



Report of the 2016 REALTOR Legislative Meetings and Trade Expo
National Association of REALTORS®

Realty 1
Fargo, ND 58103

Thank you to the members of NDAR for the opportunity to represent our great state as both a National Director and as the NAR REALTOR Party Director in 2016 at our mid-year meetings. It is an honor to represent us, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue to do so for many years. As always, these were great meetings, and BUSY, including:

Core Standards

There were several updates presented by a Core Standards Advisory Board to enhance the implementation of the standards, including:

- Engage in at least two activities per year that demonstrate how the association is the "Voice for Real Estate" in its market, and at least two activities demonstrating the association's investment in the community.

- Require six hours of professional development for volunteers who carry out responsibilities that would otherwise be handled by paid staff.

- Offer, promote, or provide at least one professional development opportunity for members every year.

- Annually certify that they have conducted an activity promoting REALTOR® safety.

- Provide resources for or access to leadership development education or training for their elected REALTOR® leaders, and document those resources.

- Include a voluntary political action committee or political advocacy fund contribution on their dues statements, unless prohibited by law.

- Changing to a calendar-year compliance cycle for the standards-making the next compliance cycle 18 months long through Dec 2017

MLS policy

There were updates to MLS policy to strengthen positions surrounding copyright infringement

Student loan debt

The board adopted policies to support beneficial changes to the current student loan programs in support of home ownership

Consumer advertising campaign

An awesome new program was launched: a partnership with ABC sitcom "Modern Family," which includes integration into an episode (original air date: May 4) and ads featuring actor Ty Burrell, who portrays REALTOR® Phil Dunphy on the popular show. Burrell, who has won two Emmy awards for his portrayal of Dunphy, will make an appearance at NAR's annual meeting in Orlando, Nov. 4-7.

Board elections

Our very own John Smaby won his bid for NAR President for 2019!!! Other officers already in line were elected in no-contest elections. This creates enormous opportunities for the future in our region!

Committee communications

Finally, NAR will adopt a single communications platform to be used among the various divisions, societies, councils, and especially with state and local leadership as well as the two offices of NAR.

RPAC

The board approved an increase in the RPAC fundraising goal from \$4.77 to \$6.36 per member, which would raise \$24.5 million for the 2017-18 election cycle.

Homebuyer savings accounts

The board voted to support tax-advantaged programs to allow people to save money for home down payments, and encourage more states to implement these types of plans.

Professional standards

Several updates were made including:

- Ensure accountability on the part of terminated or resigned respondents so they may not circumvent their obligations under the REALTOR® Code of Ethics by resigning or otherwise causing membership to terminate prior to an ethics complaint being filed or prior to an ethics hearing being held.
- Require ethics hearing panels to specify consequences for failure to comply with discipline imposed in ethics cases, thereby increasing the association's ethics enforcement capabilities.
- Protect a respondent's right to appeal increased discipline imposed by an ethics hearing panel subsequent to Board of Directors review.
- Provide complainants with additional time, until adjournment of an ethics hearing, to withdraw their complaint should they choose to do so.
- Expedite delivery of an ethics respondent's reply to the complainant, consistent with parallel provisions in the arbitration section of the Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual.
- Begin the process leading to the selection of an ethics hearing date within five days after a complaint is forwarded for a hearing. While a final hearing date will likely not be selected during this time, involving the parties in a discussion of a time frame greatly reduces requests for continuances closer to the hearing date.

Recognition

NAR presented Distinguished Service Awards to two REALTORS®: Pat Kaplan, GRI, GREEN, Portland, Ore., and Barbara Lach, ABR, CRB, CRS, GRI, PMN, of Columbus, Ohio. The award recognizes people who have shown meritorious service to the association for at least 25 years.

In addition, Andrea Bushnell, RCE, CAE, chief executive officer of the North Carolina Association of REALTORS®, is the recipient of the 2016 William R. Magel Award of Excellence. She will be formally recognized at the 2016 REALTORS® Conference and Expo Orlando, Fla.

REALTOR Party Director Position

It has been an honor servicing with our President Tommy “behind the scenes” since 2013, and officially since November 2015. This position has built enormous connections, allowed me to be in front of thousands of members from all across the country, to even opening NAR 360-all great opportunities to show case North Dakota. As I mentioned in speaking with Jill, there is a tremendous amount of information I could share here, including inner working of the DC and Chicago offices, how the leadership team really functions, how ND compares to so many other regions, and simply how NAR really works. Rather than trying to fit so much (more) into this report, I would just offer that it would be a pleasure to visit with any member, any time and share what I’ve learned. I would be honored to do so.

Finally, and again, there is as always a ton of additional information available about these meetings and other happenings of your Association, all of which can be found at realtor.org. If you have not done so, please, take a few minutes and go look around; there is information there on everything you could imagine. And I cannot go without once again reminding everyone of the many NAR programs available FOR FREE as part of your membership, including one that can increase your knowledge and thus your earning, the NAR library. Everything you've ever wanted to read is in there. Go to www.realtor.org/library - it's FREE!

Respectfully submitted,



Daryl Braham

Broker Associate, NAR Director

Serve on NAR BOD, MLS, Pro Standards, Interps, various RPAC Committees and Workgroups, and the Exec. Committee

2016 REALTOR Party Director