

California Escrow Association
Directors Meeting – November 10-11, 2006
Costa Mesa

All sessions that I attended were given over to recapping what the accomplishments were during the year and what the focus would be for 2007.

CEA News Committee Report

The first 2/3rds of the session was dedicated to delineating what our 2007 goals would be. Your humble director was asked to chair this committee in 2007, so this was a very instructive time for me.

Dave Shean, the outgoing chair, passed on the various deadlines we need to keep, and what he does to keep the articles of interest coming in.

A lot was accomplished this year, with the Grim Fairy Tales and the upcoming Q & A from members of the Executive Board. Then the discussion turned to what we saw as the main focus for the upcoming year.

The focus will be on how to get regionals to be featured more prominently in the magazine. One way was to create a “Regionals’ Corner” where articles of interest from the regional level would be featured. Juliana should also do an outline for what we are looking for, the highlights, the length, etc. and set up a distribution list to all regional presidents for articles, together with timely reminders so that the articles can come in for review by the committee before the next Directors Meeting.

The last part of the session involved reviewing what articles we had on hand to put into the January 2007 newsletter.

Lenders Relations Committee

2006 was a year given over to the progress of the Universal Lenders Instructions. Within the committee did a lot of reviewing and discussion of loan documents. Not enough substantive work, however, according to chair, David Shean. So that would be our focus for next year.

The main goals are to clearly identify and memorialize specific Lender document problems and Lender imposed duties and obligations. A list of problems and proposed response to these problems would be incorporated into a web-site format for access by our members. In addition, David would look into the possibilities of establishing a blog site for members to address specific individual problems encountered from where they could get possible answers to their concerns.

Professional Designation/Continuing Education Committee

First on the agenda was the schedule for the PD Exam to be held in 2007 and specifically for the future. The Executive Board and CEA Headquarters were asked to devise a schedule that would consolidate the number of exam dates per year from 8 to 5, and congregating them in a centralized location. The request was made for us to “think outside the box” and visualize a more streamline operation for the future.

Committee comments were that many regionals had already scheduled their workshops in anticipation of the normal exam schedule, at least for the first half of 2007, so any change for 2007 would have to be for the second half of the year. San Gabriel and Central Valley would still have the April 14th test date, and Central Coast and Santa Clara would have the May 12 date. The test would be offered at the Nor Cal Conference on July 13 and at Conference on Oct. 14th. August 11th would be at Antelope Valley. The August test in Santa Ana WAS NOT scheduled and the November 17 date in San Diego is presently undecided.

Meanwhile, committee members were requested to go back and think about consolidation. This would free up the regionals from the responsibilities of hosting the tests, and put the work of sites, applications and even finding proctors on Headquarters.

There is also the idea of hiring outside paid industry consultants to do a lot of the work, like test grading and evaluating and updating tests.

The goals for 2007 deal with reviewing tests, sample tests and other related education courses for accuracy and to keep them current. Also needed are updates on the speciality tests – Bulk and Mobilehomes. Mainly, the ultimate goal is to improve the passing rate for all segments of the professional designation exam.

Finally, it was mentioned that Headquarters is instituting a new policy of mailing the PD plaques directly to the member instead of the regional PD chairs. This new policy was instituted because some members have complained that they have not received their plaques from the chairs. However, we (Ann, Donna and myself) voiced our objections and requested that our members plaques still be sent to our PD chair so that we could make our presentation at our dinner meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Juliana Tu, CSEO
CEA Director