



Carolina Update

NCLTA's Exclusive Report to its Members

Contents

2

2012 Annual Convention – Looking Forward to the Low Country – Wild Dunes, Isle of Palms, South Carolina

3

NCLTA at Real Property Section Annual Meeting

4

Membership

4

Sam Mann Memorial Award and NCLTA Service Award

President's Message

By Ryan Wainio



As the temperatures in North Carolina are consistently pushing 60 degrees I am not sure whether I am writing this message for the Extended Fall or Early Spring NCLTA Newsletter. In any event, I hope you all finished

out 2011 healthy and happy and are looking forward to a productive 2012. The Association certainly finished on a high note hosting its second CLE on Solid Trust Accounting in December at the Elon University School of Law and has opened 2012 with an eye toward the future of the industry.

I would like to thank Taby Cruden of First American for leading us through 2011. I am pleased that she will continue to serve the Association as Immediate Past President. In addition, I would like to welcome Lisa McSweeney from Fidelity to the Executive Committee as she will serve in the office of Secretary. Matt Powers from Morehead Title (Vice President) and Jay Williams from Chicago Title (Treasurer) were also inducted as officers. Carolyn Snipes of Fidelity leaves the Board after five years of exemplary service and on behalf of all members of the NCLTA I would like to thank Carolyn for her time and effort. Finally, after a short hiatus Candice Williams from The Title Company of North Carolina reprises her role on the Executive Committee as General Counsel.

In looking back at 2011 I hope everyone who attended the annual convention enjoyed their time at the Grove Park. In addition to continuing education the convention gave us a chance to get to know each other better

on a personal level and share perspectives on issues that affect our industry on a daily basis. Attendees were able to float down the French Broad River, relax at the world famous Grove Park Spa and get their groove on at the Friday night banquet to the sounds of Skate Rink Jukebox. At the CLE program Drew Foley of Investors Title updated us on important case law developments and David Ferrell, our lobbyist with Vandeventer Black, gave us the rundown on the happenings in Raleigh. We learned about the pitfalls of transactions with property on both sides of the border from Teri Stomski with Rogers Townsend & Thomas in Columbia and the current President of the Palmetto Land Title Association. Pat Kelly and Ryan Hoffman from Johnston, Allison & Hord in Charlotte gave us an informative and entertaining claims update. Katherine Wilkerson, Chair of the Real Property Section of the NC Bar Association, got us up to speed on the activities of the Section and Frank Pellegrini, from Prairie Title in Oak Park, Illinois and the 2012 President-Elect of the ALTA Board of Governors gave us an update on the work of the American Land Title Association. We were lucky to have back Tim Quinlan from Wells Fargo who gave us an informative, if not uplifting, economic update. I was very pleased to have a couple of new faces speak to the attendees this year. Mel Wright with the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism gave us an hour of ethics and focused on the importance of mentoring in the legal profession and Steve Amos with Stewart Engineering in Charlotte went over the new ALTA/ACSM Survey Standards. Please put a placeholder on your calendar because in September we will travel to Wild Dunes in Isles of Palms,

continued on page 3

2012 Annual Convention – Looking Forward to the Low Country – Wild Dunes, Isle of Palms, South Carolina

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NCLTA's 2012 Annual Convention will be held at Wild Dunes on the Isle of Palm, SC. This is a favorite destination for NCLTA members and we hope that you will plan to attend. Save the dates now: September 13-15.

NCLTA once again will embrace the casual flair of the Low Country and plans to incorporate resort casual dress code to the Annual Convention. Plan for a dressed-down, more casual Annual Convention with content worthy of your participation! The Opening Reception will be held outside on the



pool deck. Resort Casual will be the dress code throughout the meeting. We hope you will embrace this more relaxed atmosphere and enjoy networking and mingling with your colleagues at the beach.

The CLE content is shaping up to be one of the best yet. We're excited to have Tim Quinlan back for an Economic Update focusing on the Real Estate Market. Of course David Ferrell will join us to share an update on NCLTA's Legislative activity. Chris Burti will share a Case Law Update with Nancy Ferguson sharing a Claims update. The remainder of the schedule is shaping up and we'll announce those topics and speakers as soon as they are confirmed.

You may call the resort today and book your accommodations. NC Land Title Association has reserved a block of room at The Boardwalk Inn, with two-bedroom suites nearby for \$239 per night, plus lodging taxes and a \$9 per night resort amenity fee. The amenity fee includes admission to the Fitness Center, telephone fees, on-property transportation, access to the Busi-



ness Center, one hour of tennis court time per room daily, and access to the Resort pools.

The cut-off date for making reservations is Monday, August 9; however, previous experience has shown that the Resort sells its rooms out quickly, so you are urged to make your reservation as soon as possible if you wish to stay on the Resort property.

To make your reservations,

- Reserve on-line directly through Wild Dunes: <https://reservations.synxis.com/XBE/Rez.aspx?hotel=12300&lang=1&group=NC L1WD>
- Call into the Resort at 800-845-8880 and mention our group code "NCL1WD".

Reservations require a one-night deposit and are subject to cancellation up to seven (7) days prior to arrival.



NCLTA at Real Property Section Annual Meeting

NCLTA is once again sponsoring the Friday night Cocktail reception at the RPS Annual Meeting. Thank you to the following NCLTA Members for sponsoring this reception!

Attorneys Title
Chicago Title Insurance Company
Fidelity National Title Company & Commonwealth Land Title Insurance Company
First American Title Insurance Company
Investors Title Insurance Company
Stewart Title Guaranty Company
The Title Company of NC

President's Message

continued from page 1

South Carolina for our annual convention. Matt Powers as the convention chair will be putting together a stellar education program. We had great turnout the last time we held the convention at Wild Dunes and I hope you will all consider joining us this year.

One of my first duties as President was to attend the ALTA convention that was held in Charleston last October. The convention was attended by almost 600 people from across the country (even one from Alaska). One of the ALTA's stated goals for 2012 is to strengthen relationships with state associations. They have implemented a program they call "Title 101" which is designed to educate state regulators about title insurance. ALTA has already helped several state associations conduct this presentation to glowing reviews. The NCLTA is currently considering whether to give a "Title 101" presentation to our Department of Insurance. In addition, ALTA is hoping to strengthen its grassroots advocacy program through the implementation of the Title Action Network (TAN). The purpose of TAN is to engage individuals (not companies) working in the industry in the legislative process. This individual membership structure allows for a much larger pool of members to advocate on issues. Through the use of ALTA software members of TAN will be notified of important

issues and can send standard or customized emails, letters or phone messages to regulators, members of Congress and state legislators. TAN will be free to join and you do not have to be an employee of an ALTA member or affiliated with an ALTA member to join TAN. The membership campaign will hit its stride in Q1 and Q2 of 2012 so you will be hearing much more about this exciting development. It's clear that our state association needs to be more engaged with and take better advantage of the resources that ALTA has to offer.

I came away from the state committee meetings at the ALTA convention with several ideas for the future of the association from a management standpoint and was able to share ideas with other state leaders about what I view as our most important issue, mechanics' liens. As most of you know the issue of revisions to our mechanics' lien law has been submitted to the Legislative Research Commission (LRC) for study prior to the short legislative session. Even though the legislative leadership has expressed a desire to make this the shortest short session in history, please know that the NCLTA is taking steps to make sure our issues are addressed. In conjunction with its legislative efforts the NCLTA has filed the necessary paperwork to form a Political Action Committee (PAC). The name of the PAC is the NC Land Title Association - Political Action Committee. Please be on the lookout for additional information about the PAC and fundraising events and opportunities.

2012 will be an important year for the future of the NCLTA and I look forward to serving as President. There are important issues at hand and on the horizon and we need the support of our members to tackle them. If you are interested in volunteering your time in any capacity or simply would like to share thoughts or ideas please do not hesitate to contact me directly.



Membership

Membership with NCLTA offers a great opportunity to network with your colleagues in this ever competitive industry. We'd like you to encourage any Real Estate Attorney that is not an NCLTA member to join our organization.

The NCLTA Annual Convention offers a great opportunity in a casual setting to mingle among industry representatives without the added "sales" pressure. Attorney members have often indicated that they prefer the NCLTA atmosphere to other CLE opportunities.

Please email staff at info@nclta.org with referral contact information and staff will follow up with membership information.

Membership Dues Tax Information

NCLTA Membership dues are segregated into two line-items. One identified as Special Assessment helps us in informing members of the amount of dues dollars that are not tax-deductible, segregating those funds for exclusive use in the government relations area. The Special Assessment portion of your NCLTA dues is non-deductible.

Two Ways to Honor NCLTA Members

Sam Mann Memorial Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize a new generation of leaders in the title industry. The award winner will demonstrate the special qualities of Sam Mann in terms of contributions, encouragement, and support of the title industry.

- Puts people at ease; inclusive and caring; willing to listen
- Approaches life with wisdom, dignity, courage and a sense of humor
- Is dependable, honest, loyal and trustworthy
- Willingly seeks leadership opportunities

NCLTA Service Award

The NCLTA Service Award will be awarded to an honoree who has rendered Exceptional Service to the organization or industry in the year of award or over the span of their career.



The above awards will honor NCLTA Members. Candidates will be considered annually by the Nominations Committee and those selected presented with a plaque at the annual meeting. **The postmark/email deadline for nominations is April 30, 2012.** Please submit your nominations to:

NCLTA Nominations Committee, 1500 Sunday Dr., Suite 102, Raleigh, NC 27607

Email: exec@nclta.org; Fax: (919) 787-4916; Phone: (919) 861-5584

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