

PRIA IN TOUCH

August 24, 2020



President's Message

Dear Members:

It is exciting to announce that PRIA's redesigned [website](#) is now live. Much effort has been put into the redesign, and my sincere thanks to all those who participated in the heavy lifting for this important achievement. As you navigate through the many resources available on the new website, please make note of anything you notice that needs an adjustment. Drop a note to PRIA's Chief Staff Officer, [Stevie Kernick](#).



As most of you know, our annual conference was held this week as a virtual gathering instead of the traditional face-to-face conference. I hope you were able to participate and that it was a great alternative to being physically together during these times of limited travel and social distancing. We are already working on the details for our 2021 Winter Symposium, which will be a face-to-face meeting next February in Phoenix, AZ. We are planning to provide virtual options for those who are not able to travel at that time.

Lastly, with a final drum roll, it is time for me to bid you adieu, as my two-year term as PRIA's President has come to a close. It has been an honor and a sincere privilege to serve this association and its members, and I look forward to my continued involvement as Immediate Past President.

When I was a new PRIA kid-on-the-block in the early 2000s, it amazed me to see the important work being accomplished through a collaborative government and business partnership, before "collaborative" was cool. eRecording was still in its infancy and redaction of personal information was just starting. Today, we are embracing remote online notarization, trying to unravel our collective responsibilities for access to the public's land records and starting to figure out where the blockchain will fit in the property records industry. I was thrilled to be a part of PRIA at that time, and I am excited to see where this great association goes in the future. There is much work still to be done. Won't you join us, and be part of the solutions?

Larry Burtness

Immediate Past President



Annual Conference Wraps Up

PRIA's first virtual conference wrapped up Thursday, August 20, with the Annual Membership Meeting. More than 190 members and non-members registered for the conference.

There were multiple programs available throughout the three conference days, including both general and breakout sessions staged on multiple virtual platforms.

Zach Zaharek, Data Trace, kicked off the conference on Tuesday with a program on "Lessons in Leadership," during which he talked about how people become leaders. Zaharek focused on four principles used by leaders to achieve success:

- Reading and learning – Bill Gates has a satchel with 15 different books that he takes with him when he travels (he's also a very fast reader).
- Effective listening – Listening with the intent to understand rather than listening to prepare a response.
- Thinking – Taking time to think deeply about what you are doing and why. He suggested several meditation apps that are beneficial to quieting and opening up the mind for deep thinking.
- Laughing – Laughing has health benefits and provides a common denominator among people, especially in challenging situations.

Later in the afternoon, Jerry Lewallen, eRecording Partners Network, interviewed Zaharek in a breakout session, posing questions from session participants.

For conference registrants, a recording of this session is available on PRIA's [Annual Conference Resource Page](#).

There's Still Time To Join This New Work Group

Back in 2009, PRIA published a paper titled [How to Get Ready for eRecording – Submitters Guide](#). There was a similar publication focusing on recorders. eRecording has evolved substantively since 2009. With the publication of PRIA's 2016 paper on [eRecording Best Practices for Recorders](#) and the recent paper regarding the discontinuation of the [eRecording Models](#), it is time to create an eRecording Best Practices paper for submitters.

This project will attempt to define the accepted best practices for eRecording submitters in a format similar to that finalized for recorders.

PRIA is seeking volunteers to serve on the eRecording Best Practices for Submitters Work Project that will draft the content for this publication. Representatives from the major eRecording submission vendors, submitters, LRMS vendors and recorders all need to be included on this project.

To volunteer or request additional information on this work project, contact the project co-chairs, [Rachel Sanchez](#), Ottawa Co., MI, [Christie Adams](#), eRecording Partners Network or [Stevie Kernick](#), PRIA chief staff officer.



Members Elect New Board Members for 2020-22

Newly elected board members for two-year terms beginning immediately, were announced during the Annual Membership Meeting held Thursday, August 20.

[Government](#)

Annette Hill, New York City Dept. of Finance, NY
Brandon Krause, Bay Co., MI

Business

Elizabeth Blosser, ALTA
Jana Miyasaki, CSC

At-large

Jerry Lewallen, eRecording Partners Network
Kyle Quackenbush, Orange Co., FL

Continuing on the board for 2020-21 are:

Government

Sharon Martin, Washington Co., WI
Gerald Smith, St. Louis Co., MO
Chris Walker, Jackson Co., OR

Business

Brian Ernissee, Nationwide Title Clearing
Penny Reed, Wells Fargo
Dan Shmukler, Harris Recording Solutions

At-large

Larry Burtness, Figure Technologies



Board Elects Officers for 2021

The 2020-21 board met immediately following the Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday afternoon to elect officers for the upcoming year:

- Jerry Lewallen, eRecording Partners Network, president
- Annette Hill, New York City Dept. of Finance, vice president
- Gerald Smith, St. Louis Co., MO, secretary
- Brian Ernissee, Nationwide Title Clearing, treasurer

Larry Burtness, Figure Technologies, will continue on the board in an at-large capacity and also as the immediate past president.



Ernst Scholarship Recipients for 2020-21 Named

PRIA has announced the Ernst Scholarship Award recipients for the 2020-21 membership year, which began on August 1, 2020. This award was established by Ernst Publishing Co., which was acquired by **Black Knight** in 2019, in conjunction with PRIA, in recognition of the late Carl R. Ernst for his contributions to PRIA and the extended property records industry. This year marks the seventh year the awards have been presented.

Chad Montgomery, recorder, Box Elder County, UT, is the government recipient of the Ernst scholarship. He is an active member of the Utah Association of County Recorders (UACR), and the PRIA Local Utah Chapter. Box Elder County Recorder since 2011, he previously served three years as Deputy Recorder and prior to that he spent 17 years

working in GIS Mapping and writing cadastral grants. Montgomery holds a Bachelor of Science in Geography and has training in real estate transactions, recorded documents, legal descriptions and title searches from D.W. Moore Title & Escrow School.

He has completed the Certified Public Officials Levels 1-4, and is currently a Level 5 “Sr. Instructor” for the UACR. He was nominated as the Utah Recorder of the year in 2016.

Locally, he is a member of the Emergency Management Committee and the Brigham City Chamber of Commerce. He serves as Ambassador, Member Need’s Committee, and is a Past Board Member for Boys and Girls Club and the Community Resource Center.

John T. Lotardo, aka the “TITLEMEN”™, senior vice president, director of operations and national commercial counsel for Commonwealth Land Title Insurance Company, is the recipient of the scholarship for business. He is the former state counsel and senior underwriter for First American Title Insurance Company for the states of Arizona and Nevada. Prior to that, Lotardo was senior vice president and general counsel for Stewart Title & Trust of Phoenix Inc., as well as state underwriting and claims counsel for Stewart Title Guaranty Company. As an Arizona licensed attorney, Lotardo’s practice entails all aspects of real estate, title/escrow and corporate operations. He received his Bachelor of Arts with honors and academic distinction from C.W. Post, Long Island University and his Juris Doctorate degree from Arizona State University.

Lotardo is a past president of both the Land Title Association of Arizona and the Arizona Trustee Association. He has been a member of many real estate organizations, settlement groups, bankruptcy, lending, foreclosure, legislative, judiciary and corporate organizations locally and nationally. He is a 2016 inaugural recipient of the Arizona Land Title Professional designation and regularly a member on the Arizona Association of Realtors’ Residential & Commercial Contract Work Groups and the Education Advisory Committee for the Department of Real Estate.

Former Governor Napolitano appointed him to the Electronic Recording Commission to develop statewide protocols for eRecording. Currently, he is chair and executive council member of the Real Property Section of the State Bar of Arizona, as well as chair of the Real Estate Advisory Board for the Maricopa County Recorder.

The Ernst Scholarship Award includes a one-year PRIA membership for each recipient, along with conference registration and travel to one PRIA conference during the membership year.

Welcome New Members

PRIA welcomed these new members in July.

Government

Box Elder County, Brigham City, UT
Monroe County, Woodsfield, OH
Washington County Circuit Clerk, Fayetteville, AR
Warren County, Lebanon, OH

Business

Commonwealth Land Title Insurance Co., Phoenix AZ
Minnesota Real Estate Learning Group, Minneapolis, MN
Sign X, Phoenix, AZ

Total paid membership as of year-end 2020, is 798.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS 2019-20

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

CSC
Notarize Inc.

GOLD MEMBERS

Aumentum Technologies
Avenu Insights and Analytics

Simplifile

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

American Land Title Association

PLATINUM

eRecording Partners Network

MERSCORP Holdings, Inc.

Pioneer Technology Group

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.

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