



The Board Buzz



Western River Valley Board of REALTORS® Newsletter

WHAT DOES FAIR HOUSING LOOK LIKE TODAY?

Written By Danyell Barker

To become an agent you had to learn all about what fair housing is and how to avoid discrimination. The Fair Housing Act was adopted in 1968 to protect individuals from being discriminated against based on race, religion, sex, or national origin. Later in 1988 they added familial status and people with disabilities to the protected classes. Considering the original act was prompted by the American Civil Rights Movement, it often seems as though this is an outdated issue that surely couldn't exist nowadays, right? Wrong. It may not be as blatant as the "Whites only" signs that used to be advertised, but what exactly does it look like in today's transactions?

In the 2021 Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers, they reveal the answers from homeowners surveyed about their experiences in regards to fair housing. In the report 50% of Hispanic/Latino, 48% of Asian/Pacific Islander, and 46% of Black/African American home buyers reported they either witnessed or experienced being steered towards or away from certain neighborhoods. That is a staggering amount of clients still facing these issues.

Another common form of fair housing violation appears in "love letters" or honestly, "liability letters". These letters are written with the intent to appeal to a seller's emotions and appear more worthy of deserving a particular home over another buyer. Even if it just seems as harmless as saying they can't wait to see their kids run down the stairs on Christmas morning, that statement alone could consciously or unconsciously cause the seller to accept or reject their offer based on familial status or religion.

You have been blessed to be given a leadership position that allows you to help fight against this unfairness by providing equal service for all clients. The National Association of REALTORS® has declared April to be "Fair Housing Month" to continue to raise awareness of the ongoing discriminatory issues, even if they may appear differently than they did 54 years ago.

Important Dates

Apr 1
\$192 of MLS Dues are DUE

Apr 11
Awards for Excellence & Affiliate Appreciation Luncheon

Apr 20 @ 9am
BoD Meeting

Apr 28 @ 4pm
Scholarship Applications due to Board Office

TOP 5 MLS INFRACTIONS MARCH 2022

1. Status Discrepancy - Sold, pending
2. Incorrect School District
3. Incorrect Mapping/Address or No Directions
4. First Photo
5. No or incorrect square footage



The Western River Valley Board of REALTORS® Scholarship Fund

The Western River Valley Board of REALTORS® Scholarship Fund was established to provide financial assistance to children or grandchildren of REALTOR® members in their pursuit of post high school education and training. It will provide scholarships to those who have demonstrated both need and outstanding merit.

The REALTOR® Scholarship Fund is supported by the Partners in Education Committee of Western River Valley Board of REALTORS®, as well as many corporate sponsors which include local and national businesses.

The Partners in Education Committee will accept applications from high school students. College students can apply as well. Completed applications must be received by the board office no later 4:00pm on Thursday, April 28, 2022.

Recipients of the scholarships will be notified by Tuesday, July 12, 2022.

Presentation of the scholarships will be at the General Membership Meeting on Monday, August 1, 2022.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the Terms and Conditions and Scholarship Application Form.



REALTOR® Scholarship Golf Classic

This is a fundraiser for the scholarship fund.

- **Monday, June 27, 2022**
- **Ben Geren Public Golf Course**
- **[CLICK HERE](#) to register a 4-person team.**

SAFETY & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Hey there fellow REALTORS®, we have a fun opportunity to volunteer to be a role player for our local Fort Smith Police Department active shooter training. The date is March 22 from 1:30-4/5 pm. I'm taking my 12 and 13 year old grandsons that are out for Spring Break too. For more information and to sign up contact: Officer Robyn Shoptaw 479-709-5141 or robyn.shoptaw@fortsmithpd.org. Let's support our community.

Rebecca Brown, Community Outreach Chairperson