



# Galveston

## Association of REALTORS®

### ***2024 GAR New Member Welcome Packet***

The goal of this information is to welcome you to our coastal REALTOR® family and familiarize you with our Leadership, benefits, and ways to connect with us as a member. Save these numbers and mark the following websites so that you can be certain to receive all important association information.

# ***Welcome!***

### ***Our Mission:***

**The Galveston Association of REALTORS® is the trusted voice for real estate in coastal Galveston County, existing to serve our members, promote the cooperation of real estate professionals, advocate for ethical business practices and protect the private property rights of our communities.**

### **SAY IT CORRECTLY!**

REALTOR® = REAL-tor, or Real-TOR, *but never Real -a -tor!*  
For G.A.R., & N.A.R. = Say the actual letters i.e. G-A-R, *but never gar or nar!*



*GAR is governed by a Board of Directors and operated by in-house staff. The Board of Directors is elected by the general membership. The board enacts the Organizational By-laws and Code of Ethics, sets policy, and ensures that the needs of the REALTOR® community are met by the association.*

**GAR 2024 Board of Directors**

**Stacey Weber-Rubio** – President; **Diane Moore**– President Elect; **Alison Christensen**– Treasurer; **Terry Rizzo** – Secretary; **Julie Greenwell** – Immediate Past President; **Carole Bell** – Director; **Randall Kopfer** – Director; **Norma Smalley** – Director; **Alicia Swartz** – Director; **Eileen Donlon** – MLS Chair.

**GAR Staff**

Jennifer Prochaska – Executive Assistant: [prochaska@thegalvestonmls.com](mailto:prochaska@thegalvestonmls.com)  
Lisa Lisinicchia – Association Executive: [lisa@thegalvestonmls.com](mailto:lisa@thegalvestonmls.com)

**Task**  
Add Jennifer and Lisa’s email to your contacts. Add the GAR office number to your contacts: 409.740.7444.

**GAR Committees & Task Forces**

*As a member of GAR, we invite you to participate in one of our committees. These committees focus on specific aspects of the association. Sometimes, sub-committees or task forces will be formed to focus on a specific task. Committees are formed at the request of the Board President each year, and a notification is sent out to recruit membership.*

**GAR Committee & Task Force Chairs**

Randall Kopfer – Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee  
Carole Bell – TREPAC Local Chair  
Alison Christensen – Community Outreach Task Force  
Diane Moore – Coastal Curriculum Committee

**HOW WILL YOU  
SERVE?**

**TEXAS REALTORS Involvement**

*Members of our association are involved with TEXAS REALTORS as members of various committees.*  
David Bowers – Grassroots Political Network  
Tom Schwenk – Political Involvement Committee Immed. Past Chairman  
Lynn Winget – GAR Delegate to the TEXAS REALTORS Board of Directors  
Myra Sanders – Member Benefits Committee  
Full TEXAS REALTORS Committee List: [texasrealestate.com/about-us/leadership-and-staff/committees/](http://texasrealestate.com/about-us/leadership-and-staff/committees/)

## TEXAS REALTORS Regional Involvement & Leadership

GAR is a member of TEXAS REALTORS Region 9, along with Brazoria County Board of REALTORS® and Beaumont Board of REALTORS®. We have members serving in Regional Leadership Capacities:

Robert Zahn – TEXAS REALTORS Political Involvement Council (PIC)

## GAR Monthly Membership Meeting and Brunch

GAR offers monthly brunches (except for July and December) for all of our REALTOR® and Affiliate members. At the brunch meetings, in addition to local association news and updates you will get to meet the members, learn current information pertaining to real estate including timely local speaker presentations, and even meet some affiliates to add to your client recommendation list. Currently held at the Galveston Country Club on the first Tuesday of the month, we encourage all members to attend! It's a lovely event, free of charge for REALTOR members, and a fantastic way to network and get your name out.

## GAR Communication

We primarily send emails through **NAVICA**, in addition to flyers and e-blasts through **Constant Contact** to keep everyone updated on education, billing, events, and local information and updates. It is important to remain on the Constant Contact mailing list so that you don't miss important opportunities, and frequently check your NAVICA account for calendar events and invoices. If you have trouble receiving communications, let the office know and we will be glad to assist.

GAR has a **Facebook** page with information that we make available to our members and the public. [facebook.com/Galveston-Association-of-REALTORS-179338295522682/](https://www.facebook.com/Galveston-Association-of-REALTORS-179338295522682/)

We also maintain a public DEI Committee page as well as a closed GAR Forum and a closed TREPAC group for members only. To join, you must request to join the group: GAR TREPAC or GAR Member FORUM.

## GAR Office

The GAR office is located in the West Island Professional Complex, at 6511 Stewart Road. The office includes a small meeting room that can be utilized by members for group training sessions, business meetings, or even a convenient mid-island location to liaise with a client. Additionally, GAR staff includes a Certified Notary Public and members can book an appointment at no charge. Contact the office directly for details or to inquire about availability. 409-740-7444

## GAR Education

Check our website and the event calendar in Navica for CE classes offered through Texas REALTORS. While all classes are currently online, members are welcome to participate in scheduled classes at the GAR office.

## TASK

Like and/or follow the GAR Facebook page and ask to join the closed groups: **GAR TREPAC and GAR Member Forum.**

## GAR Multiple Listing Service

GAR owns and manages the Galveston MLS – an independent Multiple Listing Service. The MLS is overseen by an MLS Executive Committee, elected annually by the Brokers that participate in the MLS. The committee sets and enforces the MLS Rules & Regulations and Policies and work closely with association staff to ensure MLS Data is accurate.

## 2022 MLS Executive Committee

**Eileen Donlon** – Committee Chair; **Shani Atkinson, Sylvia Barrett, Dave Bridgwater, Jackie Greer, Randall Kopfer, & Sandy Mills**, members; **Stacey Weber-Rubio** – Ex-Officio member

## NAVICA REVOLUTION / SEI Engineering [navicams.net](http://navicams.net)

GAR uses **NAVICA** as our MLS platform *and* our **Association Management (AMS) system**. This means that even if you are not an MLS subscriber, you still have a Navica member account. Register for association events and continuing education classes in Navica. All invoices, including annual dues, are provided in Navica where you can access, print, and pay them!

## MLS Data

For MLS members, please remember it is crucial that the data that goes into our MLS is consistent and correct. Our data is syndicated to over 90 external sites, like Zillow, RPR, and Realtor.com. Navica has a great mobile app, and it's free for MLS subscribers. This allows you to pull up listings and information straight from your mobile device, and includes location-based instant look-up.

## MLS Commercial Listings

All MLS members are encouraged to list their commercial properties on Navica at **NO additional fee!** This data feeds into all the typical consumer sites as a valuable benefit to Galveston MLS subscribers.

## SUPRA

The Galveston MLS utilizes SUPRA lock boxes and issues E-key agent accounts. Lock boxes are leased to current MLS subscribers at no charge. Agent E-keys that are issued through the Galveston Association to Primary members will open both Galveston MLS and Houston MLS Supra boxes through a coop agreement.

## TASK

Upload your photo to your Navica account.

Click the photo icon in the upper right-hand corner of the home screen. (Like below)



Then click the tab for the **Uploader** and upload your picture file.



# TREPAC & The REALTOR® PARTY

[texasrealestate.com/members/government-affairs/trepac/](http://texasrealestate.com/members/government-affairs/trepac/)

TREPAC (Texas Association of REALTORS Political Action Committee) is a critical part of the REALTOR® family. TREPAC backs local, state, and national candidates and elected officials who have a proven track record of protecting private-property rights, preserving the dream of homeownership, and supporting the vitality of the real estate industry. The national counterpart to our state PAC is RPAC/The REALTOR® Party.

Each association collects their own TREPAC Contributions. Your GAR TREPAC Contributions will go towards candidates and issues specific to our area.

To encourage investment, there are different levels of recognition in TREPAC. TEXAS REALTORS considers anyone giving at \$1,000 or more per year to be a *major investor*. There are certain special privileges afforded to major investors.

Throughout the year, there will be many events with many opportunities to invest. You can also contribute directly through the TAR website.

## WHAT IS YOUR INVESTMENT GOAL FOR THIS YEAR?

### TREPAC Awards Levels

- Golden R - \$5,000+
- Crystal R - \$2,500+
- Sterling R - \$1,000+
- Capitol Club - \$500+
- Lone Star Statesman - \$250+
- 110 Club - \$110+
- Member – Fair share - \$35+

## TASK

Explore the REALTOR® Party website and watch the REALTOR Party New Member Orientation Video:

[realtorparty.realtor/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/REALTOR-PARTY-NEW-MEMBER-ORIENTATION-video-110517-1.mp4](http://realtorparty.realtor/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/REALTOR-PARTY-NEW-MEMBER-ORIENTATION-video-110517-1.mp4)



NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION of  
REALTORS®



***Thank You for Choosing GAR!***

The Galveston Association of REALTORS® Board and Staff would like to thank you for choosing us as your REALTOR association. If you have questions, please feel free to ask. We look forward to working with you!