

ND REALTOR®

August 2026

Summer Issue

Interview With The Candidates

The NDAR Nominating Committee and Executive Committee met in June and interviewed the following candidates to be presented to the membership to be elected to office at the September 17, 2026, Board of Directors meeting in Fargo: Ben Kappel (Badlands) – NDAR President Elect. Amanda Stevens (Williston) and Bonnie Domsteen (Minot) for Vice President. Desri Neether will automatically advance to the office of NDAR President.

The following are questions answered by each NDAR candidate for office. Please note an absentee ballot can be found on page 16 if you will not be present at the General Membership Meeting in Fargo, ND during the REALTOR® Convention of the Dakotas.



Amanda Stevens

NextHome Fredricksen Real Estate
Williston

For Vice President

Tell us a little about yourself and your real estate career.

I'm a Broker Associate with NextHome Fredricksen Real Estate in Williston, and I've been licensed since 2016. I'm a mom to two amazing kids who have probably been to more showings than most new REALTORS®. I primarily work in residential real estate but also enjoy commercial properties. I love helping people navigate one of the biggest decisions of their lives while building relationships that last long after closing day.

Amanda Stevens see page 3



Bonnie Domsteen

Century 21 Morrison Realty
Minot

For Vice President

Professional Questions

- **What inspired you to become a REALTOR®?** I've had a passion for all things home ever since high school, when I took a drafting class and designed my own dream home. That experience sparked my interest in the housing and design industry and even led to my acceptance into the Interior Design program at North Dakota State University. Although I ultimately decided to stay in Minot, my love for homes

Bonnie Domsteen see page 4



Ben Kappel

eXp Realty
Badlands and Bismarck

For President Elect

Professional Questions

- **What inspired you to become a REALTOR®?** Growing up, I got both "Rich Dad" and "Poor Dad" advice from family members. I could see it both ways, but eventually decided to follow the "Rich Dad" path. While I was working in the oil and gas industry, I decided to start investing in rental properties. That's when I saw the long term picture on what real estate can do, and began the years long plan to transition into

Ben Kappel see page 4

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President's Message



Kristin Oban
2026 NDAR President

Happy Summer!

I hope everyone is enjoying summer and staying cool! As we move through 2026, the North Dakota Association of REALTORS® continues to make progress toward our strategic goals while strengthening the relationships and resources that support our members across the state.

We remain focused on identifying opportunities, proactively addressing challenges, and strengthening connections at the local, state, and national levels. Our committees are working hard to achieve their goals, and I appreciate the dedication and collaboration of our members and leaders who continue to move our association forward.

Plans are underway for the ND/SD Convention in Fargo this September, and I hope to see all of you there! Coming together to learn, connect, and share ideas is an important part of strengthening our profession and building relationships across our two states.

I recently had the opportunity to attend national meetings in Washington, D.C., focused on advocacy, housing policy, and leadership. A key takeaway was the continued need to address housing affordability and inventory challenges, including interest rates, insurance costs, financing options, zoning, and permitting. These discussions reinforced the importance of keeping the REALTOR® voice strong, practical, bipartisan, and focused on the needs of our members and consumers.

We were also reminded that homeownership remains a cornerstone of financial security, stability, and strong communities. Our work must continue to support access to homeownership while promoting fair housing, ethics, professionalism, consumer protection, and member safety—including awareness of wire fraud, cybersecurity, and online risks.

While in Washington, D.C., we also had the opportunity to meet with North Dakota legislators to discuss the opportunities and challenges facing our state. These conversations are an important part of ensuring the REALTOR® voice is heard on issues impacting housing, real estate, and our communities.

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or email: sarah@nordaknorth.com

As we look ahead, we remain committed to strengthening our leadership pipeline, engaging our brokers and members, and advocating for policies that promote housing opportunities, property rights, professional representation, and thriving communities.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, stay cool, and I look forward to seeing many of you in Fargo this September!

Kristin Oban
2026 President
North Dakota Association of REALTORS®

North Dakota Association of REALTORS®

1616 Capitol Way | Bismarck, ND 58501
701-355-1010 | 800-279-2361
info@ndrealtors.com | www.ndrealtors.com

2026 Officers

President:

Kristin Oban
Bismarck Mandan

Century 21 Morrison Realty
1142 W. Turnpike Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58501
701-223-6654/Cell 701-220-1296
koban@c21morrison.com

President-Elect:

Desri Neether
Bismarck Mandan

Capital Real Estate Partners
400 East Broadway Ave
Bismarck, ND 58501
701-955-4189/Cell 701-955-4189
desri.neether@gmail.com

Vice President:

Ben Kappel
Badlands

eXp Realty
38 1st Ave E
Dickinson, ND 58601
701-532-3081/Cell 701-260-0000
Ben.j.Kappel@gmail.com

Director at Large:

Angela Cymbaluk
Williston

Basin Brokers Inc.
106 Main Street
Williston, ND 58801
701-572-5560 / Cell 701-770-6046
angela@basinbrokers.com

Past President:

Jamie McLean
Bismarck Mandan

Integra Realty Group
2401 46th Ave. SE, #102
Mandan, ND 58554
701-751-6377 / Cell 701-425-8310
jamesonmclean@gmail.com



Amanda Stevens continued from page 1

What has been your proudest professional accomplishment?
Being named REALTOR® of the Year twice has been incredibly humbling. More than the recognition itself, it reminds me that showing up, volunteering, and serving others truly makes a difference.

Why is being involved in the REALTOR® association important to you?

Being involved has allowed me to grow both professionally and personally. It has introduced me to incredible mentors and friendships while giving me the opportunity to help strengthen our profession. I truly believe we're better when we work together, and I want to help create an association where members feel connected, supported, and excited to be involved.

What committee or volunteer role have you enjoyed the most?

Our local Public Relations & Events Committee has been my favorite. It introduced me to community involvement in a way I hadn't experienced before. It gave me the opportunity to work alongside other REALTORS®, build friendships, and discover how much I genuinely enjoy volunteering and creating events that bring people together.

What do you enjoy most about working in real estate?

The relationships. Every client has a different story, and every transaction brings new opportunities to help people through one of life's biggest milestones. Seeing the excitement when someone gets the keys to their new home never gets old.

What do you love most about your community?

The people are what make Williston special. Everyone is willing to step up and help when it's needed. I also love the opportunities our community offers. No matter your age or where you're at in life, there are so many ways to grow, get involved, and make an impact.

What are you most excited about in the coming year?

I'm excited to build stronger relationships with REALTORS® from across North Dakota, learn from different perspectives, and continue finding ways to make our association even stronger. I also hope to bring a little more fun and connection to our membership while maintaining the professionalism we're known for.

Is there a professional achievement you're hoping to accomplish?

I'm excited for the opportunity to serve on the NDAR Executive Committee and hope to make a meaningful impact for our members, our association, and the future of our profession.

What three words best describe you?

Approachable. Genuine. Determined.

What's one fun fact that most people don't know about you?

I've never owned a traditional office chair. Ever since I started working in an office, I've always used a yoga ball instead!

If you could have dinner with anyone, living or historical, who would it be and why?

My dad. I'd love one more chance to sit down with him, catch him up on life, hear his advice, and, of course, fill him in on all the tea he's missed.

Is there anything else you'd like fellow REALTORS® across North Dakota to know about you?

I hope fellow REALTORS® know that I'm approachable. Whether it's answering a question, brainstorming ideas, volunteering at an event, or simply cheering someone on, I believe we're better when we work together. I also believe professionalism and fun can absolutely go hand in hand, and I hope to help create an association where members feel connected, supported, and excited to be involved.

This or That

- Beach or Mountains? Beach
- Phone Call or Text? Text
- Sweet or Salty? Sweet
- Sunrise or Sunset? Sunrise
- New Construction or Historic Home? Historic Home
- Buyer Representation or Listing Homes? Listing Homes
- Summer or Winter? Summer
- Paper Planner or Digital Calendar? Digital Calendar

NAR Approves North Dakota REALTOR® for Emeritus Status

The Board of Directors of the National Association of REALTORS® approved one North Dakota member for Emeritus status during the REALTOR® Meeting in June of this year.

This individual have received the honor of Emeritus status for having been active member of the REALTOR® family for forty plus years as well as serving at least one year at the national level:

*Congratulations
Randy Schwartz!*

Fargo Moorhead Area Association of REALTORS®



Bonnie Domsteen continued from page 1

never faded. When I purchased my second home, I realized how much I enjoyed touring homes and imagining the possibilities each one offered. That's when I knew I wanted to help others find not just a house, but the place they could truly call home.

Association Involvement

- **Why is being involved in the REALTOR® association important to you?** Being involved in the REALTOR® Association has given me a much deeper understanding of our profession than I ever would have had by simply being an agent. It has allowed me to see the full picture—from advocacy and education to ethics and the countless behind-the-scenes efforts that support REALTORS® and protect property owners.
- **What advice would you give to members who are considering becoming more involved?** I enjoy sharing that knowledge with other agents because many don't realize everything the association does on their behalf. I believe the best way to truly understand the value of the REALTOR® Association is to get involved. The more you participate, the more you learn, the more relationships you build, and the more opportunities you have to make a positive impact on both the profession and your community.

Community Focus

- **How do you give back to your community?** I actively participate in a variety of organizations throughout our community, with much of my volunteer time dedicated to serving through the Minot Board of REALTORS®. Whether it's helping organize events, supporting educational opportunities, advocating for our industry, or giving back through community service projects, I enjoy finding ways to make a positive impact. Outside of the association, I have a special passion for supporting Meals on Wheels and Hairball Haven whenever my schedule allows. I believe giving back doesn't always have to be through large gestures—sometimes it's simply about giving your time where it's needed most. Whether I'm serving our profession, helping neighbors in need, or supporting local animal welfare, I'm grateful for every opportunity to make a difference in the community I call home.

Fun & Personal

- What three words best describe you? Dedicated, Compassionate & Driven
- Coffee or tea? Both
- Early bird or night owl? Night Owl

Quick "This or That"

- Sweet or Salty? Sweet
- Paper Planner or Digital Calendar? Paper Planner

Looking Ahead

- **What are you most excited about in the coming year?** I'm most excited about continuing to grow as both a REALTOR® and a leader while expanding my involvement at the local and state levels. I look forward to continuing my service

with the Minot Board of REALTORS® and the North Dakota Association of REALTORS®, collaborating with fellow leaders to strengthen our profession, advocate for property rights, and create opportunities that benefit both REALTORS® and the communities we serve. I'm also excited to continue helping more families achieve their homeownership goals, building meaningful relationships, and giving back to the community. Every year brings new challenges, new opportunities, and new ways to make a positive impact, and I'm excited to see what this next chapter holds.

Ben Kappel continued from page 1

becoming self-employed as a REALTOR®.

- **What area(s) of real estate do you specialize in?** Residential, with a mix of investment properties.
- **What is one piece of advice you would give someone just entering the industry?** Make a serious plan. This isn't a get rich quick overnight industry. You need a plan on how you are going to learn the industry inside and out, and how you will budget through the slow stretches. If your plan is to treat this job as a hobby and not commit, my advice will likely be for that person to consider other options.
- **What is one lesson you've learned that has made you a better REALTOR®?** You will never know everything, so take every advantage of asking questions and trying to learn something new any chance you get.
- **What trends do you think will shape real estate over the next few years?** The rise of AI and programs like ChatGPT is just beginning. Today's version is the worst version that program will ever be, as it learns and improves every day. I think we're quickly approaching a time, if not already there, where buyers will show up with offers drafted or reviewed by AI, and they'll use it to fact check everything from contracts to market information. Our industry needs to be ready to adapt in the next very short years with our clients and customers using AI both along side of us, and using it to fact check our work. I would guarantee by now every form in all 50 states has been uploaded into AI.
- It can be an incredible tool, but it still can't replace experience, local knowledge, and good judgment. The REALTORS® who continue to provide exceptional value will thrive, and those who don't may find this industry become more challenging.

Association Involvement

- **Where would our industry be if no one stepped up to help lead it?** That's what motivates me to stay involved. It's given me the opportunity to help protect the REALTOR® brand, advocate for property rights, and work to keep our profession strong for the future.
- **What committee or volunteer role have you enjoyed the most?** Government Affairs, without a doubt. I enjoy the politics and the opportunity to help protect private property rights and that full bundle of rights that comes with property ownership. This is one place REALTORS® make a huge

Ben Kappel see page 5

Grants Support Safe Housing for Lower-Income Households

BISMARCK, ND – North Dakota Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA) announces the planned distribution of \$240,000 through its Helping Housing Across North Dakota (Helping HAND) program.

“Helping HAND grants support rehab programs that provide North Dakotans of limited means with assistance in maintaining their home, ensuring it’s safe,” said NDHFA Executive Director Brandon Dettlaff.

The 2026 Helping HAND grant distribution follows:

- Community Action Partnership, Dickinson/Williston, \$28,239
- Community Action Partnership, Minot, \$22,430
- Dakota Prairie Community Action Agency, Devils Lake, \$17,190
- Southeastern ND Community Action Agency, Fargo, \$63,703
- Community Action Regions IV and VI, Jamestown, \$45,064
- Community Action Program Region VII, Bismarck, \$38,308
- Trenton Indian Service Area, Trenton, \$7,333
- Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Belcourt, \$7,333
- Red River Valley Habitat for Humanity, Grand Forks, \$4,000
- Habitat for Humanity Northern Lights, Minot, \$4,000
- Rebuilding Together, Fargo, \$1,200
- Rebuilding Together, Bismarck, \$1,200



NDHFA provides the Helping HAND grants to targeted community groups with existing single-family housing rehabilitation programs. The funds are used to help households with an income of 80% or less than the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s median for the county in which a home is

located. Matching funds of at least 25% of a rehab project’s total cost are required to access the grant dollars.

“Through Helping HAND, NDHFA has provided over \$7.3 million in grants that have leveraged more than \$51 million and helped over 8,200 lower-income individuals and families across the state,” said Dettlaff. “Exterior repairs are the most common rehab project.”

NDHFA’s Helping HAND program began in 1993 and is funded with agency earnings. The grants are distributed to Community Action Agencies by poverty level. Funds provided to tribal housing authorities and non-profits are established set-asides. Households in need of rehab assistance can contact a grant recipient for more information.

NDHFA is a self-supporting and mission-driven state agency dedicated to making housing affordable for all North Dakotans. The North Dakota Industrial Commission, consisting of Governor Kelly Armstrong as chairman, Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, and Attorney General Drew H. Wrigley, oversees the agency.

CONTACT:
Amber Schmalz
(701) 328-8074
aschmalz@nd.gov

Ben Kappel continued from page 4

difference, from the local planning and zoning, to preventing harmful state for federal laws being pushed through by politicians that may not understand the full implications of their proposed bills.

- **What advice would you give to members who are considering becoming more involved?** Don’t wait. Jump in sooner rather than later. Whether it’s your local board, state association, or a committee at any level, they all need members who are willing to contribute their time, knowledge, and ideas. You don’t have to know everything on day one, just be willing to learn.
- **What does the REALTOR® “R” mean to you?** Being a REALTOR® means I’m part of something bigger than myself.

I have more than 2,000 REALTOR® coworkers across North Dakota who are all working toward the same goals of protecting property rights, promoting homeownership, and strengthening our profession by being local experts and trusted advisors. It also represents professionalism, ethics, and a commitment to always put our clients first.

Quick “This or That”

- Buyer Representation or Listing Homes? Both
- Favorite Season? Fall

Looking Ahead

- **What’s one word you hope defines your year?** Impactful

Did You Know?



Jill Beck
NDAR CEO

We Are Here for Our Members

As Leadership and as CEO of the North Dakota REALTORS®, we often ask ourselves a simple but important question: *How are we delivering value to our members every day?*

The answer is at the heart of everything we do.

The North Dakota REALTORS® exists to serve our members. Whether you're helping a young family purchase their first home, guiding a seller through a changing market, managing investment properties, or assisting businesses with commercial transactions, you are making a difference in communities across our state. Our responsibility is to ensure you have the support, resources, and advocacy needed to succeed.

Today's real estate industry is evolving at an unprecedented pace. Market conditions fluctuate, technology continues to reshape how business is conducted, and consumers expect more than ever before. At the same time, REALTORS® continue to navigate regulatory changes, professional standards, and the importance of maintaining trust that sets our profession apart.

These challenges also present opportunities.

Your association is working every day to protect private property rights, advocate for legislation that supports homeownership and a healthy real estate market, and ensure that the REALTOR® voice is heard in Bismarck and Washington, D.C. Through our advocacy efforts, RPAC investments, and strong relationships with elected officials, we are protecting the interests of both our members and the clients you serve.

We're also investing in what matters most—our members. That means providing relevant education, leadership development, legal resources, risk management guidance, and technology tools that help you remain competitive in an ever-changing marketplace. We are committed to delivering benefits that help you grow your business while maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and ethics.

Attainable housing (our word for affordable) and inventory remain important conversations across North Dakota. As REALTORS®, we have a unique opportunity to be part of the solution by working collaboratively with communities, local leaders, builders, and policymakers to increase housing opportunities while protecting the dream of homeownership for future generations.

But perhaps our greatest strength is our membership.

When members volunteer, serve on committees, attend local board meetings, invest in advocacy, mentor new REALTORS®, or simply share ideas on how we can improve, our association becomes stronger. Every member has a voice, and every voice matters. Your engagement helps shape the future of our profession in North Dakota. We learned this through our leadership tour around the state. We were there to inform you of what we are doing but just importantly listening to you. We want to hear from you.

As we look ahead, our priorities and vision remain clear:

- Advocate for policies that strengthen real estate and protect private property rights.
- Deliver education and resources that help members succeed.
- Promote professionalism and the REALTOR® brand.
- Develop future leaders for our association and our communities.
- Foster collaboration among our local boards and members across the state.
- Ensure every member receives exceptional value from their REALTOR® membership.

These are more than strategic priorities and core values, they are commitments.

Thank you for the trust you place in the North Dakota REALTORS®. Thank you for the professionalism you demonstrate every day and for the positive impact you make in communities across our great state.

No matter how the market changes or what challenges lie ahead, one thing will remain constant:

We are here for our members. We are your advocates, your resource, your partner, and your association. Together, we will continue to strengthen the REALTOR® profession and the future of real estate in North Dakota.



RITA SCHUSTER

REALTOR® CRS, GRI

Res: 701-772-0027

Cellular: 701-739-0405

e-mail: rschuster@greenbergrealty.com

<http://www.greenbergrealty.com>

3651 South Columbia Rd • Grand Forks, ND 58201

Bus: 701-772-6641 • Toll Free: 1-800-884-5933

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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:

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PRICING

- ☐ REALTOR® Registration – \$225
- ☐ Licensee Non-Member – \$290
- ☐ Business Partner/Unlicensed Guest Registration – \$140

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North Dakota Association of REALTORS®
1616 Capitol Way, Bismarck, ND 58501



LOCATION

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**To view NDAR's event refund policy,
please visit ndrealtors.com.**



RealtorConventionoftheDakotas.com



Chips From The Board

Badlands BOARD OF REALTORS®

The Badlands Board of REALTORS® has had a busy and productive summer as we continue serving our members and community. This year marks a special milestone as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Badlands Board of REALTORS®. The anniversary will be recognized during our Annual REALTOR® of the Year Luncheon, where we will celebrate the accomplishments of our members while honoring five decades of professionalism, advocacy, and service in southwestern North Dakota.

Throughout the summer, members participated in our annual RPAC Picnic and supported several community fundraising efforts, reinforcing our commitment to giving back to the communities we serve. In June, members of our leadership team also attended the REALTOR® Legislative Meetings, bringing back valuable ideas and resources to strengthen our association.

As we look ahead to the fall, we are excited for upcoming educational opportunities, member events, and continued engagement with our membership. We look forward to building on the momentum of a successful summer and celebrating this milestone year together.

Chloe Gunderson
Association Executive



NDHFA's First Home Certified Agent Credential, and got to enjoy a great lunch!

We held our RPAC Fundraiser in May, and the theme this year was "Tropic Like It's Hot for RPAC!"

At the Live and Silent Auction, over \$13,000 was raised for RPAC, pushing us closer to our annual goal!

We held our 6th Annual Charity Golf Scramble in June. We had 24 teams entered in the scramble.

It was a beautiful day for golf, and after people finished playing, they enjoyed a social with some food and the announcement of the winning team.

Money raised from the event will be donated to the United Way Backpack Program, Salvation Army, and Realtor® Relief Fund.

Sincerely,
Wendy Spencer
Association Executive

Bismarck-Mandan BOARD OF REALTORS®

On April 30th, BMBOR held a Lunch & Learn-FirstHome Certified Agent.

This is a new format for CE Classes that BMBOR is offering this year based on member feedback.

Attendees of the Lunch & Learn earned 2 credits of CE, earned



Fargo-Moorhead REALTORS®

On June 22, we hosted our 37th Annual Golf Outing at The Meadows in Moorhead. Despite this summer's heat, it was a fantastic day of friendly competition, and we were able to raise \$7,465 towards our RPAC and Issues Mobilization goal.



To give our members more opportunities to connect, the FMR YPN has been planning quarterly Happy Hour Hangouts. This quarter's Happy Hour Hangout was held on the patio at Double Up in Fargo on July 23, and we were thrilled to have beautiful weather and an even better turnout.



Throughout July, we've partnered with Youthworks to collect essential items for local youth experiencing homelessness. With the support of many of our Business Partners and members, we've collected socks, underwear, sweatpants, and hygiene items to help meet immediate needs in our community.



Looking ahead, we're excited for our Awards Gala on August 4 at the Avalon Events Center. During the evening, we'll be presenting awards like REALTOR® of the Year and Business Partner of the Year. We look forward to recognizing those members who often go unrecognized!

Marti Kaiser,
Association Executive

**Cruising for a new home?
Call us!**



4170 41st Ave S Ste 102 Fargo, ND 58104 | 701.237.5031



Shirley Dukart



O: 701.483.6789 • F: 701.483.6770
Cell: 701.290.2283
269 16th Street W, Suite A
Dickinson, ND 58601



shirleydukart@homeandlandcompany.com

Grand Forks Area Association of REALTORS®

Summer at the Grand Forks Area Association of REALTORS® has been busy, as I'm sure has been the case for many of you!

Here are a few noteworthy happenings from our association this summer:

We've had several volunteers participating in the **St. Joseph's Summer Lunch Program**, which runs every Wednesday at noon from June 3 through July 29. It's been a wonderful opportunity to give back to our community.



Our annual **Yard of the Week** challenge kicked off on June 22 and continues throughout the summer. Association members select and sponsor a Yard of the Week in the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks area, with the winning yard featured in the Grand Forks Herald every Friday. It's a fun way to recognize homeowners who take pride in their properties while celebrating our communities.

On July 9, we hosted our annual **GFAAR Golf & Cornhole Tournament**. We welcomed 18 golf teams and 5 cornhole teams for a day of friendly competition and networking. The weather was outstanding, and the company was even better!

On July 23, we once again provided a meal and hosted a **Burger BBQ** at the **Northlands Rescue Mission**. As always, it was well attended and a rewarding opportunity for our members to serve the community.

Looking ahead, we're excited for our annual **Stars Event**, a hosted luncheon at Bernie's on August 13. During this event, we'll recognize outstanding members and leaders of our association in the following categories:

- Outstanding Rookie of the Year
- Affiliate of the Year



- REALTOR® of the Year
- 2026 President of the Board of Directors

We hope you're all enjoying a wonderful summer, and we wish everyone continued success as we head into the busy fall season!

Vanessa Peters,
Association Executive

High Plains Association OF REALTORS®

High Plains members hosted a Spring Clean-Up at Meidinger Park at the end of May. This is the third year we have adopted this park through a program with Jamestown Parks and Rec. Here's some photos of our members at the clean-up.

For NAR REALTOR® Good Neighbor Volunteer Days members prepared 72 Goulash Hotdish containers for The Daily Bread. The Daily Bread is a community food program that provides fully cooked meals from state certified kitchens to individuals in need.

We hosted our Affiliate Appreciation event June 18. The event went well and this year we launched an Affiliate of the Year award to honor our hard-working affiliates. We had five nominees:



Brianna Tabor with FCCU, Darcy Herman with First Choice Inspections, Lynzee Klawon with Quality Title, Michelle Neumiller with Gate City Bank and Nate Willer with Fairway Mortgage. Michelle Neumiller was our winner.

Our REALTOR® of the Year nominations and awards were completed in June and July. We had four nominees this year: Alicia Wanzek with RE/MAX Now, Austin Bauer with KW Inspire Realty, Crystal Lytle with Century 21 Morrison, and Jessica Clemens with Century 21 Morrison. Jessica Clemens was our winner and will be our nominee for state REALTOR® of the Year.



At our July Membership meeting, Tom Blackmore with the City of Jamestown was our speaker. He talked about the progress of the four developments occurring around Jamestown. It was great to hear Jamestown will have approximately 24 lots available, a renovated apartment complex and a brand-new apartment complex in the next 2 years as long as agreements are finalized and construction begins on schedule.

We are looking forward to the Dakotas Convention in Fargo in September!

Laura Stafslein,
Association Executive

Minot Association of REALTORS®

Seems like the end of the summer is quickly approaching. I don't know how it sneaks up on us, yet every year the ND State Fair comes and goes and takes summer with it.

The Social Committee partnered with the Minot Association of Builders for the Hammers and Keys Classic Golf Social on July 13th. The prayers for great weather were answered, in force. It was very hot and humid, so the golf pace was one for the record



Minot Chips see page 12

Minot Chips continued from page 11

books. Beowulf Golf Club continues its tradition of being a great host. A special thank you to all of the volunteers and sponsors that allow us to bring these events to our members.

Our RPAC fundraising committee has a few events coming up, starting with the annual Cornhole Tournament on August 20th at Sports on Top. This will also kick off the Traveling Doghouse event which will go until the Mumus and Margaritas event in October. Fun times ahead!

The Executive Committee will be hosting an appreciation event on August 4th where we will award the 2026 Realtor® of the Year, Rookie Realtor® of the Year and Business Partners of the Year. Congratulations to the nominees: ROTY-Erica Alstad, Penny Belgarde and Angela Rithmiller; Rookie ROTY-Ashley Broadbent, Cashley Brown, Ashley Cutler, Riley Fyllesvold and Daisey Holt; Business Partner of the Year-Brett Fiddler, Melissa Flom and Macey Miller.

Beth Mayer,
Association Executive

Williston BOARD OF REALTORS®

WBOR Celebrates a Successful 2026 Awards Gala

The Williston Board of REALTORS® recently gathered for our 2026 Awards Gala and Fundraiser—an evening dedicated to celebrating our members, recognizing outstanding service, and giving back to our community.

A special thank-you goes to everyone who donated, sponsored, attended, and participated in our event. Thanks to their generosity, the auction was a wonderful success! Funds raised will support local schools, help provide turkey dinners for area veterans, and assist students experiencing homelessness in our community.

The evening also gave us the opportunity to recognize individuals who have demonstrated exceptional professionalism, leadership, service, and dedication. Congratulations to our 2026 award recipients:

- REALTOR® of the Year — Amanda Stevens
- Business Partner of the Year — Lisa Engel
- DA BOMB REALTOR® — RaeAnne Rathbun
- DA BOMB Business Partner — Sam Postovit
- Distinguished Service Award — Sharlo Halvorson
- Rising Star Award — Amber Fahrnkopf

We are incredibly proud of this year's recipients and all the outstanding nominees. Their commitment to our profession, our Association, and the communities we serve represents the very best of WBOR.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the evening memorable and successful. Together, we celebrated some truly deserving individuals while raising funds that will make a meaningful difference right here at home.

Abby Steen,
Association Executive

CONGRATS!

To the recipients of the
2025 Champion of Affordable Housing
Keys to Homeownership Impact Award

Olivia Wellenstein, Dickinson
Samantha Vigness, Williston

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housing
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2026 NDAR Calendar of Events

JAN

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AUG 24-25 LEADERSHIP SUMMIT - CHICAGO, IL

SEPT 16-18 CONVENTION OF THE DAKOTAS - FARGO, ND

NOV 4-9 NAR NXT - NEW ORLEANS, LA

DEC 4 REALTOR® RING DAY - NORTH DAKOTA

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2027

FEB 16-17 REALTOR® ADV. DAY AND NDAR MEETING

APR 21-22 REGION 8 MEETING- SIOUX FALLS

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NOTES

NDAR
North Dakota Association of REALTORS®

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A Legal Review



John Ward, Attorney at Law, NDAR Legal Counsel

So Many Rules!

The North Dakota Real Estate Commission recently posted new proposed administrative rules on its website. For those who are not familiar with administrative rules or the process of adopting administrative rules, you're

in luck, this article is for you. For those of you who are familiar, please take this as a short refresher.

What are administrative rules? Administrative rules are exactly what they sound like. Administrative rules are rules adopted by an administrative agency. Administrative law is the law that applies to an administrative agency. The NDREC is an agency or licensing board of the state of North Dakota. The agency is created by statute, which is enacted by the legislature. The agency is given whatever specific powers that are delegated to it by the legislature. In addition to granting powers to the agency, the legislature also passes laws that outline certain tasks the agency is responsible for performing. Administrative rules often help clarify or interpret the statutes that are created in century code by the legislature.

In North Dakota, we refer to statutes as the century code. The Real Estate Licensing Law statutes are found in North Dakota Century Code Chapter 43-23. The Administrative Rules applicable to those licensed under the Real Estate Licensing Law are found in North Dakota Administrative Code Chapter 70.

Statutes are only able to be changed by the legislature. This typically occurs in a legislative session. The next regular legislative session commences in January 2027. Administrative rules may be changed at any time by the agency. However, the agency must follow certain procedures, wherein they give "notice and comment" to the public. This means that the agency must

provide the public with the proposed language as well as the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule changes.

The North Dakota Real Estate Commission recently held a public hearing to allow the public to attend and present comments to its proposed administrative rules changes. If you have ever attended one of these public meetings for any government entity or administrative agency, they can sometimes seem awkward. A person may get up and give a long presentation and then at the end he or she may expect some kind of answers from the agency; however, the agency is not required to give answers. Typically, this public hearing is just a fact gathering exercise. This is not because the agency is being rude. Rather, the public comments are typically discussed by the governing body of the agency—typically a board or commission—at a subsequent meeting.

In my experience, agencies and commissions appreciate engagement from the regulated population, such as Licensed Real Estate Professionals. Oftentimes, public hearings have no attendees and receive no comments. Even during the larger period to submit written comments, which extends by law well after the public hearing, the agency receives no comments. This public comment period is really the timeframe when the public is supposed to engage on the rulemaking process. Reacting after something has already been submitted, approved, or enacted, makes things a lot harder to unwind. It's sort of a speak now, or forever hold your peace sentiment.

But, you are lucky, we have an extra step in our process in North Dakota. The legislature must approve administrative rules through the Administrative Rules Committee, which is a small body made up of state legislators from the house and senate. The Administrative Rules Committee meets quarterly throughout the session year (odd year) and the off year (even year). Before these rules are presented to the Administrative Rules Committee, they are reviewed by Legislative Council and the Attorney General. But, again, there is another opportunity for public comment at the Administrative Rules Committee quarterly meeting.

Hopefully, this paints a pretty good picture of the process. All in all, get involved, get engaged, make friends with your local representatives, and thank your regulators for the hard work that they do to try and make the law clearer and easier to understand with administrative rules.



LEGENDARY

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

See details on page 7.

You Betcha!

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OFFICIAL NOTICE OF MEETING

ALL REALTOR® members of the NDAR are hereby notified of the Annual General Membership Meeting as follows: Thursday, September 17, 2026, 2:00 pm CT at The Holiday Inn, Fargo ND.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Election

The election of officers shall take place electronically from Tuesday, August 5th – Monday, September 7th with election results to be announced on Thursday, September 17th at the General Membership Meeting.

ARTICLE VIII. Section 1. Nominating Task Force

The Task Force shall nominate at least one candidate for each office which is filled by election of the membership. Additional candidates, who must be members in good standing, may be placed into nomination by submitting a nominating petition, provided by the Association that contains signatures of at least 75 NDAR REALTOR® members in good standing with no more than 50% of such signatures from members of any one local association. Such petition must be received at the Association office no later than 45 days before the election.

Nominations by the Nominating Task Force and by petitions shall be disseminated to the general membership at least 30 days prior to the election.

National Directors - The Task Force shall nominate candidates for the position of NAR Director to the National Association of REALTORS®.

ARTICLE VI. Section 1. Annual Membership Meeting

The Association shall hold an Annual Membership Meeting at a time and place designated by the Board of Directors. The

meeting may be held in conjunction with the Annual Convention of the Association. Special meetings may be called by the Board of Directors of the Association. Members, as listed in Article II, Section 1. B, C, D, and I and who are considered to be in good standing per Article III, Section 3, are entitled to fully participate and vote on all matters which come before the Annual Membership Meeting without any further restriction as to qualifications.

Section 1(A). Voting procedures for REALTOR® Members. Voting in Person

REALTOR® and REALTOR® Associate members who are present at the annual or special membership meeting and who are members in good standing shall be entitled to vote at such meetings.

Absentee Voting

REALTORS® and REALTOR® Associates who are members in good standing and who are not present at the annual or special membership meeting may vote by absentee ballot. Absentee ballots will be published to members by the Association with descriptions of the substance of any proposals at least 30 days prior to a membership meeting.

Section A(1). Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots must be received by the Association office 10 days prior to the annual membership meeting or special membership meeting.

2026 ABSENTEE VOTING BALLOT

Any REALTOR® member who will **not** be able to attend the General Membership Meeting on **September 17, 2026, at 2:00 pm** may vote via the electronic link below. **ALL ELECTRONIC BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE NDAR OFFICE NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2026.**

NDAR Election of Officers

The Nominating Task Force places in nomination the following REALTORS®:

***Note: Desri Neether automatically advances to President per Bylaws.**

For President Elect: ☐ Ben Kappel

For Vice President: ☐ Amanda Stevens
☐ Bonnie Domsteen



Absentee Electronic Voting Link: <https://rogorman.wufoo.com/forms/m19bfprd07jcba6/>

Mail in Ballots must be received at the NDAR office no later than September 7, 2026.

NDAR ♦ 1616 Capitol Way ♦ Bismarck, ND 58501 ♦ Phone: 701-355-1010 ♦ e-mail: info@ndrealtors.com

ND REALTOR®

NEWSLETTER

***This exclusive electronic statewide newsletter is produced
3 times a year, as directed by the ND Association of REALTORS®***

This publication is located on our website: www.ndrealtors.com

NDAR

North Dakota Association of REALTORS®

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Updated April 2026



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