

**POLICY MANUAL**

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## **SECTION 1 POLICY REFERENCE**

### **1.1 Disclaimer**

Nothing in this manual is intended to conflict with the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association (TCRA), the Washington REALTORS® (WR), the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), or with any local, state, or federal law or regulation. In the event any policy does conflict, the higher authority shall prevail.

### **1.2 Introduction**

This Policy Manual is intended to supplement the Bylaws and clearly delineate the roles of the members, Board, and staff within the infrastructure of the organization. This Policy Manual supersedes all previously issued policies. This Policy Manual is designed as a guide to ensure consistent, fair, and uniform treatment of all TCRA members and employees.

### **1.3 Indemnification**

The Thurston County REALTORS® Association shall indemnify each and all its Directors, Officers, Staff and former Directors, Officers and Staff, against any expenses incurred by them, including legal fees or judgments and penalties rendered or levied against such a person in a legal action brought against any such person for action or omissions alleged to have been made by such person while acting in the scope and duties as a Director, Officer or Staff member of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association provided that such person did not act, fail to act, or refuse to act willfully with gross negligence or with fraudulent or criminal intent in regard to the matter involved in the action.

## **SECTION 2 GENERAL OPERATIONAL POLICIES**

### **2.1 Intentionally Omitted**

### **2.2 Closed Holidays**

The TCRA office will be closed on the following holidays: New Year's Day; Martin Luther King Jr's Day; President's Day; Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Thanksgiving and the Friday following; Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve – at noon; and Christmas Day.

### **2.3 Logo Usage**

The TCRA logo may be used only with prior written approval of TCRA's Executive Committee or Executive Officer.

### **2.4 Confidentiality of Documents and Discussions**

Some of TCRA documents are confidential. Members of the Board of Directors, Chairpersons and members of the Grievance Committee, Professional Standards Committee, and Budget and Finance Committee are required to sign a Confidentiality Statement annually. (See Appendix A)

### **2.5 Member Confidentiality**

Member contact information will not be provided to anyone. Exceptions may apply for legal purposes and internal association use.

## 2.6 Record Retention Policy

The records of the Association will be kept as directed by the Association's Record Retention Policy listed below:

<b>Records</b>	<b>Retention Period</b>
<b>Accounting</b>	
• Bank statements and cancelled checks	7 years
• Customer Billings and estimates	6 years
• Print Contracts	7 years
• Petty Cash Payments	7 years
• Audit reports from CPAs & Accountants	Permanent
• Employee Travel Expense Reports	7 years
• Expense Bills	7 years
• Year End Accruals (income and non-billable items)	7 years
<b>Contracts</b>	
• Client Contracts and agreements (after conclusion)	10 years
• Leases (after conclusion)	7 years
<b>Corporate</b>	
• Certificate of Incorporation	Permanent
• Charter	Permanent
• Minutes of Meetings	Permanent
• Annual Reports	Permanent
• IRS Letter of Determination of Exempt Status	Permanent
<b>Correspondence</b>	
• General	4 years
• Legal	Permanent
<b>Financial Reports</b>	
• Bank Statements	7 years
• Client Billing and Estimates	7 years
• Print Contracts	7 years
• Employee Travel and Expense Reports	7 years
• Expense Bills	7 years
• Year End Accruals (income and non-billable items)	7 years
<b>General Ledger and Books or Original Entry</b>	
• General Ledger	7 years
• Journal Entries	7 years
• Cash Disbursement Check Register	7 years
<b>Insurance</b>	
• Policies and Declarations	5 years
<b>Membership</b>	
• Applications/Files	2 years after termination
<b>Payroll Reports and Records</b>	
• Employment History	7 years

- Individual Employees Records (after termination) 7 years
- Payroll Register 7 years

**Professional Standards**

- Case Files Retain until decision finalized
- Decision Permanent

**Purchasing**

- Bids 7 years

**Property (Tangibles and Intangibles)**

- Fixed Assets Additions, Depreciation, etc. Permanent until disposed

**RPAC Records**

7 years

**Tax Returns other than Payroll**

- Federal Income Tax Return and works papers Permanent
- Sales and Miscellaneous Tax Returns 7 years

2.7 Member Conflict of Interest Policy

2.7.1 Purpose

This policy of ownership disclosure and prohibiting conflicts of interest applies to all members of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association.

2.7.2 Ownership Disclosure

Members must disclose to the association’s Board of Directors ownership interest or financial interest in entities prior to speaking to a decision-making body about the entity. After making the necessary disclosure, a member may participate in the discussion and vote on the matter unless the member has a conflict of interest as defined in Section 2.7.3-Conflict of Interest.

Ownership interest is defined as the cumulative holdings of the member, the member’s spouse, children, siblings and to any trust, corporation, partnership, LLC or sole proprietorship in which any of the foregoing individuals is an officer or director, or owns, in the aggregate, at least 50% of the (a) beneficial interest (if a trust), (b) stock (if a corporation),(c) partnership interests (if a partnership), (d) an LLC membership interest or (e) sole proprietorship Financial interest means any interest involving money, investments, credit or contractual rights.

a. When the Thurston County REALTORS® Association has an ownership interest in an entity and a member has an ownership interest in that same entity, such member must disclose the existence of his or her ownership interest prior to speaking to a decision-making body on any matter involving that entity.

b. If a member has personal knowledge that Thurston County REALTORS® Association is considering doing business with an entity in which a member has any financial interest, or with an entity in which the member serves in a decision-making capacity, then such member must disclose the existence of his or her financial interest or decision-making role prior to speaking to a decision making body about the entity.

c. If a member has a financial interest in, or serves in a decision-making capacity for, any entity that the member knows is offering competing products and services as those offered by Thurston County REALTORS® Association, then such member must disclose the existence of his or her financial interest or decision-making role prior to speaking to a decision-making body about an issue involving those competing products and services.

### 2.7.3 Conflict of Interest

Members must disclose conflicts of interest at the outset of any discussions by a decision-making body pertaining to the Business or any of its products or services. Members may not participate in the discussion relating to that Business other than to respond to questions asked of them by other members of the body. Furthermore, no member with a conflict of interest may vote on any matter in which the member has a conflict of interest, including votes to block or alter the actions of the body in order to benefit the Business in which they have an interest.

Members of the Board of Directors shall be required to sign the Conflict of Interest Policy Acknowledgement at the first Board meeting of each year. (See Appendix B.) A member of any of Thurston County REALTORS® Association's decision-making bodies will be considered to have a conflict of interest whenever that member:

a. Is a principal, partner or corporate officer of a business providing products or services to Thurston County REALTORS® Association or in a business being considered as a provider of products or services ("Business"); or

b. Holds a seat on the board of directors of the Business unless the person's only relationship to the Business is service on such board of directors as Thurston County REALTORS® Association's representative.

c. Intentionally Omitted

## 2.8 Employee Conflict of Interest Policy

### 2.8.1 Purpose

This policy of prohibiting conflicts of interest applies to all employees of Thurston County REALTORS® Association.

A conflict of interest occurs when an employee or any party related to the employee is in a position to profit or otherwise personally benefit directly or indirectly because of the employee's position with the Thurston County REALTORS® Association.

### 2.8.2 Disclosure Procedure

Employees must disclose to Executive Officer or a member of the Executive Committee any situation that may present a possible conflict of interest so that the Association can review it.

Employees must report all actual or potential conflicts of interest to the Executive Officer.

## 2.9 Whistle Blower Policy

### 2.9.1 Purpose

The underlying purpose of this policy is to encourage reporting of violations of state, federal, or local laws, maintain confidentiality and prohibit retaliation.

If an employee of Thurston County REALTORS® Association has information which s/he reasonably believes identifies a violation of state or federal law, the employee "whistleblower" should contact the Executive Officer or a member of the Executive Committee.

Employees are also permitted to contact the appropriate law enforcement or government agency. The employee must exercise sound judgment to avoid baseless allegations. An employee who intentionally files a false report of wrongdoing will be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

### 2.9.2 Confidentiality

The confidentiality of the whistleblower will be maintained to the extent possible.

The identity may have to be disclosed to conduct a thorough investigation, to comply with the law or to provide accused individuals their legal rights of defense.

### 2.9.3 Retaliation

The Thurston County REALTORS® Association will not retaliate against a whistleblower or any employee who refuses to participate in an activity that would result in a violation of state, federal or local law.

This includes, but is not limited to, protection from retaliation in the form of an adverse employment action such as termination, compensation decreases, demotion, or poor work assignments and threats of physical harm.

Any employee who believes s/he is being retaliated against must contact the Thurston County REALTORS® Association General Counsel immediately. The right of a whistleblower for protection against retaliation does not include immunity for any personal wrongdoing that is alleged and investigated, or disclosures that would constitute a violation of the attorney-client privilege.

### 2.10 Financial Policy

Many items concerning financial policies may be found throughout the Policy Manual including sections on Officer, Directors, Committee Chairs, Meetings, Reimbursement Policy and Record Retention. To fully understand the Financial Policy of the TCRA, please refer to those sections.

Fiscal Year: The fiscal year for the Thurston County Realtors® Association is January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Accounting Method: The accounting method used by the Thurston County Realtors® Association is cash.

#### 2.10.1 Budget

a. It is the responsibility of the Executive Committee to prepare and present an annual budget for the Association approved by the Board of Directors, and to provide a copy to the general membership upon request.

b. The Board of Directors is responsible for approving and making any changes to the annual budget.

c. Intentionally Omitted

d. A detailed item budget shall be available at the Association office by appointment only. Only REALTOR® members in good standing may make an appointment to review the budget and expenditures.

e. A draft budget for the next year will be formulated by the Treasurer, Treasurer-Elect, President-Elect and Association Executive in July of each year. The draft budget will be presented to the Executive Committee in August for an initial review. The budget will be approved by the Executive Committee during their September meeting and submitted to the Board of Directors for their review and approval during the October Board of Director's meeting. The approved budget will then be made available to the membership upon request.

#### 2.10.2 Investments

Thurston County REALTORS® Association will adopt an investment schedule to address savings and reserves to best safeguard the funds in a conservative manner. The Finance Committee will periodically review investments and report to the Board of Directors.

#### 2.10.3 Savings Reserves

Thurston County REALTORS® Association will maintain a savings reserve equal to a minimum of six (6) months of the Association's annual budget expenses.

#### 2.10.4 Charitable Contributions

Charitable contributions are determined by the Board of Directors.

#### 2.10.5 Financial Reviews

The Thurston County REALTORS® Association Board of Directors will adhere to a policy for the review of TCRA finances by an independent CPA firm every year or as otherwise required by Washington REALTORS® or National Association of REALTORS®. The results of the annual review will be presented to the Board of Directors.

#### 2.10.6 IRS Tax Return

Prior to submission of IRS annual tax return, the Board of Directors may take the opportunity to review.

#### 2.10.7 Accounting

a. The Board of Directors will authorize all accounts and financial instruments (i.e., checking, savings, investments, etc.) to safeguard funds. Changes to any accounts must be approved by the Board of Directors.

b. All invoices, bills and regular payments of the Association shall be gathered by the Association Executive and payments provided on a timely basis.

c. The monthly bank statements shall be reconciled by the Association Executive in a timely manner. Details of the reconciliation will be provided to the Treasurer or Board of Directors as requested.

#### 2.10.8 Signatories

a. All prepared checks \$500 and above require two signatures and shall then be signed by at least one TCRA Officer as authorized signatory of the account. The Association Executive may be one of the two signatories required. No facsimiles (stamps) will be allowed.

b. All prepared checks below \$500 may be signed by one TCRA Officer or the Association Executive as authorized signatories of the account. No facsimiles (stamps) will be allowed.

c. The TCRA Officers and Association Executive, as authorized signatories, will be the only authorized signers for checks and/or withdrawals of funds from savings accounts.

#### 2.10.9 Dues

The annual dues of each type of membership shall be as recommended by the Board of Directors and passed by the Membership and will be administrated as required by the Thurston County REALTORS® Association's bylaws.

#### 2.10.10 NSF Checks

Members who pay with a personal check or business check with non-sufficient funds will be charged a fee of \$ 50.00 per check. If the same member provides non-sufficient funds again, they will not be permitted to use checks when paying for Association services in the future.



## 2.10.11 Intentionally Omitted

## 2.11 Communication Policy

The primary method of communication from TCRA to its members is through email. It is the responsibility of the member to keep TCRA informed of their current email address.

## 2.12 Use of Facility Policy

The TCRA training room is available for use by members and the public. The use of this facility shall comply with the terms of the current rental agreement and its terms of use.

## 2.13 Antitrust Policy

### **Introduction**

Thurston County REALTORS® Association is a not-for-profit organization. The Association is not organized for the purpose of, and may not play any role in, the competitive decisions of its members, nor in any way restrict competition among members or potential members. Rather it serves as a forum for a free and open discussion of diverse opinions without in any way attempting to encourage or sanction any particular business practice.

The Association provides a forum for exchange of ideas in a variety of settings including its annual meeting, educational programs, committee meetings, and Board meetings. The Board of Directors recognizes the possibility that the Association and its activities could be viewed by some as an opportunity for anti-competitive conduct. Therefore, this statement supports the policy of competition served by the antitrust laws and to communicate the Association's uncompromising policy to comply strictly in all respects with those laws.

While recognizing the importance of the principle of competition served by the antitrust laws, the Association also recognizes the severity of the potential penalties that might be imposed on not only the Association but its members as well in the event that certain conduct is found to violate the antitrust laws. Should the Association or its members be involved in any violation of federal/state antitrust laws, such violation can involve both civil and criminal penalties that may include imprisonment for up to 3 years as well as fines up to \$350,000 for individuals and up to \$10,000,000 for the Association plus attorney fees. In addition, damage claims awarded to private parties in a civil suit are tripled for antitrust violations. Given the severity of such penalties, the Board intends to take all necessary and proper measures to ensure that violations of the antitrust laws do not occur.

### **Policy**

To ensure that the Association and its members comply with antitrust laws, the following principles will be observed:

- The Association or any committee, section, chapter, or activity of the Association shall not be used for the purpose of bringing about or attempting to bring about any understanding or agreement, written or oral, formal or informal, expressed or implied, among two or more members or other competitors with regard to prices or terms and conditions of contracts for services or products. Therefore, discussions and exchanges of information about such topics will not be permitted at Association meetings or other activities.
- There will be no discussions discouraging or withholding patronage or services from, or encouraging exclusive dealing, with any supplier or purchaser or group of suppliers or purchasers of products or services, any actual or potential competitor or group of actual potential competitors, or any private or governmental entity.
- There will be no discussions about allocating or dividing geographic or service markets or customers.

- There will be no discussions about restricting, limiting, prohibiting, or sanctioning advertising or solicitation that is not false, misleading, deceptive, or directly competitive with Association products or services.
- There will be no discussions about discouraging entry into or competition in any segment of the marketplace.
- There will be no discussions about whether the practices of any member, actual or potential competitor, or other person are unethical or anti-competitive, unless the discussions or complaints follow the prescribed due process provisions of the Association's bylaws.
- Certain activities of the Association and its members are deemed protected from antitrust laws under the First Amendment right to petition government. The antitrust exemption for these activities, referred to as the Noerr-Pennington Doctrine, protects ethical and proper actions or discussions by members designed to influence: 1) legislation at the national, state, or local level; 2) regulatory or policy-making activities (as opposed to commercial activities) of a governmental body; or 3) decisions of judicial bodies. However, the exemption does not protect actions designed to cover-up anticompetitive conduct.
- Speakers at committees, educational meetings, or other business meetings of the Association shall be informed that they must comply with the Association's antitrust policy in the preparation and the presentation of their remarks. Meetings will follow a written agenda approved in advance by the Association or its legal counsel.
- Meetings will follow a written agenda. Minutes will be prepared after the meeting to provide a concise summary of important matters discussed and actions taken, or conclusions reached. At informal discussions at the site of any Association meeting, all participants are expected to observe the same standards of personal conduct as are required of the Association in its compliance. It is recommended that Association Board members read, date, and retain a copy of this statement for their personal files.

### **SECTION 3 MEETINGS & ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES**

#### 3.1 General Membership Meeting

3.1.1 General Membership Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Thurston County REALTORS® Association's Bylaws and shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

3.1.2 The General Membership Meeting agenda shall be prepared by the President and the Association Executive.

3.1.3 Intentionally Omitted

3.1.4 General Membership meetings shall be held once per calendar quarter.

3.1.5 Intentionally Omitted

3.1.6 During each General Membership meeting the recently approved new membership attendees will be recognized.

#### 3.2 Board of Directors Meeting

3.2.1 The composition and authority of the Board of Directors shall be as specified in the Thurston County REALTORS® Association's Bylaws.

3.2.2 The Board of Directors shall meet a minimum of nine (9) times per year.

3.2.3 Agenda items should be presented to the Association Executive or the President no later than one (1) week prior to the meeting.

3.2.4 Only the Officers and Directors of the Board of Directors may vote on issues and shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order. The Association Executive shall participate in the Board of Director's meetings but is to perform without a vote.

3.2.5 Visitors may present an issue only when recognized by the President and the issue is an approved agenda item.

### 3.3 Executive Committee Meeting

3.3.1 The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Treasurer, Treasurer-Elect, Secretary and Immediate Past President. The Association Executive shall participate in the Executive Committee but is to perform without a vote.

3.3.2 Meetings of the Executive Committee shall hold a minimum of nine (9) times per year or upon petition of any two (2) members of the Executive Committee.

### 3.4 Meeting Stipends—Stipend Expense Report

3.4.1 State Directors, or alternate State Directors, (State Directors or alternate State Directors as elected by the TCRA membership and approved by the TCRA Board of Directors) shall receive a stipend not to exceed \$200 per overnight when attending an approved meeting or conference. Reimbursement for the operating expenses of the individual's vehicle will be calculated by multiplying the number of miles traveled by the currently approved Standard Mileage Rate published by the IRS.

3.4.2 Any REALTOR® member of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association serving as a TCRA representative, and upon approval of the TCRA Executive Committee, shall receive a stipend not to exceed \$200 per overnight when attending an approved meeting or conference. Reimbursement for the operating expenses of the individual's vehicle will be calculated by multiplying the number of miles traveled by the currently approved Standard Mileage Rate published by the IRS.

3.4.3 The elected incoming President-Elect of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association shall receive a stipend not to exceed \$200 per overnight when attending the Washington REALTORS® Leadership Retreat. The President-Elect shall receive a stipend not to exceed \$200 per overnight when attending the Washington REALTORS® spring or fall business conferences. Reimbursement for the operating expenses of the individual's vehicle will be calculated by multiplying the number of miles traveled by the currently approved Standard Mileage Rate published by the IRS.

3.4.4 All stipends are limited to the specific nights of each appropriate meeting and are limited to those meetings held outside of Thurston County, not to exceed three (3) overnights per conference.

3.4.5 All stipends shall be paid only after receipt of a written and signed request, along with a report of meetings attended.

3.4.6 If any member of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association who is qualified to receive a stipend per this policy receives any stipend payments from any other sources, then that stipend amount shall be deducted from the amount that would normally be paid by the Thurston County REALTORS® Association.

3.4.7 Upon requesting a stipend, a copy of the hotel/motel receipt must be attached. This aids as proof to the IRS and the Executive Committee of conference attendance.

### 3.5 Policy Manual Changes

This Policy Manual may be changed from time to time as directed by the Thurston County REALTORS® Association Board of Directors. Passed motions of the Board of Directors shall make said changes. Approved changes will be reflected in a current version of this Policy Manual.

### 3.6 Minutes

The Secretary shall record minutes for all meetings of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and the General Membership Meeting.

### 3.7 Internal Financial Controls

In order to safeguard the assets of the Association, the President, Treasurer, and Association Executive shall establish procedures to comply as a minimum with the following:

3.7.1 The Association shall utilize checks with the bottom third being retained in the records.

3.7.2 The Association Executive prepares checks upon receipt of invoice or committee chairperson memorandum, unless said expenditure is reoccurring rent, lease, payment, etc.

3.7.3 The Association Executive attaches the invoice to the bottom third of the check copy so that person authorized to sign may review. Invoices will be marked "Paid" and initialed by check signatories.

3.7.4 Bank signature cards will be resubmitted annually with the change in Officers.

3.7.5 Bank statements and reconciliation of the accounts will be reviewed by Treasurer.

3.7.6 Any checks voided shall not be thrown away, but put into check register, for record of its disposition.

3.7.7 All monies received will be receipted.

3.7.8 Accountant to report to the Association Executive, except in the case of an audit or review, which at that time the accountant will report to the Association Executive and the Executive Committee.

3.7.9 The Association Executive will post to accounting software all transactions for each month. As part of monthly Treasurer's report to the Board of Directors there will be the following accounting reports: Balance Sheet, and Profit and Loss Statement, Budget vs. Actual.

3.7.10 When depositing money, the deposit receipt will be retained.

### 3.8 Pre-Payment Plan

The association does not offer an official installment plan for dues payment. A three-month prepayment plan is encouraged, with three equal payments made in October, November, and December. This plan will be administered by association staff.

## **SECTION 4 DEFINITIONS AND ROLE OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **4.1 General Statement**

The Thurston County REALTORS® Association Board of Directors is the governing body of this Association.

As further defined in the Thurston County REALTORS® Association Bylaws, the Board of Directors of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association consists of the following voting members:

President  
President-Elect  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Treasurer-Elect  
Immediate Past President  
Directors

The association acts through its Board of Directors. Thus, the Board of Directors has the authority and duty to carry on whatever transactions the association requires, which may include giving authority to the Executive Committee to handle emergencies and day-to-day functions of the association.

In extraordinary matters, the general membership has authority to act. In matters such as amendments to the Thurston County REALTORS® Association Bylaws, authority rests with the members of the association. Changes to the Policy Manual are the responsibility of the Board of Directors.

The President or other officer authorized by the Board of Directors shall serve as the official spokesperson for the membership of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association.

4.1.1 The term of all association officers and directors shall be one year, commencing on January 1 and ending on December 31, regardless of the date they are formally installed.

### **4.2 President**

4.2.1 The policies and programs of the President shall encompass the missions and goals of the National Association of REALTORS® and shall not be influenced by self-aim or personal objectives.

4.2.2 The incoming President should prepare and present a program of goals and objectives for his/her administration.

4.2.3 The President shall form all special committees and task forces, with the approval of the Board of Directors, -are necessary to accomplish the mission, goals and objectives of the Association and the policies and programs of his/her administrative year, subject to the provisions of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association Bylaws and Policy Manual.

4.2.4 The incoming President shall appoint all chairpersons of standing committees, special committees, and task forces of the Association, prior to the December Board of Directors meeting, subject to approval of the Board of Directors, provided said positions are not already determined by the Bylaws or Policy Manual.

4.2.5 The President shall review the President-Elect's selection of vice-chairpersons of standing committees and special committees prior to their submission to the Board of Directors for approval.

4.2.6 The President shall delegate the administration of any committees and/or task forces during his/her administration to the President-Elect, as needed, so that he/she may better function in the initiation

of the new programs and policies for the future of the organization and represent the association externally and internally.

4.2.7 The President may seek opportunities to appear before meetings of member firms to carry the association's programs to the membership and secure input for planning and development.

4.2.8 The President may seek opportunities to appear before civic, social, and fraternal organizations as a representative of the Association.

4.2.9 The President shall call and preside over all meetings of the Executive Committee, Board of Directors and General Membership.

4.2.10 The President, as the elected leader of the Association, shall be expected to make decisions affecting the members-at-large on problems or issues.

4.2.11 The President shall accept the responsibilities as designated by the Washington REALTORS® and the National Association of REALTORS®.

4.2.12 Intentionally Omitted

4.2.13 The President is expected to attend the meetings of the Washington REALTORS.

4.2.14 The President is encouraged to attend the National Association of REALTORS® Convention and serve as a delegate at the convention if so appropriate.

4.2.15 Intentionally Omitted

4.2.16 The President shall be an ex-officio member of all standing committees of the Association.

4.2.17 The President shall be a member of the Executive Committee and Budget and Finance Committee and will have his/her signature on record at the Association's bank accounts and is authorized to sign checks.

4.2.18 The President, with staff assistance, prepares agendas for all meetings of the Executive Committee, Board of Directors and General Membership.

4.2.19 The President shall attend every function of the Association or shall see that the President-Elect is so appointed to attend in his/her absence.

4.2.20 The President shall have a working knowledge of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association Bylaws and Policy Manual and the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice.

4.2.21 The President shall be knowledgeable in parliamentary procedure as found in Robert's Rules of Order, to conduct his/her meetings in an orderly fashion.

4.2.22 Intentionally Omitted

4.2.23 The President shall be prepared to be the official spokesperson for the Association and shall make assignments whenever necessary to that member of the Board or staff most capable of addressing the issue.

4.2.24 The President, or others that he/she may appoint, may meet from time to time with the leadership of other organizations to discuss problems of mutual interest to the real estate industry.

4.2.25 The President, with the Association Executive, executes any official contracts or instruments, which the Board of Directors has authorized.

4.2.26 The President is expected to provide articles for publication for the local newspapers, Association newsletters, social media, or other publications that may be appropriate.

#### 4.3 President-Elect

4.3.1 The work of the President-Elect shall always encompass the missions and goals of the National Association of REALTORS® and programs of the President and shall never be influenced by self-aims and personal objectives.

4.3.2 The President-Elect shall be directly responsible for the administration of activities of all committees and task forces of the President, ensuring their directions parallel the missions, goals, objectives and policies of the Association and the programs of the President.

4.3.3 The President-Elect shall be responsible for selecting, in consultation with committee chairpersons, all vice-chairpersons for standing committees and special committees subject to the approval of the Board of Directors on or before its February meeting.

4.3.4 The President-Elect shall act for the President in the event of his/her absence or incapacity, with all powers and duties of the office of the President.

4.3.5 Intentionally Omitted

4.3.6 A President-Elect's term of office shall commence on the first day of January for the year he/she was elected, although formally installed on another occasion.

4.3.7 The President-Elect shall be an ex-officio member of every standing committee.

4.3.8 The President-Elect shall be knowledgeable of parliamentary procedure, as found in Robert's Rules of Order, to conduct his/her meetings in an orderly fashion in the absence of the President.

4.3.9 The President-Elect is expected to attend all membership functions of the Association and shall be prepared to act on behalf of the President in his/her absence.

4.3.10 The President-Elect shall have working knowledge of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association Bylaws and Policy Manual and the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice.

4.3.11 The President-Elect shall be prepared to accept all other duties as requested by the President.

4.3.12 Intentionally Omitted

4.3.13 The President-Elect shall be a member of the Executive Committee and Budget and Finance Committee and will have his/her signature on record at the Association's bank accounts and is authorized to sign checks.

4.3.14 The President-Elect shall attend the Washington REALTORS® annual Leadership Conference and the National Association of REALTORS® annual Leadership Summit and is expected to attend the Washington REALTORS® business conferences.

4.3.15 The President-Elect shall be the supervisor of the Government Affairs Director provided an individual has been contracted to do so.

#### 4.4 Secretary

4.4.1 The work of the Secretary shall encompass the missions and goals of the National Association of REALTORS® and programs of the President and shall never be influenced by self-aims and personal objectives.

4.4.2 The Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, the minutes of the General Membership meetings, the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee.

4.4.3 The Secretary shall issue or cause to be issued all notices in accordance with the provisions of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association Bylaws and this Policy Manual as required by law.

4.4.4 The Secretary is expected to attend all functions of the association.

4.4.5 The Secretary shall be a member of the Executive Committee.

4.4.6 The Secretary shall accept all other duties as requested by the President.

4.4.7 The Secretary will have his/her signature on record at the Association's bank accounts and is authorized to sign checks

#### 4.5 Treasurer

4.5.1 The work of Treasurer shall encompass the missions and goals of the National Association of REALTORS® and programs of the President and shall not be influenced by self-aim and personal objectives. The purpose of the Treasurer is to manage and supervise the funds and assets of the Association

4.5.2 The Treasurer shall be a member of the Executive Committee and is the chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee.

4.5.3 The Treasurer will be responsible for verifying that all funds and securities of the Association are recorded and deposited and make recommendations for the deposit of the monies in financial institutions.

4.5.4 The Treasurer is expected to attend all functions of the Association.

4.5.5 The Treasurer shall accept all other duties as requested by the President.

4.5.6 The Treasurer shall have a working knowledge of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association Bylaws and Policy Manual and the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice.

4.5.7 The Treasurer works with the Association Executive subject to the financial policies of the Association.

4.5.8 The Treasurer shall instruct staff, to make such financial reports and render such statements as good business practice dictates on a monthly basis to the Board of Directors with the assistance of the Association Executive and as requested by the Budget and Finance Committee and/or the Executive Committee.

4.5.9 Intentionally Omitted

4.5.10 The Treasurer and the Association Executive shall ensure that an annual review of the books or other means of oversight is completed by a Certified Public Accountant ,as determined by the requirements of NAR's Core Standards for Local Associations.



4.5.11 The Treasurer, with the advice of the Budget and Finance Committee, Treasurer elect, President elect and the Association Executive, shall prepare an annual budget.

4.5.12 Intentionally Omitted

4.5.13 Intentionally Omitted

4.5.14 Intentionally Omitted

4.5.15 The Treasurer shall ensure the books are balanced monthly and annually.

4.5.16 Any changes in the bookkeeping system of the Association must be reviewed and authorized by the Budget and Finance Committee and the Executive Committee and further approved by the Board of Directors.

4.5.17 Intentionally Omitted

4.5.18 The Treasurer will have his/her signature on record at the Association's bank accounts and is authorized to sign checks.

4.6 Immediate Past President

4.6.1 The work of the Immediate Past President shall always encompass the missions and goals of the National Association of REALTORS® and programs of the President and shall not be influenced by self-aim and personal objectives.

4.6.2 The Immediate Past President shall serve as an advisor to the President and the Board of Directors and heads the Past President Council.

4.6.3 The Immediate Past President shall serve Thurston County REALTORS® Association Board of Directors as a Director for a year following his/her term of office.

4.6.4 The Immediate Past President is expected to attend all functions of the Association.

4.6.5 The Immediate Past President shall accept additional duties as assigned by the President.

4.6.6 The Immediate Past President shall serve as the chairperson of the Nominations Committee as defined in the Thurston County REALTORS® Association Bylaws.

4.6.7 The Immediate Past President shall serve as a member of the Executive Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee.

4.7 Local Directors

4.7.1 The work of the local Directors shall always encompass the missions and goals of the National Association of REALTORS® and programs of the President and shall not be influenced by self-aim and personal objectives.

4.7.2 As a member of the Association governing body, a Director's major responsibility is to represent the entire membership of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association.

4.7.3 One of the duties of a Director is to keep up to date on any issues facing the Board of Directors. To help keep informed there are: a) the Association Executive, and b) official documents of the

Association such as Board of Director meeting minutes, the Thurston County REALTORS® Association Bylaws and Policy Manual.

4.7.4 The Board of Directors shall designate a regular time and place of meetings. Absence from three regular meetings without an excuse deemed valid by the Board of Directors shall be construed as resignation therefrom.

4.7.5 Local Directors are encouraged to attend Washington REALTORS® meetings and conferences.

4.7.6 Local Directors are expected to serve on at least one committee of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association.

4.7.7 In addition to their responsibilities of policy maker and member representative, local Directors shall perform the following duties, as requested by the President:

a. Contact each member office as assigned to encourage members to attend TCRA meetings.

b. Be available to all members, inviting questions and comments. If questions arise which a local Director is unable to answer, they shall be directed to staff or the Association President.

#### 4.8 State Directors

4.8.1 In accordance with the Bylaws of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association, the Association shall conduct during the annual election an advisory ballot for the General Membership to vote for State Directors representing the Association to the Washington REALTORS® as allocated by the state formula and consistent with the State Bylaws, and for staggered terms. After the election, the results shall be submitted, by the President, and with the approval of the Board of Directors, to the Washington REALTORS®. The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint Alternate State Directors from the Association to Washington REALTORS®, as may be required.

4.8.2 In as much as State Directors of the Washington REALTORS® are elected and approved by the Thurston County REALTORS® Association, their responsibility is to cast votes as representatives of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association membership. On all matters to be voted upon by the Board of Directors of the Washington REALTORS®, the Board of Directors of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association may take a position on any particular matter. They may only encourage that a State Director vote the position of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association Board of Directors.

4.8.3 Intentionally Omitted

4.8.4 The State Directors are to keep the Thurston County REALTORS® Association informed of the activities of Washington REALTORS®.

4.8.5 Intentionally Omitted

4.8.6 The State Directors should present to the Thurston County REALTORS® Association Board of Directors a written summary of their meeting activity at each of the Washington REALTORS® authorized meetings.

4.8.7 The State Directors are expected to attend the Thurston County REALTORS® Association Board of Directors meetings.

4.8.8 The State Directors are expected to attend the Thurston County REALTORS® Association General Membership meetings.

4.8.9 State Directors must keep themselves updated with the issues and positions of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association Board of Directors.

4.8.10 State Directors shall take office as determined by the bylaws of the Washington REALTORS®.

4.8.11 State Directors as elected and approved by the Thurston County REALTORS® Association shall be ex-officio members of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association Board of Directors but shall serve without a vote.

4.8.12 Washington REALTORS® State Directors that are appointed, approved, or otherwise entitled to such a position by some entity other than the Thurston County REALTORS® Association are not officially a representative of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association and are not entitled to a Thurston County REALTORS® Association State Director position or authorized stipend.

4.8.13 The number of State Directors from the Thurston County REALTORS® Association will be elected and approved based on a formula as provided by the Washington REALTORS®.

#### 4.9 Treasurer-Elect

4.9.1 The Treasurer-Elect position is designed to be a training position. The TCRA Board of Directors has previously identified the need to create a more effective system to educate the incoming Association Treasurer as well as to explain to them the financial systems and accounts used by the Association. To help remedy this situation, the TCRA Board of Directors has created the position of Treasurer-Elect.

4.9.2 The Treasurer-Elect is an elective office. The term of this position is for one (1) year and shall commence on January 1 for the year he or she was elected to serve, although formally installed on another occasion or date, and shall end on December 31<sup>st</sup> of that same year.

4.9.3 The Treasurer-Elect shall be a voting Member of the Executive Committee as well as the TCRA Board of Directors.

4.9.4 The Treasurer-Elect shall assist the Association's Treasurer in discharging all of the duties of the Treasurer's position, and as described in this Policy Manual.

4.9.5 The Treasurer-Elect shall take on and discharge the duties of the Treasurer in the event the Treasurer is ill, absent, or otherwise unavailable or unable to perform their duties.

4.9.6 The Treasurer-Elect shall utilize their time in office to familiarize themselves with the Association's budget, budget process, financial statements, and accounts, and to otherwise prepare themselves to take on the position of Treasurer.

4.9.7 At the expiration of the Treasurer-Elect's term in office, the Treasurer-Elect shall then automatically assume the position of Association Treasurer for the next year.

4.9.8 The Treasurer-Elect shall have his/her signature on record at the Association's bank accounts and is authorized to sign checks.

## **SECTION 5 COMMITTEES**

### **5.1 General Statement**

The Thurston County REALTORS® Association will have Standing Committees as defined in the Association's Bylaws. The Association will have other Special Committees as needed.

### **5.2 Standing Committees**

A standing committee shall serve as a group that performs a continuing function and operates indefinitely. It is expressly named in the Bylaws of the Association and usually deals with organizational and operational procedures or with specific permanent features of an Association program.

### **5.3 Special Committees**

A special committee shall be defined as a group that performs a function, definite in nature, with a specific event, objective or problem in immediate consequence to the members, the Association, or the industry.

### **5.4 Chairperson Responsibilities**

5.4.1 The work of a committee chairperson shall encompass the missions and goals of the National Association of REALTORS® and programs of the President and shall not be influenced by self-aim and personal objectives.

5.4.2 The Chairperson should, before each meeting, consult with the Association staff and other key members of the committee in planning the committee's objectives and activities. The entire program of work should be thoroughly reviewed so that individual committee assignments can be effectively made.

5.4.3 He/she should see that the President reviews, prior to the first of January, a complete list of goals and objectives of their respective committee.

5.4.4 Each committee chairperson shall direct the committee in reviewing and achieving the committee's objectives. Each committee chairperson shall be responsible for stimulating group thinking, encourage and facilitate discussion, weigh the value of expressed ideas and suggestions, summarize constructive suggestions, and seek out decisions.

5.4.5 Each committee chairperson should ensure that accurate minutes are kept, motions recorded, a record of committee work maintained, and necessary written reports prepared and submitted to the Association office one (1) week prior to the Board of Directors meeting that their committee subject is to appear on the agenda.

5.4.6 Each committee chairperson is responsible for ensuring that they remain reasonably informed regarding the progress of individual committee member's assignments.

5.4.7 Each committee chairperson must motivate the members of the committee towards active participation and involvement in committee activities. With the Association and the committee objectives in mind, they should facilitate the interests and talents of individual committee members onto productive efforts and ensure the necessary follow-up action.

5.4.8 Each committee chairperson should be familiar with the events of other committees to avoid duplication.

5.4.9 Each committee chairperson should continually review and evaluate his/her own procedures and the committee's programs and progress.

5.4.10 Intentionally Omitted

5.4.11 Committees shall submit written reports to the Board of Directors as required. Where appropriate, and/or requested by the Board of Directors, committees shall present an annual report at the annual meeting of the members in September.

5.4.12 Intentionally Omitted

5.4.13 Intentionally Omitted

#### 5.5 Vice-Chairperson Responsibilities

5.5.1 The work of the committee vice-chairperson shall encompass the missions and goals of the National Association of REALTORS® and programs of the President and shall not be influenced by self-aim and personal objectives.

5.5.2 The committee vice-chairperson shall be prepared to act as the chairperson in the event of his/her absence or incapacity, with all the powers and duties of the chairperson.

#### 5.6 Authorization

5.6.1 Standing committees of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association are established and defined in the Association's Bylaws and can be abolished only with a change of the Association Bylaws.

5.6.2 Special committees may be established or abolished by the Board of Directors on the recommendation of the President.

5.6.3 Intentionally Omitted

5.6.4 Committees may authorize subcommittees upon approval of the President.

5.6.5 No committee shall sign or cause to be signed any contract binding the Thurston County REALTORS® Association as a party to the contract.

#### 5.7 Composition

5.7.1 The President shall appoint the chairperson, with the approval of the Board of Directors, and may appoint other committee members. Both responsibilities are with the provision(s) that said appointments are not already specifically provided for either in the Thurston County REALTORS® Association Bylaws or this Policy Manual.

5.7.2 The President-Elect shall be responsible for selecting, in consultation with the committee chairperson, all vice-chairpersons for standing committees and special committees subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

#### 5.8 Participation

5.8.1 Continuity of committee membership is desirable whenever possible, and the President or President-Elect, in making appointments, shall endeavor to provide continuity.

5.8.2 Chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, and members of standing and special committees shall be active members of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association.

#### 5.9 Activities

5.9.1 Committees shall receive their instructions from the President or the Board of Directors. Activities are determined subject to the provision that they are not already specifically provided for in the Thurston County REALTORS® Association Bylaws.

5.9.2 Sub-committees shall receive their charges from the appropriate committee or task force chairperson, as approved by the committee or task force.

#### 5.10 Reports

Committee reports recommending a course of action or conveying information to the Board of Directors shall be given in writing. If asked by the President, a verbal report shall be given, in person, to the Board of Directors or the general membership.

5.10.1 A committee report requesting an interpretation of Association policy shall be referred to the Board of Directors.

5.10.2 A committee report requesting the approval of a publication, project or program not requiring financial support shall be referred to the Executive Officer. If the request involves the need for appropriations, it shall first be referred to the Executive Committee.

5.10.3 A committee report requesting the approval of a new policy or for a change in existing policy shall be referred to the Board of Directors.

5.10.4 Intentionally Omitted

5.10.5 Intentionally Omitted

5.10.6 Committee chairpersons shall submit committee requests and budget requests by November 1 of the prior year.

## **SECTION 6 STANDING COMMITTEES**

### 6.1 Professional Standards

#### 6.1.1 Purpose

The Professional Standards Committee is the committee of the Association charged with the responsibility for enforcement of the Code of Ethics through the conduct of ethics and arbitration hearings.

#### 6.1.2 Composition

The Professional Standards Committee shall be comprised of at least ten (10) REALTOR® members, who are in a pool with the Grievance Committee members, all appointed from a list selected by the chairperson, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors. They shall serve terms of three (3) years and be appointed annually in such numbers and in such manner as to create staggered terms of the members to ensure continuity of knowledge, ability, and experience by the committee. The President shall select the chairperson, and the President-Elect, in consultation with the President, shall select the vice-chairperson. The members of the committee should be mature, experienced, and knowledgeable persons of judicial temperament and include a minimum of one managing broker

#### 6.1.3 Responsibilities

a. The committee members shall hear matters of alleged ethical misconduct by Association members; provide arbitration as requested, in compliance with the procedures of the National Association of REALTORS® Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual, as from time to time amended.

- b. The committee members shall be thoroughly familiar with, and knowledgeable of the contents of the National Association of REALTORS® Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual, Professional Standards Training Manual, and the Interpretations of the Code of Ethics.
- c. The committee shall cooperate with the TCRA Board of Directors, Association Executive, and the Grievance Committee in conducting an annual workshop so all will understand their responsibilities and have a thorough knowledge of the procedures for arbitration and ethics hearings.
- d. Any committee member who is aware of the details of a case, or if he/she is a principal in the case under investigation by the committee or is a member of the same company of the principal in the case, or who otherwise may be aware of a possible conflict of interest that would render himself/herself unable to reach a fair and unbiased decision on the merits of the complaint, shall be excused from committee deliberation in such case.
- e. Members of the committee shall not discuss cases under investigation, or the disposal thereof, with persons outside the committee except the Association Executive and the Association President.
- f. The chairperson shall keep his/her members informed of all National Association of REALTORS® and Washington REALTORS® directives and policies and procedures updates.
- g. The chairperson shall endeavor to attend all meetings called by the Washington REALTORS® Professional Standards Committee chairperson.
- h. A filing fee of \$250.00 will be assessed to either party (complainant or respondent) that files an appeal to the Board of Directors regarding the Professional Standards Ethics Hearing Panel decision.

## 6.2 Grievance

### 6.2.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Grievance Committee is similar to that of a “grand jury” of the judicial system; that is, to prevent abuse and harassment through frivolous complaints. It examines complaints referred to it by the Association Executive and determines if the complaint has sufficient substance and merit to warrant an ethics hearing, an arbitration hearing, or mediation.

### 6.2.2 Composition

The Committee shall be comprised of at least ten (10) REALTOR® members, who are in a pool with the Professional Standards Committee Members, all appointed from a list selected by the chairperson, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors. They shall serve terms of three (3) years and be appointed annually in such numbers and in such manner as to create staggered terms so as to encourage continuity of knowledge, ability, and experience. The President shall select the Chairperson, and the President-Elect, in consultation with the President, shall select the Vice-Chairperson. The members of the committee should be of judicial temperament and include a minimum of one managing broker.

### 6.2.3 Responsibilities

- a. Examine complaints referred to it by the Association Executive and determine if the complaint has sufficient substance and merit to warrant an ethics hearing, an arbitration hearing, or mediation.
- b. The Committee shall comply with the policies and procedures in the National Association of REALTORS® Professional Standards Manual, Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual, Interpretations of the Code of Ethics, and the Professional Standards Training Manual.
- c. The committee members shall be thoroughly familiar with, and knowledgeable of the contents of the Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual, the Interpretations of the Code of Ethics, and the Professional Standards Training Manual.
- d. The Committee shall cooperate with the Board of Directors, Association Executive, and the Professional Standards Committee on conducting an annual workshop and training. All Committee members and newly elected Board of Director members must have training on the procedures of the Grievance process prior to serving on a Grievance panel.
- e. The chairperson shall review each complaint submitted to the Association office and determine the appropriate action. There will be no Request for Response from the Respondent prior to the Grievance Committee panel conducting their review. A Request for Response will be requested only if the Grievance Committee passes the complaint on to the Professional Standards Committee for an Ethics Hearing. At that time, a copy of the Request for Response will also be mailed to the Respondent's broker.
- f. Upon the chairperson's notification by the Association Executive of a case requiring committee review, the chairperson shall contact a minimum of two (2) additional committee members setting a time and date for the case review. All committee meetings shall be held at the Association office with the Association Executive, who shall keep a record of the proceedings and disposition of the case.
- g. Any committee member who is aware of the details of case, or if he/she is a principal in the case under investigation by the committee or is a member of the same company of the principal in the case, or who otherwise may be aware of a possible conflict of interest that would render himself/herself unable to reach a fair and unbiased decision on the merits of the complaint, shall be excused from committee deliberation.
- h. Members of the committee shall not discuss cases under investigation, or the disposal thereof, with persons outside the committee except the Association Executive and the Association President.
- i. In case of a lawsuit, following an ethics hearing, or arbitration hearing, between the complainant and the respondent, a subpoena must be served to the Association Executive before any files will be released from the Association office.
- j. The chairperson shall keep members informed of all National Association of REALTORS® and Washington REALTORS® directives and policies and procedure updates.
- k. The chairperson shall endeavor to attend all meetings called by the Washington REALTORS® Professional Standards Committee chairperson.



### 6.3 Arbitration

6.3.1 It is the policy of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association that any and all arbitration requests will be submitted to the Association in writing. However, it shall be optional with the member as to whether he will submit to a claim to arbitration with a non-member broker according to the National Association of REALTORS® Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual.

6.3.2 A non-member broker shall not be entitled to request arbitration unless the principal broker with whom he is associated joins in the complaint. The non-member should be advised that he or she can submit the necessary paperwork to request arbitration but that the member broker has the right to choose wither or not to submit to arbitration.

6.3.3 The Thurston County REALTORS® Association will offer its services to arbitrate between a member broker and associated broker at the request of either party.

6.3.4 The filing fee for arbitration is paid by both the complainant and the respondent. The filing fee will be paid, in full, prior to the Arbitration Hearing. The party in which the award is rendered will have their filing fee returned to them. The party in which the decision is rendered against will not receive the filing fee returned to them. If there is no arbitration hearing all money is returned, to both the complainant and respondent.

6.3.5 A filing fee, on a sliding scale, listed below, will be assessed to parties in an Arbitration Request:

Arbitration Request up to \$1,000.00	\$150.00 Filing Fee
Arbitration Request up to \$1,001.00-\$2,000.00	\$250.00 Filing Fee
Arbitration Request up to \$2,001.00-\$3,000.00	\$350.00 Filing Fee
Arbitration Request up to \$3,001.00-4,000.00	\$450.00 Filing Fee
Arbitration Request of \$4,001.00-Upward	\$500.00 Filing Fee

### 6.4 Budget and Finance

6.4.1 The Budget and Finance Committee shall consist of the Treasurer, who will serve as chairperson, President, President-Elect, Treasurer-Elect, and the Association Executive (as a non-voting member).

6.4.2 The Budget and Finance Committee shall assist the Treasurer-Elect in developing an annual budget for presentation to the Executive Committee. The annual budget development process shall utilize the zero-based budgeting approach and shall take into consideration input from all necessary sources to ensure an accurate operating budget. This committee should meet during July to develop the draft budget. The draft budget should be presented to the Executive Committee during their August meeting for initial review. The Executive Committee would approve the proposed budget during their September meeting. The Board of Directors would consider for approval the final budget during their October meeting. The approved budget will be provided to members upon request.

6.4.3 The Budget and Finance Committee has general fiscal oversight of Association operations, investments, and financial policy.

6.4.4 It shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer and Association Executive to administer the day-to-day implementation of the budget. If deviations or changes should occur, the Budget and Finance Committee should review and make recommendations as necessary to the Executive Committee. The Board of Directors has final approval on all changes to the budget.

## 6.5 Government Affairs (Legislative, Political Affairs, and Land Use)

### 6.5.1 Purpose

This committee is responsible to identify and support candidates for political office and/or political issues that confirm issues positions taken by REALTORS®. This committee is also responsible to keep the membership informed of specific political issues that impact the real estate industry. This committee will facilitate organized participation in and support of REALTOR® legislative/advocacy goals at all levels of government.

### 6.5.2 Responsibility of Chairperson

a. The President-Elect will be the Chairperson of this committee.

b. Inform the membership of current legislative issues affecting the real estate industry as identified by county, state, and national REALTOR® associations.

c. Generate maximum participation by individual members of the Thurston County REALTORS Association in support of REALTOR® legislative goals.

d. Report regularly to the Thurston County REALTORS® Association Board of Directors on the status of the legislative goals.

e. Advise the President on legislative strategy and assist in preparing testimony to be presented to legislative bodies.

### 6.5.3 Committee Responsibilities

a. Any member in good standing who chooses to attend a committee meeting shall be considered a member of the committee.

b. The committee chair shall promote maximum attendance at the annual REALTOR® Legislative Day, which is held in Olympia during January.

c. During the state legislative session, the committee shall conduct periodic meetings to discuss issues, establish priorities and decide on actions to be taken.

d. When action is appropriate on national, state, or local issues, a “Call to Action” will be transmitted to all members of the legislative network via committee members. Results of the legislative action program will be monitored and reported to the Board of Directors and to General Membership.

e. Maintain liaison with the Washington REALTORS® Government Affairs staff to be informed of state level issues that affect the Thurston County REALTORS® Association and provide support as appropriate.

f. Identify local issues (including, but not limited to school district levies, bonds, and city or county parks) to endorse, not endorse, or oppose in Thurston County.

g. Final approval of announcing the endorsement, non-endorsement or providing funds to a candidate is vested with Thurston County REALTORS® Association’s Government Affairs Committee.

## 6.6 RPAC (REALTORS® Political Action Committee)

### 6.6.1 Purpose

The Thurston County REALTORS® Association REALTORS® Political Action Committee promotes the election of pro-REALTOR® candidates within Washington and across the United States. The purpose of RPAC is clear: REALTORS® raise and spend money to elect candidates who understand and support

their interests. The money to accomplish this comes from voluntary contributions made by REALTORS®. These are not members' dues; this is money given freely by REALTORS® in recognition of how important campaign fundraising is to the political process. RPAC enables REALTORS® to support candidates that support the issues that are important to their profession and livelihood.

#### 6.6.2 Responsibilities

a. Ensure the membership is kept informed about REALTOR® RPAC activities at the national and state level.

b. Maintain liaison with the Washington REALTORS® RPAC program manager to be informed about state level fundraising activities and state level distribution of funds.

c. Intentionally Omitted (see 6.5.3.e)

d. Implement the Annual RPAC campaign to raise money for advocacy. Organize fundraising events.

### 6.7 Diversity

#### 6.7.1 Purpose

To educate, inform and cooperate with REALTORS®, government agencies and community leaders. To enhance REALTORS® professional image through training. Educate and train members on the Federal Fair Housing Act and diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI).

#### 6.7.2 Chairperson

Duties include keeping REALTOR® members informed of any changes, events, and legal updates as it affects Fair Housing. Encourage REALTOR® members to attend Diversity training as provided by the REALTORS® Associations.

#### 6.7.3 Committee

REALTOR® and Affiliate members' duties may include delivery of new information to Designated Brokers, Managers and Brokers.

#### 6.7.4 Meetings

The Diversity Committee shall meet quarterly or more often as needed.

### 6.8 Membership

This committee focuses on providing REALTOR® and Affiliate members with opportunities and resources to enhance professional earnings while providing exceptional service to their clients and communities.

### 6.9 Communication (Newsletter, Website, Public Relations)

The Communications Committee strives to make TCRA a better organization by creating relevant and effective ways to communicate with members and the Thurston County community. The Communications Committee utilizes web-based, print, and email communications to keep TCRA members connected and involved with the Association and current on industry news. The Communications Committee monitors and suggests editing changes to the TCRA web pages, FaceBook page, and print publications. The committee may also write and create video communications to help publicize TCRA news and events. Committee members stay current on the latest communication strategies and tools.

### 6.10 Bylaws and Policy Manual

This committee works with the Board of Directors on any bylaw or policy changes. Members of this committee are selected by the President.

## 6.11 Education

### 6.11.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Education Committee is to provide a well-balanced and effective educational program, meeting the needs of the Association membership.

### 6.11.2 Composition

The committee shall be comprised of both REALTORS® and Affiliates. Members shall have knowledge of current real estate education needs of REALTORS® locally or have an interest in education of REALTORS®.

### 6.11.3 Responsibilities

- a. Annually determine the current and anticipated education needs of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association members.
- b. Evaluate the success of the previous year's education program and schedule.
- c. Coordinate with the Washington REALTORS® the procurement and scheduling of all education programs.
- d. Keep informed of the Washington State Department of Real Estate Licensing rules regarding education requirements of agents.
- e. Be familiar with the Association's strategic plan, goals, and assist in the implementation of the objectives and strategies.
- f. Be responsible for monitors and/or proctors for all the real estate classes sponsored by the Thurston County REALTORS® Association. Establish guidelines and responsibilities of monitors and/or proctors.
- g. Procure and encourage sponsorship of all education programs presented by the Thurston County REALTORS® Association through our Affiliate members. Establish guidelines and responsibilities of sponsors.
- h. Encourage and establish additional mini-classes during the calendar year sponsored by the Thurston County REALTORS® Association. These can be non-clock hour classes, which are presented by the members of the Association for the members' benefit.
- i. Coordinate with other programs and committees in the scheduling of classes for the classroom.
- j. Develop a continuing education program to market education as a member benefit.

### 6.11.4 Education Class Monitor Charges and Responsibilities

A monitor is responsible for managing the learning environment in his/her course and for serving in certain administrative, evaluative, and social capacities during his/her day of commitment of the education classes sponsored by the Thurston County REALTORS® Association. Specific responsibilities include:

- a. Meet with the education chair and/or Association staff the day of the class no later than thirty (30) minutes prior to the class for orientation session and assignments. Check for classroom setup, tests, outlines, etc.

- b. Assist with registering students. When instructors arrive, see that the room is set up correctly and the audio-visual equipment is working. Greet the instructor and take care of any last-minute requests she/he may have.
- c. Call the class to order, review course policies (i.e., credit for class, attendance, use of recorders, cellular phones, and beepers), introduce the instructor according to the script and maintain order in the classroom.
- d. Keep the class on schedule. Get students into the class before class begins both in the morning and afternoon and before the end of each break. Please share with instructor their expense report and evaluation form, which comes with the course outline.
- e. Keep attendance for clock hour credit. The Washington State Real Estate License Department requires that attendance be kept. Mark the roster for attendance at the beginning of each class. If it is an all-day session, the roster or attendance must also be taken in the afternoon. Take attendance so as not to interfere with the break. If a student is absent during the time the roster is circulated, allow him/her to sign if the absence has not been long. Turn in the rosters and attendance sheet to staff at the end of the class with any exams or evaluations.
- f. Name badges: Students are encouraged to wear a name badge.
- g. Collect student evaluations at the end of each segment as appropriate.
- h. Evaluate the instructor and course facility and provide to the Association Executive.
- i. After each class session, the monitors should provide comment to the Association Executive on to allow ways to operate more efficiently.
- j. If a particular class is being sponsored by one of our Affiliates, we will provide a space to place their information and materials.
- k. Thank everyone, including the instructor and make sure all materials are collected and turned over to the Association staff for further processing with the Washington REALTORS® or other service (school) provider.
- l. Cancellation Policy: If a registered attendee cancels seven (7) days prior to the scheduled class, they will receive a full refund. If they cancel less than seven (7) days prior to a scheduled class, they will be refunded only one-half of the tuition.

6.11.5 Marketing: Education Opportunities will be provided in various communication means available to the membership.

6.11.6 Free Class Policy:

7.5 free clock hours annually for TCRA members in good standing.

\$10 certificate fee for free classes

## 6.12 Strategic Planning

This committee is responsible for the development of a long-range strategic plan for the Thurston County REALTORS® Association, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. After such plan is finalized and approved, the committee shall review it annually to monitor its implementation, evaluate its effectiveness and determine if the plan should be updated. This committee will generally meet no later than the second week of December to develop and/or update a long-range strategic plan.

## 6.13 Nominations

6.13.1 At least two (2) months before the designated Annual General Membership meeting (in September), the Immediate Past-President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint five (5) active members (preferably past-presidents), and a non-voting chairperson to comprise the Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee shall select at least (2) candidates for each Officer and Director (local and state) position to be filled per the Thurston County REALTORS® Association Bylaws. Any REALTOR® or affiliate member, in good standing, may be nominated to serve on the Board of Directors. Only REALTORS® may be nominated for the position of President-Elect or President.

6.13.2 Appointment or election as a President and President-Elect of the Association shall be limited to those REALTOR® members who have served at least twelve (12) months or more as a Local or State Director at the time of taking office.

6.13.3 For the positions of local Director, candidates shall not be paired or grouped, but rather shall be voted upon as a single entity, except for two (2) positions for two (2) year terms for Affiliates only. Those candidates, running for local Director receiving the most votes, in the descending order of the term of year shall be elected to the positions vacant/to be vacated.

6.13.4 The Nominations Committee will submit to the TCRA Board of Directors recommendations for State Directors to be voted on by the TCRA membership. The nominees will appear on the ballot as an advisory ballot only. State Directors or alternate State Directors are elected by the TCRA membership and approved by the TCRA Board of Directors for submission to Washington REALTORS®.

6.13.5 Prior to the above action, in June of each year, at the General Membership meeting, nominations from the floor would be accepted and placed before the Nominations Committee. Floor nominations must come from REALTOR® members and will appear on the ballot in the position nominated for if: 1) nominee agrees to serve in the position and agrees to all of the responsibilities; and 2) nominee has met all the requirements for the position nominated to fill.

6.13.6 Nominations from members at large must be received no later than thirty (30) days prior to the date set for the Association's Annual Meeting. During that portion of the month of August, when nominations are still open, the Nominations Committee may solicit members to run as candidates for open positions. The nominations will be closed thirty (30) days prior to the date set for the Association's Annual Meeting.

6.13.7 The election of Officers and Directors will be conducted after the Annual General Membership meeting held in September. Ballots may be cast at the Association office, or any location designated by the Board of Directors. All ballots must be received by September 30<sup>th</sup>, counted and the results announced no later than the first business day following September 30<sup>th</sup>. Election shall be by electronic ballot or, if not available, paper ballots will be accepted, and all votes shall be cast one vote per Member per ballot. The ballot shall contain the names of all candidates and the offices for which they are nominated.

## 6.14 Awards

### 6.14.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Awards Committee is to evaluate and select from nominations submitted, the recipients of the award for REALTOR® of the Year, REALTOR® Special Achievement, Affiliate of the Year, Citizen of the Year, Partnership of the Year, Community Service Award, and Long Time REALTOR® Spirit Award. The Association President for the appropriate award year shall make the selection of the President's Award.

### 6.14.2 Composition

The recipients of the REALTOR® of the Year Award and REALTOR® Special Achievement from the previous year shall serve as the co-chairpersons of the committee. The Affiliate of the Year from the previous year shall serve as a member of the committee. The co-chairpersons will then, on a confidential basis, select five (5) other REALTORS® at large to become members of the committee.

#### 6.14.3 Responsibilities

a. It shall be the responsibility of the Awards Committee to annually review nominees and select the recipients of the award for REALTOR® of the Year, REALTOR® Special Achievement, Affiliate of the Year, Citizen of the Year, Partnership of the Year, Community Service Award, and Long Time REALTOR® Spirit Award, and that such selection be held confidential until the presentation at the awards event.

b. The committee may make proposals to the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors for any special awards.

c. The REALTOR® of the Year Award recognizes a REALTOR® Broker for their exemplary business experience, conduct, civic activity, and industry involvement. The committee shall annually review the selection criteria for REALTOR® of the Year, including the approved application form, and make recommendations as applicable to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors based on the following criteria:

(1) Nominees for REALTOR® of the Year shall have been in the real estate profession for a minimum of five (5) years as a REALTOR®.

(2) Nominees for REALTOR® of the Year shall be a REALTOR® in good standing.

(3) Nominees for REALTOR® of the Year shall provide written list of accomplishments for activity in Local, State, and National Association of REALTORS® within the past five (5) years.

(4) All nominations for REALTOR® of the Year shall be submitted on approved application form.

d. The REALTOR® Special Achievement Award recognizes a TCRA REALTOR® Broker member who has made a significant achievement in the support of the REALTOR® associations. The committee shall annually review the selection criteria for the REALTOR® Special Achievement Award, including the approved application form, and made recommendation as applicable to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors based on the following criteria:

(1) Nominees for the REALTOR® Special Achievement Award shall have been in the real estate profession for a minimum of eighteen (18) months as an active TCRA REALTOR® member.

(2) The nominees for the REALTOR® Special Achievement Award shall demonstrate those activities in the Local, State, and National Association of REALTORS® accomplished within the past eighteen (18) months. The accomplishments for the year nominated and the preceding year shall have top priority. Earlier accomplishments shall be used for tie breaking.

(3) Nominees for the REALTOR® Special Achievement Award shall be a member in good standing.

e. The Affiliate of the Year Award recognizes a TCRA Affiliate member for their exemplary business experience, conduct, civic activity, and industry involvement. The committee shall annually review the selection criteria for the Affiliate of the Year Award, including the approved application form, and make recommendations as applicable to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors based on the following criteria:

(1) Nominees for the Affiliate of the Year Award shall have been in the real estate profession for a minimum of eighteen (18) months as an active TCRA Affiliate member.

(2) The nominees for the Affiliate of the Year Award shall provide a written list of accomplishments for activities in the Local and State Association of REALTORS® within the eighteen (18) months.

(3) Nominees for the Affiliate of the Year Award shall be a member in good standing.

f. The Citizen of the Year Award recognizes a REALTOR® or a non-REALTOR® resident of Thurston County for outstanding contributions to the welfare of the community.

g. The Partnership of the Year Award recognizes an organization that has supported and provided contributions to the enhancement of the Association during the year.

h. The Community Service Award recognizes a TCRA REALTOR® or Affiliate member who dedicates time and services to a wide variety of community activities and has made a direct impact on the community to help build a positive image for the real estate industry.

i. The President's Award is selected by the previous year's Association President. It may be awarded annually to a person that the President determines has made outstanding contributions to TCRA during the period of the President's term of office.

j. The Long Time REALTOR® Spirit Award recognizes a REALTOR® Broker member who has made significant contributions to the Association and the profession of real estate over an extended period of time.

#### 6.15 Young Professionals Network

The Young Professionals Network (YPN) works to encourage, promote and inspire the new generation of Thurston County REALTORS® through education and networking and to provide a gateway for leadership at the local, state and national levels.

YPN members work to stay current on technology tools and social trends – connecting with clients and customers through the right channels that emerge over time. They build community with one another and with the larger network of TCRA members.

### **SECTION 7 SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

#### 7.1 Affiliate Showcase

This committee is responsible for organizing the Association's annual Affiliate Showcase event.

#### 7.2 Bell Ringing

This committee is responsible for organizing the Association's annual bell ringing support for the Salvation Army at various locations throughout Thurston County.

#### 7.3 Community Service Day

This committee works to organize a day where TCRA Affiliates and REALTORS® give back to their community through assisting disabled and/or senior citizens in maintaining their homes and property.

#### 7.4 Flag Day

This committee, in conjunction with local Veterans' groups, organizes the program for Flag Day, held annually on June 14 at 4:00 PM.

#### 7.5 Golf Tournament



This committee works to plan the TCRA annual Golf Tournament. Both Affiliates and REALTORS® participate in this day through sponsorship and play.

The REALTOR® chair is selected by the President from the Broker members. The Vice-Chair may be an Affiliate. The committee will select time and place of tournament. Ticket sales shall be used for prizes, food, and green fees. Any excess funds shall be deposited to the General Fund of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association, or on an annual basis, funds may be donated to charities of the Board of Directors' choice.

7.6 Holiday Charity Auction

This committee organizes and displays all donated auction items at the winter General Membership Meeting. Items are auctioned off in a silent auction. Each winning bidder selects the charity or service organization where the proceeds are sent.

7.7 Intentionally Omitted

7.8 Installation General Membership Meeting

The installation of incoming Thurston County REALTORS® Association's Officers and Directors will be conducted during the December General Membership meeting. The Association Executive will ensure the installing individual is identified and available. An appropriate program is prepared. The incoming Association President should be installed by a Washington REALTORS® past or current Officer but may be installed by any person that the newly elected incoming President chooses.

7.9 Intentionally Omitted

7.10 Memorials

This committee, chaired by the Immediate Past President, acknowledges those REALTORS® who have passed away during the last year. This acknowledgement happens during the March General Membership meeting.

7.11 Intentionally Omitted

7.12 Softball Tournament

This committee is responsible for organizing the Association's softball tournament.

7.13 Candidate Interviews

7.13.1 Purpose

a. Identify and interview those candidates for political office at the local/state level and either:

- Recommend endorsement of those who support positions taken by REALTORS®
- Recommend whether said candidate(s) should receive monetary support

(1) Intentionally Omitted

(2) Intentionally Omitted

(3) Intentionally Omitted

b. Identify local issues (including, but not limited to; school district levies, bonds, and city or county parks) to endorse, not endorse or oppose in Thurston County. Intentionally Omitted. (moved to 6.5.3.f)

7.13.2 Qualifications and Compliance

a. Intentionally Omitted

- b. If a committee member is working on any campaign, is a candidate for office, or has financially contributed or endorsed (including on social media) any candidate being interviewed, he/she must identify themselves. That member will not participate in the formulation of questions to be addressed to candidates and will not interview in the area/position they are involved.
- c. To be in compliance with the Washington REALTORS® policy each committee member must be a registered voter if a U.S. Citizen.
- d. Committee members will be RPAC investors for the current year.

### 7.13.3 Duties

- a. Intentionally Omitted
- b. The chairperson shall be appointed by the current TCRA president. The remaining members will be comprised of volunteers from active TCRA membership.
- c. Intentionally Omitted
- d. Intentionally Omitted
- e. The committee shall develop the questions to be asked of the candidates. These questions will be consistent concerning the position the candidate is pursuing. The same questions will be asked if there are multiple candidates running for the same office.
- f. Final approval of announcing the endorsement, non-endorsement or providing funds to a candidate is vested with the Thurston County REALTORS® Association Government Affairs Committee.

## **SECTION 8 PERSONNEL**

### 8.1 Position Description: Association Executive

#### 8.1.1 Summary of Position

He/She reports to the President and serves at the discretion of the Board of Directors and in accordance with an approved and signed Employment Agreement as the salaried Association Executive of the Association. The Association Executive will be required to enter into an Employment Agreement with the Association. The Association Executive recommends and participates in the formulation of new policies and decisions within existing policies as they have been approved by the Board of Directors. He/She assists in planning, organization, direction and coordination of programs and activities of the Association. This includes, but it not limited to the following:

- a. Ensures that the Board of Directors is fully informed on the conditions of the Association and all external factors and participates in all meetings of the Board of Directors as a non-voting participant.
- b. Plans, formulates, and recommends for the approval of the Board of Directors, basic policies and programs which will further the objectives of the Association.
- c. Executes decisions of the Board of Directors.
- d. Oversees day-to-day administration, specific procedures, and programs to implement the general policies established by the Board of Directors.
- e. Directs and coordinates all approved programs, projects, and major activities of the Association staff.

- f. Recruits, hires, orients, trains and motivates staff, and is responsible for promotions, pay increases and terminations.
- g. Obtains maximum utilization of staff by clearly defining their duties, establishing performance standards, and conducting performance reviews.
- h. Schedules, on an annual basis, the meeting calendar for the Association activities.
- i. Provides liaison and staff support to committee chairpersons to enable them to perform their functions. Maintains close communication with all committees and suggests ways to implement their plans and objectives.
- j. Promotes interest and active participation by membership and reports activities of the Association through communication vehicles.
- k. In cooperation with the Budget/Finance Committee, assists in the development of an annual budget and ensures that all funds and physical assets of the Association are appropriately safeguarded and administered.
- l. Maintains official minutes and other official meetings, and provides security for all files, legal and historic documents, and membership data.
- m. Is responsible for the planning, organizing, and promotion of all official meetings.
- n. Keeps in close contact with legal counsel in order to stay current on legal matters affecting the Association and acts as liaison between the legal counsel and the Board of Directors.
- o. Maintains a working relationship with the National Association of REALTORS®, the Washington REALTORS®, and the national institutes, societies, and councils, keeping current with their policies and procedures.
- p. Attends National Association of REALTORS® and Washington REALTORS® meetings and other informative meetings as directed and approved by the Board of Directors and disseminates the information to the Board of Directors and membership.
- q. Serves as Professional Standards Administrator on all problems and conflicts of the members and the public. Coordinates all professional standard matters from receipt of Complaint to final determination. Responsible for all hearing arrangements and record keeping.
- r. Oversees and assists with the orientation for the new members.
- s. Assists the President in selecting committee chairpersons and assists in meeting the committee chairperson's purposes and goals.
- t. Has a working knowledge of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association Bylaws and shall be thoroughly familiar with, and knowledgeable of the contents of the National Association of REALTORS® Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual, Professional Standards Training Manual, and the Interpretations of the Code of Ethics.
- u. Collects and submits membership dues to the State and National Associations on a timely basis.
- v. Maintains personal contact with the membership to the greatest possible degree.

w. Assists with the monthly newsletter and/or any other communications with the membership.

## 8.2 Position Description: Events/Member Services Coordinator

### 8.2.1 Summary of Position

She/He serves as Events/Member Services Coordinator of the Association and performs tasks assigned by the Association Executive. She/He assists the Association Executive in most office procedures, to include, but not limited to the following:

- a. Intakes new REALTORS'® membership, to include information about the Association and its Orientation process, and the processing of their application paperwork.
- b. Assists the Association Executive with invoicing and collection of dues.
- c. Prepares new membership orientation packets.
- d. Handles incoming and outgoing correspondence with the Association membership.
- e. Intentionally Omitted
- f. Responsible for office supply inventory and ordering.
- g. Assists the Association Executive in the publishing of any periodical communications or newsletters.
- h. Assists the Association Executive in preparation for the General Membership and Board of Directors meetings.
- i. Intentionally Omitted
- j. Responsible for classroom housekeeping.
- k. May be assigned as staff person to one or more committees.
- l. Maintains an updated calendar on the Association website.
- m. In coordination with the Education Committee, organizes education courses and submits records to the Washington REALTORS®.

## 8.3 Personnel Committee

The purpose of the Personnel Committee is to act in an advisory capacity to the Board of Directors in all personnel matters. The Executive Committee serves as the Personnel Committee; however, the committee may include other members appointed by the President who have experience or qualifications in personnel matters that is desirable to perform committee responsibilities.

### 8.3.1 Intentionally Omitted

8.3.2 The committee shall ensure the evaluation of the Association Executive is conducted on an annual basis. The evaluation of the Association Executive shall be completed using an Employee Evaluation Form and the conduct of the evaluation is the specific responsibility of the President. The Evaluation Form will be approved by the committee. The President and the Association Executive will review the Evaluation Form at the beginning and ending of the evaluation period.

8.3.3 It shall be the duty of the committee to make any recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding the hiring of the Association Executive. This shall include screening, interviewing, and other actions as appropriate. The President shall make recommendations to the committee concerning the termination of employment of the Association Executive. The committee will subsequently submit to the Board of Directors for approval any recommendations for termination of employment of the Association Executive.

8.3.4 Intentionally Omitted

8.3.5 Intentionally Omitted

8.3.6 The committee approves salary increases and annual bonuses of the Association Executive.

8.4 Government Affairs Director

8.4.1 Fundamental goals of a Government Affairs Program are to:

Educate Members

Mobilize Members

Develop an Action Plan/Pursue Policy Development

8.4.2 Thurston County REALTORS® Association will establish and maintain a Government Affairs Program.

8.4.3 Thurston County REALTORS® Association may retain an individual as the Government Affairs Director.

8.4.4 The Government Affairs Director shall report to the current President-Elect who is the Government Affairs Committee Chairperson.

8.4.5 The Government Affairs Director shall be required to sign and be contractually obligated to the Thurston County REALTORS® Association. The agreement will be for not more than one year and will be renewed annually if appropriate.

8.4.6 The continuance of a Government Affairs Director shall be contingent on the availability of funding.

8.4.7 The Thurston County REALTORS® Association's Board of Directors is the approving authority for the Government Affairs Director Agreement and selection of the Government Affairs Director.

# APPENDIX A

## THURSTON COUNTY REALTORS® ASSOCIATION

### CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This Confidentiality Agreement is entered into between all members of the Board of Directors of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association on \_\_\_\_\_.

The parties hereto will engage in discussions and, in some cases, make policy decisions concerning the financial position of the Association, members' accounts, members' files, future plans of the Association, Professional Standards Hearings Findings, employment policies, remuneration and other benefits, and other confidential and sensitive information. In order to make prudent decisions that serve the best interests of the Association and to intelligently consider all options in making these recommendations, the parties must discuss and evaluate confidential, sensitive, and proprietary information. ("Confidential Information")

Each member of Board of Directors agrees to the following:

1. "Confidential Information" as used herein, shall mean all information, documentation, concepts, data membership lists, bank records, financial records, findings from Professional Standards hearings, marketing analysis, financial projections products, services, processes, software, trade secrets and devices disclosed or made available by any of the parties hereto to any of the other parties, including without limitation, the existence of discussions concerning the possibility of additional mergers, consolidation, sales of assets, etc..
2. The parties acknowledge and agree that the Confidential Information is proprietary and may include information that disclosure of or unauthorized use of this information may cause irreparable harm to member or the Association.
3. **Once an issue has been discussed and a final decision has been made by a majority of the Officers and Directors, all members of the Board of Directors agree to abide\* by and support the decision.** *Prior to a final decision, the Board encourages vigorous debate among Board members. The intent of this paragraph is to make it clear, however, that once a final decision has been made, individual Board members should not make statements outside the boardroom that undermine the Board's decision, even if the Board member disagrees. The Board does not expect every member to become a vocal proponent of a Board decision, but members should understand that the Board acts as a unit and that individual members must respect the collective will of the Board.*
4. The only persons with whom the parties hereto may share the Confidential Information are other Officers and Directors of the Association Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officer, Association CPAs, and Attorneys for the Association.

5. No rights or licenses, express or implied, are hereby granted to the parties hereto by any of the other parties under any patents, copyrights, or trade secrets as a result of or related to this Agreement.
6. The restrictions and obligations of this Agreement shall survive any termination, cancellation or expiration of this Agreement, and shall continue to bind the parties hereto and their successors and assigns.
7. This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, all of which together shall be an original.

We the undersigned members of the Board of Directors of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association agree to be bound by the confidentiality terms of the foregoing Confidentiality Agreement.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Signature</u>
_____	President	_____
_____	Past President	_____
_____	President-Elect	_____
_____	Treasurer	_____
_____	Secretary	_____
_____	Treasurer-Elect	_____
_____	Director	_____
_____	Director	_____
_____	Director	_____
_____	Director	_____
_____	Director	_____
_____	Director	_____
_____	Director	_____
_____	Director	_____
_____	Director	_____
_____	Director	_____

# APPENDIX B



## **Conflict of Interest Policy Acknowledgement**

Acknowledgement of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association  
**Conflict of Interest Policy**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to serve as a Director of the Thurston County REALTORS® Association and to fulfill the obligations and perform the duties of a Director as described in the Association's by-laws and policy manual.

I acknowledge that as a Director of the Association I am bound by Washington State law and the duties the law imposes on such Directors. I understand 1) the duty of obedience - to follow the rules of the Association; 2) the duty of care - to act reasonably and make informed judgments when acting as a Director; and 3) the duty of loyalty - to disclose, and by reasonable means avoid, conflicts of interest in my dealings as a Director. I understand that conflicts of interest that involve placing my personal financial interests above those of the Corporation are the most egregious and should always be avoided.

I further acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to the Association's conflict of interest policy, Section 2.7.3, of the Policy Manual.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_