

PRIA IN TOUCH

September 21, 2020



President's Message

Dear Members:

I am both honored and privileged to have been elected by the Board of Directors to serve as PRIA President for the 2020-21 fiscal year. I am committed to adhering to PRIA's goals and values while guiding the talented and conscientious members of this year's board throughout the year.



The 2019-20 fiscal year ended with a record number of members (798), a reserve account with a balance equaling one year's expenses, a \$39,000 net for the year, a new and improved website, an eRecording Hub platform, launch of PRIA's Learning Management System, along with completion of several new publications. Immediate past president Larry Burtness guided each of these accomplishments to the finish line.

PRIA ended the year on a positive note and the membership should embrace these accomplishments and take advantage of the new services. Many of you participated in bringing these projects to fruition as you volunteered on committees and work groups during the year.

While applauding these accomplishments, I, along with the board, also know this is not the time to become complacent, but to look ahead and determine how PRIA can best meet members' needs into the future.

About five years ago during a strategic planning retreat, the board discussed the importance of expanding the number of members in leadership positions. Although work products were being published, frequently it was the same people involved in every project. The board engaged in an effort, with the help and support of the Nominating Committee, to expand the leadership roles and engage more of the membership.

Term limits were adopted for board members with the maximum number of consecutive terms set at three (totaling six years), with exceptions allowed in unusual circumstances. The 2020-21 board reflects the result of those efforts with a demographic that is more diverse than ever.

With leadership comes responsibility. This year's board is facing very different challenges than previous years, some COVID related and others the result of the general evolution of the industry. As the industry changes, PRIA's direction must evolve. There will be budget

challenges in 2020-21, membership will likely be smaller and virtual meetings will become the norm. This board will be measured by how well it can adapt in this new world.

I encourage you to get involved and contribute your knowledge to PRIA. Volunteering requires just a few hours a month and the rewards can be “priceless.” Contact me and share your concerns and ideas about the direction PRIA is heading. Understanding member needs will lead to a stronger association.

Have a good month,

Jerry

Jerry Lewallen

President



Shout-out to the Annual Conference Sponsors

While sponsorships for PRIA’s Annual Conference looked quite different from the traditional breakfasts, breaks, lunches and receptions at an in-person event, still 13 companies stepped up to provide support for the virtual conference.

PRIA extends a standing ovation to these sponsoring companies:

[Black Knight \(Ernst Fee Service\)](#) - Thursday General Session
[Computing System Innovations](#) - Thursday General & Breakout Session
[CSC](#) - Thursday General Session
[eRecording Partners Network](#) - Tuesday General & Breakout Session
[Granicus, Inc.](#) - Attendance Prizes
[Harris Recording Solutions](#) - Conference Supporter
[MERS](#) - Wednesday General Session
[Pennsylvania Association of Notaries](#) - Conference Supporter
[Pioneer Technology Group](#) - Conference Supporter
[Simplifile](#) - Wednesday Breakout Session
[Synrgo](#) - Conference Supporter
[Tyler Technologies](#) - Wednesday General Session & Breakout
[Wells Fargo](#) - Tuesday General Session & Breakout

RON, RIN and Ensuring Trust in Every Transaction

Andrew MacDougall, Digital Marketing Manager, Notarize

Remote online notarization (RON) has grown increasingly important as the country continues to battle COVID-19, but the pandemic has also introduced us to Remote Ink Notarization (RIN): a new way to notarize online born from gubernatorial Executive Actions nationwide.

Although well-intended, RIN strips away the fundamental guardrails that make online notarizations safer and more secure than traditional in-person notarizations. Here’s what you need to know about RIN and why RON is the best long-term solution for your business.

Convenience without Sacrificing Security

RON is a fully digital experience that mirrors in-person notarizations and employs several additional security measures to strengthen the notarial act.

In contrast, RIN allows parties to sign and notarize paper documents from separate locations using insecure audio-video platforms, like Skype and Zoom.

In addition, while notaries must record and retain the notary session:

- Signer IDs are never validated;
- There is no audit trail; and
- Both parties never interact with the same document simultaneously.

Maintain Control of the Original Documents

RIN signers must physically mail their signed documents to have them notarized. Ultimately, there's no way to prove the documents that the notary receives are those they watched the signer complete. If the signer faxes or emails those signed documents, the document that is notarized isn't actually the original – it's a copy of the original.

RON stores, signs, notarizes and delivers documents digitally. There's no concern about the integrity or the originality of documents because RON retains all the important elements of an in-person notarization – it's just online.

Invest in a Long-Term Solution

Most RIN Executive Orders revert to in-person notarizations when the pandemic subsides. This makes RIN a temporary solution that could have a damaging effect on the integrity and durability of the remote notarial act.

With RON as a permanent solution, when the market changes or a pandemic pushes business operations online, this process is ready to deploy.



Have You Checked Out PRIA's Learning Management System (LMS)

In late spring, the Education Committee launched an LMS for the exclusive use of PRIA members. Two learning modules are currently available. *Electronic Records Preservation* contains seven individual components including papers, videos and supporting tools, culminating with two knowledge-check quizzes.

The second module is *Land Records Management Systems (LRMS) Best Practices* and includes an extensive paper outlining LRMS Best Practices, a video and concludes with a knowledge-check quiz.

PRIA members can click [here](#) to register for access to the LMS. There is no cost to members and their staff. Currently, the LMS is not available to non-members.



Call for Volunteers

There are two PRIA committees currently seeking volunteers for 2020-21. The Membership Committee is chaired by John Murphy, Dubuque Co., IA, and Liz Kelly, Black Knight. This committee meets monthly for an hour and focuses on membership retention, renewal and recruitment. Share your ideas or just be part of the conversation.

The February 22-25, 2021, Winter Symposium is moving forward with both in-person and virtual components. Now that PRIA has had experience with one virtual conference,

planning a hybrid is the next challenge for the planning committee. The committee meets bi-weekly in the early months of planning and then monthly thereafter. Help design the educational content for the Winter Symposium, whether you plan to attend in-person or virtually. Everyone's ideas are welcomed.

Contact [Mallory Robinson](#) to request additional information or join either committee.



Council of Advisors Appointed for 2020-21

One of the first responsibilities of a new PRIA president is to appoint a Council of Advisors to function as consultants to the president for special projects or to offer advice based on their historical knowledge of the association.

For 2020-21, President Jerry Lewallen has appointed the following members to the Council of Advisors:

- Marc Aronson, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries, former board member
- Charlie Epperson, SigniaDocs, former board member
- Carol Foglesong, retired, former board member, treasurer and president of PRIA
- Mark Ladd, Simplifile, former board member, treasurer and president of PRIA
- Steve McDonald, Simplifile, former board member
- Kelly Romeo, former board member and treasurer of PRIA
- Diane Swoboda Peterson, former board member and secretary of PRIA

ESRA Hosts Digital Education Webinar Series

The Electronic Signature and Records Association (ESRA) invites you to attend the Digital Education Series. With 10 webinars and counting scheduled through December, the series will provide insight and practical guidance on the business, technology and legal implementation issues for digital transactions across a wide spectrum of applications. These issues are of critical importance even more during this time of social distancing, remote work and contactless consumer engagement.

The rate to attend individual programs is \$199 for non-members and \$99 for members. A series pass can be purchased for significant cost savings for \$895 for non-members and \$495 for members.

All programs are available for viewing On-Demand.

Visit the ESRA Website for more details and registration information.

<https://esignrecords.org/resources/members-resources/education-series/>

Welcome New Members

PRIA welcomed these new members in August.

Government

Calhoun County, Marshall, MI
Denton County, Denton, TX

Business

Ubiquity, LLC, Seattle, WA

Total paid membership (renewals and new members) as of August 31, 2020, is 416.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS 2020-21

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

CSC
eRecording Partners Network
Simplifile

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

American Land Title Association

PLATINUM

Kofile Technologies
Pioneer Technology Group

GOLD MEMBERS

Computing System Innovations
Esri Inc.
Fidelity National Title Group
Nationwide Title Clearing
Rekon Technologies
Tyler Technologies
Westcor Land Title Insurance Co.

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