



6/25/20 | **Second Quarter**

## *2020 President Don Parsons*

I hope this find you all well and enjoying the first few days of Summer. I have received positive feedback from many members regarding the wearing of masks and proper social distancing while out in the marketplace, and *I commend you* for being thoughtful professionals. I encourage you to keep up the great work to keep yourself and others safe as activity continues to pick up with the public emerging from their homes given [Rhode Island's re-opening plan](#). We ask you to continue to adhere to [Rhode Island's guidelines for in-person open houses](#), should a virtual tour not be feasible.

The Board office is open and has been continuously serving its members throughout the pandemic, providing resiliency, self-care and professional development programs virtually and important COVID information and resources. Additionally, we responded to over 200 inquiries on real estate license renewals.

As leaders in our communities, we remind you that providing equal services to people from all walks of life is essential and required by Fair Housing laws. Here at the GPBOR, we foster and promote an inclusive environment and welcome diversity in our organization and encourage our members to do the same personally and in business. Late last year, the Board's leadership started a dialogue of how we could do better and provide support to our members on this. Recently, a Diversity task force of REALTOR® volunteer members was established, and you will be hearing more from them throughout 2020 – 2021.

Do you know a landlord? A reminder that the Association recently partnered with The United Way and the Providence Department of Planning to launch **#LandlordChallenge**. They are looking for units that are habitable and immediately available across the state to provide a safe harbor to vulnerable Rhode Islanders without a home. The program will pay landlords market rent reliably on the first of each month. They are looking for at least 100 rental units and 40 have come forward

## Equal Housing Opportunity



Our members pledge to provide equal service to all and are held to the REALTOR® Code of Ethics, including Article 10, which states:

*"REALTORS® shall not deny equal professional services to any person for reasons of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity. REALTORS® shall not be parties to any plan or agreement to discriminate against a person or persons on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity."*

## Congratulations!



Congratulations to Matt Phipps, of Phipps Realty, on his selection as the Greater Providence Board of REALTORS® 2020 REALTOR® of the Year. Pictured here at the announcement is Rita Danielle Steele (left), of Steele Realty Consultants, GPBOR's 2018 REALTOR® of the Year and Leann D'Ettore (right) of Homistic Real Estate, 2019 GPBOR and Rhode Island REALTOR® of the Year. Matt will be one of 5 candidates for the Statewide Honor this Fall.

to-date. Dial 211 for more info or to sign up.

Home inspector licensing will start to be enforced on 7/1/2020. Anyone who conducts a home inspection for a home or other residential property located in Rhode Island must be licensed as a home inspector or associate home inspector. This includes home inspectors who are already licensed in other states like Massachusetts or Connecticut. Be sure to check out [the State's website to verify](#).

Thank you to all to have donated small household items to our charitable foundation to benefit [The Sojourner House](#) – committed to ending sexual and domestic violence. If you have not donated and have the capacity to do so, please do so through our [Amazon wish list through 6/30](#).

Wishing you all a safe and Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

Our office will be closed on 7/6/20 in observance of Independence Day.



[Learn More](#)

## Changes to Circle of Sales Rules

Earlier this year, the Board approved a change to the Circle of Sales Awards Rules. The change was specific to Section II, Letter E, which will now read *"In the event that there is a co-selling or co-listing relationship, resulting in a sale, both agents will receive equal credit of the sales volume."*

You can see a full copy [of the rules here](#).

## Deadline to apply for the PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) is 6/30 – Major updates rolled out

The SBA & U.S. Treasury Department rolled out major updates to the Paycheck Protection Program, offering automatic forgiveness for certain independent contractors and created a streamlined EZ Forgiveness Application for borrowers who:

- Are self-employed and have no employees; or
- Did not reduce the salaries or wages of their employees by more than 25% and did not reduce the number or hours of their employees; or
- Experienced reductions in business activity as a result of health directives related to COVID-19 and did not reduce the salaries or wages of their employees by more than 25%.

**The deadline to apply for a PPP loan is 6/30.** The program still has funding available and will close at the end of the month unless Congress acts to extend it. For more information see:

- [NAR's SBA CARES Act FAQs](#)
- [PPP "EZ Forgiveness Application"](#)
- [PPP "Full Forgiveness Application"](#)
- [Treasury's June 17 announcement of updated forgiveness forms](#)
- [SBA interim final rule \(reflecting the PPP Flexibility Act changes\)](#)

*Shamila Ahmed*  
STEELE REALTY  
CONSULTANTS, LLC



*Sandra Deignan*  
EXIT REALTY  
PROFESSIONALS



*Agueda Del Borgo*  
PLACES & SPACES  
REALTY, LLC



*Reba Golden*  
KELLER WILLIAMS  
REALTY OF CENTRAL RI

*Congratulations!*



Previously endorsed members:

- Dave Bouchard, Anytime Realty, LLC
- William Darling, Residential Properties, Ltd
- Leann D'Ettore, Homistic Real Estate, Inc.
- Etelvina Moran, Harborside Realty
- Evelyn Ranone, Homesmart Professionals

GPBOR - successfully implementing tools & innovative technologies helping to cultivate leaders in their real estate communities.

**OWNING THEIR PRESENT.  
EMPOWERING THEIR FUTURE.  
SHOWCASING THEIR SKILLS.**

Learn more or register at [www.c2ex.realtor](http://www.c2ex.realtor).

GPBOR | [www.gpbior.realtor](http://www.gpbior.realtor)



GPBOR - successfully implementing tools & innovative technologies helping to cultivate leaders in their real estate communities.