

Realtor Legislative Midyear Meetings

Washington D.C.

May 16 – 20, 2017

Dear NDAR Board of Directors and Members,

The major purposes of the Meetings include advocacy, Realtor Party/RPAC's mission and the Hill Visits- meetings with our congressional delegation. Approximately 9000 Realtor members were in attendance at the meetings.

HILL VISITS: The NDAR delegation attending the meetings visited with our congressional delegation of Senators Heitkamp, Senator Hoeven and Representative Kramer. The delegation brought with the following talking points including: Tax Reform – asking to reject ideas that repeal or weaken tax incentives; National Flood Insurance – asking that Congress must pass a National Flood Insurance Program reauthorization no later than September 30, 2017 when it's set to expire; and Protect Sustainable Homeownership – asking Congress to reform finance system as Fannie Mac and Freddie Mac as they are currently under conservatorship and ban the use lender of Guarantee Fees.

STATE & LOCAL ISSUES POLICY COMMITTEE: Many issues were discussed with rental control issues being most significant. Rental control is a big issue in larger areas of the country where those in opposition argue that rental control prohibits a free market environment. NAR's opposes rent control and a motion was approved to create a rent control policy working group and forward the decision to the Executive Committee.

Another issue involved a sign ordinance discussion about what type of content is permissible based on a Supreme Court case- Reed v. Town of Gilbert- which clarified when municipalities may impose content-based restrictions on signage. Many content-based issues arise in what may be interpreted as political messaging. Most issues for Realtors typically include: Temporary sign setback requirements; time frame display, size of the sign and off premise sign.

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT'S MEETING: The meeting's purpose was to discuss important issues being brought before the Executive Committee, Regional Caucuses and the Board of Directors. John Smaby, NAR 2017 First VP presided over the meeting.

*There was Realtor Party discussion with the motto - Vote, Act & Invest – to further promote the Realtor Party benefits that are not being fully utilized. Part of the issue is related to state EO's turnover rate and continuity gets reduced. Further discussion revealed that the Call for Action Response rate is only at 15% nationally – the percentage for Region 8 is much higher.

*Passed by state legislatures in nine states are first time buyer Savings Account Programs. In Region 8, Iowa has passed legislation and MN is close to passage.

*RPR – Upstream: There currently 700,000 RPR users and 302,000 mobile app users. Concerning Upstream, a pivot point was discussed in regard to asking the BOD for more funding to keep it moving. NAR CEO Dale Stinton commented at NAR 360, that the Upstream project progress has been slowed by too many players playing politics.

*There was a technology update discussing issues with cybersecurity, smart home devices and micromanufacturing. Micromanufacturing does not mean making micro –scale tiny components but the on demand manufacturing of products in small quantities using small manufacturing facilities. State-of-art design software, laser cutters and 3D printers are turning ideas in reality and getting the products to market more quickly and cheaply than could be done before. The goal is, it will lead to more entrepreneurship, lower prices, more jobs and stimulate the real estate industry going forward in the twenty first century.

REGION 8 CAUCUS: The Region 8 Regional Caucus consisting of the states of IA, MN, NE, ND and SD was called to order by Region 8 Vice President Don Marple. The presidents of the above state were called on the report on the state of their respective states.

There were remarks for Vince Malta, NAR Candidate for 2018 First Vice President. Malta commented that we need to work together as a team, can't do it alone.

A report was made about NAR updates & BOD key issues including the approval of 2018-2019 operating capital & Realtor Party budgets.

Region 8 RPAC discussed three areas of focus: Participation, Major Investor & Presidents Circle and Hall of Fame of which there are 773 members at \$25000 or more.

The Realtor.com report indicated that the "user hits" and time on the site are at record levels. Users stayed on the site longer on Realtor.com than on Zillow and the customers are more qualified. There was an urging for members to fill out your profile on the site; [Realtor.com/resource](https://www.realtor.com/resource).

Thank you for your support in allowing me the honor to serve on a NAR committee and as Region 8 Vice President Elect.

Dewey Uhler