



Celebrating 100 Years

During its first 100 years, the Columbus Board of REALTORS® has established a tradition of serving its members and the community, through programs as numerous and different as the properties in central Ohio.

Since adopting the constitution and by-laws and forming what was then the Columbus Real Estate Board in 1908, membership has grown from 27 men to 7,000 men and women engaged in all types of real estate and various related industries.

During those early years, Board members led the way in helping to build Columbus as we now know it, and served clients under a strict set of ethical guidelines that hadn't been



By 1939 he had become CBR President and by 1944, President of NAR, but in the 1920s John W. Galbreath was just starting out. He is pictured here in his first real estate office.



Mayor James A. Rhodes signs a REALTOR® Week Proclamation in 1948, during the Board's 40th Anniversary year. Looking on are (from left) Edwin Knight, CBR Treasurer, Lenore Hansen, CBR Executive Secretary, Preston Cooke, 1941 CBR President and chairman of that year's REALTOR® Convention Committee, Wallace Nelson, CBR Second Vice President and Malcolm R. Prine, 1944 CBR President and 1948 Vice President of OAR.

seen outside of the medical and legal professions.

Board members laid the groundwork for what is now a Multiple Listing Service serving seven whole counties (Franklin and the six contiguous counties) and portions of 10 others, when in 1949, "Cooperation" became the name of the game.

Salesmen could include properties in a "Cooperative Listings" section of the Board newsletter, and by 1954, the MLS service had begun, with the

help of financial contributions from more than 60 members.

Today, that system has transformed from entries in a newsletter, to a Realtron computer system requiring use of a black box and telephone in the 1970s, to the state-of-the-art online database available via computer or cellular phone we call Tempo 5.

The Board incorporated in 1950 and during that decade would change its name to the Columbus Board of

REALTORS®, to reflect NAR's trademarked term.

In 1960 women were accepted as Board members and allowed to join the MLS service.

By the end of the '60s, the Civil Rights Act was enacted and fair housing started to become reality.

The CBR would move into new membership headquarters at 200 East Town Street in 1967 and would call the building home for nearly three decades.

The 1970s saw Columbus City Schools desegregated, a now infamous Blizzard, and the completion of I-270.

The decade was just as memorable for CBR, as MLS Computer Books were printed, the newsletter became the monthly *In Contract* magazine

and the Board in 1975 announced it had joint ownership with OAR of the membership headquarters at 200 East Town Street.

The 70s also saw the National Housing Act of 1977 adopted, which raised FHA loan limits; interest rates around 9 percent; and in 1979 witnessed the election of Myrna Kobre, CBR's first female president.

The 1980s and '90s were no less significant for the Board and its members.

In 1987, CBR joined forces with public and private entities to help form what is now the Columbus Housing Partnership, a non-profit organization which has served more than 23,000 people through its housing counseling and resident services and helped develop 4,000 affordable homes.



In 1965 Paul Love became the first REALTOR® to sell a home financed under the Housing Act of 1965, which established HUD and helped start FHA mortgage-insurance programs, enabling more Americans to purchase a home. Love is pictured with the homeowners, Mr. and Mrs. Grace.

Membership – much like the central Ohio area itself – continued to grow and the Board built and moved to new headquarters in 1994.

Today, the building at 2700 Airport Drive is paid off and serves members through upgraded technology, classrooms, meeting space, a library and member services including the store and CBR Print Shop.

Throughout its 100 year history, the Columbus Board of REALTORS® has partnered with countless organizations to help better our community, including Columbus City Schools, the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, and the American Red Cross, just to name a few.

And in 2005, CBR again was at the forefront of community service when Board members and more than 100



Granting women membership was a controversial issue at the time of its passage in 1960. The first women to join the Board are pictured here with other new members in late 1960; Front (L – R) Lucille Jacobos, Wanda Poore, Ester Bain, Mary Louise Campbell, Edna Moreland. Back (L – R) Dorothy Tharpe, Thomas Boswell, C.L. Richards, Robert W. Aquila and Dorothy P. Taylor.



REALTOR® Grace Dunlevy is serenaded by "Elvis" during a 1980s Sales Associates Day.

reflect the changing face of business in the Internet age, making more information available to members and the public at the click of a mouse.

In 2008 CBR touted the stability and health of our housing market with **The Grass is Greener Here** campaign and the new Web site, www.ColumbusHousingFacts.com.

Lastly, throughout these last 100 years, CBR members have served at various levels of leadership at both

the state and national level, whether it be through committee work, as OAR Trustees, OAR District leaders or through countless fund-raising efforts, the Columbus Board of REALTORS® has been active in the Ohio and National Association of REALTORS®.

CBR members who served as OAR President include Richard Fagan, Myrna Kobre, Jim Owen, Harley E. Rouda, Richard Royer, Nancy Sharp and Marvin Yerke.

volunteers helped start the annual REALTOR® Care Day, in partnership with the Columbus Housing Partnership.

The Columbus Board of REALTORS® continues to be a trailblazer in the industry, starting organizations such as CORPAC, providing a way for local REALTORS® to support central Ohio candidates and issues and the preservation or private property rights; and COCIE – Central Ohio Commercial Information Exchange – a comprehensive database started in 2006, which lists more than 13,000 commercial properties, whether on the market or not.

And since 1991, CBR's Foundation Fund has been instrumental in providing funding to area organizations, including giving over \$200,000 in scholarships and community grants in the last four years alone!

The Board also changed the way real estate is advertised with the launch of *Real Estate Weekly* in 1995. About 30,000 copies would be printed weekly and distributed through more than 650 news racks around central Ohio, before giving way to the future – the World Wide Web.

In 2002 CBR redesigned its Web site, www.ColumbusRealtors.com, to



At the 1992 R-PAC Auction, Brad "Uncle Sam" Bennett was heavily soliciting donations. Longtime CBR members Bob Kidwell (left) and Bruce Massa (right) were happy to oblige.



All Past Presidents, Myrna Kobre, '79, George Smith '93 and Charlotte Van Steyn, '94, gather at a CBR Legislative Reception in the mid 1990s.

John W. Galbreath and Harley E. Rouda are the two CBR members who proudly served as NAR President. Galbreath served as President in 1944 and Rouda in 1991.

CBR continues to look for new and innovative ways to serve its members and support the community. We hope you'll help us make the next 100 years as successful as the first!