

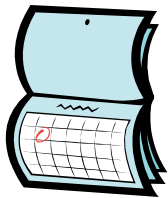
# Current Events

Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter Date

## Dates to Remember

- Daylight Savings Time Begins March 9th
- St Patrick's Day March 19
- First Day of Spring March 20th
- Easter Sunday March 23
- Passover begins April 20th
- Memorial Day May 26th
- Fathers Day June 15th



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## Notes from Robert

I am very excited about the opportunity to service the membership of RCAR. I see my role as being a good listener to the needs of our members and how those needs can be met to better our association as a whole. Know that I am not the decision maker, but the liaison between the Board of Directors and the membership, bringing your ideas for what you want the association to be to the leaders you have chosen to serve.

We have many things facing our association as we have gone through a tremendous amount of change in the last year and we are facing even more changes in the years to come. But I feel we

have a solid organization and if we can work together for the betterment of the whole then together and over time we can create great things. As our market changes and our roles as **REALTORS** change, we all need to remember that we as professionals, even through our differences, can come together to better ourselves, and in doing so, creating a better relationship with our business community as well as a better relationship with our fellow citizens. For with these better relationships we create more credibility and enhance our futures for our business careers.

Thanks to all of those who volunteer their time



to our association. We have so many great leaders that can share their ideas and create a better future for us all in 2008 and the years to come.

## City to begin aggressive enforcement of Sign Code

The city code enforcement personnel has started their aggressive enforcement to clean up the clutter of unlawful signs. These include small yard signs and banners that are generally used as a low cost and temporary means of communication.

This includes **Realtor** directional signs. Greg Thomas, community development director of the City of Cleveland said "the city is launching a special public education and enforcement campaign where signs may be removed from the public

right-of-way by city personnel and destroyed without further notice." For more details on the exact rules go to [www.codesenforcementttn.com/codes](http://www.codesenforcementttn.com/codes).



## Ocoee Region Builders Association News

As many of you know, the Ocoee Region Builders Association (ORBA) is a not for profit organization that is the voice of the building industry in the Bradley County area. WE provide our members with valuable services including educational benefits and representing our members before legislative bodies. Of course, these services require funding just like any other association. A few years back you may recall that ORBA held a Home Expo in Cleveland each year. Do to many circumstances, ORBA decided to cancel that event. This year I am proud to inform you that ORBA has decided to bring



Ocoee Region Builders Association

the Home Show back to Cleveland and it will be bigger and better than ever. Dubbed "Home and Garden Show 2008", ORBA has teamed with Mix 104.1 to put on this event at the Tri State Exhibition center on March 29th. I anticipate this fund raising event to be very successful and hope that it will become the signature event that ORBA has been looking for. We have several vendors signed up already and have

daily inquiries about this event.

In this recent housing slump that we are enduring I think that an

event like this may spark a renewed interest in the housing market. It seems to me that businesses involved in the building and housing industry would benefit from participating in this event. I know that historically house sales and construction starts pick up quite a bit in the spring. Hopefully the Home and Garden Show will help jump start the spring season for Realtors and builders alike.

For more information on the Home and Garden Show 2008 please contact the ORBA office at 479-3435

<http://myorba.org>

## By-Laws Committee Report

Sometimes it helps to put things in perspective. We can not live in the past, nor can we pine away in the present for the future. Ours is to take care of the now and when we get "over there" we will be glad we did right today

That is the challenge placed before the by-laws committee...Keep us up to date and in compliance with the NAR by-laws. A by product of that is the charge to make sure that all

members are aware of the changes and are current with the by-laws and their consequences as well.

Our priority this year will to be to provide our members with a user friendly cross-index guide to the documents which guide your career as a Realtor. That work is being done with you input. If you would like to

assist in any way and would like to join the committee, give a call or shoot an e mail to:

Charles Shirley:  
cshirley@realtycenter.com

### By-Law

1: A rule adopted by an organization chiefly for its members and the management of its affairs

2: A local ordinance

## Governmental Affairs Committee Report

During the meetings of the Governmental Affairs Committee in September and December, the committee voted to support moving forward with asking the General Assembly to create a special license plate for Realtors. A website was created in an effort to show the General Assembly that Realtors were committed to having this new plate. This website allowed Realtors to sign a

petition that will be presented to the General Assembly. As of the week ending January 18, 2008 there were over 1600 signatures on that petition and it only takes 1000 Tennesseans to get a new license plate!

House Transportation Committee Vice Chari Bill Harmon (D,Dunlap) and Chairman Philip Pinion (D,Union City) agreed to carry the

bill in the House for TAR. As drafted the legislation will give the additional money raised from the license plate to TREF. Realtors will be required to prove their membership in order to get the new plate by showing a membership card and/or business card. You may review the Senate Bill 2834 online at:  
[www.legislature.state.tn.us/bills/](http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/bills/)

# Public Relations Committee

by Lee Tate, Chairperson

As this year's chairperson for the Public Relations Committee, I have accepted the challenge of leading a group of energized fellow RCAR members. Our focus will be to establish a positive presence for ALL members throughout the six-county area the River Counties Association encompasses.

We welcome the many opportunities to become involved in promoting RCAR. Along with some of the familiar events as American Cancer Society's Relay-for-Life and the Day-



Caption describing picture or graphic.

ton Strawberry Festival, we will also be participating in the American Heart Associations "Go Red for Women" campaign and Habitat for Humanity.

Members of the association who participate in these worthy community events do much more than promote their livelihood; they give life sustaining support to those in need.

Besides the "hands-on" approach of the community awareness, we will also be utilizing local television, radio and print advertising. These

powerful marketing venues shall prove to deliver a message of unity and strength that will help to improve the quality of our business.

The Public Relations Committee has a well-defined plan for success and the biggest part of that success will be realized when ideas are put to action. We are excited to invite and encourage all RCAR members to participate. Lets all work together to uphold our image as a business and broaden our scope in the community.

# Adopt-A-School Makes Some Changes

The 2008 Adopt a School Committee is making some changes to the committee. This year, the committee will serve both Bradley County and the Cleveland city area and it will also reach out to Polk County. In addition to mittens, socks and school supplies to Arnold, Mountain View and Graysville elementary schools, our generosity also supplemented fieldtrips, provided books to reading and technology labs and assisted with incentives for stu-

dents who met academic goals. This year the following schools will be spotlighted: Chilhowee Middle, Rogers Creek, Englewood, Valley View, Hopewell Special Education, Blythe-Bower and Arnold.

Rhea county is currently evaluating the needs in their area. To assist with the various needs of

the 2008 schools we will be collecting Kleenex and wipes as admission into the Showcase. In addition to the piggy banks, also look for our Silent Auction prior to the May

membership meetings. With our generous donations we ill continue to make a difference in our area schools.

*Spotlight Schools:*

- Chilhowee Middle, Rogers Creek,*
- Englewood,*
- Hopewell Special Ed, Valley View,*
- Blythe-Bower, Arnold*

# Code of Ethics

The best way to increase business in a competitive real estate market is to provide the best possible service to your customers and clients. No surprise there! But you may be surprised to learn that we all have a handbook for providing the best service in any market, the Code of Ethics. Yes, you heard right, the Code of Ethics has all of the secrets you need to succeed in any real es-

tate market. It is the foundation of our practice and the benchmark for cooperation and service and has been since the national Association of Realtors was founded in 1908. If you have not yet read through the 2008 Code of Ethics, take time to do so and not the changes in Article 12. Some of these changes were discussed in the latest TAR Digest. Also remember that this December

21, 2008 is the deadline for the Cycle 2, mandatory Code of Ethics training and watch for your opportunities to take this training at the Association. No member of the National Association of Realtors is exempt from taking this training, eve the ones that may be grandfathered from TREC required education! See you in the next Code of Ethics class!

**RIVER COUNTIES ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS**

2070 Candies Lane NW  
Cleveland, TN 37312  
423-476-5912 phone  
423-478-5964 fax



## Career Development Committee

It's that time of year again when we need to assess our educational needs for CE credits. We have 40 hours scheduled for the year. You may check the calendar on RCAR. If you need quadrennial ethics it can be taken on -line free at Realtor.org.

If you have any suggestions for what classes you would like in the future, please let me know at

[Brendarichardson@coldwellbanker.com](mailto:Brendarichardson@coldwellbanker.com)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MARCH

- 3 & 4 - GRI 2 in Chattanooga
- 6th - 8:30 RCAR NMO
- 13th - CORE @ RCAR time and place to be confirmed...
- 14th - By-Laws at RCAR
- 14th - News letter articles due
- 17th - 20th TAR spring Conference
- 25th - 9am BOD meeting at RCAR
- 27th - Showcase @ Museum
- 29th - 2nd - AE Institute

### APRIL

- 8th—9am CORE or ETHICS at RCAR
- 11th - 8:30 By Laws committee meeting @ RCAR office
- 15th - 9am BOD meeting @ RCAR office
- 29th—10am PR committee meeting @ RCAR office

### MAY

- 6th—RCAR MNO @ Wingate
- 7th & 8th - Learning Centered Instructor Workshop @ TAR
- 9th - 8:30am By Laws meeting @ RCAR
- 13th—9am BOD meeting @ RCAR
- 14th—17th NAR Mid Year Meetings in DC
- 20th—9am Real Estate Review Committee @ RCAR
- 21st—RCAR GM mtg @ Holiday Inn Buffet @ Noon, Meeting 12:30

## Hospitality Committee Report

The hospitality committee is resolved to offer acceptance, direction and an opportunity to our members to become involved in our association. Through this outreach, it will foster feelings of Good Will and groom them for success and future leadership roles. Our mission statement is "To reach out to our members and their families in time of need and to offer a source of comfort and inspiration."



We are working on filling the position of chaplain for Rhea county. If we can be of help or assistance to anyone in our association, please feel free to call one of us or the RCAR office and they will get a message to us. We are here to serve the membership and make all to feel welcome and to get involved!

Have a great new year and let's go sell some houses!!!

### Hospitality Committee Members

|                    |                       |               |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Pat Sosebee        | Chair                 | 423-476-7300  |
| Jennifer Douglass  | Chaplain              | 423-472-2173  |
| Barbara Dallanegra |                       | 423-476-????? |
| Pam Wilson         |                       | 423-595-1045  |
| Linda Staton       |                       | 423-559-4659  |
| Sharon Carbaugh    |                       | 423-310-1200  |
| Kay Free           |                       | 423-310-1200  |
| Rhonda McClure     |                       | 423-310-1300  |
| Patty Cawood       |                       | 423-775-4663  |
| Radley Lockmiller  | McMinn Chaplain       |               |
| Denise Marler      | RCAR Director Liaison | 423-618-6759  |