

# ND REALTOR®

December 2025

Winter Issue

## Olson Awarded Top Honor

The North Dakota Association of REALTORS® is proud to recognize Nick Olson as the 2025 North Dakota REALTOR® of the Year—an honor celebrating exceptional professionalism, leadership, and dedication to the real estate industry.

With more than 23 years as a licensed REALTOR® and over two decades as a broker, Nick has built a career defined not only by expertise but by a deep commitment to serving clients, colleagues, and the broader REALTOR® community. His professional journey includes roles as Managing Broker, Broker/Owner, and Associate Broker across four local companies, each contributing to his reputation as a trusted leader and educator in the Fargo–Moorhead market.

Nick's influence reaches far beyond the local level. His extensive service includes leadership roles within North Dakota Association of REALTORS®, culminating in his tenure as 2024 NDAR President and 2025 Past President. He has contributed to the advancement of industry standards through his work on the NDAR Forms



**Nick Olson**  
BHHS Premier Properties  
Fargo, ND  
2025 ND REALTOR® of the Year

Committee, where he now serves as Chair, and the Government Affairs Committee, helping shape legislation that protects real estate professionals and property owners. Nick has served on the RPAC Trustees from 2023-2024, the 2023 Communications

Committee, 2022 RPAC Fundraising Committee, and 2019 Realtor of the Year Committee.

Nationally, Nick has represented North Dakota on several NAR committees, including the Small Broker Committee, which he chaired in its inaugural year, and the REALTOR® Relief Fundraising Campaign Committee. His dedication to continuing education and professional excellence is evident through his GRI, ABR, PSA, and AHWD designations, as well as his completion of Fairhaven and C2EX.

Beyond industry leadership, Nick is deeply community-minded, supporting charitable initiatives, serving on nonprofit boards, and investing in programs that strengthen the region. Above all, he is known for unwavering integrity, collaborative spirit, and a genuine passion for helping others succeed.

Nick Olson exemplifies what it means to be a REALTOR®, and our state is fortunate to benefit from his leadership and service. Congratulations, Nick, on this well-deserved honor!



**Kristi Barkley**  
Badlands



**Bill Dean**  
Bismarck Mandan



**Kimberly Efta**  
Grand Forks



**Ross Powell**  
High Plains



**Bonnie Domsteen**  
Minot



**Lucas Natwick**  
Williston

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# President's Message



Jamie McLean  
2025 NDAR President

As I conclude my year as the 2025 State President of the North Dakota Association of REALTORS®, I am filled with gratitude and pride for what we have achieved together. This year has been one of meaningful progress, intentional growth, and remarkable collaboration across our entire REALTOR® family.

One of the most impactful undertakings of this year was the implementation of our new Entrepreneurial Operating System (EOS). Through bi-weekly meetings with our Executive Committee, we navigated a completely new framework for how we plan, communicate, and execute our work. This effort resulted in the completion of more than 300 tasks and ushered in a reimagined State Association structure that positions us strongly for the future. This was not an easy lift, but it was one of the most transformative steps NDAR has taken in years.

We also experienced a successful and productive 2025 Legislative Session. Your involvement, advocacy, and dedication ensured that the REALTOR® voice remained strong, respected, and heard at the Capitol. Together, we protected property rights, supported homeownership, and championed policies that strengthen the communities we serve.

Another major highlight this year was our Elevate and Engage Tour with all the local associations across the state. These visits were invaluable—not only for sharing updates, but for listening, collaborating, and truly strengthening our connections. Our relationships with local associations continue to grow in trust, communication, and partnership, and that growth is one of the accomplishments I'm most proud of this year.

None of this progress would have been possible without the exceptional people who stood beside me throughout this journey. To my Executive Team—thank you for your leadership, wisdom, and willingness to embrace change. To my Committee Chairs—your dedication and commitment ensured our goals moved from ideas to action. To the NDAR staff—your professionalism and behind-the-scenes efforts are the quiet engine that keeps this association moving forward every single day.

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or email: [sarah@nordaknorth.com](mailto:sarah@nordaknorth.com)

And a very special and heartfelt thank you to Jill Beck, CEO of NDAR. Jill, thank you for putting up with me this year, for your patience, for your guidance, and for keeping me on track when the pace was fast and the ideas were flowing. Your partnership and steady leadership made all the difference.

Serving as your 2025 State President has been an extraordinary honor. Thank you for your trust, your collaboration, and your shared commitment to elevating the real estate profession across North Dakota. Our association is strong because of you.

Sincerely,

Jamie McLean  
2025 NDAR President

## North Dakota Association of REALTORS®

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## 2026 Officers

### **President:**

Kristin Oban  
Bismarck Mandan

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### **President-Elect:**

Desri Neether  
Bismarck Mandan

Capital Real Estate Partners  
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701-955-4189/Cell 701-955-4189  
[desri.realestate@gmail.com](mailto:desri.realestate@gmail.com)

### **Vice President:**

Ben Kappel  
Badlands

eXp Realty  
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Dickinson, ND 58601  
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### **Director at Large:**

Angela Cymbaluk  
Williston

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### **Past President:**

Jamie McLean  
Bismarck Mandan

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[jamesonmclean@gmail.com](mailto:jamesonmclean@gmail.com)



# Incoming 2026 President's Message



Kristin Oban  
2026 NDAR President

As I step into the role of 2026 State President of the North Dakota Association of REALTORS®, I am filled with optimism, gratitude, and a deep sense of purpose for what lies ahead. The tremendous progress made this past year has created an incredible launching point for 2026, and I am honored to continue building on that momentum.

Thanks to the hard work and vision of our 2025 leadership, NDAR is now prepared for the full rollout of the Entrepreneurial Operating System (EOS)—a transformational shift in how we operate and serve our members. This year, we will focus on the five foundational components of EOS: Vision, People, Data, Issues, and Traction. By strengthening each of these areas, we will create a clearer, more unified direction for our association and a more effective path for achieving our goals.

With this complete EOS implementation, members can expect streamlined processes, a sharper understanding of our priorities, and more consistent accountability across all levels of our organization. Most importantly, EOS will help us foster open dialogue and honest communication, ensuring

that every voice is valued and that challenges are addressed with transparency and teamwork.

Our association's strength lies in the powerful connection between the local, state, and national REALTOR® Associations. In 2026, we will continue reinforcing these relationships—honoring the unique role each plays while working together to provide unmatched support, advocacy, and resources for our members. The value we bring to REALTORS® and to the clients and communities we serve is amplified when all three levels are aligned and moving forward together.

As we begin the new year, we are entering it with clear committee structures, defined goals, and a renewed sense of direction. Each committee will start with purpose, clarity, and measurable objectives, ensuring our work is intentional and impactful from day one. This thoughtful approach positions us for a successful and effective 2026—one centered on collaboration, growth, and meaningful progress.

I am truly honored to serve as your 2026 State President. Thank you for your trust, your involvement, and your commitment to elevating our profession. I look forward to the year ahead with enthusiasm and confidence, knowing that together, we will continue to strengthen NDAR and the REALTOR® communities across North Dakota.

Kristin Oban  
2026 NDAR President

## NDAR REALTORS® Earn RPAC ND Hall of Fame Status

Three North Dakota Association of REALTORS® members recently were inducted into the NDAR REALTOR® Political Action Committee (RPAC) Hall of Fame at the Convention of the Dakotas held in Rapid City, SD this past September.

REALTORS® **Nick Olson** – Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Premier Properties, Fargo, **Josh Boschee** – REAL, Fargo, and **Terri Benson-Holmstrom** - NextHome Legendary Properties in Bismarck are all recognized for contributing an aggregate of \$10,000 over the years to NDAR's Political Action Committee or Political Action Fund (called Issues & Mobilization).



Nick Olson



Josh Boschee



Terri  
Benson-Holmstrom

*Hall of Fame status requires annual investments to the REALTORS® POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (RPAC) that must result in an aggregate lifetime total of at least \$10,000.*

*RPAC, the REALTORS® POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE, is non-partisan and supports candidates who support the real estate industry.*





**North Dakota Real Estate Commission (NDREC)**  
**1120 College Dr Ste 204 Bismarck ND 58501**  
[www.realestatend.org](http://www.realestatend.org) – website [ndrec@nd.gov](mailto:ndrec@nd.gov) – email

## **Update from N.D. Real Estate Commission**

**December 2025**

### **Continuing Education (CE) requirements – 2025-2026 (NDAC 70-02-04)**

<https://www.realestatend.org/licensees/education-2/>

**CE cycle** – Nov. 16, 2025 through Nov. 15, 2026 (70-02-04-02)

**There are NO mandatory topic hours or courses for this CE cycle.**

**Total CE hours required for resident licensees – 12 hours of elective topics** from approved courses

**Approved courses** – Licensees must take courses approved by the ND Real Estate Commission (NDREC) to earn mandatory and elective CE. (70-02-04-02) The ND Real Estate Commission also will accept CE credit for courses approved by other state real estate commissions. See a list of currently approved courses here: <https://www.realestatend.org/licensees/education-2/approved-courses/>

**Brokers/Broker Associates/Salespersons** must complete a total of 12 hours of elective topics of the licensee's choice. (70-02-04-02)

**North Dakota resident licensees** – Must meet the following CE requirements to renew as active for 2027. (70-02-04-01)

**Non-resident and reciprocal licensees** – Must meet CE requirements in their state of residence only. (70-02-04-04)

**No limit on number of CE hours that can be taken in 1 day**

**No grace period** – There is no grace period to complete required CE. (70-02-04-02)

**Salespersons licensed before Jan. 1, 2026** – Must complete a total of 12 hours of elective topics. There are NO mandatory topic hours or courses for this CE cycle.

**Salespersons first licensed in 2026** – Are exempt from CE requirements for their first renewal. (70-02-04-15) There are NO mandatory topic hours or courses for this CE cycle.

**Broker associates** – Must complete a total of 12 hours of elective topics. There are NO mandatory topic hours or courses for this CE cycle.

**Brokers** – Must complete a total of 12 hours of elective topics. There are NO mandatory topic hours or courses for this CE cycle.

**Brokers newly licensed after Nov. 15, 2026** – If new brokers passed the broker license exam this CE cycle, they are exempt from CE requirement for this CE cycle. (70-02-04-15)

**Licensees who are CE course instructors** – Can request 1 hour of CE credit for every hour as an instructor of a unique course taught this CE cycle, not to exceed 50 percent of CE required and not to replace any mandatory CE requirement. (70-02-04-16) You may submit your request via email to [ndrec@nd.gov](mailto:ndrec@nd.gov). There is no form to complete to request this credit.

**Licensees continuously licensed since Jan. 1, 1969** – Are exempt from CE. (43-23-08.2(3))

**Licensees who request to activate an inactive license** – Must meet the CE requirements of 70-02-04-02 for each CE cycle the license was inactive, not to exceed the number of hours required for the 3 CE cycles prior to reactivation. This CE must have been completed within the 3 years immediately preceding the license activation. (70-02-01-05(4))

**Course certificates of completion** – Licensees must receive and retain a certificate of completion from the course sponsor after each course, provided the licensee was present for at least 90% of the classroom hours. The certificate shall contain licensee's name, course title, course number, date, location of course, number of approved credit hours, and course sponsor or instructor. (70-02-04-21)

**Licensees are responsible for their CE recordkeeping.** -- The ND Real Estate Commission is not required to maintain a list of licensees and their CE. (70-02-04-21)

2025-2026 members of the North Dakota Real Estate Commission are: Sandra Meyer, chair; Steven Bitz, vice chair; members: Steven Link, Tate Cymbaluk, Scott Breidenbach. Executive director: Jeanne Prom.



Kathy Feist



Joni Olson

# NDAR Approves Emeritus Members

## Criteria for NDAR Emeritus Membership:

To be nominated for the honor of Emeritus Membership in NDAR, the nominee must:

- Be a REALTOR® member in good standing of his/her local Board.
- Must have been a member for a cumulative period of 40 years and reached the age of 65.

- Must have completed five (5) years of service at the North Dakota State Association level as an officer, director, member of standing committee, workgroup, taskforce, RVP, FPC, RPAC Trustee, or Issues Mobilization Trustee.
- Must be nominated by his/her local Board.

At the September Board of Directors Meeting, NDAR Emeritus Memberships were approved for Kathy Feist, Bismarck-Mandan and Joni Olson, Williston.

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# Hilzendeger Awarded Omega Tau Rho



**Heidi Hilzendeger**  
**Omega Tau Rho Recipient**

Since its creation in 1950, the honorary fraternity Omega Tau Rho, represented by the Medallion of Service, is awarded by the State Associations in recognition of a member's various leadership skills. The Medallion of Service is awarded as a token of the high esteem in which inductees are held by their fellow Realtors® and symbolizes the recognition and appreciation accorded

- An officer or director of the National Association of Realtors® including members of the Executive Committee; or
- An elected officer of any Institute, Society or Council, or a governor or director thereof; or
- A president of a State Association.

Also eligible are staff members of the National Association of Realtors® with 10 years of service, except the Executive Vice President, Senior Vice Presidents, Comptroller and General Counsel who are eligible after 1 year. Membership was also awarded to State Realtors® of the Year, Realtor® Emeriti of the National Association, and to Executive Officers of local boards and State Associations with 10 years of service.

Once a medallion is awarded, the recipient is a member for life and cannot receive the award again. This award is truly an honor as it marks exemplary dedication and service by Realtor® members to their organization.

The 2025 Omega Tau Rho recipient is:

Heidi Hilzendeger – NDAR 2024 State REALTOR® of the Year, Bismarck-Mandan

to them for their contributions to the National Association of Realtors® and its affiliated Institutes, Societies and Councils.

- Medallions are awarded to those who have honorably completed their term of office as:



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Email: sgreenberg@greenbergrealty.com

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www.greenbergrealty.com

**Skip Greenberg**  
Realtor/Broker, ABR, CRB, CRS, GRI



## 2026 Officers Elected

Congratulations to the 2026 NDAR officers elected during the General Membership/Board of Directors meeting held at the 2025 Convention of the Dakotas in Rapid City, SD.

- Kristin Oban, Bismarck Mandan - President
- Desri Neether, Bismarck Mandan – President-Elect
- Ben Kappel, Badlands - Vice President

Also appointed as the NDAR Director at Large by 2026 NDAR President Kristin Oban is Angela Cymbaluk, Williston.

These four along with Immediate Past President, Jamie McLean, Bismarck Mandan, make up the Executive Committee of NDAR.

**Diane Duchscher**  
ABR, CRS, GRI  
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Cell: (701) 290-3433

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# LEGENDARY

2026 REALTOR® Convention of the Dakotas  
Sept. 16-18 | Fargo, ND

*You Betcha!*

Oh, for fun! Join us in **Fargo, ND on September 16-18, 2026** for the REALTOR® Convention of the Dakotas as we celebrate the places, people, and even phrases that make the Dakotas our home. So bring your best hotdish recipe and your favorite flannel, because we are Dakotans, we are REALTORS®, and **We are Legendary--You Betcha!**

## REGISTRANT INFORMATION

*Ope, don't forget: a separate form must be completed for each registrant*

First and Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Board: \_\_\_\_\_

License Number: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ MN ☐ ND ☐ SD ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have special meal accommodations, please list them here:

\_\_\_\_\_  
If you have accessibility needs or require accommodations, please list them here:

## PRICING

- ☐ REALTOR® Registration – \$210
- ☐ Licensee Non-Member – \$290
- ☐ Business Partner/Unlicensed Guest Registration – \$130

## PAYMENT DETAILS

- ☐ I am paying via credit card. Please scan the QR code to complete payment.
- ☐ I am enclosing a check. Please make the check payable to:

North Dakota Association of REALTORS®

1616 Capitol Way, Bismarck, ND 58501



## LOCATION

Holiday Inn  
701-282-2700

3803 13th Avenue South  
Fargo, ND 58103

**To view NDAR's event refund policy,  
please visit [ndrealtors.com](http://ndrealtors.com).**

[RealtorConventionoftheDakotas.com](http://RealtorConventionoftheDakotas.com)



# Chips From The Board

## Badlands

### BOARD OF REALTORS®

The Badlands Board of REALTORS® has been active this season with both leadership development and community-focused projects. In November, the board inducted its 2026 Executive Committee and is looking forward to a productive year ahead with a renewed focus on member engagement and service.

BBR also organized a board-wide Food Drive in partnership with local offices and Business Partners. Donations of non-perishable items and meal-in-a-bag contributions will benefit AMEN Food Pantry, reflecting the board's ongoing commitment to supporting our communities.

Additionally, BBR REALTORS® and Business Partners participated in REALTOR® Ring Day on Friday, December 5th. The board reported a strong turnout and appreciated the opportunity to contribute to this statewide effort.

The Badlands Board looks forward to carrying this momentum into 2026.

Chloe Gunderson  
Association Executive

**RE/MAX**  
*Integrity Realty*



**Ninetta Wandler**

Broker/Associate • GRI/CRS/ABR/EPRO

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## Fargo-Moorhead REALTORS®

Effective October 1, REALTORS® Multiple Listing Service (RMLS) officially became a full member of NorthstarMLS! Earlier, in March 2024, RMLS had joined the NorthstarMLS Common Data Platform (CDP), and this expanded partnership now establishes RMLS as a fully recognized NorthstarMLS Customer Association. We're thrilled to offer this enhanced MLS experience to our members, and we've already heard excellent feedback about the improved tools and services this transition provides!

As part of the transition to contract MLS services through NorthstarMLS, Patti Hegseth from our office has accepted a new role with NorthstarMLS beginning in January. In her new position, Patti will primarily support residential MLS subscribers in the 701 area code, serving as a first point of contact for MLS-related assistance. On October 29, we hosted a Going Away Party to celebrate Patti and honor her 22 years of dedicated service to FM REALTORS®! [Images: "Patti with Board of Directors"]



At our Connections Event on November 4, we were joined by a panel of appraisers – featuring Jim Dobbs, Lana Knewtson, Luke Koterba, and Melissa Quern – who answered our members' most pressing questions. At the same event, the 2026 Installation of Officers was conducted by former NDAR President Kevin Fisher. We also recognized 2025 President Katie Johansen for her leadership over the past year, and she officially passed the gavel to 2026 President Arlin Fisher. [Images: "Installation of Officers" & "Katie and Arlin"]



By the time this is published, our 2025 FM REALTORS® Ring Day will have already taken place! Last year, we raised \$27,696 for the Fargo Salvation Army, and this year we're hoping to surpass that number. On December 5, nearly 300 volunteers will be stationed at 29 kettle locations, ringing the bells to raise funds for the Fargo Salvation Army!

Marti Kaiser,  
Association Executive



## Grand Forks Area Association of REALTORS®

As the year winds down, we've had so many opportunities to come together, celebrate, and give back to our community. From fun-filled gatherings to meaningful acts of kindness, here's a look at what we've been up to—and what's coming next!

In October, we gathered for our Annual Meeting and crowd-favorite Soup/Chili Cook-Off. It was a wonderful evening of connection, conversation, and of course—delicious soup & chili!

On November 18th, we held our Installation of Officers alongside a lively and successful RPAC Auction. A special thank you to Jamie McLean for installing our officers. We also want to extend our gratitude to Katlyn Soli, Cassie Braaten, and Jon Broden for their dedicated service on the Board of Directors.



We are excited to congratulate and welcome our 2026 Board of Directors:

Russel Crary – President  
 Tammy Howard – President-Elect  
 Abbie Gibbs – Treasurer  
 Jessica Rice – Secretary  
 Phil Vanyo – MNR Director  
 RuthAnn Halvorson – 1-Year Director  
 Tim Bernhardt – 1-Year Director  
 Chris Greenberg – 2-Year Director  
 David Smiley – 2-Year Director  
 Ryan Bohn – Past President

Then on November 24th, our members came together to decorate a “Wicked” themed Christmas tree for the Listen Center. This tree will later be donated to a family in need, helping bring extra joy and holiday magic to their season.

Looking ahead, December is all about giving back! We'll be out in the community for Realtor Ring Day on December 5th, and our annual Giving Tree is officially underway—this year, we're thrilled to be supporting six families through social services, helping to make their holiday season a little brighter.

Mike Thompson,  
 Association Executive



## High Plains Association OF REALTORS®

### Happy Holidays!

We enjoyed the extra long fall season this year, and hope you did too (although I am glad there should be snow for Christmas)!

Our Backpack Challenge fundraiser for Dakota Children's Advocacy Center was a huge success! Our members donated 57 backpacks filled with toys, clothes, snacks, water and hygiene products for the families that DCAC serves in our community, plus extra Wish List items and gift cards families can use. Thank you to everyone who participated! See photos.



Our Affiliate Appreciation event at Drift Prairie Brewery was awesome! We are so thankful for our wonderful affiliates who provide outstanding service to clients and support our organization's fundraisers and events. Affiliates enjoyed appetizers, drinks and conversation with REALTOR members at this event and received a tumbler with the HPAR logo. See photos.



Our Winter Event was December 3rd at Hidden River Acres. We had an Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest, enjoyed a few rounds of Christmas Trivia, had a silent auction and bacon raffle to benefit Project Ignite Light and Jamestown Community Foundation, and of course enjoyed a lovely meal catered by Grateful Plate, with a guitarist and a Christmas music playlist. See photos.



Our REALTORS and affiliates in Valley City already rang the Salvation Army bell this first week of December and our members in Jamestown look forward to ringing on Friday, December 5th for REALTOR Ring Day. See photos.

Laura Stafslein,  
Association Executive



## Minot Association of REALTORS®

On November 20th we had a full day!

Thank you to Erica Alstad, Public Relations Chair, for organizing our Annual Cold Weather Gear Drive. It was a very successful event for which the Minot Public Schools are thankful.

The Beowulf Golf Club hosted our group for the 4th Quarter Membership meeting. A huge thank you to Interim President Lisa Olson for assisting us through the last quarter. Josh Ressler spoke about changes and difficulties to be aware of regarding t-lock shingles.

Todd Fettig swore in the 2025-2026 Executive Team including Bonnie Domsteen-President; Josh Skjoldal-President Elect; Erica Alstad-Secretary/VP; Tracy Lynne-Director; Regan Slind-Director; and Alexa VonGoltz-Director. (Pictured below)



Following our meeting, we held our annual Holiday Social. This years beneficiary is The Stray Sanctuary. Through the remarkable efforts of the Social Committee, over \$5000 was given...but the highlight of the evening was the adoption of 3 adorable puppies!

Beth Mayer,  
Association Executive



**Shirley Dukart**



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## Williston BOARD OF REALTORS®

The Williston Board of REALTORS® is proud to share that our members recently donated 39 complete Thanksgiving dinner boxes to local veterans and high school students in need. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to support our community and extend warmth, gratitude, and care during the holiday season.



We are also excited to announce our 2026 Board of Directors:

President: Angela Cymbaluk  
Vice President: Amanda Stevens  
Secretary/Treasurer: Jennifer Schimetz  
Director: Sharlo Halvorson  
Past President: Lucas Natwick

We look forward to a meaningful and productive year ahead, and we're confident that this dedicated leadership team will guide our board with integrity, vision, and a continued commitment to serving our members.

We are excited to see what 2026 has in store for our members, our board, and our community!

Abby Steen,  
Association Executive



**JANUARY 15, 2026  
9:30AM–11:30AM CT  
VIA ZOOM**

**NDAR**  
North Dakota Association of REALTORS®

# FINCEN TRAINING

FinCEN: Understanding New Filing  
Requirements for Real Estate Transaction



::::::::::::

After years of success in finding foreign individuals laundering money in 69 counties throughout the US, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) is expanding reporting requirement on cash transactions for residential real estate to the entire country on Dec. 1, 2025. This session will discuss what the regulations are, why they are being expanded and the impact they will have on cash transactions to corporate entities or trusts. It is critical for real estate professionals to prepare their customers for these reporting requirements.



**Brad Hoeschen**  
Old Republic Title

Brad Hoeschen is the North Central Division Agency Manager and Underwriting Counsel for Old Republic National Title Insurance Co. He manages Old Republic Title's agency network in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Brad is a past-president of the Wisconsin Land Title Association and served for 5 years as co-chair of the Legislative Committee. He was also the initial drafter of Wisconsin's Remote Online Notary statute. Brad is the current co-chair of the Minnesota Land Title Association Young Title Professionals Committee.

Before joining Old Republic Title, Brad worked in private practice handling litigation defending title insurance companies and agents. He also worked in transactional practice, assisting individuals and corporations in acquiring real property.

Brad served as Vice Chair of the Milwaukee Administrative Review Board Appeals for 5 years and previously served on the City of Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission. He also served as a Chief Election Inspector for the City of Milwaukee for 15 years and currently serves as an Election Judge for the City of Minneapolis.

Brad is a graduate of Marquette University Law School and Loyola University New Orleans. He has served as adjunct faculty at Marquette University Law School and teaches extensively on areas of real estate law. Prior to law school, Brad was a print and broadcast journalist in Milwaukee and New Orleans.



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**CE PENDING**

# NDAR Hires Legal Counsel



**John Ward**

The North Dakota Association of Realtors® has entered into an agreement with John Ward and ES Attorneys of Bismarck to provide legal counsel and Legal Hotline services for NDAR. Attorney John Ward will serve as primary counsel.

Current counsel Casey Chapman announced his intent to start his march to semi-retirement at the September, 2024 Realtor® Convention of the Dakotas.

Ward is a 2012 graduate of UND School of Law and previously held a partnership with Zuger, Kirmis & Smith. He has experience in assisting with work for the ND Real Estate Commission while serving as designated special assistant attorney general for NDREC. John also brings experience in working with real estate cases, serving as legal counsel for other associations, work in the legislative arena, providing guidance on compliance matters, and forms reviews. Associations served by Ward and his firm include ND Land Title Association, ND State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors, and the Bismarck Parks & Recreation District.

NDAR CEO Jill Beck says, "This is a significant time of transition from long-time attorney Casey Chapman who has provided legal counsel for NDAR for 40 years. The Association is immensely grateful to Casey for his tireless dedication to the real estate industry. We will continue to transition until the end of the year. We look forward to building new relationships and working with John and the team at ES Attorneys now and when the calendar changes to the new year".

Brokers will be sent more info on access to the Legal Hotline mid-December. At that time the current contact numbers will be discontinued. More information on the Legal Hotline is provided below. Reminder it is only available to the Designated REALTOR® (DR) members.

## **Legal Hotline:**

*This membership service provides each Broker/Manager a response to routine questions on issues of agency, antitrust, license law disclosure, contract law and other real estate issues in the operation of a real estate firm.*

*The Legal Hotline is not your lawyer. It is a source of legal information for you. It is for you, not to pass along to clients and customers. No attorney/client relationship is established between you and the law firm retained to respond to your questions; therefore, there is no right to confidentiality, and a record of your question and its response may be maintained at the office of the North Dakota Association of REALTORS®.*

*This service is free to any DR (designated REALTOR®, which is usually the managing Broker). When calling the Legal Hotline, state your name and company, and that you have a Legal Hotline question. John Ward, NDAR's Legal Counsel, or another assigned attorney from his law firm, will field your question. If an attorney is not available, you may leave your questions with the staff and your call will be returned as soon as possible. The Legal Hotline operates from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon and from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.*

*The number for the Legal Hotline will be changing and will be sent to all DRs mid-December. Please keep in mind that the service is provided for YOU as the DR and is not intended for you to seek information to pass along to sales staff, clients or customers.*

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## Did You Know?



Jill Beck  
NDAR CEO

As we move into the end of the year, it's clear that our days have been busy and full—and yet remarkably productive. Our association continues to navigate an evolving landscape while keeping our focus on serving members and strengthening our organizational foundation.

We recently launched the EOS (Entrepreneurial Operating System) program, with our leadership team committing to structured meetings every two weeks throughout the entire year (same day/same time). This disciplined approach is helping us enhance clarity, alignment, and accountability as we set priorities and look toward long-term success.

In response to the devastating tornado damage affecting members of our communities, we applied for and received REALTOR® Relief Foundation funds. Applications were accepted

promptly so those who were affected could receive much-needed assistance during this difficult time. This effort reflects the core of who we are—REALTORS® supporting neighbors and communities in moments of need. While not all the funds were dispersed that we were awarded we are proud to support those that we were able to.

Internally, we have implemented staff changes and realignment to better meet members' needs and strengthen our operational flow. These adjustments position us for continued growth and improved service, and we appreciate your patience as roles and responsibilities evolve.

We are also closely monitoring the ongoing developments and changes at the National Association of REALTORS®, including changes impacting MLS policy and the Code of Ethics. As updates continue to unfold, we remain committed to keeping our members informed and ensuring our practices stay aligned with national standards.

Through it all, this is a good moment to pause and remind ourselves to be kind, follow the rules and regulations, and uphold the REALTOR® Code of Ethics—the guiding principles of our profession.

As we wrap up this busy season and prepare for the year ahead, I hope each of you finds time to enjoy the holidays with family and friends. May this season bring you rest, gratitude, and renewed energy. Thank you for your continued dedication, resilience, and professionalism. Wishing you a joyful holiday and a bright, successful New Year!

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# 2026 NDAR Calendar of Events

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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27	28	29	30	31		

## NDAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2026

Jan. 7-8  
Jan. 21  
Feb. 24-25  
Mar. 24-27  
March 26  
May 7  
June 2-3  
June 13-18  
Aug. 24-25  
Sep. 16-18  
Nov. 6-8  
Dec. 4

BOD Retreat  
NDREC Meeting  
NDAR Meetings  
AE Institute  
NDREC Meeting  
NDREC Meeting  
NDAR Meetings  
REALTORS® Leg. Mtgs  
Leadership Summit  
Conv of the Dakotas  
NAR NXT  
REALTOR® RING DAY

Bismarck, ND  
Bismarck, ND  
Bismarck, ND  
Minneapolis, MN  
Bismarck, ND  
Bismarck, ND  
TBD  
Washington, D.C.  
Chicago, IL  
Fargo, ND  
New Orleans, LA  
ND

**NDAR**  
North Dakota Association of REALTORS®

\*NOTE: DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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# ND REALTOR®

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Updated June 2025



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