

President's CEA Director Report

January 2007

Being my first year as a director I learned they just throw you into the deep end. A lot of support, but because we only meet a limited times a year, you get busy right away.

Leadership

It was an introduction as to the scope of the committee and an overview of what we could learn and offer to the group. The committee supports the Regional Presidents and their members by providing a sounding board, education and a sharing of ideas. Leadership provides an open forum to assist in strengthening each member of the committee and in turn they take what they have learned back to their associations.

Membership

Last year the committee worked on developing a one word coin identifier for CEA members and we continue to work towards this goal. We decided on the catch phrase, Invest in your Future, Make a Difference, for 2007 tying into the President's Theme. For recruiting and maintaining members we want to educate how Professional Designations and Membership work hand in hand. Our goal for membership is 3135 and recommended creating membership drive awards for individuals and regions.

Governance

Worked on the Manual of Policy & Procedures, continued over from 2006, one last revision which should have the manual ready for presentation to the Executive Board for the March 2007 meeting. There was discussion about the Escrow Institute being a regional member and their desire to go thru CEA to AEA or directly to AEA.

General Session

This was where I learned the most, with the help of Juliana Tu sitting next to me, about the inner workings of CEA, the Executive Board and the General Session. The general session is divided into three separate meetings. The AM session, which was largely introductions being the first meeting of the year. A lunch session which we had a presentation from the CEA charity of the year, Operation Gratitude, which provides care packages to our soldiers abroad. And then the afternoon session which is where all the committee chairs and the Executive Board share, discuss, report and vote on the accomplishments of the day. There was discussion about the economy changing and the challenges it brings. The GLB Act and how it is not new and that NNA and title companies created a stronger certified notary program that some companies are utilizing. Mike Belote spoke on the how the DOI is moving forward with their rollback of title and escrow rates regulations.

Submitted by,

Randy Caruso
2007 President