

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

**Remarks Prepared for Gary Thomas  
2009 NAR Vice President and Liaison to Government Affairs  
Idaho Association of REALTORS®  
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Installation  
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## **IMPORTANCE OF MEMBER INVOLVEMENT**

**Good evening! I’m honored to be here tonight to help install your 2010 Leadership Team.**

**I was looking up Idaho history this week and discovered something quite impressive. Do you know who Larry Jackson, Gretchen Fraser, and Lou Dobbs are? Do you know what they all have in common?**

**The first thing might be pretty obvious. They all spent some part of their lives in Idaho. But the more extraordinary thing is that each one of these amazing Idahoans rose to great heights in their respective fields.**

**Larry Jackson, born in Nampa, Idaho, pitched for the Cardinals, Chicago Cubs, and the Phillies. In 1964, he was a runner-up for the Cy Young Award for the best pitchers in the Major League.**

**Gretchen Fraser, who lived in Sun Valley, became the first American to win an Olympic gold medal for skiing.**

**Lou Dobbs, who grew up in Rupert, Idaho, is the anchor and managing editor for CNN’s Lou Dobb’s Tonight.**

**Idaho has an impressive legacy of accomplished citizens. I’m reminded here on this evening when we will install your 2010 Idaho Association Leadership that it’s**

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**only through commitment to our profession that REALTORS® will also accomplish our goals and lay claim to the success we’ve been fighting for this past year.**

**I have good news for us, though. The housing market does appear to be turning around nationwide. We’ve seen four straight months of rising home sales. We’re seeing housing inventory that’s been sitting on the market finally getting chipped away at.**

**We need to capitalize on this momentum and channel the triumphant spirit of your fellow Idahoans and rise to new heights in the REALTOR® organization this year.**

**I believe the way to do that is through member involvement, and I want to share with you some ways you can get more involved.**

**As I talked about at the NAR Rap Session this afternoon, NAR has its eye on a number of issues in Washington this fall:**

- **Extending and expanding the homebuyer tax credit.**
- **Extending higher conforming loan limits for 2010.**
- **Calling for a moratorium on the Home Valuation Code of Conduct.**
- **Monitoring the health care insurance reform debate.**
- **Closely watching the Energy Bill in the Senate.**

**Is NAR busy this fall? Yes. Are we prepared to monitor all of these issues? Absolutely!**

### **Homebuyer Tax Credit**

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**The most important issue we need member support on is the Call for Action sent out this week on the homebuyer tax credit.**

**You should have an email about it in your email inbox. Or you can go to REALTORActionCenter.com to participate.**

**REALTORS® cannot sit on the sidelines on this one. Your support is crucial.**

### **Broker Involvement Program**

**A second way for brokers to make a solid impact is by joining the Broker Involvement Program. This program gives brokers the opportunity to send NAR Calls for Action to their agents under their name and logo. Each broker can see which of his or her agents responded on a special web page created just for them.**

**Currently, we have more than 1,800 brokers active in the program, reaching more than 190,000 agents. The program has significantly increased our Call For Action response rate on a number of recent issues.**

***[At this point, if you know for certain there are members of BIP in the room, you can ask them to stand and have the audience applaud them. Or you can use the next line as a way to close this section.]***

**Brokers, do you think the current Call for Action on the tax credit is important? If so, enroll in the program as soon as possible. Simply go to REALTORActionCenter.com/Realtors/Brokers.**

### **RPAC**

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

**RPAC is another substantial way to make sure REALTORS® interests are represented in Washington. RPAC serves as the single voice for REALTORS® in the national political process.**

**I’ve been contributing to RPAC for years and have been a member of the President’s Circle since 2004.**

**I look at my contributions as a wise business investment, just like networking and continuing education classes. I know my investment is especially important now, as the leaders in Washington are making decisions critical to our success.**

**In 2010, an investment in RPAC will mean even more as we enter the Congressional Mid-Term elections cycle.**

**State and National Participation**

**The last way I want to encourage your continued commitment to the REALTOR® organization is to consider getting involved more in the Idaho Association or on the national level.**

**Talk to your national leadership about ways for you to get more involved here in Idaho.**

**Or go to REALTOR.org and look over the NAR committees. Is there one you could particularly contribute to?**

**If so, make it a point to get to know the vice chair of that committee and make your intentions known that you’d like to be a part of the committee in 2011.**

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**An excellent way to get to know committee vice chairs would be to attend the 2009 REALTORS® Conference and EXPO in San Diego, November 13<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**It’s four days of intensive training, seminars, and unprecedented networking opportunities that you can’t get anywhere in the country. You can register at REALTOR.org/Conference.**

### **Conclusion**

**Today we are installing some exceptional leaders who will lead Idaho REALTORS® in the coming year.**

**Do they have all the answers to help you be a success and to make the Idaho Association the best it can be? No, they don’t. That’s a job for everybody to contribute to.**

**They started leading in this organization by simply saying, “Yes.” And they need your support to make the Idaho Association achieve its goals this year. NAR also needs your support in order to achieve its national goals this year.**

**Let’s all make a fresh commitment today to saying “Yes” to getting more involved in the REALTOR® organization.**

**Commit to answering all the Calls for Action this year. Commit to joining a committee on the state or national level. Commit to making a donation to RPAC. Commit to attending the Annual Conference.**

**All it takes is one “Yes” to turn each of us into leaders.**

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**Looking around this room today, especially to the people we are getting ready to install, I know the Idaho Association of REALTORS® is capable of rising to the top of its field this year just like Larry, Gretchen, and Lou.**