

## Local members of Association of REALTORS® head to Raleigh

Written by Steve Frank  
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Legislators in Raleigh heard from Realtors in the High Country when members of the High Country Association of REALTORS® traveled to the state capital. President-elect Charlie Burluson, State Directors Patrick Morgan and John Volpe, and Executive Officer Laurie Phillips joined hundreds of other Realtors from across the state to talk with elected officials about issues affecting the real estate industry. The North Carolina Association of REALTORS®, which is one of the largest professional trade associations in the state – representing more than 34,000 members – organized the event.

In addition to local items, the group covered three issues of importance to real estate and supporting industries. They included: appraisal management company regulation, a ban on reconveyance fees, and no new taxes or fees on real estate and supporting industries.

“Real estate ownership and investment produces jobs and creates a solid foundation from which people build a life,” said Patrick Morgan. “In addition, homeownership creates substantial social benefits. Homeowners have a vested interest in their neighborhoods and support efforts to make their communities better places to live,” he continued. “The real estate sector has always been a vital component of our state’s economy and heritage. Today our state’s real estate industry faces several challenges and action is needed to advance homeownership and strengthen our economy.”

Also while in Raleigh, Homes4NC, the housing foundation for the North Carolina Association of REALTORS®, held a press conference to kickoff the Workforce Housing certification program,

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which will provide education and training for Realtors to become certified workforce housing specialists, thus helping more families obtain the dream of homeownership. For more information visit [www.homes4nc.org](http://www.homes4nc.org).

More information about the High County Association of Realtors may be found at [www.highcountryrealtors.org](http://www.highcountryrealtors.org). The association is composed of members in Watauga and Avery counties and the surrounding area who maintain a marketplace where buyers and sellers can safely transfer property under the guidance of a professional held to standards of excellence.