

## **GREATER PROVIDENCE BOARD OF REALTORS®**

*President Victoria Doran is pleased to present this 2008 Annual Committee Report.*

### **Awards Committee**

The 2007 Circle of Sales Excellence Awards was celebrated at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in Cranston. Chairperson Ann Shackford and her committee did an outstanding job bringing us “Parti Gras”. We had a total of 223 awardees. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful evening of celebration and we gratefully thank our many sponsors who made this event possible!

### **Cultural Diversity Committee**

Sussy DeLeon, Statewide Cultural Diversity Chair and NAR Cultural Diversity Committee Member along with Vice-Chair, Joseph McCarthy, partnered with Housing Network and its Members to present free workshops to assist homeowners facing foreclosure. In 2008, The Greater Providence Board of REALTORS® was named the International Ambassador Association to the country of Nicaragua by the National Association of REALTORS®. The Committee also hosted a Furniture Drive on Saturday, September 13th from 9 a.m. to Noon, to assist the International Institute in gathering gently used furniture to support the needs of political refugees that have settled in Rhode Island.

### **Finance Committee**

Currently, the Board’s membership stands at 1,781 members, a decrease of 9% from our September 2007 level. Your membership dues support our ability to create, deliver and maintain premiere programs and services. In 2008, we made significant progress in meeting a number of our Strategic Plan’s goals, which direct us in delivering these benefits and resources to you! Looking forward to 2009, we remain committed to maintaining the same level of services that were provided this past year, despite the challenging market and a projected decrease in membership, and to the creation of new and exciting programs for an even better return on your dues investment!

### **Golf Committee**

Our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Golf Classic was held on Monday, July 21, 2008 at the Alpine Country Club, Cranston and was an outstanding success. At this event, Co-chaired by Karl Martone, Don Coletti and Mike Pereira, we managed to raise \$19,500 for our three charities: Hasbro Children’s Hospital, Child Life Program, RI Community Food Bank and Marvin’s Fund at the RISPCA.

### **Government Affairs Committee**

Chris Wall, our 2008 Governmental Affairs Chair, was also the 2008 Chair of the RI Association of REALTORS® Governmental Affairs Committee. We continued to monitor activity on the local level and working closely with RIAR, our involvement included ensuring the property tax cap remained intact and transfer fees were kept in check. Patrick Craft, RI Department of Health Well Water Testing Specialist joined us to speak to our group regarding current and upcoming well water regulations. And, Providence City Councilman John Lombardi spoke to our committee and guests about the challenges municipalities are facing in fiscally difficult times.

### **Grievance Committee/Professional Standards**

The Committee, chaired by Michelle Keach, reviewed 5 cases, including four Ethics and one Arbitration review held at the Board office. We have two ethics complaints that are currently held in abeyance of a hearing pending DBR outcome, one arbitration hearing, one dismissal and one case that was transferred. Libby Isaacson serves as our Professional Standards Chair. Thank you ladies, for an outstanding job!

## Nominating Committee

Under the guidance of Jay Fluck, our nominating Committee met several times this year to consider our 2009 Slate of Officers and Directors. The slate has been brought to you today for your approval. We are pleased to announce that three of our members were nominated to fulfill Executive Committee Roles at the RI Association of REALTORS®: Karl Martone, President Elect, Michael Saccoccio, Vice President and Victoria Doran, Corporate Secretary.

## Professional Development/Program Committee

Pamela Anderson Sparn and her committee members did a great job this year offering a multitude of education programs. We started off with a successful event: 2008 Fire Code Changes in October 2007. We also offered several “Agency 101” classes, in various locations, dealing with the new Agency laws that went in effect in May. In October 2008, we will be presenting “Life in the 6’Ds: Defects, Discovery, Data, Disclosure, Damages and Defendants” by Oliver Frasca, Esq. in conjunction with the Kent Washington Association of REALTORS®. Code of Ethics classes will continue all year long to prepare our members for the Quadrennial requirement.

The venue for this year’s Holiday Party, on December 11<sup>th</sup>, is the Hotel Providence. There will be cocktails and hors d’oeuvres along with some very special entertainment. We look forward to seeing you there!

## RPAC

In 2008, 29% of our membership (512 individuals), contributed over \$18,000 to RPAC (REALTORS® Political Action Committee) to help protect your profession and fight harmful government proposals. In conjunction with the State Association, our local Committee hosted several fundraising events this past year, including the popular RPAC American Idol function at Water Place Restaurant in April, and introduced the \$99 Club. 45 of our members took advantage of this membership, which gives them free admission to all RPAC events and express bar service at our meetings – including this Annual Meeting. Get carded! Show the bartender your 99 RPAC Club card!

## Technology Committee

Our Technology Committee chaired by Mike Pereira had a very busy year! We debuted our new website, [www.gpbor.com](http://www.gpbor.com), started our electronic monthly newsletter which has been well received and installed a new membership data program (NRDS) to run in “online real time” conjunction with the National Association of REALTORS®.

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### **How You Can Make a Difference!**

We encourage you to consider volunteering for one or more of these committees. We value our volunteers, as they are the backbone of our Board and we would welcome your input and participation.

### **Special Thanks to our RPAC Club 99 Members!**

Abiodun Adekey • Isreal Akinbo • Mary Baron • Carol Bell • Jessica Braga • Gil Bricault • Caroline Butterfield • Anthony Caprio • Michele Caprio\* • Thomas Chace • Karen Chapman • Meredyth Church • Jean Clarke • Sussy DeLeon • Maria Dias • Victoria Doran • Kerrie Doyle • Kate Duggan • Catherine Edington • Richard Epstein • Robert Gilbane • Libby Isaacson • Cassia Krasnianski • Diana Kryston • Mary Leahey • Richard Leone • Louise Leonetti • Karl Martone\*\* • Michael Miale • Matilde Miolan-Regus • Sal Moio • Rosalind Newton • Claire Puleo • Karen Roy • Michael Saccoccio • Jo Anne Samborsky • Robert Scaralia\* • Ken Scotti • Suzanne Silva • Jillian Siqueland • Manny Souza • Robert Sparn • Liz Taber • Michael Voccola • Eberhard von Heyden • Richard Zompa

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