

STATE NEWS



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October Meetings Highlights:

The following were approved at NDAR's committee and Board of Directors Meetings held on October 23-24:

Reconfirmed that NDAR will pay off our half portion of mortgage on Realtors® office building jointly owned with the Bismarck Mandan Board of REALTORS® in November.

Changing name of Education Committee to the Professional Development Committee.

Membership Committee revamped purpose statement of the committee and will be redesigning the Membership Brochure for new or potential members. Committee developed three goals that they will focus on this year and committee members are challenged to meet with 10 people to spark an interest in getting involved in the association. Committee also approved a reporting form to be used by local boards when doing reports for this committee. Four Life Member applications were approved by the Membership Committee: **Chuck Walker**, Coldwell Banker; **Keith Jones**, Prudential Preferred Properties; **Reuben Liechty**, Reuben Liechty REALTORS®; and **Char Broten**, Reuben Liechty REALTORS®.

RPAC Fundraising Committee set goals for the 2008 year and created a taskforce to look into having a ND Hall of Fame for RPAC major donors. Also planning to have NAR Staff doing some RPAC fundraising training at the January meetings.

Fiscal Year Taskforce recommended a bylaws change to move the Budget year of the Association to a calendar year versus the September through August fiscal year. (This will be on the agenda for a General Membership Meeting at the January Meetings in Bismarck). Also moved the Leadership Year of the Association to December 1 through November 30 to be more in line with NAR – elections and installation will still occur at the State Convention in September.

Perry Weekes, Bismarck, was recognized for his years of service as a National Director for the NDAR – his term will be finished at the NAR Convention in Las Vegas and **Dewey Uhlir**, Fargo, will then serve a three year term as elected by the Board of Directors.

To see minutes from these meetings please [click here](#).

December Education

Eleven hours of continuing education will be available on December 12-13 at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck. On December 12 the two topics will be Risk Reduction and Agency Law and both courses meet the mandatory topic requirement. December 13 will be a two hour session on Identity Theft and Code of Ethics Course. Flyers will be sent to all members and non-member brokers. For flyer [click here](#).

November is REALTOR® Designation Awareness Month

NAR recognizes November as REALTOR® Designation Awareness Month, an important month in which to encourage members to stay current in such a fast-paced industry. NAR and its nine Institutes, Societies and Councils offer twenty-one advanced education designation and certification programs that are tailored to virtually every real estate specialty and are the means necessary to take an agent to the next level. Continuing education is an important part of achieving a successful career as a REALTOR®. For more info [click here](#).

REALTOR® Summit:

October 23 marked the day for the first NDAR Rookie Course with 3 hours CE Credit. *Scott Louser* instructed the course and covered the topics of Professionalism, Agency and what it means to be a REALTOR®. Both the course and Scott had great reviews with 36 in attendance. The plan is to do a second part to this course in 2008. Please watch for details.

The REALTOR® Summit held from noon to noon on October 23-24 also had good reviews and covered many breakout sessions. This also marked the first time we were able to secure continuing education credits for this type of event. Thank you to these presenters: LoAnn Wegh, ([click here](#)) for presentation, Dr. Richard Ott, *Arlene Volk, Perry Weekes, Gene Eggen, Doris Hill*, Marlo Anderson, *Moni Krantz, Casey Chapman, Pat Jergenson, Jerry Youngberg* and *Jerry Schlosser*. The Summit also featured three NAR Chief of Staff, Dale Stinton, Doug Hinderer and Frank Sibley who each did a presentation – not very often we can have this type of leadership come and share their expertise with us. Thank you to all of you, as your presentations are what made the Summit successful.

Also thank you to the following sponsors who helped in the funding of the Summit and helped keep the registration at a reasonable price. *Bismarck Mandan Board of REALTORS®, Dakota Community Banks, Mitzel Homes, Mandan Title and North Dakota Guaranty and Title, FBS Data Systems, Aladdin Realty, Inc, US Bank Home Mortgage* and *Lavata Becker* with *Oaktree REALTORS®*.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF-INCOME TAX CREDIT

During the last biennium (2005-2007), the North Dakota economy was strong, enabling the State to offer \$115 million in property tax relief. The relief is the result of a law passed by the 2007 Legislature and signed by Governor Hoeven. The relief is provided to homeowners, land owners, and commercial property owners.

As with any new program, especially when it involves a tax credit, people have been asking questions. This article presents some of the more common questions people may have about the program and our answers. [Click here](#) for article by Tax Commissioner Cory Fong.

Donations Invited for California Fire Relief

Contributions to help victims of the devastating California fires are being accepted to the REALTORS® Relief Foundation, either online through NAR's secure [eCommerce Web site](#) or by mail. To mail a contribution, make the check payable to the REALTORS® Relief Foundation and mail it to: REALTORS® Relief Foundation, Attn: NAR Finance Division, 430 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611. Contributions are tax deductible. The REALTORS® Relief Foundation was established to provide housing-related assistance to needy victims of disasters (including, but not limited to affected relief and rescue workers), and their families, and for other charitable purposes permitted under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Foundation may elect to provide assistance primarily or solely to victims who are members of NAR). *Please note that while in North Dakota last week, Dale Stinton, NAR EVP, immediately following his presentation at the REALTOR® Summit, was part of a conference call for the R Relief Foundation that approved \$500,000 to aid the victims of this devastating fire and disaster.*

[Read more >](#)

Affiliate Members

For a list of our current affiliate members please [click here](#). Please patronize them whenever possible and thank them for their support of the REALTOR® family.

ND Ranks #9 in Forbes.com List of the Best States for Business

North Dakota moved from #13 in 2006 to #9 in 2007 on the Forbes.com list of the Best States for Business. The ranking includes many factors such as business and living costs; job and income growth; educational attainment; projections of job, income and gross state product growth; venture capital money going into an area and the role that government plays on the business climate in terms of environmental and labor laws, as well as taxes and incentives. Overall, they examine 32 criteria to assemble the list. To review the complete list and read the Forbes.com story [click here](#).

ND REALTORS® Travel to Mobile Alabama with Habitat for Humanity

Twelve ND REALTORS and affiliate members traveled to Mobile, Alabama to participate in a Habitat for Humanity Global Village volunteer work team during the week of October 14-20. Team Leader, **Claus Lembke**, along with 11 others from North Dakota worked on new homes for residents who lost their homes during the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

Members of the North Dakota team included **Jerry Youngberg** of Grand Forks, **Scott Breidenbach** and **Lyn Dwyer** of Fargo, **Dan Ringuette** and **Larry Louser** of Minot, **Diana Zietz** and **Mary Freeman** from Dickinson, **Claus Lembke** and wife Marsha and **Jerry Schlosser** from Bismarck and **Lynn Klein**, Gate City Bank along with NDAR Legal Council **Casey Chapman** from Bismarck.

The Mobile Area Association of REALTORS® and the Alabama Association of REALTORS® welcomed the group to their state with gracious southern hospitality, providing dinners on two separate evenings.

Thank you to each of you, your families and businesses for giving a week of your time to this worthy cause. We are so proud of you!!



Back row: habitat representative, **Jerry Schlosser**, **Larry Louser**, **Lynn Klein**, **Scott Breidenbach**, **Marsha Lembke**, **Lyn Dwyer**, **Dan Ringuette**, habitat representative, and habitat representative.

Front row: **Mary Freeman**, **Claus Lembke**, **Casey Chapman**, **Diana Zietz**, habitat recipient, **Jerry Youngberg**, habitat representative, and habitat representative.

REALTOR.com Boosts Member Value to Consumers

This fall, a multifaceted member benefit campaign will introduce blogging, enhanced mapping and other features added to REALTOR.com. The campaign includes a team of experts that will guide REALTORS® through the use of the improvements: blogging, enhanced mapping and search, detailed school and community information, 15 minute listing updates, increased site performance, and Web 2.0 technology. Enhanced listings are upgraded, too; members can add up to 25 photos and video tours. The campaign will include a series of [educational videos](#), which take REALTORS® on short tours of the features. For more on the enhancements [click here](#).

NAR Names Lawrence Yun Chief Economist

The National Association of REALTORS has named Lawrence Yun chief economist and senior vice president of research. Yun has served at NAR since 2000, most recently as vice president and senior economist.

Yun has been chief forecaster at NAR for several years and pioneered the development of the Commercial Leading Index after helping develop the residential Pending Home Sales Index. He is a member of the National Association of Business Economists and the Harvard University Industry Economists Council.

In demand as a speaker at many industry and economic conferences on housing trends and forecasting, he has delivered major addresses at Florida State University and Vanderbilt University, and has participated on forecasting panels at The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, the Blue Chip Consensus, Bloomberg and others.

Yun has worked as an economic consultant to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Department of Education. While a research associate at the University of Maryland for three years, Yun developed the graduate economics curriculum for and taught free market economics in the former Soviet Union as that country transitioned from communism to a free-market system.

He also taught economics at the graduate level at the University of Maryland, where he received his Ph.D. in economics in 1995. He received a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from Purdue University in 1987.

A New Hub for Young Real Estate Professionals

Young professional members (born between 1968 and 1989) are encouraged to get involved in REALTOR® Magazine's new Young Professionals Network. [At the new YPN Web site](#), young professionals can submit an online membership form to get connected to news on upcoming events, networking opportunities, NAR leadership opportunities, and rookie business tools. Membership is free. Visitors to the site will also get a sneak peek of the upcoming YPN kickoff party, 8-10 p.m. on Nov. 13, during the 2007 REALTORS® Conference & Expo in Las Vegas. The reception will include free drinks and appetizers and a chance to mingle with other young professionals. Space is limited so those who are interested in attending must RSVP in advance.

Free Technology Helpline

Your North Dakota Association of REALTORS® wants to help you solve your technology problems with our FREE Technology Helpline. Instant and live help is available to you Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (central time) by calling the North Dakota Association of REALTORS® Technology Helpline Toll-free at 1-866-432-3029.

Mark Your Calendar for...

Upcoming Education

- ❖ [December 12-13](#) - Year-End CE Seminar, Ramkota, Bismarck (up to 11 hrs. available, including 2 mandatory topics)
- ❖ March 3-6 – GRI 1 & 2, O'Kellys, Fargo
- ❖ March/April – Spring Caravan, 2 courses, 7 locations

Meetings & Events

- ❖ November 13-16 - NAR Convention, Las Vegas [click here](#)
- ❖ January 7-8 – 2008 RPAC Fundraising Conference, Washington DC
- ❖ January 23-24 – NDAR Committee & BOD Meetings, Ramkota, Bismarck
- ❖ February 3-5 – 2008 FPC Training & Policy Conference, Washington, DC
- ❖ February 20-21 – NDHFA housing Conference, Ramkota, Bismarck
- ❖ March 29 – April 2 – AE Institute, Boston

NDAR Office Closings

- ❖ November 12 – Veteran's Day Observed
- ❖ November 22-23 – Thanksgiving Holiday
- ❖ December 24-25 – Christmas Holiday
- ❖ January 1 – New Year's Day