

NACRC Addresses Vital Records

The National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials, and Clerks recently announced that it has restructured its membership interest groups to include a focus on Vital Records.

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Responding to the increasingly diversified interests of its members and the various jurisdictions they represent across the United States, the National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials and Clerks (NACRC) recently unveiled a new member interest group, called the Official Records Administration and Management Interest Group. According to NACRC President Mark A. Monacelli, the move reflects an increased focus on the duties and responsibilities assigned to elected and appointed county officials, which includes the management of a community's vital records.

“Across the nation, we’re seeing an increased awareness among the constituencies that we serve about the important role that vital records play in our respective communities,” Monacelli said.

Vital records include records on the births, marriages, and deaths within a community. “These records provide important legal as well as historical information about a community,” Monacelli pointed out. “And, with the impact of technology, the use, life cycle, accessibility, application and security of these records have become a factor that we must address.”

The new interest group represents a consolidation of two previous groups—the court administration interest group and the clerk to county boards/commissions interest group—as well as the addition of other subject matters, such as the issue of vital records.

Monacelli has appointed three county officials to lead the new interest group; they are: Ken Boulden, Clerk of the Peace from New Castle County, DE, Casey Joe Carl, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners from Johnson County, KS, and Mark Massey, Clerk to the County Commission from Fulton County, GA.

Monacelli stated that NACRC plans to survey its membership to gather and analyze information about the exact requirements each county bears for managing vital records across the nation. The results of that survey will be shared as part of an educational workshop planned as part of the Association's 2005 Legislative Conference in Washington D.C., which is set to run from March 4 to 6 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel.

“The survey is a first step to determine the scope, and it will help to give us a roadmap in planning for how to help provide appropriate educational opportunities for our members, as well as advocating in their behalf with state and national legislators,” said Monacelli.

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ABOUT NACRC

The National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials and Clerks is a professional organization of elected and appointed county administrative officials. NACRC advances the interests of its membership by providing legislative advocacy, educational and training opportunities, and peer networking and serves as a unified voice for the interests and priorities of county recorders, election officials, and clerks with leaders in the nation's capitol.