

STATE NEWS



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Join NDAR in Honoring Claus Lembke

Claus Lembke, Executive Vice President of NDAR, will be retiring September 1. Please join us in honoring him by attending the Open House and/or Dinner on August 2. [Click here](#) for more details and to RSVP (by July 30).

More Updates From NAR Midyear Meetings

First ND REALTOR® Emeritus Status:

At the May NAR Midyear Meetings in Washington DC the following members of the Fargo Moorhead Area Association of Realtors® were awarded Realtor® Emeritus status by NAR: **Jim Fay**-Amerland Co. Inc, **Bob Kiefert** - Amerland Co. Inc., **Chuck Helmstetter** - PRG Homes Sales, **Dennis Olson** – Coldwell Banker 1st Realty Encore, **Laurice Loberg** - Loberg Realty, Inc. and **Dick Hentges** - Hentges Company. They are the first from North Dakota to be awarded with this status. Congratulations.

Criteria for Realtor® Emeritus Status: Any person who has held membership in the National Association as a Realtor®, Realtor® Associate, or a combination of both, for a cumulative period of 40 years in one or more Associations of Realtors® is eligible for Realtor® Emeritus status. Upon approval by the Board of Directors of the National Association of Realtors®, no further payment of dues is necessary to the National Association by the Member Association of which the Realtor® Emeritus is a member.

ND Past President Candidate for Region 8 RVP

Scott Louser, Prudential Preferred Properties, Inc., Minot was endorsed at the Region 8 Caucus in Washington DC, for Regional Vice President (RVP) for 2009. Scott will be interviewed in November at the NAR Convention by the Nominating Committee and then will be endorsed by the NAR Board of Directors. The current RVP is Jerry Ahlvers from Nebraska, 2008 RVP is Dan Berry from Iowa.

Congratulations to Jim, Bob, Chuck, Dennis, Laurice, Dick and Scott!!

NAR Issues Updates

National Affordable Housing Fund Proposed in House

Legislation introduced last week on Capitol Hill would create a National Affordable Housing Fund for the building, rehabilitation, and preservation of affordable homes and rental units. The bill, "National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007," H.R. 2895, would make funds available for rental housing and down payment and closing cost assistance for low-income people. "Sadly, the stock of affordable rental units is rapidly declining and the difficulty of finding affordable homes to buy is increasing," NAR President Pat V. Combs says. "This fund can have an immediate impact for many families." [NAR pledged its support](#) of the bill in a letter to Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), chair of the House Financial Services Committee. For more info, contact [Megan Booth](#), 202/383-1222.

NAR: Strengthen Appraisal Independence

Appraisals must be based on sound independent valuations and borrowers should have access to more information about the methods used to determine property valuations, NAR President Pat V. Combs testified last week before the Senate Banking Subcommittee on Housing. NAR was joined in its call for appraiser independence by the Appraisal Institute. More than 90 percent of appraisers have experienced some form of pressure to meet a targeted value, according to a 2006 poll conducted by October Research Corp. The Senate has proposed a bill — "Borrowers Protection Act" (S. 1299) — to prohibit improper influencing in the appraisal process. For more info, contact [Tom Heinemann](#), 202/383-1090.

Convention Updates

The 2007 REALTORS® Conference & Expo In Las Vegas

There are NO LIMITS to what you can gain at the 2007 REALTORS® Conference & Expo, November 13-16 in Las Vegas, Nevada. With hundreds of programs, networking opportunities, cutting edge technology, and more, you can customize your Conference & Expo experience to your needs and interests. Grow professionally and personally while gaining inspiration to be your very best. It's the 2007 Conference & Expo, and what happens here, helps you everywhere! Featured guests will include Bill Cosby and concert by James Taylor [click here](#) .

Allegiant Air [click here](#) has direct flights to Vegas from Bismarck and Fargo for \$89 one way traveling on Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning (one flight per day).

Aberdeen Host to 2007 REALTOR® Convention of the Dakotas

For registration info and schedule of events for the 2007 Convention in Aberdeen please go to [click here](#). Featured Education speakers will be Bill Barrett and Karel Murray. Registration is \$135 through July 31, after August 1 \$165 and at the door \$185.

Congratulation to Local Boards – Dollar Goal!

Several Local Boards have already reached their RPAC dollar goal of \$25 per member for 2007. Congratulations to these Boards and all Realtors® who contribute to RPAC!

Bismarck-Mandan Board of Realtors®

Fargo-Moorhead Association of Realtors®

Wahpeton-Breckenridge Area Board of Realtors®

Grand Forks Board of Realtors®

Minot Board of Realtors®

REALTOR.com Adds New Features

As reported last month, [REALTOR.com](#), NAR's official property listing Web site, is launching several Web site enhancements, including more property photos with listings (from six to 25), Realtor® blogs, and showcasing listings with mapping and satellite imaging. The new features, which are currently being rolled out, are expected to be completely available this month. REALTOR.com also will be offering neighborhood information, advanced search capabilities, and a search gadget (or widget) so consumers can have a constantly updated slideshow of photos playing on their computer desktop of available listings that match their search criteria. Read more about the [REALTOR.com updates](#).

Star Achiever Applications Available

The Star Achiever awards will be given out again this fall. Applications are available [online](#) and need to be submitted to your local board by August 15.

IRS Starts New, Free e-Newsletter Just for Small Businesses

Many small businesses may dislike paying taxes, and complying with federal tax requirements is not always easy, but there's a lot to like about the IRS's highly-regarded *new* online newsletter, *e-News for Small Businesses*.

The IRS has embraced the convenience, accuracy and speed of the digital world to help small business owners, accounting professionals, and tax practitioners better understand and meet their tax obligations, and *e-News* delivers timely, useful tax information right to your computer, including:

- Important, upcoming tax dates
- What's new on the IRS Web site
- Reminders and tips to assist businesses with tax compliance
- IRS news releases and special IRS announcements

e-News is distributed every Wednesday. The convenient format puts IRS tax information right at your fingertips, and its' "Useful Links" guide you quickly to the latest news and resource information available on IRS.gov.

To start your FREE subscription to e-News, just go to IRS.gov at [click here](#), type in your e-mail address and submit.

More technology needed, practitioners say...

Almost 55 percent of real estate brokers, sales associates, and managers spent more than \$1,000 on business-related technology in 2006, a survey by the Center for Realtor® Technology (CRT) shows. More than three-fourths of survey respondents say they're receiving value from the technology their company provides, but at the same time, two-thirds of respondents want their companies to do more in the technology arena. Read about the findings and also get tips on ways to go wireless in the [Spring 2007 CRT Report](#) .

Technology Tip

Let Outlook Remind You to Reply to an E-mail. . .

You got an e-mail but you do not have time to reply. You want to be SURE that you do not forget because it is so important. What do you do? You let OUTLOOK remind you!

- Open Outlook;
- Right click the message that you want to configure the reminder for;
- Point to Follow-up and click Add Reminder;
- In the Due By list, select the date when you want to receive the reminder;
- Use the drop down arrow in the second list to select the time of day that you want to receive the reminder;
- Click OK.

Don't forget NDAR's free Tech Hotline service, free to any Realtor® Member..... 866-432-3029 - they will help you with almost any technology question except your MLS System (for these issues please contact your vendor).

Mark Your Calendar for...

- ❖ August 2 *Claus Lembke* Retirement Party, Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck [click here](#)
- ❖ August 16-17 NAR Leadership Summit, Chicago
- ❖ September 12-14 Realtor® Convention of the Dakotas, Aberdeen, SD [click here](#)
- ❖ October 1-2 Ninja CRS Course, Seven Seas Inn, Mandan [click here](#).
- ❖ October 23-24 Realtor® Summit, Seven Seas Inn, Mandan
- ❖ November 13-16 NAR Convention, Las Vegas [click here](#)
- ❖ Check www.ndrealtors.com for more events and updates!