



North Dakota Association of REALTORS®

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Political Affairs Minutes

December 1, 2011

Seven Seas, Mandan

Present: Greg Larson, Dave Lanpher, Vicki Roller, Jerry Schlosser, Neal Messer, Ginny Corwin, Linda Hixson-Maixner, Dave Hoerner, Joe Sheehan, Arlene Volk, Ron Volk, Bob Lee, Dewey Uhlir, Laurel Haake, Sharon Lunski, Connie Osowski, Mavis Winkels, Norm Aldinger, Denise Messmer, Tate Cymbaluk, Rep Scott Louser

Guests: Casey Chapman, John Colter, Todd Fettig, Josh Askvig, Jon Godfread, Pat Jergenson, Donna Higginbotham, Daryl Braham, Diana Zietz, Lyn Dwyer, Hollie Kietzer, Vivian Thingelstad, LuAnn White, Gena Syvertson, Kevin Fisher, Ben Schroeder, Todd Anhorn, Doug Schonert, Larry Louser, Judy Hoskin, Ashleigh Collins, Mary Shelkey-Miller, Marsha Mugaas, Mike McEown, Rita Schuster, Lynnell Strothman, Doris Hill, Ronda Tompers, Jim Dunavan

Absent: Diane Duchscher, Shirley Dukart, Jack Kavaney, Jerry Youngberg, Gary Kramlich, Clyde Thorne, Shelly Zach

Staff: Jill Beck, Moni Krantz, Claus Lembke

Chair Greg Larson called the meeting to order. Committee members and guests were introduced.

Minutes from the April 26, 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

Discussion was held regarding the Legislative Measure 2 – No Property Tax.

Charlene Nelson and Charles Tuttle from the sponsoring committee addressed the group in favor of the Measure. Their points included:

- Found real estate tax in ND is convoluted
- Real estate taxes were changed 24 times in the last 20 years
- This measure seeks to abolish all real estate taxes
- March 2011 they gathered 29,000 plus signatures on a petition to place this on the June 2012 primary ballot
- State has over 30 places to collect taxes and all goes into one fund
- This measure requires that all cities, counties, schools, townships, etc will have to get dollars from this fund.
- It also requires that those funding for local subdivisions will come before all others
- Real estate taxes are the most aggressive tax
- Found many elderly are being forced out of their homes because of high real estate tax
- The measure makes it more affordable for young families to afford nicer homes and encourages businesses to open up in ND

Josh Askvig, AARP, and Jon Godfread, ND State Chamber, spoke in opposition. Their points included:

- This measure leaves uncertainties
- If adopted the funding levels for all local subdivision will be up to the Legislature



- Measure states that it has to start at the 2012 level – but is not mandated at any levels in following years
- Measure says Legislature must fund local subdivisions fully and properly at the legal impound obligations of local subdivisions
- Abolishing real estate tax will ultimately cause other taxes to be raised.
- ND Chamber opposes this measure – open to reform but this is not the right way

A motion was made to recommend the Board of Directors take a “Do Not Support” position on Measure 2. (M/S/C)

A motion was made to rescind the previous motion. (M/S/C) A 2/3 vote was declared.

A motion was made to recommend the Board of Directors actively oppose Measure 2. (M/S/C)

The proposed changes to the Real Estate Commission Administrative Rules were reviewed by Pat Jergenson. Claus Lembke reported that the Political Affairs leadership reviewed these proposed rules and recommend that NDAR speak in support of the new rules at the Real Estate Commission public hearing on December 7, 1:00pm.

A motion was made to recommend that the Board of Directors openly support the Administrative Rules changes at the ND Real Estate Commission public hearing. (M/S/C)

Regarding the Good Funds legislation, Claus Lembke reported that the Political Affairs leadership plans on having each local board review the effects of this new law and report such findings of acceptance or suggested changes by no later than the fall 2012 NDAR meeting.

The new political district map from the Legislative Council was reviewed. It was noted that it is open for comments and a final version will be available after December 31. Local Boards will be sent the changes as it will effect Legislative races.

NAR updates were presented and Daryl Braham recommended to respond to the Calls for Action for those who have not yet completed it for the Flood Insurance Program issue. Staff was instructed to send a reminder to those REALTORS® who have not yet responded to the CFA.

Staff gave an update on the Broker Involvement Program. NAR’s goal was not met for 2011 but was very close. The goal for 2012 is to add an additional 3% to the program. This translates to 44 more agents for ND. (Note: since the meeting, NAR reports the ND goal to be 56)

NDAR received the Triple Crown Award with four other states at the National convention. The criteria for this award are to meet the goals for percent of participation, members in the President’s Circle for RPAC, and response in the Calls for Action. NDAR exceed all of those goals.

Chair Greg Larson explained the My REALTOR® Party program and reminded every local board to look at it. Bill Malkasion from NAR will be coming to ND in March to present the program.

The Leadership Retreat goals were reviewed and the following items were chosen to focus on for 2012:

- To increase new members participation in the process of preparing legislation for the 2013 legislative session
- To provide basic civics/government 101 training for members
- To increase involvement in Legislative Impact Day
- Mandatory continuing education (CE) credits for learning about public policy
- Market accordingly
- Create talking points and information on specific bills (translate the info so members understand)
- Encourage leaders to “bring a buddy”
- Maximize the impact of previous legislative successes of NDAR, help members make the connection between how public policy advocacy impacts their profession
- Develop and utilize the website for RPAC

- Karl Eckhart (NAR political representative) considering a ND mini tour that would be a good opportunity for members to learn more about public policy advocacy

The next meetings are scheduled for February 22-23 in Bismarck.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: Claus Lembke, Government Affairs Director