



Once again, thank you to the members of NDAR for the opportunity to represent our great state as a National Director in 2014 and at the newly named midyear meetings for NAR now called the RPCTE. It is an honor to represent us, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue to do so for many years. With the new branding of these meetings, a lot was put into updating the format and providing new services for attendees. It was great, and busy as always, including:

### **NAR Board OKs Mandatory Core Association Standards**

One of the largest changes in recent NAR governance history, the BOD approved the new Core Standards. "This is an issue of professionalism in our industry," said Andrea Bushnell, chair of the Organizational Alignment Presidential Advisory Group (PAG), which drafted the standards. "We want to ensure unity within—and the long-term viability of—the 100-year-old REALTOR® organization. All three levels of the organization must thrive together as a true and strong association, rather than acting as group of independent but federated organizations."

All Associations at the local at state levels must now meet standards in six areas: 1) Code of Ethics education and enforcement, 2) advocacy, 3) consumer outreach, 4) organizational unification, 5) technology, and 6) financial solvency. This also includes:

- Provide Code of Ethics training
- Participate in Calls for Action
- Make an effort to collect fair-share contributions to RPAC, or write a check to cover the fair share
- Promote the value proposition of using a REALTOR®
- Maintain a strategic or business plan
- Maintain a website with links to other levels of the association
- Meet minimum financial performance

NAR will spend up to \$20 million to help associations meet these new standards. To view the entire PAG report, follow this link: [Access the PAG report](#).

### **Leadership election process**

NAR updated the national election guidelines to shorten the length of a race, and to reduce member costs at the same time. New criteria were also established including 1) no personal bankruptcy within the last seven years, 2) no personal foreclosures within the last seven years, 3) a credit score above the baseline required for a mortgage backed by the FHA, and 4) no current delinquent federal, state, and local tax filings or payments. The changes need to be adopted by the Delegate Body in November, and if passed go into effect 2015.

### **MLS policy**

I serve on this committee, and in what was clearly the most discussed and challenging changes, MLS updated its policy regarding the use of and creation of AVM's for valuing property. It means through more accurate MLS data we can now compete with "Zestimates" among other automated pricing.

## **Professional standards**

I also serve on this committee, along with the Interpretations Sub-Committee of this committee. There were several changes made in this area, including:

- Clarification that the chairs of hearing panels may convene pre-meetings to resolve administration questions.
- Authorization of the CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, in a pilot program, to publish names and photographs of Code of Ethics violators on a broader basis than permitted under existing policy
- Clarification that “probation” is not a form a discipline but can be coupled with an authorized form of discipline, which is held in abeyance during the probationary period.
- Expansion of the disciplinary measures available to associations to require disciplined members to cease or refrain from continuing conduct found to violate the Code, and/or to take affirmative steps to ensure compliance with the Code.

## **Issue mobilization and legal assistance**

In a huge celebration moment, NDAR was granted the second of three layers of funding for our fight to constitutionally ban transfer taxes, amounting to \$777,000 in just this round alone. NC received \$233,000 and MN received \$176,000 for other issues fights.

## **2015 Leadership Team**

The team includes 2015 President Chris Polychron, Ark., Tom Salomone, Fla., president-elect, and Bill Brown, Calif., first vice president. Treasurer Mike McGrew, Kansas, is in his second year of a two-year term. Polychron introduced the team’s two appointed vice presidents, Charlie Oppler, N.J, and Mike Ford, Ark.

## **Distinguished Service Award**

NAR announced two Distinguished Service Award (DSA) recipients to be recognized in November at the 2014 REALTORS® Conference & Expo in New Orleans, Mike Brodie of Plano, Texas, and James Helsel, Jr., of Lemoyne, Pa. Bill Martin was also announced to receive the William R. Magel award of excellence given annually to an outstanding AE.

## **REALTOR® University**

NAR’s REALTOR® University had its first graduation with Masters Degrees of 10 students

Much, much more went on this week, so feel free to contact me if any questions. Thank you again for the opportunity to represent our membership.

Respectfully submitted,



Daryl Braham

Broker/Owner, NAR Director

Serve on NAR MLS, Pro Standards, Interps, Convention and Meetings, Nominating, and RPAC Participation Council Committees