

February Newsletter



A S S O C I A T I O N L U N C H E O N

The next luncheon meeting of the Association will be Wednesday, February 12, 2014 at West Lake Country Club at 12:30 pm. This is our outgoing President's and Awards Luncheon and so mark your calendar and make plans to attend. Be sure to make your reservation with the Association Office. A form is attached to this newsletter. Our thanks to Tom Horner who organized the "golf cart transportation service"!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Association Luncheon
- Message from your 2014 President
- Messages from Committee Chairs
- Luncheon Reservation Form

DUES.....DUES.....DUES.....!

Remember your dues are due January 1st and if paid after January 31st there is an additional 10% added to them. So don't forget to get them taken care of remember we do accept credit cards.

DECEMBER EXISTING HOME SALES RISE, 2013 STRONGEST IN SEVEN YEARS

Existing home sales edged up in December, sales for all of 2013 were the highest since 2006, and median prices maintained strong growth, according to NAR.

ONLINE CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASSES

The Association now offers online continuing education. These courses are approved for both Georgia and South Carolina. Go to the Association's website... augustarealtors.com and scroll to the bottom of the page and you will see the link to the "Online Continuing Education". Follow the instructions.

We want to know about our members!

Please notify the Association Office if you know or hear of a member being ill, in the hospital or might just need a phone call.

CALL US!
(706) 736-0429

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR 2014 PRESIDENT

Looking forward to a great year 2014 as your Association President!! As you will see from your Committee Chairman's reports, we have already been quite busy preparing for this year. A special "thank you" to them and our committee members who have scheduled Association Luncheons, Continuing Education, Public Relations Events, MLS Updates, REALTORS Political Action Committee Fundraisers & Legislative News.

Some of us have been in this Association for quite some time and have taken for granted how our Association and MLS handles all we need on a daily basis. Just imagine trying to keep 1200 members happy! Luckily for me, Beverly Pardue, our Administrative Executive, has been a pro at this for over 40 years. Thank you to her, Kellie, Judy and Leigh for their dedication to us. If there are issues that need to be addressed, we want to know.

You have been heard... We are now adding "Downstairs Owner Bedroom" to our search options on MLS. We will also be adding a "Bonus and Bonus Expiration Date", so that there will no longer be issues on whether you are entitled to a Selling Bonus. Also, with so many neighborhoods now having different section names, we are currently working on adding "Subcategories" into the "Subdivision Section", so when searching you will be able to distinguish these areas.

Our Grievance and Professional Standards Committees have been much busier than usual. Much of this can be avoided by reading and following your "Code of Ethics" as well as "MLS Rules and Regulations" and "Georgia Real Estate Law." It is one thing to make a mistake and it is another to intentionally try to skirt the rules. Please take some time to read these rules and ensure you are in compliance. Please take a closer look at your advertising, MLS listing information, in print and online, including social media, such as Facebook are all subject to rules. We cannot take these violations lightly! Your Georgia Real Estate Commission website is always available for you to search these issues... www.grec.state.ga.us. We have a great group of REALTORS and want to keep our industry and personal reputations at their best!

Our industry needs our support for the "REALTORS Political Action Committee". Can you imagine the impact it could have on our business if the mortgage rate tax deduction were eliminated?? This is just one example of the many issues facing us today. We need our voices heard! This is neither Democratic nor Republican, but supporting the people who support legislation that is in our best interest. Politicians voting history and their stand on real estate related issues is who we support. Our RPAC Committee is working on some great rewards for your participation at different levels. Details and forms will be coming. See you at the February 12th Association Luncheon at West Lake!!

Teresa Tiller
2014 GAAR President



PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE**“KICK OFF 2014 PUBLIC RELATIONS”**

Our first project is “**Relay For Life**” raising funds for cancer research. The event **is May 2, 6 PM until?** We will be selling raffle tickets for a golf cart, having events in individual offices, our favorite cake walk and during the month of March “**FLUSH OUT CANCER**”.

FUTURE EVENTS:

Veterans Party July 2 at the Blue Goose Nursing Home

Christmas in August “Threshold to Freedom Collecting supplies for the home

Random Acts of Kindness September 11th

Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat October 30th at Patriots Park

Neighborhood Hero Recognize a hero in public service

Ft. Gordon Christmas House Santa gifts for children of servicemen having financial difficulties.

Plan ahead and let's get all the exposure we can!

Thank you,

Faye Davis

Public Relations, Chairperson

RPAC COMMITTEE

“Stay tuned...for upcoming fun!” Your RPAC has lots of great activities coming soon. Don't miss out on our raffle tickets being sold at the February GAAR luncheon. Nice prizes for your “Valentine”! **Supporting your RPAC is supporting your business as well!**

Julie Brunkow

Chairperson, RPAC Committee

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Mark your calendars for our “Business Partners and REALTORS Luncheon” to be held on April 16th at the Savannah Rapids Pavilion. Lots of food and fun to show how much we appreciate **“YOU”!!!!**

Barbara Sanders

Chairperson, Program Committee

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee recently met to generate ideas for possible new classes for 2014. A top priority is locating speakers that will interest our REALTORS while providing continuing education requirements. Full house at several sessions of the 2014 GAR Contracts...What Changed class provided by Howell Haunson with great reviews occurred in January. Be sure to check your emails or call the Association Office for upcoming classes!

Thank you,

Kim Courson, Chairperson

Education Committee

MLS Committee

In December of last year, we went through the laborious task of exchanging our old lockboxes and installing new ones. While the new lockboxes look like our old ones on steroids, the new boxes bring us some really neat features. This month I'd like to explore how the new boxes let us review our listing's activities from our computers and give us a "real time" review of scheduled showings. These changes are invaluable and exciting. When you go to your Maintenance in MLS, you will now see the choice of "Keybox Info" on each of your listings. This is on the same line where you can Edit Showings, Schedule Showing, Open House, etc. When you click on Keybox Info, you can "Assign a Keybox" to a particular home, check the "Keybox Activity Report" and see "Keybox Settings". i.e., the hours the lock box is accessible. The only thing you have to do to get started is to assign the lockbox. The rest is automatic. It is a step by step procedure and the system walks you through the process.

Also, and most importantly, in the upper right corner of the Activity Report and Settings you can log on to the "SupraWeb Management Website". Here you can see a chronological list of all of the activity on all of your listings, beginning on the day of assignment.

Have you ever been asked by a seller if an agent did in fact show their home, or have you ever forgot who was showing a listing? Well, now you have documentation of all of that information in one place. In your maintenance.

We hope you make use of this new program that is provided to you with our new lockboxes.

Dennis Smith, chairman

MLS Committee

DISTRACTED REALTORS...Liable Brokers

More Lawsuits Targeting Companies, not drivers

REALTORS involved in car accidents while using their phones might be surprised to learn this: Not only might they be facing lawsuits, but their brokers could be as well. Brokerages could be held liable when an agent is in an accident while using a phone for talking or texting...or even just reaching for it. As distracted driving slowly makes its way into the national consciousness, lawyers are driving the bandwagon. They're not only suing drivers who were on their phones, they're going after their employers as well. Now is the time to make sure you have liability insurance to cover these kinds of lawsuits. Read the complete article in the Georgia Realtor Magazine at garealtor.com.

TECH HELPLINE

DON'T FORGET! The helpline is available to members Monday-Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. and Saturdays from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Call toll free or via live chat visiting TechnologyHelpline.com. The Technology Helpline analyst can even remote into your computer and fix it for you!

CALL! 877-573-5611

FEBRUARY
LUNCHEON RESERVATION

WHEN: FEBRUARY 12, 2014

TIME: 12:30 P.M.

WHERE: WESTLAKE COUNTRY CLUB

COMPANY: _____

HOW MANY: _____