

## Greater Providence Board of REALTORS® Frequently Asked Questions & Answers Regarding 2020 Dues & Membership

### 1. Why am I not receiving a 2020 dues statement in the mail? Why did I receive an email instead?

For the fourth consecutive year, we continue to post paperless invoices. This presents opportunities to save costs, is environmentally friendly, streamlines the annual renewal process and aligns with the Department of Business Regulation's practice of paperless renewals to licensees. Renewing your dues online saves time and lowers our costs, allowing us to add value by redirecting savings and development time to other programs and services. Your payment gets credited to your account faster too! If you didn't save your username and password from last year, look out for our 2 emails of 9/30/19.

### 2. Are the REALTOR® Dues the same as 2019?

Yes

### 3. When are the dues due and how can I pay them?

They are due 11/1/19 in accordance with our Bylaws. They must be paid through the member portal on [www.gpbior.realtor](http://www.gpbior.realtor). Use the directions, including the username and password, emailed to you on 9/30/19. We accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express. Our offices are open Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Need help with login? Stop by our office (2178 Mendon Road Suite 400 Cumberland, RI). If you prefer to drop off a check, we have a secure silver mailbox near our internal office door. All checks will be deposited electronically same day.

### 4. I am having difficulty logging into the member portal. Now what?

Please be sure you are on [www.gpbior.realtor](http://www.gpbior.realtor) and clicking on member login (puzzle piece with the key). Make sure you are using the following browsers: Internet Explorer 9 or higher, Mozilla Firefox (current version on PC or Mac), Safari (current version), Google Chrome (current version on PC or Mac). The site is sensitive to errors, so if you have guessed your username and/or password or made an error entering them, you must delete the cookies/history on your web browser, then close out the web browser, relaunch the web browser and try again. Usernames and passwords are case-sensitive.

### 5. I can't find the 2 emails you sent me on 9/30/19 with my username and password. Now what?

Please check your spam folder. Be sure to keep us apprised of your latest email address and add [info@gpbior.realtor](mailto:info@gpbior.realtor) as a safe sender to your email program. If you still cannot find your username and password, please call (401) 274-8383 or email [info@gpbior.realtor](mailto:info@gpbior.realtor) between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. You will be asked to verify your identity.

### 6. Can I pay my dues on [www.nar.realtor](http://www.nar.realtor) or [www.rirealtors.org](http://www.rirealtors.org) or on statewide MLS?

No – only on the member portal on [www.gpbior.realtor](http://www.gpbior.realtor). Click on the puzzle piece with the key to login.

### 7. Can you pay my dues on the member portal of [www.gpbior.realtor](http://www.gpbior.realtor) if I give you my credit card information?

No. The system is secure and is configured to give our members access to their profiles and to pay their account balances directly themselves by the due date. Please use the directions emailed to you on 9/30/19. Always save your usernames and passwords in a secure location for future reference. Usernames and passwords are case-sensitive.

### 8. If I pay my dues on the member portal of [www.gpbior.realtor](http://www.gpbior.realtor), do I receive a receipt?

Yes. At the conclusion of your transaction, you will receive a confirmation that your card has been successfully charged. You may save the message as a PDF or print it as proof of payment. Your dues are, in part, a tax-deductible expense related to the cost of doing business.

### 9. My current membership dues are paid through 12/31/19. Why do I have to pay my 2020 dues now?

We value our partnership with you and look forward to assisting you achieve your professional goals this coming year. The Board has its own goals to meet including an efficient administrative dues process that is both fair and equitable. Our Bylaws state that members' dues are payable IN ADVANCE by 11/1. Please be mindful that the GPBOR is responsible for billing and collecting Local, State and National dues. We must then forward the State and National portions to these Associations and have internal deadlines to meet.

### 10. Do you have a payment plan?

No. The dues must be paid in full at time of payment. The Board accepts all major credit cards. For assistance with your financial planning, including budgeting, check out the [Center for Financial Wellness](#), a service that is only for members of the REALTOR® Association.

### 11. On my renewal, I see GPBOR, RIAR, NAR and RPAC. What do these acronyms stand for?

(GPBOR) Greater Providence Board of REALTORS®, (RIAR) RI Association of REALTORS®, (NAR) National Association of REALTORS® and (RPAC) REALTORS® Political Action Committee.

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**12. What does NRDS stand for?**

National REALTOR® Database System. Your NRDS number is your unique membership identification number linked to your membership records with the Greater Providence Board of REALTORS®, Rhode Island Association of REALTORS® and National Association of REALTORS®. It is not your Statewide MLS identification number.

**13. What is the REALTOR® Public Awareness Campaign?**

The NAR Public Awareness Campaign is a national advertising and public relations program which promotes recognition of the REALTOR® brand; informs the public about the advantages of working with a REALTOR®, educates consumers about the REALTOR® Code of Ethics and the professional standards REALTORS® are bound to uphold. The program, now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year, includes radio, television and print advertisements. Learn more on [www.nar.realtor](http://www.nar.realtor) and search “*That’s who we R.*”

**14. What do I get for the dues I pay?**

Although the dues statement comes from the Greater Providence Board of REALTORS®, you are being invoiced for 3 annual memberships: one in the Greater Providence Board, one in the RI Association of REALTORS® and another in the National Association of REALTORS®. You receive many services and resources from these 3 associations valued at a greater cost than your annual dues. For more on the services provided, [check this out](#).

**15. I mailed you a check for my dues. How will I know you received it?**

Log into the member portal of [www.gpbob.realtor](http://www.gpbob.realtor) to see if you have an outstanding 2020 dues order.

**16. My manager told me I must become a member of the Board. Can he/she require this?**

Yes. Although antitrust law prohibits the Board from imposing a rule or policy that requires a licensee to hold membership in the Board, a Principal Broker and/or Chief Appraiser may require licensees who work for his/her firm to hold membership in the Board as a condition of association with the company. Many managers include this requirement as part of their written independent contractor agreements.

**17. I do not wish to continue as a member of the Board and have notified my Principal Broker and/or Chief Appraiser. I will continue to be a licensee of his office but won’t be a REALTOR®. What impact does this have on him and his office?**

Under NAR’s membership dues formula, the Designated REALTOR® (Principal Broker and/or Chief Appraiser) pays dues based on his/her membership plus an assessment for each licensee that is employed by or associated with the firm who is not a member of the Board. Therefore, he/she will receive a non-member dues invoice for you as his licensee and he/she will be required to pay this fee. Further, the membership dues formula allows him/her to seek a reimbursement from you for this expense. See the [Bylaw provision here](#).

**18. My Designated REALTOR® (which is the Principal Broker and/or Chief Appraiser of the office) does not plan to renew his/her membership. Does this affect my membership in the Board?**

Yes the Principal of the firm must hold REALTOR® membership in the Board in order for sales, broker or appraisal licensees who are associated with the firm to hold membership.

**19. Are dues refundable?**

No. If you know that you will not be continuing to practice as a real estate or appraisal licensee in 2020 or are transferring to a non-REALTOR® office, please notify the Board immediately in writing. Send an email to [info@gpbob.realtor](mailto:info@gpbob.realtor)

**20. I recently became a new member and paid dues at that time. Wasn’t that for 12 months from date of application?**

When you joined earlier this year, you paid prorated dues based on the date your license became affiliated with the office you are with. You also paid a new member application fee. The dues and application fee were for 2019. Your 2020 renewal represents your membership dues for 1/1/20 – 12/31/20 and are payable in advance per the Board’s Bylaws, Article X, Section 3.

**21. I am a licensed assistant and do not actively list, sell or appraise. Am I still required to pay dues?**

When your Designated REALTOR® (Principal Broker and/or Chief Appraiser) joined the REALTOR® Association, he/she agreed that all licensees would be invited to join as well. There are no exceptions for licensed assistants.

**22. I only work part-time and will be out of state for several months this year. Can I pay prorated dues?**

Membership is based on the real estate or appraisal licensees who hang their license in a member office. While you may not be practicing for a certain period of time, if your license remains in an active status in a member office, the full annual membership dues amount applies.

**23. I may be transferring to another office soon. Do I still have to pay dues?**

Yes. If you are transferring from one GPBOR office to another, your membership dues are transferable if the new office you are joining belongs to GPBOR. You can search our membership directory on [www.gpbob.realtor](http://www.gpbob.realtor) on the member portal. If you are transferring to an office that is a member of another Rhode Island REALTOR® Board, typically only the State and National portions of your dues will be transferable. Note that your membership and dues cannot be transferred to a non-REALTOR® office.