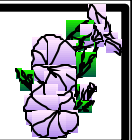




The Recorder



Mark A. Monacelli, Publisher

May 2001

FROM THE PREZ . **Gail Miller, Renville County**

Thank you all for allowing me to serve you as the Minnesota County Recorders' Association president this year. It has been very rewarding to me to be involved at this level in our association. Thank you to all the Committee Chairs, District Chairs and members for volunteering your time to serve our association. It is so great when we are able to work as a team! It is my hope that we can all work together to make our association stronger and prepare for the future as Minnesota County Recorders. The new Minnesota County Recorder's website (see page 5) is just the beginning of our new technological journey as Recorders.

We are all off and running in 2001 with all the new opportunities and challenges facing Minnesota County Recorders in Vitals, UCC's and Real Estate. I hope you have had a chance or will have a chance to read "**Who Moved My Cheese?**" before our upcoming Summer Conference. I am looking forward to **Jim Mulder's** presentation on the Who Moved My Cheese concept and dealing with change. Many organizations throughout the U.S. have utilized this concept such as Kodak, Lucent, IBM, MCI and Pepsi to name a few.

The theme for our upcoming summer conference will be "**Move With the Cheese!**" In addition to Jim's presentation we will have technical presentations on Legislation, CICS, CPTS, Torrens, Revised Article 9, Tangible Interest, Well Certificate Information and wrapping up with a presentation by **Rick Olson** on "Are You Fun to Work and Live With." See you at the Conference! Your Prez, **Gail M. Miller** Live With." See you at the Conference! Your Prez, **Gail M. Miller**

"Life is no straight and easy corridor along which we travel free and unhampered, but a maze of passages, through which we must seek our way, lost and confused, now and again checked in a blind alley. But always, if we have faith, a door will open for us, Not perhaps one that we ourselves would ever have thought of, But one that will ultimately prove good for us."

A.J. Cronin



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Legislative

Jeffery Aitken, Co-Chair

Larry Dalien, Co-Chair

We are bringing you this update as the legislative session is slowly coming to an end. There are many bills that were introduced this session that could have an affect on how we are doing and will be doing business in the future. Most of the bills have not made it to the governor's desk for signing. But there is still time!

Some of the bills that have made it through the legislative process are HF239/SF170 which has to do with Torrens/CPT's and CIC's. Rick Little will be speaking on this legislation at the summer conference. Other bills that have been signed are SF509/HF1016 which allows counties to accept credit card payments, also HF243/SF346 which amended the tangible interest law.

Other bills we are still watching are Military Discharges becoming private data, the Covenant Marriage Bill and the ERER bill just to name a few. There will be a full report given at summer conference. Hope to see you there!

Vital Statistics

Cheryl Perish

Memories of this committee being non-active seems as old as the \$3.00 recording fee for real estate. I am hoping that this newsletter is the finding you and your staff adjusting to the VRV2000. I do believe the longer and more you use the system the better it will be. I am sure that the Legislative Committee will report on the following issues, but thought I would also mention them. There are a few bills we are watching in reference to vital records.

HF1947/SF1345: This bill basically is a MDH clean up bill. The current statute defines the Local Registrar in each county as the Court Administrator. This is being changed to read "shall be designated by the county board..." It changes the word birth and death "certificate" to "record." It changes the provision that allows a mother to be one of the persons capable of filing a birth record if the birth occurred outside of a health care facility.

It changes the "local registrar" in each county being the responsible party for filing the data in reference to marriages to the "responsible authority in each county." A lot of good clean-up items in this bill!

HF1581/SF1412: Pertains to the \$3.00 surcharge for vital records. The current surcharge will sunset at the end of June, 2001. MDH is requesting that the surcharge be reduced to \$2.00 and remove the sunset date. MDH realizes that there will need to be enhancements made to the VRV2000 as well as other related cost issues. This bill also changes the Well Disclosure fee from \$20.00 to \$30.00.

HF56/SF1012: Is our lovely ole' "Covenant Marriage" bill that's been out there for a few years. My "watch dog" **Carmen Mulder** reports that she thinks it's dead.

HF2132/SF1021: We call this the "Marriage Pre-Ed" bill. It states that if a couple has 12 hours of premarital counseling they can receive a reduced fee of \$20.00 for their marriage license. The bill clearly defines who can provide the education and what type of information must appear on the statement. If this bill becomes law, we feel it is workable.

HF2386/SF2293: Was a late comer. Our friendly Family Tree researchers have requested this bill and it requires state and local registrars to issue certified birth certificates to the person conducting genealogy research "if" the certificate is for a person who is dead and was born more than 100 years before the date of the request. The bill does not require the requester to show relationship to the deceased.

I hope all of you had a chance to attend the MDH VRV Training held in the Snelling Office. We must continue to work together and not head in our own direction. We have a leader and must follow requirements, OR face the possibility of losing our designation at "Local Registrar."



ERER

Mark A. Monacelli



The Electronic Real Estate Recording Task Force (ERER) submitted their work plan to the Minnesota legislature in January 2001. The work plan is a comprehensive document that not only will prepare Minnesota for electronic recording but will, if implemented,

address a number of other items that will be beneficial to the real estate industry.

The task force consists of 43 members from the public and private sectors. The bill received a number of hearings and now is included in both the house and senate conference committee reports.

In order to appropriate the money required to fund the eighteen-month work plan study we agreed to increase the recording fee by .50. The increase is in-line with the .50 increase included in the bill Governor Carlson vetoed a few years ago. The fee, if enacted and signed into law, will increase the recording fee to \$20.00 and will be affective August 1, 2001.

I realize that we have faced a number of changes in the last few years; VRV 2000, Revised Article 9 to name just a few. Electronic recording is coming, there isn't anything we can do to stop it. What we can do is to take a proactive position and to make the system work to meet **our** needs and not just a few select interest groups. The work plan is also based on a state wide basis and hopefully, if and when implemented, will provide the same benefits, funding, guidelines/standards to all 87 Minnesota counties.

We will have more to report at the summer conference. Stay tuned...

NACR Update, *Mark A. Monacelli*

As chair of the Land Records Committee for NACRC and an Executive Board member of the Property Records Industry Joint Task Force I have been very busy in the electronic recording area. As well as creating/developing public/private partnerships with certain industries such as the American Mortgage Association, American Land Title Association, National Notary Association, etc. to name a few. The days of the "blame game" are drawing to a close as many within the private sector realize the benefits of defining commonality and working together with their public service partners. While technology has rapidly changed the way we do business, there is more change yet to come. We are striving to network and open new lines of communication within the industry.

We have an event filled and very educational annual conference being held in Philadelphia starting on July 12 -17, 2001. If you need more information, please contact me. Or, go to the NACRC web site at www.nacrc.org

From Your MACO President, *Cindy Koosmann*

Soon the legislative special session will be over and we will have to deal with the new laws passed! Hopefully, the ERER bill will be funded. I believe this is an important initiative for all Recorders and it is exciting and challenging to be on the leading edge and be part of a cultural change that will affect us statewide and could have a nationwide impact.

I have observed all three MACO organizations dealing with "change." Most are comfortable where we are. "Status Quo" is usually a secure feeling, but technology has really changed our lives professionally and personally. Just last night, I was shopping on the Internet and not only could I go through all the products, I could comparison shop, order, and have all the items at my doorstep in one or two days! Our customers want this type of service from us. They not only want to research our records, order copies, but also want to send us documents electronically.

I perceive my role this year is to bring forth as much information to you as I can in an effort to keep you informed.

UCC Overview

Kay Wrucke

In one short month all of our UCC's will be scanned, our staff will have all their questions answered, all our customers will be totally informed on RA9, the rules established, Profile training will be completed, and we can sit back and collect \$20 per termination without a problem!

In the mean time, call the Help Desk with any problems in scanning. They have more people assigned to work on the glitches. They want to know what is happening with the system, so it will be worked out before we start operating under the new scanning procedures. We need to get our legacy scanning done by June 10th. That is a very short time period, but it will allot time for any problems that could arise before July 2nd.

The next area of concentration will be Profile training for our staff in the end of June. Profile training will be at one site in the metro area for technical support reasons. The Secretary of States office is considering ways to reduce the costs for counties who have travel, hotel, and food expenses to attend this day long training session. The sessions will include UCC and searching, with the CNS and tax lien sessions to follow the main training to accommodate the counties that are not satellites. The Profile system will be on display at the summer conference. Be sure to view the software and ask questions.

The proposed rules relating to Revised Article 9 have been e-mailed to all Recorders for your review. The OSS work group has requested one change on the title of "Unofficial Inquiry." It was the "Enhanced Search" in the former draft of rules and hopefully will be re-labeled with a more fitting title. The Secretary of States office is also preparing a user manual and a quick reference guide, which will help us answers questions from our customers.

This should be a useful aid for a quick answer, verses reading the rules or calling the OSS and waiting for a reply.

The customer training seminars sponsored by the Secretary of State and the County Recorders was very beneficial to the UCC customer base and the Recorders staff. It covered the issues on filing and searching and the transition questions. All the seminars were well attended and a special thank you to the site hosts: **Ann Allen, Jeanine Barker, Mike Cunniff, Julie Gravely, Dan Hall, Bunny Johnston, Sandra King, Wendy Metcalf, Mark Monacelli, Larry Unger** and presenters **Bonita Harvieux** and **Bert Black**.

We are now well on our way to being official satellite offices of the Secretary of State. Our direction, support, training, interpretations of rules will come from the Secretary of States office. **Bonita Harvieux** and **Bert Black** have been excellent partners in our work group and in forming the working relationship we now have with the Secretary of States office. As County Recorders, we need to stay informed and up-to-date on all changes that occur in the future. We need to follow the policy of the OSS office and as we have said so many times, we need to be uniform with all counties. We need to do this for all county recorders, our customers and for this new and unique UCC system we have formulated in Minnesota.



Changes, Changes, Changes
(since the last newsletter)

Benton County: new Recorder Marilyn J. Novak. E-mail-mnovak@co.benton.mn.us
phone: 320.968.5037 and fax: 320.968.5329
Carlton County: New Recorder: Kris Basilici.
Grant County: Please use P. O. Box 1007 address.
Itasca County: New Recorder Jean Bengston
Murray County: Mailing address should be P.O. Box 57, Slayton MN 56172-0057
Sibley County: New fax #: 507.237.4306
Stearns County: New fax # 320.656.3983
E-mail: Kris.Basilici@co.carlton.mn.us
Wright County: New (old) Recorder Larry Unger

In Memorandum

To Sherman Anderson, husband of Mary Ann Anderson, Cottonwood County Recorder. Sherman passed away on May 21, 2001.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to **Dave Sexe**, LeSueur County Recorder in being elected as the new MACO Treasurer. Dave is replacing the retiring **Jeff Cole**, Goodhue County Auditor.

ANNOUNCING THE MINNESOTA RECORDERS' WEB SITE
By, Cindy Kossmann



It has been a great learning experience developing a new web site. Sometimes, it was frustrating trying to understand all of those tech terms such as, the Domain name, webmaster, using PDF and PDI. But I muddled through it and the end results are we have a success.

We now have an official Web site!! The Web address is www.mncra.org. This project is still in the infancy stage and will change constantly during the next few months as we fine-tune it to meet your needs.

We are busy loading it with lots of useful information! Some of the items on the page now include the Recorders Committees, listing of members, document standards, forms and newsletters. Also there are links to other useful Web sites such as NACO, NACRC and the Minnesota Legislative site-Recorder's E-mail addresses will be included soon. We will be demonstrating this at the summer conference and want your input.

