

Understanding membership in the REALTOR® Association

The following information should provide you with many of the details regarding the privileges and obligations of membership and explain the structure of the REALTOR® Association to you. If you do not see your particular question and answer listed here, please feel free to contact the Board office.

Thank you for your consideration of membership and look forward to welcoming you as a member.

The REALTOR® organization is a three-tiered organization. When you become a member of a local Board, you also become a member of the Rhode Island Association of REALTORS® and the National Association of REALTORS®. When you remit dues to your local Board, you are submitting membership dues for all 3 organizations. The local Board is responsible for billing, collecting and distributing these dues. For more information on the services offered, please see:

Your local Board's membership information page on their website.

For the RI Association of REALTORS®: <http://www.rirealtors.org/Membership/Benefits.asp>

National Association of REALTORS®: http://www.realtor.org/realtor_benefits/index.html

What is the difference between a real estate agent and a REALTOR®?

Both would be licensed by the state. However an individual who is a "REALTOR®" is a real estate professional who is a member of the National Association of REALTORS® and can call himself or herself a REALTOR®. Members are licensed to use the logo in connection with their real estate business and adhere to a strict Code of Ethics, which is based on professionalism and protection of the public. There are over 5,000 real estate agents in Rhode Island and 4,000 of them are REALTORS®.

Once I join, what are the obligations of membership?

As a member you receive the right to use the REALTOR® logo in connection with your business. Obligations include the duty to abide by the Code of Ethics of the National Association of REALTORS®, complete a training course on this Code of Ethics once every four (4) years, complete a new member orientation program, pay annual dues in a timely manner, notify the Board within 30 days regarding any change in your status (including a change to their address, phone numbers and email) and to become familiarized with the your local Board, the Rhode Island Association of REALTORS® and the National Association of REALTORS®, to name a few. For more detailed information, please see the Bylaws under the membership information page of your local Board's website. If you are the Principal in a firm (meaning the Manager/Principal Broker or Chief Appraiser), you also agree to abide by the REALTOR® Dues Formula of the National Association of REALTORS®.

When are my dues due?

Your Principal is responsible for notifying the Board within ten (10) days of your affiliation of any licensee affiliated with his or her firm. Once the Board has received notification, you will receive a statement for new member dues, which will be due within 30 days. The statement will be for a membership for the current year (good through December 31st).

Dues statements for the following year are mailed to members in early fall and are payable in advance by late fall. It is a good idea to mark your calendars with dues deadlines, read newsletters and information emailed to you by your Board and to check out their websites for updates and important membership information.

On my invoice, I see RIAR, NAR and RPAC. What do these acronyms stand for?

RI Association of REALTORS®, National Association of REALTORS® and REALTORS® Political Action Committee.

What forms of payment do you accept?

Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express credit cards or we may process your check electronically. Or you can mail a paper check to the Board office or deliver cash payments to the Board office during normal business hours.

Do you have a payment plan?

No. The dues must be paid in full at time of payment.

What is the REALTOR® Public Awareness Campaign?

The NAR Public Awareness Campaign is a national advertising and public relations program which promotes recognition of the REALTOR® brand; informs the public about the advantages of working with a REALTOR® during the property transaction process; and educates consumers about the REALTOR® Code of Ethics and the professional standards REALTORS® are bound to uphold. The program, now in its 11th year, includes radio, television and print advertisements. For more information go to:

http://www.realtor.org/rodesign.nsf/pages/FS_AWARENESSCAMPAIGN?OpenDocument

My manager told me I must become a member of the Board. Can he/she require this?

Yes. Although antitrust law prohibits the Board from imposing a rule or policy that requires a licensee to hold membership in the Board, a Principal Broker and/or Chief Appraiser may require licensees who work for his/her firm to hold membership in the Board as a condition of association with the company. Many managers include this requirement as part of their written independent contractor agreements.

What is the REALTOR® Dues Formula of the National Association of REALTORS®?

Under NAR's membership dues formula, the Designated REALTOR® (Principal Broker and/or Chief Appraiser) pays dues based on his membership plus an assessment for each licensee that is employed by or associated with the firm who is not a member of the Board. Therefore, if you elect not to become a member, he will receive a non-member dues invoice for you as his licensee and he will be required to pay this fee. Further, the membership dues formula allows him to seek a reimbursement from you for this expense.

Are dues refundable?

No. If you know that you will not be continuing to practice as a real estate or appraisal licensee this coming year or are transferring to a non-REALTOR® office, please notify the Board immediately in writing.

I am an assistant and do not actively list, sell or appraise. Am I still required to pay dues?

When your Designated REALTOR® (Principal Broker and/or Chief Appraiser) joined the REALTOR® Association, he/she agreed that all licensees would be invited to join as well. There are no exceptions for licensed assistants.

I'm an Appraiser, not a REALTOR®. Why do you refer to me as a REALTOR®?

REALTOR® isn't a synonym for real estate broker or real estate salesperson. A REALTOR®, simply put, is an individual who has voluntarily sought membership in the REALTOR® Association and abides by the Code of Ethics of the NAR. A REALTOR® is someone who is licensed (i.e. salesperson, broker, appraiser, auctioneer, property manager). We are sensitive to the fact that you are licensed as an Appraiser and make every possible attempt to address you as such in our correspondence with you.