

The National Association of Realtors®, “The Voice for Real Estate,” is America’s largest trade association, representing more than 1.2 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.

Charles McMillan, 2009 NAR President
NAR President’s Podcast
April 7, 2009

Introduction

Lying, thinking

Last night

How to find my soul a home....

I came up with one thing

And I don’t believe I’m wrong

That nobody

But nobody

Can make it out here alone.

Hello, everyone, this is Charles McMillan, your 2009 President of the National Association of REALTORS. The words I just read are not my own. They are from the poem, “Alone” by one of the greatest writers of my generation, Maya Angelou.

I chose to begin this edition of the NAR President’s podcast with those words because the sentiment they convey is so very important, especially in the current economic environment.

Fair Housing Month

The truth is that current economic conditions are making it harder for Americans from all backgrounds to achieve the dream of homeownership. As a result, our communities and our businesses are suffering.

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None of us can solve these challenges alone. As we celebrate Fair Housing Month throughout April, I am calling on REALTORS and our partners to join with us in helping make the dream of homeownership easier for everyone.

HOPE Awards

One of the easiest ways you can make a difference is by participating in the HOPE Awards this May.

HOPE stands for Home Ownership Participation for Everyone. The awards showcase our longstanding partnership with five of America’s leading minority real estate organizations.

On May 12, 2009, During the Midyear Legislative Meetings and Trade Expo, NAR and our partners will unite to recognize outstanding individuals and organizations that are helping people of all backgrounds and social standings achieve homeownership.

The Gala is one of the most inspiring and meaningful events that NAR sponsors. And, considering how much our nation is struggling today, I have no doubt that this year’s celebration will be one of the most moving in our history.

I am thrilled to be able to participate in this year’s Gala, as 2009 President of the National Association of REALTORS. And, I sincerely hope that you will join me in supporting this wonderful program.

For more information on the nominees, and to find out how you can attend the Gala or become a HOPE Awards sponsor, visit our web site at hopeawards.org.

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Housing Summit

In addition to the HOPE Awards, NAR is sponsoring an all-day Housing Summit at the Midyear Meetings throughout the day on Tuesday, May 12th.

The Summit will highlight critical issues facing the housing market today. Speakers from the federal government and industry leaders will lead discussions on how we can – and should – work together to resolve these challenges.

Topics will include pros and cons of federal solutions to the housing crisis; how we can re-shape real estate in communities to sustain homeownership; and the future of real estate finance.

Our government affairs staff is working to confirm some very notable speakers for these panels. We will post the agenda and information on the Meetings and Expo page as soon as it is ready.

If you are on the fence about attending these meetings, I dare say this one session will make it worth the trip. I hope to see all of you there.

If you can’t make it to Washington, D.C., stay tuned to Realtor.org for updates and highlights from all of the sessions, and let us know what you think.

Conclusion

That’s all for this edition of the President’s Podcast.

I thank each and every one of you for your support and hard work so far this year.

You have helped my soul find a home right here in the Realtor organization. I am proud to serve as your 2009 NAR President.

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Keep up the great work, and don’t forget to check the President’s Report page on Realtor.org for more news and views from your entire 2009 Leadership Team.