

ELECTION NEWSLETTER



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BUFFALO NIAGARA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

SEPTEMBER 2023

We are thrilled to announce the upcoming Board of Directors election. As a valued member of our association, your voice and participation are crucial in guiding our path forward. The board election is a great opportunity for you to have a direct impact on the strategic decisions and vision of Buffalo Niagara Association of REALTORS®, Inc. (BNAR). By casting your vote, you play an essential role in selecting leaders who align with our mission and values.

IMPORTANT DATES

Voting Begins: Wednesday August 30th, 9:00 am

Voting Ends: Wednesday September 6th, 7:00 pm

Annual Meeting and Director Election Event: Wednesday September 6th, 5:00 pm at Salvatore's Italian Gardens

All BNAR members are welcome to join us in celebrating the newly elected Board of Directors at Salvatore's on September 6th from 5:00-7:00 pm. **Please register for this event on your member portal**

CANDIDATES

We have five candidates running and four spots open.

ANNABELLE AQUILINA - HUNT Real Estate

JOHN GERACE - Gerace Realty, LLC

SHUFEN "JUDY" LEE - RE/MAX North

BRET LLEWELLYN - MJ Peterson Corporation

JAMES WANGELIN - Towne Housing Real Estate

MISSION: *Our mission is to assist members to become successful, inclusive, profitable and knowledgeable; and to promote professionalism, fair housing and real property rights.*

VISION: *Our vision is that the BNAR support and maintain an orderly marketplace for the effective exchange of real estate while promoting uncompromising ethical principles among its members.*



My name is John P..Gerace, I am a NYS licensed real estate Broker/Owner of Gerace Realty,LLC located in Batavia, NY. I have lived in Batavia all of my life and have grown up in the real estate industry as my parents were the Broker/Owners of Bob Harris Realty,LLC which was originally established in 1956. I received my NYS sales associate license in 1987 and my NYS Associate Brokers License in 1994. I was past president of the Genesee Valley Board of Realtors and Multiple Listing Service, I served on the NYSAM board for numerous years I was awarded Realtor of the Year in 1999 by the Genesee Valley Board of Realtors.

I was inducted into the NYSAR RPAC Hall of Fame in 2016 with personal contributions totaling over \$15,000 & most recently have reached the \$25,000 level and inducted into the NAR RPAC HALL OF Fame in May 2020. I currently serve on numerous committees at NYSAR I was a Member of GRAR for over 20 years and served as Secretary Treasurer for 2022. In my practice I am well known for outstanding customer service, strong attention to detail and ensuring a positive experience for all parties in a transaction, buyers, sellers and cooperating agents/brokers. In my free time I enjoy traveling, landscaping bowling and all sports. I am a volunteer for Genesee Cancer Assistance which raises money for cancer patients that helps them defray copays, travel expenses, wigs & makeup... John is supported in his day-to-day operations by his licensed mother, brother, administrative assistant and a supporting cast of 7 additional sales associates and associate brokers.

JOHN GERACE

GERACE REALTY, LLC

It would be a great honor to serve as Director for the Buffalo Niagara Association of REALTORS. In my 36+ years as a REALTOR, I have always held myself to the highest standard of professionalism, ethics, and integrity. Since 1993, I have served on twelve different BNAR committees as a member, Vice Chairman, and Chairman. Since 2010, I have also served on several NYSAR committees. I have been a past Secretary/Treasurer for the Women's Council of Realtors. I am very proud to be on the Faculty at BNAR and hold the ITI Certification. It has been my great pleasure and honor to have completed three terms as a Director at BNAR and served as Vice President. I am proud of being named as Realtor Associate of the Year in 2017. I am currently serving as a NYSAR Director.

As a Director, I will bring all of my education, knowledge, and passion for the real estate profession to the table. I have always been a team player and I enjoy working with my fellow professionals to better serve our members.

Thank you for your kind consideration and support.

Annabelle A. Aquilina SRES, HOMES, ITI, AHWD, GRI
Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker
The American Dream Maker



ANNABELLE AQUILINA
HUNT REAL ESTATE



**JAMES
WANGELIN
TOWNE HOUSING
REAL ESTATE**

I am excited to be running for a Board of Director position at our Association. I have genuine passion for supporting Realtors and the community. With a decade-long journey in real estate that began in 2012, I've grown from a first-time flipper to a seasoned investor with over 150 properties under my belt and a successful Realtor and Broker/Owner. As an RPAC Major investor, I understand the importance of advocating for policies that benefit our profession and homeowners alike. Serving on the Government Affairs Committee and RPAC Committee has provided me with valuable insights into the inner workings of our industry's regulatory landscape. With this knowledge, I will work tirelessly to ensure our members' interests are represented and protected. During my four-year tenure with the Women's Council of Realtors Board, I was able to start and help initiatives that had a positive impact on our community. Together, we contributed over \$75,000 to various charities, demonstrating my dedication to giving back and creating a better world through our work in real estate. As a director, my primary focus will be on the success and prosperity of fellow Realtors. I firmly believe that the key to a thriving real estate community lies in supporting one another. I am committed to providing resources and guidance to help Realtors navigate the ever-changing market and evolving business landscape. By fostering an environment of continuous learning and growth, I aim to equip our members with the tools they need not only for immediate success but also for sustained prosperity over the coming decades. Your support in this election means more than just a vote; it signifies your trust in my ability to lead and contribute positively to our real estate community. Together, we can build a stronger, more supportive Association that benefits every member and elevates the real estate profession as a whole.

I am honored to run for a position on the Board of Directors for the Buffalo Niagara Association of Realtors. After 20 years in this profession; managing offices for three of the top Brokerage firms and enjoying 19 years in the Business First "Who's Who" of top selling agents in the area, the time has come to give back to this profession that has served me so well.

I have been active with the BNAR for 15 years on a variety of committees. I co-chaired the Professional Standards Committee for 3 years and I have acted as Chair or Co-Chair for the Best Practices, Realtor Issues, and Government Affairs Committees. My BNAR committee involvement also includes Buffalo Home Show, Forms and Contracts, and RPAC.

I feel that my experience and knowledge of what our fellow professionals need and want to be successful is the framework of my leadership traits. With a good understanding of the trials and tribulations that agents experience on a daily basis, I would like to be your voice on this prestigious board.

It would be an honor to receive your Vote.

Bret Llewellyn
MJ Peterson Corporation



**BRET LLEWELLYN
MJ PETERSON
CORPORATION**

I have been involved in real estate deals in Buffalo, New York City, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Shanghai, Singapore, and Taipei, even prior to being in the real estate business. I pride myself in having a diverse background, undivided loyalty, keen grasp of clients' needs and wants, and an astute understanding of the market.

After over 30 years of volunteering and serving members of my church and community in various capacities, I find joy and fulfillment as a real estate professional to similarly serve my clients as they buy and sell property. I am fluent in English, Mandarin, and Taiwanese, and also enjoy interpreting as a means of bridging language and cultural gaps. As an agent, I continue to desire to be a bridge: I joined the DEI and technology committees because I believe in collaborating with colleagues and advocating for the health and advancement of our industry. I'm driven in all that I commit myself to, yet seek results through a lens of compassion.

I have met many great agents and many of you have become my inspiration and models, so it would be an honor to hear your concerns and represent you. I will seek the benefit of all 3,700 agents—whether you are seasoned or just starting out.

Our industry is under attack. However, home ownership is still the dream for many and we as real estate professionals will not be replaceable if we serve our clients with integrity, knowledge, skill, and professionalism. I support RPAC: We need to continue to shape policies in Albany and Washington for the future of our industry.

I humbly ask for your vote because I believe my background, commitment, and skill set can be a strong asset on the BNAR board of directors.



SHUFEN "JUDY" LEE
RE/MAX NORTH

Thank you!



REALTOR® Safety Month

Realtor Safety
September 13 @ 01:00PM–2:00 PM

Description: The BNAR courses will be Hybrid in person in the BNAR Training room and Live Distance Education via zoom Realtor Safety Instructor: miriam treger Approved for 1 hour CE Credit This one-hour safety presentation is based on the why and the what we can do to minimize our risks. Each component of our professional lives can be viewed from a different angle of awareness.

High Tech, High Touch

Thursday, October 12, 2023
Millenium Hotel

Chalked full of powerful 25 min sessions, BNAR brings to you their High Tech, High Touch Sales Conference built to inspire, educate and empower you with a strong and perpetual focus on relationship-building skills complimented with today's powerful and mobile-friendly technology.