.

Pat Scott reported from the Membership Committee that while no new members were logged for the prior month, this is typical of the

summer season, when the NALTEA fiscal year end is approaching. He suggested that the board devise a plan to extend membership by a month for new members when joining just prior to the membership expiration date. The board agreed that this would be a good way to smooth out the new membership signups.

David Pelligrinelli reported that the Public Relations Committee has arranged for NALTEA to be featured in an upcoming article published in the Virginia Land Title Association magazine. The piece will feature subjects such as advantages for abstractors of association membership, training and certification, and support for abstractors to be aware of industry trends. Separately, the Public Relations Committee will be sending a press release announcing the success of the NALTEA certification program. In addition, NALTEA will be releasing a position paper regarding the importance of keeping all property records in the public records system, particularly mortgage assignment records.

With that, the meeting was adjourned, with the next board meeting scheduled for August 16th, at 5 PM Central.

Realty Trac July Foreclosure Report

Doug Gallant

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I just read the Realty Trac report on foreclosure activity for July of this year. Activity was up 4% from June, but down 10% from July of 2009.

I found it interesting that five states account for 50% of the national total. California (by itself is 21% of the total), Florida accounts for 16%, Illinois, 6%, Michigan, just under 6% of the national total, and Arizona at 5%.

Nevada, Ohio, Georgia, Texas and Maryland round out the top ten.

It appears the Las Vegas area leads the nation as far as metro areas are concerned. One in every 71 homes received foreclosure notices in July. That is more than five times the national average.

I cannot claim to know what all of this means for those of us in the title examining/abstracting industry. It is clear that REO properties are going to be a drag on the market in general. I would not hazard a guess in writing as to how extreme

the effect will be, nor how long it will last. I am willing to say that it is something we all need to keep in mind as we plan for the next few years.

Privacy and Data Security Warning

Jeanne Johnson

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I was recently notified by Wells Fargo that my social security number, bank account numbers and other personal information were found in Colorado in an FBI sting along with thousands of other Wells Fargo Customers. Bad news. Unfortunately not all that uncommon. In recent years identity theft has grown exponentially with many high-profile cases involving personal information illegally accessed, improperly disclosed to third parties, stolen from dumpsters or lost during transportation. It made me think about the information we have access to and how we need to protect it. As a licensed Real Estate Instructor in Minnesota, I am *required* to obtain names, addresses, SSN's and Identification for students who take my pre-license and continuing education classes. I need to be more careful. I teach closers about the risks, but we must all be careful when handling personal information. My neighbor's laptop was stolen from her car this week, and the horror of the information on mine was a humbling reminder.

In response to identity theft, Congress created a variety of bills about storage and protection of personal information and consumer notifications of breaches of that information (undoubtedly why I received the form letter about the FBI Sting). The bills affect mortgage lenders, real estate and title companies, because they have access to and often use what is legally known as "personal identifying data" that is defined as *that which is not available publicly* and is obtained from a variety of non-public sources - such as information disclosed on a Purchase Agreement, an application for a mortgage or information provided for a closing. Specifically, a person's first, middle name (or initials), last name, address, and/or telephone number in conjunction with any of the following: their Social Security Number, date of birth, driver's license number, any account or credit/debit card number and/or access codes. Many of us work for companies who have such access. (We all know counties struggling with recorded documents that contain SSN's)

The **Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act** ("GLBA") in particular is designed to protect against access to private records. It specifically requires storage and disposal standards for companies that maintain or have access to personal identifying information such as mortgage lenders, law firms, or title companies that have personal data. All those with private information are *required to have policies and procedures in place* for safeguarding that information and protecting it from unwanted access. Are you in compliance? If you haven't done so already and you have private records, we suggest that you:

TAKE STOCK Know what personal information you have in your files, on your computers, and who has access to that information.

SCALE DOWN. Keep only what you absolutely need for business.

LOCK IT Protect the information you keep in file cabinets and computers.

PITCH IT Properly dispose of (shred) what you no longer need.

PLAN AHEAD Create a plan to respond to security incidents.

With luck, you will never be the cause of identity theft. I know I am not looking forward to dealing with the loss of my information. I will be keeping a closer eye from now on - both on my own information and the information entrusted to me!.

Membership Committee

Pat Scott, President

Email: president@naltea.org

NALTEA proudly welcomes our newest members:

Jaime Tatun of NCS Holdings, LLC

Paula P. Alhere of NCS Holdings, LLC

We now have 121 active members.

In the July meeting of NALTEA board members, a vote was taken and passed allowing for memberships activated from July 20th through August 31st to be active through August 31st, 2011. To prospective members who apply now, this means a bonus month of membership!

The current membership year (September 1st, 2009 through August 31st, 2010) is drawing to a close. Look for your 2010-2011 dues invoice to arrive shortly by email. We look forward to growing our membership ranks significantly over the next year.

NPRRA



Aug. 3, 2010

National Public Records Research Association
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THE NATIONAL PUBLIC RECORDS RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (NPRRA) EXTENDS MEMBER RATES TO PRRN, SOT, NAPBS AND NALTEA, FOR REGISTRATION TO THE 2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT THE HOTEL MONTELEONE IN NEW ORLEANS, LA., OCT. 7-9.

In an effort to bring together public records industry professionals from across the country, the NPRRA board of directors voted unanimously to offer member discounts to our friends in PRRN, SOT, NAPBS and NALTEA. Given the economic climate, this is an excellent opportunity for public record providers who are not members of NPRRA to save hundreds of dollars on an exceptional networking and educational opportunity.

The conference, themed "Jazzed About Our Future," will allow attendees to learn about the latest technology, government affairs and industry trends as well as broaden their scope of knowledge regarding public records research. From the opening reception through the closing session there are ample opportunities to network and socialize with clients and prospects.

The objectives of the National Public Records Research Association are to: *enhance* our membership's ability to provide public records services through the membership network and the exchange of ideas; *elevate* awareness of legislature and technological changes as they impact our industry; *foster* improved relationships with government agencies responsible for the administration of public records; and *promote* fair and reasonable access to public records.

The member rate is a \$300 savings. The early-bird registration fee (on or before Sept. 6) is \$375 and the regular registration fee (from Sept. 7-30) is \$400. Accommodations start at only \$149 per night at the Hotel Monteleone, www.hotelmonteleone.com, one of the most luxurious and famous hotels in the French Quarter.

Visit <http://www.nprra.org/meetings/conference.htm> today to register for the conference, or feel free to call the office of the NPRRA at 919.459.2078.