

PRIA IN TOUCH

June 22, 2021



President's Message

Dear Members:

This month, I want to remind you of several items with deadlines pending and I don't want you to miss these opportunities.

*PRIA has been publishing papers at a record pace since the beginning of the year and there are three papers currently available for 30-day comment:

- Cybersecurity and Ransomware
- Service Level Agreement
- eRecording Best Practices for Recorders



You can read and comment on these papers through Friday, June 25. Go to the [PRIA website](#) and scroll to the bottom of the landing page to access these documents.

*Each year, PRIA issues an invitation to all voting members of the association to self-nominate or nominate a colleague to be considered for a board position.

For the 2021 election, there are seven open positions:

- Three government sector positions - persons responsible for recording property records
- Three business sector positions
- One at large position - any regular PRIA member, government or business

Interested members should complete a [candidate nomination form](#) and submit to Chief Staff Officer [Stevie Kernick](#) no later than 5 p.m., ET, Friday, June 25, 2021.

*Earlier this month, PRIA distributed a "call for volunteers" for a new work project on Natural Disasters and Pandemics. Volunteers don't need any special expertise on the topic but only an interest in working on developing resources for the membership. As with all PRIA work projects, both government and business members are needed for a well-rounded work group.

To volunteer or request additional information on this work project, contact the project co-chairs, [Rick Setser](#), DeKalb Co., GA, [Brian Ernissee](#), Nationwide Title Clearing or [Stevie Kernick](#), PRIA chief staff officer.

*The PRIA Board of Directors established the Carl R. Ernst Founders Award on June 1, 2005, with the intent to recognize proven, unique leadership and achievement in resolving issues in the property records industry. This award is bestowed in accordance with the

Award Selection Criteria.

The Founders Award honors a member who not only reflects PRIA's core values, but who has provided leadership in addressing a specific industry need or standard.

To learn more about the PRIA Founders Award and nominate a colleague, click [here](#).

Deadline for receipt of nominations is June 30, 2021.

Have a good month,

Jerry Lewallen

President



PRIA Publishes Position Paper on Papering-out

On May 19, the PRIA Board of Directors approved final publication of a *Position Paper on Papering-out*, a topic that has been fraught with questions and misunderstanding.

The paper provides some base definitions pertinent to the process of papering-out and includes some applicable background information with links to state statutory citations. Sample certification pages are also included at the end of this paper.

This paper, as well as all PRIA-approved publications are located in the website [Resource Library](#). Search keyword "papering-out."

Webpage Focuses on New Recorders

In June, PRIA launched a new website resource page targeting new recorders. This page contains resources to help new recorders navigate their first days, weeks, months and year in office.

Feeling overwhelmed by the terms used in the recorder's office? No problem, the Communications Committee has generated a New Recorder Glossary of Terms.

Understand the value of your key industry partners. Use a step-by-step guide of what to do and when to do it once you take office. There is a new recorder video, as well as the video file from the June 17 webinar on "What New Recorders Need to Know."

All the resources to ease the angst with a click of the mouse. Visit <https://pria.us/resources/new-recorders/>.



PRIA Joins Coalition in Support of SECURE

Once again, PRIA has joined with other real estate industry trade groups to support the Securing and Enabling Commerce Using Remote and Electronic Notarization Act (SECURE Notarization Act).

On May 13, 2021, Senate Bill 1625, the "SECURE Notarization Act," was introduced as bipartisan legislation to authorize and establish minimum standards for electronic and remote notarizations that occur in or affect interstate commerce. A prior version of the SECURE Notarization Act was introduced in 2020, but never came to a vote. If the act

becomes law in its current form, it would authorize every notary in the US to perform remote online notarizations (RON) using audio-visual communications and tamper-evident technology in connection with interstate transactions.



PRIA Seeks ULC Support for Two Drafting Committees

The Uniform Law Commission (ULC) provides states with non-partisan legislation with the intent to bring clarity and stability to state statutory law.

ULC members are practicing lawyers, judges, legislators, legislative staff and law professors, who have been appointed by state governments, as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to research, draft and promote enactment of uniform state laws where uniformity is desirable and practical.

PRIA recently petitioned the ULC to form study committees on redaction and restrictive covenants.

While PRIA understands limiting access to certain personal information in public records can help protect the safety of at-risk groups, there is an urgent need for model legislation that allows for the shielding of sensitive personal information, without permanently altering vital public records.

Discriminatory covenants in the land records will unquestionably be a priority for some state lawmakers over the course of the next few years, as evidenced by the legislation proposed, and in some case passed, during 2021 state legislative sessions. While restrictive covenants are illegal and unenforceable under state and federal law, identifying the best method for addressing discriminatory covenants in land records and practical approaches for process implementation is key.

PRIA has recommended moving straight to a drafting committee on these two important initiatives, rather than forming study committees.

ULC study committees review an assigned area of law in light of defined criteria and recommend whether ULC should proceed with a draft on that subject, while drafting committees move directly to crafting the sample law.

Watch Your Email for 2021-22 Dues Renewal Information

In the few next weeks, you will receive the initial dues renewal notice for the 2021-22 membership year. This message will be sent via email.

There are two options for renewing membership dues: one is to click the link embedded in your renewal notice and complete the process online; the second is to use the PDF form, also a link in the notice, and remit your renewal via check and USPS or credit card number and fax.

PRIA's membership year begins on August 1 and ends on July 31, so this early notification offers ample time to submit your renewal before the August 1 deadline.

Don't miss out on complimentary webinars all year, reduced fees for conference registrations, access to PRIA's Learning Management System educational modules, a members-only website and, most significantly, an opportunity to work with and learn from the brightest minds in the property records industry.

As always, should you have any questions, please contact the [PRIA offices](#) or call 919.459.2081.

Ransomware Continues To Take Center Stage in the News

On June 6, the long-standing news magazine show, *60 Minutes*, aired a segment on ransomware.

The cities of Newark, Atlanta, and Sarasota have been hit. So have Licking County, OH, and Durham County, NC. More recently, the Colonial Pipeline from Texas to New Jersey was held hostage, leading to gas shortages all along the east coast.

Correspondent Scott Pelley reports on the growing cyber threat called ransomware, a type of malware that locks up a victim's files and denies access to a computer system until money is paid with a digital currency that is hard to trace. The experts say most attacks can be prevented. (Note: Read PRIA's Cybersecurity and Ransomware paper currently posted for [30-day comment](#).)

For all organizations, it's not a question of "if," but "when" they will be affected by an attack.

Welcome New Members

PRIA welcomed 11 new members in May.

Government

Brown County, Green Bay, WI
Burnett County, Siren, WI
Clay County Clerk of Court and Comptroller's Office, Green Cove Springs, FL
Door County, Sturgeon Bay, WI
Gila County, Globe, AZ
LaMoure County, LaMoure, ND
Polk County, Balsam Lake, WI
Pottawatomie County, Westmoreland, KS
Sauk County, Baraboo, WI
Sheboygan County, Sheboygan, WI
Storey County, Virginia City, NV

Total paid membership in PRIA as of May 31, 2021, is 749.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS 2020-21

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

CSC
eRecording Partners Network
Simplifile

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

American Land Title Association

PLATINUM

Kofile Technologies
MERSORP Holdings, Inc.
Pioneer Technology Group

GOLD MEMBERS

Avenu Insights and Analytics
Black Knight - Ernst Fee Service
Computing System Innovations
CoreLogic
Esri Inc.
Fidelity National Title Group
Granicus Inc.
Harris Recording Solutions
Nationwide Title Clearing
Rekon Technologies
Tyler Technologies
Wells Fargo
Westcor Land Title Insurance Co.

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