

September 2025

LPCAR Newsletter



Self Defense Session and 4 Hours CE

We are pleased to host this special session for all LPCAR members in observance of Safety Month. Join us for a hands-on Self Defense Session on September 25, 2025. This session will take place at the MAAC Foundation in Valparaiso. Registration is open but is limited so please register early!

Date: **September 25, 2025**

Venue: **MAAC Foundation - First Responder Training Campus**
4203 Montdale Dr, Valparaiso, IN 46383

Time: **8:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.**

Attendees will receive:

- ♦ 4 CE hours in REALTOR Safety
- ♦ Light Breakfast in the morning
- ♦ Lunch provided
- ♦ Hands-on training

This event will take the place of our regular General Membership Meeting for September. This session is free of charge to all LPCAR members—Affiliates and REALTOR members!

To register visit: <https://bit.ly/LPCARSelfDefense2025>

We ask all attendees to wear comfortable clothing for this session.



Thank you to our sponsors:



**Letter from
Board
President**

September is REALTOR® Safety Month!

I'd love to see many of you take advantage of the free self-defense class on Thursday, September 25th at the MAAC Foundation Training Center in Valparaiso. This event is free for all LPCAR members (Affiliates and REALTORS) and includes four hours of CE with Tim Reed, plus breakfast and lunch provided. Space is limited, so be sure to sign up soon!

This month we're also hosting a Give Back Night for the Deserving Children Charity on September 30th at Hacienda in Michigan City.

Looking ahead—mark your calendars for **Bingo Night on October**

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Deserving Children Charity Updates

2025 Charity Auction Committee Co-Chairs

Tommy Sunn

219-575-0881

Verna McAlister

219-380-9584

Julie Deal

219-241-8888

Table & Dinner Ticket Sales:

Peggy Loza

219-608-7141

Laura Robbins

574-250-3755

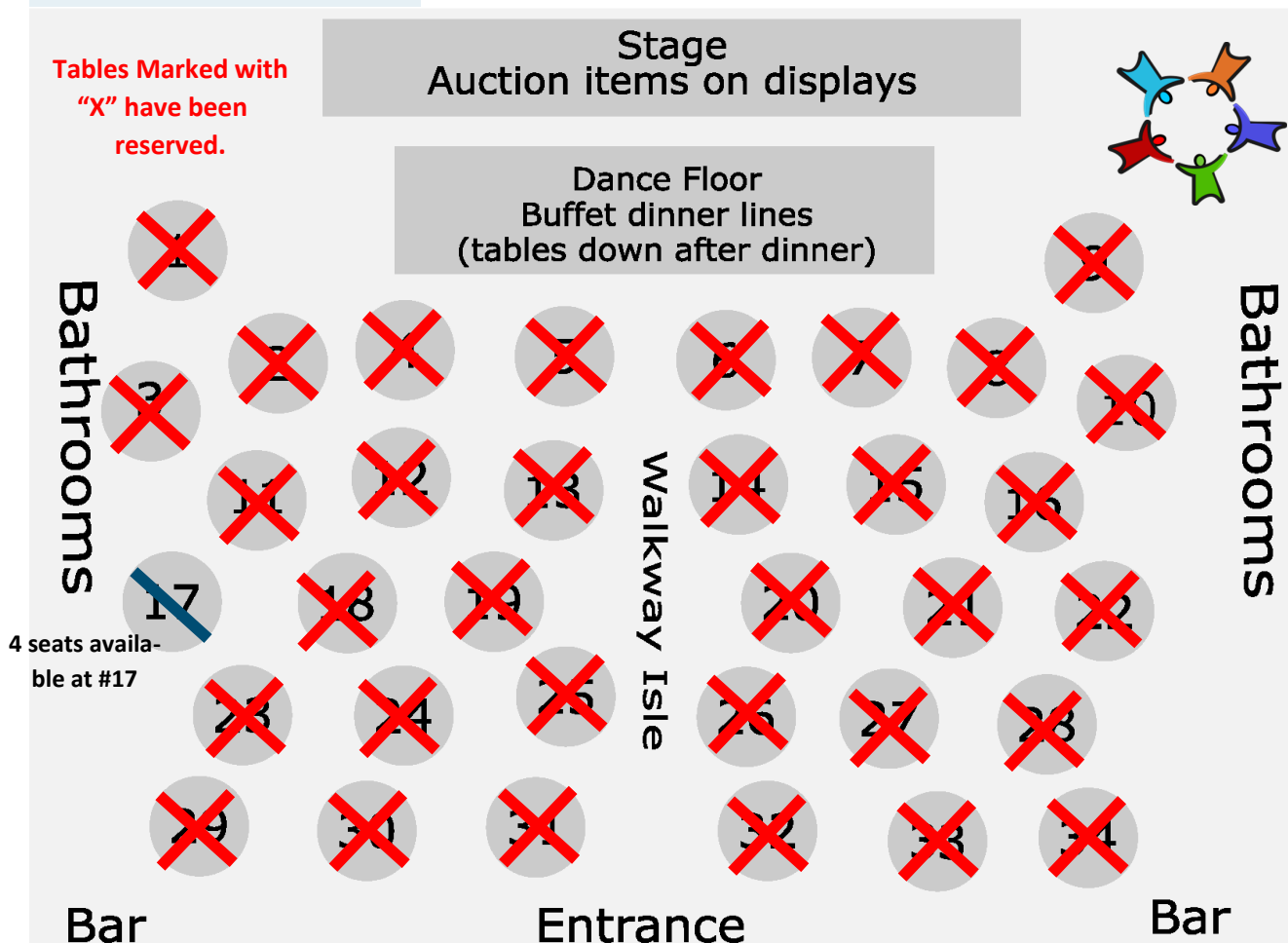
[Board Office](#)

Tables for our Deserving Children's Charity Auction are now available for reservations! There are just a few tables left so make sure to reserve your table. Please contact **Peggy Loza** to reserve your table! The auction will take place at the Orak on November 14, 2025! Tickets are \$60 per person or a table of 8 for \$480. **All reserved tables must be paid by September 30, 2025 in order to secure your spot.**

Auction Item Donations are needed to help make this event successful. Please con-

tact any of the auction co-chairs if you are interested in donating items. Some ideas for donations include: Holiday Décor, Kid's Toys, Tech items, Items for the home, etc. Take advantage of Amazon Prime Days to find gift ideas or purchase items for the auction!

Auction items may be dropped off at the following locations: Meridian Title (La Porte and Michigan City) and Fidelity Title (new location on Johnson road). If you would like your item picked up, please contact one of the co-chairs listed for assistance.





2025 LaPorte County Deserving Children Shopping Tour SPONSORSHIP & DONATION REQUEST FORM



The Deserving Children Shopping Tour is a local charity where money is raised to take children of LaPorte County shopping for items such as hats, coats, boots and a toy for Christmas. One hundred percent (100%) of the money raised stays locally here in LaPorte County!

Last year, over 600 LaPorte County children benefited from this program!!

The LaPorte County Association of Realtors raises money throughout the year to fund this charity. As part of these efforts, the LaPorte County Realtors Association hosts the Deserving Children's Charity Auction.

Deserving Children's Charity Auction: This year's live auction will be held at the **Orak Shrine, Michigan City on November 14, 2025**. Tickets will be \$60.00 each; Table Reservations will be \$480 for 8 people. Ticket includes dinner and live auction.

Contact Peggy Loza at 219-608-7141 or Laura Robbins at 219-346-3399 for Table Reservations

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Items for our Auction are needed! To donate item(s) toward the Live Auction, donations can be dropped off Meridian Title, Fidelity Title and REMAX County Wide 1st, or contact any LPCAR Committee Member for items needing to be picked up.

~ CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP DONATION LEVELS~

\$2500 PLATINUM SPONSOR INCLUDES: Table of 8 Live Auction dinner tickets. Recognition provided on table centerpieces at auction event, verbal recognition during live auction event and on overhead screen pre-auction, and business highlighted on LPCAR / Deserving Children's Auction social media pages leading up to the event.

\$2000 GOLD SPONSOR INCLUDES: 4 Live Auction dinner tickets. Recognition provided on table centerpieces at auction event, verbal recognition during live auction event and on overhead screen pre-auction, and business highlighted on LPCAR / Deserving Children's Auction social media pages leading up to the event.

\$1500 SILVER SPONSOR INCLUDES: 2 Live Auction dinner tickets. Recognition provided on table centerpieces at auction event, verbal recognition during live auction event and on overhead screen pre-auction, and business highlighted on LPCAR / Deserving Children's Auction social media pages leading up to the event.

_____: **"It's for the Kids" Sponsor:** Monetary Donation Only. Not interested in attending the Auction, but want to help? Write in your monetary donation amount here. We appreciate your support!

To make a donation, please contact a committee chair member:

Julie Deal: 219-241-8888

Verna McAlister: 219-380-9584

Tommy Sunn: 219-575-0881

For Corporate Sponsors, please fill out the information below and send back to lpcar@lpcar.comcastbiz.net:

COMPANY NAME: _____ **CONTACT:** _____

COMPANY ADDRESS: _____ **CITY:** _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

PHONE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

Letter from Board President *(Continued)*

(Continued from page 1)

23rd at the VFW in LaPorte. Tickets are \$50 each, and it's a fun-filled evening with friends while raising money for a great cause. Proceeds raised will benefit the Deserving Children's Charity!

If you have any questions about upcoming events, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm always just a phone call or email away. Thank you!

Julie Wagner
2025 LPCAR Board President

2025 Annual Broker Certification

Each September the association requires all member officers to certify agents in that officer per LPCAR Bylaws:

Article VI—Privileges and Obligations, Section 12. Certification by REALTOR®. "Designated" REALTOR® members of the association shall certify to the association during the month of September on a form provided by the association, a complete listing of all individuals licensed or certified in the REALTOR®'s office(s) and shall designate a primary association for each individual who holds membership. Designated REALTORS® shall also identify any non-member licensees in the REALTOR®'s office(s) and if designated REALTOR® dues have been paid to another association based on said non-member licensees, the designated REALTOR® shall identify the association to which dues have been remitted. These declarations shall be used for purposes of calculating dues under Article X, Section 2(a) of the Bylaws.

Each managing broker was sent out a form via email to complete and return by September 30, 2025. We ask that these forms be returned by the deadline. Thank you very much.



Stop by and make a donation to the Deserving Children's Roof Sit! Help support children in our community! In partnership with LPCAR, the money raised helps pay to take kids shopping for the Deserving Children's Shopping Tour!

Find us in the street accepting donations in front of the radio station and Dennis broadcasting from the roof!

We will have lunch items for sale between 11-1 and of course the pies from Pioneerland at 4 p.m.!!



La Porte County
Association of REALTORS

**Deserving Children Charity Bingo Night
Fundraiser**

Thursday, October 23, 2025
VFW, 181 McClung Road, La Porte, IN
Doors open at 5:00 p.m. - Bingo begins at 6:00 p.m.

**Costume Contest - come dressed in your favorite Halloween attire
for a chance at a prize!!**

**Ticket Packages: \$50 and includes all
event games, late night food bites, free dauber**

**PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE DESERVING
CHILDREN'S CHARITY FUND**

Deserving Children Charity Event-Bingo Night Super Bingo Package Presales

The Bingo Night Fundraising Event will take place on October 23, 2025 at the VFW in La Porte. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. and bingo begins at 6:00 p.m.

Super Bingo Packages are available for preorder/prepurchase. Packages are \$50 each and include the following:

- All Bingo Event Games
- Free Bingo Dauber
- Late Night Food Bite Snacks (*please note: drinks are not included in the package*)

Packages available for purchase are limited!. To place an order for a package click on the following link: [**https://bit.ly/LPCARBingoForm2025**](https://bit.ly/LPCARBingoForm2025)

Package purchase is not guaranteed until payment has been made. To pay via check please contact **Marina Klein** at [**marinakleinre@gmail.com**](mailto:marinakleinre@gmail.com) or **219-246-7887**.

Credit Card Payments will be processed via our Square account. A link for payment will be displayed during presale registration AND once you have submitted your order on your confirmation page. ***Packages not guaranteed until payment has been made.*** Packages will be available for pick up at the **VFW on October 23, 2025**. If paying by check, please make checks payable to LPCAR Charity Fund. Due to the nature of this fundraiser, no refunds will be permitted.

2026 LPCAR Board Election—Candidate Information

The 2025 Election of the LPCAR Board will take place during our October General Membership Meeting on October 14, 2025. Candidate information will be sent to all members two weeks prior to the elections per association bylaws. We would like to thank all of our candidates for providing us with information to get to know them better and for volunteering to serve!

2026 President



Julie Wagner/Weichert REALTORS Shoreline

My name is Julie Wagner, and I am honored to be serving as your 2025 Board President. Due to the unexpected vacancy for the upcoming term, I have decided to run for 2026 Board President to help provide continuity and leadership for our association. I have been very involved with the board this year and I am always willing to step in and assist with committees whenever needed. Over the past year, I have gained valuable experience and insight in this role, and I am eager to continue supporting our association in every way I can. I look forward to the opportunity to serve as your president once again in 2026.

President-Elect *(automatically ascends to President the following year)*



Deb Vance/Weichert REALTORS/Merrion Group

Hi, my name is Deborah Vance and I am running for president elect for the LaPorte County ASSOCIATION of REALTORS® board. I am currently working with Weichert Realtors Merrion Group in Michigan City as a Real Estate Broker and office admin. I have been in the business for eight years and I enjoy helping clients and fellow agents as much as I can. Throughout my life, I have gained much experience, including customer service, educational consulting, teaching as an adjunct professor, as well as an administrative assistant at our local community college. Because of this vast experience, I feel like I have become accustomed to continual learning, rolling with the changes that come through things like technology, education, and internal procedures as well as learning to fix any problems that may come about. I feel being a part of the LPCAR Board is important because it helps to learn how to stay focused through changes and education that does have an impact on LPCAR and it's members and I want to be able to share and communicate to others the importance of teamwork, education, and community. I have been married for 20 years to a wonderful husband, have 9 grandchildren, including 2 angels. I enjoy crocheting, reading and writing (I have written four books that remain unpublished) and am active in my church at The Salvation Army, where I serve as the Corps Sergeant Major.

I appreciate your support and look forward to working with you and for you as your president elect of LPCAR.

Board Secretary *(one year term)*



Darlene Jesch/MTM Realty Group

- Agent since 1996
- Been on the BOD many times and looking forward to serve again
- Married 51 years
- Two adult children with spouses
- Three grandkids
- Crocheting is my hobby.
- Let's do this.

Treasurer *(two-year term)*



Tommy Sunn/Coldwell Banker 1st Choice

- Current chair of the Deserving Childrens charity Auction
- Past LPCAR president
- Past Local Director for LPCAR
- Past Secretary of LPCAR
- 25 years in the Real estate Industry

Local Director *(one 1-year term and one 2-year term available)-Candidates listed alphabetically*



Gary Jones/REMAX County Wide 1st

Gary is committed real estate professional, with RE/MAX County Wide 1st in La Porte. With over 29 years of real estate experience, Gary strives to make each transaction as smooth and as stress free as possible for his clients.

Gary began his real estate career in 1996, and has provided numerous clients with knowledge, expertise, and unparalleled passion for the real estate field. In addition to helping clients buy and sell homes, Gary is also highly skilled in working with investors and REO market sales.

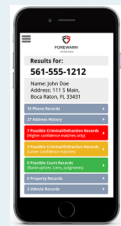
Gary lives in LaPorte, and is married to his wife Robin of 24 years. Together they have 2 children, Carter who is finishing his senior year at Ball State University, and Carly who is attending her junior year at La Porte High School. Gary has previously served on the board as Treasurer and State Director, and he looks forward to the opportunity to serve you as Local Director.



FOREWARN®

Member Benefit

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.

2026 LPCAR Board Election—Candidate Information *(continued)*

Local Director *(one 1-year term and one 2-year term available)-Candidates listed alphabetically*



Elena Lopez/Coldwell Banker Real Estate Group

I began my real estate career in 2004 and have had the privilege of working in and managing across multiple markets, including Lake Co, Porter Co, La Porte County, and Michigan. Today, I serve as Branch Manager for Coldwell Banker Real Estate Group, leading offices in Michigan City, Valparaiso, and Crown Point. My leadership extends beyond the office—I have served on the NIRA Board of Directors for the past 3 years and was elected to Treasurer 2026. I currently chair the MLS Compliance Committee, in addition to active roles as Vice Chair of RPAC Trustees, Rules & Regulations Committee member, State Grievance and as a liaison for IAR RPAC Fundraising. 2024 IAR Leadership Graduate. I am also pursuing leadership opportunities with NAHREP as a founding Board Director and the Women's Council of REALTORS® incoming Treasurer. Balancing my career with my role as a wife and mother of six has given me a unique perspective on the opportunities this industry provides. My focus is on strengthening our profession. I am deeply committed to protecting homeownership, ensuring the long-term success of our industry, and highlighting the vital role real estate plays in our economy.



Jeff Miles/MTM Realty Group

Born and raised in Michigan City. My wife and I live in LaPorte County. I have always had a passion for learning and meeting and helping people. I enjoy being involved in the community and attending many community events (especially in the Michigan City area). I have volunteered, donated, and/or sponsored events for several organizations, including the Salvation Army of Michigan City, Nest Community Shelter, Stepping Stone Shelter, Family Advocates, and United Way. Years ago, I served on the Michigan City YMCA Board in every position, including President, and on the St. Stanislaus School Board and Laporte County Sheriff Reserve Board. I recently became a Michigan City Chamber of Commerce Ambassador and have attended many Chamber events. I also recently became a member of the Rotary Club of Michigan City – I was drawn to this club after attending one meeting a couple months ago and seeing the camaraderie among a great group of members and learning about the Rotary's 4-way test, which really resonated with me because it aligns with how I've always tried to live my life (conducting yourself in all matters with truthfulness, fairness to all concerned, building goodwill and better friendship, and beneficial to all concerned). I had the honor (while fulfilling a childhood dream) of serving for 15 years as a Reserve Deputy Patrolman on the LaPorte County Sheriff's Department. I worked as a technology consultant and in leadership roles at many major corporations in various areas (most of the Steel Mills, NiSource, A.M. General, 3M, and Whirlpool) for decades. During this time, my wife and I ran our own

2026 LPCAR Board Election—Candidate Information *(continued)*

Jeff Miles Bio-continued

consulting company for 10 years and had as many as twelve employees at one point. I have two degrees in computer technology from Purdue University and graduated with a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree in Business and Economics from Indiana University in 2023. I am now a Real Estate broker with MTM Realty Group (Long Beach office) – licensed in Indiana (2024) and Michigan (2025). I love learning and working in this new career (part-time at first and then full-time since July 1st) and have taken many extra courses and certifications, including the Real Estate Negotiation Expert (RENE) certification and Pricing Strategy Advisor (PSA), to better prepare myself to serve my clients.

Affiliate Director (two-year term)

Randi Webber/Rural 1st



Randi Webber is the proud mother of 2 daughters and wife to Steve. She has been involved in the real estate/mortgage industry for over 15 years. During this time, she has been active in her local fair board, real estate related committee's/organizations, and volunteering at her kids school. Randi has loved the opportunity to commit and be move actively involved in the LPCAR organization over the past 5+ years. Like the properties she finances, Randi's perspective is unique, and she looks forward to hopefully bringing that to the LPCAR Board!

Absentee Voting and Election Day Information

Our election takes place during the October General Membership Meeting on **October 14, 2025** at 11:30 a.m. at Portofino Grill in La Porte. We invite all of you to attend the meeting as well as cast your vote. Voting will take place after each candidate has had the opportunity to address the membership in attendance and the vote has been called for. For those of you wishing to stop by to vote, please note that you may do so anytime **after the vote has been called for and before the finally tally has been announced**. If you arrive early, you will need to wait until voting takes place.

Absentee voting will take place at the board office as follows:

Thursday, October 2, 2025 between 1-3 p.m.

Wednesday, October 8, 2025 between 1-3 p.m.

Ballots will only be available at the Board Office and only one ballot per person will be allowed. Voting on behalf of another individual will not be permitted. Ballots will not be mailed, faxed, or emailed. Picture ID may be required for Absentee Voting. If a member votes via absentee ballot, and then attends the meeting, the absentee vote will be discarded.

La Porte County Association of REALTORS
**Deserving Children Charity Giveback
Fundraiser**

Taco Tuesday!

September 30, 2025

Hacienda Restaurant

**2148 N Karwick Rd, Michigan
City, IN 46360**

**Must show token to server to receive giveback credit.
Gift cards purchased are eligible for the giveback - great
time to stock up!!**

**A PORTION OF YOUR TOTAL BILL
WILL BE DONATED BACK!
PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE
DESERVING CHILDREN'S CHARITY
FUND**



Group: La Porte County Deserving Children Charity
Date: September 30, 2025
Location: Michigan City Hacienda
2148 N Karwick Rd, Michigan City 46360

You must receive this token from your organization prior to your event. Distribution of this token on Hacienda property will disqualify the organization from receiving any proceeds.

Don't have time to eat out? Pick up a Hacienda gift card or Fiesta-To-Go order. They count towards the fundraiser.

Restaurant Phone Number 219-879-4404

GIFT CARDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED TO MAKE PAYMENT FOR
YOUR PURCHASE WITH THIS TOKEN



Group: La Porte County Deserving Children Charity
Date: September 30, 2025
Location: Michigan City Hacienda
2148 N Karwick Rd, Michigan City 46360

You must receive this token from your organization prior to your event. Distribution of this token on Hacienda property will disqualify the organization from receiving any proceeds.

Don't have time to eat out? Pick up a Hacienda gift card or Fiesta-To-Go order. They count towards the fundraiser.

Restaurant Phone Number 219-879-4404

GIFT CARDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED TO MAKE PAYMENT FOR
YOUR PURCHASE WITH THIS TOKEN

MAKE IT HOME

STAY SAFE ON THE JOB YEAR-ROUND

With tips and tools from NAR at nar.realtor/safety

REALTOR® Safety Pledge

Commit to prioritizing
your safety.

Safety Webinars

View past sessions on data
security, mental health,
personal and client safety.

Training Videos

Learn best practices to keep
yourself, your clients, and
your business safe.

Social Media Content

Follow NAR on Facebook,
Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter
for weekly safety tips to share.

Monthly Articles

Stay in the loop on the
latest safety topics.

Office Forms

For REALTORS® and clients.



Questions? Contact safety@nar.realtor





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



Follow us on Instagram
[laportecountyrealtors](#)



Join us in Houston for NAR NXT, The REALTOR® Experience
NAR NXT combines real estate marketing, expert education, and real estate networking opportunities.



Contact Us

245 W Johnson Rd, Suite 8
La Porte, IN 46350

Phone (219) 324-8120

Fax: 219-363-9323

lpcar@lpcar.com or lpcar@frontier.com Visit us on the web at www.laportecountyrealtors.com



September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day—Board Office Closed	2	3	4 Board of Director Meeting at 11:30 a.m. At Coolspring Branch Library	5	+
7	8 IAR Fall Conference: Indianapolis-Sept 8-9 2025/Hyatt Regency	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 FALL IS HERE!	23	24	25 Self-Defense Session at MAAC Center in Valpo/Office Closed	26	27
28	29 Broker Certification Deadline	30				