

Realtors Legislative Meetings

Washington D.C.

May 10 – 14, 2016

Dear Board of Realtors & NDAR Members,

NAR 360:

The Realtor's Legislative Meetings event began with the NAR 360 session to officially kickoff the meetings. NAR President Tom Salamone welcomed the REALTORS and set the tone for the event and visits to Capitol Hill. President Salamone emphasized his theme for his term as president stating, "Average people do what is expected of them. Great people do what is expected of them. And then some". He asked REALTOR'S to climb the Hill during the week and promote the industry and protect property rights.

NAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING;

***Board elections:** The board elected its first vice president, John Smaby, of Edina, MN and 2017-2018 treasurer, Tom Riley, of Bedford, NH. JoAnne Poole of Md, also ran for the first vice president position.

***Core Standards:** The board voted to add several requirements to the Organizational Alignment/Core Standards for REALTOR associations for the compliance cycle beginning July 1, 2016.

***REALTOR Dues:** The board voted to keep NAR dues at \$120. \$40 of this dues amount will be dedicated to funding the REALTOR Party Program for 2017. Board also approved a three-year extension of the \$35 special assessment that fund the consumer advertising campaign. Dues for 2017 will be based on a membership base of 1,200,000.

***MLS Policy:** The board approved changes to the Handbook on Multiple Listing Policy with growing concerns over copyright infringements. Also the board is taking steps to increase cooperation and information sharing between NAR and the Council of Multiple Listings Services.

***Committee Communications:** Given that email is being seen as cumbersome and outdated, the board approved a proposal for NAR to acquire a dedicated communications platform for use by

NAR committees, advisory groups, advisory boards, forums and councils. The goal is to encourage greater dialogue between committee members and provide more security for email and public social networks.

***Professional Standards:** The board voted to improve Code of Ethics enforcement with changes to the Standard of Practice to take effect Jan. 1, 2017.

***RPR:** Dale Ross, CEO of Realtors Property Resource (RPR) reported that Advanced Multi-List Platform (AMP) testing will take place in five markets across the United States by the end of 2016, and multiple listing services in four additional markets will begin in the first quarter of 2017. Project Upstream testing will begin with brokers in several markets later this year.

***RPAC:** An increase in the RPAC fundraising goal from \$4.77 to \$6.36 per member was approved which would raise \$24.5 million for the 2017-18 election cycle.

***Student Loan Debt:** The fact that student debt is growing, and with concerns over the impact, the board adopted policy that seeks to allow student borrowers to refinance their loans and streamline income-based repayment programs.

***Realtor.com:** The board heard a report from Luke Glass, executive vice president of Move Inc, which operates Realtor.com, and said traffic has expanded significantly since News Corp purchased Move.

STRATEGIC THINKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The purpose of the committee is to identify and gather data that may affect NAR's future and to monitor and research threats, opportunities, key trends and issues particularly from the field that may impact the industry, our members, the Association and real estate consumer.

The committee is working on a project referred to as Dwelling 2.0. The premise pertains to how we see the use of living space and how we will dwell five, ten, fifteen years from now. What emerging trends will impact the use of living space and how we will dwell with consideration given to diversity, demographics of the country, technology, millennials and boomers, affordability, robotics, transportation needs, livability/entertainment/workplace all in one design, the medical industry, economics etc.

The committee will meet for two days in late June at the NAR building in Chicago to continue work on the project. I am looking forward to help with the committee's challenge.

HILL VISITS: Always a highlight and core of the Meetings, NDAR's delegation met with our congressional delegation - Senators Heitkamp and Hoeven and Representative Kramer- to discuss concerning legislative issues that NAR considers detrimental to REALTORS , consumers

and the real estate industry. The 'talking points' included: TAX REFORM that includes Property Interest Deduction, Property Tax Deduction and Like-Kind Exchange; HOUSING FINANCE to include legislation to prohibit guarantee fee (G-fees) from being extended; HOUSING ISSUES pertaining to much needed reform to the condominium loan program and Rural Housing Service loan programs. INSURANCE ISSUES pertaining to Flood Insurance (NFIP) which is up for reauthorization in 2017. NAR is making the case for a strong NFIP coupled with a consumer-friendly private insurance market that will help property owners with the choices they demand.

REGION 8 CAUCUS: IA, MN, NE, ND, SD

Jim Cormier, Regional Vice President called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Larry Louser (ND)

The presidents from each regional state gave presentations updating the caucus as per their respective state association activity.

Realtor.com: It was reported there has been a huge increase in 'hits' and time on site. Visitors to the site remain on 'page views' longer than on other competitive sites.

Scott Louser (ND) gave a RPAC fundraising report.

Daryl Braham (ND), Realtor Party Director, presented to the caucus an explanation of the RPAC Needs-Based goal and rationale for raising the annual per member goal of \$4.77 to \$6.36 for 2017-2018.

Thank you for the opportunity and privilege to serve as your national director.



Dewey Uhler