

PRIA IN TOUCH

August 20, 2021



President's Message

Dear Members:

PRIA is looking for members who are interested in learning more about leadership roles.

This is not a commitment by you, nor will you be “volun-told” into a position. Our goal is to identify those with an interest in leadership and provide them with information about how to prepare for that role in the future.



As we begin the new membership year for 2021-22, there are currently opportunities to join one of PRIA’s five standing committees:

- Communications
- Education
- Governance
- Membership
- Standards & Best Practices

Or, you may opt to sign up for a work group in process or in the future. In the next few months, PRIA will launch at least one new work project for which we will need both work group co-chairs and volunteers.

If you are attending the Annual Conference in Milwaukee, there will be an informational breakfast on Thursday morning, September 2, where you can chat with current PRIA leaders and get the facts on different leadership positions.

PRIA relies on volunteers to develop all work products for publication. Being part of a work group or committee gives you a voice in the future of your industry and also potentially opens a path to a board position.

If you aren’t attending the Annual Conference, not to worry, we’ll schedule a “learn about leadership” Zoom call later in September for you to attend.

I hope to welcome many of you to Milwaukee in just over a week. PRIA’s 2021 Annual Conference will reach more members (and non-members), either in-person or virtually, than any other previous conference with 255 registrants as of today!

Have a good month,

Jerry Lewallen
President



TRUST THE TEAM BEHIND
YOUR TECHNOLOGY.

Learn more ▶

Check This Off Your To-Do List

Have you renewed your dues for 2021-22? The new PRIA membership year began on August 1 so the time is now to make your membership current for the coming year.

Two options for renewing membership dues are available: one is to click [here](#) and scroll to the bottom of the page to complete the process online; the second is to use the [PDF form](#), and remit your renewal via check or credit card using USPS or fax.

Continue to take advantage of complimentary webinars all year, reduced fees for conference registrations, access to PRIA's Learning Management System, 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 by calling 919.459.2081.

Document Volume Survey of 2020 Data Underway

Every two years, PRIA issues a survey to determine the extent to which counties across the country are electronically recording. This Document Volume Survey will capture recording volume for calendar year 2020. Eligible counties are those who were electronically recording on or before **January 1, 2020**.

This fourth Document Volume Survey continues a long tradition in keeping with PRIA's goal to define standards and best practices, and share those findings with the real estate industry.

The survey should take fewer than five minutes to complete. Data collected will be aggregated by state and population ranges, and used to educate the broader real estate industry about the value of eRecording as the preferred method for submitting land record documents for recording.

Are you eligible to complete the survey? If so, please go the [survey page](#) on the PRIA website for additional information. From there you can link to the survey and add your 2020 recording volume.



Work Group Round-up

PRIA work groups generally meet bi-weekly to work on their projects. Frequently, work projects are segmented into multiple deliverables, which provide the membership with informative publications at shorter intervals.

Electronic Notarization FAQs

Questions continue to persist about Electronic Notarization (eNotarization) and Remote Online Notarization (RON). This work product will strive to provide answers to the most frequently asked questions (FAQs) about eNotarization and RON, and provide examples of what an electronic notarization might look like. The work group anticipates presenting this paper to the Board of Directors at the upcoming August 30 meeting for approval to post for 30-day comment.

eRecording Best Practices

This work project has two components: best practices for recorders and best practices for submitters. The best practices for recorders is a rewrite of the original paper from 2016. It has been updated to bring it into alignment with current practices. The Board of Directors has approved publication of this paper so expect it to be available soon in the Resource Library.

The best practices for submitters is a work in process. Most recently, a survey was distributed to elicit additional input from the membership on desired best practices for submitters.

GIS

Following a number of products published over the past three years, the work group is currently working to gather case studies on GIS and land records integration as follow-up to the GIS Toolkit – How To Get Started.

Interstate Recognition

This project is a spin-off of the eNotarization work group, which the volunteers agreed should be handled in a separate document. The paper will address interstate recognition as the long-standing principle of one state honoring notarizations that are performed by notaries of other states.

Natural Disasters and Pandemics

This work group has just gotten underway and initial projects are being identified. Work has begun on a resource document with relevant websites addressing both natural disaster preparedness and pandemics.

Ransomware

The cybersecurity and ransomware project is nearing the finish line and both publications will be posted to the Resource Library once the PRIA Style Committee has conducted a final review. Work group co-chairs and members will conduct a General Session in Milwaukee on key points from these papers.

Redaction

After publishing a state-by-state chart of redaction laws across the country and an informational paper on Social Security Numbers, the work group spun off a smaller taskforce to work on redaction best practices. Last published by PRIA in 2014, redaction best practices were seriously in need of updates. While revisions continue on the best practices, the taskforce most recently published a paper on [Automated Redaction Technology](#).

Restrictive Covenants

This work group is developing talking points around the issue of restrictive covenants and has been collaborating with a similar work group addressing this problem at ALTA. They are hosting a General Session in Milwaukee with a panel including academia, the title industry and a recorder sharing his personal experience.

Operating Rules Review

In addition to the above work projects, there is a taskforce meeting bi-weekly to review and update the PRIA Operating Rules, an effort undertaken every other year to assure the Operating Rules, and in the odd year the bylaws, are commensurate with actual day-to-day practices of the association.



PRIA Member Involved in Striking Restrictive Covenant from Record

PRIA member, Joe Camposeo, clerk, Town of Manchester, CT, was part of an effort by town resident, David Ware, to remove a racially restrictive covenant on his property, making him one of the first in Connecticut to take advantage of a new [state law](#) prohibiting such language. This bill is intended to prohibit restrictive covenants based on race,

provide a process to remove such covenants from instruments recorded in the land records and eliminate the race designation on marriage licenses.

Rep. Jason Doucette, D-Manchester, said these types of provisions were common across the country in the 1930s through the 1940s, but that they were officially and legally nullified by the Supreme Court in 1948. “Be that as it may, the covenants still existed in the land records even though they were effectively invalidated,” Doucette said.

Ware worked with Doucette to draft the H.B. 6665. After several revisions, the bill passed the House and Senate unanimously this year and was signed by the governor on July 12.

Under the new law, if a homeowner discovers a racist provision in their land record they can file and sign an affidavit, record it at the town hall clerk’s office, and successfully declare the covenant void. Another option provided by the law is a special form homeowners can use instead of an affidavit.

Copies of that form will be available at all the town clerk offices, so that anybody who discovers one of these covenants in their land records can pick up the standard form, fill it out, and record it with no fee.

Click [here](#) to read the full story.

ULC Approves Two New Committees

Back in June, PRIA petitioned the Uniform Law Commission (ULC) to form study committees on two topics that are the subject of current work groups: redaction of personal information/record shielding and restrictive covenants.

During its July 2021 Annual Meeting, the ULC approved these two new committees supported and promoted by PRIA.

The Restrictive Covenants in Deeds Drafting Committee will develop uniform or model state legislation enabling an owner of land for which a discriminatory restrictive covenant appears in the chain of title to have that covenant released or expunged from the records. The committee is charged with establishing a general policy approach, subject to review of the ULC Executive Committee, before it begins to draft.

The Redaction of Personal Information from Public Records Study Committee will consider the need for and feasibility of a uniform or model law concerning the redaction of personal information, particularly with respect to judges and other public officials, from real property records and other official public records in order to address safety concerns.

Welcome New Members

PRIA welcomed eight new members in July.

Government

Bartholomew County, Columbus, IN
Charlotte County, Punta Gorda, FL
Fayette County, Lexington, KY
Perkins County, Bison, SD
Surry County, Dobson, NC
Walworth County, Elkhorn, WI
Webster County, Fort Dodge, IA

Business

TRIEDATA Inc., Saint Augustine, FL

Total paid membership in PRIA as of year-end July 31, 2021, is 776.

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

CSC
eRecording Partners Network
ICE Mortgage Technology
Notarize Inc.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

American Land Title Association

PLATINUM

Kofile Technologies
MERSCORP 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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