

Greater Rome Board of REALTORS® Newsletter



Keeping you informed

MARCH 2010

In This Issue

March Membership Meeting

CE - Thursday April 8

Article Headline

MARCH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

The Sterile Feral List of items needed:

Purina Dog Chow
Purina Cat Chow
Purina Puppy Chow
Dog Treats
Canned Dog/Cat Food
Anti-Bacterial Hand Soap
Bleach
Laundry Detergent
Dish Detergent
Small to Medium Carriers/Crates
Paper Towels
12 Gallon and 45 Gallon Trash Bags
Non-clumping Cat Litter
Dog & Cat Toys
Machine Washable Fleece-type Dog
Beds

Dear Member,

Your membership is important to our Board and we appreciate your support and commitment. If we can be of any service to you, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We will be visiting Berry College for our March meeting. **Dayna Crumley, Superior Bank**, will be the sponsor for this luncheon meeting. Please note the luncheon is on **THURSDAY, MARCH 18th**. NOT on Wednesday!!

DIRECTIONS FOR PARKING AT BERRY:

Enter the campus at the main gate. Turn left directly in FRONT of the gatehouse. The first turn to the right is the parking lot behind Krannert Center. There is additional parking farther past the Krannert lot with sidewalks that lead to Krannert Center. Since this is Berry's Spring Break, parking should not be an issue.

This is a link to the campus map. The Gatehouse is #1 and Krannert Center is #24 on the map. <http://www.berry.edu/recreation/Trails/CampusMap.pdf>

We are trying different locations and times this year to attempt to meet the wishes of all of our members. We want and appreciate your feedback.

We were delighted with the excellent turnout for the January & February meetings and thank you for honoring your reservation. It is very important to not only **make a reservation** for our meetings, but to **show up** too! This helps with ordering the food and keeping the expenses reasonable for our generous sponsors.

We have a new website! www.grbor.com has replaced our previous website. You can find applications for membership, scholarships and registration forms for our continuing education on this site. Review your information and let us know if there are any corrections or updates. There is now a place for **Open Houses** that can be placed on the website. Contact the Board Office for more information.

Joanne

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

NEW/RETURNING REALTOR MEMBERS:

Alan Dryden
Elaine Osborn Realty
Daniel Simones
Jason Free Realty

NEW AFFILIATE MEMBER

Jan Low
*United Community
Bank/Summerville*

MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

When: Thursday, March 18 @ Noon
Where: Berry College, Spruill Ballroom, Krannert Center
Sponsor: Dayna Crumley, Superior Bank
Speaker: John Herzog, Regional Manager, Superior Bank

We are delighted Dayna is bringing **John Herzog** back to Rome. He visited at previous luncheons several years ago and is an entertaining and informative speaker. He will be delivering a **RESPA** change update.

Jane Berry from **The Sterile Feral** will be attending this luncheon and will collect items and monetary donations for our March **Community Service Project**. Contributions can be made by check to **The Sterile Feral** or bring items listed in the column on the left.

Don't forget to RSVP for the **March 18th** luncheon by email, calling or faxing the sign up sheet.

2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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GAR's STATEWIDE OPEN HOUSE

will be held **April 10-11, 2010**. To be successful, this event must be a partnership between GAR, our brokers and our individual members. Our goal is to invite the public to come out and take a look at their local market. They will be assured that they can visit the open houses with no pressure to purchase, and that the REALTOR® on duty will be happy to answer their questions about the home buying and selling process.

At best, we hope this event leads to several closings around the state for our members. At the very least, we hope this will enable you to meet with individuals who come to view your listing so that they may be added to your contact database and potentially become future clients. Here is the role of GAR. GAR will provide: A Web site for consumers, www.OpenHouseGeorgia.org, that will educate consumers on buying and selling a home and why they should use a REALTOR®, as well as include helpful links and information about the Statewide Open House. This Web site will launch on March 5, 2010.

This password-protected page on the GAR Web site –

www.garealtor.com/openhouse - that contains information on the event, downloadable information flyers to distribute during your open house as well as several helpful tips and links on conducting an open house.

Members are encouraged to:

Promote the Statewide Open House weekend through their contact database - Web site, newsletters, social networks, blogs, etc.

If you regularly purchase ads in print or electronic media, mention your Open House weekend in the ads you run in the week prior to the event, complete with location details.

GAR PARTNERS with REtechSouth:

The Georgia Association of REALTORS has partnered with REtechSouth to bring the largest real estate technology trade show in the South to Georgia real estate professionals. The two-day conference, which will take place **March 25-26** at the **Gwinnett Center**, will feature a line-up of prominent real estate speakers as well as GAR's Annual Broker/Manager Camp, which offers presentations specifically aimed at the needs of brokers, managers and owners.

http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1103058283623&s=-1&e=001-YJpi1s5a9ke0M6dnznJncPPJIEgN_ViXEkfETFDpgFgvp6aVo9Lj17tKKq6b7rpcwJwcRYWSs=



CE: THURSDAY APRIL 8, 2010

FAIR HOUSING: OPENING DOORS TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Instructor, **Tom Gillett -- 3 HR C.E. Credit**

Registration 8:30 am

Instruction 9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Open the doors to equal opportunity while closing the door on your liability now! Learn strategies for providing equal service to all protected categories and ways to advertise listings that will not violate the Fair Housing Law. The session will focus on penalties involved and how to monitor the office policy for adherence. Use of this program may merit insurance premium discounts from some insurance companies!

No refunds once registered.

To view the Fair Housing Registration form, go to the following link:
<http://www.grbor.com/images/CE%204.8.10%20Fair%20Housing.pdf>

HOW WE ARE TRYING TO HELP YOU

So many of our members have expressed concern with the cost of membership and the amount of dues payment required. We hear you and are very sensitive to your needs and concerns. Just as all offices are doing in this economy we have cut back where possible and try to be very frugal to keep the cost of running the Board Office at a minimum.

Some of the things we are doing include:

1. Only purchasing supplies when necessary and when they are on sale.
2. Sending Newsletters, CE information, messages, and communications electronically rather than postal mail
3. Using electronic invitations for Christmas Luncheon
4. Heating and cooling and lighting only the main office unless there is another function. Keep temperature low in winter and high in summer
5. No employee raises this year and furloughing two days a month per employee
6. Having centerpieces for Christmas luncheon sponsored
7. Website maintenance is being maintained by staff
8. Monthly accounting is provided by staff with regular professional reviews

IMPORTANT R-410A EPA MANDATE TAKES EFFECT JANUARY 1, 2010

Starting January 1 a new Environmental Protection Agency mandate will change the way your clients' home air conditioners are serviced and repaired. Manufacturing HVAC equipment that primarily utilizes Freon (also known as R-22 and HCFC-22) will be banned, and the nation will begin using products such as Puron (also known as R-410A) as the standard refrigerant for air conditioners. This change will affect your buyers and sellers in many ways.

- Costs will increase
- Manufacturers' warranties may not provide full coverage
- System and appliance warranties/service contracts typically exclude coverage resulting from government-mandated change

Visit www.R410ASolutions.com to answer all your questions concerning the impact of this new government mandate or call 877-777-3188 to deliver real time answers to agents and homeowners.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Daylight Savings Time begins on **Sunday, March 14th**. Be sure to set your clocks AHEAD one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.

REMINDER: Spring Forward

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Greater Rome Board of REALTORS® has a local scholarship to assist any active member seeking to achieve any REALTOR® designation or certification. It was created to encourage all Board members to achieve GAR & NAR designations. This local scholarship will supplement scholarship funds awarded by GAR, not to exceed full amount of tuition.

For more information and a scholarship application, go to the link below.

<http://www.grbor.com/images/GRBR%20Scholarship.pdf>