

NAR Annual Conference 2016
Orlando, FL

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In Global Business Alliance it was announced that there were 1500 International attendees registered.

There was a fascinating presentation on the development taking place in Panama with the opening of the new, larger canal. The size of the cargo container ships, the tanker ships, grain handling, and other cargo ships that the new canal can handle is amazing. The most imaginable was an automobile transport ship with the capacity of 8,000 cars. Think about a large parking ramp floating through the canal. The expectation and goal in Panama is for the development of this area as an east/west transit, north/south transit, a hub for commercial activity for South America, Central America and North America.

The US continues to be a desired destination for foreign home buyers.

In the Risk Management committee the discussions continued about social media, advertising and teams. Work is continuing to develop guidelines for agents, brokers and team leaders.

In the PPCC there were 3 items that were approved and moved on to the board of directors.

Working with congress to increase limits on qualifying properties from \$250000 to \$500000 and then began indexing that to inflation.

Working to include sexual orientation and gender identity in the fair housing code.

Working with regulators to have the appraisal stay with the buyer and not with the property.

There were reports from many other committees with no action required. Of particular note was the Insurance committee report and their work with congress to extend and improve flood insurance/disaster insurance. Scott Louser and the flood insurance task force he chairs received compliments on the work they were doing.

Prior to the Risk Management committee I attended the final Risk Management forum. An interesting presentation on the increasing risks and concern about seniors and their vulnerability to loss of assets illegally taken by family members and/or caretakers as well as scam predators. There is an increasing need for Realtors to be aware and report to authorities of any transaction where the senior appears to be under undue pressure so you do not become an accomplice in an illegal activity.

Again thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the North Dakota delegation of attendees.