

2013 Legislative Summit in Juneau – April 25, 2013

The Alaska Association of REALTORS® held their annual Legislative Summit in Juneau on March 26 and 27, 2013. Approximately 30 members from across the state representing every Board attended.

The Alaska Association of REALTORS® have many issues that we keep an eye on throughout the Legislative Session, which started on January 16. For two days during the session, REALTORS® descend upon Juneau to advocate for industry issues and have our presence felt on the Hill.

The first day starts with a luncheon meeting to brief all the members on the issues prior to making the Hill visits. Industry Issues Chairman Dave Somers reviews the talking points with the delegation and AAR Lobbyists Wendy Chamberlain and Denny DeWitt give us an overview of what is currently happening on the Hill and what we should expect. The members are divided into groups and are assigned to the Senators and/or Representatives they will be meeting with over the next two days. There is a spokesperson assigned who will speak on behalf of the group. Lunch is generously provided by First American Title, who also joins in on the Hill visits.

This year the main talking points were regarding the accounting practices of the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing which oversees the Real Estate Commission. During the last license renewal period, the Division attempted to increase the license fees on real estate professionals by 149%. This debate brought to light serious accounting problems within the Division. The proposed increases were not based on any sound accounting practices and we asked the legislature for their assistance in resolving these issues.

After a full afternoon of visits, AAR Lobbyist Wendy Chamberlain had the entire group over for dinner. The next day started with visits in the morning and then we joined the Southeast Board of REALTORS® for their monthly luncheon. Dave Somers and Wendy Chamberlain gave the members an update on what was happening on the Hill and discussed other items of interest. Immediately following the luncheon the AAR Board of Directors met for a board meeting.

This year the summit was a great success and AAR would like to thank Wendy Chamberlain and Denny & Patsy DeWitt for all their work while the REALTORS® were in town. In the coming months, AAR will keep the membership updated on the results of our legislative visits.