



## **Understanding REALTOR® membership in the REALTOR® Association**

When you become a REALTOR® Member of the Northern Rhode Island Board of REALTORS®, you will also be a member of the RI Association of REALTORS® and the National Association of REALTORS®. The REALTOR® organization is a three-tiered organization, and so, you receive 3 memberships.

The information provided to you here are 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 at (401) 333-6343 or by email at [nribr@nribr.realtor](mailto:nribr@nribr.realtor)

We thank you for your consideration of membership in the Northern Rhode Island Board of REALTORS®.

### **Who is the Northern Rhode Island Board of REALTORS®?**

Established in 1921, we are a professional trade association for real estate and appraisal licensees that works to promote homeownership and to enable our members to successfully conduct their business with integrity and competence and to promote the REALTOR® Code of Ethics. A real estate licensee or appraisal licensee becomes a “REALTOR®” when he or she elects to join the Northern Rhode Island Board of REALTORS®. We are one of 1185 REALTOR® Associations in the U.S. affiliated with the National Association of REALTORS®, *The Voice for Real Estate*®.

When you remit dues to NRIBR, you are submitting membership dues for all 3 organizations. We are responsible for billing, collecting and distributing these dues. For more information on the services offered by NRIBR, RIAR and NAR, please see [www.nribr.realtor](http://www.nribr.realtor).

### **What is the difference between an agent/licensee and a REALTOR®?**

While an agent/licensee is licensed by RI, a REALTOR® is an individual who has gone to the next level in their career. An individual who is a “REALTOR®” is a real estate or appraisal 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 business and adhere to a strict Code of Ethics, which is based on professionalism and protection of the public. They also have access to an extensive offering of educational programs and designations to enhance their professionalism and better assist their clients.

### **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 per biennial period, complete a new member orientation program, pay annual dues by their due date, notify the Board within 10 days regarding any change in your status (including a change to their address, phone numbers and email) and to become familiarized with the Northern Rhode Island Board of REALTORS®, the Rhode Island Association of REALTORS® and the National Association of REALTORS®, to name a few. For more detailed information, please see the Code of Ethics and Bylaws under the membership information page of on [www.nribr.realtor](http://www.nribr.realtor). If you are the Principal in a firm, you also agree to abide by the REALTOR® Dues Formula of the National Association of REALTORS®.

### **When are my dues due?**

As a new sales/broker/appraisal associate, your Principal is responsible for notifying the Board within ten (10) days of your affiliation 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 for the date received. The statement will be for a membership for the current year (good through December 31<sup>st</sup>.)

Dues statements for the following year are mailed to members in September and are payable by October 31<sup>st</sup>. It is a good idea to mark your calendars with dues deadlines, read our emails and our print mail, and visit our Facebook and Board news on our website ([www.nribr.realtor](http://www.nribr.realtor)) frequently for updates.

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

Northern Rhode Island Board of REALTORS®, RI Association of REALTORS®, National Association of REALTORS® and REALTORS® Political Action Committee.

**What forms of payment do you accept?**

Visa or MasterCard will be accepted. For these modes of payment, please complete the “authorization to charge” form attached to our membership application. Or, you can mail a check payable 2178 Mendon Rd, Suite 400, Cumberland, RI 02864. Cash payments will also be accepted at the Board office during normal business hours and you will be provided with a receipt.

**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 16<sup>th</sup> year, includes radio, television and print advertisements. For more information go to:

[http://www.realtor.org/rodesign.nsf/pages/FS\\_AWARENESSCAMPAIGN?OpenDocument](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, your Principal will receive a non-member assessment for you as their licensee and they will be required to remit payment on the fee. Further, the membership dues formula allows them 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. Send an email to [nribr@nribr.realtor](mailto:nribr@nribr.realtor).

**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.) Here at NRIBR 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.

**2178 Mendon Rd, Suite 400, Cumberland, RI 02864**

**Phone: (401) 333-6343 | Fax: (866) 609-6746 Email: [nribr@nribr.realtor](mailto:nribr@nribr.realtor) Web: [www.nribr.realtor](http://www.nribr.realtor)**

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