

Bearings

AUGUST 2021
GKAR MEMBER NEWSLETTER

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

August 6th

- [Community Relations](#)
- [Professional Development](#)

August 10th

- [MLS](#)

August 13th

- [Risk Management](#)

August 18th

- [Membership](#)



GKAR Elections—Save the Dates on Your Calendar

The annual GKAR Election will be held from 8:00 am, on Tuesday, September 21st, 2021 through 4:00 pm on Thursday, September 23rd, 2021, and will be held electronically. All REALTOR® Members in good standing are eligible to run for any open position.

Open GKAR Leadership Positions

- 2022 President-Elect (one, 2-year position; 2023 President)
- Director-at-Large (three, 3-year positions, 2022-2024)
- Director-at-Large (one, 1-year position, 2022)

Nominations for Philip P. Perry Humanitarian Award—Due September 1st, 2021

The Philip P. Perry Humanitarian Award honors the legacy of Philip. P. Perry, who devoted his lifetime to selfless humanitarian efforts. [Visit GKAR.com to submit a nomination for the 2022 recipient.](#)

REALTOR® of the Year Nominations Open September 1st, 2021

REALTOR® of the Year Nominations for 2022, will be accepted September 1st - September 15th, 2021, on GKAR.com. The GKAR REALTOR® of the Year is recognized by their peers for their contributions to the real estate profession and to the greater Kalamazoo community.

GKAR NEWS

GKAR Annual Dues for REALTOR® Members

Your 2022 annual GKAR dues statements, for REALTOR® Members, will be mailed and emailed to the preferred addresses on file on August 10th, 2021, and will be due no later than September 10th, 2021.

Dues can be paid securely online at GKAR.com using the [Member Login](#), by check, or by credit card.

Look Inside!

Your statement includes inserts with answers to our most frequently asked questions, an email change guide, and more!



President's Message



Rick Crepas
2021 President
[Email Rick](#)

[Contact a](#)
2021 Board Member

[Contact a](#)
GKAR Staff Member

Yay, we made it through the pandemic! Or have we?

On July 27th, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated their recommendation for mask wearing. To maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent the spread of COVID-19 to others, the CDC recommends everyone – including fully vaccinated individuals – wear a mask indoors in public if in an area of substantial or high transmission.

Kalamazoo County is now classified at the substantial community transmission level with a case rate of 55.5 per 100,000 persons (Time frame: July 26th-Aug 01st) and a test positivity rate of 7% (Time frame: July 24th-July 30th). Neighboring counties have also met the substantial or high transmission threshold.

To date, 62.7% of Kalamazoo County residents 12+ years and older have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department fully support and endorse the new CDC recommendations.

GKAR encourages our members, and staff follow the CDC recommendations.

While this is very disappointing, and frustrating, to say the least, GKAR will continue to keep updated on the local situation, and respond accordingly. Our goal is to keep our members, and staff, healthy and safe.

Together, we will get through this. Together we will ensure the safety of our families, communities, and our colleagues. Together, we are GKAR!

UPCOMING

August 21st, 2021

[Bowl for Kids' Sake:
Cornhole Edition](#)

August 30th, 2021

[Golf Outing](#)

October 21st, 2021

Fall 4:01 Networking
Mixer - Save the Date

UPCOMING

September 1st, 2021

[Alpha](#)

September 8th, 2021

[Bravo](#)

September 13th - 15th, 2021

[SRES Designation](#)

September 28th, 2021

[Alpha](#)

September 29th, 2021

[Charlie](#)

PROGRAMS

Big Brothers Big Sisters' Bowl for Kids' Sake: Cornhole Edition

We are excited to support Big Brothers Big Sisters in their annual fundraiser Bowl for Kids' Sake: Cornhole Edition, and we hope you will join us. This year, all GKAR Members will be in one shift, from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm, on Saturday, August 21st, 2021, at the Growler's Homer Stryker Field. [Register Your Team Today.](#)

There's Still Time - Submit Your Nominations for the Day of Service for Veterans

If you know a veteran who owns a home in the Greater Kalamazoo area, nominations will be accepted until Friday, October 15th, 2021, at 5:00 pm. [Nominate a Veteran.](#)

Interested in volunteering to provide a day of free fall clean-up? [Sign Up to Volunteer.](#)

EDUCATION

2021 Continuing Education with GKAR

As a GKAR Member, you receive up to six complimentary hours of Continuing Education. [Registration is now open for fall courses](#) and we have two formats from which you can choose.

Virtual - Live/Online

Alpha	Bravo	Charlie
September 28 th	October 6 th	October 28 th
10:00 am - 12:00 pm OR 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	10:00 am - 12:00 pm OR 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	10:00 am - 12:00 pm OR 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
September 1 st	September 8 th	September 29 th
10:00 am - 12:00 pm	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Self-Directed - Online

Take up to six hours of self-directed (online) CE through The CE Shop as part of your complimentary CE GKAR Member Benefit!

You must register with GKAR first to receive your unique CE Shop GKAR Member Code.

[Go to CEMarketplace.net for a Full List of Courses Available in Michigan.](#)

Earn Your Senior Real Estate Specialist® (SRES) Designation with GKAR

The SRES three-day course instills the knowledge and understanding necessary to meet the needs of clients over the age of 50. [Join us virtually September 13th - 15th](#); GKAR Members save \$40 off tuition (\$390/Members; \$430/non-Members).

SALES REPORTS



Sales reports are published the following month, once all data is received.

Cumulative Sales

MarketStats

Sub-Area Residential Sales

June 2021

June 2020

Create a Custom Report

Ranking | Production

REALTOR® MEMBER
BIRTHDAY CALENDAR
- AUGUST -

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New REALTOR® Members

Kim Applebey - Live Local Properties
Deondra Barnum - Doorlag Realty
Kyler Cook - Adrian Real Estate
Doug Maslanka - Keller Williams Kalamazoo

Transfers REALTORS®

Michael Palmer - Advanced Realty Global to Every
Corner Realty
Dan Thornton - Every Corner Realty to Advanced
Realty Global

Drops REALTORS®

Scott McNees - Keller Williams Kalamazoo
Andrea Melchiori - Evenboer Walton,
REALTOR®
Janaan Meyers - Keller Williams Kalamazoo
Billy Sloan - Bellabay Realty
Cameron Tran - Jaqua, REALTORS®

Retiring REALTOR®

Steve Roon - RedZone Realty

Addition to Existing Business Partner

Jonathan Barberis - Sun Title Agency of Michigan

Drop Existing Business Partner Individual

Ashley Christ - Sun Title Agency

Are You Registered to Vote?

You are a Member of the REALTOR® Family and we want you to be heard! Make sure you're registered to vote in Michigan and then exercise your right on Tuesday, November 2nd, 2021.

Your GKAR Advocacy Committee will send an email with their candidate endorsements prior to November 2nd.

Michigan Voter Registration Guide | Register to Vote

KEYBOX CORNER

Caring for SentiLock lockboxes is the best way to keep them in good shape for many years to come. As the boxes move from property to property, there are things you can do to keep them in the best working order.

Here are a few best practices on caring for lockboxes:

- Close the lockbox key compartment after each access to prevent internal mechanical error and battery damage.
- Keep the box in a covered area to prevent water damage. Lockboxes are not waterproof.
- When releasing the shackle, always be sure to hold the bottom of the lockbox to prevent it from dropping.
- When asked if you would like to update the lockbox firmware, it is advised you go through the update. It is a quick process through the app, and ensures all features are working and up to date on the box.

PEAK PERFORMANCE ARTICLE

An Agency Disclosure is Not a Buyer Agency Agreement

There are buyers who sign an agency disclosure, thinking they have signed an agreement...however these documents are not one in the same...

[Read Full Article...](#)

MLS NEWS

Private Photos, Videos, and Virtual Tours

Did you know that you can make listing photos private and have that privacy tied to the listing status in the MLS? If a client wants photos, videos, or virtual tours removed once a listing is sold or off-market, you can set those images to private simply by selecting the “Mark Private While Off-Market” button when editing photos and listing media.

FlexMLS has quick-training options to learn how to turn on this setting for your listings.

[Brief Instructional Video](#) | [Written Instructions](#)

Updated Input Forms

MichRIC® made various updates to the input forms available to you on dotloop, zipForms, and their [website](#). The update includes: fields added as part of the Jackson Area Association of REALTORS® joining MichRIC this month.

Do you need more information on how to access input forms? [View the Input Forms Guide](#).

MLS RESOURCES

What MLS Training Would You Like to Attend at GKAR?

We want to offer the MLS trainings you find the most valuable. What trainings are you interested in attending? [Email Sam Bartlett](#), your Director of Multiple Listing Service, with your suggestions.

In the meantime, find vendor offered trainings on [GKAR.com/mls](#).

[View a collective training calendar from dotloop, flexMLS, RPR, and more.](#)

Do you know where to find MLS Tips?

MLS Tips have moved and are now located conveniently on GKAR.com. [Learn more about these valuable resources and sign up for monthly MLS Tips emails today!](#)

Frequently using Supra lockboxes?

[You are able to lease the Supra app by contacting the Southwestern Michigan Association of REALTORS®.](#) They will assist you in a monthly lease to have full access to the Supra app without the need of One-Time Only access from the Listing Agent.