REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT – REPORT
Mary Ann Jeffers, RVP Region 13

Texas REALTORS® Winter Meeting
Austin, Texas
February 6 – 11, 2020

2020 Business Issues Policy Committee – I serve on this committee as a member. We met on Friday the 7th. During the meeting we discussed topics covering Legislative Interim Charges and was asked to add anything we felt was left off that is important. Topics covered were:

Data Security – Active oversight of rulemaking and other implementation HB 4390, which establishes a specific deadline for required disclosure of data breaches, provides new protocols for reporting data breaches for breaches that involve 250 or more Texas residents. Determine what obstacles businesses face in meeting the new protocol requirements. (House Committee on Business and Industry)

Drones – Study the regulation and use of unmanned aircraft in Texas, including the appropriate use of drone technology in responding to and recovering from a natural disaster. Not much more conversation on this topic but will be looking at the House Committee on State Affairs.

Examine current state and local laws regulating unmanned aerial vehicles. Identify any legislative changes needed to streamline regulation in a manner that promotes commerce and innovation while protecting public safety and the privacy and property rights of Texans. (Senate Committee on Business and Commerce)

Estates and Trusts – Study the Rule Against Perpetuities as used by trusts. Examine whether statutory changes are necessary and appropriate to make Texas more competitive and keep trust capital and estate planning business in Texas. (House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence)

Finance and Lending – Active oversight of rulemaking and other implementation of HB 1442, which is the sunset bill for the Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner (OCCC). The legislation contains provisions relating to the regulation of online lenders. Monitor the OCCC’s rules regulating the online lending industry. (House Committee on Pensions, Investments and Financial Services)

Hemp Production – Active oversight of rulemaking and other implementation of HB 1325, which relates to the production of HEMP. Monitor the Texas Department of Agriculture’s (TDA) rules regulating the farming and cultivation of industrial HEMP production and sale, including proper permitting, standardized sampling and testing procedures, and tracking appropriate data to promote the HEMP program in Texas. (House Committee on Agriculture and Livestock)
Independent Contractors – Examine and report on policy proposals from business, labor, and other states that utilize portable platforms to address the growing number of independent contractors and employees in the “gig economy.” (House Committee on International Relations and Economic Development)

Other topics that were listed but not discussed but was ask that we read and get updated on the situation of each:

- Insurance (House Committee on Insurance)
- Occupational Licensing (House Committee on Licensing and Administrative Procedures)
- Public Education (House Committee on Higher Education)
- Retirement Accounts (House Committee on Pensions, Investments and Financial Services)
- Seaport Development (House Committees on International Relations and Economic Development, and Transportation)
- Tort Reform (House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence)
- Water System Regulations (House Committee on Environmental Regulation)
- Workforce Development (House Committees on Defense and Veteran Affairs, and International Relations and Economic Development)
- Workforce Development (House Committees on Defense and Veteran Affairs, and International Relations and Economic Development) (House Committee on Energy Resources) (House Committee on Higher Education) (House Committee on International Relations and Economic Development)

The Committee added HOA’s and Short-term Rentals and stated they should be addressed and followed.

RVP Meeting: Topics covered were the RVP Role in our individual regions, REALTOR® 360 Schedule, Committee sign-up timeline, Elections and Candidates, Code of Ethics Training.

The RVP’s are to be available to all members in their region and should be at introduced at their Board’s Orientation and a brief description as to what their responsibilities are to the members.

The Committee sign-up timeline will be May 1st – June 1st. They ask that even though a member is currently on a committee they need to go ahead and sign up again.

Code of Ethics – All REALTORS® will have to take Code of Ethics training every three years. The current deadline by which all REALTORS® must take the training is December 31, 2021. If members completed TREC Legal II or another NAR-approved Ethics Training in 2019, they have satisfied the NAR requirement for the cycle ending on December 31, 2021. If you completed the C2EX, then the requirement was satisfied. If you did not complete TREC Legal II or another NAR-approved Ethics Training in 2019, you must complete NAR Code of Ethics by December 31, 2021. The courses currently satisfy the NAR requirements: Code of Ethics courses offered by
Texas REALTORS®, Code of Ethics courses offered through a local association, NAR Official Code of Ethics Online Training.

**Caucus** - We followed the Texas REALTORS® format as requested – Committee online volunteer tool, Jan gave the PIC report, introductions were made and Liza Reyes was introduced as SABOR’s next candidate to run for Texas REALTORS® Leadership. Region 7 & 13 will hold the REALTOR® 360 on March 19 & 20th in New Braunfels. More information will be going out through SABOR’s Communication Department soon.

**General Session** - Opening Session Keynote Speaker: Jennifer Golbeck, PhD

Presentation: Datashock: Artificial Intelligence, Connectedness, and Readying for the Big Data Future

Dr. Golbeck's is a computer scientist, Director of the Social Intelligence Lab, and a professor in the College of Information Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park.

In her role at the university, her research focuses on analyzing and computing with social media and creating usable privacy and security systems. She writes for *Slate* and *The Atlantic* and frequently appears on NPR, including as a regular guest host for *The Kojo Nnamdi Show*.

In her presentation, I think she scared all in attendance about having cameras, nest or any devices you can talk to and they talk back. She stated she has nothing like this in her home. Regarding our phones, they know it all (磬). Very scary. She was a great speaker.

Respectfully submitted.

Mary Ann Jeffers – RVP Region 13