



PENNSYLVANIA
LAND TITLE
ASSOCIATION

Your Source for Title News in PA!

PLTA eNews

June 2015

Common Ground

Welcome New Members!

Deanna Conte
Maher Duessel
Company Affiliate

Jennifer Holt
Charles W. Merriam & Son, Inc. aka The Merriam Agency
Company Affiliate

Andy Horbowy
Nationwide Search & Settlement Services LLC
Title Agency: 0-2 Employees

Marc Shaw
World Wide Land Transfer, Inc.
Title Agency: 11+ Employees

Seth Tipton
Individual Title Agent



Closing Remarks

As the song "Closing Time" by Semisonic goes, "Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." This seems very applicable to me in two fashions. First, we are facing pretty much the end of the HUD-1 and are moving on to the new closing disclosure forms come August 1. Secondly, at the PLTA Convention at the Omni Bedford Springs I officially ended my presidency and have turned the reigns over to John T. Croke, Sr., CLTP. It has been a rewarding experience and I am grateful for the opportunity to have served the PLTA membership. - *Kris Burns, CLTP*

Upcoming Seminars

[Deep Dive into the New Closing Disclosure Form](#)

July 7, 2015
Kopper's Building
Pittsburgh, PA

Upcoming Events

[PLTA South Central Chapter Officer Installation](#)

June 17, 2015
John Wright Restaurant
Wrightsville, PA

Independence Day Observed
PLTA Office Closed
July 3, 2015

Thanks to our 2015 Convention Sponsors!

Boardwalk Sponsor:

94th Annual PLTA Convention a Huge Success!



PLTA Members and guests joined together for the 94th Annual PLTA Convention from May 31 - June 2, 2015 in beautiful Bedford Springs! ALTA President-Elect John Hollenbeck, NTP administered the oath of office to the new slate of PLTA Officers. Congratulations to our new board!

Committee chairs who ended their four years of service to PLTA were recognized for their outstanding service:

Laura Fox, Esq., CLTP, as outgoing chair of the Legislative & Judicial Committee.

Jim O'Rourke, as outgoing chair of the Communications Committee.

Len Shatz, Esq., CLTP, as outgoing chair of the Education Committee.

Professional Designation Chair Chuck Nowicki, CLTP awarded 3 Professional Designations: **Sandy Bahn, ALTP**, **Bill Drobins, CLTP** and **Kris Burns, CLTP**. **Deb McClarigan, CLTP** was awarded the *Albert E. Pentecost Service Award*. **Joan T. Decker** the Commissioner of Records Philadelphia County was awarded the *Froggatt Award* for her invaluable contribution to the betterment of the Pennsylvania land title industry. **Jon R. Effner, Esq., CLTP** was awarded the *James G. Schmidt Distinguished Service Award*. And newly installed PLTA President John T. Croke, Sr., CLTP presented **Kris Burns, CLTP** the Presidents Award for her outstanding leadership and service over the last year. Congratulations to all of our award winners! Special thank you to our amazing speakers: John Hollenbeck from First Amerian and President-Elect of the American Land Title Association, Nicole Lynch from SoftPro and all of the "Fraud in the Real World" panelists: Joan T. Decker the Commissioner of Records Philadelphia County, Laura Fox, Esq., CLTP, Len Shatz, Esq. CLTP and Frank McGovern, Esq., CLTP. Photos are available through our wonderful photographer's website! Visit [LadyoftheLens](#) to view and purchase photos. Thank you to all who attended and helped to make this convention a huge success! GAME ON!



ALTA Awards PLTA's Own Shonna Cardello, CLTP, NTP!

During its Federal Conference and Lobby Day, ALTA honored four individuals for their efforts in helping to raise a record amount of donations in 2014 for the Title Industry Political Action Committee (TIPAC). TIPAC raised a record \$460,000 in 2014. Shonna Cardello, CLTP, NTP of White Rose Settlement Services in York, PA, was the winner of the **Outstanding State Award**. This award goes to the person who raised the most money during their state convention in 2014. Last year, Cardello raised over \$11,000 at the PLTA convention. Shonna also received the **2015 Title Action Network Agent Recruiter of the Year!** This award honors an agent, real estate attorney or abstractor who worked tirelessly to recruit new TAN members and serve as an ambassador for TAN throughout the industry. Over the past year, Shonna has hosted several TAN events and recruited more than 100 new TAN members. Congratulations, Shonna. We are PLTA proud!



Railroad Registration Sponsor:
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Old Republic National Title Insurance Co.

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Stewart Title Guarantee Co.

Monday Millionaire Break Sponsor:
Simplifile

Tuesday Tycoon Break Sponsor:
WFG National Title Insurance Company

Special thanks to the Pennsylvania Land Title Institute and Board Chairman Dwight Edwards for donating their services in acquiring accreditation for the convention education and processing the credits.

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
[Diane Laskowski](#) - Administrator

ALTA 2015 Federal Conference and Lobby Day

PLTA Members participated in ALTA's 2015 Federal Conference and Lobby Day in Washington, D.C. in May. The Pennsylvania contingency met with legislators to explain the value of what we do to protect consumers and share how federal decisions impact our industry. The group met with Congressman, Senators and their staff: Mike Fitzpatrick (R-pa, 8), Keith Rothfus (R-pa, 12), Scott Perry (R-pa, 4), Charlie Dent (R-pa, 15), Ryan Costello (R-pa, 6), Pat Meehan (R-pa, 7), Bob Casey (D-pa) and Pat Toomey (R-pa). During the meetings attendees were able to encourage members of Congress to support legislation that would enact a hold-harmless period through the end of the year following implementation of the TILA-RESPA Integrated Disclosures rule. Representatives were also asked to urge the bureau to amend the TRID rule to allow the title and settlement industry to accurately disclose the price of title insurance to consumers. Finally, members of Congress were asked to avoid any changes that would negatively affect Americans' investments in housing and real estate when considering tax reform. Thanks to all of the Members and staff who participated: John T. Croke, Sr., CLTP (Neshaminy Abstract), Shonna Cardello, CLTP, NTP (White Rose Settlement Services), Barbara Griest (Trident Land Transfer), Lisa DeWolf (Trident Land Transfer), and Robin Kelsh (PLTA).

Professional Designation Committee News

The PLTA's ALTP/CLTP Application has been revised and anyone who would like to apply is welcome to [download the application](#) for submission. If you have any questions please contact [Chair Chuck Nowicki, CLTP](#).

Communications Committee News

The PLTA is now on Twitter: [@pltainfo](#) and continues to post news and upcoming events on our [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages. Like and Share our posts! Welcome new Chair [Brian Foley](#) and many thanks to Jim O'Rourke for his years of service on the Communications Committee.

Title Issues & Records Committee News

Berks County Recorder of Deeds Fred Sheeler has announced that a full property legal description is no longer required to record a document so long as the document references a description in a previously recorded deed. PLTA applauds this stance as it eliminates the risk of error associated with transposing descriptions each time a document is recorded while still remaining compliant with state recording laws. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact Committee Chairperson [Lisa McEntee](#) or [Robin Kelsh](#) at the PLTA office.

Legislative & Judicial Committee News

Please welcome our new Committee Chairperson [Keith Weller, Esq.](#) and we would like to thank Laura Fox, Esq., CLTP for her years of service at the helm of the L&J Committee!

Education Committee News

Please welcome our new Committee Chairperson [Paul Trefz, CLTP](#) and we would like to thank Len Shatz, Esq., CLTP for all of his years of service leading the Education Committee!

Pennsylvania Land Title Association 2015-2016 Officers

PLTA President - John T. Croke, Sr., CLTP
PLTA Vice President - Brian Zulli, Esq.
PLTA Treasurer - Frank McGovern, Esq., CLTP
PLTA Secretary - Danielle L. Chamberlain, CLTP
PLTA Immediate Past President - Kris Burns, CLTP

Central Chapter - Lisa Peters, CLTP
Lehigh Valley Chapter - Kathie Vresics
Northeastern Chapter - Barb Mikielski
South Central Chapter - Stacey Trimmer
South Eastern Chapter - Diana Sabol, CLTP
Western Chapter - Debra D. Chipman Reimer, CLTP

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