

PRIA IN TOUCH

April 20, 2020

More counties choose
Simplifile for e-recording.

Find out why.

President's Message

Dear Members:

The past two months can certainly be called the weirdest of the 21st century. The Coronavirus has transformed life as we knew it. We are sheltered-at-home, store shelves and city streets are empty, Zoom has become the mostly commonly used verb and hand sanitizer is a valued commodity.

Yet we all press on keeping the real estate industry viable and functioning. Recorder offices are open for business, although perhaps not to the public. eRecording has ramped up. Real estate closings are taking place in parking lots and RON has become the standard in a majority of states across the country.



Recorders across the country have extended themselves to continue serving their customers. Working remotely, staggering office hours, rotating staff members and social distancing have become the norm during the past two months. At last count, there were only a handful of counties completely closed and that was primarily because other offices to which documents must be routed had been shuttered.

PRIA's Coronavirus Taskforce has published two communications since the end of March. The first touted the essential role of the recorder's office to provide the proof of land ownership, which drives the economy of our country. Guidelines for communicating to customers during the pandemic were outlined, along with ways to manage the recording queue for timely recordings.

A new [website page](#) dedicated to the Coronavirus was added to the PRIA website to which new information is being added regularly.

PRIA has continued to gather information about the status of recording offices and then feed this information to ALTA for the Master List on the [ALTA website](#).

Last week, the taskforce extended a round of applause to recorders for their efforts in staying open and serving their customers. This included a reminder about the states that have authorized emergency RON guidelines during the pandemic and encouraging recorders to accept these remotely notarized documents.

On Wednesday, April 22, the taskforce will host a PRIA fireside chat on electronic notarization and RON in an effort to clarify these newest forms of notarization and answer the industry's questions.

PRIA will continue to provide information and guidelines for managing through the

pandemic. If you have questions or suggestions for the taskforce, please contact me directly.

Stay Well!

Larry Burtness

President



Number of Jurisdictions Enabling eRecording Grows in March

If there was ever a time to underscore the value of eRecording as the preferred method for recording documents, it is this period in our history when recorder offices are closed to the public but continue to accept electronic recordings.

Each month, with assistance from the eRecording submission vendors, PRIA tracks new jurisdictions that enable eRecording. Generally, 10-12 recording jurisdictions are enabled each month but during March, the number of newly enabled jurisdictions jumped to 29.

Recorders report that many submitters who have been hesitant to begin eRecording are now embracing the technology.

As of March 31, there are 2,114 eRecording jurisdictions across the country. For a complete list of those counties, click [here](#).



Simplifile Processes Its 100 Millionth Document for eRecording

Simplifile processed its 100 millionth document on April 1 and added more than 2,400 new submitters in March 2020.

“This milestone comes at an important time, not just for Simplifile, but for the mortgage industry as a whole, as it transitions to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Paul Clifford, President of Simplifile. “As our customers respond to both strong activity and uncertainty about the future, we’re working to ensure our systems are stable, resilient and dependable enough to meet any of the industry’s eRecording needs.”

To read the full press release, click [here](#).



2020 Annual Conference Cancelled

The PRIA Board of Directors has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 August Annual Conference and reschedule for 2021. With the uncertainty of COVID-19 and many states under shelter-at-home orders with no definitive expiration dates, the board determined that the safety and well-being of the membership and other potential conference registrants should be the fundamental driver of this decision.

In the next few weeks, the board and planning committee will be considering alternative

2020 educational and training opportunities using a virtual platform. If you have a suggestion for a conference presentation or have a program you would like to present, either virtually or in person, contact [Mallory Robinson](#).

Mark your calendar for **August 30-September 2, 2021**, and plan to attend the Annual Conference at the Pfister in Milwaukee. The online reservation platform will be posted to the website as soon as it is available. Room rate for 2021 is \$189.



PRIA Offers Webinars Free-of-Charge in April, May and June

PRIA is offering all webinars scheduled in April, May and June to non-members at no cost. Webinars are always complimentary to PRIA members.

Recognizing that many industry associations around the country have been forced to cancel meetings scheduled for late spring and early summer, PRIA is extending this courtesy to offer an educational channel for the industry.

The first two April webinars on Sovereign Citizens and a PRIA Fireside Chat about eNotarization and RON, sold out in just a few days. Both of these webinars will be repeated.

Watch your email for information about upcoming webinars or visit the [PRIA website](#).



Ransomware Work Group To Publish List of Resources

The Ransomware Work Group is compiling a list of website resources to help PRIA members understand how they can protect their offices from a cybersecurity attack. The list of resources is divided into three categories: Government-sponsored websites, private business websites and website resources provided by PRIA members.

Any members with website resources focused on cybersecurity and ransomware should contact the [PRIA offices](#) by May 1 about adding their information to the document.

Wet Ink Signatures Requirements May Fade After Coronavirus

The wet signature requirement that a document be signed in-person and with ink, could disappear as social distancing takes hold across the globe in an effort to stop the spread of Coronavirus.

As the spread of the disease has picked up speed, the already growing use and acceptance of electronic signatures could mark the demise of the requirement for wet signatures everywhere.

Read the complete story [here](#).

Welcome New Members

PRIA welcomed these new members during March.

Government

Cameron County, Brownsville, TX

Carter County, Ardmore, OK
Love County, Marietta, OK
Pomfret Town Hall, Pomfret Center, CT

Business

Information Services Corporation, Regina, SK (Can.)

Total paid membership as of March 31, 2020, is 762.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS 2019-20

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

CSC
Notarize Inc.
Simplifile

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

American Land Title Association

PLATINUM

eRecording Partners Network
MERSCORP Holdings, Inc.
Pioneer Technology Group

GOLD MEMBERS

Aumentum Technologies
Avenu Insights and Analytics
Computing System Innovations
CoreLogic
Ernst Publishing Co. LLC
Esri Inc.
Fidelity National Title Group
Granicus Inc.
Harris Recording Solutions
Kofile Technologies
Nationwide Title Clearing
Rekon Technologies
SYNRGO, Inc.
Tyler Technologies
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
Westcor Land Title Insurance Co.

CONTENT DISCLAIMER

The views and opinions expressed in the media, articles, comments, or links in this publication are those of the speakers or authors and do not necessarily reflect or represent the views and opinions held by PRIA or its members. PRIA does not warrant the accuracy, timeliness or completeness of the information contained in this publication. If you have a complaint about something you have found in this publication, please contact PRIA by email at info@pria.us.

Copyright (c) 2020 *In Touch*. All rights reserved.

Property Records Industry Association
coordinator@pria.us
919.459.2081

