

# **KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® INC**

## **Kansas REALTORS® Repeal the State's Real Estate Transfer Tax**

With assistance from the NAR Issues Mobilization Fund, KAR pushed forward with an effort to become the first state in the nation to repeal an existing real estate transfer tax in 2014. At 2:05 AM on the last day of the session, the final bill that passed the Kansas Legislature was our bill to phase out the mortgage registration tax.

The existing mortgage registration tax will be phased out over a five-year period beginning in January 2015 and ending in January 2019. At the end of this process, Kansas will become the 15<sup>th</sup> state in the nation with no real estate transfer tax.

Having said that, KAR did agree to a slight increase in the document filing fees that are collected by county register of deeds' offices to ensure that these offices had sufficient resources to properly file real estate and mortgage loan documents. However, every property owner will still receive a large cost savings compared to current law due to the elimination of the burdensome and discriminatory mortgage registration tax.

## **Kansas REALTORS® Prepare for the 2015 Legislative Session**

Following up on our past successful efforts in successfully defeating an extremely damaging proposal from Kansas Governor Sam Brownback (R – Kansas) during the 2012 and 2013 legislative sessions to eliminate the ability of Kansans to claim the mortgage interest and property tax deductions on their state income tax returns and the repeal of an existing real estate transfer tax in 2014 - KAR plans to pursue an extremely proactive and aggressive legislative agenda during the 2015 Legislative Session. Among other agenda items, KAR plans to pursue the following legislative objectives in 2015:

- **Guard against any further attempts to eliminate homeownership tax incentives:** Since there are again rumblings that changes may be proposed to our state income tax statutes, KAR will again take any and all actions to ensure that homeownership tax incentives are protected during the debate.
- **Provide REALTORS® and small businesses with relief from patent trolls:** KAR also plans to push legislation to crack down on patent trolls, which are entities that send vague letters to legitimate businesses which demand exorbitant licensing fees in return for alleged patent infringement.

## **New Video-based CE and GRI online courses offer superior learning format**

The Keynote Series is comprised of 3-4 hour CE and GRI courses taught by nationally-recognized speakers including Jackie Leavenworth, Chandra Hall, Chris Bird, Vern Jarboe, Mark Porter, Barry Stranz, Tom Lundstedt and Jerry Rossi. Topics include Negotiation, Contract Law, Legal Issues in Real Estate, Effectively Meeting the Needs of Buyers and Sellers, Finance, Tax Issues, Ethical Practices, Technology, Understanding the Residential Structure, and Real Estate Investment. Partner states include Arkansas, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, South Dakota, Texas and Washington. If you would like more information on the Keynote Program or how your state can become a partner state, contact Rod McIntyre at KAR, 800-366-0069, ext. 2131 or [rmcintyre@kansasrealtor.com](mailto:rmcintyre@kansasrealtor.com).

## **Association offers Core Standards Website Solution to Local Associations**

KAR in partnership with Real Estate Business Resources, Inc. (REBR) has developed a simple and affordable website option for local associations nationwide to meet the new Core Standards requirements. The websites include hosting fees, tech support, training videos, and a monthly newsletter with topics and ideas for the local association which can be added to their new website to keep them in compliance with the core standards. REBR is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Kansas Association of Realtors®. For more information visit [www.LocalAssociationWebsites.com](http://www.LocalAssociationWebsites.com).