May 20, 2021

President's Message

Dear Members:

May launches the promotional kick-off for the 2021 Annual Conference, August 30-September 2, in Milwaukee. The Conference Planning Committee has been meeting bi-weekly to create the theme, select the keynote speaker, review off-site event locations and design the educational program.

The conference theme identifies where we have been for the past 14 months and where we are going: Rethink | Refresh | Reunite. Both government and business have had to rethink the way they conduct business and meet the needs of their customers during the pandemic. Now, we are ready to take what we've learned and integrate some of those new ideas into our everyday operations. And, boy, it sure will be good to convene again in person to visit with old friends and share our experiences.

The keynote speaker has been selected. Matt Booth is an Attitude Expert whose quick wit and ability to connect with people produces meaningful positive attitude changes. He has shared his message throughout the United States and with international audiences.

A Certified Speaking Professional (CSP) designation puts him in the top 17 percent of all speakers in the National Speakers Association. Booth grew up on a farm in Southwest Wisconsin and lives in Dubuque, Iowa. He received his undergrad at University of Wisconsin and then graduated with his Master's Degree in Communication from University of Dubuque.

I encourage you to make plans to attend the PRIA 2021 Annual Conference, either in-person or on the virtual platform. I hope to see you there!

Have a good month,

Jerry Lewallen
President

Reminders!

<u>May Webinar</u>
On Thursday, May 27, at 3 p.m., Eastern Time, PRIA will present, "Appraisal 101: What Property Records Professionals Need to Know," featuring Warren Boizot of BLG Appraisal Group, and Rodman Schley, BBG - Commercial Real Estate Appraisers and Advisors.

Learn about the role of appraisals in the mortgage process, key components of an appraisal, the role of appraisers and the myths and realities about appraisals and appraisers.

Webinars are complimentary to PRIA members and their staff, and $25 for non-members.

To register for this webinar, click **here**.

Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until all seats are filled.

<u>30-Day Comment Period</u>
Take this opportunity to read and comment on a white paper on *Automated Document Redaction Technology*. The purpose of automated document redaction software is to provide for removal of varying types of privacy information from documents with as little human intervention as possible. This paper addresses the technology available for complex redactions from optical character recognition to redaction confidence values.

Read this **paper** and offer recommendations on the content. Comments will be accepted through May 31, 2021, and can be submitted to **stevie@pria.us**.

Have You Added Your Product/Services to the Membership Directory?

The PRIA membership directory allows business members to identify the types of products and services their organization engages in, for advanced searching. To update or add your listing:

- Visit **www.pria.us**.
- Click on the "Members" tab in the top navigation menu.
- Click on the "My Membership" tile.
- Enter your login credentials.
- Click on the "Profile" tab.
- Navigate to the "custom" tab.
- Select one or more "Services Offered" in the dropdown menu.
- Click "Update."

It's as simple as that. When anyone is searching the directory for a particular product or service, your company information will appear in the search results. The PRIA staff frequently fields questions from members looking for vendors, for instance LRMS, document conversion or imaging services providers. They are directed to the online Membership Directory to select the type of service they need and see all PRIA members providing that service.

Be sure your company appears in the search!

North Carolina Moves Toward Ban on Ransomware Payments

Excerpted from StateScoop, May 14, 2021

The North Carolina House of Representatives on May 12 unanimously passed legislation that would prohibit state and local agencies from paying ransomware demands or

communicating with criminal actors who attempt to encrypt government networks or steal data. It would also increase the reporting requirements for covered organizations to inform the state Department of Information Technology (NCDIT) that they've been the victim of a ransomware incident.

Although the FBI routinely advises victims to never pay, many do. This bill also aims to bar negotiating with ransomware actors. "No state agency or local government entity shall submit payment or otherwise communicate with an entity that has engaged in a cybersecurity incident," it reads.

According to North Carolina state data, at least 37 ransomware attacks have been reported to NCDIT since 2016. NCDIT already has cyberattack regulations that require state and local agencies to report incidents that "result in a significant loss of data, system availability or control of systems" or affect critical infrastructure systems, among other symptoms within 24 hours of discovery.

While ransomware payments are broadly discouraged, there is little consensus on whether they should be banned outright, despite the North Carolina House's unanimous vote. A Ransomware Task Force made up of more than 60 industry experts stopped short of calling for a payment ban when it issued a detailed framework for combatting the threat, writing that doing so could provoke financially motivated criminal actors to simply look for other victims.

PRIA Board Approves Papers for 30-Day Comment

During the May 19 Board of Directors meeting, three papers were approved for 30-day comment.

The first paper is an updated version of the 2016 eRecording Best Practices for Recorders. There were enough changes made to the original document that the board determined a comment period was warranted.

The second and third papers are focused on ransomware. There is a Cybersecurity and Ransomware White Paper that provides background information and sets a knowledge-based level playing field. It includes current best practices to protect against an attack and procedures to follow when an organization is attacked by ransomware or other cybersecurity threat. A list of websites where you can find current information is included and sites are updated by their publishers (see Ransomware Resources in the website Resource Library).

A related paper on drafting a Service Level Agreement (SLA) walks the reader through the important components of an SLA including quality, availability and responsibilities which are agreed upon between the service provider and the service user. To create a solid SLA centered on backup and restoration (not circuits or software hosting), questions need to be answered and incorporated into a contract.

Click **here** and scroll to the bottom of the page to download, read and comment on these papers.

Need a Receipt or Confirmation of Registration?

Login to the Members side of the website and access past receipts and event registration

confirmations.

From the "Members" page, click on "My Membership." On your membership page, you will see several options one of which is: *Click here to access your financial history and receipts for all transactions as well as event registration confirmations.* From there you will see all history and receipts.

The "My Membership" is your portal to personalize your PRIA membership. You can print a membership certificate, update or change your profile (hint: add a picture to personalize your listing) or renew your dues at the appropriate renewal time.

You can also access the Community Forum from the "My Membership" page.

Welcome New Member

PRIA welcomed one new member in April.

<u>Government</u>
Montgomery County, Mount Ida, AR

Total paid membership in PRIA as of April 30, 2021, is 739.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS 2020-21

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE	GOLD MEMBERS
CSC	Avenu Insights and Analytics
eRecording Partners Network	Black Knight - Ernst Fee Service
Simplifile	Computing System Innovations
	CoreLogic
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION	Esri Inc.
American Land Title Association	Fidelity National Title Group
	Granicus Inc.
PLATINUM	Harris Recording Solutions
Kofile Technologies	Nationwide Title Clearing
MERSCORP Holdings, Inc.	Rekon Technologies
Pioneer Technology Group	SYNRGO Inc.
	Tyler Technologies
	Wells Fargo
	Westcor Land Title Insurance Co.

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