



REAL ESTATE  
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## Report of the 2014 Annual Convention of the National Association of REALTORS®

It is an honor to continue to serve, and Thank You to the membership of NDAR for the opportunity to be a part of your voice at these national meetings. Once again, our national meetings were an incredible learning opportunity, and one to share and be heard on the issues that matter to the members of our state at the national level.

On a very high note, “we did it!” Our members and investors helped NDAR once again earn the prestigious Presidents Cup award, marking arguably the 5th consecutive year we have earned this award. Due only to NAR count issues, we missed it one year, but in all reality did earn it, so we continue to leave a huge mark at the national level in our hard work. Oh, and WE BEAT ALASKA in participation!

The new REALTOR web domain ([www.realtor.org/domain](http://www.realtor.org/domain)) has over 80,000 registrants already, and is the top 4 fastest growing high level domain of the new launch. Claim yours and your first year is FREE!

Highlights from our meeting are many, but include:

### **Board Directs NAR to Draft Member Code of Excellence**

The board of directors approved a proposed aspirational Code of Excellence to be brought to the board at a future meeting for approval. The goal is to raise professionalism, education and requirements for what it means to be a REALTOR. These changes also include new biennial training (every two years rather than every four) for the Code of Ethics, including improved updated materials.

Additionally, this added a data requirement for NAR to get better in the Data space, and an opening for REALTORS to create an on-line evaluation platform.

### **RPAC Fundraising Changes**

Significant changes to RPAC include replacing the fair-share goal with a needs based goal. This also eliminates the 70/30 split between the states and national association with the exception of the Major Investor program. It also includes a single national RPAC fundraising goal instead of the myriad of goals that have seemed to become the norm over the past few years. NAR will also be targeting new investors, including MLS companies.

### **Issues Mobilization Changes**

In a huge shift, thankfully coming after ND received over \$1M in IE funding from NAR, state and local associations will have to put up some of their own funds under this new policy. It depends on the amount of the request, and can include in-kind contributions, but it definitely changes how this is done.

The board also approved a change to the issues mobilization application form for local associations to require the state association to indicate its support or opposition to the application.

## **Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Policy**

Something we may not have thought we needed, NAR proposed a policy statement regarding unmanned aerial vehicle, or drone, technology to support the safe and responsible use of the technology by members and to work in support of that as federal regulators write rules for the technology.

## **GRI Updates**

After many years of trying, the GRI designation has been updated. Among other things, members can take no more than five years to complete the coursework, can substitute exam and experience for no more than half a state's course requirements, and the accreditation process will be based on an online audit rather than a peer review.

## **California Pilot Program Extended**

For several years California has had a pilot program monitoring when members have a violation in one board, and simply leave for another close by Association. As the data has been limited since this program started, NAR extended it for California to 2019.

## **Professional Standards Updates**

Significant changes were implemented in Professional Standards. I have served on this committee for several years, and there was over 20 Appendixes, the most I can ever recall! Included in the changes were clarification of the times recommended for the process of grievance and hearing panels, a new expedited process guideline, a "fast track", and the creation of required ombudsman services. We also approved a new citation process, basically a way to simplify the entire process with a fine rather than having to hold a hearing for all infractions, if allowed by all parties.

Many are unaware of the ease of implementation of this program, and NAR will be providing assistance and education to help our Associations adopt this.

## **Online Data Updates**

The board approved changes to help ensure MLS data is as accurate and timely as possible and that MLS participants can continue to compete with other online sources of property information. Among other things, the changes:

- Increase the frequency of MLS data updates to no less than every 12 hours, down from every three days
- Enable MLS participants to display IDX information from all MLS IDX feeds where they hold participatory rights, allowing consumers to execute a single property search
- Permit the display of MLS sold data for IDX display where "sold" information is otherwise publicly accessible

### **Dues Policy Changes**

The board tweaked its dues policy so that proration is allowed for a new member only when the member didn't hold membership, either as a REALTOR® or REALTOR®-associate, in the prior calendar year.

### **Realtor.com Update**

The board heard a report on the acquisition of Realtor.com operator Move Inc. by global media company News Corp. This is a possible game changer for NAR and Realtor.com, especially considering the head of News Corp referred to the new Zillow/Trulia merger as forming a "ZIT", and that they are clearly dis-intermediaries in our business which is the exact opposite of how News Corp sees their role in working with NAR and its members

### **New Insurance Committee**

The board created a 42-member Insurance Committee to monitor legislative and regulatory matters involving property/casualty, flood insurance, natural disaster, terrorism, and other insurance issues.

### **Recognition**

The board recognized this year's two Distinguished Service Award (DSA) recipients, Mike Brodie of Plano, Texas, and James Helsel Jr., of Camp Hill, Pa. This year's William R. Magel Award for outstanding association executives went to Bill Martin, CEO of the Michigan Association of REALTORS®.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to represent our membership. More information can be found at [www.realtor.org](http://www.realtor.org)

Respectfully submitted,

**iON Real Estate**



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2014 NAR Director