

# TITLE WAVE

## DLTA MID-YEAR MEETING IN BIRMINGHAM

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

<i>DLTA Mid-Year Meeting</i>	1
<i>Message from President</i>	2
<i>Executive Director</i>	2
<i>Convention 2008: Experience the Shoals</i>	3
<i>DLTA Atlanta Luncheons</i>	4
<i>DLTA Adopts Organizational Plan</i>	5
<i>Educational Opportunities</i>	6

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY—4.0 CLE CREDITS

Join us at beautiful Ross Bridge Resort & Spa in Birmingham, Alabama, March 14-15, 2008, for the Dixie Land Title Association Mid-Year Meeting.

Participants will have the opportunity to earn up to 4.0 CLE credits by attending the seminars being held Friday morning, March 14th. Seminar material has been submitted to the Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia Bar for their approval.



Topics include:

- “Avoiding Claims on Loan Policies” by Thomas J. Skinner IV of Lloyd, Gray & Whitehead, P.C.
- “Mechanic’s Liens, Materialman’s Liens, and the Doctrine of Equitable Subrogation” by Michael Odom of Haskel, Slaughter, Young & Rediker.
- “Handling Boundary Disputes” by Greer Mallette, a partner in the law firm of Christian & Small, LLP.

Whether you plan to come to obtain CLE credits, to network and enjoy an opportunity to visit with your peers, or to just relax and enjoy two days at a beautiful resort, we hope you will mark your calendar and make plans to attend this great event.

Registration Fee:           \$125 DLTA Members  
                                      \$195 Non-Members  
                                      \$65 Spouse/Guest  
                                      \$75 Seminar Only

Hotel Accommodations: We have negotiated a group rate of \$179 per night single/double occupancy. Call 800-593-6419 to make your reservations today.

Visit our website at [www.DLTA.net](http://www.DLTA.net) to download a complete brochure and registration form.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The past four months have been very busy for the officers and board of Dixie Land Title Association. Following our convention in September, a few of us headed up to Chicago for the American Land Title Association convention. That was the first ALTA convention I had attended and I hope it will not be the last. I found the meetings and speakers (Arte Johnson & Colin Powell) to be very interesting and the exhibitors very informative. For those of you who have never been to an ALTA convention, I highly recommend you go and see your national association at work first hand...plus next year it's in Hawaii!

In December we had our first quarterly board meeting in Atlanta at the offices of LandAmerica. I want to thank Kathy Stewart for doing such a great job hosting that meeting and doing so much to help plan it. The board met with the Strategic Planning Committee as we continue to iron

out many of the recommendations brought out by the Strategic Plan completed last year. To fill two empty offices the board voted to approve the appointments of Tammy Robbins as the new DLTA Secretary and Roy Perriloux as the new DLTA Treasurer. I want to express my thanks to these two for stepping up to the plate. I know they are both going to do a wonderful job for DLTA. The board also voted to approve the ALTA Principles of Fair Conduct.

The night before the board meeting many of us were privileged to attend a celebration of the life of Marguerite Bridges. This event was planned and put together by Diane Calloway, and what a fitting celebration it was of the life and work of such a great lady in the title industry and DLTA.

Looking ahead we have our Mid-Year meeting coming up in March at Ross Bridge Resort in Birmingham. This meeting will be open to all



members and guests as we will hold a Seminar (with CLE credit), committee meetings, and a dinner on Friday followed by the board meeting on Saturday.

In other business, work is continuing on finalizing the Articles of Organization for the three state LLC's. The Alabama PAC is also about to be completed, and Tammy Robbins, our convention chairperson and new DLTA Secretary, is busy organizing what will be an outstanding convention this September at The Marriott Shoals. I will be attending the Federal Conference on behalf of DLTA in March and then I'll see you at Mid-Year!

Chris Bobo, President

*"The past four months have been very busy for the officers and board of Dixie Land Title Association."*

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The board of directors and committee chairs of Dixie Land Title Association have worked very hard during the past year to move the association forward so that we truly set the standard for ethics, knowledge, and success in the land title industry. It has been a pleasure to work with these strong leaders as they rethink and fine tune the way they operate.

Our Mid-Year Meeting and Annual Convention will be outstanding opportunities for you as our members to participate and get involved.

Hope to see you in Birmingham next month!

Linda Alwood, Executive Director



## CONVENTION 2008: EXPERIENCE THE SHOALS!

*by Tammy Robbins, Convention Chair*



Welcome to The Shoals! Four adjoining cities in Northwest Alabama, namely Florence, Tusculumbia, Sheffield and Muscle Shoals, are collectively referred to by locals as "The Shoals". At this year's convention, you will experience the best the Shoals area has to offer! With a first class hotel, 36 holes of championship golf, and a rich history in music, you don't want to miss out! So, come on, let's take a peek at what you'll find in The Shoals.

**Florence** is home to the Marriott Shoals Hotel. With amenities rivaling any big city hotel, you will love the Marriott Shoals! The hotel has a 6,000 square foot European spa, heated indoor pool, and an outdoor pool with fountains, water cave, and a winding slide. Each room has its own private balcony overlooking the beautiful Tennessee River. While the hotel has plenty to offer, you'll still want to venture out and explore Florence. Florence is also home to The University of North

Alabama (or UNA, to the locals). The beautiful campus is located in the downtown area and is home to the only live lion mascots in the country living on campus. Leo, III and Una live in a 12,764 square foot, climate controlled facility. With these lions roaring in the morning, there is no need for an alarm clock! If shopping is your cup of tea, don't miss the English Village shopping center. With stores like The French Basket, Marigail Mathis, Artifacts, and Sidelines, you'll never believe you are in Northwest Alabama! These locally owned stores boast designer clothing lines and talented local artists, and are a sure stop while in town. Does Memphis Blues or St. Louis Blues ring a bell? Florence is the birthplace of W. C. Handy, blues composer and musician, known as the father of the blues. Each year, Shoals residents come out to celebrate their rich musical history with the W. C. Handy Music Festi-

val. Don't worry; we'll give you a taste of what the Shoals music scene is all about at the convention. Interested in architecture? Did you know that Florence has the only Frank Lloyd Wright house in Alabama? In 1939, Stanley Rosenbaum commissioned Wright to design his first home as a gift for his bride, Mildred. The house is only one of 26 pre-World War II Usonian houses in the United States. The home opened for tours in 2002. This is only a glimpse of what Florence has to offer, so join us in September so you can experience it for yourself!



**Tusculumbia**, Alabama was named one of the 10 coolest small towns in America by Budget Travel magazine in their October 2007 edition, and it's no wonder! Tusculumbia is a cool, thriving, yet quaint town that's the epitome of small town America. It is filled with shops, restaurants, and a renovated

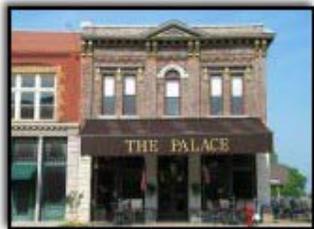
*"With a first class hotel,  
36 holes of  
championship golf, and  
a rich history in music,  
you don't want to miss  
out!"*

*(Continued on page 4)*

# CONVENTION 2008: EXPERIENCE THE SHOALS!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

park that includes a 30 horse carousel, a roller coaster, and an imitation steam engine train. Be sure and stop by The Palace Ice Cream and Sandwich Shop on Main Street. Known in the late 1940's and early 1950's as The Palace Drug Store, the only thing medicinal about The Palace now is the malts and



shakes!

Just want to relax with a cup of coffee and a good book? Stop by Cold Water Books at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Main. Tusculumbia is perhaps best known as the birthplace of Helen Keller. Step back in

time with a visit to Ivy Green, Helen's childhood home. The well where Helen spoke her first word is located on the grounds at Ivy Green, and is a must see while in the Shoals.

When A Man Loves A Woman....can't keep his mind on nothing else. Okay, I know all of you are humming along to that tune! Did you know that Percy Sledge recorded that song in FAME Studios, right in the heart of **Muscle Shoals, Alabama**? Since 1959, FAME Studios and FAME Publishing have been recording and producing artists like Wilson Pickett, The Osmonds, Aretha Franklin, Tim McGraw and Reba McEntire. Muscle Shoals songwriters have an abundance of hits to their names, and the Shoals area is still thriving

with talented songwriters and musicians alike.

Now that you know a little bit about the Shoals, don't you want to come experience what we have in store at this year's convention? So, save the date! September 11-13<sup>th</sup>, The Shoals, Alabama. More details coming soon!



## 2007-2008 DLTA OFFICERS

- President—Chris S. Bobo
- President-Elect—Kathy M. Stewart
- Vice President—Linda B. Reeves
- Secretary—Tammy Robbins
- Treasurer—Roy Perilloux
- Alabama Director—Jeffrey R. Lees
- Georgia Director—Tracey Webb
- Mississippi Director—Don P. Lacy
- Director at Large—Amy Nieson
- Immediate Past President—Diane S. Calloway

## ATLANTA LUNCHEONS

The Dixie Land Title Association Atlanta luncheons will start again next month.

The first luncheon will be hosted by Specialized Title Services, Inc. on Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Watch for further details on the DLTA website at [www.DLTA.net](http://www.DLTA.net).

# DLTA ADOPTS NEW ORGANIZATIONAL PLAN

The Board of Directors and the Strategic Planning Committee of Dixie Land Title Association met in Atlanta, Georgia, December 12, 2007 to finalize an Organizational Plan for the association.

At previous meetings the vision and mission statement were adopted as follows:

**Vision Statement:**

Dixie Land Title Association sets the standard for ethics, knowledge, and success in the land title industry.

**Mission Statement:**

The mission of Dixie Land Title Association is to promote the safe and efficient transfer of real property ownership through education, public awareness, and legislative advocacy.

Organizational Goals were established at the December meeting to include:

- 1) Restructure the organization to simplify management of functions and ensure implementation of the strategic plan.
- 2) Grow the membership with a net gain of 10% annually.
- 3) Expand educational offerings and outreach, with a focus on members and affiliated industries.

- 4) Create and maintain an accreditation/certification program.
- 5) Develop a plan of legislative advocacy in each state.
- 6) Raise awareness among the general public about the importance of the land title industry.

Strategies were developed for each goal, with a time frame for implementation and completion.

The following list includes some of the highlights of the strategies adopted to make sure these goals are met:

- A new committee structure has been developed, including increased outreach to the membership for service on committees.
- Job descriptions have been created for each committee.
- DLTA bylaws will be revised to reflect the changes made to the organizational structure.
- A 2008 Membership Campaign was kicked off in January to so-

licit new members from all three states.

- CLE credits will be offered at both the Mid-Year Meeting and the Annual Convention each year.
- Each state Education Committee is being encouraged to promote at least one educational event in their state each year.
- We are reviewing information collected from other state title associations to determine the best approach to create and maintain an accreditation program.

- LLC's have been created for each state in order to facilitate legislative activity and briefs. The board is now working to finalize the operating agreements between DLTA and each LLC.
- Opportunities for press releases are being considered to promote the land title industry.

If you are interested in serving on a committee to help make this plan become a reality, contact one of the members of the Board of Directors or call our Executive Director

Linda Alwood at 225-291-2806.

**DLTA Committees:**

- Finance Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Education Committee
- Convention Committee
- Governmental/Legislative Committee
- Membership Committee

We need you to help us meet these goals.



Dixie Land Title  
Association

P O Box 14806  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898

Phone: 225-291-2806  
Fax: 225-291-2811  
Email: LAlwood@aol.com

We're on the Web!  
[WWW.DLTA.net](http://WWW.DLTA.net)

## DLTA EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### Georgia Challenging Times Title Seminar

March 18, 2008

Cobb Galleria Centre

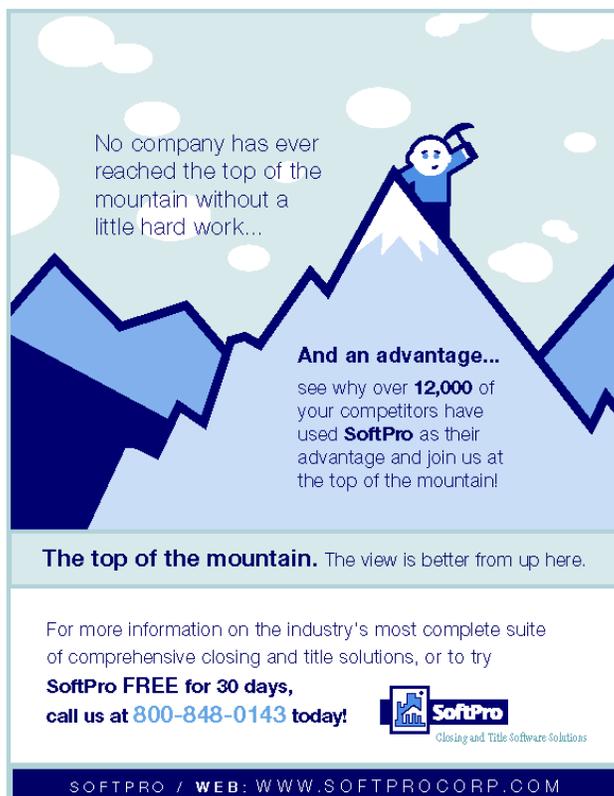
Two Galleria Pkwy.

Atlanta, GA 30339

Opportunity to earn 6.0 CLE

#### Topics:

- RESPA Tips
- Everything You Need to Know About Short Sales
- Georgia Mortgage Foreclosures
- Official Title Standards and Their Relevance to your practice
- Reverse Mortgages
- Title Examinations



No company has ever reached the top of the mountain without a little hard work...

**And an advantage...**  
see why over **12,000** of your competitors have used **SoftPro** as their advantage and join us at the top of the mountain!

**The top of the mountain.** The view is better from up here.

For more information on the industry's most complete suite of comprehensive closing and title solutions, or to try **SoftPro FREE for 30 days**, call us at **800-848-0143** today!



Closing and Title Software Solutions

**SOFTPRO / WEB: [WWW.SOFTPROCORP.COM](http://WWW.SOFTPROCORP.COM)**