

The National Association of Realtors®, “The Voice for 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 Charles McMillan
2009 NAR President
RPAC State Awards
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RPAC STATE AWARDS CEREMONY

Introduction

[Introduced by Charlie Oppler]

Thank you, Charlie. I’m honored to be here today.

And, let me say how much I enjoyed Ron Brownstein’s commentary. As you may know, Mr. Brownstein once wrote for Ralph Nader.

As this audience knows, Mr. Nader certainly has a way with words, and now I know why! In fact, he once said of political parties, “The only difference between the Republican and Democratic parties is the velocities with which their knees hit the floor when corporations knock on their door.”

Well, I don’t know about all that, but I can tell you from my own personal experiences here in Washington, D.C. that when the REALTORS® knock on politicians’ doors, they pay attention. That’s the strength of the REALTOR® Party.

Of course, I don’t have to tell you about the importance of getting involved and shaping the future of our industry. You are the ones who are on the ground in your states raising funds to support pro-REALTOR® candidates and ensure that we have widespread bipartisan support in Congress.

Every single dollar that you raised helps build support for our issues and policies.

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RPAC Successes in 2008

On behalf of the leadership and staff, I thank you – our state and territories – for all you have done. Your contributions to NAR’s political advocacy programs ensure that the future is bright for REALTORS® and all those we serve.

Due to your extraordinary work, RPAC raised more than \$7.2 million in 2008. And, the President’s Circle raised more than \$470,000.

These numbers are incredible – they show just how important politics is to our business. They tell me that our members and associations will continue to stand strong in our efforts to keep housing a priority in government.

I would like to especially recognize some important members here today who carried the water on fundraising in 2008:

- Our Fundraising Chair Moe Veissi
- Our RPAC Trustees Chair Larry Edwards
- And our President’s Circle Chair John Harrison

Your leadership makes me even prouder to be a member of the REALTOR® Party. Let’s give them a round of applause.

Conclusion

If there’s one thing I hope you leave Washington with this week, it’s a sense of pride about our advocacy efforts!

Our goal for 2009 is to raise \$7.7 million. We have a dedicated group of people leading us, but ultimately, it is up to each of us to take an active role in the future of our businesses and those who lead us in Washington.

So, I ask that you go back to your offices, explain why advocacy is important every year, not just when there is an election, and boldly ask your colleagues to support RPAC in 2009.

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Thank you, again, for your contributions to the REALTOR® Party. And, congratulations to all of you on your accomplishments.