



## "WORKING TOGETHER"

Property Records Education Partners (PREP)

[PREP Newsletter](#)

[Volume 32 - mid-December 2011](#)

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### PREP has a New Logo

The Property Records Education Partners (PREP) has a new logo! PREP is a subsidiary of PRIA and works at the local level to bring together government and business partners to solve problems that are relative to that particular area of the country. Of course, many PREP groups are discussing similar issues while also recognizing those things specific to their counties and communities.

The new logo is part of an overall repositioning of PREP to connect directly back to PRIA so that participants in a PREP Chapter understand the relationship between PRIA and PREP and that funding for PREP programs is provided by PRIA.



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### Organizing new PREP Chapters

We've heard from many of you that you'd like to start new PREP Chapters in your region. Excellent idea! There's no time like the present to keep our land records partnerships strong and our conversations together productive. We have materials ready for you to use, such as the [PREP Meeting Pack](#) which includes sample agendas, press releases, invitation and save the date letters.

#### In This Issue

- PREP has a new LOGO
- Organizing new PREP Chapters
- Hennepin County Recorder Clerk
- PREP Blog and PREP LinkedIn
- News from PREP Chapters - Colorado
- Links to National News
- ALTA News
- Advertise in PREP Newsletter

[Examples of PRIA's Products "2010/11 PREP Chapter Topics"](#)

So what are the first steps exactly? Here's a list that gives you an idea about first steps. You can access all this and much more on the [PREP website](#), and you can contact [Carolyn](#) anytime for help in any of these areas.

- 1. Create a list of individuals consisting of at least one representative from each sector- title, escrow, recording, lenders, underwriters, and vendors.** All sectors of the property records industry are encouraged to participate. If you already have some type of networking group, expand on it.
- 2. If you are from the private sector, ask someone from the public sector to assist you in creating the invitation list and organizing your first meeting.** If you are a government sector participant, recruit someone from the business sector to help you. The two of you will prepare for and facilitate the meeting until the chapter co-chairs are selected.
- 3. Pick a day, time and place for your first meeting,** keeping in mind the times less hectic for everyone.
- 4. Send an invitation** to all those on the list you created. Develop an agenda covering the purpose of the meeting and discussion items. Keep it simple. See the invitation and agenda samples on the PREP web pages.
- 5. Encourage participation.** Emphasize the importance of getting together!
- 6. Be sure to have an attendance sign-in sheet ready.** An efficient method is to print out your invitation list so that each attendee can simply sign or initial by his/her name. Ask that they verify and update contact information, particularly e-mail addresses and appoint someone to take minutes.



["How to get Ready for eRecording"](#)  
[Bulk Records Access and Cost \(other PRIA Standards and Publications\)](#)

**PREP Chapter Meetings**  
*Nov/Dec 2011*

- Northern California
- Missouri
- Red River MN/ND
- South Carolina UP
- SE Minnesota
- Central Florida
- Metro Minnesota

**Contact Information**

Do you have questions or suggestions on this newsletter or any updated information on co-chairs, emails, phone numbers etc. please contact us:  
[Carolyn Ableman](#)  
 PREP Coordinator  
[Mark Monacelli](#)  
 PRIA PREP Committee Co-Chair Recorder  
 St Louis County, Minnesota  
[Nick Hacker](#)  
 PRIA PREP Committee Co-Chair ALTA, Manager of Government Affairs

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**Hennepin County Recorder Dies Unexpectedly**

Mike Cunniff, Hennepin County Recorder and Register of Titles, died suddenly of natural causes on November 29. A Minneapolis native, Mike was a graduate of the University of Minnesota's School of Business and received his law degree from William Mitchell in St. Paul. He used his talents working for various divisions within Hennepin County Government Center for 42 years. He ran the Corrections Department, was a labor negotiator and most recently the Hennepin County Recorder and Register of Titles. He was president of the Minnesota Association of County Officers.

**[PREP Blog](#) and [PRIA/PREP LinkedIn Group](#)**

Go to or subscribe to the [PREP Blog](#) and join the [PRIA/PREP LinkedIn Group](#) - both are intended to provide multiple ways for us to communicate with each other and share current news articles.

**News From PREP Chapters:**

In this newsletter volume, we'll be highlighting the **Colorado** PREP Chapter. Each PREP Newsletter will post the recent "minutes" or

summaries from PREP Chapters. And you can also go directly to the [map](#) on the PRIA/PREP webpage and find all documents from Chapters across the country.

**Colorado PREP:**

Co-Chairs: Government, Sandy Hook at [sandyhook@elpasoco.com](mailto:sandyhook@elpasoco.com) and Business, David Floyd at [dfloyd@skld.com](mailto:dfloyd@skld.com)

The Colorado PREP Chapter met on September 29, 2011 in Brighton, CO. On the agenda was discussion of PRIA initiatives such as: eRecording excellence, GIS - public vs. private roles and cost vs. savings/efficiencies, Archival Disaster Recovery, and Access to Bulk Records and Privacy. The new Government co-chair was approved and that is Sandy Hook, Recording Manager for El Paso County. An update was given on activities of the Colorado Privacy Task Force-Legislative briefing, which has been completed and is being expanded into a white paper. The draft has been distributed to the task force as a whole. A presentation was given on Identity theft in Colorado - by Hazel Heckers, Identity Theft Victims Advocate for the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. A "Word on the Street" open forum followed and the group was asked about what is currently happening in their world and discussion about buying property, and refinance activity. 2012 PREP Meetings were planned and suggested topics discussed and solicited.



**Recent Links to National News**

[Mortgage Refinance Demand Jumped Last Week](#) - "Applications for refinancing on home mortgages jumped last week, even as demand for new home purchases dried up, an industry group said on Wednesday."

[MERS: A Twenty First Century Creation Navigating An Eighteenth Century Legal System](#) - "One need not be an expert in banking or real estate to have become acutely aware of the 2008 financial crisis and the housing bubble that largely precipitated it.... Perhaps in no area more than real estate is the fallout still clearly visible... One entity, the Mortgage Electronic Registration System (MERS) is emblematic of this problem."

[U.S Home Buyers Beware - This Is Not Your Father's Housing Market](#) - "It's a cliché, but it's also a truism: there's nothing like owning a home. Home ownership provides many advantages and, at least since World War II, owning a home has become part of the American dream."

[Recorder candidates worry land records would be neglected if post eliminated](#) - "McLean County Recorder Lee Newcom and his challenger in the upcoming primary are concerned the county's land records wouldn't get the attention they need if voters eliminate the office and its responsibilities are merged with another county office."

[Florida leads country in mortgage fraud cases](#) - "Florida retained its top ranking in the nation for mortgage fraud litigation through September as

millions of dollars in bad boom-time loans continue to be discovered by law enforcement and lenders."

## **ALTA NEWS: ALTA Announces 2011-12 Board and Executive Committees**

ALTA is pleased to present its 2011-12 ALTA Board of Governors, as well as the Abstracters and Title Insurance Agents Executive Committee, and the Title Insurance Underwriters Executive Committee. Nominations were voted on during the 2011 Annual Convention, which was held Oct. 12-15 in Charleston, S.C. Randy Yeager, president and CEO of Old Republic Title Insurance Co., installed the Board members during the closing general session of the convention.

### **Board of Governors**

**President:** Christopher Abbinante (Fidelity National Title Group, Jacksonville, Fla.)

**President-Elect:** Frank Pellegrini (Prairie Title, Oak Park, Ill.)

**Treasurer:** John M. Hollenbeck (First American Title Insurance Co., Santa Ana, Calif.)

**Chair of Finance Committee:** J. Herschel Beard (Marshall County Abstract Co., Madill, Okla.)

**Agents Section Chair:** Diane Evans (Land Title Guarantee Co., Denver, Colo.)

**Agents Section Rep:** William Burding (Orange Coast Title Family of Companies, Santa Ana, Calif.)

**Agents Section Rep:** Daniel D. Mennenoh (H.B. Wilkinson Title Co., Galena, Ill.)

**Underwriters Section Chair:** Rob Chapman (Old Republic National Title Insurance Co., Minneapolis, Minn.)

**Underwriters Section Rep:** Peter J. Birnbaum (Attorneys' Title Guaranty Fund, Chicago, Ill.)

**Underwriters Section Rep:** Michael B. Skalka (Stewart Title Guaranty Co., Houston, Texas)

**Immediate Past President:** Anne L. Anastasi (Genesis Abstract, Hatboro, Pa.)

### **Abstracters and Title Insurance Agents Executive Committee**

**Chair:** Diane Evans (Land Title Guarantee Co., Denver, Colo.)

**Vice-Chair:** Joshua M. Reisetter (Dakota Abstract & Title Co., Brookings, S.D.)

**Secretary:** Celia C. Flowers (East Texas Title Companies, Tyler, Tex.)

**Three-year term:** William Burding (Orange Coast Title Family of Companies, Santa Ana, Calif.)

**Three-year term:** Craig Haskins (Knight-Barry Title Group, Milwaukee, Wisc.)

**Three-year term:** Brian Pitman (Independence Title Co., Austin, Tex.)

**Two-year term:** J. Herschel Beard (Marshall County Abstract Co., Madill, Okla.)

**Two-year term:** Daniel D. Mennenoh (H.B. Wilkinson Title Co., Galena, Ill.)

**Two-year term:** Joshua M. Reisetter (Dakota Abstract & Title Co., Brookings, S.D.)

**One-year term:** Celia C. Flowers (East Texas Title Companies, Tyler, Tex.)

**One-year term:** R. Norwood Gay, III (Attorneys' Title Fund Services, Orlando, Fla.)

**One-year term:** Mike Nichols (The Jones Abstract & Title Co., Indianapolis, Ind.)

**Title Insurance Underwriters Executive Committee**

**Chair:** Rob Chapman (Old Republic National Title Insurance Co., Minneapolis, Minn.)

**Vice-Chair:** Richard J. Patterson (Connecticut Attorneys Title Insurance Co., Rocky Hill, Conn.)

**Secretary:** Steven Day (Fidelity National Title Group, Jacksonville, Fla.)

**Three-year term:** Mary O'Donnell (Westcor Land Title Insurance Co., Winter Park, Fla.)

**Three-year term:** W. Morris Fine (Investors Title Insurance Co., Chapel Hill, N.C.)

**Three-year term:** J. Scott McCall (Title Resource Group, Dallas, Tex.)

**Two-year term:** Peter J. Birnbaum (Attorneys' Title Guaranty Fund, Chicago, Ill.)

**Two-year term:** Steven Day (Fidelity National Title Group, Jacksonville, Fla.)

**Two-year term:** Richard J. Patterson (Connecticut Attorneys Title Insurance Co., Rocky Hill, Conn.)

**One-year term:** Ted Rogers (The Security Title Guarantee Corp. of Baltimore, Baltimore, Md.)

**One-year term:** John Hollenbeck (First American Title Insurance Co., Santa Anna, Calif.)

**One-year term:** Michael B. Skalka (Stewart Title Guaranty Co., Houston, Texas)

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**Did you know that we distribute this newsletter to over 7000 addresses in the real property records industry every two weeks?**

Please consider advertising in the PREP Newsletter. Your advertising dollars will not only pay for this level of distribution, but will also be supporting PRIA's mission and PREP Chapters across the country.

We are committed to broadening the PREP network in order to provide a larger audience to our business partners, so we need your financial support. Contact [Carolyn](#) (National PREP Coordinator) for advertising rates and more information.

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