

2016 Membership Policy and Board Jurisdiction Committee

Washington, DC

Membership Policy and Board Jurisdiction Committee met in Washington, DC on Thursday, May 12 at 8:00 am. Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and approved and the committee was reminded that we are working for 100% RPAC participation for 2016 for our committee.

Several committee members participated in two hearing panels prior to our committee meeting. Committee decisions were as follows:

- 1. That the REALTOR® Association of Greater Fort Myers and the Beaches (FL) application for a change of name to Royal Palm Coast REALTORS® Association be approved.**
- 2. That the Manhattan Association of REALTORS® (KS) application for change of jurisdiction for the unassigned county of Marshall, Kansas be approved.**

The committee approved a checklist of sample questions and factors designed to collect information from parties involved in applications for changes of name or jurisdiction. These checklists should enable the panel to make well informed decisions when evaluating information in the hearings. Because the addition of checklists did not involve any changes in NAR Policy, this motion was not carried to the Board of Directors as an action item to be voted upon.

Discussion and explanation was made regarding Amendments to Article V, Section 3, Option 1 and Option 2 of the Model Bylaws for Local Member Associations. The amendments eliminated Option 1 and made minor modifications to Option 2. Option 1 provided that written notice be made to members when there was an application for REALTOR® membership. The purpose of the notification was to determine if there were any objections to the application. This practice is outdated since associations may only deny membership based on criteria established in the association bylaws and not by any personal opinion or other irrelevant information about the applicant. Option 2 had some minor housekeeping language changes. Motion to remove Option one and make the necessary language changes to Option 2 carried.

Discussion was had and a motion made to amend the Procedure for Approving Names of Associations to authorize administrative approval of applications for a name change from a state association when the state name is only being shortened to the abbreviation for that state. Motion carried.

The above 2 motions were forwarded to the NAR Board of Directors for their approval at their meeting. Both motions carried.

The committee was presented with an informational proposal regarding whether the duty to submit to arbitration or mediation continues in effect even after membership in the association lapses or is terminated, provided that the dispute in question happened when the former member was a REALTOR®. No action was requested.

The committee listened to a presentation by Associate Counsel for NAR; Lesley Walker on the Centennial of the REALTOR® trademark. Centennial pins were given to all committee members who were present at the meeting. Lesley also presented the committee with the article she wrote for REALTOR® Magazine, "Is your Website ADA Compliant?" to read and consider.

And lastly, the 2015 accomplishments of the committee were reviewed:

- 2000 Governing document reviews
- 1208 Strategic plans reviewed
- 63 mergers involving 147 associations
- 23 Jurisdiction changes
- 15 Administrative name changes approved
- 39 Name change notices resulting in 35 actual name changes
- 39 Dissolutions

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Thank you for the travel grant I received which helped me cover expenses to be able to attend the NAR Legislative conference and my committee meeting!

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Roller, Elite Real Estate, LLC

