



PREP (Property Records Education Partners) Minnesota Beginnings to National Prominence

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In 1997 a small group of title industry personnel and metro county recorders gathered in an Edina, MN conference room to discuss the need for counties and industry to change the manner in which they interacted with each other. Both recognized a responsibility to work with the public to facilitate real estate transactions but to that point neither had focused on a strong working relationship with each other.

A committee comprised of representatives from MACO (MN Association of County Officers), MRESA (MN Real Estate Services Association) and MLTA (MN Land Title Association) adopted the following mission statement - "To ensure quality service to the home buying public by improving communication between the title industry and the counties and simplifying our piece of the real estate transaction." With this began a forum for industry and counties to discuss specific needs and issues critical to both, promoting improved communication and creating a strong working partnership.

Since its inception the MN Metro PREP group has met regularly as a working forum to sponsor joint educational opportunities, has worked together on legislation beneficial to real estate transfers and have supported and participated in each other's professional functions. Most importantly this group shared its success first with other MN groups, ultimately creating eleven active PREP chapters throughout the state and finally grew into a national organization.

In 2002, working with PRIA (Property Records Industry Association), PREP groups went national with the creation of PREP chapters throughout the United States. All sectors of the property records industry are encouraged to become PREP participants. The PREP groups have no membership dues and do not require membership in PRIA. Additional information is available on the PRIA website www.pria.us.

The accomplishments of PREP groups are many, but none are more important than the realization that we are now working together with enhanced respect and greater understanding of the job that both the private and public sector do on a daily basis.