



Monthly Newsletter

June 2017



General Membership Meeting

CE Night with Tim Reed: 2 Credit Hours/License Law

LPCAR Scholarship Presentation

Date: Tuesday, June 13, 2017

Time: 5:30 p.m. (CST)

Cost: \$14 with reservations/\$16 without reservations

Place: Portofino Grill in La Porte

Program: LPCAR Scholarship Presentation

CE Night with Tim Reed - 2 Credit Hours in License Law

Our meeting begins at 5:30 with dinner. CE will begin immediately following the end of the membership meeting.



For Reservations: For those attending either "Dinner and CE" or "CE only", please register online at:

<http://www.laportecountyrealtors.com/june-membership-meeting>

For "**Dinner only**" reservations please contact the office at 219-324-8120, online or via email at lpcar@frontier.com no later than **Monday, June 12, 2017**. Please have your check ready for our meeting, made payable to LPCAR. Thank you. Sunshine Drawing Pricing: \$1 per ticket or \$5 for 7 tickets and may be included in your dinner check!

Reservation Policy: We strongly suggest you make reservations in advance. Any reservation made and not cancelled 2 hours prior to the start of our event will be charged for the cost of the meal. Please understand that while we may have a few walk-ins at each meeting, those walk-ins cannot "take the place" of a no-show. Since we do not know in advance who may show up, we cannot "assign" a spot for someone who decided not to attend and did not cancel their reservations. Portofino's is very accommodating with our reservations but we are required to call in a reservation number ahead of time and pay for that number. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter!



Letter from the Board President

Hopefully everyone is having a productive year. Summer is almost here and Buyers seem to be out and about, I feel this is a good sign, looking back to where we were a few years ago with so many homes on the market and not enough buyers. Our home prices continue to recover and increase.

I want to take a moment to thank all the local Realtors who took time out of their busy schedules to attend the NAR Legislative Meetings & Trade Expo in Washington D.C. it was great to see LPCAR represented. This was my first opportunity to attend and it was a wonderful experience, it gave me the

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Security Check: Ransomware

No doubt by now everyone has heard of the most recent cyber attacks against businesses, hospitals, thousands of companies all over the world that were crippled by ransomware and even the movie industry was affected with the stolen copy of Disney's newest release of Pirates of the Caribbean. Ransomware has been around for years, but lately it has become more frequent and more severe without any signs of slowing down. Ransomware can be in many different forms and the first step to protect yourself against it is to understand the different types that can infect your system.

Scareware: Malicious computer programs designed to trick a user into buying and downloading unnecessary and potentially dangerous software, such as fake antivirus protection. Scary but not a code red type of situation. A typical example: you receive a pop-up from a “cyber security company” claiming that malware was discovered and the only way to get rid of it is to pay the company. Your files are actually safe and still in tact—performing a quick security scan will confirm this and should clear out the popups. Note: A legitimate cybersecurity company would never solicit clients in this manner.

Screen Lockers: Lock Screen Ransomware that basically freezes you out of your computer entirely. Typically upon starting your computer, a full-size window will appear, sometimes accompanied by an official-looking FBI or U.S Department of Justice seal saying illegal activity has been detected on your computer and you must pay a fine. In order to take back your computer, a system-restore might be in order, if that fails then a scan from a bootable CD or USB drive may be in order. Note: the FBI would not freeze you out of your computer or demand payment for illegal activity. If you are suspected of illegal activity they would go through the appropriate legal channels.



Encrypting Ransomware a.k.a. The really nasty stuff!!: This type of ransomware snatches up your files and encrypts them, demanding payment in order to decrypt and redeliver. This type of ransomware is dangerous because once criminals get a hold of your files, no security software or system restore can return them to you. The FBI advises against paying up as it could lead to future attacks.

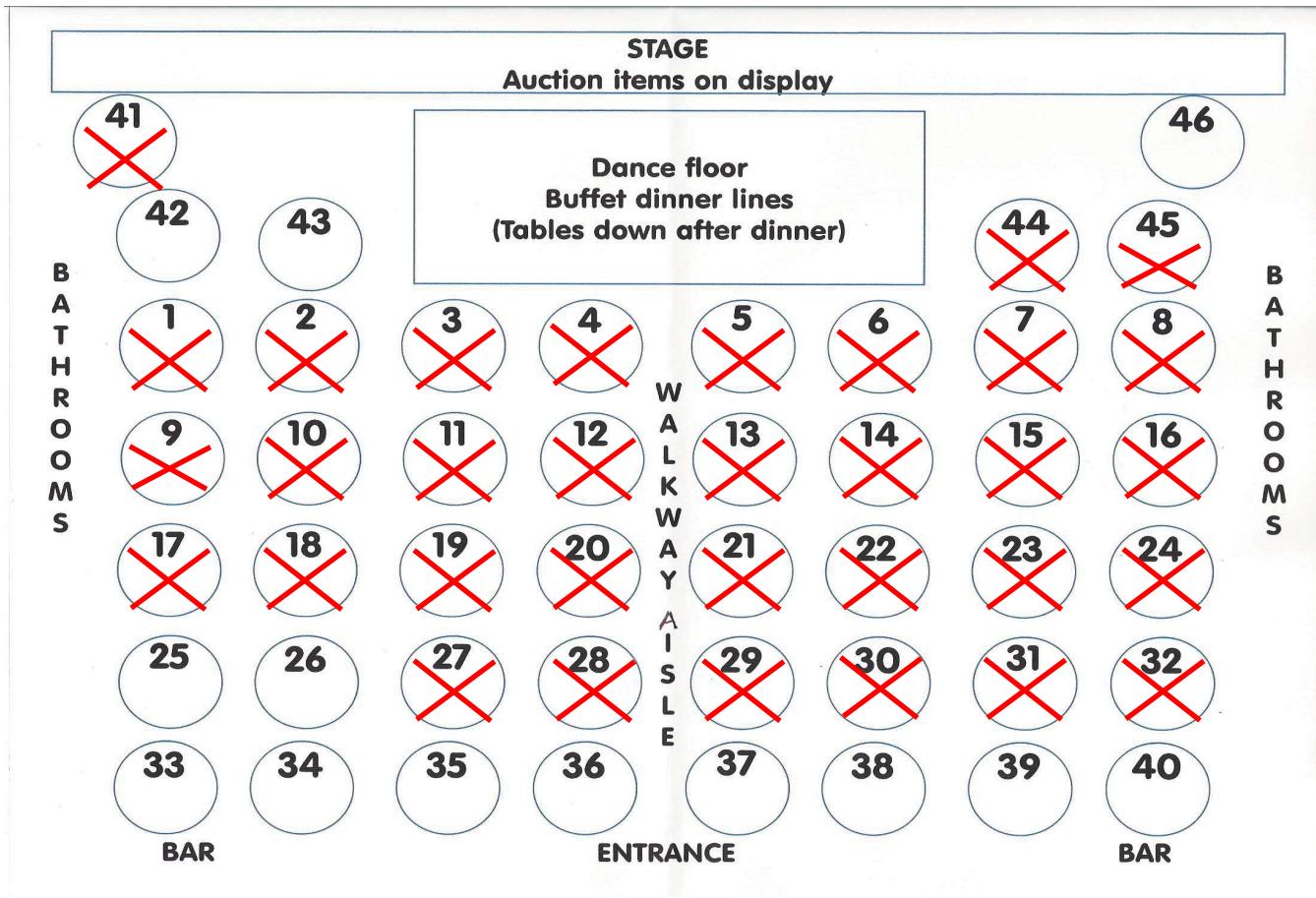
It is important to remember that most real estate transactions keep sensitive, personal information in their files. If this information falls into the wrong hands, it can lead to fraud or identity theft. A good practice is to back up your data and keep your virus protection software and malware software up to date. The National Association of REALTORS provides members with various tools and resources for data security and protection. Members may access these resources by visiting:

<https://www.nar.realtor/topics/data-privacy-and-security>

Charity Auction Dinner Ticket and Table Reservation Information

The Deserving Children Charity Auction will take place on Friday, November 10, 2017 at the Orak in Michigan City. Dinner and Table Reservations are currently on sale! Tickets are \$50 per person/\$400 per table...Tables of 8 may be reserved with a \$50 deposit - Table must be paid in full by June 30th, after that date you will forfeit your deposit and the table will be available for reservations. Seating chart is shown below. (tables marked in red have already been reserved).

**To reserve a table or purchase dinner tickets, please contact
Karole Myres at 219-363-8677.**



Membership Update

The following have applied for membership in our Association:

Mike Bilek—1st Choice Realty Group

Katie Kupsik—Keller Williams New Buffalo

Ida Ludwig—1st Choice Realty Group

Dana Kaufman—Long Beach Realty

Tim James—Pillar to Post Home Inspectors

Dana Peckham—La Porte County Realty

Please contact the board office if you have any questions or comments.

A reminder to all offices: please contact the board offices with any additions or changes so our records may be updated.

REALTORS Helping our Community!



On Saturday, May 6 of 2017, Rebuilding Together LaPorte County worked on several homes in LaPorte and Michigan City. Volunteers – skilled and unskilled—helped make that happen. Some of the volunteers included agents from MTM Realty Group who partnered this year with the project.

“This is the second year MTM has been involved with Rebuilding Together,” said Lisa Moore, Broker Owner of MTM Realty Group. “This year we were involved in a project to do improvements to help a paraplegic man get home.



He has been in a nursing home since his accident a little over a year ago. The type of work this charity does is so rewarding and it's a charity helping our industry as well. We proudly are a sponsor and give a portion of every sale to help worthy homeowners. We can't wait to do it again next year.”



Bowling Night Fundraiser—June 21st!



LAPORTE COUNTY DESERVING CHILDREN



BOWLING NIGHT

THUNDERBIRD LANES

1251 Pine Lake Ave, LaPorte, IN

June 21st ~ 6:00 pm- 9:00 pm

Cash Bar

PRIZES

*Food &
FUN*

LIMITED TO 24 TEAMS

\$100 PER 4 person TEAM or \$25 per person

(\$20 per person goes directly to Deserving Children Fund)

Teams must be registered by June 16th and paid in full

.....

Team Name _____ PAID _____

Team Contact Information:

Name _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Turn team registration into :

Tommy Sunn - 219-575-0881

tommy@1stchoicerealtygrp.com

1st Choice Realty Group

245 W Johnson Road, LaPorte, IN 46350

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: LPCAR DESERVING CHILDREN

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chance to see what RPAC dollars go towards and to see that our voices do get heard, letting the people that represent us know our positions on Tax reform, flood maps, and home ownership.

I'm excited that NAR's Fall Trade Expo will be in Chicago this year, it will allow a lot of us the opportunity to attend even if it's just for the day.

Bernie Conners, 2017 LPCAR President

Special Election Results and Fall Election

A special Election was held during our May Membership meeting to fill a board vacancy. Tracey Cummins of County-Wide Properties was elected for that position. We would like to thank both candidates who stepped up to the plate to



volunteer!

The Association is now seeking candidates for the election of Officers and Directors for 2018. The following positions are available for the fall election:

President-Elect: one year term, automatically ascends to the position of President the following year.

Secretary: one year term

Treasurer: two year term

Local Director: two year terms (two positions available)

If you would like to submit your name as a candidate please contact the board office at 219-324-8120 or via email at lpcar@frontier.com. Deadline to submit your name is August 26, 2017!

Did You Know.....

Your State Association provides state and local market reports on a regular basis. These reports provide an insight into market conditions in our county and across the state. LPCAR shares this information, as well as the reports for La Porte County on our website. More information and reports can be viewed by visiting:

<https://www.laportecountyrealtors.com/local-market-reports>

Sunshine Committee

Sunshine Committee for this association are **Robin Umphrey/REMAX 1st for La Porte and Diana Hirsch/Merrion & Associates for Michigan City.**

Please contact them with any news that is relevant to this association.



Upcoming CE Opportunities

June 13, 2017: CE night immediately following our general membership meeting. Instructor Tim Reed, course : License Law-2 CE Credit Hours

Registration for the CE will be available on our website at;
www.laportecountyrealtors.com

LA PORTE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS, INC
2017 REALTOR OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM

Name of Nominee: _____

Business Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number _____

Email Address: _____

1. Achievements and contributions (use additional sheets if necessary);

It is not necessary to complete all sections.

A. **REALTOR PROFESSIONALISM:** (high principles, faithfulness to laws and regulations, the Code of Ethics, and the furtherance of principles of good real estate practice among other brokers and general public)

B. **REALTOR DESIGNATIONS:** (Designations, advanced education and/ or training)

C. **COMMUNITY SERVICE:** (local, state and national level of participation in civic and service clubs, charitable activities, political activities, fraternal or religious groups, etc.)

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2. **LOCAL BOARD ACTIVITY:** Board offices and committee work, special assignments, seminar activity and education work, membership and offices held in local chapters or institutes, etc.

3. **STATE ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY:** State offices held and committee work, attendance and participation at IAR Conferences, Board of Directors meetings and educational conferences, etc.

- 4.. **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS ACTIVITY:** National offices and committee work, membership and work in institutes, attendance at NAR conventions, etc.

5. **OTHER COMMENTS:**

Submitted By:

Name: _____

Office: _____

Please return completed form and photo of nominee (if available) to:

Iris Muccigrosso, Executive Officer
La Porte County Association of REALTORS
P.O. Box 248, La Porte, IN 46352
Fax:219-324-9323 Email: lpcar@frontier.com

Forms must be submitted no later than August 15, 2017 (no exceptions)

2017 Annual Food Drive

LPCAR Food Drive: Helping our Community Battle Hunger

On June 1st several of the board of directors collected food items from offices that participated in this year's food drive. We want to thank everyone that joined in and we are excited that so many items were donated! Both the La Porte Salvation Army and the Michigan City Salvation Army were excited and overwhelmed at the generosity our members showed. They tell us every year that while items are donated during the holiday season, many forget to donate throughout the rest of the year, and often the pantries are low just in time for summer. They truly appreciate the donations made by our members. Here are a few pictures from yesterday's collection. The winners of the office challenge will be announced at our June General Membership Meeting. (Special Thanks to La Porte County Realty for the use of their truck and donation, Pine Lake Realty who dropped off their donation at the board office and Pam Middleton who missed her photo but is credited for their collection!)





RPAC: Your Best Investment in Real Estate

Since 1969, the REALTORS® Political Action Committee (RPAC) has promoted the election of pro-REALTOR® candidates across the United States. The purpose of RPAC is clear: REALTORS® raise and spend money to elect candidates who understand and support their interests. The money to accomplish this comes from voluntary contributions made by REALTORS®. These are not members' dues; this is money given freely by REALTORS® in recognition of how important campaign fundraising is to the political process. RPAC doesn't buy votes. RPAC enables REALTORS® to support candidates that support the issues that are important to their profession and livelihood.



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La Porte Co. Assoc. of REALTORS, Inc.



Follow us on Twitter:
LP Assoc.REALTORS@LPrealtors



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laportecountyrealtors



mobile text alerts

Contact Us

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www.laportecountyrealtors.com

June 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5	6 AE Meetings at State Association—Office Closed	7	1 Food Drive Collection Day	2	3
8 Board of Director Meeting at board office at 12 noon	9	10				
11	12	13 General Membership Meeting at 5:30 p.m. at Portofinos	14	15	16	17 Registration deadline for Bowling Night
18	19	20	21 Bowling Night Fundraiser for the Deserving Children Charity	22	23	24 <i>Board Office Closed—6/22 & 6/23</i>
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Board Office Closed—6/26 & 6/27