

WHO'S WHO?

MCAR, GRAR, MICHRIC, SWIMRIC, GLR and all those other acronyms!

As new member, the acronyms and understanding the who's who in the real estate world can get super confusing. Let's see if we can help clear things up:

Montcalm County Association of REALTORS® = MCAR

- Part of being a REALTOR® is belonging to the local, state, and National Association of REALTORS®. In Michigan, there are many different local associations, but one state association, Michigan REALTORS® and one National Association, the National Association of REALTORS®. MCAR is a local association. As a primary REALTOR® Member of MCAR, you will pay your local MCAR dues, state and National dues with MCAR. MCAR then pays Michigan REALTORS® and the National Association of REALTORS® on your behalf.
- MCAR is currently also where you would obtain Multiple Listing Service (MLS) and SentiLock services.
- As of November 1st, 2019, MCAR has sixty-three (63) Primary REALTOR® Members and eight (9) Secondary REALTOR® Members (Brokers who belong to multiple associations or agents who hold primary membership with another association and belong to MCAR in addition to their primary association).
- MCAR has twenty-two (22) Affiliate Members. Affiliate Members are MCAR's business partners, such as lenders, title companies, appraisal companies, etc. Note: you can find a list of MCAR's Affiliate Members on the homepage under "Affiliates".
- MCAR – "Who We Are":
 - Established in 1962
 - Membership year is July 1 to June 30, but we accept applications throughout the year – Currently, there **APPLICATION FEES are waived for new members.**
 - Equal owners of MICHRIC with equal votes (see below definition of what this acronym means), with an active MLS Committee who continuously review roles that affect your data in the MLS
 - Members Only Facebook Group

- Members of the Great Lakes Repository
- Members of the West Michigan Regional Forms Group
- Annual free membership appreciation outings include two (2) tickets to the West Michigan Whitecaps and Grand Rapids Griffins
- Awards given to well deserving MCAR members include Rookie of the Year, Distinguished Service, REALTOR® of the Year, and Affiliate of the Year at our Awards Breakfast held each year.
- An Annual spring continued education event
- Annual General Membership Meeting/ Annual Board of Director's Election held in October
- Website: www.miHOMESource.com
- A local voice for local issues
- Secondary Broker Program
- Distributor and administrator of the SentiLock system for MCAR members

Greater Regional Alliance of REALTORS® = GRAR

- GRAR is formerly known as Grand Rapids Association of REALTORS®. Like MCAR, GRAR is another local association. GRAR like MCAR offers similar programs and events, equal owners of MICHRIC, but is much larger. It is important to note that although GRAR is larger than MCAR, at the MICHRIC table, each association regardless of size has two (2) votes.

Michigan Regional Information Center LLC = MICHRIC

- Formerly known as SWMRIC or Southwest Michigan Regional Information Center. MICHRIC is equally owned by eleven (11) member associations and their respective multiple listing services. Below is a list of these 11 owners:
 1. Battle Creek Area Association of REALTORS®
 2. Branch County Association of REALTORS®
 3. Greater Regional Alliance of REALTORS®
 4. Greater Kalamazoo Association of REALTORS®
 5. Hillsdale County Board of REALTORS®
 6. Mason Oceana Manistee Board of REALTORS®
 7. Montcalm County Association of REALTORS®
 8. REIS of Southwestern Michigan
 9. St. Joseph County Association of REALTORS®
 10. West Central Association of REALTORS®
 11. West Michigan Lakeshore Association of REALTORS®
- You can use MICHRIC's website <http://www.michric.org/> to search MICHRIC data, which includes its REALTORS®.

- MICHRIC is certified at the Silver 1.5 level for the RESO Data Dictionary (Real Estate Standards Organization). You will find a definition of “RESO” below.
- All MICHRIC Member Associations/MLSs, including MCAR, govern and enforce their data according to their local market, needs, and concerns.

Real Estate Standards Organization = RESO

- RESO develops, promotes and maintains, through an open process, voluntary electronic commerce standards for the real estate industry. As a standard setting organization involving the participation of competitors, RESO is committed to full compliance with all laws and regulation of such laws, in order to maintain the highest ethical standards in the way it conducts its operations and activities.

Multiple Listing Service = FlexMLS

- FlexMLS is the VENDOR or VEHICLE that houses the MLS data from the eleven (11) associations that belong to MICHRIC. When you go to www.ric.flexmls.com, you are logging into MICHRIC’s portion of the data in their company.

Great Lakes Repository = GLR

- The GLR participants include the following thirteen (13) members:
 1. Ann Arbor Board of REALTORS®
 2. Branch County Association of REALTORS®
 3. Down River Association of REALTORS®
 4. East Central Association of REALTORS®
 5. Hillsdale County Board of REALTORS® - Part owner of MICHRIC
 6. Jackson Area Association of REALTORS®
 7. Greater Shiawassee Association of REALTORS®
 8. Lenawee County Association of REALTORS®
 9. MiRealSource Multiple Listing Service
 10. Montcalm County Association of REALTORS® - Part owner of MICHRIC
 11. Monroe County Association of REALTORS®
 12. Saginaw Board of REALTORS®
 13. Realcomp II Ltd.

Realcomp II Ltd.

- Realcomp is owned by the following eight (8) Shareholder Boards and/or Associations of REALTORS®

1. Dearborn Area Board of REALTORS®
2. Detroit Association of REALTORS®
3. Eastern Thumb Association of REALTORS®
4. Greater Metropolitan Association of REALTORS®
5. Grosse Pointe Board of REALTORS®
6. Lapeer and Upper Thumb Association of REALTORS®
7. Livingston County Association of REALTORS®
8. North Oakland County Board of REALTORS®

Great Lakes Repository = GLR

- The GLR is comprised of a group of MLSs and REALTOR® Associations (participants) in Michigan that have agreed to share listing data with other participants using a repository method of sharing. Under this method of sharing data, all participants of the GLR run their own MLSs; enforce their own set of rules; manage their own membership; control their own MLS products, but cooperate by sharing data in one central location. The GLR shares offers of cooperation and compensation.
- For MCAR Members (and Hillsdale County Board of REALTORS® who are also members of the GLR and are MichRIC Members), our MLS data = data you, our members put into FLEXMLS, flow into the pool of data known as the GLR. This pool gets MCAR (and Hillsdale) THOUSANDS more sets of eyes on their listings.
- Unfortunately, GLR data is unable to flow back into your home MLS (FlexMLS). In order to log into GLR, you will be given a generic username and password that is emailed out to you each month along with other usernames/ passwords for other reciprocal agreements currently in place. The GLR Member Associations are discussing using RPR as the vehicle to view each other's data – STILL with offers of cooperation and compensation.