

NAR 2017 Midyear Realtor Party Political Action Conference

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FROM: Jerry Youngberg

Risk Management Issues Committee member

We were provided with an excellent over view of the concerns we as Realtors should have with copyright issues, particularly with using pictures that we have not taken or paid for with appropriate releases for use. There are some significant lawsuits that along with damages there are huge attorney costs to fight the claims. An example was using as picture of a landmark off the internet that you do not have permission to use. There have been judgements against Realtors in some of these claims. Typically E & O Insurance does not provide protection against that kind of claim. There is info available from NAR as well as a Law firm, LarsonSkinner, PLLC.

There was a continuing discussion of brokers that do not have good policy for handling Teams and non licensed people as a part of the team and how commission payments are handled.

ARELLO reported that there is work being done to develop central location for commercial Realtors to have their credentials available to jurisdictions where they are seeking licensing.

NAR Associate Counsel provided and update on growing concerns of Cyber security threats and other ongoing issues.

I attended the Technology forum, "Protecting yourself, your agents and your business, Taking Cyber Security Seriously".

There was a very good presentation on the use of pictures with reference to copyright law. For example if you use a picture of a landmark or neighborhood that you took off the internet you could be subject to copyright law violation and face a monetary judgement against you.

Also, your exposure putting client information in emails is greater all the time unless you have taken necessary steps to protect it through office policy, encryption and regularly changing passwords. One suggestion was to use a password manager to be able to update passwords and not have to remember them.

The meetings with Sen. Hoeven and Sen Heitkamp and Cong. Cramer went well. The North Dakota Congressional delegation is very receptive to Realtor issues and are very supportive of the concerns that will be addressed in up upcoming legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the North Dakota delegation to the NAR conference.