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| *The Florida Title Action Network (TAN) is designed to bring you information that has occurred within the association and industry in the previous month. We hope you will find this to be informative and keep you up-to-date.***February 2021** |
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| **In This Issue:**[Message from the President](https://www.flta.org/Admin/Settings/Emails/EmailContentProvider.aspx?emailId=162601340#President)[FLTA Members Helps Harper TX](https://www.flta.org/Admin/Settings/Emails/EmailContentProvider.aspx?emailId=162601340#Strong)[2021 Lobby Days (Virtual)](https://www.flta.org/Admin/Settings/Emails/EmailContentProvider.aspx?emailId=162601340#Lobby)[CLT Applications Open](https://www.flta.org/Admin/Settings/Emails/EmailContentProvider.aspx?emailId=162601340#CLT)[Annual Deadlines for DFS](https://www.flta.org/Admin/Settings/Emails/EmailContentProvider.aspx?emailId=162601340#Convention)[Cyber Fit New Year's Resolution](https://www.flta.org/Admin/Settings/Emails/EmailContentProvider.aspx?emailId=162601340#Cyber)[2021 Webinar: How to Handle a Claim](https://www.flta.org/Admin/Settings/Emails/EmailContentProvider.aspx?emailId=162601340#Claim)[FLTA On Demand Library Grows with New Course](https://www.flta.org/Admin/Settings/Emails/EmailContentProvider.aspx?emailId=162601340#Giving)[Legislative Update](https://www.flta.org/Admin/Settings/Emails/EmailContentProvider.aspx?emailId=162601340#OPPAGA)[Wells Fargo Agent Update](https://www.flta.org/Admin/Settings/Emails/EmailContentProvider.aspx?emailId=162601340#Wells)[TIFPAC Contributions Made](https://www.flta.org/Admin/Settings/Emails/EmailContentProvider.aspx?emailId=162601340#PAC)[Useful Links](https://www.flta.org/Admin/Settings/Emails/EmailContentProvider.aspx?emailId=162601340#Links) |
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| **Welcome New Members:**All American Land Title Insurance AgencyApproved Statewide TitleAvanze Business SolutionsBrownstone Title ServicesCapital Hills Title ServicesCertified Title and EscrowForever Home TitleInternational Title and EscrowMent TitleLincoln Land ServicesMarx Rosenthal PLLCNE Florida Mobile NotaryNexstar Title and EscrowPremier Reputation TitlePremium Title ServicesPrimary Title AgencyPriority National ServicesSecurity Assurance Facilitation ExpertsSouthern Capital Title Co.Trusted Title Services |
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| **Upcoming FLTA Events:**3/2: [Membership Committee Monthly Call](https://www.flta.org/event-4086009)3/3: [Cyber Security Monthly Call](https://www.flta.org/event-4086202)3/8: [Education Committee Monthly Call](https://www.flta.org/event-4089079)3/8-10: [FLTA Virtual Lobby Days for 2021 Session](https://www.flta.org/event-4165445)3/9: [FLTA Agents Section Monthly Call](https://www.flta.org/event-4085195)Committee meetings are limited to FLTA membership. Contact Jena Daly to receive call information. |

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| **Message from President Len Prescott**Dear fellow members,I would like to start this message by acknowledging the steady leadership and excellent work of our association staff, our Board of Directors (BOD), and everyone who is contributing so significantly with our various committees and working groups.  A quick review of the other sections of this Newsletter will reveal the current efforts and priorities of our Association being powered by our industry’s most dedicated professionals.  Despite the incredible challenges of the current pandemic, I am very grateful and proud that our Association is in a stronger position at this moment, both financially and structurally, than it was before the pandemic hit us around this time last year.  And we have big plans and opportunities to continue our success. A big focus for this coming month will be our first fully virtual Lobby Days.  Those of you that have participated in past years already know that Lobby Days has become one of the most important and impactful events of our Association as we generate awareness and engagement between FLTA members and key policymakers around current Association legislative priorities and promote the overall benefits that the title insurance and real estate settlement industry provides.  And now this event is open to easier access and more participation by being virtual.  Are you interested in participating?  Get more [specific details](https://www.flta.org/Admin/Settings/Emails/EmailContentProvider.aspx?emailId=162601340#Lobby) and [register](https://www.flta.org/event-4165445). Another big focus that I would like to highlight starts with the charitable action of past BOD member, Aaron Davis, who has travelled to Texas to help with the natural disaster caused by their recent storm.  Our Association was inspired by Aaron’s efforts and has contributed $250 to the [Harper, TX, Fire Department GoFundMe Account](https://www.gofundme.com/f/winter-storm-disaster-2021) and we encourage any interested members to contribute individually as well.   I know that giving back is an integral part of who we are as individuals, and I am very proud that our Association is evolving in a way that will put formal structure and resources around these efforts.  What started with our BOD decision to donate $20,000 to be split between five Florida area food banks with  increased demands created by Covid-19 and a call to action for our members that was met with so much enthusiasm has now evolved into formal BOD approval to establish an FLTA affiliated Charitable Action Foundation with 501(C)(3) status and a commitment to strengthening the communities where our members live and work. We envision our foundational philanthropy will not be simply about writing a check.  This new organization will put structure around our ongoing relationships, collaborations, shared missions to serve our communities, and the giving of our time and talents to specific need driven challenges as well as the broader long-term goals.   Our Foundation will heighten our Association’s identity internally and externally.The scientific research, and the development and rollout of vaccines gives us hope that the dark and isolating days of this pandemic are numbered.  And in its wake, we will have an opportunity to connect in ways both old and new in order to advance the interests of our title insurance and real estate settlement industry in Florida and to serve our communities better than we have before.I hope this newsletter contains information that is helpful for you and that you are also proud and engaged in our Association.  Your ideas, comments and questions are always welcome!  I can be reached at lprescott@firstam.com.Respectfully,Len Prescott2020-2021 President |

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| **FLTA Member Leads Recovery Effort**Aaron Davis flew from Tampa, Florida, to Austin, Texas, on Friday — because he wanted to help people affected by the snow and ice storm.Florida Good Samaritan Dubbed 'Tampa Chainsaw Man' Helping Texans in Deep-Freeze Crisis"I just felt incredibly guilty sitting down in Tampa, Florida, in the sunshine watching the rest of the country suffer," Davis, 45, tells PEOPLE. "I've weathered many storms in my life in Florida, the hurricane capital of the world."During the last Florida hurricane, he bought and delivered generators to people in need. "I just try to step up and do what I can," he says.A business owner (his company does remote real estate closings), Davis told his staff he was taking a month off to volunteer in Texas. "I felt the need to be feet on the ground in Texas to help out however I could," he says.Read the complete story on [People Magazine](https://people-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/people.com/human-interest/florida-good-samaritan-helping-texans-winter-storm/?amp=true).Through Aaron's work with the Harper, TX Fire Department a GoFundMe account has been created calling for funds to assist the community. Aaron has gone on to say, the need is absolutely real and any amount will be a great help.GoFundMe Account: [Harper Winter Storm Disaster 2021](https://www.gofundme.com/f/winter-storm-disaster-2021). |
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| **2021 Lobby Days****A Virtual Event Not to Miss** |

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| **In 2020, CFO Jimmy Patronis met with the industry discussing an update from his office.** |

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| **Rep. Eskamani meets with FLTA members to discuss industry issues.** |

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| [Register Here](https://www.flta.org/event-4165445) |

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| **March 8-10, 2021**With social distancing we bring *Lobby Days* to you this year. Plan to tune-in to hear from **Senator Kathleen Passidomo;** Agents Section Lobbyist, **David Daniel**; lobby team of the **Florida REALTORS**; **Chris Morton**, SVP of Public Affairs with the American Land Title Association and industry leaders in an update of legislative activity impacting the industry.Attendees are not required to attend every meeting and some meetings will be available for playback. Be part of the conversation and set your schedule best for you. Attendees will receive calendar invites for the individual speaking times the week prior.There is no cost for members for this event though [registration](https://www.flta.org/event-4165445) is required for access.Due to legislative calendar some presentation times may not be announced until the week prior.***Have Your Voice Heard and Join Us.*** |

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| **CLT Institute Opens Applications for Designation Testing (CLC/CLS)**Each year the Certified Land Title Institute (CLT) hosts an application period for those interested in becoming a Certified Land Closer and/or a Certified Land Searcher. Approved applicants will be invited to take the one-day test to occur on June 12, 2021 in Ocala, FL. 2020 approved applicants will also be eligible for testing on this date and will be contacted individually.[Applications](https://www.flta.org/resources/Documents/CLT/2021%20Forms/2021%20Application%20packet.pdf) are due no later than April 9, 2021.For more details and information, please visit [www.flta.org/clt](https://www.flta.org/CLT). |
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| **Reminder: Annual Deadlines for DFS**1). The Title Administrative Surcharge is due during the month of January. Subsection [624.501(27)(e),](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0600-0699%2F0624%2FSections%2F0624.501.html) F.S., requires any title insurance agency licensed in Florida each year to remit an administrative surcharge of $200 to the Florida Department of Financial Services. **This payment must be made on or by January 30th.**If a title agency (or title insurance company retail office) has done any business, or is planning on doing any business in the new year, the surcharge is required to be paid.Agency's may pay using their [DFS Agency Account](https://dice.fldfs.com/public/pb_index.aspx). Penalties for not paying can reach to more than $1,500.[Click for more information.](https://www.myfloridacfo.com/Division/Agents/Industry/Laws-Rules/TitleSurcharge.htm)2). A new year brings a new round of Data Call submissions. You may go ahead and download the annual Data Call Report 21.01 recently uploaded to the [FLTA website](https://www.flta.org/Ready_Data_Call).The Data Call is due by May 31, 2021. |
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| **Not Too Late Cyber Fit New Year's Resolutions - Six Quick Tips**It is not too late to set those goals. Cyber threats are likely to increase and evolve throughout 2021, so start exercising your muscles and get started on your CYBER SECURITY NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTIONS before it’s too late!**1.** **Update Your Passwords.** Passwords that are too obvious make it easy for hackers to access your personal data, which could result in blackmail or identity theft. * Resist the urge to use the same password on numerous sites.
* Consider using a passphrase instead of a password – using letters, Capitalization and special characters.

[Read more in Industry News.](https://www.flta.org/Industry-News/9852469) |

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| **FLTA On-Demand CE Library Grows**FLTA is proud to share that we have added an ethics course to our on-demand library, Financial Abuse of Older Adults with Kate Kramer, Policy Analyst with the Office of Older Americans at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.Students may take on-demand courses for continued education credit by registering and logging into FLTA course site.FLTA Members, be sure to retrieve your member coupon code at [www.flta.org/webinar](https://www.flta.org/page-1822598) (member log-in required).Members: $35Non-Members: $75Other course title include: Getting Ready for RON, PACE Financing, and Uncovering Unrecorded Debt and Municipal Liens.In addition to these CE courses, FLTA is an approved instructor for the required [2-hour course](https://floridalta.teachable.com/courses) to become an state approved online notary. |

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| **2021 Webinar Series****How to Handle a Claim****Thursday, March 18th****11:00 AM to 12:00 PM (EST)** |
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| [Register Here](https://www.flta.org/event-4170903) |

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| **Attendees will have a better understanding of:*** What a Title Agent should do when a claim is made under a policy of title insurance they issued
* Title insurance policies from a claims counsel's perspective
* Ensuring a title agent's closing file is claims ready
* The interaction between title agent and title underwriter when a claim happens
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| **Chris McChesney, Esq.**Regional Claims Manager North American TitleInsurance Company**Registration Required.**Members: ComplimentaryNon-Members: $100/attendee.This webinar is approved for CE and pending approval for CLE Credit. |

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| **Legislative Update**The Florida legislature is only one week away from convening and during Interim Committee Weeks we've seen bills filed, heard in committee, and making progress. Some of these bills include FLTA priority legislation addressing improvements to Remote Online Notary and Privacy Shielding (or redaction).To help see legislation the Florida Land Title Association is following you may view our [Legislative Tracking page](https://www.flta.org/LegislativeTracking) on the FLTA website. The site offers quick links to the Florida House and Senate pages of their respective bills and their status.To highlight the 2 top priority issues for FLTA, we'll start with Remote Online Notary. In the Senate, SB228 has been heard and passed it's second committee stop and awaits being heard in the Rule Committee before going to the Senate floor. In the House, HB 121 has passed it's first of two stops and awaits being heard in the House Judiciary Committee. Since its filing, FLTA members have been working with other stakeholders to improve the language and have industry support to move forward.Redaction has had a most exciting couple weeks as Sen. Hooper has filed SB 844 and Rep. Will Robinson has filed HB 781. The legislation is a consensus bill with the help of Sen. Passidomo who helped organize an informal taskforce made of stakeholders from title, Florida Clerk Court and Comptrollers Association, Florida Sheriffs Association, and other individuals. While both bills have been filed their is a lot of groundwork to occur these first weeks of session. SB 844 is expected to be heard very soon in the Government Oversight & Accountability Committee.Be sure to check-in on the [Legislative Tracking](https://www.flta.org/LegislativeTracking) page regularly to view status updates. |

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| **Wells Fargo Settlement Agent Update**In January, Wells Fargo issued an update for Settlement Agents addressing closing process updates, title order response timing, COVID-19 reminders, Florida Reduced Mortgage and/or intangible tax and IRS Form-1099.[Read the complete update here.](https://www.flta.org/Industry-News/10063658) |

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| **TIFPAC Contributions Made** |

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| **Will You Support the Title Industry of Florida Political Action Committee?** |
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| [Contribute Here](https://www.flta.org/PAC-FUND) |

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| **What level will you be in 2021?** |

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| **Chairman's Club - $2,500****President's Club - $1,000****Ambassador's Club - $500** |

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| **Gold Club - $250****Silver Club - $100****Friend Club - $\_\_\_\_\_** |

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| ***All contributions to Title Industry of Florida PAC are considered political contributions and are non-deductible as a business expense for Federal Income Tax purposes. In Florida, there is no limit on contributions to Political Committees.*** |

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| **Useful Links**[www.flta.org/coronavirus](https://www.flta.org/Coronavirus)[www.alta.org/coronavirus](http://www.alta.org/coronavirus) |

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| Florida Land Title Association, P.O. Box 66145, St. Pete Beach, FL 33736 |

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