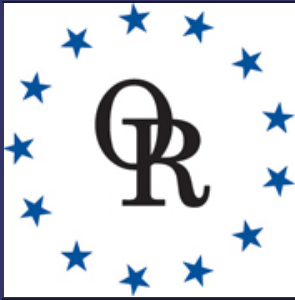


ORT News! – May 2007



OLD REPUBLIC

National Title Insurance Company



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Hello,

Happy Friday afternoon to you!

Today is the 131st day of the year - there are 234 remaining days for this year.

Here are some facts I thought you might find interesting:

- You would have to play ping-pong for 12 hours to lose one pound.
- The number of times a cricket chirps in 15 seconds, plus 37, will give you the current air temperature.
- A teaspoon contains 120 drops of water. And,
- If you keep a goldfish in a dark room, it will eventually turn white.

Hopefully, I've enlightened you with some information in just your first 15 seconds of reading this and hope you'll take just a moment more to continue reading this month's issue of ORT News!

And, since we received a big response to last month's trivia question, we've got another one for you this month too.

Happy Reading!

Inside ORT

"*Something new every day and never dull*", are the words **David Rhodes** says best describe a typical day at Old Republic National Title Insurance Company.

With over 25 years in the title insurance industry, David - pictured here with his oldest son Winthrop, joined ORT in September of 1993 and holds the position of **Vice President & Senior Underwriting and Regulatory Counsel**.

A graduate of the University of Houston School of Law, David previously served on the Board of Directors of his Alumni Association for eight years. Currently a member of the American Bar Association and the State Bar of Texas, he is presently serving on the Title Insurance Subcommittee of the Real Estate, Probate and Trust Section of the Houston Bar Association and the Board of Directors for the Texas Land Title Association (TLTA). David



is a frequent speaker at regional meetings for TLTA - of which he is also a member, State and County Bar Associations, and of course presentations to groups on behalf of ORT.

Originally from Borger, Texas - which is located in the Panhandle, David's hobbies include fishing and also reading science fiction and historical biographies.

David can be reached by calling 888-678-1700, or via email at: DRhodes@oldrepublictitle.com

ORT Press

Please welcome....

Stand at Attention! That's what **Katie Heron** used to hear a lot of before joining Old Republic National Title Insurance Company as **Claims Administrator** three weeks ago. Katie will be working with Britt Schmoller and her responsibilities include the **handling and processing of claims**.

Katie was previously stationed with the Army at Fort Bragg in North Carolina. Born and raised in Conroe, Texas, Katie likes to fish and she and her husband Matt were married just 8 months ago.

First Quarter 2007 Results...

On April 26th, **Old Republic International Corporation released its first quarter 2007** financial results.

First quarter 2007 consolidated **earnings benefited from greater General Insurance operating revenues and profits** that were mainly attributable to a book of liability insurance business acquired in late 2006. **Higher year-over-year claim costs** in the Company's Mortgage Guaranty line, and a **much greater operating expense ratio** in Title Insurance were **major offsetting factors**.

To read the full report which includes financial highlights, please visit:

http://www.oldrepublic.com/1q07_earnings.pdf.

Here Comes The Bride.....And it's me!

In case you haven't heard or have not heard me talk on and on about it, **I am getting married** one week from tomorrow.

My fiance Jim - who is employed as a Petroleum Engineer with Kinder Morgan, and I will exchange vows in front of family and close friends on May 19th in Napa Valley, California. After honeymooning in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, I'll return to the office on Tuesday, May 29th.

Industry-Related Information

Annual Statistical Call

The Texas Department of Insurance (**TDI**) **has issued** the annual Statistical Call.

By now, each Agent should have **received a letter from the TDI notifying** you that it is time to provide statistical information for the year 2006. In connection with this Statistical Call, **ORT mailed earlier this week** our data on policies and revenue that we show as reported from each Agent for 2006. If you do not receive this information from us **by May 15**, contact Monica Damian via email at MDamian@oldrepublictitle.com, or by calling 888-678-1700.

For more information on the Annual Statistical Call, visit: www.tlta.com

It's Finally Been Released...

As you have probably heard by now, the **Government Accountability Office (GAO)** released its long-awaited **report on Title Insurance**.

The report, developed at the request of the former Chairman of the House Committee on Financial Services, **examines the title insurance industry** across the nation and in several states. It **includes a number of recommendations and suggestions** regarding federal and state oversight of the title insurance industry.

If you would like to **read about why the GAO did the study, what was found, and also what the GAO recommends**, please visit: <http://alta.org/images/PDF/gaoreport4-17.pdf>, where you will also be able to **download a complimentary complete copy** of the 74-page report.

If you have any questions about the GAO Report, please don't hesitate to contact us.

ORT Sales & Customer Service Corner

Is It Time To Re-Polish Your Silver?

Do you **remember when your current customers were prospects and/or new customers?**

Recall for a moment the **things you did or how you went the extra mile to impress** them and earn their business. And now that the once new customer is now a current tenured customer - one whom you feel you have become comfortable with, **do you still shine** like you did in the beginning?

It's **a question that's worth asking** ourselves often.

You know how **silver tarnishes with time and lack of consistent polishing?** The same thing can happen to us - from our customer's perspective, if we don't re-polish our silver from time to time. **We can become tarnished and blotchy** to our customers. They wouldn't describe us with those words, but what they will say are things like "*you don't call me back as fast as you used to*", or "*when I use to come to your office, you would always come to the front and personally escort me back to your office. Now, you instruct the receptionist to send me on in*".

It's **so easy to slip into complacency** over time and **stop doing those little things** that once made our customers feel special. And **when customers feel special** as a result of how we've treated them, **we have a very great shine**.

So think for a moment about how you can **re-polish your silver** so your customers **notice a new sparkle**. It's easy to tell customers "thank you", but **when was the last time** you showed it?

Who Was It?!

In last month's Newsletter, we included a little **ORT trivia quiz** and received quite an impressive number of responses.

We asked if you, our customers, knew **what member of the ORT Southwest Region staff was once a champion swimmer**, and if so, to submit your responses. The first two individuals to correctly identify the staff member would receive a prize.

And the **winners were.....Ken Dodson with Wise County Title Company and Audra Jones of Houston Title Company**. They each received a beautiful crystal bowl.

Oh, guess you'd like to know that the **correct answer to the question was Steve Streiff**.

And Now, Who Could It Be?

Which member of the ORT Southwest Region staff had a Great (*times 5*) Grandfather who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence?

If you **know the answer or want to give us your best guess**, contact Kindra Wessel, Agency Administrator, via email at: KWessel@oldrepublictitle.com, or by calling 888-678-1700. The first two persons to correctly identify this mystery ORT staff member will win a prize and will be recognized in the next months Newsletter. Put your thinking cap on!