



District #5 Vice Presidents Meeting Report

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Ohio's REALTORS gathered in mid-April to advance the interests of the profession and property owners across the state, unveil a new landmark to ensure the organization's long-term relevancy, strengthen the bond with our elected officials, and elect its next generation of leaders.

The Ohio REALTORS Annual Spring Legislative Conference, held April 9-11, featured a "who's who" roster of legislative leaders, experts on the issues confronting Ohio communities and opportunities to move the organization forward. It included a memorable keynote address by Congresswoman Joyce Beatty celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the ground-breaking Fair Housing Act.

REALTORS joined forces with Habitat for Humanity of Ohio and members of the Ohio General Assembly to conduct the building of a home on the Statehouse lawn. It marked only the second time that a home was built on a state capitol grounds. The event was held to celebrate the Fair Housing Act and spotlight the need for affordable housing across Ohio.

Attendees were able to participate in the "Big Reveal" of the Ohio REALTORS new brand. The effort, spearheaded by the Communications Audit Task Force that was chaired by Anjanette Frye, created a new logo, look and design for Ohio REALTORS.

The three-day gathering embodied the relevancy of REALTORS in protecting private property rights and creating a marketplace that makes attaining the American Dream possible.

Ohio's Spring Legislative Conference highlights include:

- Seth Task, of Cleveland, was elected by the Board of Directors to serve as the organization's 2019 Treasurer. Task will join the 2019 leadership team of President Anjanette Frye, Dayton, and President-elect Chris Reese, Columbus.



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- Kathy Shiflet, Columbus, was elected to serve the vacancy for District #1 Vice President through 2018.
- The following were elected to serve as District Vice Presidents (2019-2020):
 - o District 1 – Kathy Shiflet, Columbus
 - o District 2 – Kent Hilty, Heartland
 - o District 3 – Ali Whitley, Akron Cleveland
 - o District 4 – Dirck Everhart, Scioto Valley
 - o District 5 – Rachel Lewitt, Butler Warren

- The following were presented as candidates for a possible NAR Director (2019-2021) position: Debbie Barber, Youngstown Columbiana; John Lynch, Akron Cleveland; and David Welch, Cincinnati Area. The candidate will be elected at the Annual Convention & Expo if Ohio REALTORS is awarded the position.
- Attendees were able to meet with their state lawmakers at a special reception in the Ohio State House Atrium.
- Larry Obhof, President of the Ohio Senate, Bill Reineke, Assistant Majority Whip of the Ohio House, Kenny Yuko, Minority Leader of the Ohio Senate, and Fred Strahorn, Minority Leader of the Ohio House, shared insights on issues currently being considered by the Ohio General Assembly.
- Jacqueline Williams, director of the Ohio Department of Commerce, and Anne M. Petit, superintendent of the Ohio Division of Real Estate & Professional Licensing provided important information from the industry's regulatory body.
- The leaders of Ohio's Democratic and Republican parties conducted a lively session on the recent election and what lies ahead. David Pepper, Ohio Democratic Party chair, and Jane Timken, Ohio Republican Party chair, shared their thoughts and insights on the Buckeye State's political scene.
- Lawrence Yun, chief economist of the National Association of REALTORS, provided a look at the economic landscape in Ohio and across the nation.
- Amy Showalter, founder of Showalter Group, provided insights on RPAC fundraising.
- Tom Zaino, managing member of Zaino, Hall & Farrin, offered the latest details of Ohio's Municipal Income Tax reform.
- Attendees were able to earn continuing education credit at a session by Deborah Bindeman, "Cover Your Assets! Risk Prevention for Real Estate Professionals," at the Legal Issues Forum.
- Maurice Thompson, executive director of 1851 Center for Constitutional Law, was the featured speaker at the Local Government Forum. Additionally, attorney Kevin T. Boyle led a session on Medical Marijuana's Impact on Housing.
- Ohio REALTORS Business Technology and Young Professionals Network presented a continuing education session, "Online and Offline Marketing Strategies to Boost Your Real Estate Business," featuring Mor Zucker.



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- The Legislative Committee approved a motion to introduce legislation to create “First Time Homebuyers Saving Accounts” in Ohio in 2019. The plan will allow individuals to create a tax exempt first-time home buyer saving account.
- The Legislative Committee also agreed to monitor Senate Bill 255, which would create Occupational Licensing Boards.
- Directors unanimously approved the recommendations of the License Background Check Task Force. The body also approved amendments to the Code of Regulations.
- The Association Executives Committee recommended that Amy Scott, executive officer of the Wayne-Holmes Association, serve as the 2019 vice chair.
- Heather Dunn, chair of the Convention Committee, provided highlights of the organization’s upcoming Annual Convention & Expo, Sept. 16-18, in Columbus.
- The following Boards/Associations were honored for their overall excellence in RPAC fundraising in 2017: Ashland Board, Midwestern Ohio Association, Medina County Board, Lake & Geauga Area Association and Akron Cleveland Association. Additionally, the Cincinnati Area Board, Columbus REALTORS, Dayton REALTORS, and Toledo Regional Association were recognized for their outstanding support of RPAC.
- President Tiffany Meyer announced the appointment of a REALTOR Emeritus Task Force and appointment of a Global Advisory Committee Advisory Group.
- Chief Executive Officer Bob Fletcher addressed the Directors on his intention to retire at the end of 2018, thanking the members for their support and friendship throughout his tenure.

As you can see, it was a highly productive Spring Legislative Conference. We appreciate the opportunity you have given us to represent your interests at Ohio REALTORS.

Finally...mark your calendars for Sept. 16-18 and make plans to be a part of the 108th Annual Convention & Expo in Columbus.