

Not Just Politics as Usual
RWSSCs Government Affairs Committee

By Ron Wright, Chairman
Government Affairs Committee – North

RWSSC's Government Affairs department provides information, resources and services to put you in touch with the most recent information and contacts to help speed your transactions.

- **Serving You.** Government decision makers take action on issues that directly affect REALTORS with, or, without REALTOR input. The ability to place “for sale” and “open house” signs and to get local officials to understand the needs of the real estate marketplace. We educate officials on proposed new ordinances
- **Serving Your Clients.** Many government issues directly affect your clients, such as smoke detector retrofits and sprinkler issues. Our lobbying efforts helped defeat onerous retrofits that result from ambitious municipal inspections. These retrofits cost your clients money and time. These actions help you and your clients sell more homes and reduce your liability when regulations threaten to change the rules.
- **Providing Education.** The Government Affairs Committee provides information on local, state, and federal laws and issues affecting REALTORS and their clients. We educate through RWSSC's Insider, programs from the RWSSC Good Government program, visits to member offices, answering members' questions, and more.
- **Building Clout.** In an NAR poll of brokers, almost 70% said the service they can't provide for themselves is government affairs, which protects brokers and agents from over-regulation. The clout we provide is evident when REALTORS jointly contact officials on issues affecting the industry. In 2004 such efforts stopped four communities from becoming home rule. Putting action into motion makes politicians pay attention.
- **Improving Your Image.** We work with community groups (local Chambers of Commerce, Mayors and Managers Conferences). We get the word out that REALTORS are partners in improving the community and the quality of life.
- **Being Your Watchdog.** Since regulations often start from community groups (such as barring “open house” signs, downzoning, new taxes), we and our committee volunteers attend meetings of community and planning groups to track issues before they become formal proposals.

Our Government Affairs Committee starts it's new year just in time to see the federal elections take place, and with an eye on the municipal elections to come next spring. Join us in our drive to be fully involved in our communities and sharing our professional expertise with local leaders.