

Bearings

a newsletter for GKAR MEMBERS

August 2014



At A Glance

Committee Meetings

Not Meeting in August

- [Broker Exchange Forum](#)

August 1st

- [Education](#)
- [Community Relations](#)

August 4th

- [Governmental Affairs](#)

August 5th

- [Broker/Owner](#)

August 6th

- [Equal Opportunity](#)

August 8th

- [Risk Management](#)

August 12th

- [MLS/Technology](#)

August 13th

- [Commercial](#)

August 22nd

- [Board of Directors](#)

GKAR News

Remember to Vote on Tuesday, August 5th, 2014

The Governmental Affairs Committee and the Board of Directors has endorsed all of the following candidates as they support REALTOR® issues and are supportive of local business initiatives for the upcoming general election.

GKAR Candidate Endorsements for the Primary Election:

State Senate

Margaret O'Brien, District 20
Tonya Schuitmaker, District 26

State Representative

Dave Buskirk, District 60
Brandt Iden, District 61
Dave Maturen, District 63
Aric Nesbitt, District 66
Stephen Schulz, District 80

Kalamazoo County Commission

Robert Barnard
Kevin Wordelman
SonJalita Hulbert
John Gisler
Dale Shugars
Scott McGraw

Oshtemo Township Trustee

John Lefler

You are encouraged to [print this list](#) and take along with you when you vote.

Suggestions For The New MLS System

You may have some suggestions for features you'd like to see in the flexmls system coming September 15th, 2014. In an effort to ease your transition to the new system and shorten the learning curve, the SWMRIC Managers have voted to keep the new MLS system as similar to the current system as possible. However, once the dust settles, we can entertain suggestions as the flexmls system offers us greater flexibility going forward.

REALTOR® Annual Dues to be Mailed Out in August

Your annual dues statement will be mailed out August 10th, 2014 and payment is due September 10th, 2014. The annual renewal amount is \$621.00, the annual advocacy contribution amount is \$50.00, and new this year is an opportunity to support the Fair Housing Center of Southwest Michigan in the amount of \$29.00. We look forward to your continued membership with GKAR

At A Glance

Events

August

- [Birthday Calendar](#)

September 18th

- [Top O' The Mornin' REALTOR® Safety](#)

Classes

August 7th - 15th

- [Real Estate 101](#)

August 18th & 19th

- [Senior Real Estate Specialist® \(SRES\) Designation](#)

August 20th

- [What's Your Brand?](#)

September 4th - 12th

- [Real Estate 101](#)

October 2nd - 10th

- [Real Estate 101](#)

October 16th

- [Blast Off](#)

GKAR Events

You're Invited!

[Annual GKAR Summer Golf Outing Photos](#)

Photography provided by GKAR Business Partner R.L. Novess Photography



Thank you to our lunch and dinner sponsors!



Upcoming Classes



Senior Real Estate Specialist® Designation

August 18th & 19th at GKAR from 9:00am - 4:00pm

Instructor: [Monica Neubauer](#)

Investment: \$200 for GKAR Members | \$250 for Non-Members

Includes 13 hours of continuing education credit, breakfast, & lunch

Registration Deadline: August 8th at 5:00pm

[Details...](#) | [Online Registration](#)

What is Your Brand?

August 20th at GKAR from 9:00am - 12:00pm

Instructor: [Monica Neubauer](#)

Investment: \$25 for GKAR Members | \$35 for Non-Members

Includes 3 hours of continuing education credit, & breakfast

Registration Deadline: August 8th at 5:00pm

[Details...](#) | [Online Registration](#)

Blast Off

October 16th at GKAR from 9:00am - 3:20pm

Investment: \$38 for GKAR Members | \$43 for Non-Members

Includes 2 hour legal update, 4 hours of general continuing education credit, breakfast, & lunch

Registration Deadline: October 10th at 5:00pm

[Details coming soon...](#)

At A Glance

Classes & Events

September 8th

- [MLS Training w/ FBS](#)

September 9^h

- [MLS Training w/ FBS](#)

September 16th, 17th & 18th

- [New Member Orientation](#)

Housing Reports

- [Cumulative Sales Report](#)
- [Sales Statistics](#)
- [Mortgage Rates](#)

Peak Performance

- [Letterman's Top 13 Buy & Sell Agreement Blunders](#) - The list is both entertaining and highly educational. Brought to you by GKAR's Risk Management Committee.

Professional Standards

- [Test Your Knowledge on Fair Housing Laws](#)
- [See NAR's Answer to REALTOR® Trademark Question:](#) Can you tell us about how you address trademark violations by members?

Membership News



Welcome New REALTOR® Members

Bailey Aivars - Bradley Company
Thomas Barnett - Bellabay Realty
Kyle Boyer - i-Vest Real Estate
Charles Bradford - Jaqua, REALTORS® (Drake)
Heather Cochran - Chuck Jaqua, REALTORS® (Milham)
Sonja Geller - Mel Shorb, REALTORS®
Erin Harris - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices MI Real Estate (Oakland)
Christie Kleinhuizen - Jaqua, REALTORS® (Drake)
Alex Jeffries - Century 21 Advanced
Biji John - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices MI Real Estate (Stadium)
Jason Lewis - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices MI Real Estate (Stadium)
Charles Ludlow - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices MI Real Estate (W. Michigan)
Daniel Matrau - Century 21 C. Howard
Rebecca Macleery - RE/MAX of Kalamazoo
Jacqueline Shepard - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices MI Real Estate (Oakland)
Jeremy Simon - Century 21 C. Howard
Melinda Spickenagel - Keller Williams Kalamazoo
Hollyn Streich - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices MI Real Estate (Stadium)
Nancy Streich - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices MI Real Estate (Stadium)
Karen Wilkes - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices MI Real Estate (Stadium)

Welcome New Business Partner Offices

Advia Credit Union
Nola Hathorn | 608-299-2245 | www.adviacu.org | Parchment, MI
Jason Woytal Agency - Farm Bureau Insurance
Jason Woytal | 269-276-0845 | www.farmbureauinsurance-mi.com/Agent/Jason-Woytal | Portage, MI

Welcome New Business Partner SentriLock Smart Card User

Jeff Robson - HouseMaster Home Inspections

Change of REALTOR® Office Name

Lakes & Country Realty, LLC to Lakes & Country Real Estate, Inc.

[Drops, Transfers, & Retiring Members](#)

[Secondary Offices, Members, & Reinstatements](#)

Quarter Century Club

Congratulations to Mark Boven (Vineyard Homes) for 25 years with GKAR on August 28th!

Keybox Corner

SentriCard broke, expired, or out of phone renewals? Don't miss a showing, use the *SentriSmart™* app to generate an access code to open the key compartment. Download it now at the App Store or Google Play. FREE for 2014 GKAR members.

[Learn more about the SentriSmart™ app.](#)



MLS News



The flexmls System is LIVE!

The new flexmls system went live on July 15th, 2014 with limits to some of the functions, and will run parallel with our current Rapattoni system until September 15th, 2014.

The web address for flexmls during the parallel mode is www.flexmls.com

Your Username is **ric**. followed by your k number from Rapattoni in lowercase. EXAMPLE: **ric.k123456**. Your generic password is: ricnow

Log in and start getting familiar with the site. When you log in the first time you will need to agree to the SWMRIC Terms of Use, and you will be required to change your generic password. Once you get to the Dashboard you can learn about how to use the system by clicking the "Help" button in the upper right side of the dashboard.

FBS support for flexmls is available Monday - Friday 9:00am - 10:00pm at 1-888-525-4747 or through email at Support@fbsdata.com.

[Important Things to Know About Using flexmls](#)

Get Educated!

Attend the MAR Convention & Expo

October 1st - 3rd at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids

[More...](#)

We Want to Recognize You - Your Name HERE!

[Learn How...](#)

Brought to you by the Education Committee



Commercial Real Estate News

Commercial Connections Summer 2014:
A Revitalized Nation

Read NAR's *Commercial Connections* Summer 2014 publication and find out what can be learned from redevelopment of the Motor City, a famous interstate, and local empty lots, how TRIA and 1031 exchanges affect redevelopment. [Details...](#)

NAR's May 2014 Commercial Real Estate
Market Survey

NAR has released first quarter market survey comments including Cap Rates, Vacancy Rates, Leasing Trends and more. [Details...](#)