



# RANWW

Realtors® Association of  
Northwestern Wisconsin

Making Your Membership Work For You

## December Newsletter

### Mark your Calendar

#### December 24 & 25

RANWW Office Closed for holiday

#### January 1

RANWW Office Closed for holiday

#### January 8

Installation & Awards Banquet

#### January 27

CVHBA/RANWW Mixer-Four Corners  
Chippewa

#### January 28

Economic Update with Lawrence Yun

### MLS

- MLS Photo Resolution Upgrade
- Rescheduling a Projected Closing Date in Matrix

### ADVOCACY

- Save the Date: RGD February 10
- Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

### PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

- Make professional growth a priority

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- RANWW Office Closed: December 24 & 25
- 2026 Installation & Awards Banquet: January 8

### ASSOCIATION UPDATES

- Notice of by-law changes



### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT



Notice is hereby given that the following amendments to our bylaws will become effective January 31st, 2026 unless a petition signed by 15% of the members eligible to vote is received before January 26th, 2026.



## *EMPOWERING REALTORS®, BUILDING COMMUNITIES.*

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### Mark Your Calendars

- **2026 Installation & Awards Banquet:** January 8
- CVHBA/RANWW January Mixer: January 27 at Four Corners in Chippewa Falls
- REALTOR® and Government Day 2026: February 10

Visit our [EVENTS CALENDAR](#) to learn more and register.

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# 2026 INSTALLATION & AWARDS BANQUET

Huge THANK YOU to our sponsors:

**Knight | Barry**  
TITLE GROUP

**HOMETOWN  
TITLE CO.**

 **ALL TITLE SERVICES, INC.**

 **LEGENDS**  
Title Services LLC.

 **cotality™**

 **RE/MAX  
RESULTS**

**Ruder ♦ Ware**

BUSINESS ATTORNEYS FOR BUSINESS SUCCESS®

5:30-6:30 - Cocktail hour  
6:30-7:15 - Dinner  
7:15-8:00 - Installation Banquet  
8:00-9:00 - Social

We are collecting socks for charity, so don't forget to bring a pair to donate.

**Guests are \$25**  
Please mail check to:  
RANWW  
3460 Mall Drive, Suite 5A  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

January 8<sup>th</sup> 2026

**Florian Gardens**  
2340 Lorch Ave,  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

There's still  
time to  
register



# It's *Business After Hours* time



**RANWW**  
Realtors® Association of  
Northwestern Wisconsin

TUESDAY JANUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>

**5PM** ————— **7PM**

FOUR CORNERS 14982 COUNTY HWY S, CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI 54729



*Sponsors*



**goosehead**<sup>®</sup>  
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**UNIONHOME**  
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**MWM** MIDWEST  
MORTGAGE  
GROUP



**MLS**

recent updates & info

**Paying MLS dues? Please include your invoice #**



**MLS Photo Resolution Upgrade**

Cotality has confirmed an upcoming upgrade to NWWMLS listing photos, increasing resolution from **1024 × 768 pixels** to **2048 × 1536 pixels**.

The higher photo resolution will apply to new listings and newly uploaded photos only. Existing photos will not automatically be converted. Photo rules and requirements remain unchanged.



**Rescheduling a Projected Closing Date in Matrix**

If a closing date is rescheduled, the **Projected Closing Date** must be updated in the MLS as soon as the change is known. Listings in both **Active Offer (A/O)** and **Pending** status require a Projected Closing Date.

How to Update the Projected Closing Date:

1. From **My Matrix**, go to **My Listings**.
  - Select **My Active Listings** if the listing is in **Active Offer (A/O)** status.
  - Select **My Pending Listings** if the listing is in **Pending** status.
1. Locate the listing that needs to be updated.
2. Check the box next to the listing.
3. Click **Edit**.
4. Select the appropriate **Change Status** option based on the listing's current status  
*(Change to Active Offer or Change to Pending)*.
6. Update the **Projected Closing Date** to the new, correct date.
7. Click **Submit Listing** to save the changes.

#### Reminder

All listing status changes must be entered within **three (3) business days**, per MLS policy. Keeping the Projected Closing Date current helps prevent late status warnings and potential fines.

## Government Affairs

### RPAC

**REALTORS® Political Action Committee**



#### Stay in the Know

Use the QR code to sign up today!

Download the NAR REALTOR Party Mobile Alerts (RPMA)

REALTOR® Party Mobile Alerts, NAR's advocacy texting platform, offers REALTOR® associations and REALTORS® a way to stay connected directly from their cell phone or tablet. When a national or state legislative call for action is launched, or an important advocacy update needs to be communicated, subscribers will receive a short text message with more information.



February 10, 2026

Join us for one of the most important advocacy events of the year—REALTOR® & Government Day! This is your chance to make your voice heard on critical issues affecting real estate and property rights in Wisconsin.

- When: February 10, 2026
- Where: Monona Terrace and the State Capitol, Madison
- What's Included: RANWW is organizing bus transportation and providing a yummy lunch for attendees, making it easy and fun to participate!

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to connect with fellow REALTORS®, meet with legislators, and advocate for our industry.

**Important: You MUST register in two places to attend.**

To keep everything running smoothly, please be sure to complete both registrations:

**1** Register with WRA to attend the event: [HERE](#)

**2** Register with RANWW if you plan to ride the RANWW bus: [HERE](#)

*RANWW bus will be leaving from the Eau Claire Wal-Mart parking lot.*

Secure your spot early — we can't wait to advocate alongside you!



## Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is being used by cities across the U.S. to fund affordable housing, downtown revitalization, transit, and walkable urban development, with notable successes in places like Muskegon, Milwaukee, Carmel, and Washington, D.C.. While TIF can spur economic growth and community improvements, its use for large-scale projects like data centers has drawn criticism for potential risks, lack of transparency, and questionable public benefit. When applied responsibly, TIF and related value capture tools can transform blighted areas, support mixed-use development, and generate lasting fiscal benefits for municipalities.

Check out the full fall edition of [On Common Ground](#) discussing financing of the Future Fall 2025: Financing the Future

# Ian Gauger

Ian Gauger  
RANWW Advocacy Coordinator



Do you invest in  
RPAC?



When you invest in **RPAC**, your money is pooled together and contributed on a nonpartisan basis to candidates who support housing and real estate interests. If you wish to designate which candidate **receives** your investment, invest in the **Direct Giver program**



## Professional Growth

### For the Early Birds... Self-Study CE Now Available!

Why wait? Get a head start on the 2025-26 CE biennium with the Wisconsin REALTORS® Association's Self-Study CE course!

The printed book is available now—and when you order, you'll also receive a complimentary electronic PDF version so you can study anytime, anywhere.

Wisconsin licensees are required to complete 18 one-hour CE courses to renew their real estate license. Don't wait until 2026—knock it out early with content that's fresh, relevant, and tailored to today's market.



👉 [Click here to learn more and order your materials.](#)

On-Demand CE options coming soon—stay tuned!



# Association Updates

 **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT** 

Notice is hereby given that the following [amendments to our bylaws](#) will become effective January 31st, 2026 unless a petition signed by 15% of the members eligible to vote is received before January 26th, 2026.  

You can see the amendments [HERE](#)

## New from NAR: Housing Hot Spots for 2026

Curious where buyer opportunities are expected to grow next year? The National Association of REALTORS® just released its Housing Hot Spots 2026 report—highlighting the markets best positioned for improved affordability, stronger demand, and increased inventory alignment.

This [quick-read PDF](#) breaks down:

- The top 10 markets projected to outperform in 2026
- How lower mortgage rates may expand buyer eligibility
- Where inventory is finally matching what local incomes can support
- Key insights REALTORS® can use to guide clients in the year ahead

 If you want a data-backed look at what's coming in 2026, take a moment to check it out [here](#)!

**Housing Hot Spots 2026: The Markets Poised for New Buyer Opportunities**



REALTORS® are members of the National Association of REALTORS®.

## Stay Informed with NAR's Consumer Guide Series

### Empowering Homebuyers & Sellers

The Consumer Guide Series offered by NAR, is a valuable resource designed to help homebuyers and sellers navigate key real estate topics with confidence. Each guide provides expert insights from REALTORS® and industry professionals, ensuring consumers have the knowledge they need to make informed decisions.

The latest guide in the series offers [guidance for homeowners facing financial hardships](#). The guide shares immediate steps to take if you've missed a mortgage payment, including

contacting your mortgage servicer to learn about various mortgage relief options, and encourages owners to consult with an agent who's a REALTOR®.

These guides are free and available to the public, making them a great tool for REALTORS® to share with clients.

Check out the full series [HERE](#)

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## Upcoming FOREWARN Safety *Online* Training Sessions

Agent safety is always a priority! To support increased activations and usage of FOREWARN, we're offering monthly **online** training sessions to help agents get the most out of this valuable tool.

### January Online Training Session:

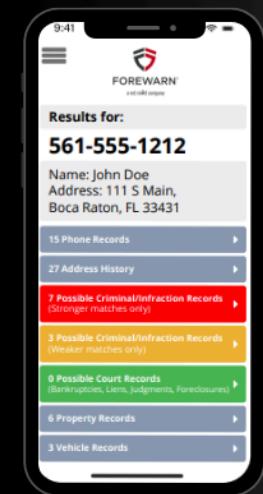
- January 13 at 9 a.m. CST
- January 29 at 1 p.m. CST

Join us as we demonstrate how to effectively use FOREWARN, share insider tips and tricks, and hold a live Q&A session.

Registration: To sign up, please visit our [registration page](#).



### Register for a live training of FOREWARN



Know your prospect...*in seconds*



Receive a call



Enter phone #  
in FOREWARN app



Get instant prospect info  
(Identity verification, criminal history, and  
more)





## Affiliate Connection



Whether you're welcoming new homeowners or preparing a property for market, **Pioneer Painting LLC** helps elevate the value, comfort, and visual appeal of every home.

Serving the Chippewa Valley and beyond since 2010, our team specializes in high-quality residential and commercial painting, drywall repair, and move-in refresh services that ensure your listings look their best from day one.

For REALTORS®, we understand the difference that clean walls, modern colors, and professional finishes make during showings — and for new buyers, we make the transition effortless by handling all painting and drywall needs before they move in. Fast scheduling, clear communication, and premium craftsmanship are the hallmarks of our work.

### How We Support REALTORS® & New Homeowners and Businesses

- Fresh interior or exterior paint to increase curb appeal and sale readiness
- Drywall repairs, patching, and finishing completed quickly and cleanly
- Priority scheduling for tight closing timelines
- Professional color consultation for modern, buyer-preferred palettes
- Commercial refresh services for offices or investment properties

Whether your clients need a full-home repaint, touchups before photos, or a fresh start after moving in, Pioneer Painting is here to help you deliver an exceptional, seamless experience.

Call or text: **715-419-6514**

Email: **PioneerPaintingLLC@gmail.com**



Are you an RANWW Affiliate who wants to shine a little brighter? We'd love to feature you in an upcoming Affiliate Spotlight!

If you're interested, just email me at **kristyn@ranww.org**. I'll get you on the schedule and follow up with the details on what I'll need and when you'll be featured.

We love showing off the amazing businesses that support our Association—don't miss your chance to be in the spotlight!

## Stay Up to Date with the State and National REALTOR® News

[\*\*WRA Website\*\*](#)

[\*\*NAR Website\*\*](#)



### RANWW Officers



#### Shannyn Pinkert - President

(715) 379-3574

shannynpinkert@gmail.com

#### Bob Ritsch - President Elect

(715)-456-8008

bobritsch@charter.net

#### Ben Rivard - Treasurer

(715) 205-1519

info@benrivard.com

#### Todd Schwartz- Imm. Past President

(715) 559-2231

todd@cv-re.com



### RANWW Directors

Catherine Bade - (715) 271-3055

Mary Jo Bowe - (715) 456-2014

Kim Bump - (715) 514-0125

Deborah Hanson - (715) 456-0499

Jade Green - (715) 642-1320

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**Top Notch Support is Just a Phone Call Away**  
RANWW Office: (715) 835-0923

**REALTORS® Association of Northwestern Wisconsin || (715) 835-0923**



RANWW | 3460 Mall Drive Suites 5A and 5B | Eau Claire, WI 54701 US

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