



**FOR ALL MEDIA INQUIRIES**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **WeMAR & SEVRAR Merger Vote Passes** ***Completion of the merger will occur by the end of 2019***

Peoria, Arizona (Friday, March 15, 2019) – Members of the West Maricopa Association of REALTORS® (WeMAR) and SouthEast Valley Regional Association of REALTORS® (SEVRAR) the voted on Friday, March 15, 2019, in favor to merge the Associations. The merger discussion between both WeMAR and SEVRAR began in October 2018, in which the Transition Team, made up of leaders from both Associations, came together and laid the foundation of the merger.

“We have a lot of work to do at this stage, but I’m encouraged by what this can look like in 12 months,” said Derek Anglin, SEVRAR President. “I’m looking forward to what our combined, local Associations can accomplish within our community outreach efforts and how our government affairs networking can improve to ensure our members’ and clients’ rights toward home ownership are protected.”

The Transition Team hosted eight informational town hall meetings at WeMAR and SEVRAR in February and March. They explained how the merger would foster increased-membership advantages such as expanded benefits and services, economies of scale, and access to multiple locations throughout the Valley.

“The impact to the members would vary with three locations to serve the members, additional national speakers, streamlining the process for Brokers, a broad outreach program engaging our communities and advocacy in protecting homeownership and private property rights,” said M. Teresa Rubio-Acuña, WeMAR President. “The list can be endless.”

In addition, the Transition Team made its sole mission to keep the merger discussion with members from both Associations as transparent as possible to ensure that their voices were heard throughout the whole process.

“The Transition Team was vital to the process in order to implement their idea of merging the two largest, REALTOR® Associations in Arizona,” said Pamela Frestedt, CEO of SEVRAR. “The small group enabled both Associations to make quicker decisions on behalf of their Board of Directors, with more frequent meetings, to move the process quickly and smoothly.”

The merging of WeMAR and SEVRAR will also bring about additional advantages that include:

- The new Association will represent more than 21,000 REALTORS®, which is 43% of Arizona's REALTOR® membership.

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- Our Association will serve more than 30 cities, towns, and municipalities in Arizona.
- If we were a state Association, we would rank 20<sup>th</sup> in the nation in terms of membership count.
- The new Association will be the fifth largest, local REALTOR® Association in the nation.
- Our Continued Education and Professional Development Courses will have a broader reach for Arizona real estate professionals.

A Broker Liaison will be designated to assist our Brokers with receiving cutting-edge industry advancements that can better serve their businesses.

Our benefit providers will increase, encouraging more advantages for our members. Professional Standards complaints will be handled at a local level and processed at a faster rate.

Merging both Associations will provide a more substantial opportunity for community outreach and garner additional support to WeMAR C.A.R.E.S. and the Critical Needs Fund.

Now that both memberships voted to merge, the Transition Team will begin the process of merging the two Associations, said Roger Nelson, CEO of WeMAR.

“This process includes updating bylaws, creating organization policies, drafting strategic and business plans, and developing new budgets,” he said. “Much of this work will provide the opportunity for the two Association’s current volunteers and leaders to work in unison through workgroups and task forces to create the premier, local REALTOR® Association in the nation.”

Nelson added that the new Association would focus on creating a better professional experience for its members. We will do this by enhancing professional development curriculum, and increasing activities and commitments to REALTOR® and personal property rights.

WeMAR serves over 10,000 REALTOR® and Affiliate members throughout Avondale, Buckeye, El Mirage, Glendale, Gila Bend, Goodyear, Litchfield Park, Peoria, Sun City, Sun City West, Surprise, Tolleson, Youngtown, Waddell, Wickenburg as well as the Douglas, AZ, and Western Pinal Chapters. SEVRAR serves over 13,700 REALTOR® and Affiliate members throughout Ahwatukee, Apache Junction, Chandler, Gilbert, San Tan Valley, Guadalupe, Mesa, Queen Creek, Gold Canyon, Sun Lakes, and Tempe. Both Associations were established in 1946. Additional information about each Association can be found at [www.wemar.org](http://www.wemar.org) and [www.sevrrar.com](http://www.sevrrar.com).

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