

STATE NEWS



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Congratulations to Local REALTOR® of the Year Winners (ROTY)

The following names have been submitted to NDAR for nominees for State ROTY: Badlands BOR – *Diana Zietz, Continental RE*; Bismarck Mandan BOR – *Kathy Feist, Bianco Realty*; Fargo Moorhead AAOR – *Dewey Uhler, Park Company REALTORS®*; Grand Forks BOR – *Linda Bunde, Crary Homes and RE*; Jamestown BOR – *Letitia “Tish” Johnson, Reuben Liechty REALTORS®*; Minot BOR – *Denise Messmer, Brokers 12, Inc.*; Wahpeton Breckenridge BOR – *Kathy Hammer, Hammer Realty*; and Williston BOR – *Joni Olson, Fredricksen Real Estate*. Congratulations to all of you!

Convention Updates:

Please remember to check your hotel reservations that you did your correct arrival date when making the reservation. You don't want to be losing that room by arriving Wednesday and the reservation was for Tuesday or vice versa. Hotel contact info can be found [here](#).

The RPAC "FUN"draiser event on Tuesday evening prior to convention is a first time event and a time for socializing with your counterparts from both states. This Convention Kick-Off Event (casual dress) will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2008 in Minot at the Grand International Inn starting at 8:00 pm (Central Time). The \$20 entry fee (investment payable to RPAC) gets you into the event, a chance in a drawing for prizes (Laptop computer, Diamond Jewelry, GPS Unit, Digital Camera, iPod Nano, and Dave Beson & David Knox Gift Certificates) and a glass of champagne or beer. There will also be a cash bar and light hors d'oeuvres. If you are interested in purchasing additional chances at the prizes or won't be attending the convention you can make an investment to RPAC - for \$20 you get one chance for prizes, three chances for \$50 or seven for \$100 by contacting NDAR staff. For full details [click here](#).

On Wednesday morning the Dakota CRS Chapter will be sponsoring a three hour CE course "RE is More than a Living, It's a Life" with Dave Beson. The course is free to Chapter members and a \$35 fee to non-chapter members. They will also be sponsoring a two hour CE course in the afternoon on Identity Theft for those that won't be enjoying an afternoon of golf or tour of a Winery. The fee for this course will be \$5.00 for Chapter Members and \$25 for non-members with the proceeds from the class being donated to the Housing Program of the Minot Community Action Program. The Chapter, as part of their community effort, will be picking a charity in each community sponsoring convention to support. The evening will end with the Ice Breaker reception with entertainment by the Johnny Holm Band.

Thursday activities will include another three hour CE course, trade expo, REALTOR® of the Year Lunch, Board of Directors and General Membership meetings, RPAC Reception for "99" Club members and concluding with the Grand Banquet with entertainment by Williams & Ree and dance with Kidd Hollywood. Please also note that immediately following the General Membership meeting we will have both proponents and opponents on Constitutional Amendment Measure 1 "Permanent Oil Trust Fund" give a presentation on the measure.

Friday, the final day, will conclude with a breakfast buffet and a three hour CE course. For full schedule please [click here](#)

NAR Convention Early Bird Registration Deadline Extended

Registration is \$300 if you [sign up](#) for the 2008 NAR Conference & Expo by September 15. The conference takes place in Orlando, Nov. 7-10.

Celebrate the Installation of NAR's 2009 Leadership Team

All members are invited to an evening of camaraderie, fine dining, and dancing at the inaugural celebration of President Charles McMillan and the 2009 NAR Leadership Team at the 2008 REALTORS® Conference & Expo in Orlando Nov. 6. *Scott Louser*, Prudential Preferred Properties, Minot will also be installed at this event as the Regional Vice President for Region 8. If interested in purchasing a ticket (\$125) please contact NDAR staff by September 15. Currently there are about 30 who have purchased tickets in support of the Leadership Team and Scott. The evening includes a reception hosted by the state and local REALTOR® associations of Texas.

Upcoming REALTOR® Safety Week

The safety of our more than 1.2 million members is always a top priority for NAR. They are committed to helping their members stay safe while on the job, at home, and on the road. To raise awareness about this important issue, September 14–20, 2008 has been officially designated as the fifth annual REALTOR® Safety Week. View articles on REALTOR® safety [here](#)

HUD Answers Compensation, other RESPA Questions

Access [responses](#) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to NAR questions on settlement service rules under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA). Among the issues addressed: compensating real estate licensees as loan officers, employment agreements between sales associates and lenders, and the definition of “thing of value” in certain circumstances.

Home Sales Hit 5-Month High

Existing-home sales rose in July to the highest level in five months, although sales have hovered in a relatively narrow range over the past 11 months, [NAR says](#). Existing-home sales – including single-family, townhome, condominium, and co-op – increased 3.1 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5 million units in July from a downwardly revised level of 4.85 million in June, but are 13.2 percent lower than the 5.76 million-unit pace in July 2007. “We hope the new tools in the hands of home buyers from the recently enacted housing stimulus package will spark a sustained sales uptrend in the months ahead,” he said. “Buyers who’ve been on the sidelines should take a closer look at what’s available to them now in terms of financing and incentives,” says NAR President Richard Gaylord.

NDAR and NAR Membership Count Up for Fourth Month

July [membership count](#) for the national association is 1,257,491. The NDAR count is 1,441 for paid members and we are currently at 1,426 for active members (due to drops in membership).

CRS Course - "Building an Exceptional Customer Service Referral Business"

The Fargo Moorhead Area Association of REALTORS® in conjunction with NDAR will be sponsoring and hosting CRS 210 "Building an Exceptional Customer Service Referral Business" in Fargo on October 14-15. The course will help you better identify the expectations of the new consumer, the new behaviors necessary to meet those expectations and specific systems to make your business more productive, more profitable and more enjoyable. The course is approved for 16 hours CE in both North Dakota and Minnesota. The instructor will be Gee Dunsten who comes with great reviews and knowledge. To view flyer or to register please [click here](#). To view the requirements for the CRS Designation [click here](#).

Countdown to Code of Ethics Training Requirement

The Quadrennial Code of Ethics Course (of at least 2 ½ hours) is a National Association of REALTORS® membership requirement (not a license renewal requirement) that must be met by December 31, 2008 to maintain your REALTOR® membership. The timeframe for this 2nd quadrennial time period is January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2008. [Click here](#) to view if you have met this requirement as of August 29 2008. The list is organized by Board name.

There are several resources available for you to meet this requirement:

- A live course (several boards will be sponsoring this course – watch www.ndrealtors.com for details, or contact your local board – and NDAR will sponsor it in their year end education session December 17, 2008)
- Take an on-line course through our website www.ndrealtors.com/education.htm (several options approved for 3 or 6 hours CE for a fee)
- NAR online course that has no fee or license renewal credit: [click here](#).

Economic Recovery Act and the Homebuyer Tax Credit

The National Association of REALTORS® has congratulated the U.S. Congress for quickly passing a national economic stimulus package and thanked President George W. Bush for his leadership and willingness to promptly enact legislation that will help thousands of families, the housing market and the U.S. economy. Among the many provisions, the Recovery Act includes:

- GSE Reform
- FHA Reform
- Homebuyer tax credit
- FHA foreclosure rescue
- Seller-funded downpayment assistance programs
- GSE stabilization and much more

NAR has expressed ongoing support for the major features in the housing package. Read more on the [Recovery Act of 2008](#).

NOTE: The Homebuyer tax credit provided by this Recovery Act CANNOT be used in conjunction with programs funded by Mortgage Revenue Bonds including the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency's (NDHFA) FirstHome program. Due to this disqualification, first-time homebuyers who are eligible for FirstHome financing will need to make a choice and may want to seek the advice of a Tax Advisor. For more information and a brief comparison on the two programs (First Home Program by NDHFA and the First Time Buyer Tax Credit) please [click here](#).

Information You Need

The following is information available at www.ndrealtors.com (click to follow links):

- [Affiliate Member List](#)
- [Anti-trust Brochure](#)
- [Code of Ethics](#)
- [Code of Ethics List 05-08](#)
- [Convention of the Dakotas](#)
- [Fair Housing Word List](#)
- [Full NDAR Calendar](#)
- [Home Inspector Registration](#)
- [Housing Market Facts](#)
- [Minutes of Previous Meetings](#)
- [Parliamentary Procedures](#)

Mark Your Calendar for...

Upcoming Education

- ❖ September 17-19 – REALTOR® Convention of the Dakotas, Minot, ND [Schedule](#) [Register](#)
- ❖ October 14-15 – CRS 210, Fargo, ND [click here](#)
- ❖ December 16-17 – Bismarck, ND

Meetings & Events

- ❖ September 17-19 – REALTOR® Convention of the Dakotas, Minot, ND [Schedule](#) [Register](#)
- ❖ October 7-8 – Leadership Retreat, Jamestown
- ❖ November 7-10 – NAR Convention, Orlando [Click here](#)
- ❖ December 3-4 – NDAR Committee & Board of Directors meetings, Bismarck

NDAR Office Closings

- ❖ November 11 – Veterans Day
- ❖ November 27 & 28 – Thanksgiving Day

Don't forget NDAR's free Tech Hotline service... 866.432.3029 Hours of operation: M-F: 9am - 5 pm Central Time