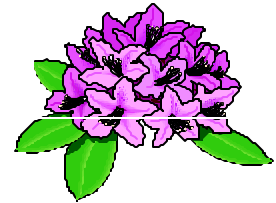


# THE RECORDER



Published by Mark A. Monacelli, St. Louis County

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## From the Prez.

Hello from beautiful Northwest

Minnesota. It is difficult to believe that only a couple of weeks ago we had some snow up here and today we have highs in the eighties. Time is elapsing quickly and we will soon all be together at the Summer Conference. When we were planning the conference, concern was expressed that the first day of the conference is on a Sunday and is also Father=s day.

Certainly some of us will be spending some quality time with family on that day.

Therefore, we decided not to hold any sessions on Sunday. We will have registration in the lobby beginning at 4:00 on Sunday and some time available in the evening for socializing. I am looking forward to visiting with everyone again.

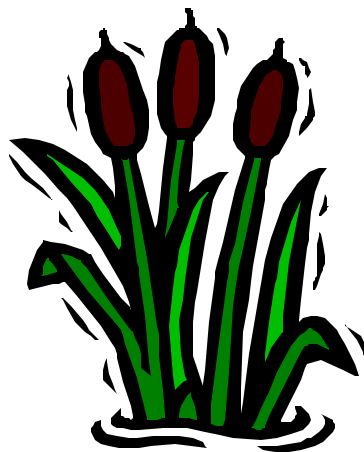
Registration will be available again in the meeting room on Monday morning to allow those who did not register on Sunday.

We=re having a little more of a relaxed conference this year. It seems that we always pack so many meetings into such a short period of time it would be nice to Akick back@ a little bit.

I am just about ready to go to the lake on this beautiful Friday afternoon to catch up on some ANo Stress@ time. It seems that none of us can get enough of that due to the busy and hectic times and it never seems to end. I hope everyone has a great summer I hope to see you at conference!

*Ken Schmalz*

*Pennington County Recorder*



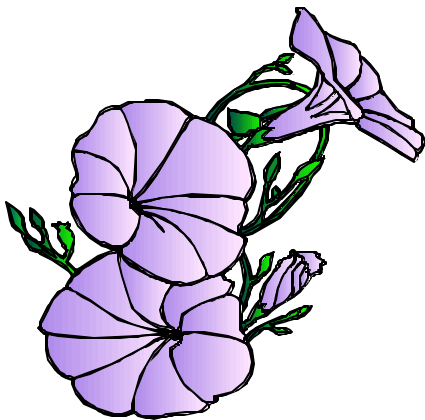
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**Abstract Committee**  
*Sue Alberts, Dodge County*

**The Abstract Committee met on April 18, at the MCIT building in St. Paul. Representatives from MCIT met with the committee to clear up some recent issues that had arisen regarding licensing for county abstracters and concerns regarding liability and bonding. Basically, it was brought to light that county recorders have no need to actually be licensed and therefore they have no need for a separate bond. It was the consensus of the committee that being a "licensed abstracter" was a plus as a qualification when running for office, which is the main reason, most recorders became licensed. MCIT representatives also presented a draft of the AALERT® which all counties should have received in the mail regarding abstracting and bonding which also helped to clarify the situation.**

**There will be a presentation by the Abstract Committee at the summer conference on Monday, June 17 at 8:30 - 9:30 AM. MCIT will be present and will help to further deal with the "licensing/bonding/ liability" issues. All recorders that perform abstracting as well as any other interested county recorders are welcome and encouraged to attend.**



**UCC**  
*Kay Wrucke, Martin County*

**The ProFile system is just a few short steps to completion. One step is getting the remainder of the backlog images of UCCs into the system. The target completion date was May 31, 2002 but an extension date will be needed for several counties and for the reloading of images with the ATI vendor. Processing searches will be very efficient once all the images are installed. The biggest step will be the many enhancements that will be added in the future. This is an on going process, but equally beneficial to satellite offices.**

**The UCC Committee and OSS Work Group have recently discussed issues involving CNS, Ag. Liens and Fixture Filings. Our summer conference will include an update from these groups and from Bonita Harvieux on ProFile. Phil Kunkel will represent the MN Bar Association to review and discuss the changes in legislation with Ag. Liens.**

**It is amazing what has happened over the past year with the Revision of Article 9. I personally would not like to revisit last year at this time, but only look at the accomplishments that have been made by each county. The challenges our offices have had to deal with along with frustrated deputies, process, and procedure changes, piles of papers, emails, manuals, and updates is truly overwhelming.**

**We continue to have a strong working relationship with the Office of the Secretary of State. Minnesota statewide UCC system is second to none. As county Recorders we have had an opportunity to continue our revenue and customer services in UCC filings and searching. We need to look forward to the future enhancements to the system, training sessions for our deputies, complete image storage, and uniformity for our customers throughout the state.**

**VITAL STATISTICS**  
*By Cheryl Perish, Todd County*

**B**et you never thought you'd see the day that you wouldn't be filing birth certificates. And that some if not all of your funeral homes would be filing deaths directly with the state. It's been a long and tiring process but I think we are surviving VRV. And now that you've been working with it for a while you have to admit it's a nice system. Later this summer (or early fall) the doctors should be instructed and participate doing their part in the Electronic Death Certificate (EDC) process. The state first wanted the Local Registrars to get comfortable with the system. The second phase was getting the Funeral Homes activated. The third stage is getting the Doctors involved. Actually, they haven't really said it, but I think the time frame was when the complaining from the Local Registrars became a low grumble; they opened the system up to the funeral homes. Then, when their complaining becomes a low grumble, they'll open it up to the doctors. Can you imagine having members from all three of those associations as vocal as we know the Recorder can be??? Yikes it could cause a golden system to crash.

By the time you read this we should know who has been awarded the new security paper contract for our VRV system. I, for one, certainly hope that we stay with the same company. They are very easy to work with and I love their paper. I haven't heard of any major changes coming our way where vitals is concerned but I think Barb and MDH keeps us pretty informed.

Feel free to give me a call if you run into something I can assist with. If I can't answer your question, or help you I know that Barb and her staff at MDH will gladly assist you.



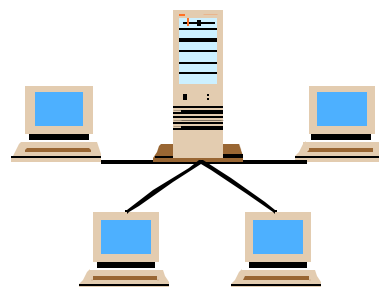
**ERER Report**  
*Mark A. Monacelli, St. Louis County*

After a tremendous amount of work from a variety of individuals, the bill to extend the life of the task force by one year and to increase the Torrens fee by .50 was approved by the House and Senate. Governor Ventura then vetoed the bill. The House overrode the veto by a vote of 110-11 and the Senate did likewise by a vote of 55-0.

The Pilot Sub-Committee has narrowed the pilot county choices down to seven: Anoka, Carver, Hennepin, Lyon, Renville, Washington, Dakota, and Roseau. Of these seven counties, up to three will be picked to take part in Phase One of the pilot program, which will involve mortgage satisfactions. Phase two, several months from now, will be transaction based; that being the mortgage, deed, assignment, etc.

The ER Task Force continues to make progress in not only addressing electronic recording, but dealing with problems such as antiquated statutes, balancing out the Torrens and Abstract fee schedules, and a number of other items that are contained in the ER work plan.

I know some are technologically challenged, but the ER Task Force is taking a proactive position in dealing with the next wave of technology that we will face-Electronic Recording. Remember, if you choose not to record documents electronically, you do not have to. On the other hand, if you choose to record documents electronically, the standards will be there for you to adopt. Thus, giving the 87 Minnesota counties uniformity in the electronic world. Stay tuned and we will have much more at the Summer Conference!



## TORRENS

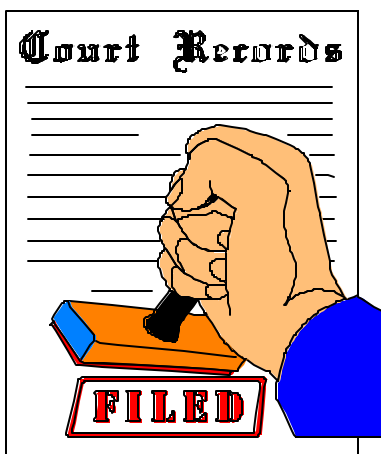
*Michelle Ashe, Sherburne County*

Since the winter conference the Torrens Committee met and discussed a number of items. One of those was the elimination of Affidavits of Purchaser of Registered Land. Some of the issues with Affidavits are often they are not correctly completed or not completed at all. Many counties also reported that persons other than the purchaser or the Agent® are routinely filling them out. The committee realizes that not all Recorders are in favor of the elimination and there will be time for further discussion at summer conference.

The committee also reviewed a request from Minnesota Department of Revenue to work with them in an effort to bring attention to MS #270.69, which states that State Tax Liens be memorialized on certificates. A representative from the Department of Revenue will be present at summer conference to talk more about this.

And probably most important, is the passing of legislation that increases the surcharge in Torrens from \$4.50 to \$5.00, with the additional .50 going to the ERER fund. This was to correct an oversight in original legislation that affected Abstract property. Please remember that only items that originally had a \$4.50 surcharge have the .50 increase. If you are unsure as to which items those are you may want to look at MS 508.82, which talks about Torrens fees. The amendment is effective until June 30, 2004.

Lastly, please forward your Torrens questions, comments or examples to Michelle Ashe for group discussion at the summer conference.



## Military Discharges

There currently is a document being distributed to retired military Air Force personal stating that they should contact their county recorder and ask that their DD214 be removed from the public record. If the recorder refuses to remove the record, the retirees are told to obtain a court order requesting the same. While county recorders are sympathetic to veterans' concerns, recorders have no statutory authority to remove a record. Minnesota should consider, as some other states already have, adopting certain tangible interest requirements in order to obtain a copy of a Military Discharge. In the meantime, MCRA should develop a position on this issue.

### Certificate of Achievement

Awarded to:

Awarded by:

*St. Louis County Recorder, Mark A. Monacelli was cited in the February 11, 2002 issue of the Wall Street Journal for his involvement in providing leadership in developing national standards for electronic recording of documents.*

## On the Lighter Side of Life...

Mary Ann Rich, our beloved St. Louis County UCC expert, retired recently. At her retirement gathering she shared some of the requests she received over the years. All fun intended...

*An elderly man was surprised birth certificates were \$14.00! He said, "The doctor charged only \$8.00 when I was born in 1917 and he made house calls."*

*UCC message from Meeker County inquiring about imaging: "How many counties imagine? Do you imagine previous documents?"*

*When a woman caller was given her parcel code she asked, "Is that toll free?"*

*A Birth and Death customer wanted to know if he needed to renew his birth certificate.*

*Collateral on a UCC -1: Sea King 14' aluminum boat.*

*On a Contract for Deed, the marital status was for the grantors was listed as "A father" and "A son."*

*A man thought because he had a fishing license he could get a free birth certificate.*

*A woman who did not have money for a birth certificate wanted to know if she could borrow one for 15 minutes.*

*A phone caller inquired, "I have a question. Am I speaking to the right person?"*

*Received a written request from a man who wanted his middle name changed to Ronald, not ETAL.*

*A phone customer explained that when she was born, her mother passed out and her father put the wrong name on the birth certificate.*

*A letter requesting a birth certificate was received from a man who has been a Vikings fan all his life. Although born once, he has died every time the Viks. go to the playoffs! Then they rip his heart out and he dies with them. He asked us to work on getting Tampa Bay thrown out of the Central Division.*

*A runner, when told a UCC should be filed in Douglas County, WI, said, "Where's that, in back of the room?"*

*A man asked how much a copy of a birth certificate was (\$14) and how much for the second copy (\$8). Then said he'd take the second copy.*

*A man came to the Birth and Death counter and asked for his birth control.*

*On a Death Certificate; deceased owned a gun shop and his occupation was listed as a survivalist.*

*A FedEx contained 5 documents- 2 for St. Louis County, Minnesota and 3 for St. Louis County, Missouri. The name of the sender was Precision Corporate Services-Boston.*

*When a phone caller was inquiring about a parcel of property, they were asked if it was Abstract or Torrens Title. He said, "It's lakeshore."*

*There is a funeral home in Blackduck, MN called Cease Funeral Home.*







# Minnesota



**Directions From the North:** On Hwy 371, proceed south past Nisswa approximately 10 miles to the second intersection with County Road 77, turn right, continue 6 miles to Cragun's entrance.

**Directions From the Northeast:** Take Hwy 210 through Brainerd to the intersection of Hwy 371 North Turn right on to Hwy 371 and proceed north 3 miles to County Road 77 (*Pine Beach Road*), turn left on CR 77 and continue 6 miles to Cragun's entrance. : On Hwy 210 go 5 1/2 miles east of Pillager and turn left

**Directions From the West:** on County Road 18. Go 3 1/2 miles to County Road 77, turn left and go about a mile to Cragun's entrance.

**Directions From the Metro Area and points South:** Take Hwy 94 west to the Clearwater exit, then turn right (east) at exit and follow to Hwy 10. Take Hwy 10 north to Little Falls, and then continue north on Hwy 371 towards Brainerd. Then take the new Hwy 371 Brainerd bypass (*C. Elmer Anderson Memorial Hwy*). At the junction of Hwy 371 & 210 continue north on 371 for 3 miles to County Road 77 (*Pine Beach Road*). Turn left on CR 77; continue 6 miles to Cragun's entrance.

