



May 30, 2019

Once again I traveled to DC for our annual Legislative Meetings & Trade Expo. This year's event(s) were somewhat altered due to President Donald J. Trump coming to address the REALTORS®. The Region 8 Luncheon and State President/President Elect Information exchanges were completely cancelled due to Secret Service requirements. With that being said, there were many highlights to this year's meetings.

This year marked my first time Chairing and NAR Council. I had the privilege of representing not only South Dakota, but also all small states as the Chair of the Small State Forum. There was great communication and Q&A by leadership groups from small state associations. Many of them experience the same challenges as SD. Particularly when it comes to maintaining membership numbers due to the Core Standards requirements, shifting education requirements, meeting all members of their respective association in an effort to maintain the relevance of their membership, and more. We also recognized the need to cross-utilize the "That's who we R" campaign at the local & state level. There was much discussion on C2EX accreditation that was rolled out last fall. Many members within the small state forum had already achieved their C2EX or were in process of attaining it. This is an easy thing to achieve and is self-paced, on-line learning piece that exposes many members into what goes into being a REALTOR® leader & our function within our communities. [www.C2EX.realtor](http://www.C2EX.realtor) is where the members can attain this accreditation.

This year's hill visits were the most successful and productive I can recall over the last 10 years. Our members of congress gave us the entire 30 minute window, answered questions, gave insight as to the "actual" happenings on the hill, and their positions on our talking points. It was very refreshing to know, contrary to what you hear on the nightly news, things are getting done in Congress. The Senate did pass a 4 month extension of the NFIP, but it has been bogged down in the House. This legislation will be critical as always. Our members indicated a long term plan/extension of NFIP isn't planned until after the 2020 elections. The NAR Board of Directors also passed the \$35/yr. assessment to continue with their ad campaign of "That's who we R" for the next 3 years! The board also elected Lesli Rouda-Smith as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the National Association of REALTORS®. These are exciting times for organized real estate.

While in DC, I attended following:

State Leadership Idea Exchange council Briefing and Planning session – Member  
Small State Forum – Chair  
State Leadership Idea Exchange Council closing session with NAR Leadership – Forum Chair  
NAR 360  
RPAC Awards Ceremony – SD once Again achieved the President's CUP.  
South Dakota Night out  
Lesli Rouda-Smith Meet & Greet  
RPAC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
Region 8 Caucus  
Board of Directors

Thank you as always for the opportunity to serve our great state as your National Director.  
Kyle A. Lalim