

**OREGON REAL ESTATE AGENCY
COMMISSIONER'S BULLETIN
FEBRUARY 2008**

What's new at the Oregon Real Estate Agency?

WORK CONTINUES ON AGENCY RULE REVIEW

The survey comment period for the draft brokerage licensing rules (OAR chapter 863, Division 15) has closed. Approximately 90 percent of the respondents agreed that the proposed rules were clear. The written comments from the survey were mostly positive and expressed appreciation to the work group for their effort in performing a complete review. Next, agency staff will review the survey comments and have a final rule draft prepared.

The Property Management Rule Review Work Group will meet mid-April to continue their rule review task. Watch the Agency's website, www.rea.state.or.us, for the agenda.

The Escrow Rule Review Work Group has met twice and is scheduled to meet again on May 5. Watch the Agency's website, www.rea.state.or.us, for the agenda.

EDUCATION WORK GROUP

The board-appointed education work group met jointly with the Oregon Association of Realtors education work group on January 28 to finalize recommendations for the Real Estate Board. The group recommends (1) retaining the 150-hour requirement and expanding subject matter for broker pre-license education; (2) requiring an examination to change from a broker to a principal broker; and (3) revising continuing education requirements to include registration of schools, instructors and curriculum by the agency. These proposals require statutory changes that will likely be presented to the 2009 Legislature. If approved, the earliest they could be implemented is 2010.

AGENCY PHONE ROOM

The agency provides a "phone room" staffed by agency employees. The staff provides assistance to licensees and the public in the area of real estate license law (ORS chapter 696 and OAR chapter 863). The agency is unable to provide legal advice on real estate matters or answer questions about issues that another agency regulates (such as building codes, land use, construction, water rights, etc.) Callers who have questions that fall outside of the agency's authority may be referred to their attorneys or to other state or local agencies.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The agency maintains a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs). Check out the "Frequent Questions" link on the agency's website, www.rea.state.or.us, for questions that have been presented by the public and licensees. If you cannot find an answer to your question, you may submit the question to get an answer and for possible inclusion on the website. (Please note: Information submitted via the FAQ site becomes public record.)

If you have any questions, please call us at 503-378-4170 or email us at orea.info@state.or.us.

Gene Bentley
Oregon Real Estate Agency Commissioner

