



Official Publication of the Minnesota Deputy Registrar's Association

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## From the President's desk...

### Greetings Minnesota Deputy Registrar's and Staff!

Welcome all to the early summer of 2022. As your President, I am grateful for the ongoing support of the MDRA Membership and Board as we have worked diligently to obtain additional fee increases from the Minnesota Legislature. While appropriate language was included in both the Minnesota House and Senate Omnibus Bills, the 2022 Session ended without final agreement and the Governor's signature. We are very grateful for the high level of bi partisan support we received from House and Senate members which lead to our legislation being included in the omnibus bills.

There has been a request from many entities in Minnesota to have a Special Session. As President, I have collaborated with Kristy Beaucage of the Deputy Registrar's Business Association (DRBOA) and have submitted a letter to House and Senate leadership and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz adding our request for a special session to complete the 2022 Legislative Session and pass the needed Omnibus Bills which include our fee increase legislation.

There have been meetings between the Governor's office and House and Senate leaders in the past several weeks, but no word on a special session as of June 10, 2022.

The MDRA Board is keenly aware of the financial and daily struggles we face as Deputy Registrars. The transition from the Legacy Computer System to MNLARS and then to MNDRIIVE has been very challenging. On top of the Computer System transitions, we were faced with the extreme issues of navigating customer service to citizens in the Covid 19 Pandemic. Coupled with these challenges, were high levels of staff turnover for individuals who were reluctant to transition to a new computer system or fearful of working in a person to person customer service environment during a pandemic.

continued on next page



President- Jeff Orth  
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## In this issue

President's Message

Legislative Report

Legislative Letter

Call To Action

DVS Update

Annual Conference

2022 Elections

Celebrating National  
Donate Life Day

# Presidents Message (cont'd)

Thankfully, the pandemic appears to be gradually diminishing its impact on our daily lives. As the pandemic started, the MDRA Board transitioned to online meetings. The online format has actually enhanced the ability of the membership to participate in the monthly meetings. The MDRA Board plans to continue the online format for future MDRA monthly meetings to provide for enhanced member involvement and participation. We express our gratitude and thank MDRA Secretary Michael Hintz for coordinating the online Webex for the monthly meetings.

Members of MDRA and DRBOA work together to provide upgrades (referred to as SQR's) to the MNDRIIVE system. Key individuals from the Deputy Registrar Community working with DPS staff on SQR's include Jared O'Reilly, Laura Laudenbach, Jeff Lenarz, Joseph Heider, Erin Hintz-Olson, Leigh Crawford, Michael Hintz, Kristy Beaucage, Amanda Coppin, and Donny Vosen. These individuals and others have devoted significant time and talent to provide a more user friendly MNDRIIVE system to benefit all Minnesota Deputy Registrars. Special thanks to all individuals working on the MNDRIIVE improvements.

Thanks also to Sue Jensen and Laura Laudenbach for their communication to MDRA Membership via Facebook. Facebook has proven to be a very effective method of communication during the pandemic.

Thanks again to the MDRA Membership for their patience as we struggle to survive in this industry. We hope our Minnesota Leadership will hold a special session and complete the 2022 Legislative Session.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jeff Orth*

MDRA President



# Legislative Committee

By Jim Hirst- Lobbyist  
Mike Hintz- Chair

The 2022 regular session of the state legislature ended on their constitutionally mandated date of May 23. However, as in past years they failed to pass numerous bills before that deadline, and we now await the possibility of a special session to complete their work. Only the governor can call for one, which he desires, but it is contingent on reaching agreement with house and senate leaders regarding the parameters of it. Negotiations are currently under way to achieve that.

During the final week of the session, house and senate conferees deliberating on the omnibus legislation did approve critical deputy registrar provisions, but then failed to reach consensus on other unrelated portions of the bill (primarily a dedicated sales tax section on auto parts for roads and bridges) which stalled progress on the omnibus bill when session ended. *(We did attempt to have our language proceed separate from the omnibus bill, but we were denied that option.)*

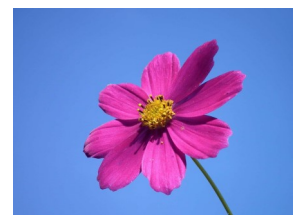
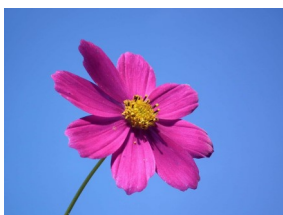
The final language approved in the conference committee regarding deputy registrars was far ranging and included:

- \$8 increase on all initial DL applications for Real ID/EDL
- \$3 increase for all other DL applications
- 4-year DL renewal cycle remains (no proposed 8-year term)
- DVS would share their filing fees with ALL deputy registrars
  - Capped at \$7 million each year for two years only
  - Distribution based on office transaction counts
  - NOT tied to just full-service offices
- DVS would cover both a camera and eye exam equipment for any office
  - Open to all offices regardless of current 1/1/2000 grandfather date
- Establishes a repeal process concerning permanent revocation of access
  - Precludes DVS from repealing access for lookups without a corresponding transaction
  - Requires a logbook for lookups without corresponding transaction
- Provides offices the ability to offer auto records to certain customers for a fee

This approved language closely follows the King Review recommendations and reflects the hard work all deputies have been advocating for. When a special session is agreed to and actually held, these agreed provisions would remain within any final omnibus bill.

MDRA is currently pressing the governor and legislative leaders for a special session to conclude this unfinished work. (A copy of our letter is featured on the following page.) We are also requesting all offices to contact their state legislators and to ask them the same. (A copy of our recent alert is also included separately.)

**PLEASE, contact your legislators and press them on the critical need to hold a special session.** Your individual voices combined with our efforts and other affected groups is essential to causing the groundswell necessary to affect this much needed outcome!



# Legislative Committee Report (cont'd)

## Letter sent to the Governor and key Legislators

May 26, 2022  
The Honorable Tim Walz  
Governor of Minnesota  
130 State Capitol  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Senator Jeremy Miller  
Senate Majority Leader  
3113 Minnesota Senate Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Representative Kurt Daudt  
House Minority Leader  
267 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Representative Melissa Hortman  
Speaker of the House  
463 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Senator Melisa Lopez-Franzen  
Senate Minority Leader  
2221 Minnesota Senate Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz and Minnesota Legislative Leaders:

As you are well aware, Minnesota's deputy registrars have endured ongoing financial deficits through no fault of their own over the past five years. First it was MNLARS, followed by a transition to MNDRIIVE of which each transferred vast uncompensated workloads to our offices from DVS. The pernicious strain of COVID-19 only aggravated and worsened our situation by adding more costs with even less income.

Our repeated efforts in recent sessions to have this real crisis addressed have routinely been delayed despite our warnings of the consequences otherwise. In just the last year, two offices have permanently closed while a third has now announced to do likewise. Many more are now preparing to quickly follow suit as the failing economics to provide this service simply can't be justified any longer.

The 2021 legislature commissioned Mr. Rick King to conduct an independent review of our operations with recommendations to stave off this pending disaster. His report and recommendations were agreed to by the state government/transportation conference committee on the closing day of the 2022 regular session. However, as you all know the remainder of that conference committee report was not finalized nor acted upon before the legislature went sine die, as were other omnibus bills.

It is imperative that a special session be called in the very near future to enact unfinished work agreed to by the legislature. Our future, including that of the over 2,000 clerks we employ and the millions of Minnesotans who rely on us demand it. Inaction and deferring this to 2023 will truly devastate us with dozens of offices closing in response well before then.

Respectfully,

Jeff Orth, President MDRA  
[Jefforth155@aol.com](mailto:Jefforth155@aol.com)

Kristy Beaucage, President DRBOA  
[kbeaucage@quick-serv.com](mailto:kbeaucage@quick-serv.com)



# Call to Action

## TO ALL DEPUTIES!

We all need a special session of the legislature to enact the King recommendations.

Such can only be called by Governor Walz, who is in favor of doing so. However, the leaders of the House and Senate must also agree to the parameters of a special session for him to effectively call lawmakers back to the capitol.

MDRA is asking every office to contact your individual House and Senate member with a simple message:

**"PLEASE ASK YOUR CAUCUS LEADER TO AGREE TO A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE. MY DEPUTY REGISTRAR OFFICE CANNOT SURVIVE ANOTHER YEAR WITHOUT IMPLEMENTING THE KING REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS THIS YEAR. THIS LANGUAGE HAS ALREADY BEEN AGREED TO IN THE STATE GOVERNMENT OMNIBUS BILL BY THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE. PLEASE COME BACK IN SPECIAL SESSION AND ENACT THE KING REPORT PROVISIONS."**

This effort is to create a groundswell with rank-and-file lawmakers to deliver this simple message from you (their constituents in an election year!) to the legislative leaders who will decide if a special session will occur. All lawmakers are now back in their home districts, so if you happen to see them--mention it to them in person as well!

*If your office happens to have any one of the following four leaders, you can drop the words "ask your caucus leader" (since they are one) but use the rest of the message we've provided:*

- *Senator Jeremy Miller*
- *Representative Kurt Daudt*
- *Senator Melisa Lopez-Franzen*
- *Representative Melissa Hortman*

To determine who your elected state house and senate members are, visit either [www.house.mn](http://www.house.mn) or [www.senate.mn](http://www.senate.mn) and click the link for "who represents me?", then follow the prompts.

We encourage your full participation, and request that you fulfill this by either email or phone call. Please remember to identify yourself (and that you're a constituent) along with your contact information when communicating. Encourage others in your office to participate as well!

**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE DEPUTIES, FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION TO THIS MDRA LEGISLATIVE REQUEST**



# DVS Update

by Becky Mechtel

## REAL ID

Federal enforcement of REAL ID is less than a year away. DPS-DVS is shifting focus from “What is REAL ID” to do you need one and what documents do you need apply.

A team of DVS staff, deputy registrars and driver’s license agents are working to improve the information we share with the public so customers are prepared when they visit your office.

Over the past few months, we have:

- Identified all the REAL ID resources and information on the DPS-DVS website and Info Hub.
- Reviewed the REAL ID and EDL/EID identity requirements –clarifying and adding information as needed.
- Discussed improvements to the resource materials available to deputy registrars and driver’s license agents.
- Decided to include samples of documents for customers.

Next actions include developing new and better information about identity requirements for the public and for DVS staff, deputy registrars and driver’s license agents. In July, we will start to improve the layout of information at [REALID.DPS.MN.GOV](https://realid.dps.mn.gov), such as updating frequently asked questions and removing old information. DPS-DVS plans to refresh and ramp up public communications about the May 2023 federal enforcement of REAL ID in October.

## Salvage Laws

Changes to salvage title laws go into effect on Jan 1, 2023. The changes are a result of the work of the Salvage Title Task Force. They close existing salvage title loopholes and result in all salvage vehicles being subject to branding. We will provide more information about the law and new procedures in the weeks ahead. In the meantime, you can review the legislation and the task force report at:

<http://wdoc.house.leg.state.mn.us/leg/LS92/HF3296.3.pdf> (bill as signed)

<https://www.lcc.mn.gov/sttf/salvage-title-task-force-report-final-01-26-2022.pdf> (Task Force Report)

## Lane 5000 Credit Card Machines

Elavon shipped the new Lane5000 credit card machines to participating deputy registrar at the end of April. Offices should have completed the scheduled training sessions. Elavon sent invitations for make-up sessions to office administrators who were unable to attend the initial training sessions.

Elavon will disconnect all VX520s on June 29, making them unable to process credit card payments. Deputy registrars using the new Lane5000 must download the necessary software and connect the Lane5000 machines before June 29, to avoid interruption in processing card payments. You will also need to create user IDs and train staff on how to process card payments through Converge by that time.

If you need assistance with the download, please contact Elavon’s software tech support at 1-800-377-3962. Select option 2, and then option 2 a second time. Be sure to have your MID and the last three digits of your terminal ID when you call. Please email [dvs.deputycreditcard@state.mn.us](mailto:dvs.deputycreditcard@state.mn.us) if you have questions.

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# DVS Update (cont'd)

## Other Project Updates

Planning for over the counter or same day issuance of standard driver's licenses and ID cards at the Lakeville and Moorhead offices is moving ahead. DPS-DVS is developing key messages for the public.

Planning for registration sticker kiosks is also moving forward. The group working on the contract with the vendor is exploring putting the kiosks in retail locations as opposed to deputy registrar offices to provide greater after-hours access to the public. Watch for information on this project in the weeks ahead.

Please check out the new Youth Experiencing Homelessness webpages on the DPS-DVS website if you have not had an opportunity to do so. There is good information and a one-page PDF that you can share with your community organizations who assist the homeless.

DPS-DVS is in the early planning stages of developing space on the Partner Resources section of our website for dealers. The site will be similar to the one developed for motor carriers and will put all updated dealer information in one location for easy access. Go to <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/Pages/partner-resources.aspx> to view current partner resources.

# Mark your Calendars !

## **MDRA ANNUAL MEETING AND HOSPITALITY NIGHT SEPTEMBER 15 & 16, 2022**

Members mark your calendar and reserve time to attend the 2022 annual meeting of the Minnesota Deputy Registrar's Association. As you know, this is an excellent opportunity to network with your fellow deputies.

St. Cloud is our host city, selected by a majority of respondents from our annual survey as the most convenient location. The meeting will be held at the Rivers Edge Convention Center. Registration begins at 8:30 and the meeting will start at 9 AM. The MDRA will host a Hospitality Night on Thursday evening, September 15 from 7:00pm-9:00pm at a location TBD. This is a great opportunity to socialize and network with fellow deputies. There are a variety of beverages and hors d'oeuvres to quench your thirst and appetite.

Please watch for the formal meeting invitation which will be mailed in August. We hope to see you in St. Cloud!



# 2022 Board Elections

**Greetings Members!**

It's time to start thinking about this years upcoming election in September.

The MDRA Board is comprised entirely of volunteers and they work very hard for their members. There are various working groups that interact with DVS, DNR and the Legislature. It is because of the MDRA members like you, that as deputy registrars are able to do such things as accept credit cards, have input into the new MNDRIVE system, pilot many DVS and DNR programs, receive the fee increases that we so deserve, and have a presence in the Legislature. As a board member, you will find that getting some of this information first hand and interacting directly with your business partners is very beneficial.

The MDRA Board will have 2 vacancies in September., 1 public office and 1 private office.

Laura Laudenbach– Region 2 (public)

Ramona Strolberg– Region 8 (private)

The officer positions for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Communications Director will be voted on by the Board of Directors during the October board meeting. Committee chairs and members for the various committees will also be determined at that time.

Please consider putting your name on the ballot for one of these vacancies. You will get back so much more than you give by serving on the board!

If you have any questions, or are interested in running for an open board position, please reach out to the MDRA Governance Committee Chair or MDRA President and they will be happy to help!

**Ken Mohr**

[kmohr@aaaminneapolis.com](mailto:kmohr@aaaminneapolis.com)

or

**Jeff Orth**

[jefforth155@aol.com](mailto:jefforth155@aol.com)





# National Donate Life Blue and Green Day



April 22, 2022 was National Donate Life Blue and Green Day and deputy offices from across Minnesota stepped up to the plate big time to show their support. This day, set in the month of April every year is celebrated on different days within the month to encourage people to wear blue and green colored clothes to help raise awareness for organ donation. According to Donate Life America, there are currently nearly 124,000 people in the United States alone awaiting some type of organ transplant. Thank you deputies for doing your part to raise awareness!



Blue Earth County



Morrison County



We were greeted and treated by this living donor recipient. This is Mark Aune. He received his life saving liver 12 1/2 years ago. What a wonderful story, thank you for sharing your morning with out office!



City of Springfield

# MDRA MISSION STATEMENT

**The Minnesota Deputy Registrar's 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.**

**JUN**

10,000 lakes

**22**

## Advisory Committee Mem-

Dave Konshok - Lifetime Honorary Member

Denise Vogl

Suzanne Jensen

Meagan Weber

John Lenarz

Neng Lor

Kim Griffith

## Lobbyist

Jim Hirst

## Plate Talk Editors

Paula Anderson, Joe Heider

We're on Facebook



Check us out!

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