PLTA President's Update

Wow. What a year! We started off with the Philadelphia judgment and lien indices going down just before I took office. Our relationship with the City of Philadelphia, which had been cultivated by the PLTA for years, allowed us to work through the problem. Through the hard work of the Title Issues & Records Committee, Ed Hayes, Esq. of Fox Rothschild and the President Judge of Philadelphia we were able to get the access we needed. It wasn’t an easy process but with the continued conversation and communication back and forth we were able to get it done. The fact that a link to the City’s judgment indices is now on the PLTA’s web site shows the level of commitment by the City.

A series of hacking related closures continued to roll across the state. These were identified and dealt with by our Title Issues Committee and Carrie Mann, Chairman. Kudos to Carrie and her committee for their tireless work throughout the year.

We were able to leverage a lot of our City of Philadelphia contacts and held the second All Things Philly seminar which featured actual heads of the various City Departments. Lisa McEntee and Todd Rowe did the heavy lifting on this one. It was, in my opinion, the best seminar we have ever done. Thanks Lisa and Todd. We rolled out a version of this for Western Pennsylvania titled All Things Western PA which was very well received and spearheaded by Jenn Somma.

The PLTA Strategic Planning Conference was held on October 3, 2019 and established goals for the organization which are being worked on by staff and committees.

The Pennsylvania Land Title Association has grown over the years and our lobbying needs have changed. Tony Crisci and Associates resigned at the end of 2019. We thank Tony for his years of service. The Officers and Robin Kelsh quickly developed the Request for Proposals and identified potential candidates. We then interviewed the top four and Wanner Associates was hired at the beginning of March 2020. This was fortunate given the circumstances we faced not two weeks later.

Just after we returned from the Western Mid-Year Conference the Covid-19 crisis hit. Since then it has been all Covid, all the time. The Governor of Pennsylvania issued an order on March 18th 2020 closing down all non-essential business. This presented a twofold problem. One: access to the public records we all use as the basis for our insurance was severely curtailed. Two: the order was vague leaving members to interpret it. We worked to get clarification of this Order from the Governor’s office and even hired outside counsel to get a legal opinion on what we could and could not do. An Emergency meeting was held on March 22, 2020 and our efforts were explained to the entire Executive Committee who endorsed our approach. The Title Issues Committee, Staff and Officers jumped in to get our members a list of the County Offices that had no, or limited access. We also worked with our new Lobbyist to push for Remote Online Notorization legislation that would have helped with the current crisis and continued to lobby the Governor’s Office for further clarification and relief.

One of the things that became painfully obvious throughout this process was our lack of clout on the Hill. Even with the cooperation of the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors and the Pennsylvania Mortgage Bankers we were at a loss to influence State Government. We need to increase our grassroots efforts to have a positive influence for our profession. The Pennsylvania Land Title Association PAC was formed and each one of the current officers stepped up for the initial funding.

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I leave you in good hands. Lisa McEntee and my fellow officers have worked tirelessly this entire year and will continue to provide strong leadership.

The Association leadership will be stronger than ever. I am proud of the level of commitment exhibited by the Officers, Staff, and all the committees to confront the various obstacles we have experienced.

Thank you all for your continued support.

PLTA President, Charles M. Nowicki, CLTP, NTP
Home prices in April saw biggest gain in 2 years, but they’re expected to drop by next year
CNBC | June 2, 2020
Home sales may have slowed to a trickle, as much of the national economy shut down in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, but home prices did just the opposite.

Low mortgage rates have housing market rebounding, even as home prices rise
Yahoo!Finance | June 3, 2020
Homebuyers are making up for a lot of lost time, and they're swarming into the housing market to take advantage of those incredibly low mortgage rates they've been hearing about.

Homebuying is Going Virtual
MReport | June 3, 2020
A study by LendingTree found 53% of homebuyers are more likely to buy a home over the next year due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

May 2020 Monthly Housing Market Trends Report: Key Housing Indicators Begin to Turn Around in May
Realtor.com | June 4, 2020
May housing data release reveals that the U.S. housing market likely reached its low point during mid-April, with constrained new listings and minimal price growth.

Summer is going to be a good period for the housing market': economist
Yahoo! Finance | June 4, 2020
The coronavirus pandemic all but halted U.S. home sales during widespread lockdowns, but new metrics confirm that home sales is making a comeback.

As real estate operations reopen, surge of listings expected to hit a parched market
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | June 5, 2020
Karen Schnelle would have put the family farm in Butler County up for sale in March, but the COVID-19 pandemic put the brakes on those plans.

PLTA / PLTI Offices Move to Reopen
Although the last few months have been challenging, we hope that our members were served well by our staff working remotely. As Montgomery County moved into the yellow phase the PLTA/PLTI staff have been back manning the office with 2 personnel in the office each day and 2 working remotely. Cleaning and sanitizing of the office is done each evening before staff leave and as soon as we enter. Staff are currently self-monitoring with daily temperature checks and masks are required in all common areas and when anyone enters the building. We have masks and gloves available for staff and anyone visiting the office. The large conference room has been rearranged to allow for social distancing between attendees as we gradually start to have meetings on the premises. While we adjust to the new normal, we will continue to utilize GoToMeeting and GoToWebinar to provide virtual access to our members. The PLTA homepage and COVID-19 Resource webpage on our website includes information and links to additional resources you may need and we will continue to keep these pages updated as information becomes available. Please reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

Stay safe!
Robin Kelsh, Executive Director
rkelsh@plta.org

Join us for the PLTA 99th Convention at the beautiful Omni Bedford Springs
New Dates: October 11 - 13, 2020!
The 99th Annual Convention will be held from October 11-13, 2020 and if you have not already done so, you will need to make new hotel reservations either online through the Omni website or call 814-623-8100. If you had a previous reservation you should have received a credit for the June dates. "PLTA Annual Meeting" Group Rate starts at $199.00 for deluxe rooms and $239 for resort view rooms, per room/per night plus 8% taxes. Please make your reservation prior to Thursday, September 10, 2020. After that date, room prices may increase and/or rooms may not be available. Be sure to register with PLTA as an attendee to join us for the 99th Annual Convention. The PLTA staff, committee and hotel are working together to make sure we have a successful and safe event. We hope to see you in Bedford this Fall!

Remote Online Notarization Legislation Update
The RON companion bills were moved in May to the opposite chamber and are still being reviewed at the committee level. Now more than ever the option for remote online notarization needs to be permanent legislation. To review the bill's information visit the PA General Assembly website for drafts of each bill: HB 2370 & SB 1097. Please utilize the information through this link to easily contact your local legislator to support this important piece of legislation.

Title Issues & Records Committee Update
Do documents keep getting rejected by a Recorder of Deeds Office? Have problems with getting accurate payoffs from a government entity? Can’t access the records in a County? These are just a few examples of the matters the Title Issues & Records Committee works to address. If you encounter any matters that you believe the Committee can address, please contact the Committee Chair, Carrie Mann, Esq. at (cmann@oldrepublictitle.com). Be sure to
COVID-19 County Office Status
The Committee continues its efforts to collect information on the operations of the county offices. Any new information we obtain will be added to the chart available on PLTA’s website. This includes a new column with information gathered regarding the Recorders’ positions on accepting documents remotely notarized by Pennsylvania notaries pursuant to SB841.

If you have any new information regarding a county’s status, please email Committee Chair, Carrie Mann (cmann@oldrepublictitle.com).

Philadelphia Department of Records Guidance on Operations Updated
The Department of Records of the City of Philadelphia has published new guidance on operations of the Records Department in light of COVID-19. The guidance can be found [here](#).

Education Committee Update
The Education Committee is planning its next course curriculum to meet the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 shutdown. They include the acceleration of the trend towards a more virtual closing process and the unfortunate consequences to homeowners of the coming economic downturn leading to a request for title coverage for modifications, foreclosures, deeds in lieu and other methods of disposing of real estate. Watch for announcements of live webinars to be beamed throughout the Commonwealth and beyond.

Welcome New Members*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title Agency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Bettis</td>
<td>Plus Real Estate Solutions 0-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Bonner</td>
<td>McNickle &amp; Bonner, LLP 3-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Darr</td>
<td>Richard Penn Bridge Land Abstract 3-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traci Miller</td>
<td>TP National Individual Title Agent</td>
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</tbody>
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*Subject to PLTA Executive Committee approval

Did You Know? ..... Add PLTA as a Safe Sender!
Pennsylvania Land Title Association emails may be going to your spam or being blocked by your firewall!

Please contact your IT Department and ask them to add the following domains to your Safe Sender list:
- ymem.net
- site-ym.com
- info@plta.org

We appreciate your assistance so we can continue to communicate with you on a regular basis!

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact info@plta.org or call us at 610-265-5980.

- If you'd like to have additional employees at your company receive informative emails from PLTA, email info@plta.org and provide us their name and contact information, including email address.
- If you'd like to renew your PLTA membership or join PLTA, click here or call 610-265-5980.
- Got News for News You Can Use? Send it to the PLTA Communications Committee at info@plta.org.

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PLTA Upcoming Events

**PLTA 99th Annual Convention**
**New Dates: October 11 - 13, 2020**
[Omni Resorts](#)
Bedford Springs, PA

**Upcoming PLTI Seminars:**
**Additional Webinars Coming Soon!**
Keep an eye on our website for our Fall 2020 Seminar Schedule, details to follow!

For More PLTI Seminars visit our [PLTI Calendar](#)
To take online courses visit: [www.pltionline.org](http://www.pltionline.org)

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**Pennsylvania Land Title Association 2019-2020 Officers**

- PLTA President - Chuck Nowicki, CLTP, NTP
- PLTA Vice President - Lisa McEntee, Esq., CLTP
- PLTA Treasurer - Todd Rowe, Esq., CLTP
- PLTA Secretary - Cindy Mills
- PLTA Immediate Past President - Danielle L. Chamberlain, CLTP
Central Chapter - Lisa Peters, CLTP
Lehigh Valley Chapter - Freddy Vasta, Jr.
Northeastern Chapter - Brian Foley, CLTP
South Central Chapter - Stacey Trimmer
South Eastern Chapter - Diana T. Sabol, CLTP
Western Chapter - Deb Chipman Reimer, CLTP

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Toll Free: 800-545-7584
F. 610-265-5998
Email: info@plta.org
PLTA website: www.plta.org
PLTI website: www.plti.org

Connect with PLTA on Social Media:

PLTA Committees
Interested in joining a committee?
Visit www.plta.org to learn more.

Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, June 15, 2020 @ 10:00 AM

Title Issues & Records Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 16, 2020 @ 3:00 PM

Education Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 17, 2020 @ 11:00 AM

Communications Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 24, 2020 @ 4:00 PM

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