



### Welcome New Members!

**Todd Felpel**

Epic Select Settlements Inc.  
Individual Title Agent

**Kenneth Julian**

Real Advantage  
Individual Title Agent

**Donald Lynn, Jr.**

Southern Chester County Abstracting Corporation  
Title Agency: 3-10 Employees

**Melissa Miller**

CGA Law Firm  
Title Agency: 20+ Employees

**John Ogden**

Law Office of John Ogden  
Title Agency: 0-2 Employees

**Christian Sturdivant**

NNA Surety  
Company Affiliate

### Last chance to Register for the 2017 Western Mid-Year Conference in Coraopolis!

#### Insuring the Future – The Road to Success!

The PLTA Western Mid-year Conference will be held on Thursday, March 9, 2017, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Coraopolis. Presenters Anne Anastasi, CLTP, NTP will speak about about the changes and future of our industry. Tony Crisci, Esq., Brian Zulli, Esq., CLTP, Len Shatz, Esq., CLTP and Todd Rowe, Esq. will take part in a panel discussion about the impact of changing legislation on the title industry in PA. Register online today to attend the Western Mid-Year Conference on [March 9, 2017, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Coraopolis, PA.](#) [Sponsorships are available for this event.](#)

### Title Issues & Records Committee Update

#### Update on outstanding Philadelphia WRB issues

Leadership of the PLTA Title Issues and Records Committee spoke with counsel at the City of Philadelphia law department on 2/24/17. Below is a summary of the information provided during our discussion:

- The “Total Due” column on the new Water Revenue Bureau – Water Lien Search reports contain up to date information as it relates to the originally liened amount. However, it cannot be relied upon by itself to operate as a payoff statement because it does not include interest and penalties, if any, that may have accrued. Expect payoff requests to be completed in 3-4 business days.
- WRB has been experiencing some technical issues with their email inbox for payoff requests. They are working to fix this. If you are having difficulties, please contact WRB directly at 215-686-6880.
- Water Revenue Bureau – Water Lien Search reports sometimes contain dollar amounts in the “Total Liened” column but also show zero dollars due in the “Total Due” column. The City wants to maintain a historic record of these matters over time so the previously due amounts will always be listed even after payment thereof.
- The City generally files liens twice yearly in the locality index and may file in the Court of Common Pleas through the BANNER case management system and in Municipal Court as well.
- If members feel they need to challenge a water receivable or HELP loan matter, please contact the Committee at [trowe@wltic.com](mailto:trowe@wltic.com) for review and assistance.
- WRB is adding a new account inquiry system to Basis2 in the OJR perhaps as soon as two weeks from now. It is expected to provide full account information including current account balances, copies of bills, and lien information. This system will eventually be offered as a remotely accessed subscription service.



### News You Can Use

When have we ever heard of taxes going DOWN? Well, look out Lackawanna County because the City of Scranton has reduced its local transfer tax rate from 3.4% to 2.4%. The School collects .5% in transfer tax, making the total percentage for Scranton to be 2.9%. Always be sure to check you are collecting the correct percentage for the local municipality and its school district. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will still want its 1% in transfer tax.

#### [Mortgage Rate Trend Index](#)

Bankrate.com | March 1, 2017

Will mortgage rates go up, down or remain unchanged?

#### [Why does it take so long to close a loan? Appraisers](#)

#### [CoreLogic's Case For Improving Property Tax Estimates](#)

Mortgage News Daily | February 24, 2017

Something we do every day, so see CoreLogic’s case for improving property tax estimates.

#### [ALTA Title News](#)

ALTA Title News | February 2017

Interesting information from ALTA may be found by downloading their latest TitleNews publication. You may have to

### Upcoming Seminars

#### [Transportation & Title](#)

March 7, 2017

PLTI Education Center



King of Prussia, PA

### Mechanic Liens

March 23, 2017  
PLTI Education Center  
King of Prussia, PA

### Short Sales

April 5, 2017  
PLTI Education Center  
King of Prussia, PA

To take online courses visit:  
[www.pltonline.org](http://www.pltonline.org)

## Upcoming Events

### Western Mid-Year Conference

March 9, 2017  
Embassy Suites  
Coraopolis, PA

### PLTA South Central Chapter Breakfast & Learn

April 5, 2017  
Red Lion Hotel  
Harrisburg, PA

### PLTA PA Lobby Day

April 5, 2017  
Pennsylvania State Capitol  
Building  
Harrisburg, PA

### 2017 PLTA Convention

June 11-13, 2017  
Bear Creek Mountain Resort  
Lehigh Valley, PA

Thanks to our Premier Sponsor



### Committee Meetings

Interested in joining a committee?  
Visit [www.plta.org](http://www.plta.org) to learn more.

### Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

March 6, 2017 - 10 am  
PLTA Office

### Convention Committee Meeting

March 14, 2017- 12 pm  
PLTA Office & Conference Line

### Education Committee Meeting

March 15, 2017- 10 am  
PLTA Office & Conference Line

### Title Issues & Records

download Adobe Flash Player to view the publication.

## 96th Annual Convention Speakers Lineup Announced!



We hope to see you at the 2017 PLTA 96th Annual Convention at [Bear Creek Mountain Resort](#) in Macungie, PA from June 11 - 13, 2017! Speakers for the convention include: Mary O'Donnell, CEO and President of Westcor Land Title Insurance Company and ALTA Underwriter Section Chair; Wayne M. Stanley, Director of Public Affairs, ALTA and Leslie Wyatt, Director of Industry Relations, SoftPro Corporation. The 4 credits of education will take place Sunday afternoon June 11th and Monday morning June 12th. Sponsorships and exhibit space are available for this event; interested vendors can [download the sponsorship package](#). Visit the Convention page on our website: [www.plta.org](http://www.plta.org) for more information. Thanks to our Premier Sponsor, [Signature Information Solutions](#)!

## Did You Know?

*Did You Know?* as a PLTA Member you can request a PLTA Member logo to display on your website. Please send your request to [info@plta.org](mailto:info@plta.org).

*Did You Know?* you can also print out an individual Membership card by logging into your profile at [www.plta.org](http://www.plta.org). Click on the "Manage Profile" tab on the right side. Under "Information & Settings" click on the Membership Card tab.

*Did You Know?* is a new section in Common Ground eNews that will highlight useful information pertaining to the Admin side of PLTA. We hope you will find the information useful. If you have any topics you want information about, please send your request to [info@plta.org](mailto:info@plta.org).



## Western Chapter Update

Out here the weather is teasing us with Spring conditions, and as new growth is blooming, we are looking forward to growing and trying something new. The Chapter is planning a 2 credit, Spring Continuing Education seminar to be held the morning of Thursday, April 13, 2017 at the Carnegie Library of Homestead. Details, directions and registration information will be out soon! We hope to see you there!

## Communications Committee

Our first meeting of the new year included discussions of revising and updating sections of the PLTA website to include current and more useful information for our members. Marketing and Advertising were also agenda topics that are being refined, along with a Member Survey to be created along with the Membership Committee. Social Media and Technology updates for promoting the Convention, PLTA events and Chapter meetings were discussed. Look for a PLTA Instagram page soon.

If anyone has any requests or ideas for topics they would like to see explored, please contact the committee at [info@plta.org](mailto:info@plta.org).

## Welcome Shelley Marsh to the PLTA Staff!

PLTA has a new addition, staff member Shelley Marsh, will start on Monday, March 6, 2017 as the new Membership & Registration Administrator. She comes to PLTA & PLTI with a versatile background including experience with multiple associations, credit processing for all 50 states, membership databases, Sircon, administrative/office management skills and much more. We are excited to have Shelley join our team! She can be reached at [smarsh@plta.org](mailto:smarsh@plta.org). Help us give her a warm welcome!

## Digging In the Dirt ~ What if this land held "Brigadoon"?

The month of March celebrates all things green and Irish, and musical buffs may remember the mythical town of Brigadoon was set in Scotland, sort of in the same neighborhood. A recent newspaper article told the tale of landowners doing battle with a multi-state oil company on the location of their massive pipeline: [Washington County landowners caught in eminent domain fight with Rover](#)

**Committee Meeting**

March 24, 2017- 11 am  
PLTA Conference Line

**Communications Committee Meeting**

March 28, 2017- 11 am  
PLTA Conference Line

**Executive Committee Meeting**

April 12, 2017- 10 am  
PLTA Office

**PLTA/PLTI Staff Can Help!**

Questions about your membership?  
Looking for courses?  
Interested in joining a committee?

Give us a call! 610-265-5980

[Robin Kelsh](#) - Executive Director  
[Kim Kostusiak](#) - Administrator  
[Shelley Marsh](#) - Administrator

It brought to mind the question that if the gas company's eminent domain ruling takes over this piece of peaceful land, wonder what the townspeople of Brigadoon would do if their 100 year appearance happened to emerge over an oil pipeline? 'Tis a scunner (look it up!) ~ so glad they are only there for one day!

*May you have the hindsight to know where you've been, the foresight to know where you're going, and the insight to know when you're going too far.~ Irish Blessing*

Please submit any ideas, dilemmas or title issues you would like to share to Kimberly Reed at [info@plta.org](mailto:info@plta.org).

**Pennsylvania Land Title Association 2016-2017 Officers**

PLTA President - Brian Zulli, Esq., CLTP  
PLTA Vice President - Frank McGovern, Esq. CLTP  
PLTA Treasurer - Danielle L. Chamberlain, CLTP  
PLTA Secretary - Chuck Nowicki, CLTP, NTP  
PLTA Immediate Past President - John T. Croke, CLTP

Central Chapter - Lisa Peters, CLTP  
Lehigh Valley Chapter - Freddy Vasta, Jr.  
Northeastern Chapter - Barb Mikielski, CLTP  
South Central Chapter - Nanci Reese, CLTP  
South Eastern Chapter - Diana T. Sabol, CLTP  
Western Chapter - Deb Chipman Reimer, CLTP

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