



"WORKING TOGETHER"  
Property Records Education Partners  
(PREP)



[PREP Newsletter](#)

[Volume 39 - March 2012](#)



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## Join PRIA and Get Your Voice Heard in Creating Standards and Best Practices for the Land Records Industry



2012 has been a good year for PRIA in increasing its membership, but there are many recording jurisdictions and industry stakeholders that are unrepresented and can benefit by becoming PRIA members. PRIA is not just about educational opportunities, it's about creating standards and best practices and provides you with an opportunity to have your voice heard.



PRIA received feedback at the Winter Symposium - March 2012 - that PRIA has become THE "go to" Association that gets things done, and we'd love to have you be part of that team. Please contact [PRIA](#) or the [PRIA members](#) within your local [PREP Chapters](#) to find out more about how you can be part of a winning team!



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## News from PREP Chapters

Each PREP Newsletter will highlight one or two PREP Chapters with a brief summary or overview of recent meetings. You can also go to the PREP Chapter locator [MAP](#) and look up all minutes/agendas from each chapter. In this newsletter, we'll be highlighting these chapters: [SE Minnesota and Metro Minnesota](#)

### SE Minnesota PREP Chapter:

**Co-chairs: Government, Kelly Callahan at [kelly.callahan@co.freeborn.mn.us](mailto:kelly.callahan@co.freeborn.mn.us) and Business, Jim Ohly at [jim@ohlylaw.com](mailto:jim@ohlylaw.com)**

### In This Issue

Join PRIA to Make a Difference  
News from PREP Chapters - SE Minnesota and Metro Minnesota  
King County Recruits for a Recording Manager  
PREP Blog and PREP LinkedIn Links to National News  
ALTA News  
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Examples of PRIA's Products  
["2010/11 PREP Chapter Topics"](#)  
["How to get Ready for eRecording"](#)  
[Bulk Records Access and Cost \(other PRIA Standards and Publications\)](#)

The SE Minnesota PREP Chapter met on February 15, 2012. The agenda included the following presentations and topics: 1) **"You're burying what?"**: Richard Hoffman with Freeborn County Environmental Services presented the group with changes in Minnesota Statutes, Section 17.135 law and forms concerning farm solid waste disposal; 2) **Certified copies of documents from the court**: Kelly Callahan posed the question to the group on what your organization requires regarding certified copies as an attorney, lender, searcher, closer, title insurer, recorder. Discussion was that most of the time it is an underwriter requirement; 3) **Homestead market value exclusions**: Mark Krupski with Olmsted County Property Records & Licensing presented an overview of the Homestead Market Value Exclusion and how this replaces the Homestead Credit; 4) The County Recorder's from Mower and Fillmore counties gave their updates. **The next PREP Meeting will be held on May 9, 2012. [See complete minutes.](#)**

### Metro Minnesota PREP Chapter:

**Co-chairs: Government, Jennifer Wagenius at [jennifer.wagenius@co.washington.mn.us](mailto:jennifer.wagenius@co.washington.mn.us) and Business, Darlene Missler at [dmissler@firstam.com](mailto:dmissler@firstam.com)**

The Metro Minnesota PREP Meeting was held on February 9, 2012. The agenda included the following: 1) Melissa Taphorn, Deputy Executive Director, Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority did a presentation on Foreclosure Mitigation; 2) ERERC updates were given including the current usage rates of the ECRV. 40 counties are currently e-Recording; 3) Legislative updates: the MN Bar will have no real property bills in 2012; 4) MLTA has reduced the membership fee for counties to join. A county may join MLTA for \$150.00 annually; 5) Purchase money mortgages: MS#358.14; 6) Rejecting documents: Title companies prefer the county return the whole recording package even if only 1 doc is being rejected; 7) Discussion revolved around how counties proceed when a Power of Attorney has been filed in the office previously and today a Satisfaction, by Power of Attorney, is presented for filing in Torrens; 8) New HUD-1 settlement statement draft version, which is now 3 pages long, will be 5 pages long. Title companies report there are many issues with this document; 9) March 14<sup>th</sup> there will be a CLE course on "Working with Torrens Property" presented. Kimball Foster (Hennepin County) is the course chair; 10) Check out the website: <http://prepchapters.org/2012/01/31/alta-meets-with-federal-reserve-staff-national-lien-registry-not-intended-to-replace-local-recording-from-alta-advocacy-update-13012/> ALTA Advocacy Update 1/30/12 - meeting with Federal Reserve regarding January 4, 2012 white paper. The next meetings in 2012 will be held on these dates: April 12, June 7, September 13, and November 8. [See complete minutes.](#)

### PREP Chapter Meetings March/April 2012

Connecticut  
Metro Minnesota  
Washington State  
Central Texas  
North Central Texas  
SW 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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## King County, in Seattle, Washington, is looking for a Recording Manager

King County is recruiting for a Recording Manager. This office processes nearly 2000 transactions per day in its downtown Seattle Office, with half of those transactions as e-recordings. This position manages 29 employees who are responsible for the recording functions and 7 community service centers (providing other limited county services in suburban communities). This position is a member of the senior management team for the Records and Licensing Services Division. Additional information regarding the position can be found at:

[http://agency.governmentjobs.com/kingcounty/default.cfm?action=viewJob&jobID=437725&hit\\_count=yes](http://agency.governmentjobs.com/kingcounty/default.cfm?action=viewJob&jobID=437725&hit_count=yes)



## Stay in Touch with Land Records Issues Across the Country

Almost every day, we post news articles, and PRIA and PREP Chapter information, so feel free to subscribe to both the [PREP Blog](#) and the [PRIA/PREP LinkedIn Group](#) to stay in touch.

## Recent Links to National News

### [State Agency Warns Consumers of Forged and Fraudulent Property Deeds](#)

- "The California Department of Real Estate (DRE) issued a Consumer Alert last week about the growing number of scams that involve forged or fraudulent property deeds and what consumers can do to protect themselves against such fraud. The DRE is a state department whose mission is to protect the public interests in real estate matters."

[Banks ranked by best foreclosure deals](#) - "In anticipation that the \$25 billion settlement to remedy the robo-signing scandal will grease the foreclosure process, it would behoove prospective buyers of bank-repossessed homes to know where to find the best deals."

[Essex Official Wants to Sue Over Mortgage Mess](#) - "John O'Brien is a national folk hero to anti-foreclosure activists. The Southern Essex Register of Deeds has garnered national attention by accusing big banks of acting like a "criminal enterprise." After an audit revealed widespread flaws in banks' handling of mortgage paperwork, O'Brien likened his Salem registry to a crime scene."

[Home Prices in 20 U.S. Cities Likely Fell at Slower Rate](#) - "Home prices in 20 U.S. cities probably fell at a slower pace in the year to January, another sign of stabilization in the residential real estate market, economists said before a report today."

[Top 10 States for 'Underwater' Mortgages](#) - "The number of U.S. homes that are worth less than their mortgages rose late last year and is now back to 2009 levels."

[Maine supreme court upholds law setting copying fees for counties](#) - "The Maine Supreme Judicial Court on Tuesday ruled unanimously in favor of six counties in a lawsuit over the bulk copying of electronic documents in registries of deeds. The justices also upheld a 2011 law that set the fees counties may charge for electronic copies of documents."

## ALTA NEWS: Get Powerful Advice on Operating and Growing Your Business

After successfully holding five [Agents and Abstracters Forums](#) last year, ALTA has again scheduled five forums in 2012 to provide a low-cost and unparalleled opportunity for agents and abstracters to meet with peers, and exchange ideas, experiences and opinions on issues that affect the bottom line.

There are five [Agents and Abstracters Forums](#) for you to participate in this year. The first forum was held Jan. 29 in Phoenix, and Dick Reass, president of RynohLive, gave a presentation on the need for escrow standards. The remaining forums will be in March 25 in Louisville, April 22 in Dallas, May 20 in Minneapolis and Sept. 23 in Richmond.

The forums are scheduled with small agents and abstracters time and money kept in mind, which is why these meetings are held quality, but affordable locations close to an airport. Since many small agents and abstracters can't be away from the office, the meetings are held on the weekend. Registration for each forum is \$50.

## Advertise in "Working Together" - the PREP Newsletter

We now distribute this newsletter to over 7100 addresses in the real property records industry every two weeks.

And we'd love to have you sponsor and advertise in this newsletter. Please see the [media kit](#) on the PRIA website and check out page 5 to see PREP's e-Newsletter advertising rates for the rest of the PRIA year, ending on July 31, 2012. Or contact [Carolyn Ableman](#) at any time for more PREP information.

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