



La Porte County Association of REALTORS®

LPCAR



Monthly Newsletter

February 2026

IAR Update on the 2026 Legislative Session

2026 is a 'short' (non-budget) session for the Indiana General Assembly, but this doesn't mean fewer issues affecting homeowners, property taxpayers, real estate professionals and consumers considering buying or selling a home.

REALTORS® are pursuing a number of important policy priorities at the statehouse this year, and IAR's Government Affairs team is also always ready to play defense on proposals that would hurt the housing market (and your bottom lines).

IAR Senior Vice-President of Government Affairs Maggie McShane provides a report on key legislation:

- Promoting accessible and affordable housing by rolling back local regulations that add unnecessary costs and delays to new development – House Bill 1001 keeps up our push to address Indiana's housing shortage;
- Keeping Indiana ahead of the curve on consumer transparency in real estate by requiring straightforward disclosure of referral fees (House Bill 1252);
- Protecting Hoosiers (House Bill 1250) – requiring notification of local law enforcement when a violent offender is released into a community, a proposal motivated by a personal tragedy affecting our REALTOR® family; and
- Protecting homeowner property tax relief (passed last year in SEA1) and opposing any expansion of sales taxes to services.

Get the full IAR Legislative Agenda:

The full IAR Legislative Agenda for 2026 gives our positions on a variety of other housing, property rights, professional licensing and other related topics that come under consideration by state lawmakers; we've published all the details - just scan the QR code below:

2026 IAR Legislative Agenda

INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

Source:

Indiana Association of REALTORS

Letter from the Board President



Hello LPCAR Members!

I hope everyone is staying warm and safe with the weather we've been having. We have some great events planned this year, and I hope to see more Realtors and affiliate members getting involved. Please keep an eye on the monthly newsletter for upcoming events and general membership meeting dates.

We will be offering more CE this spring so that all of you have an opportunity to earn the 12 hours you need. A reminder

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2026 LPCAR Scholarships

LPCAR is pleased to offer Scholarships in the amount of **\$1000** each, to area students who plan on pursuing further education after graduation or are currently attending a college or trade school and who are related to a **REALTOR or Affiliate** member of LPCAR.

This award will be given to a person demonstrating **outstanding community involvement** who is planning to pursue further education through an accredited college, university, or trade school or are currently attending college or a trade school.

Applications will be available on our website by February 27, 2026 at www.laportecountyrealtors.com. The application also requires an essay of 200 words or less explaining why the scholarship should be awarded. Any application received without the essay will not be considered during the selection process. It is important for the student to complete all parts of the application

There will be **4 (four) Scholarships available.** Three will be available to any student related to an LPCAR member—REALTOR or Affiliate member, and one scholarship is available with the same criteria but with one additional requirement—**the family member must have served on the board of directors**—either in the past or a current board member. This is our Board of Director Service Scholarship! **Eligible applicants may apply to both scholarships but may only be selected for one.**

The deadline for this year is **April 30, 2026.** Please download the application (when posted) and have your student complete and send the form back by the deadline. Students of family members of LPCAR are eligible for this scholarship so we encourage them to apply as soon as possible.



Real Estate License Renewal Information

The current renewal deadline is **June 30, 2026.** Renewal happens every 3 years, aligning with the statewide cycle. Even if you were licensed mid-cycle, you still renew by June 30 2026. To prepare for the renewal season, please have your CE Certificates stored in a safe location and easily accessible. Here are the current requirements:

- **12 hours** every CE year (*July 1 – June 30*) if you've been a Broker for 2+ years.
- **Managing Brokers:** 12 hours total, including **4 hours** designated Managing Broker CE.
- **Managing Broker + Instructor:** 12 hours total, including **4 MB hours** and **4 Instructor hours** (plus **4 additional CE hours**).
- **New Brokers:** Complete 30-hour post-licensing course within two years of receiving your license.

The next renewal window is **April 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026.**

2025 Installation of LPCAR during our January Meeting!

Thank you to everyone who joined us on January 13, 2026 for our Membership Meeting and Installation of the 2026 LPCAR. 2025 IAR President Kim Ward was on hand to conduct the installation. This year's 2026 LPCAR Board members include:

2026 LPCAR Officers



President Julie
Wagner



President Elect
Deb Vance



Secretary
Darlene Jesch



Treasurer
Tommy Sunn

2026 LPCAR Directors



Local Director
Gary Jones



Local Director
Jeff Miles



Local Director
Verna McAlister



Local Director
Miranda Sebesta



Affiliate Director
Randi Webber

Letter from Board President (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

that the license renewal cycle ends June 30, 2026. Make sure you have taken the 12-12-12- requirements during this current cycle. Newly licensed agents, please remember that your requirement differs during the first two years—you must complete a 30-hour post licensing course.

I would love to see more members attend our events including the golf outing which is back this year! If you'd like to get more involved, please feel free to reach out. Here's to a great year ahead!

Julie Wagner

2026 LPCAR Board President

Member Benefit



FOREWARN®

FOREWARN is a revolutionary application that allows agents to have instant due diligence on prospects. In seconds, with as little information as a phone number or name, LPCAR members can verify a prospect's identity, criminal records, bankruptcies, liens, judgments, address history and property records (state laws vary) all in one place, leading to safer and more productive interactions.



This is not only critical for your personal safety and efficiency, but also a benefit to your listing homeowners, providing an added layer of protection for their homes and families through your vetting of prospective buyers. Haven't set up your account yet? Please contact the board office for more information at 219-324-8120.

2025 REALTOR of the Year Nomination Form



LA PORTE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS, INC

2025 REALTOR OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM

Name of Nominee: _____

Business Address: _____

Phone 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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2025 REALTOR of the Year Nomination Form



LA PORTE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS, INC

2025 REALTOR OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM

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
Email: lpcar@frontier.com or lpcar@comcastbiz.net

Forms must be submitted no later than February 17, 2026 (no exceptions)

Save The Date: Food Drive Quarter Paddle Auction—April 26, 2026

LaPorte County Association of REALTORS Food Drive Fundraiser Quarter Paddle Auction

For Tickets Contact

Amy Blind 219- 608-4213 Randi Webber 219-246-1672
Robin Umphrey: 219-363-9330 Laura Robbins 219-346-3399

April 26, 2026
Doors Open at Noon
Auction begins at 1pm

\$5 entry fee
includes 1 paddle

***Ask about our limited
VIP tables***

- Ticket needed to enter
- Plenty of Parking
- Cash Bar
- Food available for purchase

**Additional paddles
available for
purchase for \$5**

All proceeds will go directly to
our 2026 LPCAR Annual Food
Drive Campaign

What to bring:

- ✓ Money to buy a paddle
- ✓ Money to buy food
- ✓ Quarters for bidding
- ✓ Friends and Neighbors
- ✓ Desire to have fun!



La Porte County Association of REALTORS
 P.O. Box 248
 La Porte, Indiana 46352
 Phone: 219-324-8120

Welcome to the Annual La Porte County Association of REALTORS Food Drive! This endeavor is to help the local pantries replenish their supplies for the less fortunate. No one wants a child or anyone in our community to go to bed hungry.

We are requesting monetary donations for this year's drive. Any amount is appreciated. Every cent of your donation goes toward buying food and all contributions stay in our community.

We will once again partner with a local grocery store and will be able to purchase our food at a reduced rate. This simple act of kindness helps so many!

Donations are being accepted through May 2026! Please make all checks payable to "La Porte County Association of REALTORS." You may use our GoFundMe page too... *(Please note the following if using GoFundMe link: It will ask a donor for a "tip" to offset costs. You may elect to bypass the tip by entering "0" as the percentage amount. This is an optional feature added by GoFundMe but not required).*

Please feel free to call anyone on our committee if you would like any additional information or if you would like someone to pick up your donation.

Thank you for your support and, as always, we are so grateful for each of you!

Food Drive Committee Chairs

Amy Blind	Robin Umphrey
Pine Lake Realty	RE/MAX County Wide 1 st
219-608-4213	219-363-9330

Committee Members:

Lyz Lukac/REMAX County Wide 1st: 219-851-4911
 Jordin Agemy/C21 Circle: 219-877-8127
 Verna McAlister/McColly Real Estate: 219-380-9584
 Angie Carr/Blackrock Real Estate: 574-806-0117
 Ashlan Siford/MTM Realty: 219-363-6315
 Julie Wagner/McColly Real Estate: 219-608-5614
 Mike Bilek/McColly Real Estate: 219-898-0342
 Joy Pawlak/McColly Real Estate: 219-861-9992
 Randi Webber/Rural 1st: 219-246-1672
 Tommy Sunn/Coldwell Banker 1st Choice: 219-575-0881
 Laura Robbins/Metropolitan Title: 219-346-3399
 Brad Ellett/Ruoff Mortgage: 574-915-7010
 Jeff Miles/MTM Realty: 219-367-2255



QR Code for GoFundMe

La Porte County Association of REALTORS Food Drive Committee

Have confidence in a professional – see a REALTORS®

National Association of REALTORS®

REALTOR® is a registered mark which identifies a professional in real estate who subscribes to a strict Code of Ethics as a member of the National Association of REALTORS®



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.



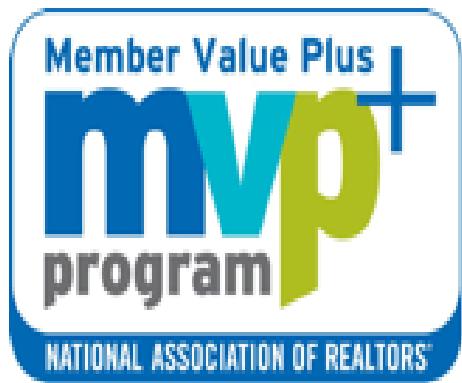
[Like](#) us on Facebook:
La Porte Co. Assoc. of [REALTORS](#),
Inc.



Follow us on Twitter:
[LP Assoc.REALTORS@LPRealtors](#)



Follow us on Instagram
[laportecountyrealtors](#)



Contact Us

LPCAR
PO Box 248
La Porte, IN 46352



Phone(219)324-8120
Fax: 219-363-9323
lpca@lpca.comcastbiz.net or
lpca@frontier.com Visit us on the
web at www.laportecountyrealtors.com

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
The board office will be operating remotely. In-person office visits by appointment only! Lockbox requests must be initiated through NIRA and appointment for pickup at board office must be made.						
1	2 IAR Delegation Day in Indianapolis	3	4	5	6 	7
8 	9	10	11	12 Committee Chair/Co-chair meeting 9:00 a.m.	13	14 
15	16 President's Day—Office closed.	17	18 Board of Director Meeting and Leadership Training	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Office Closed