



INDIANA RECORDERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

THIS ISSUE:

- AIC Conference recap
- Outgoing Recorders
- PRIA Hot Topics
- IC makes it a felony
- Being subpoenaed

INDIANARECORDERS.ORG

Fall 2024



Association of Indiana Counties (AIC) Conference, Sept. 24-26, was held at the Belterra Resort in Switzerland County.

AIC Topics covered: workforce retention, retirement, property fraud and redaction, SBOA updates, mental health and wellness and more. Pgs. 2-5.

Many of us will be finishing up our second term this year.

It's always hard to say goodbye to those we've become friends with during our time in office. Recorders change and Chief Deputies, too.

See Pages 6-8 for more.



PRIA in Cleveland had a social night at Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. See Page 9.

AIC Conference Sept. 24-26



AIC Institute Graduates were recognized individually.

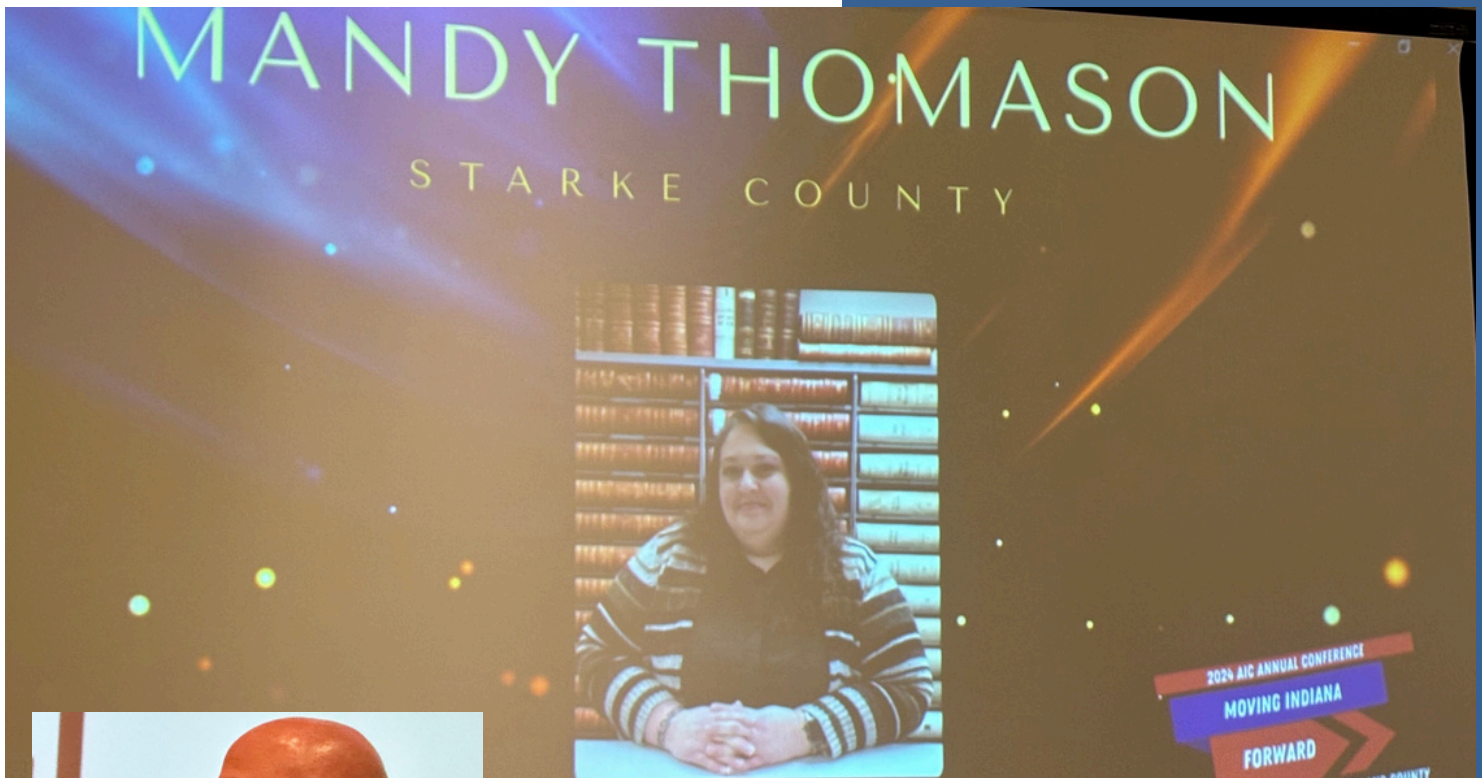


Awards were given out. Jane Grove, last year's recipient of the Arthur R. Himsel Award (highest honor by AIC) announced this year's winner.

AIC92 saw Institute graduates and honors, former CIA spy as a guest speaker, wonderful workshops and information about cyber security and AI among other things.



We heard from former CIA spy Jim Olson and Jeremy Miller from Lionfish Cyber Security.



Adam Watkins (left) of Fidlar Technologies talked about shielding documents and redaction. Property Fraud was also discussed.

Mandy Thomason was honored as the AIC Recorder of the Year.



Vendors in the Exhibit Hall and along the hallways offered a chance to ask questions and learn about product offerings.



Speakers from Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS) and Retired Indiana Public Employees Association (RIPEA) gave information about each organization.

AIC Conference Sept. 24-26



Jamie & Rhonda...other offices now, but not forgotten.



IRA President Mandy Thomason and IRA Treasurer Kim Grow discussing Daniel's Law with County Surveyors.



In our affiliate meeting, we had roundtables about questions needing discussion, and heard from officers.

AIC Workshop links below:

- [Retirement](#)
- [HR, Employee Benefits, and Workforce Retention](#)
- [Challenges of Public Record Legal Description, Public Record Redactions and Property Fraud](#)
- [Featured Workshop](#)
- [Cybersecurity Handout](#)
- [LionFish Presentation](#)



New for 2024

Submit your educational hours for this year (2024) in Gateway. More details to follow. IC 36-2-11-2.5 (g)



Staci Byrns, Ricci Hofherr
Counties@sboa.in.gov

Fun AIC conference photos



05/16

Thank you, Kim Grow, for sending in your photos! :o)

Outgoing Recorders – what’s next for them



**Blackford County
Kelli Schriver**

**Hoping to stay on as
First Chief Deputy if
current one wins the
election for Recorder.**



**Carroll County
Penny Titus**

**Left in June to work for
Congressman Baird.
Kathy O’Farrell
caucused in; Court
Administrator 35 years.**



**Clay County
Nichole Keller**

**Moving to the Clerk’s
Office in January. Sad
to leave “the Recorder
World.”**



**Clinton County
Beth Keeney**

**Will continue in the
Recorder’s Office,
hopefully, for a while.**



**Harrison County
Debbie Dennison**

**Running for County
Clerk, and looking
forward to this new
challenge.**



**Jefferson County
Molly O’Connor**

**Done. Going to do other
things, probably with
her 2 sisters such as
Vegas trips, etc.**

Outgoing Recorders – what’s next for them



Morgan County

Jana Gray

Retiring to spend time with grandkids, volunteer, join church groups and snowbird to warmer climates.



Parke County

Mary Alice Gregg

Running for County Council. Wants to spend time with her 9 grandkids & 4 great grandkids plus 2 soon.



Perry County

Jane James

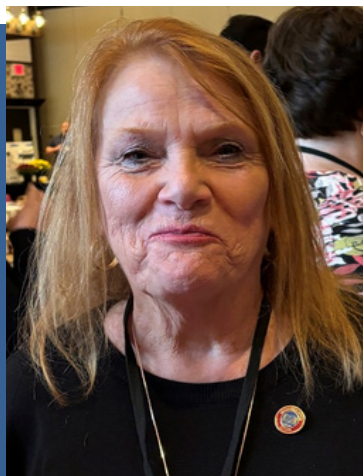
I will be officially retiring and looking forward to doing what I want when I want!



Ripley County

Mary Ann McCoy

As of right now?
Retirement :)



Spencer County

Vicki Brauns

Retiring, spending time with kids, grandkids. Chief Deputy Kensie Coultas, new Recorder.



St. Joseph County

Mary Beth

Wisniewski

Second term ending. Running for Treasurer. See profile last issue.

Outgoing Recorders – what's next for them



**Tipton County
Sheila Hook**

**Staying as First Deputy
after her term is over.**



**Vanderburgh County
Debra Stucki**

**Hopes to continue in
local government.**



**Warrick County
Pat Brooks**

**Running for County
Council...only woman.**

ALREADY LEFT OFFICE

**Rhonda Sanders
Martin County
Now Treasurer.**

**Jennifer Pursell
Montgomery County
Left to pursue
another career.**

**Sandy Hill
Orange County
See Heather
Henderson profile
in last newsletter.**

**Susan Fox
Pulaski County
Her CD, Marsha
Tetzloff, was
caucused in.**



**Wells County
Carolyn Bertsch**

**Switching to Ossian, IN
Clerk/Treasurer as of
Dec. 1. Rina Stuck will
take over as Recorder.**



**Union County
Sue Rude**

**Retiring. Traveling out
west w/hubby to Grand
Canyon. Making quilts,
gardening, canning.**

PRIA

PRIA Hot Topics

Fraud/Impersonation

Vetting for
e-recording

AI – different types
and uses



Joint Trades Panel on Fraud or Impersonations

American Land Title Association (ALTA) is gathering statistics nationally on different types of fraud.

AARP Fraud Watch Network is a free resource with podcasts and information in Spanish on proactively spotting scams and help if you're a victim. Local office in every state.

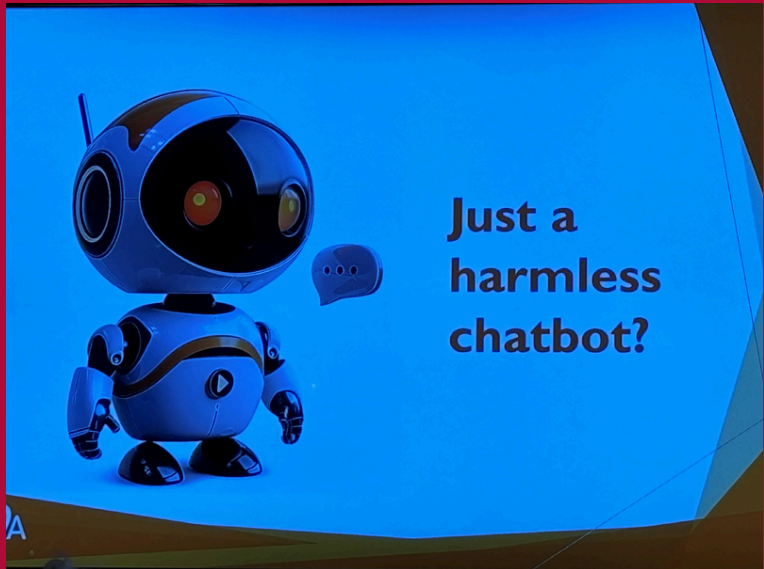
National Association of Realtors has videos about avoiding wire fraud in transactions and avoiding vacant land scams.

ic3.gov FBI crime reporting site. Also, use local FBI offices to verify foreign IDs.

Vetting for e-recordings

Reputable e-recording partners do a vetting process for new customers that includes:

- Validate – SOS, State Bar (good standing), Second look at individuals
- Verify – Is there an internet presence, own website, verify address and phone number match information given
- Bank account verification
- 3rd Party entity verification
- Search – Google search Address and Name
- Demonstrable Recording Need – what types of docs, samples



AI – types and uses

Do you use SIRI or Alexa? How about facial login on your smartphone? Then you're using AI.

You can use AI to create a speech, analyze huge amounts of data quickly, create custom artwork and videos.

Self-driving/parking cars use AI.

AI is being used in real estate for predictive analysis based on trends and other variables. It can also be used to give insight into buyer/seller preferences.

There are many practical purposes for the use of AI, but you should also be aware of the different types and their limitations.

There's narrow AI, general AI, machine learning...all the way up to self-aware machines. Search online for more info.

Reminder about IC 5-15-6-8

Reckless, knowing, or intentional destruction or damage to public records; offense; exception

Sec. 8. A public official or other person who recklessly, knowingly, or intentionally destroys or damages any public record commits a Level 6 felony unless:

- (1) the commission shall have given its approval in writing that the public records may be destroyed;
- (2) the commission shall have entered its approval for destruction of the public records on its own minutes; or
- (3) authority for destruction of the records is granted by an approved retention schedule established under this chapter.

Formerly: Acts 1939, c.91, s.8. As amended by P.L.50-1991, SEC.17; P.L.158-2013, SEC.79.

<https://iga.in.gov/laws/2024/ic/titles/001>

Get to know your fellow Indiana Recorders

Thirty years in county government, including Chief Deputy Recorder, Recorder and Treasurer.

My husband is an investigator for the State Attorney General. We have 3 children and 7 grandchildren, who are involved in sports, which keeps us busy with games to attend. We farm 200 acres and have several 4-H animals in the barn.

What do I do in my free time for fun? I enjoy thrifting. When I retire I plan to have a booth in an antique mall.

Do you prefer a nice steak or do you think each meal should start with dessert? Not much of a meat eater, so dessert first.

Something I've learned about being an Elected Official? We don't have decisive powers, but have to abide by the IC codes. We are constantly serving the public, and are here to serve.

Jane A. Grove, Randolph County Recorder, EC

Township Precinct Committeeman almost four years...first role in County Government. I have a strong faith and both times before being asked to run, sought the Lord and He saw fit to place me in these positions. I fought Him initially, not knowing much really about government or much about being a County Recorder. He also equipped me for these positions by placing me with a fantastic team who are a wealth of knowledge! I enjoy learning through conferences, other officials and Recorders. I am so thankful I said YES to this position! Led to establish a weekly Bible Study in the Courthouse.

Husband Brad and I have 4 adult kids and 2 grandsons. Our greatest JOY! We live on a small farm and have had a multitude of critters. Swine, rabbits, chickens, goats, sheep and cattle. Being a Public Servant has been a blessing. My heart is to help others. To encourage and find solutions to current situations they may have. Customer Service is HUGE in our office. Fun fact...though I love dessert and an occasional great steak, I would really just prefer the breadbasket with some nice butter!



Christy Knotts, Sullivan County Recorder, SW

Bartholomew County 16 years: Clerk of Courts – two terms, Auditor's office – Real Estate division, Recorder in my second term. Married for 42 years to husband DeWayne; he is the Chief Deputy in the Assessor's office. We have three adult children, Allison, Adam and Alyssa and two beautiful grandchildren, and two furry golden retriever grand pups. We took on our son's German Shepard, Ranger, when son was discharged from the Army and moving around. Ranger was a stray puppy in El Paso, Texas when they found him and to this day prefers my husband's garden veggies to any T-bone steak or chops. Unlike my vegetarian dog, I love a

good steak but feel like no meal is complete without a good dessert. Pie is my favorite dessert, and dark chocolate candy is a staple in my life. In my spare time, I enjoy making pies and spending time with my family. I think the greatest lesson I have learned as an Elected Official is communication is key to serving well. Whether it is with your staff, other elected officials or the taxpayers we serve, effective communication equals success for everyone.

Tami Hines, Bartholomew County, SE

Get to know your fellow Indiana Recorders



I started working in the Recorder's Office in 2014 as the Chief Deputy. I have been the Recorder since 2021. I'll start my second term next year. 😊
Married since 2015 to my husband, Phil, and we have three kids. Our oldest son, Philly, is 6 and in 1st grade. He wrestles, plays baseball, and does karate. We also have twins that are 4- Gianna and Dominic who are in Pre-Kindergarten. Yes, I was pregnant with them when I ran for Recorder in 2020. 😊

In my free time, I am with my family. We enjoy swimming, bike/scooter rides, and running around in our yard when we are not at school/sporting events with them. Both of our extended families live in the area so we spend a lot of time with them as well. Filet mignon is my steak of choice with a salad and then dessert after, absolutely! I'm continually learning but I love it. It's a learning curve and a constant balancing act. Overall, what you think is right usually is. 😊

Gina Pimentel, Lake County Recorder, NW

I've been with Adams county for 18 years. My family includes my wife, Lisa (works for the county also, for 31 years), and daughter, Katie, is a traveling Psych nurse currently in Chicago. Lisa and I have one cat.

What do I like to do in my free time for fun? Besides spending time with family, I love to play golf. Do I prefer a nice steak or do I think each meal should start with dessert? Keep your deserts. I'm a meat and potatoes person.

Something I have learned about being an Elected Official? The biggest thing I have gotten out of the different roles (Council, Treasurer and Recorder) is each office has their role in county government and to me, one role is not any more important than others. Each office needs to do their part to make it work.



Tom Krueckeberg, Adams County Recorder, NE

A Hendricks County employee for 29 years, 8 months and 18 days as of Oct. 1.

I married my high school sweetheart, Jeff Herzog, in 1990. Children were sadly not in God's plan for us; however, we have embraced loving many amazing nieces, nephews, neighbor's children and those that needed a little extra love. I am very close with my siblings and 88 year old mother. Currently we have a sweet old Jack Russell/Terrier mix named Jackson who is 14 years old. And a fat old cat named Casper. Ultimate favorite cuisine is always TACOS!!!

Free time? What is that?!?! I like to spend time with family and friends. I volunteer on candidate campaigns and help with our town festival, North Salem Old Fashion Days. I enjoy cooking supper and love getting lost in a good book. Oh, and travel! I can have my suitcase packed in 30 minutes! One thing I have learned being an elected official is "What is right is not always popular and what is popular is not always right." Maintain a good balance with leadership and employee relationships.

I want to express my pride in serving the public and how much I enjoy being Recorder. I have so much to learn, but having an awesome time doing it. Many sincere thanks to the 91 other Indiana Recorders for making this happen.

Laura Herzog, Hendricks County Recorder, WC

Interesting Facts

Randolph County

- Randolph County, Indiana, was created in 1818. Named after old Randolph County in North Carolina, as many settlers had moved westward from the Carolinas.
- Its early history is distinguished by its embrace of abolitionism. Union Literary Institute, a racially-integrated school, was established in 1845. The county was home to three distinct settlements of free African-Americans, and numerous pieces of documentary evidence exist to that show that the county was an important part of the Underground Railroad.

Lake County

- Originally inhabited by the Potawatomi and generations of indigenous ancestors. Established by European Americans on Feb. 16, 1837.
- Statewide, Lake County ranks 2nd in total population out of the 92 Counties in Indiana.

Bartholomew County

- Bartholomew County was formed on February 12, 1821, and was named for Lt. Col. Joseph Bartholomew, wounded at the Battle of Tippecanoe.
- In 1942, Camp Atterbury was created to support WWII. Named after William Wallace Atterbury, who received a Distinguished Service Medal during WWI.

Sullivan County

- In 1815, Carlisle was founded. State legislature created Sullivan County in December 30, 1816. Named for Daniel Sullivan, reputed to be a Revolutionary War general killed by Native Americans while carrying a dispatch between Fort Vincennes and Louisville.
- Pioneer heroine of abdominal surgery Jane Todd is buried in Sullivan County. Born in Virginia in 1763.

Adams County

- The creation of this county was passed on February 7, 1835. Its name honors the sixth President, John Quincy Adams.
- The Amish community in Adams County belongs to the Swiss Amish, an Amish affiliation whose ancestors came to Adams County in 1840 and who speak a Bernese dialect in everyday life.

Hendricks County

- In December 1823, Hendricks County was introduced in the Senate and was signed by Indiana Governor William Hendricks, in whose honor the new county was named.
- Transportation has played a vital role in Hendricks County. For example, in 1876 one rail line connected Plainfield to seven other Hendricks County towns and to Indianapolis and Terre Haute.

Are you learning more about Indiana? 😊

TAKE A BREAK!

Highlighted Districts WORD SCRAMBLE

1. KLAE
2. NOCR IAELVFTS
3. DRE LODG
4. YBARD AGGN
5. OOHABMRTELW
6. RRTTYAEBU
7. AEWRCYA RPKA
8. IEIALLPNFD
9. UAECRDT
10. IOIAIOMNTLBS
11. UOUMSCBL
12. AUUBBNRS
13. DDIEBRR
14. OYTN EATTRWS
15. NOLHRPDA
16. WCNRO TPINO
17. ULINALSV
18. OSAESYNB
19. YTOARL LIHL
20. IDELVALN
21. NNOUI TCYI
22. NHTRWSCIEE
23. EDIKHNCRS
24. MAASD
25. AIAINDN NLSYO

1. Lake, 2. Corn Festival, 3. Red Gold, 4. Brady Gang, 5. Bartholomew, 6. Atterbury, 7. Raceway Park, 8. Plainfield, 9. Decatur, 10. Abolitionism, 11. Columbus, 12. Suburban, 13. Redbird, 14. Tony Stewart, 15. Randolph, 16. Crown Point, 17. Sullivan, 18. Soybeans, 19. Taylor Hill, 20. Danville, 21. Union City, 22. Winchester, 23. Hendricks, 24. Adams, 25. Indiana Lyons

Community Outreach

Hamilton County – Christmas families

All the offices in the building sponsor a family or two at Christmas time. Each office selects a school district and gets a family from the Youth Assistance Organization. Fundraisers during the year (bake sales, silent auctions) raise funds to purchase a holiday meal and gifts. Our staff enjoys dividing up family members and buying/wrapping gifts.

Noblesville Youth Assistance group delivers the items.



St. Joseph County – Christmas scarves

Sharon Banicki, Fiscal Clerk of the St. Joseph Recorder's Office, works with a group called *Sew Loved*. This group teaches women and girls to sew, quilt and mend with all machines, fabric, scissors and tools available at no cost to the participants. She also participates in a local event called "Community Santa." Each year, this event gives toys and gifts to children in the community that might not have a Christmas otherwise. Sharon knits, crochets and sews scarves for the children. Last year, Sharon made approximately 150 scarves, but this year she hopes to make 400, which is about the number of children that participate in the event. Sharon says, "My goal is that every child leaves the event with a scarf."



- **October 16** So. District Meeting, Seasons Lodge & Conference Center, Nashville, IN
(see email for details, agenda)
- **October 22** No. District Meeting, Logansport Gold Club & Event Center, Logansport, IN
(see email for details, agenda)
- **October 22** AIC Institute for Excellence Class, Leadership French Lick Resort indianacounties.org
- **November 19** AIC Institute for Excellence Class, Legislative Affairs, PLEASE NOTE: Lunch/visit to Statehouse are included.
- **December 10-12 Newly Elected Training** Official registration for this AIC/SBOA training will open in November of 2024 and the agenda finalized at that time.

Upcoming festivals and events
indianafestivals.org
visitindiana.com

Ever been subpoenaed?



Misty Coleman (left), Pike County Recorder and Molly O'Connor in Jefferson County have both been subpoenaed.

Misty was subpoenaed in a land dispute between individuals. The case was worked out that day & no further action was taken.

Recorder Molly O'Connor was subpoenaed and testified in criminal court. The case involved land records, a trust and a frequent visitor to the Jefferson County Recorder's Office.

Harve Hensley wanted to record deeds he signed as "trustee" without processing them through the Assessor and Auditor offices. Molly stated that she had earlier recorded a Certificate of Trust for him which she faults herself for doing. As a Recorder, this writer knows that we are often presented with peculiar documents with which we are not familiar and recommended to err in favor of the customer to "record as presented."

Molly advised him that it wasn't possible to record deeds without passing them through the other offices saying that he made several attempts and was always polite with her. She acknowledged handling him politely and professionally.

There had been an actual Trust overseen by a brother. Harve made the error of entering into a contract for services to the property with an individual when he did not have that authority. That is how Molly found herself testifying in court about deeds. She hopes this will help keep other Recorders from having a similar experience. Harve had to serve time in jail for his errors.

You can read about the curious experiences of Harve in [Odyssey Case Management System, Case Search - MyCase \(in.gov\)](#), Bronson Hensley, Sr. 39C01-1712-EU-000080, looks like the beginning of the saga. It appears there are two more cases involving the Estate/Trust. There are an additional four criminal cases. This year is the last of Molly's second term. See page 6 for more on her and other Outgoing Recorders.