



PBBR FRIDAY FLASH

9052 E. 13th Street, Suite D – Cadillac, MI 49601

Voice: (231) 775-2660 FAX: (231) 775-0462

Email: info@pbbbr.com URL: <http://www.pbbbr.com>

Editor: Sally Baker, Executive Officer sally@pbbbr.com



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There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.
- General Colin L. Powell



LEADERSHIP 2009

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SUMMARY OF THE LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION FROM THE 10/23/2009

I asked Doug Merriam, our W. MI Governmental Affairs Director from MAR, to summarize and recap for our members the information offered by Representatives Booher (102nd) and Sheltroun (103rd), Ken Carlson (broker member of PBBR and also Field Rep for US Congressman Dave Camp), and himself at our meeting held at Mr. John's Restaurant in Lake City on 10/23/2009. Thank you, Doug.

Sally

Ken Carlson, the NAR Federal Political Coordinator to Congressman Dave Camp (R – Midland), discussed the great progress we are seeing in Washington relating to the \$8,000 first-time homebuyer credit. Next week, a bill will be introduced that reflects the desires of key members of Congress and the support they are showing for this initiative. It will include a six month extension and an additional provision that would expand the credit to all buyers. Yes, our membership-wide push here is working. However, it's not a done deal yet. Make sure to take this opportunity and reach out to another REALTOR® that has yet to participate in the Call to Action and get them involved by going to the REALTOR® Action Center www.realtoractioncenter.com

State Representatives Joel Sheltroun (D – West Branch) and Darwin Booher (R – Ewart) discussed their work in Lansing. Much of their attention focused on the state budget situation which continues to keep Lansing in a holding pattern and unable to tackle other issues of substance. The final budget bills have reached Governor Granholm's desk and await her action.


Of greatest note, each Representative discussed their desires to implement meaningful government reforms that have been developed via the Legislative Commission on Government Efficiency <http://council.legislature.mi.gov/lcge.html>. These recommendations should be given strong consideration and will serve as a realistic basis for pushing the reform debate forward during the coming months.

Doug Merriam, MAR West Michigan Public Policy Director, discussed the message that MAR is passing along to our elected leaders in Lansing: This period of uncertainty without a state budget continues to distress economic growth and job creation. We need to pass a balanced budget and needed government reforms without a tax increase which would help solve the structural budget shortfalls which are on the horizon for the foreseeable future. The Governor's prescription for the current situation, a continual push for tax increases of any sort and to renegotiate the budget bills which are awaiting action from her even though the votes to pass a tax increase are not there, is wrong.

Merriam also mentioned that we should be optimistic about the passage of legislation that would allow for a proration of a buyer's Principal Residence Exemption if the purchase takes place after May 1st. Also, we are looking to make sure that bank-owned properties remain taxed at the homestead rate (rather than jumping to the non-homestead rate) as a useful tool for helping with the sale of foreclosures. These bills should be seeing action in the coming months, along with movement on the Commercial Broker Lien legislation (to allow a real estate broker to place a lien on a property to protect their commission).

FLU SHOT CLINIC 2010 TEMPORARILY CANCELLED



 Due to flu vaccines recent unavailability to local doctors and clinics, we have had to cancel our annual flu shot clinic. We will reschedule as soon as there are sufficient vaccine doses available. We were also told that we may be able to schedule additional clinics for the H1N1 flu virus before the end of the year. Stay tuned for updates on this.

PAUL BUNYAN BOARD AND PAUL BUNYAN MLS ELECTION RESULTS

The annual elections process was completed on 10/23/2009 at the Annual Meeting and Elections held at Mr. John's Restaurant in Lake City where those who wished to vote by paper ballot were able to cast their vote. The tellers then announced the results of the election, from both e-ballot and paper-ballot tallies. The voters approved the Slate with only 4 abstentions.

Congratulations to all of you!

Paul Bunyan Board of REALTORS®

- Sheila Richardson, Exit Realty of Greater Cadillac, who will automatically assume the Presidency for both Paul Bunyan Board of REALTORS® and Paul Bunyan MLS for 2010 as 2009 President Elect.
- James Meier, Premier Realty, who will automatically assume Past President Directorship for 2010 as 2009 President.
- Jo Ellen Serum, ERA Houghton Higgins.com, Roscommon County Director, who will continue her 2 year term through 2010.
- Carolyn Lantz, Whitetail Realty, Missaukee County Director, who will continue her 2 year term through 2010.
- 2010 PBBR President Elect/PBMLS Vice President - Bonnie O'Dell, Coldwell Banker Classic Realty
- 2010 PBBR Treasurer/PBMLS Treasurer - Vicky Ball, ERA Greater North Properties
- 2010 PBBR Secretary Barry Fall, ERA Greater North Properties
- 2010/2011 PBBR Wexford County Director - Jilane Fenner, Exit Realty of Greater Cadillac

Paul Bunyan MLS, Inc.

- Paul Henry, Coldwell Banker Schmidt REALTORS®, who will continue his 2 year term through 2010.
- David Becker, Century 21 Benjamin, who will continue his 2 year term through 2010.

2010 MLS Director Donna Tommas, RE/MAX Central (one year term)

2010 MLS Director James Herron, Coldwell Banker Classic Realty (one year term)

The Board of Directors accepted the resignation of the 2009 Treasurer, Bob Inglis, and appointed Vicky Ball, 2010 Treasurer, to assume to balance of Bob's term through 2009.