



NALTEA

The National Association of Land
Title Examiners and Abstractors

Message from the President

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Please take the opportunity to visit our website at:

www.naltea.org

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Mary Mitchel, President
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Well folks, I am pleased to announce that we have filled the board vacancy that was left by Jan Vogeler's departure. Vikki Moffitt, former Vice President of NALTEA, is your newest board member. She brings with her over 25 years of experience and is a NALTEA Certified Abstractor. Over the last 8 months, Vikki has gained a working knowledge of what the board has been trying to accomplish throughout the industry and shares in our vision for the future. Vikki will be a great asset to this board and we look forward to working with her to achieve our goals. Welcome aboard Vikki! I want to thank the other candidates for their interest and commitment to our association. Our first course of business will be choosing a new Vice President. We hope to have that accomplished within the next couple of weeks.

As Vikki joins our board, we find ourselves in a real quandary at this point in the season. We would like to be in a position to announce the dates & location of our next conference and have had numerous discussions about the same, however are not able to do so at this time. In an attempt to obtain input from you, our membership, many questions were raised, via our survey(s), such as: Should we have a single conference, several regional locations, move the date to later in the year, etc., etc., etc. It is an extremely daunting task right now, given the current condition of many of our businesses and the fact that

we are in desperate need of committee members for the Planning/Events Committee. If my memory serves me, there have been two separate surveys made available, which raised some of these same questions, yet we have been unsuccessful, for the most part, in eliciting a proportionate response from the general membership. We certainly appreciate those that did take the time to respond. For those that did not, I ask that you take a moment to share your thoughts and encourage others to do the same. Feel free to drop an email to me, or to any of our board members directly, or if you feel more comfortable, just send a note off to info@naltea.org. As I have said many times before, we really DO want to hear from you.

The board has been working on several things, conference related, which I touched upon in the Board Update article, however are in "limbo" right now, as we cannot move forward with plans until we know what our membership wishes to do. Ideally, we would prefer to have a majority consensus before we start making decisions for you. Our next board meeting is September 15th, at which time we hope to have some additional input so that we can move expediently forward, one way or another. IF we are to hold a conference in January of 2009, we are already "behind the eight ball". It can still be done but we need to take some action quickly. Personally, I prefer one yearly conference, which provides

an opportunity for individuals to get together, network and share ideas in one location. One factor, which appears to be a commonality, is that education is foremost on everyone's "wish list". I agree. There are many facets to our industry, which can provide business opportunities, some of which may lead to a new vein of business for members to explore. We hope to be able to assist with further educational sessions that you find both interesting and helpful in diversifying within the industry.

I hope to hear from you soon!

Board of Directors Report

Mary Mitchel

Email: president@naltea.org

It is my turn to respectfully submit a recap of our last meeting, so "here we go", if my shorthand does not deceive me it should be complete:

Our last board meeting was held on 8/18/08, via our usual telephone conference. After approving a rough draft of the prior meeting minutes, along with the current Treasurer's Report, the board moved forward with the committee reports.

Although board member Lynn Hammett, Education Committee Chairperson, was unavailable to attend the board of directors meeting, she submitted a report prior to that evening. The committee had nothing new to report, aside from the fact that they were getting back on track in opening up further discussions with national testing centers. It was originally anticipated that two of the members would have an opportunity to speak with a couple of representatives of these types of facilities while attending an educational conference, however those representatives failed to attend. The committee did not hold a meeting in August, due to travel schedules, however would be having meetings in September to move forward.

The Membership Committee moved forward with their project of updating the pertinent information on all current & past members. As part of an ongoing program to increase membership, during the "verification" process members, both inactive & active, were encouraged to either re-join or renew their memberships. There was also further discussion regarding the current part-time position proposed to assist the membership committee with a future membership drive. Applicants were encouraged to

forward resumes to membership@naltea.org or to info@naltea.org. Jay Duncan was collecting and distributing to the remaining board members, as received. The board will select someone from those applicants.

The Public Relations Committee, with the assistance of Publications/Benefits Committee, had created a survey pertaining to preferences for an upcoming conference. Pat Scott shared the initial results with the board for discussion and has written a summary article for the newsletter as well.

The Planning & Events Committee, although currently without a liaison, nor members, was the topic of discussion. MEMBERS ARE NEEDED DESPARATELY. The board continued on with a discussion regarding possible conference suggestions, with some input gathered, on possible cruises, alternate dates, travel locations, etc. Some additional questions were to be added to a second survey to elicit responses from the membership as well. The board agreed that they must move forward, one way or another, pretty soon, especially if a conference was to be held in early 2009.

The Publication/Benefits Committee is looking for article contributions for the upcoming newsletter. All articles are to be submitted to Doug Gallant ASAP.

We then turned our attention to the current vacancy left by Jan Vogeler's resignation from the board. Names of possible candidates, primarily those that had previously expressed interest in the board, were shared. All were to be contacted and, should they show interest, bios were to be submitted along with a brief statement as to why they would like to be on the board of directors and what they hope to accomplish in the future, etc. Once all submissions were collected, the board would then get together for further discussion and, hopefully, to select a new board member.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 15th at 5:00 PM CST/ 6:00 PM EST.

Membership Committee Update

Carol Walker

Email: membership@NALTEA.org

If you know someone that may be interested in becoming a member, please e-mail membership@naltea.org and someone will contact them with a membership application.

Benefits & Publications Committee Update

Doug Gallant

Email: benefits@naltea.org

I hope everyone enjoyed the survey last month. Now that it is set up, we can do a survey whenever the board wishes. If anyone has an idea for a survey, just send it to me at the above address or at dougernaut@columbus.rr.com.

I am still looking for requests from members to be profiled in future issues. If you are interested, let me know.

Hopefully, the board will have something to present very soon on a good E&O program. We have been working with a group on a good rate for the membership based in part on certification that seems about to come to fruition.

Public Relations Committee Update

Public Relations Committee chairman Rick Martinez recently stepped down from the position, creating an opportunity for a qualified candidate.

The ideal candidate to fill the position will be full of energy and ideas, ready to meet with the committee (via conference call) at least one per month, and attract new committee members to accomplish the committee's goals.

Interested parties should respond with an email message to publicrelations@naltea.org.

The Public Relations Committee thanks Mr. Martinez for his efforts on behalf of the committee and for his years of dedication to NALTEA.

Conference Survey Results Are In!

Thanks to all who participated in our first ever web-based survey. Keeping in touch with association members is key to maintaining a focus on the things that matter most to NALTEA members. Occasional surveys to find out what our members are thinking, or just to keep a finger on the pulse of the industry, can be a valuable tool in keeping the organization on the right track.

The survey we recently wrapped up was designed to gather opinions that will help NALTEA offer the most value possible in the next conference. Industry pressures have made the abstracting field a difficult sea to navigate for

many. So, the cost of attending a conference has become a more significant factor than in past years.

This survey was first offered only to members through a link provided with the July newsletter. We later expanded access to members and nonmembers alike. The results that follow represent the views of members and nonmembers combined.

Phoenix, Anyone?

Using an approximate cost to members of \$677.00 (Conference, hotel and airfare estimate) and the site being Phoenix, AZ, 45% of those responding indicated that they would be at least somewhat likely to attend (20% most likely, 8% very likely and 16% somewhat likely). By contrast, 97% indicated a willingness to travel to a regional site, within 'reasonable' driving distance. What is a reasonable driving distance? 70% said 150 miles is reasonable, with 16% of all respondents considering a reasonable commute to be over 150 miles. 8% were willing to travel under 50 miles, with a one-night hotel stay.

Among the cities presented in the survey, Myrtle Beach, SC was favored by 32% of respondents. The other cities listed were: Phoenix, AZ (20%); Nashville, TN (18%); Virginia Beach, VA (10%) and Cleveland, OH (16%).

What makes For A Great Conference?

54% of respondents listed educational programs as the most important conference activity. NALTEA certification testing was the most popular choice as second in importance with 38% placing certification as second to educational programs. 26% favored networking as the most important conference activity.

Education prevailed again when we asked respondents to rate the order of importance of program topics. 62% considered education most important, with certification test prep earning the second most important position with 32%. 20% of those responding favored interactive topical discussion as the most important, placing second as most important.

For those who made use of the comments area of the survey, a common theme was the time of year in which the conference is held. Some suggested that fall might be a better time of year for traveling than winter. Typically, the weekend of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, a three-day

weekend for most, has been our conference weekend.

Look for a follow-up survey in the coming weeks. We will ask new questions based upon the insight gathered from this initial survey.

If you would like a copy of the complete survey results, please send an email request to publicrelations@naltea.org. Type Conference Survey in the subject line.

NALTEA Membership Research Position

NALTEA is looking to fill a Membership Research Position. This position can be considered part-time and will be paid, based on specific volumes, pursuant to a contractual agreement to be drawn up by NALTEA. A Form 1099 will be provided for reporting purposes.

The responsibilities would include, and may not be limited to, conducting research, compiling & verifying data to be used for a future membership drive. This position does involve long distance phone calls. NALTEA will provide some assistance with initial sources of information, in an effort to get the project started. This individual will report to the Board of Directors and will be expected to submit a weekly work summary. After verification of the weekly results, you would be paid the following week. This is an opportunity to supplement your abstractor income, while promoting NALTEA. This position can be renewed as certain levels of the project are completed. You must be a current NALTEA member in good standing.

If you are interested, and/or would like to discuss more specifics, please submit your request, along with a summary of your professional experience & current membership number to: membership@naltea.org

Dues Reminder

For those who may have forgotten, NALTEA dues are payable by the first of September. If you have not renewed you may still go to the NALTEA website www.naltea.org to pay your dues online.

Hurricane Ike

Doug Gallant
dougernaut@columbus.rr.com

The recent incident of hurricane Ike as well as the others we have had and those yet to come this season give us a great opportunity to give back to the community.

All the way up here in Ohio, we have been impacted by the effects of the storm. Many schools, churches and the like have been damaged by the storm. It is a chance for abstractors to give back, not only by volunteering time and effort to cleaning up and restoring the damage. We can also use our special skills to assist those in need by offering title research that can speed the receipt of insurance or government funds to quicken the reconstruction of community service agencies.

We can also help our neighbors and friends with information that the insurance companies need for timely reimbursement of claims. It is not often that we get to use our knowledge of the public record for such a noble purpose. Doing this kind of work for free or at cost lets the general public know who we are and what we do.

If any members see the chance to do something of this nature, I highly recommend it. It is a satisfying way to spend some of your time at the courthouse. As a monetary benefit, I would think the community would also remember those who helped in a way that they may have never considered.

By the way, this is not something that I have cleared with the board as a NALTEA objective. It is just something I have always enjoyed.

The Publications Committee is always looking for your ideas, comments or submissions for the newsletter. Please address to benefits@naltea.org.

The organization welcomes input from the membership. You can contact the board members or the various committee chairpersons at the e-mail addresses found on the NALTEA website at www.naltea.org.