California Escrow Association . . .

1895  A man came into the office of the Title Insurance and Trust Company and left an order for a Certificate of Title. He said he was obligated to leave town for a few days and asked the order clerk if he would, as a matter of convenience, take his executed deed, deliver it to the buyer together with the Certificate, and collect and send him the sum of $1,000. That was the first escrow, and thus originated escrow as we know it today.

1924  Six Escrow Supervisors and Officers in Los Angeles Meet to Discuss Escrow Problems of Mutual Interest and Form an Association, John C. Campbell, President.

1956  Seven Southern California Associations Formed the California Escrow Association, the Statewide Group As It Is Known Today, Marion Atkins (Record), President. The original seven regional associations were: Escrow Associates of San Gabriel Valley, Escrow Institute, Long Beach Escrow Association, Los Angeles Escrow Association, Riverside County Escrow Association, San Bernardino County Escrow Association and the Santa Barbara Escrow Association.

1956  The First Annual Conference of the California Escrow Association Was Held at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, California.

1960  First CEA Executive Secretary Appointed

1962  Orange Coast College became the first institution to grant certificates in escrow.

1964  California Escrow Magazine Launched

1964  CEA Becomes an Official California Corporation

1967  Orange Coast College awards first Associate of Arts Degree in Escrow

1967  CEA Began Educational Seminars for College Instructors and Administrators

1969  A Program for Professional Designation (PD) of Escrow Officers is launched. The first PD exam is held in November, 1969 where twenty-two members earned their designation.

1970  CEA News is Launched

1971  Seventeen California Colleges Gave Certificates in Escrow

1971  CEA Retains Legislative Advocate

1974  Congress Enacts the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA)

1979  First Display Booths Allowed at CEA Conference
1980  The American Escrow Association (AEA) is Formed, Earl Barrett Named President

1983  Thirty-six California Colleges were approved to participate in CEA’s Education Achievement Award Program.

1990  Continuing Education Program Launched for Retaining CEA Professional Designations

1991  CEA Headquarters Office Moves to Sacramento

1994  Rose Pothier, Esq. Establishes the Rose Pothier Scholarship Program to aid escrow assistants with attendance at the CEA Annual Education Conference.


2004  Barcode Scanner Cards Introduced at Conference to Electronically Track PD Credits and Attendance

2004  CEA Retains Services of a Public Relations Firm

2005  CEA Celebrates 50th Annual Education Conference in Long Beach, California

2005  CEA Changes Logo to Better Represent the Industry

2005  CEA Launches Online Education Program – E-Learning

2006  CEA activates statewide grassroots lobbying and media campaign against California Insurance Commissioner, John Garamendi’s proposed regulations relating to title insurance premiums and escrow fees. The revisions proposed mandatory reductions in escrow fees.

2006  CEA Approves Strategic Plan to Aid in Advancing the Association Forward

2007  CEA develops the Charles P. Conner Education Scholarship Program, funded by the Mazzie-Simmons-Swink Benevolent Fund, to provide financial support to children of CEA members towards higher education programs.