

The Boards of Directors of Greater Gateway Association of REALTORS®, Inc. (GGAR) and REALTOR® Association of Southwestern Illinois, Inc. (RASI) recently passed the final documents authorizing the Membership of each association to vote for the approval of the merger between GGAR and RASI. The Membership of each will receive an email notice containing the background documents at least twenty (20) days before the vote. The merger vote will be held in-person on October 12, 2022 at the Gateway Center in Collinsville. The vote will begin once the motion to approve is called and that will be during the membership meeting of each association. An Open Forum for members of both associations is scheduled to begin at 11:00 am and after the Forum each association will conduct their own membership meeting. At each membership meeting the “Resolution to Approve the Merger” will be presented and that voting is open. For those not attending the Membership meeting, voting will open at 12:00 pm. Voting is by paper ballot; registration is required consisting of presentation of photo identification and signing a membership roster. Once registration is complete a member will receive a ballot. Voting is scheduled to end at 2:00 pm on October 12th.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1. What are the documents that have been approved by each board?

- A. The selection of the surviving corporation; which is RASI; the new name, “Southwestern Illinois Board of REALTORS®”; amendments to RASI’s Bylaws; new Board of Directors structure and initial Board members; the Merger Plan; Secretary of State Articles of Merger; notice of the RASI Articles of Incorporation; and the Resolution to approve the Merger.

Q2. Who can Vote?

- A. Primary REALTOR® members, Secondary Members and any Provisional Members. Secondary members will be allowed to vote in their Primary Association and in their Secondary Association.

Q3. Can Affiliate members vote?

- A. No. Voting is open only to those members who are governed and are members of the local, state and national associations.

Q4. Why is RASI the surviving corporation?

- A. RASI and GGAR are both awarded charters by the National Association of REALTORS® and RASI is the oldest association governed by NAR and is therefore named as the surviving corporation.

Q5. What is the majority vote required to approve the merger?

- A. Each local association must approve the merger by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of their members voting on October 12th.

Q6. Are absentee ballots and proxy voting allowed?

- A. No, voting must be in person. Electronic voting and proxies were discussed by the Merger Task Force and due to many complicating variables, it was deemed best to use in-person ballot voting.

Q7. I cannot attend the Merger Forum or the Membership meeting but still want to vote, is this permissible?

- A. Yes, plan on going to the Gateway Center no later than 2:00 pm on October 12th; however, Voting will open at 12:00 pm for those not attending the Forum and the Membership meeting.

Q8. How will I receive my ballot?

- A. Once the motion is present at the Membership meeting you can register by presenting photo identification and sign a membership roster and receive a ballot for your association.

Q9. I am a primary member of one of the associations and a secondary member of the other association, can I vote as a primary and a secondary member?

- A. Yes, but you must register with each association to receive a ballot as a primary member and register to receive a ballot as a secondary member.

Q10. How can I review the type of work which was done by the Merger Task Force to establish the fiduciary duties were completed?

- A. All of the documents in the Notice have some element of completing the fiduciary reviews or amendments, however the Merger Plan has the most comprehensive statements of review.

Q11. Once the merger vote passes, when is the merger effective?

- A. There is still considerable work to be completed to establish one governing corporation and to dissolve another (GGAR); the plan is for the merger to be effective “on or before January 3, 2023.

Q12. What happens to the existing staff and CEO’s?

- A. As noted in earlier FAQ’s, a CEO Search will be conducted and whoever is selected will have an opportunity to establish job responsibilities and staffing. All existing staff, will continue should they so desire until the new CEO has had that review opportunity. Existing CEO’s may apply within the Search Committee process.

Q13. Who will be the new officers after the merger is approved?

- A. Jean Lewis, President
Sam Row, President-Elect
Rick Swain, Vice President

Q14. I have a question and I would like to ask the question before the October 12th Membership meeting, how can I do so?

- A. Please post your question at mergertaskforce@gmail.com and/or attend any Vote Yes meetings held at various firm offices or other open meetings held to discuss the Merger.