

Frequently Asked Questions

Regarding the Merger of the Englewood Area Board of Realtors® & The Punta Gorda-Port Charlotte-North Port Association of Realtors®

Why are we merging?

The Associations realize that with the technology today, our members are doing business in the entire area encompassed by the two associations within three counties. The Board of Directors for both Associations have researched extensively and realized the advantages of joining forces to create a stronger Association with greater benefits to our members.

What are the benefits?

Benefits to our members include, but are not limited to:

- Two locations for service - for education, customer service, meetings and Supra lockbox assistance.
- A skilled and experienced Chief Executive Officer, Linda Pizarro.
- Negotiating power for vendor services that can be passed on to our members in savings.
- Geographic area that compliments the actual area many of our members are currently servicing.
- Added value for our Business Partners.
- A larger pool of volunteers to serve our Association; as leadership, committee members and to contribute to our community volunteer/outreach efforts.
- Create more opportunity for members at the State and National Realtor® organization level with committee and leadership involvement.
- Representation at the National Association of Realtors® with a position on the Board of Directors.
- Possible greater representation on the Florida Realtors® Board of Directors.

What will be the financial impact?

The merger creates economies of scale which, in the long term, may allow the Association to achieve cost savings.

- Dues:
Working with our accountants, treasurers and financial committee, we are committed to keeping our dues for our Realtor® membership *the same or less* than they have been in recent years.
- Our reserves:
The Associations both have long term assets and reserve funds that will remain in accordance with the long-term Investment and Reserve policy.

What is the timeline?

We hope to bring the completed package to our members sometime this fall for your approval. Our combined task force will be working out the logistics of the merger along with our accountants and attorneys.

The attorneys retained are: Kevin Russell for PGPCNP; Blalock Walters/ Jennifer Schembri for EABOR. (Jack Hackett has served as the legal counsel for both our Associations and advised that he could not represent either or both parties in the merger.) Once the bylaws are approved and the Merger has been approved by NAR, we hope to end 2018 as one **AWESOME ASSOCIATION**.

Who will be on the Board of Directors?

The composition of the Board of Directors will be a representation of the membership of the new Association; for 2019, our Merger Task Force is proposing that the elected boards combine the number of directors they currently have to create one Board of Directors.

What will the name be?

We will be having a contest among our combined membership to create a new name for our new Association that represents the entire geographic area that we serve.