MTRA held a beginner’s (Operations) School in Fort Worth, TX in early February.

Trainers included Board member and Education Steering Committee Chair, Karen Tingley (MI). Emily Frazier (NC), Karen Heede (VA), Patrick Hunt (VA), and John Laramie (VA).

Five scholarships were awarded to applicants to help fulfill the MTRA Board mandate of providing funds to support free education to those wishing to attend our course offerings.

MTRA just completed an Intermediate School in Minneapolis, MN.

Trainers included Education Steering Committee member John Bishop (HI), Branton Grimes (NC), Rick Posey (CA), and Linh Jones (CO) who got his feet wet as a new trainer, and whose participation was supported by Colorado. Former VA regulator, Ashok Vora, rounded out the group.

Two scholarships were awarded to applicants to help fulfill the MTRA Board mandate of providing funds to support free education to those wishing to attend our course offerings.
MTRA Industry Advisory Council

The MTRA Board of Directors is pleased to announce the formation of an Industry Advisory Council.

The Council will serve as a liaison between industry and regulators and will consult, advise, and assist the MTRA Board on issues surrounding money services business regulation. Council members will meet with the MTRA Board in connection with the MTRA’s Annual Conference and at such other times as requested by the Board. The Council will work in partnership with the MTRA Board, bringing discussion topics to the Annual Meeting and providing requested input to the Board as matters arise.

Council members were selected who could contribute to a diversity of points of view, should be a representative of and/or represent the money services business industry, and should possess special knowledge, insight or skills relevant to the money services business industry.

Applications were submitted in the late winter – early spring. The following were selected as members of the 2019-2021 Industry Advisory Council.

- Gina Anderson, DolEx Dollar Express, Inc.
- Hugo Cuevas-Mohr, Mohr World Consulting
- Ben Duranske, Beam
- Paul Dwyer, Viamericas Corporation
- Rosemary Gallagher, The Western Union Company
- Amy Greenwood-Field, Dentons US LLP
- Alex Ketter, Coinme
- Alberto Laureano, Barri Financial Group LLC
- Anastasia Raissis, Amazon
- Jas Randhawa, PwC
- Edi Reber, MoneyGram International
- Martha Rhea, Klarna Inc.
- Ron Schwartzman, UniTeller Financial Services, Inc.
- Keisha Whitehall Wolfe, Mayer Brown LLP

The Council has begun meeting via conference call and will soon be selecting a Chair. The Council will also develop the topics for the Industry Forum during the MTRA Annual Conference.

Upcoming Education – Hold These Dates!

2019 Annual Meeting & School – Pittsburgh, PA – September 9-12, 2019
Registration is OPEN! Hotel reservations can be made now. Info is on the Education webpage.

2020 Annual Meeting & School – Fort Worth, TX – September 14-17, 2020

2021 Annual Meeting & School – Portland, OR – August 30 – September 2, 2021

Website Listings

MTRA Members
Don’t forget that the secure section contains a contact list which gives:
- the person from whom to request an exam report
- the licensing contact, and
- the exam scheduling contact
Send any updates to Susan!

The home page also contains a list of contacts for the general public. Updates are appreciated!

The website also has links to State Banking websites. IS YOURS CORRECT?

MTRA Board Elections
Here is your chance to join the Board and help lead our association!
Click here for details
MTRA in the News

Promotions in Washington State

Charles E. Clark, Agency Director

Gov. Jay Inslee announced that Charlie Clark is the new director of the Washington State Department of Financial Institutions. He takes over for Gloria Papiez, who is retiring. "Charlie has extensive knowledge of DFI — its policies, people and financial and legal frameworks," Inslee said. "His work has already helped build DFI into one of the top financial education agencies in the nation, and I look forward to having him join my cabinet.”

Clark has worked with DFI for more than 14 years. He served in a variety of roles, from enforcement chief and program manager to director in the Consumer Services division. He was promoted to DFI’s agency deputy director in 2016.

Rick St. Onge, Acting Director of Consumer Services

Additionally, Richard (Rick) St. Onge has been appointed to acting director in the Consumer Services Division, which regulates the licensing, examinations, and enforcement of our non-depository institutions operating in Washington state. Rick has worked at DFI for over 16 years. He started has an examiner in the division and was most recently the examinations chief since 2012. Rick has served on numerous CSBS committees. Rick is currently serving as the president of the MTRA, and a member of the NMLS Policy Committee.

Communications Survey

MTRA conducted an online survey to gauge how well we are doing.

We asked you:

In your opinion, are you receiving an appropriate amount of electronic communications from the MTRA? 86% of you replied YES

Is there an area of communications that you would like to see more of from the MTRA? 74 % said No

Is there an area of communications that you would like to see less of from the MTRA? 98% said No

Is there anything else from the MTRA that you would like to see more often?

Exam Coordination 47%
Federal News 50%
Legislative Updates 57%
Education 60%

Is there anything you would like changed about the communications from the MTRA?

We had 62 responses. The overwhelming majority was happy. “MTRA is doing an exceptional job relaying information to the Regulators.”

Do you ever use the MTRA website (www.mtraweb.org)? 68.46% said somewhat frequently to a couple of times a year, mostly looking at Education or the Secure members’ section.
Board Member Spotlight: Christopher Pope

Agency: Massachusetts Division of Banks

Title: Deputy Commissioner, Enforcement and Investigation

Agency Background: Joined the Division in 1999 as an Assistant Bank Examiner. He advanced to the position of Assistant Chief Director and later to Chief Director of Examinations for Community Financial Institutions, overseeing the safety and soundness examinations of state-chartered credit unions. He was appointed in 2008 as Deputy Commissioner for Enforcement and Investigation, overseeing the formation of a new unit for specialized investigations and administrative proceedings regarding fraudulent and illegal activities of regulated entities. Chris has been extensively involved in the development, implementation and finalization of various formal and informal enforcement actions involving licensed money transmitters.

National Regulatory Involvement: Joined the MTRA Board in 2013, and has served on the Communications, Finance, and Licensing Committees. Chris served on the Multi-State Mortgage Committee for four years, serving as vice-chair and chair. He has participated in numerous multi-state enforcement negotiations and led a multi-state regulator and attorney’s generals large loan servicer settlement.

College: Bridgewater State College, BA History

Hometown: Scituate, Massachusetts ("the most Irish town in America" based on 2010 U. S. Census data, in which 47.5% of residents listed their primary ancestry as Irish)

Favorite Food: Chinese

Favorite Movie: Caddyshack-amongst many other great 80’s comedies.

Hobbies: Following the ups and downs of Red Sox baseball, preventing his toddler children from breaking everything, listening to Yacht Rock.