

Today's discussion:

Social Media University

Where a little knowledge can be
a dangerous thing.



Lori Hamm
Notary & Certifications
Administrator, Montana
Secretary of State



Kathleen Butler
Executive Director
American Society of Notaries

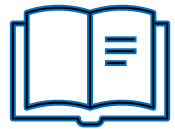
What is Social Media University?



- ✓ Public and private notary groups on FaceBook, Linkedin, Instagram, TikTok....
- ✓ Texting Groups, Twitter, X
- ✓ Clubhouse
- ✓ Informal and Private Networks
- ✓ Friends and co-workers



Critical Skills for Notaries



Reading and comprehension



Listening



Following instructions

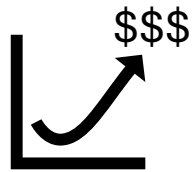
S.M.U. BENEFITS



A notary *community*



Some experienced voices



Business-growth strategies
and tips

S.M.U. CONCERNS

- Presenting incorrect information = **MALPRACTICE**
- Overestimating your qualifications = **LIABILITY**
- Giving legal advice = **UNLICENSED PRACTICE of LAW**
- Acting on misinformation = **SUFFERING THE CONSEQUENCES**



S.M.U. ISSUES

Credibility of the participants

Who are they?

Where are they?

What is their true expertise and knowledge?

X

Clarity of the questions and answers

Vocabulary

(examples – “principal”;
“notarize a signature”)

Articulation of the issue(s)

=

?

**Thoroughness
and accuracy
of answers**

S.M.U. - BEST PRACTICES

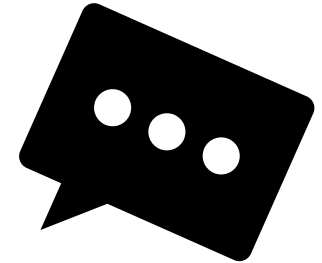
When *asking* a question:

- ✓ Clearly state the question
- ✓ Indicate the state where you are a notary
- ✓ Provide necessary details
- ✓ Explain why you're still looking for an answer



S.M.U. - BEST PRACTICES

When *answering* a question:



- **Restate** the question
- Share your **qualifications**
- **Cite** the statute, rule or source
- Stick to the **facts**





It's a Fact...

When you respond to questions on social media, **you become de facto “faculty.”**





EXPECTED FACULTY CREDENTIALS

- Know the **SUBJECT MATTER**
- Know the **LAW**
- Have **EXPERIENCE**
- Understand **HOW THE LAW APPLIES** to the circumstance(s)



KNOW Your Own State's Notary Law and Rules

→ Don't rely on someone else's **INTERPRETATION** of the law or rules... **D.I.Y.**

Relying on a summary or "explanation" isn't enough.

→ Don't fear questioning "experts"

Even "experts" can be wrong.



Trusted Resources

- 1.** Your state notary handbook and website
- 2.** Notary associations
- 3.** State-approved notary educators





Never Stop Learning

- 1. Continuing professional education**
- 2. Experience – your own and others'**
- 3. Broaden your knowledge of notarial laws in other states**



SMU Show-and-Tell



Example 1*

“What is the venue [location] of a notarization performed on a military base?”

*This question and the following answers were sourced from actual social media posts. Names have been omitted to protect the clueless.



Swag, Swagger, and Cop-out

1. *“I would think it is just like a regular ‘notary’ - state and county where the notarization takes place.”*
2. *“Civilian notaries cannot notarize on military bases unless they are a member authorized by 10 USC 1044(a).”*
3. *“Call the Secretary of State or Dept. of Defense and ask.”*



Example 2*

“Is it legal to leave an open vehicle title?”

*This question and the following answers were sourced from actual social media posts. Names have been omitted to protect the clueless.



Confident, Curious, and Confusing

1. *“Absolutely not! A notary in Ohio got his commission suspended for that.”*
2. *“What’s an open vehicle title?”*
3. *“Per DMV it’s not the notary’s responsibility, so it’s OK.”*
4. *“Leave it where?”* (Seriously.)



Example 3*

“Are you able to hold a notary commission in more than one state?”

*This question and the following answers were sourced from actual social media posts. Names have been omitted to protect the clueless.

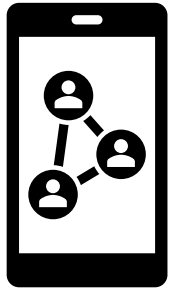


Well, this is clear as mud...

- 1.** *“Yes, but you must live and work in each.”*
- 2.** *“You can be a resident in more than one state if you own property and split your time living in them.”*
- 3.** *“It depends on how the state law defines residency.”*



Choose Your Source Thoughtfully



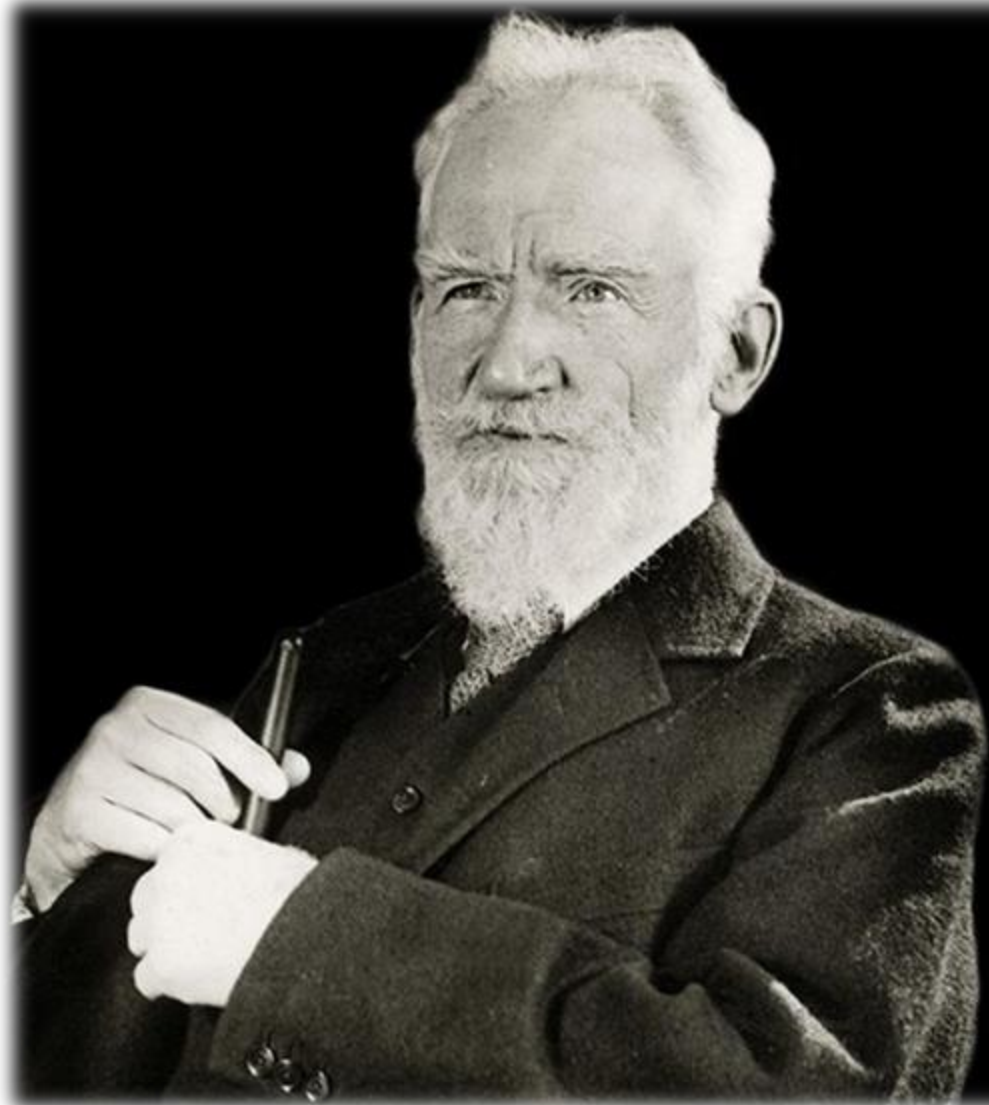
Social media:

It's one thing to get a recipe from social media, but it's an entirely different thing to be seeking and trusting advice on notarial practices when **YOU** are ultimately responsible for knowing, understanding, and following **the law, rules and ethics** applicable to the situation you're confronting.

State notary offices, associations and known experts:

The notary law *specialists*.





Beware of false **knowledge**;
it is more **dangerous**
than **ignorance**.

— *George Bernard Shaw*





And because this is about Social Media, it wouldn't be complete without a cute puppy and one last piece of wisdom...

Scooter, the 406 Notary Pup, says:

“What happens on social media stays on Google forever... Yip!”

(There's no “woof” ever happening...)



Thank you!



Lori Hamm
Notary & Certifications
Administrator, Montana
Secretary of State
Lori.Hamm@mt.gov



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American Society of Notaries
Kathleen@asnnotary.org