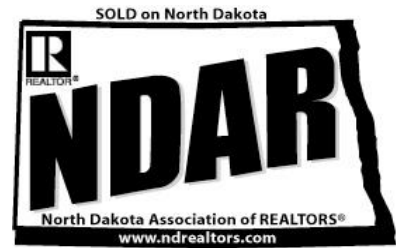


STATE NEWS



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Countdown to Code of Ethics Training Requirement

The Quadrennial Code of Ethics Course (of at least 2 ½ hours) is a National Association of REALTORS® membership requirement (not a license renewal requirement) that must be met by December 31, 2008 to maintain your REALTOR® membership. The timeframe for this 2nd quadrennial time period is January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2008. [Click here](#) to view if you have met this requirement as of December 19 2008. The list is organized by Board name. If you are not on the list, and have taken the Code of Ethics from 2005 –2008 please provide proof to your local board that you have met the requirement.

There are several resources available for you to meet this requirement:

- Take an on-line course through our website www.ndrealtors.com/education.htm (several options approved for 3 or 6 hours CE for a fee)
- NAR online course that has no fee or license renewal credit: [click here](#).

NDAR December Meeting Highlights

Board of Directors

Reviewed and Approved [Global Initiatives](#) and Vision Statement for upcoming year(s).

Approved 2009 NDAR Budget.

Heard update from NDAR Legal Counsel, Casey Chapman, on the NAR settlement with the Department of Justice and what MLS's need to do by mid-February to comply with settlement.

Review of August 31 year end financial report after review by accountant; Mike Anderson, ND HFA Executive Director, gave update on Neighborhood Stabilization Plan and possible legislative issues for the agency; Update from Pat Jergenson, ND RE Commission. President Dave Lanpher and Jill Beck gave reports as well as those attending the NAR Convention in Orlando.

Approved request to Board of Directors for \$50,000 to start a marketing plan - the committee will have to come back to Board of Directors before spending with a plan in place.

Created Presidential Advisory Group (PAG) for Non-Dues Income - group met briefly and hope to have plan back to President Dave by June Meetings. (If anyone has ideas please contact Chair Daryl Braham or any member - Perry Weekes, Arlene Volk, Doris Hill, Scott Louser, Tate Cymbaluk or NDAR Office).

Forwarding funding of \$600 each to the ND Apartment Association and ND Housing Finance Agency. The money will be used for publishing of the "Landlord and Tenant Rights in North Dakota" booklet and for the support of the "State of Affordable Housing in North Dakota" report.

Professional Development

Will be scheduling a Financial and Business Planning Course in Spring of 2009 in two locations, GRI 3 & 4 in Fargo in April and CRS Course 200 in Minot on October. Also the Fargo Moorhead Association will be submitting proposal to co-sponsor an ABR class this spring/summer. Also looking at doing some CE with the Legislative Impact Day and for training on RPAC around the state.



RPAC Fundraising

Set their goals for 2009 and also reported that for 2008 NDAR was over 550% of goal for RPAC and have received several accolades from NAR leadership and volunteers. Also had updates on NAR changes to major donor programs and reporting year, ND RPAC Hall of Fame and the RPAC "Fun"draiser event held at convention.

Equal Opportunity Task Force

Hoping to implement in conjunction with local boards a Poster and Essay contest for Fair Housing Awareness. A taskforce was created to work on the specifics. Also investigating some Diversity classes and possibly getting staff and volunteers trained.

Technology Task Force

Looking at doing survey of membership to see what Technology needs there may be.

Political Affairs

Reviewed possible items for the 2009 Legislative session including, but not limited to: Extraterritorial zoning changes (monitor), RE Commission setting CE hours by rule (support), Title Opinion/abstracting vs. title insurance (Coalition taskforce to look more into), Severance of Hunting rights, (monitor)licensing of mortgage brokers (support), Auctioneers licensed to sell real estate at auction (support what RE Commission recommends), Governor Hoevens Tax Plan (support if it is sustainable and meaningful tax relief). Also discussed continuing the Friday noon legislative update sessions - looking at using technology to better communicate with locals for this.

Membership Services Committee

Updated how the Realtor Involvement Award will be published to members and time frame of program to a calendar year with applications due to the local boards by December 15 with a list to NDAR by December 30. Local boards reported on activities going on in their local jurisdictions. Approved Life membership for Muriel Hurt, Badlands Board of REALTORS®; Created taskforce to look at criteria for establishing a Good Neighbor Award program with similar committee set up to the Claus Lembke Political Involvement Award. Looking at Marketing Plan to get the word out on "Why use a REALTOR®?", what a good market we have and have surround sound training.

Organizational Standards Task Force

Met and are in process of certifying all local boards in North Dakota that they meet the minimum standards for their membership.

New York Times Inquires What Recession North Dakota?

It's been news for North Dakota. Front and center on Saturday, December 6, North Dakota took to the cover page of the New York Times in style with the headline "[A Placid North Dakota Asks, Recession? What Recession?](#)" For full article [click here](#). The article outlines how North Dakota is sitting in a unique economic situation in comparison to much of our country.

This also in the New York Times that same day with a more positive story on real estate - "[It May Be Time to Think About Buying a House](#)".

NAR Free FHA Tool Kit

The National Association of REALTORS® has created an [FHA Tool Kit](#) due to the many changes and options available through FHA. The kit has a CD-ROM that includes a slide show with key points of each FHA-insured loan program, an FAQ, and additional resources. Printed materials are also available. During focus group presentations at this year's annual convention in Orlando, members commented that the Toolkit is professionally designed and would be very useful in helping clients understand the benefits of FHA-insured mortgages. Others stated the Toolkit should be used to inform REALTORS® of recent enhancements to FHA programs.



Business Mileage Rates Increase in 2009

Beginning Jan. 1, the 2009 optional standard mileage rate for business use of a car (including vans, pickups or panel trucks) is 55 cents per mile. The standard mileage rate for business is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile.

2009 Dues Deductibility

Dues to the REALTOR® organization (National, State and Local) are **not** deductible as a charitable contribution for income tax purposes, but may be deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense. Use the formula below to compute the amount of your REALTOR® dues that are no longer deductible as they are used for lobbying and are not deductible under current tax law.

Estimated lobbying expenses % of dues and dollar amounts for REALTOR® dues:

National Association of REALTORS®	33% of \$80.00 = \$ 26.00
<i>Entire \$35 assessment related to public awareness campaign qualifies as deductible dues</i>	
North Dakota Association of REALTORS®	16% of \$165.00 = \$ 26.40
TOTAL NON-DEDUCTIBLE AMOUNT	\$ 52.40

Estimated lobbying expenses % of dues and dollar amounts for Affiliate dues:

North Dakota Association of REALTORS®	16% of \$45.00 = \$ 7.20
TOTAL NON-DEDUCTIBLE AMOUNT	\$ 7.20

Technology Tip

'Tis the Season...to buy a new computer

The holiday season is here, and along with it comes shopping. What better gift to a loved one or yourself than a new laptop! Such a purchase requires thought and research, so we thought we'd help by listing the most valuable features to look for, along with our recommendations. [Read more...](#)

Don't forget to call the Tech Helpline - your go-to technology experts...866.432.3029 Hours of operation: M-F: 9am - 5 pm Central Time

Information You Need

The following is information available at www.ndrealtors.com (click to follow links):

- [COE Requirements](#)
- [ND REALTOR Store](#)
- [2009 Convention of the Dakotas](#)
- [Equal Opportunity List](#)
- [REALTOR® Logo Usage](#)
- [Technology Resources](#)
- [Landlord Tenant Rights](#)

Mark Your Calendar for...

Upcoming Education

- ❖ Mar 4-5, 2009 – NDHFA Housing Conference, Bismarck, ND
- ❖ April 6-9, 2009 – GRI 3 & 4, Fargo, ND (watch for more details)

Meetings & Events

- ❖ Feb 11-13, 2009 – NDAR Committee and BOD Meetings & Legislative Impact Day, Bismarck, ND
- ❖ Mar 20-24 – AE Institute, Colorado Springs, CO
- ❖ April 2-3 – Region 8 Retreat, Sioux Falls, SD
- ❖ May 11-16, 2009 – NAR Midyear Governance Meetings, Washington, DC
- ❖ June 3-4 – NDAR Committee and BOD Meetings, Fargo, ND
- ❖ June 18-19, 2009 – State AE Meetings, Seattle, WA
- ❖ Aug 24-25 – NAR Leadership Summit, Chicago, IL
- ❖ Sept 16-18, 2009 – [REALTOR® Convention of the Dakotas](#), Watertown, SD
- ❖ Nov 11-16, 2009 – NAR Convention, San Diego, CA
- ❖ Dec. 15-16, 2009 – NDAR Year End Education

NDAR Office Closings

- ❖ Dec 25 & 26, 2008 – Christmas Holiday
- ❖ Jan 1, 2009 – New Year's Day

