

October 7, 2016

**GPBR Members:**

2017 dues renewal notices were sent out this week to all of our primary and secondary members. We thought this would be a good time to address the question, ***How Are My Dues Dollars Put to Work?***

Here are just a few of the services that your local portion of your dues payment helps support:

- **Broker Opens and Sunday Opens.** Broker opens are distributed electronically three days a week. Sunday Opens are published weekly, and an advertisement in the Grosse Pointe News directs home buyers to the list on our website.
- **Agent Roundtable Luncheon.** This is a monthly event for new and seasoned agents who wish to discuss best practices for a successful career. Includes lunch provided by one of our corporate partners.
- **REALTOR® Designation & Certification Programs.** This year we were the first association in Michigan to offer the Real Estate Negotiation Expert (RENE) certification. We also offered the At Home With Diversity (AHWD) certification for the third year in a row.
- **Data Sharing.** Our board was extremely proactive in ensuring that data sharing between MiRealSource and Realcomp was made a reality.
- **Grievance & Professional Standards.** Our excellent grievance & professional standards process was able to provide support to our members and encourage professionalism in real estate transactions.
- **Public Relations Committee.** This year we formed a PR committee tasked to increase the awareness of Realtors®' contributions to the public as a whole.
- **General Membership Meetings.** Our quarterly member meetings gave our members access to timely information and presented sought-after speakers.
- **Placemaking & Smart Growth.** By taking advantage of NAR's Placemaking & Smart Growth Grant Program, we were able to facilitate funding of various projects benefitting communities in the areas our members serve. This included the printing of the Eastpointe Charrette, providing umbrellas for the GPF Pier Park, and covering event materials for a series of community meetings in Harper Woods.

Additionally, by sustaining a primary membership with GPBR, you are also entitled to all the benefits of membership offered by [Michigan REALTORS](#) and the [National Association of REALTORS](#). (Click on those links to be taken to the respective member benefits page of each.)

In closing, please note that you'll have the opportunity to donate to the **Realtor® Political Action Committee (RPAC)** when you make your dues payment. This organization protects and promotes the interest of Realtors® and homeowners alike. ***Donating to RPAC is the best way a Realtor® can protect his or her business.*** RPAC is the only grassroots and issues mobilizing force that exists to protect and promote the tradition of home ownership and real estate investment in Michigan. By investing in RPAC, you'll not only have the power to make a change in the way you do business, but you'll also become part of a statewide network – more than 27,000 members strong – sharing in the success on issues and concerns important to you!

***While any denomination over \$5 is accepted, we strongly encourage our members to make the suggested \$35 donation.*** Here are a few of the things RPAC has accomplished over the years:

- Retained the Mortgage Interest Deduction: Protecting \$7,000 a year in commissions.
- Defeated the Tax on Services and saved REALTORS, on average, \$1,700 per year. ***(This alone is worth a \$35 donation!)***
- Passed legislation moving the May 1 Principal Residence Filing Deadline to June 1 and provided a second filing date of November 1 while also allowing banked owned properties to retain its Principal Residence Status.
- Held off the expansion of the real estate transfer tax in 2007 which saved sellers over \$36 million in 2007.
- Passage of legislation to register and regulate AMCs in Michigan.

**Thank you for your continued membership! We look forward to another productive year in 2017!**