VLTA March Board of Director Spotlight: Elaine Cook

Description

1. Why are you a member of VLTA?

As an independent title examiner, I wanted to build a network for education and support, as well as to learn more about the process.

2. How long have you been in the title industry and how did you get started in this profession?

I did not go to college right after high school, but received my bachelorâ??s degree at 35. I took a Real Estate Law class taught by an attorney who had prepared for the Bar Exam by reading law. She took us to the Circuit Court Record Room and showed us how to trace a chain of title. The one I picked took me to the 1800â??s. I was fascinated with the process. I retired on a Friday in September 2018 and the following Monday I was in the record room apprenticing with a local retired Real Estate Lawyer (and former real estate agent) who showed me the ropes. During the first year of working with him I started my own LLC and joined VLTA to receive additional education and the Title Examiner Certification to increase my credibility.

3. What excites you about what you do or what is the most challenging aspect of your job?

I love how each property has its own story and the â??treasure huntâ?• for the details we need to insure the property is ready for transfer. The most challenging is how each clerk office has its own way of indexing and it changes with every election of a new Clerk of Court. I search in over 10 counties in Southwest Virginia, mostly on the SRA system. Rarely do I go to a court that uses Logan system.When I do I feel like I am learning to search all over again.

4. Why is the title industry a great career opportunity for those entering the workforce and what advice do you have for professionals starting their career in the industry?

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Just as real estate agents help people to find their homes, the title industry gives them the security that their home is really theirs. Best advice is to build a network of people to call when those unusual things come up. Best place to do that is VLTA!

5. What is something that others in the industry may not know about you?

I am former letter carrier and Postmaster of 32 years.

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