

Can men belong to the Bay Area Women's Council of Realtors

"What is The Women's Council of Realtors?" "Who belongs?" "Can men be members?" Those are three questions I am sometimes asked by readers.

As part of the National Association of Realtors according to their website, The Women's Council of Realtors (WCR) is "a network of successful Realtors empowering women to exercise their potential as entrepreneurs and industry leaders." The group offers a support/referral network.

Forerunner

The California Association of Realtors created a Women's Division in 1924. This was a move far ahead of the times. Before long the capability of women in the industry was realized and a national Women's Council was formed in 1938. As the numbers of women joining the ranks of Realtors increased, so did the membership of WCR.

Women First

Women's Council was originally for women only. Today's organization encourages men to

join. George Johnson of National 1st Funding is a past-president of the East Bay Chapter. Mike Riley of Coldwell Banker is a past-president of the Tri-Cities Chapter. Bill Aboumrad of the newly formed Legacy Real Estate was a Tri-Cities Chapter president and the first male state president.

Designation

WCR offers a designation, taught by experts. The Performance Management Network (PMN) designation provides real-world tools and skills to today's practitioners.

State Chapter

As a WCR member myself, it is with great pride that I recognize two of our local presidents that have risen through the

ranks recently.

The 2008 WCR California State Chapter president is Realtor Jeri Jorgenson of RE/Max Executive. Jorgenson has earned four real estate designations. Say congrats at www.JeriJorgenson.com.

Another tip of the hat goes to Mike Riley of

Coldwell Banker. Riley is the WCR CA State Chapter president-elect.

Local Offers

Local chapters offer monthly networking meetings. Members keep informed with speakers addressing timely topics. Each chapter also invites members to a few "just for fun" events.

The chapters are involved in their area Realtor associations and local communities. Member education is a major focus. Fund-raising for area causes are a part of each chapter's year plan.

Chapter Presidents

The East Bay Chapter covers all of northern Alameda County including Alameda, Oakland and Berkeley. Victoria Williams Turner with Regency California Realty is the 2008 president.

The Tri-Cities and the Southern Alameda County Chapters are linked to the Bay East Association of Realtors. The Tri-Cities Chapter is comprised of members from Fremont, Newark and Union City. Michelle Taylor is the chapter president.

The Southern Alameda County Chapter

covers the Central County corridor and the Tri-Valley area. Realtor members come from San Lorenzo, San Leandro, Hayward, Castro Valley, Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore. The SAC Chapter President is Karen Kohne

The WCR Central Valley Chapter was newly chartered in 2006. Clara Rugnao is president.

On the peninsula is the San Mateo County Chapter. That chapter's president is Debbie Sharp.

Today, with more than 300 Chapters and 19,000 members, WCR is the 17th largest U.S. Women's professional organization. Find more information at www.wcr.org.

Mansion Wedding

There's romance and vintage wedding finery afoot at the Meyers House Museum and Gardens in Alameda. A special, one-day only display of four-dozen wedding gowns happens, July 26. For ticket information call 523-5907.

News Wanted

Send real estate related news items. Send the basic "who & what" two weeks prior, pasted in an e-mail to bobbierid@mind-spring.com or visit www.BobbieReid.com. No attachments please.

JUST LISTED



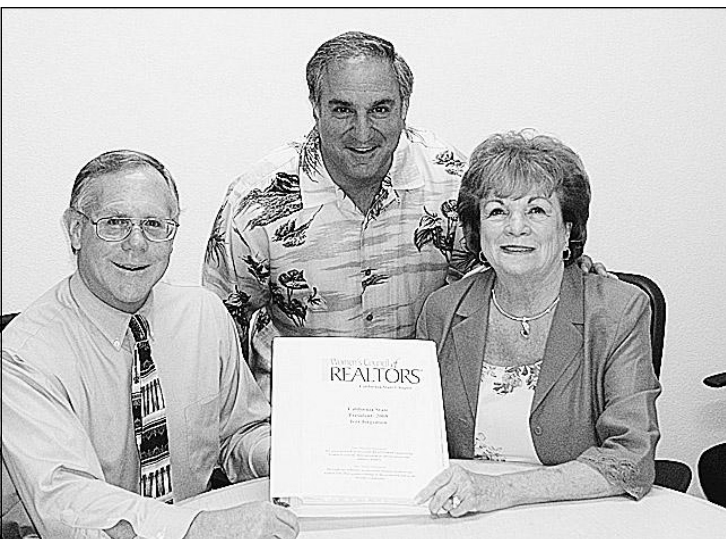
BOBBIE REID



MEYERS HOUSE GUILD

VINTAGE GOWNS.

Meyers House docent coordinator Jane Burgelin shows off a 1910 frock on the right and the 1949 wedding dress of Mrs. Winslow James Foster, Jr. on the left.



J. JORGENSEN

PRESIDENTS.

Local Realtors star as WCR Calif. State presidents past and present. Pictured left to right are president-elect Mike Riley, past-president Bill Aboumrad and 2008 president Jeri Jorgensen.



M. V. DE LUCCHI

TC WCR.

Tri-Cities Chapter president Michelle Taylor and members enjoy an invitation to a Broker Co-op Luncheon at a new home development.