Real estate Q&A serves as resource for buyers, sellers

PHOENIX — The Arizona Association of Realtors has released the top frequently asked real estate questions of 2015. With an ever-changing real estate landscape, property transactions can be complicated and, as top industry experts, Arizona Realtors are uniquely equipped to address consumer questions. To act as a resource for those looking to buy or sell a home, the organization compiled a list of some of the most commonly asked types of questions, and answered them.

"Buying and selling a home is one of the biggest and most expensive decisions someone can make," said Paula Serven, 2016 AAR President. "It can be a technical and oftentimes confusing process, especially now with new mortgage rules. As Realtors, we are committed to giving back to our community and it is our job to help people feel comfortable and confident as they enter the home buying and selling journey."

Questions range from how to prepare a home for sale to lease contracts and pricing. A sample of the Q&A has been provided and the full list can be found on aaronline.com in the blog section.

Q: As a first-time home buyer, where do I start?

A: First, get pre-qualified with a lender. If you don’t have a lender, ask a Realtor for referrals. To find a Realtor, look at for-sale signs in the neighborhood you want to move into, ask your friends or family and try the FIND A REALTOR tool on AARonline.com.

Q: I’ve found water damage since buying my home — including in a weight-bearing wall — less than a week ago. What can I do?

A: Pull your inspection report and ask the inspector to review it with you, then call your Realtor to voice your concerns as well.

Q: I’m thinking about buying a condo soon because rents are rising. What should I be aware of, what are my first steps and who pays my Realtor?
A: Contact a lender and a Realtor, and be sure to review any homeowner’s association governing documents before completing your purchase. As far as a typical buyer-broker agreement, the seller pays a commission to their own agent, and the seller’s Realtor pays a commission to the buyer’s Realtor.

The Arizona Association of Realtors represents Arizona Realtors who hold active real estate licenses and subscribe to a strict code of ethics, as set by the National Association of Realtors, that go above and beyond the mandates of the law.

Realtors strive to always be the best prepared real estate practitioners and uphold the highest standards of practice. In addition to providing a number of member benefits and services including risk management, education and a legislative voice, AAR is dedicated to the protection of private property rights for all Arizonans.

AAR is the largest trade organization in the state, with more than 43,000 members across five regions and 19 individual associations.

Members are licensed real estate professionals who hold themselves to the highest standards of preparedness and ethics. The organization includes professionals from all areas of real estate such as residential, commercial, property management, land, appraisal and relocation.

To learn more, go to www.aaronline.com.