

Kevin Fisher

NAR 2015 - San Diego California

The convention kicked off for me with NAR 360. In the 360 meeting the following items were discussed:

1. The 100 year anniversary of the Realtor trademark will take place in 2016. Realtor was adopted in 1916 to distinguish an agent who was committed to following the Code of ethics from a common real estate agent.
2. NAR & Ziplogix entered into an agreement to provide electronic forms.
3. Ed Golding who is the FHA Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary provided an update on FHA whose partnership with realtors is 81 years old.
 - A) There will be a changing of the definition of what is considered to be owner occupied.
 - B) There will be changed concerning insurance
 - C) Recertification process to be streamlined starting immediately.
4. Realtor party raised over 30 million to date
5. NAR is partnering with Arnold Worldwide to take over the advertising for NAR. Arnold Worldwide is probably best know for doing the advertising for Progressive Insurance.

Other points of interest that were discussed at the convention were

1. Economics Issues and Trends Forum - Moodys Analytics - 3 Points of Optimism
 - A) More people going back to work full time
 - B) Higher wages
 - C) Pent up demand for housing
- 1) 18-34 year olds have been renting or living with parents are now looking to purchase home of their own. Only negative is the high rate of student loan debt.
2. Lawrence Yun
 - A) New home prices are rising because builders are focusing on buyers with more income. Dr Yun referenced this type of buyer as stock market investors.
 - B) Homeownership rates are at a 50 year low do to large number of young people who rent or live at home. This is largely do to student loan debt.
 - C) North Dakota ranked last in % gain in jobs over last 12 months and this is largely do to drop in oil prices.
 - D) Desire to own home remains strong and is higher for 18-24 year olds.
 - E) Difficulty facing first time buyers is student loan debt and affordable inventory.
3. The general assembly meeting featured a presentation of the different countries represented at the convention. It was a very emotional moment when France was announced and a long standing ovation followed. Scott was recognized for being Realtor of the year for North Dakota and current NAR President Chris gave his final presentation.
4. I attended the meeting concerning the new closing rules but that was not very educational.

I ended up leaving after Saturday so unfortunately I missed Dewey being elected as Regional Vice President. Congratulations to Dewey who will do a wonderful job.

This pretty much concludes my report for the 2015 NAR convention.