

MDRA PLATE TALK

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MNDEPUTYREGISTRARS@GMAIL.COM

Fall 2025 Edition



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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.

Minnesota Deputy Registrar's Association

Minnesota Deputy Registrar's Association

President's



Perspective



President - Jeff Lenarz #046
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DEAR MEMBERS,

As we move into what's traditionally the slower time of year, it's a welcome chance to take a breath, look around, and appreciate just how far we've come. After the busy seasons of renewals, REAL ID enforcement deadlines, and staff vacations, this quieter stretch offers a valuable opportunity to regroup, reflect, and refocus on what's ahead.

I'm honored to share that I've been re-elected by the MDRA Board to serve another year as President. It's a privilege I don't take lightly. Leading this association—and representing such a dedicated group of deputy registrars across Minnesota—continues to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my career.

This time of year also brings a moment of gratitude and change on our Board. Mona Strolberg has officially termed out after six years of committed service. Mona's thoughtful perspective, steady leadership, and unwavering advocacy for deputy registrars have been invaluable. On behalf of the Board and our membership—thank you, Mona, for your years of hard work and your lasting impact on MDRA.

At the same time, I'm excited to welcome Linsey Stoppelman as our newly elected Board member. Linsey brings fresh energy, ideas, and a deep understanding of the work we do every day. I'm confident she'll be a great addition to the team as we continue to move MDRA forward.

As the pace slows down a bit, I hope each of you can find a moment to recharge and reconnect with your teams. Use this time to celebrate small wins, tidy up the to-do lists that got buried during the rush, and prepare for what's next. The slower season may not last long—but it's an important part of the cycle that keeps us all balanced and ready for the road ahead.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone who made it to St. Cloud for our Annual Membership Meeting. I had a lot of fun and learned a lot, and I hope you did too!

Thank you for the continued trust and support you've shown me and the Board. I'm grateful to serve as your President for another year—and I look forward to continuing this journey together.

JEFF LENARZ - PRESIDENT, MINNESOTA DEPUTY REGISTRAR'S ASSOCIATION

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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

JIM HIRST - Lobbyist JEFF ORTH - Chair

We trust that all offices should have received their first quarterly “no-fee transaction” reimbursements from the State, as these were to be sent by mid-October to your established “SWIFT” account. These quarterly payments address a long-standing grievance we’ve had, and represent one of our hallmark achievements from the past legislative session! If you’ve not seen any payment, we encourage you to contact your liaison and begin the process to resolve it.

Given that this reimbursement is new, we would like to know if certain (no-fee) transactions are not being included for reimbursement but should be! The next legislative session would be appropriate to consider any “clean-up” language with the new law if needed. Please email MDRA with a description of any shortcomings in this regard that we should pursue!

One matter that MDRA intends to promote in 2026 is DVS revenue sharing. Past independent studies (King report, Barry/Dunn report) have strongly recommended that DVS share a portion of their filing fee revenues derived from online and mail-in renewals back to deputy offices. Not surprisingly, DVS is adamantly opposed to this concept and claim “deputies should not be paid for work they don’t do”. However, DVS conveniently forgets that they shifted their workloads onto deputy offices beginning with MNLARS and has continued with MNDRIVE without any compensation from DVS regarding this!

The 2026 legislature will be convening a “short” session next year, running only three months from February 17 until May 18. As such, our revenue sharing initiative will be a two-year project at the legislature. We plan to lay the groundwork for it in 2026 and then follow up in 2027 which coincides as a budget setting year. (The state budget is a two-year plan which is passed in odd numbered years, as it was earlier this year.)

MDRA will be proactive on this issue next session, along with others based on our annual legislative member survey, the results of which are included separately with this edition of Plate Talk. However, we must also be vigilant to counter emerging issues that may negatively impact us. These include the potential for online DL renewals or replacements by DVS as well as the subject of e-titling for motor vehicles. The former was a DVS initiative last year (which we successfully defeated) while the latter remains a topic of negotiation with Carvana who initiated the e-title discussion with us earlier this year.



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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

CONTINUED

JIM HIRST - Lobbyist JEFF ORTH - Chair

We currently await Carvana's revised language on this topic after we last met with them over the summer. However, while e-titling may be a Carvana initiative, it seems DVS is supportive in general of the concept. Our primary concerns regarding this matter center on retaining our traditional auditing role along with maintaining our filing fee revenue for these transactions, as well as potential fraud prevention.

We wish to thank our members for your participation with this year's annual MDRA legislator recognition event in Lakeville this summer that honored GOP House Transportation Chairman John Koznick. Collectively we contributed over \$1500 to his reelection campaign!

Incidentally, while 2025 is not an election year for our state lawmakers, both the House and Senate will be on the ballot in 2026 along with all our constitutional offices. This political dynamic will certainly have a bearing on next year's session in advance of that momentous fall election. Depending on the 2026 election outcome next year, our existing, evenly split by party legislature could either be continued or result in a more workable majority for either party.

Meanwhile, two more special elections (again) will be decided this November for a pair of state senate seats which could revert control in that body next session back to the GOP should both republican candidates prevail in those races. Currently the DFL holds a one-seat majority in the state senate, while the state house is equally tied between DFL and GOP office holders.

In closing, we wish you a joyous upcoming holiday season and encourage you to engage locally with your state lawmakers in advance of the 2026 legislative session. Remind them of the valuable services you provide in the community and the critical need for them to support us at the capitol!

MDRA Legislative Committee

Jim Hirst, MDRA lobbyist



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TODD'S CORNER



Todd Oseby - Trainer & Business Analyst
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Howdy ya'all! Fall has arrived! I love all of the seasons in Minnesota, which is why I haven't headed off to Texas to seek greener (or browner) pastures. Fall has always been my favorite though.

We have had a busy couple of months filled with more changes and turmoil than we can shake a rattlesnake's tail at! The mad rush of REAL ID, the massive changes to CLD domicile and proof of residence requirements, the buckets training...the story goes one like one of Uncle Jed's tall tales. You all survived it and I am so proud of all of you. I want to thank each and every one of you for taking it easy on me in our bucket training sessions. I was as nervous as an elephant on ice skates about sharing that training with you, as it seems like a lot of unnecessary work and additional time added to an already lengthy process. You handled it with grace and poise, and hopefully you got the hang of it.

I also wanted to congratulate all of you on finally getting reimbursed for all of the hard work you do at no fee! It is nice to see at least for now that you can get compensated for doing a complicated disability certificate transaction or one of several other transactions. I always felt it was a bitter pill to swallow that we encourage people to do everything online instead of going to an office, but then expect offices to issue replacements not received, and do it for free with a smile.

I also wanted to let you know to keep your eyes peeled for an upcoming standalone training on reading and using reports in MNDRIVE. Shout out to Sue Jensen for suggesting it! I have it mostly finished and ready to go. We would have had the training already but the bucket training temporarily pushed it into the ditch. I will go through each of the major reports, what they tell you, and how to play around with them a bit. It should be very informative. After all, a report is about as useless as a basketball bat, unless you know how to use it and read it.

Thank you all for your time! I am riding off into the sunset for now. Enjoy an orchard, brewery, winery, corn maze or a scenic drive or walk. Whatever dips you in buttermilk, Autumn in Minnesota likely has it! I will see ya'all in Time with Training. Happy trails!

-Todd Oseby

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

COMMUNICATIONS with Angela Hallquist

Over the past year, MDRA Communications has been hard at work enhancing how we connect with membership. One of the primary focuses has been improving email delivery, especially after a challenging 2024. Several Microsoft-related changes disrupted our email communications, resulting in many email messages going undelivered. Despite this setback, the MDRA Facebook page proved to be a valuable communication channel for staying connected and engaged with our fellow deputy offices across the state.



In addition to addressing email issues, The Communications team made several subtle improvements to the MDRA website. Navigation was simplified to help membership find key resources more easily, combining information in one section as well as removing any unnecessary outdated information. We also added photos of the board members to help put faces to names; an effort we believe strengthens the connection with membership.

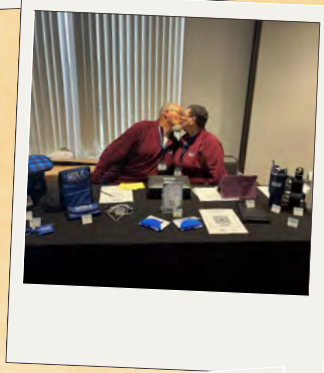
With the demands of REAL ID applications beginning to ease and our annual St. Cloud meeting successfully wrapped up, we're turning our attention to the future. Looking ahead for 2026, our goals include completing the transition to a new email platform, continuing to refresh and update the MDRA Website, and creating a dedicated section for the annual St. Cloud Meeting to make related information easier to access.

Communications play a key role in supporting the Boards ongoing work. This includes responding to member inquiries, some of which require thoughtful discussion and formal responses-coordinating monthly board meetings locations, and sending out meeting invites, Treasures report and agenda from our President. Communications also collect all membership responses to issues/concerns taking place and then shares the information with the board.

As always, we welcome feedback and ideas from membership. Your input helps us continue to improve and ensure that communication efforts meet your needs.

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2025
ANNUAL MEETING



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Summer 2025 Edition



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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
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