

PRIA IN TOUCH

March 20, 2020

More counties choose
Simplifile for e-recording.

Find out why.

President's Message

PRIA Members:

We are in a tumultuous time in our country's history. The COVID-19 information is changing minute-by-minute with little time to adjust to the latest reports before a new one is issued. I trust that you and your family are being vigilant and taking every precaution to stay well.

PRIA's Association Management Company, IMI Association Executives, has implemented expanded bandwidth and network capacity to ensure all employees can securely access networks remotely, if and when necessary. Rest assured your PRIA staff team is fully committed to continuing full-time support for daily operations, and PRIA's committees and work project teams are meeting to carry on with their projects without interruption. Remote, online meetings are the norm for PRIA.



Although several of PRIA's staff team members do work in the Raleigh (NC) office, PRIA's Chief Staff Officer, Stevie Kernick, and PRIA Local Coordinator, Carolyn Ableman have worked remotely for years. Social Distancing, on the work front, is their norm. PRIA is actively monitoring all aspects of this developing situation and will quickly communicate to members any necessary updates or changes to office operations. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly, or contact [Stevie Kernick](#), if you have any questions, concerns or require any help or assistance.

Read the article below to learn about PRIA's COVID-19 efforts.

Sincerely,
[Larry Burtness](#)
President



PRIA President's Circle Member Simplifile

(Third in a series of three articles highlighting the PRIA President's Circle members.)

Simplifile, the nation's largest eRecording network, was founded in 2000 to connect settlement agents and county recorders via its eRecording service. Today, Simplifile has broadened its services to include collaboration tools and post-closing visibility for

mortgage lenders and settlement agents working together on real estate documents. Through Simplifile, users can securely record, share and track documents, data and fees with ease.



Coronavirus Results in Office Closings

On March 13, PRIA sent a query to all its government members asking about the status of their office operations. Thank you to all those that responded. If you did not respond or are not currently a PRIA member, we welcome your input. Email [Stevie Kernick](#) with the status of your office operations and ability to accept all documents, eRecorded documents, no documents. If searchers are allowed into your office, also report that.

PRIA has been working closely with industry partners to monitor the effects of COVID-19 on the broader industry and is contributing information, as received, to a master list of jurisdiction closings found [here](#).

Following the Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday, March 18, a Coronavirus Taskforce was formed to address the current status of recording office operations, anticipated reopening dates, queue management plan post reopening and current search capabilities, to name just a few.



Interstate Recognition of Notarial Acts Project Has Expanded Direction

PRIA's work project on Interstate Recognition of Notarial Acts has a new business co-chair, Renee Hunter, Notarize. Staci Hoffman, Jefferson Co., WI, continues as government co-chair.

Rather than focus exclusively on interstate recognition, the project now proposes to gather and publish information relating to reasons for requiring recordable documents to be notarized and determining the recorder's responsibility when evaluating a notarial certificate.

The work group is also working on a Q & A document for electronic and interstate notarial acts and updating the state-by-state list of interstate recognition laws currently on the members side of the PRIA website.

PRIA members interested in volunteering for this work project should contact [Stevie Kernick](#), chief staff officer.



Winter Symposium Session Recordings Posted

Session recordings from the recent 2020 Winter Symposium are now available on the members-only side of the PRIA [website](#). The files will need to be downloaded to view in their entirety.

Whether you attended the Winter Symposium and missed a session that you wanted to

hear or were unable to attend and want to learn more about a particular topic, you can access both the recordings or the PPT presentations and share with your staff.

Non-members attending the Winter Symposium should contact [Mallory Robinson](#) for access to the recordings and PPTs.

Keep in mind that not all sessions used PPT presentations and some presenters asked that their sessions not be recorded.



Nominate an Exceptional Colleague for the Carl R. Ernst Founders Award

PRIA was formed for the purpose of bringing together the major participants of the property records industry, including public officials, associations and private businesses, to:

- Facilitate recordation and access to public property records;
- Formulate and disseminate model standards, systems and procedures;
- Track relevant proposed legislation to facilitate appropriate input;
- Initiate and lead development of technical standards;
- Establish and lead education programs for all sectors of the industry; and
- Preserve the integrity of public property records

These purposes are only fulfilled through the efforts of many individuals who dedicate their industry knowledge, professional skills and neutral objectivity to addressing and resolving industry issues.

With a desire to give special recognition to those individuals who have provided leadership of great benefit to the industry at large, the **PRIA Carl R. Ernst Founders Award** was established to recognize proven, unique leadership and achievement in resolving issues in the property records industry.

To nominate an individual for this award in 2020, download and complete the nomination form found [here](#). Deadline for receipt of nominations is June 30, 2020.

West Virginia Legislature Adopts URPERA

The West Virginia Legislature has adopted the **Uniform Real Property Electronic Recording Act** (URPERA) clarifying the law regarding electronic recording of real property documents, initially drafted by the Uniform Law Commission and adopted in 36 states.

Under the bill, if a law requires, as a condition for recording, that a document be an original, be on paper or another tangible medium, or be in writing, the requirement would be satisfied by an electronic document satisfying the requirements of the bill. An electronic signature would satisfy the legal requirement that a document be signed before being recorded.

Welcome New Members

PRIA welcomed these new members during February.

Government

Cumberland County, Carlisle, PA
Eaton County, Charlotte, MI
Johnson County, Olathe, KS
Polk County, Bolivar, MO

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.

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