

# Plate Talk

Official Publication of the Minnesota Deputy Registrar's Association

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REGION 3

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## From the President's desk...

### Greetings-

It was a pleasure to lead the association through 2019. It was quite the experience to serve as president. One of the many things I've learned and have a different level of appreciation for is the amount of work the president must manage, from legislation to staying involved with business partners. No matter the amount of work, I am committed because I believe what we do is important and impacts each of you. Setting aside my own interests, myself and the rest of the board, focused discussions and decisions that benefited the deputy registrars. You can count on that again, even with the change of your MDRA board members, it is the members that drive the association.



Neng Lor  
NengLor@hennepin.gov

A lot of work was carried over and it is critical that we push even harder this legislative session. RealID is going to keep us busy. And although we will be working on a new system that is better than MNLARS, the work we do at the front end has not been adequately compensated. Before the 2019 legislative year ended, we began to prepare for 2020. Service fee increase remains a priority. We remain equally vigilant and are keeping our focus on DPS and DVS leadership and their scope of business. Discussions on services that impact our business is what we will stay tuned to and involved with.

Our 42nd Annual Conference was held on Sept 19-20 in St. Cloud. It was an outstanding conference, full of wonderful people from all over the state. We recognized the hard work of outgoing board members and welcomed in new board members. We say goodbye to Denise Vogl who served as Secretary for 2 consecutive terms totaling six years and Larry Reedy from Ely who served a partial year, filling a vacated position. Denise and Larry worked hard to ensure that deputy registrars came first, front and center. Thank you both for your service, we look forward to your continued support. Filling these vacancies, the membership elected Laura Laudenbach from Stearns County and Ramona Strolberg from Cokato. Welcome, we look forward to your ideas and input.

During the conference we heard from members of DPS, including Commissioner Harrington and DVS Director Emma Corrie. They shared their support for the Deputy Registrars and welcome open, transparent communication and conveyed a strong interest in working together. We got the first glimpse of the new vehicle system MNDRIVE from FastDS. There seems to be a lot of excitement for the new vehicle system from attendees. Finally, we met John Nordby's replacement, Kong Moua. John has retired after many years at the DNR. Find more highlights inside this issue.

*Neng Lor*

MDRA President

# Annual Membership Meeting Highlights

## Hospitality Night



## Photo booth!



## Fun times!



# Annual Membership Meeting Highlights

## Hospitality Night



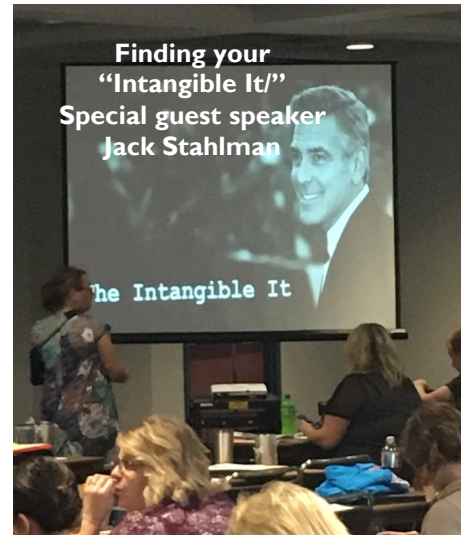
# Annual Membership Meeting Highlights



DVS updates and MDRIVE presentation



Lunch!! Yummy!!



Finding your "Intangible It" Special guest speaker Jack Stahlman



Molly and Mike Hintz Lovebirds and Sellers Extraordinaire!



Colton Seisler is the deputy registrar SME for MDRIVE



# 2019-2020 Board Members



Introducing your 2019-2020 Board of Directors

Back Row L-R : Colton Seisler - Inver Grove Heights, John Lenarz Treasurer - Anoka County, Joe Heider Communications Director - Hennepin County, Mike Hintz Secretary- Rochester

Front Row L-R : Ramona Strolberg - Cokato, Laura Laudenschick - Stearns County, Neng Lor President - Hennepin County, Mary Filzen - Hutchinson, Ken Mohr Vice President - AAA Minneapolis

## MDRA Region Assignments

Region 1	Mary Filzen
Deputy	Location
8	Crookston
11	Fergus Falls
15	Moorhead
30	Thief River Falls
36	Detroit Lakes
39	Alexandria
63	Roseau
66	Red Lake Falls
68	Park Rapids
69	Bagley
71	Ada
73	Breckenridge
78	Hallock
91	Mahnomen
97	Warren
98	Elbow Lake
108	Fosston
130	Perham
137	Hawley
146	East Grand Forks

Region 2	Laura Laudenschick
Deputy	Location
7	Brainerd
13	Little Falls
20	St. Cloud
45	Sauk Centre
67	Mora
79	Long Prairie
82	Crosby
83	Aitkin
90	Cambridge
92	Sandstone
93	Milaca
102	Albany
114	Moose Lake
115	Paynesville
116	Pine City
122	Staples
131	Princeton
136	Onamia
142	Annandale
165	Foley
172	St. Cloud

Region 3	Mike Hintz
Deputy	Location
21	Redwood Falls
23	Willmar
32	Marshall
34	Montevideo
42	Morris
43	Pipstone
57	Benson
61	Wheaton
62	Glenwood
76	Olivia
81	Ortonville
85	Madison
88	Ivanhoe
99	Canby
109	Granite Falls
132	Appleton
141	Edgerton
143	Dawson
148	Tyler

# MDRA Region Assignments

Region 4	Colton Seisler
Deputy	Location
35	South St. Paul
65	Stillwater
96	Rosemont
107	Cottage Grove
118	Roseville
127	White Bear Lake
140	St. Paul
149	Maplewood
150	Circle Pines
156	Blaine
157	Apple Valley
161	Inver Grove Heights
162	Eagan
164	Forest Lake
167	Woodbury

Region 5	Joe Heider
Deputy	Location
2	Monticello
16	New Ulm
47	Golden Valley
53	Hutchinson
70	Waconia
72	Elk River
77	Buffalo
84	Glencoe
94	Gaylord
100	Chisago City
106	Cokato
120	Sleepy Eye
129	Fairfax
133	Delano
135	Shakopee
166	Chaska
176	Chanhassen
179	Litchfield

Region 6	Ken Mohr
Deputy	Location
3	Duluth
6	Bemidji
12	Hibbing
22	Virginia
25	International Falls
26	Ely
37	Cloquet
40	Grand Rapids
49	Wadena
64	Pine River
74	Grand Marais
75	Baudette
89	Deer River
105	Cass Lake
117	Remer
119	Silver Bay
125	Walker
139	Floodwood
158	Mizpah
159	Cook
168	Two Harbors
169	Duluth

Region 7	John Lenarz
Deputy	Location
4	Albert Lea
5	Austin
9	Fairmont
10	Faribault
14	Mankato
17	Owatonna
29	St. Peter
33	Worthington
41	Waseca
50	Jackson
51	Luverne
52	Blue Earth
54	Windom
55	St. James
60	Le Center
80	Slayton
103	Wells
121	Springfield
123	Tracy
145	North Mankato

Region 8	Ramona Strolberg
Deputy	Location
18	Red Wing
19	Rochester
24	Winona
27	Hastings
28	Northfield
31	LaCrescent
58	Caledonia
86	Wabasha
87	Preston
95	Kasson
110	Jordan
111	Lakeville
138	Cannon Falls
144	New Prague
147	Pine Island
155	Rochester
160	Prior Lake
173	Grand Meadow
174	Rochester

Region 9	Neng Lor
Deputy	Location
1	St. Louis Park
38	Ramsey
44	Columbia Heights
46	Robbinsdale
56	Richfield
59	Excelsior
101	Bloomington
104	Brooklyn Park
113	Mpls Govt. Center Mpls Midtown
124	Wayzata
126	Wayzata
128	Burnsville
151	Brookdale
152	Southdale
153	Ridgedale
154	Ham Lake
163	New Brighton
170	Maple Grove
171	Coon Rapids



# Legislative Update

Jim Hirst—Lobbyist

The MDRA legislative committee, with input from member offices reflected in our annual survey, has determined our 2020 session agenda. Recognizing that next year's legislature is scheduled for only a "short session" we will be focused on two issues with our lawmakers for enactment:

- ◆ Increased filing fees for both driver license and all motor vehicle transactions (this includes on-site duplicate title printing services). Legislation introduced last session by MDRA (HF 1008-Elkins/SF 1124-Senjem) will carry over to 2020 and serve as the bill to amend with updated fee amounts to advance at the capitol.

We anticipate fee increases in the range of \$6 for DL and \$4 for MV. However, MDRA will conduct new and updated time and motion studies to best determine and to bolster our claims.

Volunteer offices will be participating in the one-week studies, tentatively set for the third week of November (DL) and second week of December (MV).

- ◆ Legislation that addresses potential "self-serve kiosks" that are being contemplated as a feature in conjunction with the new MNDRIVE system. A special legislative task force (that includes an MDRA representative—Mike Hintz of Rochester) is reviewing this issue currently and will offer a report with recommendations in mid-January. Our preliminary thoughts regarding this issue include:

Mindful that deputy offices have wholly been excluded from mail-in and on-line self-service offerings previously, we are insistent that any planned kiosk service must be deputy operated only, without the State again competing with deputy registrars.

Related costs and responsibility for procuring, servicing, maintaining, and securing a kiosk must be established. A cap on the total number of kiosks that any individual deputy may have is advisable to prevent a monopoly of this service from becoming predatory on other offices.

Placement of any deputy kiosk should be within or relatively close to the appointed deputy office, so to not encroach on other deputy offices.

Potential sites within shopping malls or other high traffic areas should require full consideration of potential impact for all surrounding offices. Additionally, placement in remote underserved areas currently should be encouraged.

Passage of any legislation should direct DPS to adopt new rules on kiosks for further clarity, particularly with the potential of allowing inventory (tabs) outside of an office and distance requirements for any kiosk from the host deputy office.

*DVS has just requested preliminary comments from all deputies regarding this topic in general. We encourage offices to respond with their commentary from your perspective while being mindful of balancing the public's needs with deputy needs from a universal standpoint.*



# Legislative Update CONT'D

In addition to these primary legislative objectives, MDRA will also press for agency action with administrative changes that will entail the following:

- ◆ **Modify the existing “revocation of access” policy to allow greater flexibility or a right to appeal in circumstances whereby an inadvertent look-up occurs that triggers a permanent revocation of access. Should legislative action be needed to further clarify the policy, MDRA will work with the Department to achieve this.**
- ◆ **Establish methods to expedite the current background checks required for new employee hires conducted by the BCA. This would include consideration of other acceptable sources such as FBI.**

Lastly, in October MDRA held their annual “Legislator of the Year” event which honored State Representative Steve Elkins (D-Bloomington). Rep. Elkins is the chief author of last session’s filing fee increase bill, who tirelessly advocated for us and achieved the \$1 increase for motor vehicle. He will again press for more equitable increases in 2020 for us. Thank you, Steve!



Representative Elkins has a background in information technology, serves on the House Transportation Committee, and sits on the “self-service task force” mentioned above. Our event attended by over a dozen offices was highlighted with a good discussion that centered on the need for more filing fee increases and the topic of self-service options. Collectively, deputies raised \$1000 for Representative Elkins re-election campaign as well. Thank you, deputies for your voluntary contributions!

The 2020 Minnesota legislative session will convene February 11 with an anticipated adjournment of May 18.





# DVS Update

Beckey Mechtel Communication Coordinator



American poet, Henry David Thoreau said, “It is not enough to be busy. So are the ants. The question is: What are we busy about?”

Deputy registrars, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Driver and Vehicle Services division (DPS-DVS), and Fast Enterprises have been busy laying the framework for the vehicle title and registration system project. The past few months have been very productive.

In August, Governor Tim Walz announced the state signed a contract with Fast Enterprises to provide a vehicle and title registration system (VTRS) to replace MNLARS. Shortly after, project teams were formed with subject matter experts from DVS, and the deputy registrar and dealer communities. DVS and MNIT implemented the final release of MNLARS in August. While occasional MNLARS patches may still occur, MNLARS development is complete.

In September, DVS director Emma Corrie attended the MDRA conference in St. Cloud, where Fast Enterprises demonstrated their solution for providing vehicle registration and title services. In the weeks since, the project teams have made solid progress.

- ◇ Some registration transactions have been built and reviewed.
- ◇ Personalized plate case development is underway.
- ◇ Discussions around plate inventories for EVTR vendors have started.
- ◇ Initial fee calculations for title fee, duplicate title fee, and wheelage tax are ready for testing.
- ◇ The search for training locations in and outside the Twin Cities metro area began.



Project progress information is available in the Driver and Vehicle Executive Steering Committee (DVESC) meeting notes on Info Hub under the deputy registrar tab.

DVS is pleased to announce the name for the new integrated driver and vehicle information system is MNDRIVE (Minnesota DRIVER and VEHICLE System). We received nearly 75 name suggestions and put the top five to a vote. Nearly 60 percent of the voters selected MNDRIVE. Our thanks to everyone who participated in the naming process.



Looking forward, the first explore days for MNDRIVE will take place in November. Deputy registrars from across the state will test drive the system and provide feedback. There will be many opportunities to participate in future explore days in the months ahead.

There is still a lot to do before we launch MNDRIVE in November 2020, but together we are making progress and building a system that will serve the needs of all Minnesotans.

# EXPLORE Minnesota MDRA MISSION STATEMENT

The Minnesota Deputy Registrars Association (MDRA) is a statewide membership organization promoting common interests of deputy registrars in providing professional licensing service to the public and liaison to the state.

SEP

10,000 lakes

19

## Advisory Committee Members

Dave Konshok - Lifetime Honorary  
Member

Jeff Lenarz

Kim Griffith

Bruce Jindra

Kathy Jensen

Susan Wagner

Jeff Orth

Suzanne Jensen

Meagan Weber



We're on Facebook



Check us out!

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