

MDRA PLATE TALK

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Summer 2025 Edition



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA DEPUTY REGISTRAR'S ASSOCIATION

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The Mission of the Minnesota Deputy Registrars Association is to promote common interests of deputy registrars in providing professional licensing services to the public and liaison to the state of Minnesota.



President's



Perspective



President - Jeff Lenarz #046
jlenarz@ci.robbinssdale.mn.us

DEAR MEMBERS,

As we wrap up the 2025 legislative session, I want to thank each of you for your continued dedication to your communities and to the mission of the Minnesota Deputy Registrars Association. Your hard work and involvement this year helped us make real progress on the issues that matter most to our offices – especially with a challenging and closely divided legislature.

This session, a top priority of ours was addressing the longstanding concern around reimbursement for no-fee transactions. For years, we've advocated for a more sustainable, transparent compensation structure that reflects the actual cost of the work that we do. Thanks to the work of our legislative committee, the strong relationship with DVS/DPS, and many of you who reached out to your legislators, lawmakers now understand that no business model is sustainable when work goes unpaid. I am pleased to report that we achieved a high level of success in this area. Jim Hirst will speak more about this in his article on the following pages.

Additionally, among our efforts was strong opposition to the Department of Public Safety's proposal to implement online driver's license renewals. While we support innovation and modernization, we were firm in our position: any move in that direction must include meaningful revenue sharing with deputy registrars to ensure local offices are not left behind. Thanks to your advocacy and our unified message, lawmakers heard us loud and clear. The proposal did not move forward in its current form, and we've set a clear starting point for future discussions.

I want to thank MDRA members for the attention and participation that you've shown collectively during this and every legislative session.

I hope that you will find this issue informative and as always, I and your board of directors welcome your feedback and thoughts at any time. Thank you for your continued support and for the critical work you do every day.

Sincerely,

JEFF LENARZ, MDRA PRESIDENT

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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

JIM HIRST - Lobbyist JEFF ORTH - Chair

Many words could describe our just completed regular and special legislative session, but all is now overshadowed by the horrific assassination of Representative (and former House Speaker) Melissa Hortman and her husband at their home. This was preceded by a similar murder attempt in the early morning hours of June 14 on Senator John Hoffman and his wife, who fortunately both survived multiple gunshot wounds.

I am at a loss for words with this tragedy, and anything I could offer wouldn't do justice, but may justice ultimately prevail for the victims and their families now that the suspect has been taken into custody. However, nothing will ever compensate for the senseless murder of the Hortman's or the long-term recoveries for the Hoffman's

Please join me with your prayers and condolences for the Hortman and the Hoffman families. An election certificate should never be a death certificate for our lawmakers.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION RECAP

This recap is NOT the annual MDRA Legislative Report. Our full Report will be released next month due to the delay from the legislature releasing actual budget bill language until the special session convened on June 9. That report will expand on these items detailed below along with specific citations within any enacted bill.

Five days prior to the tragic occurrence above, lawmakers convened a single day special session to complete their work of the regular session. As you may be aware from our MDRA legislative updates this session, **we prevailed on two critical matters** within the **omnibus transportation finance and policy bill**:

- Compensation for “no-fee” transactions was **approved!**
 - This will begin August 1, 2025
 - Direct payments to offices from DVS will be quarterly
 - * First payments estimated for October 15th, 2025
 - Compensation is for both MV and DL no-fee transactions
 - Chart of transaction types are posted separately in this edition of plate talk
 - MDRA is working with DVS on implementation details currently
- DVS online DL renewal/replacement proposal was **rejected!**
 - Your response to our “MDRA Call for Action” on this item was critical!



Other provisions of interest within the omnibus transportation bill include the following:

- DVS may designate a MV dealer in a neighboring state as a dealer. (Effective 10/1/2025)
 - Helps MN citizens buying a vehicle from bordering out of state dealers with EVTR transactions.
- 60-day temporary permit now for a vehicle sold and to be removed from the state (Effective 10/1/2025)
 - This will double the current length of time for this permit.

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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

CONTINUED

JIM HIRST - Lobbyist JEFF ORTH - Chair

- New registration tax rates for electric and hybrid vehicles. (Effective 1/1/26)
 - Replaces the current flat fee of \$75
 - Varying rates but with a 10-year depreciation schedule applied
 - Will now apply to hybrid vehicles as well
- Optional new “rental motor vehicle” plate. (Effective 7/1/26)
 - Allows rental companies to apply for and use on their fleet (This is optional and not mandatory)
 - Plate must match registered rental vehicle
 - Registration stickers NOT required on these new plates (annual renewals are still required though)
 - Plates may be transferred to another vehicle. (The applicable \$5 transfer fee shall be retained by deputy)
- Dealer plates may now be used on dealer courtesy vehicles (Effective 8/1/25)
- Insurer application for title (Effective 9/1/25)
 - Will allow an insurance company to apply for title upon acquiring a vehicle after settling a claim for ownership and the owner fails to deliver or transfer
- Auction companies may apply for a title with abandoned vehicles. (Effective 9/1/25)
 - Will allow this for when vehicles are left unclaimed in their yards
- CDL driver permit extended to one-year (currently six months - Effective 8/1/25)
- Certain headwear permitted for DL photo (Effective immediately)
 - Will be allowed when headwear is medically necessary for applicant
- DL reintegration term becomes 24 months (currently 15 months) (Effective immediately)
- Circle Pines deputy registrar office to become a full-service provider

FURTHERMORE

The omnibus environment and natural resources omnibus finance and policy bill contains the following provision:

- Increases the boat registration fee with the increased amount solely dedicated to the DNR aquatic invasive species program. (Effective 1/1/2026)

SEPERATELY

MDRA also responded to a proposal initially brought forward by MADA (which was then spearheaded by Carvana) that sought to create an electronic titling system. Due to the complexity of the matter (and its

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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

CONTINUED

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direct implications on Deputy Registrar operations) we were successful in delaying any progress of this initiative. However, this will likely return next session, we are currently working with the proponent, DVS, and other stakeholders to seek acceptable language on this topic. over the interim.

MDRA also worked with the DNR who is looking at an alternative state park pass, whereby a different plate registration sticker could be purchased annually as an acceptable form. This also requires involvement by DVS and this initiative remains a work in progress while we continue to be active in its planning on your behalf! On a separate DNR initiative, MDRA continues to work with the agency in advance of their new ELS rollout to ensure proper vetting and testing of the new system by our agents occurs before any “go-live” date is determined.

IN CLOSING

MDRA will soon be issuing our annual legislative survey for members to respond with as we develop next year’s legislative agenda. Please participate when it arrives! We will likely be focused next session on pressing for the need to address **DVS REVENUE SHARING WITH DEPUTIES**. This is a matter that was a key recommendation from both the King report and Barry Dunn report and must be pressed before our lawmakers forget about it! We reminded the legislature about this factor when we successfully fought off consideration for DVS online transaction expansion for DL. We must proactively continue to advocate for this because current MV offerings by DVS are financially crippling our offices!

LASTLY

Our annual legislator recognition event is being planned with the date TBD, but it will honor **Rep. John Koznick (R-Lakeville)**. Rep. Koznick is the new (co) chair of the House Transportation Committee and has proven support for deputies! Please stay tuned for a future MDRA email alert detailing this annual event and thank you in advance for your consideration and support for this special recognition!

Jim Hirst, MDRA lobbyist



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TODD'S CORNER



Todd Oseby - Trainer & Business Analyst
Driver & Vehicle Services
Minnesota Department of Public Safety
C. 651.491.4897 - todd.oseby@state.mn.us

Howdy y'all! Summer is here and the Real ID drop dead date has finally come and gone after being pushed off and pushed back more than finally fixing that pesky broken fence post in the back 40 of the pasture. Hopefully everyone survived with their sanity intact and things are slowly going back to normal.

I am very excited to announce some big news! After several years of pushing it to the back burner (kind of like the Real ID date), Brian and I are finally coming close to finishing up development of new employee training! That's right, you heard me. Live, recurring training on the basics for both Driver and Motor Vehicle Services. Hopefully this will take some of the load off of all of you. My hope is to offer sessions every month. two days of DL one month, then two days of MV the next and so on. We will cover all of the basics that new staff need to know to get them started on the right path. While we won't go into more complex concepts, the goal is to give new staff a firm foundation that can be built on at their respective office, and of course, regular attendance at Time with Training. No minimum time on the job will be required. Folks can attend at the first available session.

Once the training is built, we will go through a review process to make sure we are not too far off the mark with our approach, and once that is done, giddy up! Let'er buck! We will send an official announcement and dates of training once we are ready to go.

Thank you all for your time! I am riding off into the sunset for now. Enjoy the beautiful summer and all Minnesota has to offer. I will see y'all in Time with Training

-Todd Oseby

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

GOVERNANCE with Ben O'Reilly



The Minnesota Deputy Registrars Association (MDRA) Board has been hard at work updating how it operates, and it's already seeing results. With help from the Governance Committee, the Board recently fine-tuned its **meeting protocols** to make decision-making more efficient and responsibilities clearer for everyone involved.

This update, based on a streamlined version of Robert's Rules of Order, gives structure to board meetings while still encouraging open discussion and participation. Members now have a clearer understanding of when and how to speak, how motions are handled, and how votes are conducted.

Clearer Roles, Stronger Teamwork

One major achievement has been defining board roles more clearly:

- **President** leads the board, sets meeting agendas, and represents the MDRA externally.
- **Vice President** supports the President and helps lead when needed.
- **Secretary** manages records, communications, and member lists.
- **Treasurer** oversees finances and ensures compliance with rules.
- **Communications** this dedicated role helps the board stay in touch with members and stakeholders.

This clarity has made our meetings more productive and helps the board work together more effectively.

Advisory Committee Brings Experience

The **Advisory Committee**, made up mostly of former board members, has been actively contributing to discussions. While they don't vote, their advice has been valuable in shaping decisions and guiding the Board with their institutional knowledge. Their increased involvement has brought depth and perspective to recent meetings.

Results That Matter

The Governance Committee's efforts have paid off. This updated structure has already helped the board move through key issues more efficiently, approve needed changes, and support better coordination across committee's. Overall, it's been a season of progress for MDRA, with members stepping up and processes getting sharper.

Stay tuned for more updates as MDRA and its members continue to build on this momentum.



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EXPLORE Minnesota

MDRA

Minnesota Deputy Registrar's Association

Rollin on the river



In Memoriam

We honor the life and legacy of David “Dave” Robert Konshok, a remarkable Minnesotan whose lifelong dedication to public service, community, and innovation left a lasting impact across the state. Dave passed away peacefully at the age of 98 on May 3, 2025, at Greenwood Connections in Menahga, Minnesota.

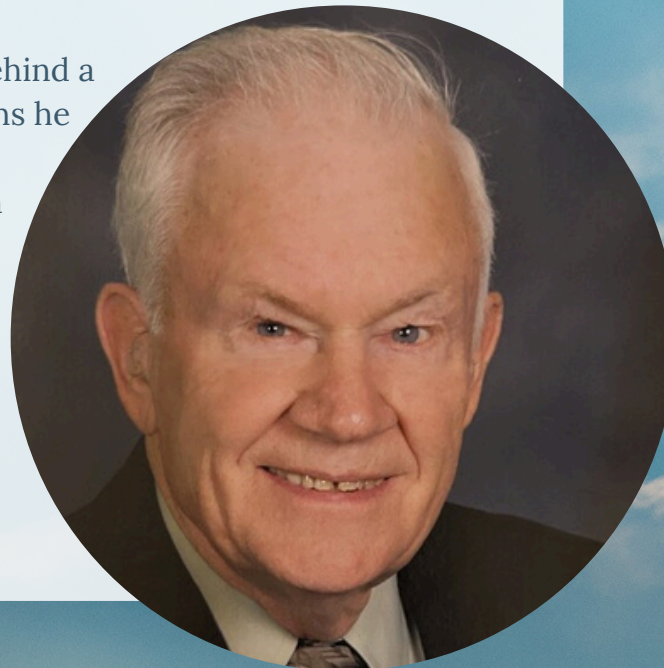
Born in Malta, Montana, and raised in Park Rapids, Dave graduated from Park Rapids High School in 1944 before enlisting in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He proudly served aboard the USS Estes, AGC-12, the flagship of the U.S. 7th Fleet. After his service, he earned a degree in Business Administration from the University of Minnesota and returned to Park Rapids to build a life rooted in family, entrepreneurship, and civic leadership.

Among his many achievements, Dave was a founding member of the **Minnesota Deputy Registrar’s Association (MDRA)**. His leadership helped shape and professionalize the system that supports motor vehicle registration across Minnesota. Through his vision and advocacy, deputy registrars throughout the state gained a unified voice and a strong support network, ensuring better service for all Minnesotans. Dave’s commitment to fairness, cooperation, and public access laid a foundation that continues to support and strengthen the MDRA to this day.

In Park Rapids, Dave and his beloved wife, Irene, operated several local businesses, including Park Rapids Motor Vehicle Deputy Registrar #68. His work in local and state transportation extended to aviation, where he served more than 60 years on the Park Rapids Airport Commission, chairing it for many years. His dedication to the local aviation commission eventually led to the airport being renamed Konshok Field in his honor. He also founded the local Mantrap Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol and received the CAP Bronze Star Medal for bravery.

Through it all, Dave remained a man of humility, integrity, and enduring community spirit. He leaves behind a profound legacy that continues through the institutions he helped build and the countless lives he touched. The Minnesota Deputy Registrar’s Association, the aviation community, and the people of Park Rapids will long remember his extraordinary service, leadership, and dedication.

David “Dave” Konshok
September 25, 1926 – May 3, 2025



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To get started, search MDRA on Facebook. You will be prompted to answer a couple of simple membership questions before getting access.

And check us out online at www.mndep.com for all the monthly meeting links, monthly meeting minutes, past Time with Training episodes and so much more!

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