

2015 NAR REALTORS® Conference, San Diego

Membership Policy and Board Jurisdiction Committee

Our meeting began with the introduction of the 2016 committee leadership and a Thank You to our 2015 Chair; Frank Pietranton for his service in 2015.

The committee was congratulated for having 100% RPAC participation for 2015. Quite an accomplishment for a committee that has over 90 members!

Prior to our meeting, 5 hearing panels met to make decisions on the contested applications for name and/or jurisdiction changes. Decisions were as follows:

1. The Laredo Association of REALTORS® (TX) application for unassigned territory be approved.
2. That the Northern Adirondack Board of REALTORS® (NY) application for change of name to Southern Adirondack Board of REALTORS® be denied.
3. That the REALTORS® Association of Metropolitan Pittsburg (PA) application for change of name to REALTORS® Association of Southwestern Pennsylvania, be denied.
4. That the Warren County Association of REALTORS® (NY) application for change of name to Southern Adirondack REALTORS® be approved.
5. That the Worcester Regional Association of REALTORS® (MA) application for change of name to Central Massachusetts Association of REALTORS®, Inc. be approved.

At the May meetings in Washington, DC, it was decided that a work group be formed to examine the existing criteria and procedures for considering applications for association name and jurisdiction changes. The results of the panel were reviewed and approved by the committee.

The committee was asked to approve the addition of a Commercial Overlay Board application. The Oklahoma Association of REALTORS® approved the overlay of the territory of two existing local associations. This Overlay Board would provide territorial jurisdiction for those boards. The committee approved the Commercial Overlay Board application and it was forwarded on to the Board of Directors for their vote and it passed there also.

We then heard a report from Jerry Mathews giving us an update on association mergers since core standards and then from Cliff Niersbach to provide an update on the first cycle of Core Standards. Some interesting results!

In 2015 (as of Nov 3) there were 60 mergers involving 141 Associations. There are 131 less associations today than before Core Standards. 25 local associations voluntarily surrendered their charters. 16 Associations did not meet core standards and will have their charters revoked. Katie Hunter and Kevin Milligan of our committee, helped review more than 1300 strategic plans.

Though the “fallout” was relatively low for the number of associations across the country, it was said that this is probably only just the tip of the iceberg! With initial approval done by the State Executive officers, it was remarked that approval may have been given to some Boards and Associations that perhaps should not have been approved. Keeping up with core Standards in the future and getting re-certified the next time around, may be the bigger challenge than was experienced the first time around. Though Core Standards were developed to bring continuity to all REALTOR® Associations and “raise the bar” for our industry, it seems a real disservice to the membership that there are those out there, that just signed off on the criteria just “to get it done and off the plate for the year.” It will be interesting to see how many more mergers and loss of charters will occur in the future for those that struggled to comply this first go round!

A big “Thank You” to NDAR for the travel grant I received to help defray my costs in attending the NAR Convention in San Diego! I am proud to announce I was appointed to another 3 year term on this committee and I look forward to my service on this committee!

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Roller
