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THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY MANAGERS



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## **IN THIS ISSUE** January 2015

NARPM® is the professional, educational, and ethical leader for the residential property management industry.

#### **FEATURE ARTICLES**

- **P7** New Member Mentor Program: Establish a Relationship Kellie Tollifson, MPM® RMP®, explains one of the key ideas for any organization's growth – keeping new Members and engaging them early in their membership. Learn how you can help by becoming a Mentor.
- **Vulnerabilities and Threats Continue: Avoiding a Data Breach** Nicole Brown, RMP® candidate, discusses how to avoid becoming the next company faced with the need to send out an expensive round of breach notifications.
- **p10** Meet Your 2015 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs It's a new year with new Members on your NARPM® Board of Directors! Get to know each of the Officers and Committee Chairs, who will guide you to becoming Masters of Property Management.
- **ը13 Chapter Leadership Training: What Are the Benefits?** Kerrick Hutchison, RMP®, invites your Chapter to establish a Leadership Training Program with a core base of team-building exercises, personality tests, and visionary statements.
- p**17 Principle vs. Compromise: A Good Balance** Alex Yoder, MPM® RMP®, looks at responses to tenant and owner actions. He discusses why it may not be beneficial for any party to maintain an aggressive "I'm right, you're wrong" attitude.
- **p24** Join Us On the Fairway at the 2015 National Convention The 2015 Past Presidents' Charity Golf Tournament benefits the American Brain Tumor Association. Learn why this year's Chairs Tony Drost, MPM® RMP®, and Fred Thompson, MPM® RMP®, have selected this charity.







#### **MONTHLY COLUMNS**

р5	Presi	dent's	Message
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From the Desk of the Executive Director

**Technology Matters** 

**p16 Legislative Scoop** 

p20 **Designation Classes** 

**p26 Chapter Spotlight** 

**p28 Regional Communications** 

**p30 Membership Growth** 

**p34 New Member Recruitment Program** 

#### **EDITORIAL MISSION**

Since 1989, the NARPM® news magazine has been a key focal point for the organization. The Residential Resource keeps Members up-to-date on association events, and provides valuable industry advice and insight. NARPM® Members receive the Residential Resource as part of their membership, included in their annual dues.

The Residential Resource is published monthly, with one combined issue for October/ November. Articles can be submitted by email to publications@narpm.org. Items mailed in for publication cannot be returned. Address changes may be forwarded to NARPM® National. The Communications Chair and Graphic Designer reserve the right to edit or refuse all publications for content and selection.

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#### **NARPM® ANTITRUST STATEMENT**

It is the policy of the NARPM® to comply fully with all antitrust laws. The antitrust laws prohibit, among other things, any joint conduct among competitors that could lessen competition in the marketplace. NARPM®'s membership is composed of competitors; they must refrain from discussing competitively sensitive topics, including those related to pricing (such as rates, fees, or costs), individual competitors or specific business transactions, or controlling or allocating markets. Further, NARPM® shall not restrict Members' ability to solicit competitors' clients or to advertise for business in any way that is not false, deceptive or otherwise illegal.

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## PRESIDENT'S Message

Considering my success story in NARPM®, I pondered what we could do this year to create as many NARPM® maniacs as possible. 77



In September of 2014, the Board of Directors and I sat down and discussed what one or two things we could focus on that would have the biggest value impact on NARPM®'s membership. You see, when I joined NARPM®, I was lucky enough to be part of a very active Chapter which was highly involved locally and nationally. This gave me access to top-notch speakers, Members, and Mentors. I fell in love with NARPM® at a local level and I knew that I had to get involved nationally. I attended my first Convention in 2009, and I was completely hooked.

Considering my personal success story in NARPM®, I pondered what we could do this year to create as many NARPM® maniacs as possible. Thus, our goals for 2015.

- 1. Every Chapter in NARPM® to receive Chapter Excellence.
- 2. To have at least 1,000 Members at our National Convention in Atlanta.



Goal #1 gets everyone immediate value on the local level. The activities that Chapter

Excellence requires makes Chapters better, which in turn, helps our Members. Goal #2 introduces them to the infinite possibilities of being involved on a national level. The more people who attend the Convention, the more value all of our Members receive. I wish every Member would have been able to attend in

Minneapolis. It was the best NARPM® Convention I have attended and we hope next year, with twice the people, will be twice as good.



The ultimate vision is to have at least 1,000 Members standing on their feet in Atlanta next October clapping, while every Chapter in NARPM® receives Chapter Excellence. If

that happens, we are swiftly on our way to becoming Masters of Property Management (2015 Theme).

Talking about goals is fine and good, but it cannot happen without your help. Please find a way to get involved on a local level. See what you can do to encourage and help your Chapter Leaders to achieve Chapter Excellence next year. Also, if you have never attended a National Convention - please start planning now to join us this year in Atlanta. We have upped the ante in Atlanta with first class events, inspiring speakers, and amazing breakouts. Please don't miss it.

I am humbled and grateful to be serving as your National President in 2015. I hope to make my predecessors proud and leave NARPM® a better place for those who follow. Thanks to all of those who serve this organization on a local and national level. Your efforts to fulfill our mission of being an



ethical leader in residential property management are very much appreciated.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S SHARE OF THE MONTH:

Do you find your workload to be extremely heavy the first week or two of the month? Most property managers are flooded with move-outs, move-ins, and incoming rents. In 2010, we started to stagger our lease expiration dates to expire on the 1st, 10th and the 20th of every month. Every day our system sends a report to all of our property managers of the lease expiration dates for the next year, and they try to evenly assign those lease expirations on the 1st, 10th and 20th so we can have a steady workflow. Also, if you have in-house maintenance, this keeps your crew consistently busy throughout the month.

#### THE GREEN JACKET GOES TO

When Tony Drost, MPM® RMP®, was President in 2011, I loved his idea of identifying a "First-Rate" volunteer. As volunteers, we give our time, talents, and resources to continue to leave a legacy, just as the volunteers in the past have done for us. The least we can do is take every opportunity possible to thank those who serve this great organization. 🚑



Andrew L. Propst, MPM® RMP® 2015 NARPM® President

THE GREEN JACKET by President Propst In the spirit of the Masters Tourna-

ment symbol of achievement, January's Green Jacket goes to Kellie Tollifson, MPM® RMP®, of T-Square Properties in

Woodinville, WA. Kelly is continuing as our Member Services Chair in 2015. Her amazing work in 2014 as Chair has added enormous value to this organization. Currently, Kellie and her amazing

Committee are working on even more projects to add value for all Members. Thank you, Kellie, for all you do.





Education is the major change that has been going on in NARPM®. We offered the first revamped classes at the National Convention in Minneapolis and received great feedback.

A new year is upon us and NARPM® is continuing to grow and prosper. Many exciting adventures and studies will be taking place, so watch for some changes in the near future.

Education is the major change that has been going on in NARPM<sup>®</sup>. We offered the first revamped classes at the National Convention in Minneapolis and received great feedback. Additional classes are being redesigned for implementation at the Regional Conferences. This is an exciting time to take a class, even if you are a current designee, so consider signing up and see the substantial changes that have taken place.

Two workgroups have been established to study the events that NARPM® offers. The 2015 NARPM® Strategic Plan includes a major priority called Member Engagement. Under this priority, we will be the studying the Convention, Broker/Owner Retreat, and Regional Conferences to reassure Leaders that these events are bringing a value proposition to current and future Members. Through this process, NARPM® will also look at enhancing the overall value proposition of NARPM® to current and future Members.

Along with this task, NARPM® will be studying the restructuring of the current membership categories. As our Association has grown, more categories have been added. Are they necessary and do we need them in the future? This is an issue the Member Services Committee will be tackling this year, and we all look forward to a strong recommendation from the Committee.

The Governmental Affairs Committee will be handling the issue of how to get Members more engaged in the legislative process. The NARPM® Political Action Committee (PAC) had a wonderful kickoff at the Convention with \$38,000 raised and more is coming in through dues. This is great, but how do we get Members to participate in the process, along with giving funds? The action from the Committee will also involve Chapters becoming more involved legislatively. Please be open and receptive to their recommendations.

The Communications Committee will also assist in the efforts to increase Members' engagement with NARPM®. They will look at the way we communicate with Members, as well as revamping the current referral network. They will continue to work with other organizations to get the NARPM® name known throughout the industry.

As you can see, NARPM® Committees have a full and exciting year ahead of them. Consider getting involved. Just go to http://www.narpm.org/about/officers-andboard/committee-chairs/ and fill out the Join a Committee form you will find on that page. Return it to

info@narpm.org.



We ended 2014 with a blast! Stephen D. Foster, MPM® RMP®, Andy Propst, MPM® RMP®, Bart Sturzl, MPM® RMP® and myself attended the National Associa-

tion of REALTORS® (NAR) Convention as an exhibitor, putting NARPM® in front of thousands of REALTORS®. We had visits from many friends and NAR Past Presidents, and we signed up 25 new Members. It was exciting to speak with people who were in property management and just didn't know how to take their business to the next level. Steve, Andy, and Bart spoke to them about the sharing that happens within NARPM®. If you attend a meeting and see a new Member, please welcome them into NARPM® and make them feel at home!

I look forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming Regional Conferences or the Broker/Owner Retreat in Las Vegas. It will be a great year, so join us as we promote the "Masters of Property Management."

Gail S. Phillips. CAE NARPM® Executive Director



## **New Member Mentor Program Establish a Relationship**

Remember back when you first joined NARPM®? Did you feel a bit like a fish out of water at first? Did you have any idea of the wealth of information NARPM® provided or the wonderful people you would meet?

NARPM® is proud to be a growing Association. In 2014, we exceeded our membership goal with over 5,000 Members strong! We continue to grow in membership, education, professional development, governmental affairs and Member benefits. As we grow, we learn how to be more efficient and offer the best services that benefit the Members.

One of the key ideas for any organization's growth is to keep the new Members and engage them early in their membership. While we value new Members and continue to focus on creating value for all the membership, we discovered new Members needed some encouragement and connection. Our response to that need is the New Member Mentor Program (http://www.narpm.org/ join/membership-benefits/).

to eight opportunities for an established Member to make contact with a new Member. Each contact, by phone or in person, is designed to introduce the new Member to a variety of services and benefits that NARPM® provides and to establish a relationship between the new Member and the Mentor. For example, in the first contact, the Mentor should talk about what they like about NARPM®, ask the new Member why they joined, and tell them about the website, the discussion group, and a few other things. Each call is designed to last about 15 minutes. The regular contact between the seasoned Member and the new Member is intended to establish a connection for the new Member.

A nice bonus for the Chapters who utilize the New Member Mentor Program is the addition of points on their Chapter Excellence Application (Question #26). Only Chapter Leaders may view this area at http://www.narpm.org/members/tools/ Chapter-services/handbook/recognition-awards/. The Chapter Excellence Application is comprised



Kellie Tollifson, MPM® RMP®, has been in the Property Management business since 1996, first as a landlord managing her own investment properties, and then soon after, as an Owner of T-Square Properties, which now manages over 400 properties and 40 Homeowner Associations. Kellie is the Vice President of Operations and oversees all of the day-to-day activities of the business located in Woodinville, WA, which is a suburb of Seattle. Kellie holds a Bachelor's Degree in Behavioral Science from San Jose State University and is a Past President of the King County NARPM® Chapter. She earned her RMP® Designation in 2010 and her MPM® Designation in 2012. She has served on several NARPM® Committees including Finance and National Convention. She also participated in the 2014 Strategic Planning at the NARPM® headquarters in Virginia last fall. Kellie currently serves as the 2014 National Member Services Committee Chair.

#### One of the key ideas for any organization's growth is to keep the new members and engage them early in their membership.

The New Member Mentor Program (NMMP) was introduced in 2014 and is a simple tool for each Chapter to use to help welcome new Members, identify future Leaders, and advance the growth of the Chapter. The goal of the NMMP is to maximize new Member retention. The New Member Mentor should share with the new Member the knowledge, resources, and experiences they have gained by being a Member of NARPM® and how that knowledge relates to their success in the property management industry.

At first glance, the NMMP may seem a bit complicated, but you'll find it is really quite simple. The NMMP is set up with a series of benefits to discuss with the new Member. The Program consists of six

of 28 questions focused on the quality of each Chapter throughout the year, one of which includes utilization of the New Member Mentor Program. A Chapter can earn up to four points by implementing the Program. A candidate for the RMP® or MPM® Designation also receives points for being a New Member Mentor!

Two of the wildly important goals for NARPM® in the upcoming year are to have 100% of the Chapters apply for Chapter Excellence and to have at least 1,000 Members attend the 2015 Annual Convention in Atlanta, GA. Implementing the New Member Mentor Program will help in reaching these goals and create a stronger and more robust Association. 👜





Nicole Brown, RMP® Candidate, began her property management career in 2011. Her focus is to manage and lease quality homes, all while placing qualified long-term tenants. Nicole is a licensed Property Manager in South Carolina. Along with a passion for property management, Nicole is a certified judge for the Miss America Organization and National Federation of State High School Associations (NFSHSA) for competitive cheerleading. Nicole has been married to Kyle for 11 years, where his Marine Corps lifestyle has taken them from coast to coast.

It is time that property management companies (either through their own research, or external consulting) draft a Data **Security Policy.** 

## Vulnerabilities and Threats Continue **Avoiding a Data Breach**

My, how the times are changing! In recent years, property management has quickly outgrown key lockers and file cabinets. Today's state-of-the-art property management company is making use of cloudbased, third-party service providers to manage many, if not all, aspects of their daily workflow. Some offices, like ours, have gone entirely paperless! The rising use of these types of services is exciting, efficient, and innovative to the industry. But, it does create concerns as well.

In a world where data leaks are a mainstay on the evening news, how do we avoid becoming the next company faced with the need to send out an expensive round of breach notifications? There is no easy way, nor is there a sure-fire way. The number of vulnerabilities and threats will only continue to increase, particularly as use of this technology gains more traction and popularity. Suffering a data breach can be very expensive. It can also be devastating to your business' professional reputation. Can you imagine having to inform all of your owners and tenants that you've lost their payment information? Would they still trust you?

This is not an issue that is isolated to the big-box stores. Sure, when Target gets breached it gets a lot of attention. But, according to the National Cyber-Security Alliance, small businesses are the primary target for hackers looking to gain illegal access to consumer data. In fact, 95% of credit card breaches discovered by Visa are from small business customers. Perhaps a more frightening statistic is that, after suffering a breach, nearly 60% of small businesses close up shop within the next six months.

If there's no way to be certain you will never suffer a data breach, what can you do? It all starts with your company taking a firm stance on the issue. It is time that property management companies (either through their own research, or external consulting) draft a Data Security Policy. This Policy should include requirements for third-party services. When shopping around for service providers, analyze their security practices to make sure they have taken a hardline stance that is compatible with your Data Security Policy. Is your customer's data being encrypted in transit and at rest? Does the company have a Security Department that is scanning their network, making an effort to detect

threats? What is their plan of action in the event of a breach? Remember, it is easy to say "Well, our company wasn't breached. It was a vendor." Remember, your owners and tenants didn't sign on to do business with "Vendor X." At the end of the day, it's your company's reputation on the line.

Often, employee error opens the door to attacks. So, the second part of your Data Security Policy should address local requirements. It doesn't matter how much technology is used to protect customer data if employees have poor computing practices. Did you know that current password practices are traced back to a Department of Defense standard developed in 1985? Passwords alone are no longer an acceptable stand-alone login token. Have you even given thought to requiring passphrases?

Unlike a password, passphrases tend to be longer. They're typically more personalized and easier to remember. Instead of using "MyPassword," create a personalized passphrase. By combining unique (but memorable) words, numbers, and symbols, it's possible to create a strong passphrase that can stop most brute-force attacks in its tracks.

In your Policy, you should also consider requiring multi-factor authentication (MFA), also known as Enhanced Login Security.. MFA is the future of web authentication. If you're unfamiliar, these services require something (in addition to a password) to allow access to a system. According to the selected MFA provider, that could mean a code that is texted to your phone. It could be a physical device you plug into a USB port. It could even be a phone call to verify your identity. Without regard to which provider (or technology) you choose for MFA, it is a game-changer for information security.

At the end of the day, the "head in the sand" approach to information security and cyber-threats will not work. In order to preserve your company's reputation (and future), it's time to take a few necessary steps to safeguard customer information. Keep your computers clean and up-to-date. Make sure your employees develop proper computing practices. Make sure you document your stance in your Policy. If you lose your customer's trust, what do you really have left? @

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Welcome to a new year with new Board Members who will show you how to become Masters of Property Management.



#### PRESIDENT ANDREW PROPST. MPM®

**RMP**<sup>®</sup>, has been managing properties for over 16 years for three different property management companies. He is lucky enough to be married to Shonda Propst in 1999. Before working at Park Place Property Management, he was a manager of Heritage Property Management in Portland, OR. After Managing in Oregon for 10 years, they adopted their first child, Samuel Propst, in 2008. Soon after they

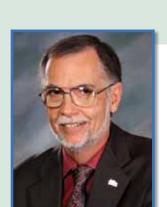
welcomed Sam into their life, they moved to Boise, ID to be closer to family. In 2011, they adopted their second child, Brooklyn. Andy has been the President of Park Place Property Management for five years. He also holds the Certified Property Manager® (CPM®) Designation from the Institute of Real Estate Management (IREM®). Andy sat on the NARPM® National Board of Directors for four years as a Regional Vice President (RVP) and also served as National Treasurer and President-Elect.



PRESIDENT-ELECT BART STURZL, MPM® RMP®, is Co-owner and Broker of Bella Real Estate, Inc. Bart has degrees in Management and Marketing where he graduated Summa Cum Laude in both. Bart has been managing properties for over 19 years. He is married to his beautiful wife Becky and they have a seven-year-old daughter, Emily. Bart served as the South Central Region Vice President for NARPM® and has also served at the national level on the Communications, Professional Development, and Membership Committees. He has served NARPM® at the local level as Secretary, President-Elect, President, and Past President of the Austin Chapter. Bart has also served at the state level on the Texas Association of REALTORS® Property Management Committee and at the local level on

the Austin Board of REALTORS® Property Management Committee.

TREASURER LEEANN GHIGLIONE, MPM® RMP®, has been in real estate for 20+ years. She started in sales and then moved into property management. She really started to enjoy this business after joining NARPM® and began to learn so much from so many Members, both locally and nationally. She has served as the President of King County Chapter, chaired the 2010 National Convention in Seattle, and served as the Member Services Chair in 2011.



PAST PRESIDENT STEPHEN D. FOSTER, MPM® RMP®, was born and raised in Iowa, graduated from Iowa State University with a B.A. in Architecture in 1972 and graduated from Texas A&M University with a Master of Building Design in Architecture in 1974. He is an Emeritus Member of the American Institute of Architects. Steve became a real estate Broker in 1978 and formed Boardwalk Real Property Management, Inc. in 1986. He received the CCIM designation in 1991. He joined NARPM® in 1992 and helped form the San Antonio Metropolitan Area Chapter and served as President of that Chapter. He received his RMP® designation in 1998, the MPM® in 2001 and his company, Boardwalk Real Property Management, Inc. was designated a Certified Residential Management Company (CRMC®) in 2008. Steve is married to Linda G. Foster and they have two grown children and four grandchildren.



#### **PACIFIC & PACIFIC ISLANDS RVP KEITH** BECKER, MPM® RMP®.

is a real estate Broker and Owner of DeDe's Rentals & Property Management, Inc., located in Santa Rosa, CA. He has been a property

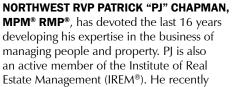
manager since he relocated to California from New England in 1994. Since then, he has dramatically expanded the number of units under portfolio management; he and his team presently supervise in excess of 500 doors. Keith is Past-President of both CALNARPM and the Marin-Sonoma Chapter of NARPM®. In addition, he is presently a Member of the NARPM® Pacific RVP's Task Force. He and his wife enjoy travelling with their three children, and Keith can typically be found on most weekends riding his bike through the beautiful vineyards of Sonoma County's wine country.



#### ATLANTIC RVP TRACI **LEWIS VANCAMP. MPM®**

RMP®, began her career in real estate more than 20 years ago. Traci is an award winning REALTOR® and holds an Associate Broker license with RE/MAX Alliance

in Virginia Beach, Virginia. In her 10 years as a NARPM® Member, she has served on several Committees, assisted Regional Vice Presidents (RVPs), and Co-Chaired the 2014 Eastern Regional Conference. Traci is a Past President of both The Virginia Peninsula and Virginia State Chapters and recently served on the NARPM® Board of Directors as the 2014 Southeast Region Vice President.



purchased Chapman Properties, the family business company. In 2007 at the NARPM® National Convention, PJ was honored with

the prestigious Rocky Maxwell Award, which is given to only one new Member for recognition of accomplishments spanning the first year of NARPM® membership. Locally, he has served as Education Chair and was voted President-Elect for the 2008 year. PJ went on to serve as the Southwest Idaho Chapter President and Membership Chair, then moving on to a NARPM® national role as the 2012 Membership Chair.



#### CENTRAL RVP TRACEY NORRIS, MPM®

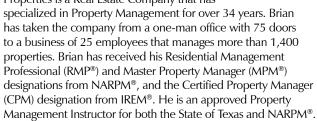
**RMP**<sup>®</sup>, is the Owner/Broker of Property Professionals, Inc. in New Braunfels, TX. Tracey has a BA in Sociology and a minor in Business from the University of Texas. Tracey is the current Central Region Vice President for NARPM® and has also served as the National Communications Committee Chair for the last four years. Besides NARPM®

and real estate, Tracey is involved with her local Rotary (New Braunfels Rotary Club). She spends her free time with her dogs, Kona and Darby.



#### SOUTHEAST RVP BRIAN BIRDY, MPM® RMP®,

served for 15 years in the United State Air Force before starting in Property Management. In 2000, he earned his Texas Real Estate License and went to work in the family business at Birdy Properties, LLC, CRMC®. In 2004, he received his Texas Real Estate Broker's License and bought the company from his father. Birdy Properties is a Real Estate Company that has





#### SOUTHWEST RVP STEVE SCHULTZ, MPM® RMP®, is the

Designated Broker and Owner of Blue Fox Properties in Tucson, AZ. Blue Fox Properties specializes 100% in managing single family homes, individual townhomes, and condos. Steve teaches property management courses across the country and is a national speaker and author. He is diligent in systematizing the business to maximize its effectiveness, efficiency and profitability. He currently serves as the Southwest Regional Vice President of NARPM®.

#### COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR

**ARI LUND, MPM® RMP®**, is the Broker for Get There First Realty, CRMC® in Dallas, TX and has been with the company since 2006. He oversees operations and supervises the accounting, leasing, and collections for the 1,600+ properties managed by the firm. Ari has served on the Board of his local NARPM® Greater Dallas Chapter and is the 2015 NARPM® Communications Chair. Both Ari and his wife are from the Dallas area and have three sons.



#### **MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIR**

KELLIE TOLLIFSON, MPM® RMP®, has been in the Property Management business since 1996, first as a landlord managing her own investment properties, and then soon after, as an Owner of T-Square Properties, which now manages over 400 properties and 40 Homeowner Associations. Kellie is the Vice President of Operations and oversees all of the day-to-day activities of the business located in Woodinville, WA, which is a suburb of Seattle. Kellie holds a Bachelor's Degree in Behavioral Science from San Jose State University and is a Past President of the King County NARPM® Chapter. She earned her RMP® Designation in 2010 and her MPM® Designation in 2012. She has served on several NARPM® Committees, including Finance and National Convention. She also participated in the 2014 & 2015 Strategic Planning at the NARPM® headquarters in Virginia. Kellie is currently serving her second year as the NARPM® National Member Services Committee Chair.



#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR

LYNN SEDLACK, MPM® RMP®, is the President/Broker and co-owns 33rd Company, Inc. with her husband Tom. 33rd Company offers single-family home and Homeowner Association (HOA) management as well as Realty Services. Before becoming the Chair in 2015, Lynn was a member of the Professional Development Committee. Lynn has been an active Member of NARPM® since 2006 and has held various Committee positions: Communications, National Convention Chair 2014,

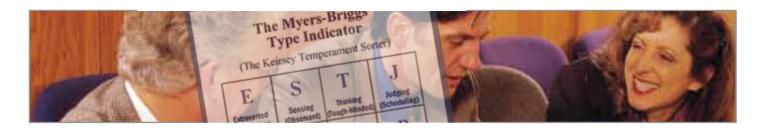


Nominating Committee, founding Member and Past Chapter President of the Minnesota Chapter and continues at the Chapter level as the Education chair. Prior to starting 33rd Company, Inc., Lynn was previously a Family Nurse Practitioner.

#### **GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIR**

SCOTT ABERNATHY, MPM® RMP®, is a property manager for Reliant Realty, LLC, located outside of Nashville, TN. He has been renting homes since 1989 while he was still serving in the United States Air Force. He graduated from Middle Tennessee State University with an Aerospace Degree and a minor in Real Estate. While in college he got his real estate license and began his career. He insists he has received much better education through NARPM®. Scott has served on the NARPM® Governmental Affairs Committee, as well as the Government Affairs Committee for his local Association of REALTORS®.





## **Chapter Leadership Training** What Are the Benefits?

Have you ever attended a Leadership Training hosted by NARPM®? If you haven't and you are a Chapter Leader, you should. It's beneficial training to learn how to run your Chapter and to learn about the tools that NARPM® provides that will help you run it productively.

The San Antonio Metropolitan Area Chapter (SAMAC) of NARPM® took this great idea a step further and implemented it within our Chapter. Usually in late November or early December, we host our Chapter Leadership Training Session for the incoming Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, and Vice-Chairs. We bring in high-octane NARPM® National Leaders and Speakers, do team-building exercises, and work as a team to set goals for the upcoming year. This Leadership Training Session is one of the many reasons SAMAC has achieved Chapter Excellence every year since 2008 and won Chapter of the Year during its eligible years since 2009.

I write this as we just wrapped up our 2015 Chapter Leadership Training in early December 2014. I was lucky enough to have Bart Sturzl, MPM® RMP®, lead

has been one of most instrumental Leaders and was our Chapter President in 2008. Marty split our four-hour training session with Bart and focused on some more detailed information - our newly revised Bylaws and our new Policies & Procedures Manual. Marty led a task force in 2014 to revise our Bylaws to fit our larger and more structured Chapter and helped create a new Policies & Procedures Manual to refine many of our policies amongst many other important procedures that help our Chapter run like a well-oiled machine. Marty recognized that we had outgrown our old Bylaws and didn't have the support structure that a Policies & Procedures Manual provides. Because of these changes, Marty helped us each understand the Bylaws and Policies & Procedures Manual more, as well as helped us establish job descriptions for each of our Chapter positions.

I firmly believe every NARPM® Chapter should host their own Chapter Leadership Training Session to help their members work together to achieve productivity and greatness. This training provides



Kerrick Hutchison, RMP®, is a Broker Associate with Alderson Properties, LLC, in Canyon Lake, TX. Kerrick is currently President-Elect of the San Antonio Metropolitan Area Chapter of NARPM® and was a past recipient of the Rocky Maxwell Award in 2011.

#### ...lead our team through a team-building exercise. Using the Myer-Briggs personality test, we saw how each of us are different and how we can work together, and help us establish a set of Core Values.

our team through a team-building exercise. Using the Myer-Briggs personality test, we saw how each of us are different and how we can work together, and help us establish a set of Core Values. Bart is a visionary Leader who has helped us step up our game as a Chapter. Between our own NARPM® Past President Stepen D. Foster, MPM® RMP®, and now NARPM® President-Elect Bart Sturzl, MPM® RMP®, from Austin, we've been blessed to have amazing National Leaders help support our Chapter. We have two RVPs that are Past Presidents of our Chapter as well – Brian Birdy, MPM® RMP®, and Tracey Norris, MPM® RMP®. All of these Leaders have been phenomenal Mentors as we grow.

We also have Marty Hutchison, MPM® RMP®, who

purpose, understanding, and structure to our Leadership Team for the upcoming year.

For further influence, here are the top three reasons your Chapter should host its own Leadership Training Session:

#### **TEAM BUILDING**

Our team-building exercises aren't weekend getaways doing rope courses, but rather a short, intense program lead by our session Leader to help us learn how to work together better. I've always found this very important to any Chapter Leadership Training Session. Often, you have new Mem-

Continued on page 22 "Chapter"

#### **TECHNOLOGY** Matters

SHEDDING SOME LIGHT ON THE MANY MYSTERIES OF OUR FAST-PACED HIGH-TECH WORLD



Michael Mino is President and CEO of PropertyBoss Solutions, a provider of property management software. A serial entrepreneur, he has started a number of software technology firms and became a landlord in 1977 when he purchased his first rental units. PropertyBoss Solutions is a NARPM® Affiliate Member. For more information about Michael or PropertyBoss Solutions, visit propertyboss.com or call Michael at 864.297.7661 x26.

## Mobile Personal Safety

The national news brought the death of Arkansas real estate agent Beverly Carter to our doorsteps last September. Beverly Carter was abducted and slain after showing a house to a prospective buyer. When the suspect was questioned as to why he chose Beverly, he responded, "She was a rich Broker" and "Because she was just a woman who worked alone a rich Broker."

Betty Fletcher, MPM®, Owner and principal Broker with Fletcher Property Management, Inc., CRMC®, in Little Rock, approached me at the Convention in Minnesota suggesting that we could use technology to help prevent this type of tragedy. The Beverly Carter incident had literally hit too close to home; less than 15 miles from her office. Later, my reflection on our conversation evolved into the genesis of this article.

#### **LOW-TECH APPROACHES**

Depending on your situation, a low-tech approach may be all that is required to make you feel safe. The low-tech approach can be effective, but it requires you to strictly follow a manual series of steps to insure

Beverly had called her husband prior to her appointment to let him know the address where she would be. This practice could be improved by using a text message providing a precise location that can be readily retrieved later if needed. Also, set a specific time that you will check back with your "personal security team." If you have not responded by that time, a member of your team should immediately become suspicious that something is wrong. Beverly's husband waited a number of hours before he "knew something was wrong" and took action.

Beverly's real estate office now requires the first meeting with a potential buyer be at the office. They make a copy of their identification, typically a driver's license. A better practice is to hold the license until the prospect returns after the showing (a technique used when test-driving a car).

Some tips for improving your security when visiting a property:

- Never enter a vacant house alone.
- Write down a description of the car, license number and any other observations; take pictures with your

- smart phone and text the photos and information to co-workers. If you are attacked, you want that information immediately available to someone else.
- Walk behind the prospect; direct them rather than lead them; don't enter a room before the client you could find yourself locked in.
- Establish a code word with your office and buddy; use the pretense of checking on an appointment or requesting information to interject the code word if you are in danger or feel uncomfortable.

Betty has provided self-defense training for her employees since the Carter incident. The objective of this training is to improve awareness of your surroundings and learn techniques to buy you critical seconds to aid in your potential escape.

Although the referenced tragedy is a real estate agent, a leasing agent faces the same risks. Betty pointed out some of the differences:

- Buyers can have a pre-approval letter, while a prospective tenant would not.
- Buyers are often referrals from someone the Agent knows, while prospective tenants hardly ever are.
- Buyers are often more affluent than renters.

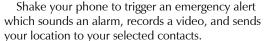
#### **MOBILE APPS**

A class of apps is available for your smart phone under the category of "personal safety." Many were on display by exhibitors at the National Association of REALTORS® Conference and Expo in New Orleans last November. These apps utilize a combination of features available in most smart phones, such as location services (through the GPS receiver), text messaging (via SMS), streaming video (internal camera), live audio (microphone), alerts and alarms.

A brief description of many of these apps follows using the following icons:

- Available for Android phones in the Play Store
- Available for IOS phones on iTunes
- **\$** A free version of the app is available
- \$ There is a charge for the app and/or service

#### **WatchOverMe** www.watchovermeapp.com \* \$





#### V.ALRT www.vsnmobil.com



A small wearable device (pendant, wristband, belt clip) that works with a smartphone to sound an alarm and send out urgent calls and text messages with the press of a button.

#### SafeTREC www.safetrec.com



Summon immediate help with the push of a panic button that connects with emergency contacts or a 24/7 response call center (paid version).

#### Real Alert www.realalertapp.com



The features of this app include quick tap "Call 911", "Alert a Friend" and "Alarm" buttons, locate nearest hospital using current GPS location, and record "Creep Data." A REALTOR® in Texas created this app with a developer.

#### Real Agent Guard www.realagentguard.com



This real-time monitoring app, designed specifically for real estate agents, is still in development. It utilizes a dashboard monitored at the office and depends on the field agent to "check-in" at periodic intervals.

#### **MyWitness** www.mywitness.co



Double press your volume button (Android only) to send video, audio and GPS location to your personal response team to evaluate and take action.

#### **MyForce** www.myforce.com



Press the emergency button, and a live security agent instantly starts listening, recording and tracking you. They assess the situation and coordinate onlocation assistance with the nearest public emergency responders.

#### Guardly www.guardly.com



This app allows for quick (minimum taps) dialing of 911 or contacting (via email, phone, SMS) individuals in different lists providing real-time location data. An emergency beacon feature plays a maximum-volume whistle sound.

#### **GPS Tracker Pro**



Provides real-time location updates using your

phone's GPS navigation. This app is also useful for tracking the whereabouts of your children or elder family members.

#### fieldsafe www.snapone.com



Tap the power button a preset number of times and your location is sent via SMS, voicemail and email.

#### Emergensee emergensee.com



When you launch / start an Incident: Live Streaming Video allows your pre-selected contacts to immediately see, hear and follow your incident as it unfolds, effectively responding to the scene with full situational awareness. Virtual Escort -- automatically streams live video and GPS to your pre-selected contacts if a pre-timer expires before you deactivate it.

#### **bSafe** www.getbsafe.com



The Guardian Alert button immediately notifies your contacts, and lets them know where you are (GPS) and what's happening (video). Other features include "Timer Mode" that will trigger if you have not checked in on time, "I'm Here" tells selected people where you are right now, and "Fake Call" makes the phone ring when you want it to.

#### **IN SUMMARY**

Your safety and that of your employees is serious business. It is important to maintain your attention to this area, particularly after the hype subsides. Also, review any related policy changes with your attorney before you implement them. The mobile apps listed above are only a subset of the offerings available. A complete list of the mobile personal safety apps, including links to the developer's website is available online at: http://www.propertyboss.com/propertymanagement-support/narpm/.

Disclaimer: I do not endorse or recommend, nor have I tested or evaluated the products referenced above. The descriptions were taken from the website of the provider of the app. This is a dynamic area, and it is likely that some of the information provided will not be correct when you read this. I will happily correct any errors or omissions brought to my attention.

Your safety and that of your employees is serious business. It is important to maintain your attention to this area, particularly after the hype subsides.



Scan this code with your smartphone to access additional resources.

## **LEGISLATIVE** Scoop

KEEPING OUR MEMBERS CURRENT ON THE NEWEST INDUSTRY LAWS AND POLICIES NATIONWIDE



Scott Abernathy, MPM® RMP®, is a property manager for Reliant Realty, LLC, located outside of Nashville, TN. He has been renting homes since 1989 while he was still serving in the United States Air Force. He graduated from Middle Tennessee State University with an Aerospace Degree and a minor in Real Estate. While in college, he got his real estate license and began his career. He insists he has received much better education through NARPM®. Scott has served on the NARPM® Governmental Affairs Committee, as well as the Government Affairs Committee for his local Association of REALTORS®.

First, when you learn of some legislative action that effects property management, no matter how local it is, let us know.

## Help Us Help You

I am thrilled to be your Governmental Affairs Committee Chair this year. I, and many other staff and volunteers, have already been working to make 2015 the best year yet for NARPM®'s Legislative Committee, but we cannot be a success without your help.

Before we get into how you can help us to help you, let me acknowledge the hard work that Heidi Hartman, MPM® RMP®, has done to move us forward to this point. Under her leadership, the Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC) has become much more involved in the day-to-day activities of the membership, as well as establishing a foundation of recognition in the national discussion of residential property management.

- She lead us to join with the National Apartment Association and four other national real estate associations to produce an amicus brief to the Supreme Court arguing our point regarding disparate impact in the Fair Housing Law;
- She lead the charge to implement the "Engage" platform to keep our membership informed on legislative issues locally and establish a repository of key issues impacting the entire country; and
- She lead the first contingent of NARPM® leadership, who traveled to Washington, DC, working with Congress to keep our agenda front and center.

The biggest feather in Heidi's cap, as well as that of all the volunteers in the GAC, was the vision and creation of a Political Action Committee, the NARPM® PAC. The PAC will enable NARPM® to put some muscle behind the issues we care most about. Thank you so much, Heidi, for all your efforts.

Moving forward, there are many issues to which we are paying close attention:

- The Protecting Tenants from Foreclosure Act (PFTA) to be extended indefinitely;
- Steve Stein is continuing to represent the NARPM® membership on the Uniform Law Commission, revamping the Uniform Landlord and Tenant Laws, bringing his insight on how things work in the real world being a valued perspective in a room filled with lawyers used to drafting policy;
- And Section 8 reform.

Our membership often suggests issues that we may want to further research and tackle in the future. One issue that came to your GAC from an Atlanta Chapter Member, and that we will be tackling soon, is to attempt to have the one-unit to four-unit exclusion in fair housing eliminated. Discrimination should be banned regardless of how many units you own.

As you can see, your GAC is working hard for you, but

we cannot do it without your help. Fortunately, helping is easy and most of it can be done right from your computer. Simply use the "Engage" platform on the website. You can get to it by logging onto www.narpm.org and, after signing in with your Member ID, clicking on the "Legislative" tab. There, you will find the proposed legislation on which we are taking action, as well as issues we are monitoring, in every region. There are literally dozens of items we are watching across the country from the east (concerning attorney's fees and expenses in landlord-tenant disputes in New Jersey) to the west (changing rules on medical marijuana in Hawaii); from the south (attempting to require certifications by landlords that rental properties are free of toxic mold in Louisiana) to the north (regarding landlords' responsibility for abandoned property in Montana), and everywhere in between. No matter where your base of operations is, we can help you keep track of issues going on in your area.

You have all heard the saying "garbage in/garbage out." The website information is only as good as the data provided. Much of the data is "scraped" from local and state newspapers, websites, and media outlets. This is where you come in. The best information comes from the boots on the ground, the NARPM® Member in the field.

You can help us in two ways. First, when you learn of some legislative action that effects property management, no matter how local it is, let us know. We can then include it on the issues that we are watching or, if necessary, spur the membership into action for or against it.

Second, you can surf over to the Legislative tab of www.narpm.org from time to time and search in your area. When you find something that needs an update or change, let us know so we can make any corrections. If you want to be extra helpful, provide us with the documentation showing what is incorrect in the feed or provide us your story on how the issue is impacting you directly.

These actions are very simple, all you have to do is email them to govtaffairschair@narpm.org and we can take it from there. If you want to do more, feel free. For that matter, the GAC has openings. We'd love to have you jump in with both feet along with us.

One more thing before I let you go, if you have never been to Washington, DC, this spring is the opportunity for you to do so. We will be there lobbying our congressmen and senators from April 11 - 15, 2015. The more folks we have, the more emphasis our issues will get.

Again, thank you all so much for giving me this opportunity to serve you as your Government Affairs Chairman in 2015. 👜



## Principle vs. Compromise **A Good Balance**

Principle: "A moral rule or belief that helps you know what is right and wrong and that influences your actions." (From the Merriam-Webster Dictionary). In the realm of real estate management, one of the most controversial topics among landlords and property managers is that of the balance between principle and compromise. We, as landlords or property managers, are often faced with trying to strike a good balance between the two. Compromise is almost always required to make any relationship work, but how far we should bend before it truly violates our principles, is often the question. But, perhaps that's not the question we should be asking.

I'm reminded of something that our local small claims court magistrate says, which I will paraphrase:

If you are here to make me or the other party know that you are right and they are wrong, I'm afraid you are going to leave this court room very disappointed.

He says this because so many people walk into his court room with an aggressive "I'm right, you're wrong" attitude. They just want the other party, or even the judge, to acknowledge that they are RIGHT. Often, this is the tenant trying to demonstrate that they have been victimized by a bloodsucking landlord going to take us to court, in addition to telling the homeowner (who is in the military and is well aware of the details), the new tenants, the local media, the military to get us "black listed," and post on every review site so that the world knows how evil we are.

Because this tenant was a mid-ranked military gentleman, who had always been quite collected in his communications, we were inclined to believe that he will do every one of these things. My immediate reaction is that of extreme frustration. You mean you are going to lie to the public about our integrity because you damaged the house and don't think your lease means anything? Really!?

In this example, the difference between the amount the homeowner and tenant were willing to settle on was about \$150. Since our company charges homeowners when we appear in court for deposit disputes, it would have ended up costing the homeowner a great deal more than \$150 if this went into the court house. Even with that understanding, it still took many hours of discussion to convince the homeowner to simply yield on the extra \$150. At one point the homeowner actually stated, "this is not about money any more, this is about teaching this bully tenant a lesson." It is



Alex Yoder, MPM® RMP®, is a Past President of the Colorado Springs NARPM® Chapter and is the Director of Residential Management at Dorman Real Estate Services, a management firm of approximately 400 doors. He has been in property management for 10 years and has over 2,000 unit years of experience.

#### You mean you are going to lie to the public about our integrity because you damaged the house and don't think your lease means anything? Really!?

- who, in their minds, is wealthy beyond reason.

The inspiration of this article actually stems from a recent deposit dispute with which I had the pleasure of dealing. An example of one of the bullet points on their list of disputes was:

"I could have called ABC Carpet Cleaning and had this done for \$40 less. Your invoice is inflated and I demand the return of the difference."

Yes, our lease states that we have the carpets cleaned by our carpet cleaner and the cost is deducted from the tenant's deposit. Even though the tenant agreed to this, they feel they are the victim of a horrible crime. Because of this and other items charged against their deposit (which were all very obvious tenant charges in our opinion), they were

at times like this that we must ask the most important question that a landlord or property manager should be asking, the question that trumps all questions:

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF STICKING TO PRINCIPLE **OVER COMPROMISE AS IT PERTAINS TO MY FINAN-CIAL BOTTOM LINE?**

In my opinion, in the event of a financial dispute, this is the only question we, as landlords, property managers, and business operators, should be asking. Even if the answer to that question makes us cringe, swear, and throw things against the wall. This is not about ego and this is not about our opinion of right and wrong - this is a business decision and nothing else. 👜

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## AppFolio wishes NARPM® members Happy New Year!

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### **DESIGNATION** Classes

#### DEMONSTRATE THAT YOU HAVE EXPERT KNOWLEDGE ABOUT RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

#### Interested in **Sponsoring?**

Opportunities are available to Chapters that would like to further educate their Members and increase their Chapter funds. However, it takes time to plan a class so give your Chapter five to six month's lead time if you wish to sponsor.

DATE	LOCATION	CLASS	INSTRUCTOR
01/08/2015	Richmond, VA	Ethics	Traci Lewis VanCamp, MPM® RMP®
01/14/2015	San Jose, CA	Property Management 101 –	Michelle Horneff-Cohen, MPM® RMP®
		Everything You Need to Know	
01/26/2015	San Antonio, TX	Risk Management Essentials	Dave Holt, MPM® RMP®
01/27/2015	San Antonio, TX	In-house Maintenance Company	Dave Holt, MPM® RMP®
02/05/2015	Austin, TX	Ethics	Brian Birdy, MPM® RMP®
02/05/2015	Austin, TX	Tenancy	Betty Fletcher, MPM® RMP®
02/20/2015	0 /	Risk Management Essentials	Vickie Gaskill, MPM® RMP®
02/20/2015	Las Vegas, NV	Maintenance: Basics & Beyond	Kit Garren, MPM® RMP®
02/24/2015	,	NARPM® 101	Kit Garren, MPM® RMP®
03/18/2015	Frederick, MD	NARPM® 101	Michael McCreary, MPM® RMP®
03/24/2015	Napa, CA	Risk Management Essentials	Vickie Gaskill, MPM® RMP®
03/24/2015	Napa, CA	In-house Maintenance Company	Dave Holt, MPM® RMP®
03/25/2015	. ,	Risk Management Advanced	Vickie Gaskill, MPM® RMP®
03/25/2015	Napa, CA	Habitability	Dave Holt, MPM® RMP®
03/25/2015	Napa, CA	Ethics	Keith Becker, MPM® RMP®
	Fort Collins, CO	Ethics	Beverly Perina, MPM® RMP®
04/23/2015	Mesa, AZ	Ethics	Mike Mumford, MPM® RMP®

**Online Designation Courses** are now available through OMG Distance Learning. For information and/or to enroll visit www.narpm.org/education.

#### **FEES** (subject to change)

Early Registration*	Registration
\$195	\$250
\$295	\$350
\$75	\$150
\$100	\$150
\$180	\$250
Early Registration*	Registration
\$99	\$99
\$99	\$99
\$99	\$99
\$99	\$99
\$99	\$99
\$45	\$45
\$95	\$95
	\$195 \$295 \$75 \$100 \$180 <b>Early Registration*</b> \$99 \$99 \$99 \$99 \$99

<sup>\*</sup>To receive the early registration price, payment must be postmarked, faxed or emailed  $30~{\rm days}$  prior to the class.

#### **COURSE INFORMATION**

- Course flyers containing additional information may be downloaded from www.narpm.org/education/schedules.html.
- All materials will be given to students on the day of the class.
- Attendees required to make their individual hotel reservations.

#### **CANCELLATION POLICY**

Cancellations must be received in writing. If cancellation notice is received at least 30 days prior to the class, a full refund will be issued less a \$25 processing fee. If cancellation notice is received less than 30 days before the class, a 50% refund will be issued. No refunds will be made on the day of the class; however, the registration fee can be applied to a later class with a \$25 transfer fee.

If NARPM® cancels the course because minimum registrations have not been met or for any other reason, then tuition paid will be fully refundable. All courses are subject to cancellation by NARPM®.

- **1. Mail** form below to NARPM®, 638 Independence Parkway, Suite 100, Chesapeake, VA 23320.
- Fax your form with credit card payment to 866-466-2776. Please do not mail the original.
- **Online** registration is also available through Internet Member Services at www.narpm.org.

Name		
Name		
Company		
Address		
City/ST/Zip		
Phone	Fax	
Email		
Register for Classes		
Name of Class	Class Date	Cost
		\$
	Total	
Method of Payment	Total	Ψ
☐ I have enclosed a check for \$	Check #	
☐ Please charge my credit card in the am	ount of \$	
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover	☐ American Express	
Name of Cardholder		
Signature		
Signature	® to charge my credit card.	
All information below th		
Card Number	Exp. Date Se	ec. Code

#### **Current Designation Candidates**

**RMP® CANDIDACY** Rachel Acuff Melanie Adrian Raul Aleman Alana Alger Shelley Alterman Christian Amacker Joseph Amatangelo Jennifer Bajema Vicki Baker Sims Ronda Banks Tom Barron Evlyn Berge **Devin Bewley** Lindsey Blackburn Scott Bolin Kathy Boyes Jason Born Aaron Bosshardt Kave Bradford Ned Brandenberger Jason Bridgman Nicole Brown Cassie Bruce Tammy Bryant Steve Burggraff Kathy Burman Richard Burton Melanie Butler Flias Camhi Terri Clair Barbara Clark Derek Clark Marcia Clemendor Laura Clevman Michael Collins Robert Collins Sanford Collins **Christopher Cossitor** Michael Craig **Daniel Craney** Susan Creedon Joanie Cullity Denise Day Kendra Dazey BI Deal

Deborah Deckard

Ioe Deulloa Ronald Dickerson Chris Dougal Charlene Dufresne John M. Durham Debrah Dyck **Evev Edwards** Rich Elias **lason Evans** Jennifer Evans Lisa Fairlie Jackelyne Ferreira Curt Fluegel Lori Hendrix Michelle Fox Amanda Frazier Silas Frazier Thad Gantt John Garcia Barry Garner Thomas Gaspari Ralph Germano Mike Giallanza Michael Gonzales J. Mario Gonzalez Larry Gray Sherry Hallmark Joe Haney Colleen Harding Desiree Hastey John Hashem Tim Hendricks Marshall Henson Ron Herdt Liz Ishimitsu Bryan Jenkins Rob Kazen Ben Kincel Lindsey Kinzer Stephen Kitrell Sally Knight Gary Knippa Cheryl Kunimoto James Kopteros

Joelle Larson Matthew Ledingham Melanie Ledingham Dandan Lee Glenn Lehman Chris Littleton Shelly Longoria Tina Lopez Shon Lorg Chris Lundstrom Nola Lusk Kristi Malcom Nancy Marks William Martin Dax Marutzky Sherri Mayes Melissa McCall Owen lason McGuire Stacey McKay Keefe McSweeney Kristine Mendez Patricia Middleton Denny Miller Cindy Minion Tatiana Montez Andrew Moore Lois Moore Rael Narvell Thomas Neal Christina Nelson Pete Neubig Francisco Nieves-Taranto **Jennifer Noland** Michele Odems Rebecca Panacci Kristy Paredes Luana Patterson Nichole Peterman Iana Pickett Dora Pinter Mary Pinto Ellen Purdy

Trent Ratliff

Gaston Reboredo

Maily Roberts-Jacobs

Suzanne Rodini-Silverburg

Dena Rodrigues

Michele Rogers Tressa Rossi Kate Roth John Rudulph Mindy Russell Sherri Russell Debbie Sanderson Lisa Saunders Christine Savoie John Scheffert Hensley Scott Melissa Sharone Steve Shugarts Alisha Sill Bonnye Sirk Annette Slater Christy Smith Kyle Stephenson Charlotte Stewart Carl Stratton David Swaim Cassandra Swanson Phyllis Sweazy **Erlin Taylor** Cynthia Thomas Jennifer Tolley Lola Traylor Amanda Trent Chris Turner Russ VandenToorn Timothy VandenToorn Gary Villani Kristi Villani Steve Welty Jennifer Whaley William Wieland **Jamie Williams** 

Jamie L. Williams

Trevor Wood Laura Wozniak Ann Yueh Joyce Zimdahl

#### **MPM® CANDIDACY**

Barbara Barrows, RMP® Eric Bessett, RMP® Angela Brinkley-Morris, RMP® Sherrie Featherly, RMP® Carl Frazier, RMP® Kathleen Gaspari, RMP® Bob Gunson, RMP® Deanna Hansen, RMP® Danny Harlow, RMP® Debbie Henry, RMP® Trudy Hoff, RMP® Colleen Hooper, RMP® Kirk McGary, RMP® Jock McNeill, RMP® Michael McVety, RMP® Charlene Minor, RMP® Primrose Leong-Nakamoto, RMP® Leesa Rispoli, RMP® Sherri Russell, RMP® Claire Schwartz, RMP® Mary Sheffield, RMP® Megan Zellers, RMP®

#### CSS® CANDIDACY

Oralia Bustos Christen Escobedo David Kane Jennifer Rhoads Dezaray Riley Marcie Turner

#### **CMC CERTIFICATION**

Tara Pecora

#### **CRMC® CANDIDATES**

Gina Kowacz

Leola Lamb

Christine Lanno

Hampton & Hampton Management & Leasing, Kim Meredith-Hampton, MPM® RMP® Local Dwelling Property Management, Worth Ross, MPM® RMP® Real-Time Leasing, LLC, Deborah Newell, MPM® RMP® Sulthar Properties, LLC, Mohamed Sulthar, MPM® RMP® Specialized Property Management, Inc., Tony Sims, MPM® RMP®

## **DESIGNATIONS & CERTIFICATION**

The power that comes with increased knowledge and confidence is tangible. It is what sets you apart from your competition. Professional designations from NARPM® have an impact on your company and your clients — and the results translate directly to the bottom line. Add the credibility of our professional designations to your name and to your company name!

NARPM® designations are earned with a combination of property management experience, NARPM® and industry education, and service to the association through volunteer activities. You may have taken clock-hour courses to maintain your license. Imagine the gains when the courses are specifically focused on what you do as a property manager - and are being taught by a property management professional. Take it one step further and envision networking with other experienced property managers from across the country. Earning your NARPM® designation will bring a whole new dimension to your daily tasks.

#### Continued from page 13 "Chapter"

bers who have volunteered to serve as a Committee Chair or Vice-Chair or maybe a Member who was elected to the Board. If we don't already know them more than as an acquaintance, this session allows us to know each other more so we can understand how we can work together to achieve the same goals.

#### PROVIDING A PERSONALITY TEST IS ALSO BENEFICIAL

Because of the test Bart gave us, I learned that I am a INTJ on the Myer Briggs test. I - Introvert, N - Intuition, T - Thinking, J -Judgment. I'm the only one on our leadership team with this personality set. I'm a heavy introvert, so the extroverts learned how I communicate. As Bart said, "I'm the man behind the curtain running things – I don't like the spotlight." It was great for him to explain that so they understand why I am the way I am.

#### **VISIONARY STATEMENTS**

"If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail." - Benjamin Franklin. Quite true. I broadly say "visionary statements" to include your Chapter's Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and Core Values. We already had Mission and Vision Statements that we didn't feel needed any change, so Bart assisted us in establishing our Core Values.

We simply did this by using our Chapter acronym "SAMAC" as the acronym for our core values.

- S Sharing Knowledge
- A Achieving Excellence
- M Motivation through Mentoring
- A Ambition to Serve
- C Comradery

These are all values our leadership team felt defined our Chapter and its overall goals.

To elaborate a little further:

- Sharing Knowledge Our Members share so much experience and knowledge with each other everyday. Even though we are "competitors" in a business sense, we are all friends who work to help each other. We share forms, help each other through the difficult times, and help each other win.
- Achieving Excellence We've achieved Chapter Excellence every year since 2008. It's not just excellence with NARPM® National for points, but excellence in everything we do and touch.
- Motivation through Mentoring The veteran Leaders in our Chapter have passionately taken new Members under their wings to help them earn their designations, volunteer locally, regionally, and nationally, as well as help them with general property management issues. Their guidance has helped us foster the future Leaders of the Chapter and industry.
- Ambition to serve Our Members ambitiously serve NARPM<sup>®</sup>. This has been a supreme value of our membership.

• Comradery – As I mentioned above, we are competitors in our general market. But we view each other as friends and help each other when needed. Being able to help each other in property management has enabled us to feel like family within our Chapter which enables us to work as a team towards larger objectives.

Furthermore, general team building helps us work together towards commons goals during the year. We always create a plan of general and specific goals for the upcoming year. This often includes very broad goals, such as having more Members serve on National Committees. And we get pretty detailed too.

Our Past President James Alderson, MPM® RMP®, set some very audacious goals in 2014. One of them was to increase our membership to 214 Members from 153. You can't state a more exact goal than that. And guess what? We surpassed it! It took a lot of work and the Chapter and an Affiliate Member sponsoring a Membership Drive, but we got there. If he had a broad and nonspecific goal of "increase membership" we would not have gotten where we have. It's those BHAGs (Big Hairy Audacious Goals) that have helped propel our Chapter to where it is today.

#### **EXPERIENCED NARPM® LEADERS**

We've been very blessed to have some of NARPM®'s top Leaders lead our Leadership Training sessions. We've had NARPM® President Andy Propst, MPM® RMP®, twice in the past four years, John Bradford, MPM® RMP®, and most recently, NARPM® President-Elect Bart Sturzl, MPM® RMP®, conduct a joint session with our own Past Chapter President Marty Hutchison, MPM® RMP®.

These Leaders have enthusiastically helped our Chapter grow and enhance the value we give our Members. President Propst's first session back in 2011 featured developing our Chapter's Mission and Vision Statements. These have been instrumental in keeping us focused every year. President-Elect Sturzl helped us in December 2014 develop our Core Values, ran a shortened Myers-Briggs Personality test on all 40 Chapter Leaders and showed us how our different personalities can work together. And one of our Past Chapter Presidents, Marty Hutchison, MPM® RMP®, helped guide our new leadership team by helping us understand the updated Bylaws we passed in 2014, as well as comprehend our brand new Policies & Procedures Manual. We owe it to every NARPM® Leader who has ever spoken to our Chapter in past years for helping us become better.

I hope you can find a way to start implementing a Leadership Training Session for your Chapter each year. It is a highly productive session and one of the many keys to our continued excellence, comradery, and success each year. Based on experience, I would highly recommend keeping it between two to four hours, have your leadership team attend, and bring in a NARPM® National Leader to teach. NARPM® is one super large family and we are always here to help each other succeed!

#### Sign up today!

Registration and program schedule are available now at www.narpmbrokerowner.org





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## **JOIN US ON THE FAIRWAY** AT THE 2015 NATIONAL CONVENTION

THE 2015 GOLF TOURNAMENT BENEFITS THE AMERICAN BRAIN TUMOR ASSOCIATION



Tony Drost, MPM® RMP®, 2011 NARPM® Past President



Fred Thompson, MPM® RMP®, 2009 NARPM® Past President

Start your 2015 NARPM® National Convention by participating in the Annual Past Presidents' Charity Golf Tournament on Tuesday, October 13, 2015. The Tournament is being held at The Golf Club at Bradshaw Farm in Woodstock, Georgia.

This year, the Past Presidents' Charity Golf Tournament will be raising funds for the American Brain Tumor Association. Past President Fred Thompson, MPM® RMP®, a brain tumor survivor, and myself have the pleasure of chairing the event. It is estimated that there are over 700,000 people in the U.S. living with a brain tumor and another 70,000 people will be diagnosed with a brain tumor this year. Brain tumors have affected many within our NARPM® family. As already stated, Fred Thompson is a brain tumor survivor and he will tell his story in the upcoming issues of the Residential Resource, along with others within our NARPM® family. Unfortunately, my story isn't one of survival, but a story of the passing of my friend, Tim Gaskill.

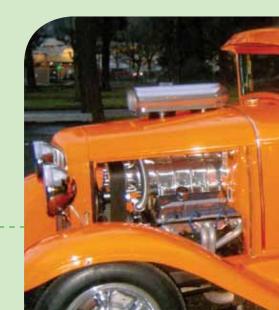
Tim was the husband to Past President Vickie Gaskill, MPM® RMP®, and father to daughters Dawn Hardley, MPM® RMP®, and Carrie Fjeld, MPM® RMP®. The photo below is of Tim and I having what is clearly a very interesting conversation.



When this photo was taken, Tim and Vickie were celebrating their 40th Wedding Anniversary and Vickie's victory over breast cancer. We were planning a "guy's trip" to Speed Week. Several months later and just weeks before Tim and I were scheduled to leave for the races, Tim was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Five short months later, that tumor took Tim's life.

During Tim's fight, I had flown to Seattle to help Vickie and the girls by taking Tim to a number of doctors' appointments. Because Tim and I both enjoyed racecars, I would pretend that his wheelchair was a racecar as I was pushing him to see different specialists. I made racing motor and screeching tire noises as I pushed him between appointments. All of a sudden, "Bam!" The small front wheels hit a raised edge of the sidewalk, which brought the wheelchair to an abrupt stop and sent Tim flying onto the sidewalk. As I picked Tim up and got him back into the wheelchair, Tim really let me have it. I remember him saying, "You're gonna' kill me before this brain tumor does." I felt awful and took great care in pushing him to his remaining appointments. The next doctor asked, "So who is your guest, and how are you doing?" Tim grinned and boastfully told the story of our race to his office. At the beginning, the doctor looked up at me with displeasure, but as Tim continued and finished with a grin, the doctor gave us a very hardy laugh, which I took as his forgiveness of my carelessness.

I dedicate this year's charity to those who have lost loved ones to brain tumors, like my friend Tim, and to those who have survived brain tumors, like my friend Fred. My hope is that with a raised awareness and increased donations, research will provide better diagnosis and treatment options. My company's personal goal is to raise \$5,000 and I would like to share some of our fundraising ideas. Not only can each NARPM® company implement these ideas, but also, so can their clients, their tenants, their vendors, and our national affiliates.



#### REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN SOON

#### **RAISING FUNDS:**

- 1. Employees: My company employees are setting up payroll deductions so that they can be involved and contribute. The company will match up to \$500.
- **2. Tenants:** My office is going to solicit our tenants and allow them to contribute; our company will match up to \$500. One of the ways we will allow them to contribute is to set up a collection box at the office.
- 3. Vendors: My Company is going to solicit our vendors by asking that they contribute some amount per invoice to the charity.
- 4. Owners: We will solicit our owners and provide them the opportunity to give.
- **5. Fees:** My Company will increase one of our fees by \$1 and earmark that to the charity.
- 6. Social Media Campaign: We will launch a Facebook and Twitter Campaign to raise money for the charity.
- 7. 5K Run/Walks: The American Brain Tumor Association has 5k walk/runs throughout the country. To learn more, please go to www.abta.org
- 8. Chapters: Chapters could increase dues and earmark those funds for the charity. Chapters could take their 50/50 funds and dedicate half to the charity. Chapters should encourage their Members and their Affiliate Members to use any of the above seven methods of raising funds.
- 9. We have some other great ideas that we will release throughout the year, and I am sure many of you have some great ideas too, which I would really like to hear.

There are 5,000 NARPM® Members. If every Member pledged \$50, NARPM® would raise \$250,000. That doesn't include money raised by all of our thousands of owner/clients, tenants, and contractors. Nor does it include money raised by our National NARPM® Affiliate Members and Chapters themselves. We have an opportunity to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars and I hope you are willing to help. Will it be your company, your Chapter, and your region that leads the membership in fund raising? I hope it is so. 🚑



## **TOTAL DONATIONS**

FROM 2010-2014 \$244,525



I received a nice award on Saturday, November 15, 2014 from the Sacramento Chapter of NARPM®. The Sacramento Chapter liked the work I did on the Past Presidents' Golf Tournament by creating it and helping out over the years. Thanks to all of you for your help in supporting this event and going along with my crazy idea to raise

money via the Past Presidents and all NARPM® Members. You are good friends to have. Without your support and that of all the Past Presidents, especially the Past Chairs of the events, this would never have happened or been the success that it has proven to be. Think of all the good that has been done by the donors and the benefits received by the charities. Nice thoughts as we close this holiday season and begin a new year.

#### • 2010-SEATTLE

Location: The Golf Club at Newcastle

Amount Donated: \$36,525 Charity: Creative Living Options

Chairs: Robert A. Machado, MPM® RMP®, and Christopher

Hermanski, MPM® RMP®

#### 2011-DALLAS

Location: Brookhaven Country Club

Amount Donated: \$40,000 Charity: Vogle Alcove

Chair: Mark Kreditor, MPM® RMP®

#### • 2012-WASHINGTON, DC

Location: Old Hickory Golf Club Amount Donated: \$42,000

Charities: ALS Association & Corporate Angel Network Chairs: Rose G. Thomas, MPM® RMP®, and Kittredge Garren,

MPM® RMP®

#### 2013-SAN DIEGO

Location: Twin Oaks Golf club **Amount Donated: \$54,000** 

Charities: American Cancer Society and The Good Guys Chairs: Melissa Prandi, MPM® RMP®, Andrea Caldwell, MPM® RMP®, and Raymond Scarabosio, MPM®

 $RMP^{\mathbb{R}}$ 

#### • 2014-MINNEAPOLIS

Location: Four Seasons Curling Club

Amount Donated: \$72,000 Charity: Special Olympics Chair: David Holt, MPM® RMP®

Fred and Tony are well on their way to having another successful event in Atlanta in 2015. Good luck guys!

Happy New Year! Robert A. Machado, MPM® RMP®

## **CHAPTER** Spotlight

SHEDDING SOME LIGHT ON THE EXCELLENT NARPM® CHAPTERS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES



Cortney Gill was born and raised in San Antonio, and is no stranger to Real Estate. In 2009, she opened GSG Property Management and currently manages about 300 homes. Being a home grown Spurs fan, she thought GSG was a great name (standing for GO SPURS GO). A mom to two beautiful girls, Vivienne and Gabriella, her time is filled being with them and serving on the Respite Care of San Antonio Board of Directors.

#### The Chapter has been grown by a series of dedicated individuals who believe in the San **Antonio real estate** market and most importantly the value of NARPM®.

## San Antonio Metro Area Chapter

Someone recently asked, "Why does SAMAC rock?" That question can be answered in so many different ways. Hopefully, you will enjoy reading and learning more about who SAMAC is, what they stand for, what they are all about, and why you should join!

SAMAC (San Antonio Metro Area Chapter) was started in 1995 by a small group of property managers looking to share ideas and knowledge. Fast forward to today, and the vision of the founders of the Chapter can still be seen. The vision is still clear from the leadership team at SAMAC. One of the founders' daughters sits on the Board and helps continue to grow SAMAC to reach the potential her mom and others wanted so many years ago.

The legacy leadership team doesn't end with just one individual carrying out a mission. The Chapter has been grown by a series of dedicated individuals who believe in the San Antonio Real Estate Market and most importantly the value of NARPM®. Folks like Brian Birdy, MPM® RMP®, and Stephen D. Foster, MPM® RMP®, have spent their time, energy and resources to grow the local Chapter and the National Association. Their drive and knowledge have been passed on to fellow Members of their staff and team who continue to help grow the local Chapter.

Today the local Chapter President, James Alderson, MPM® RMP®, is no slacker to the dynasty of amazing Presidents of SAMAC. James holds his MPM® and is committed to seeing all future Presidential leadership with SAMAC hold the same designation. His commitment to excellence shows in his office and how he has led the team in this year. James has set high bar goals that have challenged and pushed the team to achieve more and more. Growing membership, providing value to the current Members, and education have been on his agenda this past year.

As any good leader will tell you, leaders can only do so much. After all, no man is an island. James has brought together the membership and inspired Members to get involved and become active in the Chapter. He looks to his Executive Committees for ideas, information, and inspiration. SAMAC has many different Committees that strive for community, care, and communication. The 3 Cs are where the local Chapter separates themselves from good to excellent. Each Committee serves a purpose to achieve the EXCELLENCE

standard that the Chapter holds as the minimum. One of the Committees gets the local membership involved in community projects outside of the property management world. This year the San Antonio Chapter spent time and resources with Habitat for Humanity and a charity golf tournament. The compassion and caring doesn't end when a meeting is over. SAMAC takes to the streets and impacts and improves the local community.

Fired up about what they do, the passion for SAMAC carries over into vendor relations. The vendors not only give value to the Chapter, but the Chapter makes sure the vendors get value from their support. The SAMAC Chapter boasts 39 vendors. The vendors who support the local Chapter have grown their companies and expanded their capabilities. One of their vendors, Alex, who owns an AC company, has gone from two trucks to running five trucks in a 12-month timeframe. Alex has gotten involved in the local Chapter and often sponsors training and give aways to show his appreciation for all SAMAC has done for him. It is the WIN-WIN approach with their vendors that demonstrates one more way the SAMAC rocks.

With leadership and vendors in place, the Chapter is able to focus on education by keeping their Members updated on local property codes, licensing, forms, and even legislative changes that affect the Chapter. On a local, state, and federal level, the Chapter stays involved, fighting for what is in the best interest of the Members. This year, SAMAC has offered their Chapter Members FREE education and opportunities to meet with local judges, state licensing officials, and more. Their membership strives for designations and has over 20 folks working on different NARPM® designations to improve their business and increase their knowledge.

You can't tell anyone why a Chapter ROCKS without including how they synergize with one another and "let their hair down." The SAMAC Chapter hosts bimonthly socials. The socials range from a holiday gathering, to a happy hour at a Member's office, and even a crazy family Halloween Bash. The Members enjoy spending time together and laughing off the sometimes challenging days that property managers can have.

Just like their home town San Antonio Spurs, the SAMAC Chapter strives for excellence and is a strong and steady force.

#### NARPM® Affiliate Members

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Diversified Employee Benefit East Coast Public Adjuster TX E Z Track It First American Home

**Buyers Protection** First Key Lending Floor Coverings International Flooring Resources, Inc. For Rent By Owner

Frontline Processing Corporation Foundation Worx

Fundamental REO, LLC **Future Focus Utilities** Gail Pizetoski, CPA, PA Get The Lead Out, LLC

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LandlordSource Liberty Rent Guarantee, LLC Morningstar Credit Ratings Mutual of Omaha Bank National Real Estate Insurance Group

New Empire Group Nitro Mobile Solutions, LLC

Nu-Set Lock OFIC North America, Inc. **OPTIONS** Partners E&O Insurance Services, Inc. PATI ive

PayLease, Inc. PayLease, LLC PayNearMe Peace of Mind Florida Peachtree Business Products Pest Control Solutions Phillip Gira Insurance

PLW & Associates PropertyManagementPros.com Property Reports On Sight (PROS)

Ram Jack Systems Distribution Real Property Management Renter Resume Renters Legal Liability Renters Warehouse, USA

Rently Rently.com RentPayment Rent Recovery, LLC Restoration 1 of Tampa, LLC Restoration Industry Association

Royal Cleaning Rubbish Works Sage Financial Logistics, LLC Scent Tek Scott's Inspections, Inc.

SERVPRO of Fort Collins SERVPRO North Arlington Snap Junk Removal Southwest Recovery Services Steady Pay Payment Solutions Texas Capital Bank The Diamond Group

The Landlord Academy The Mahoney Group, DBA: Southwest Real Estate

Purchasing Group The RRD (formerly The Rent

Rite Directory) The Sherwin-Williams

Company Tom Baumann Enterprises, Inc. Top Gun Restoration TWG Insurance

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(rentUSAnow.com) Property Management Traffic Property Solutions Intl. Propertyware, Inc.

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#### **LEGAL SERVICES**

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### **REGIONAL** Communications

CONNECTING THE EXPANDING NARPM® MEMBERSHIP ONE REGION AT A TIME





#### Tracey Norris, MPM® RMP®, is the Owner/Broker of Property Professionals, Inc. in New Braunfels, TX. Tracey has a BA in Sociology and a minor in Business from the University of Texas. Tracey is the current Central Region Vice President for NARPM® and has also served as the National Communications Committee Chair for the last four years. Besides NARPM® and real estate, Tracey is involved with her local Rotary -New Braunfels Rotary Club. She spends her free time with her dogs, Kona and Darby.

#### **Obtaining Chapter Excellence** is easier than you think it is. For example, did you know that you get points for discussing ethics at your meetings?

## The RVP Bulletin

Happy New Year! As 2014 drew to a close, we said goodbye to President Stephen D. Foster, MPM® RMP®, and the "Foundation of Property Management" and started moving forward with President Andrew Propst, MPM® RMP®, and the "Masters of Property Management." As NARPM® Members, we all strive to be masters of our industry, and it is my goal as the 2015 Central Region RVP to help each of you strive to be a master in property management. The Central Region is a brand new region, combining the previous Central and North Central Regions, and is one-third of the entire country! The Central Region is home to large Chapters such as San Antonio with 179 Members all the way to the West Michigan Chapter with nine Members.

How did I get here? My NARPM® journey began when I moved from Austin, Texas to New Braunfels, Texas in the summer of 2007. Within a few weeks of being in New Braunfels, one of my dad's real estate friends in San Antonio invited me down to have lunch with him. Instead of your typical business lunch date, he took me to a NARPM® meeting. During this meeting, I met about 40 other people that do the exact same thing I do - and get this have the exact same problems I do! The speaker at that meeting was the famous local attorney, Robert Ray, known for tackling the hardest landlord-tenant law problems. Within a few weeks of this meeting, my office immediately joined what turned out to be the best organization and business decision we have made yet - NARPM®. I started my NARPM® adventure by helping my local Chapter out wherever and whenever I could. My first "real" position was the chair of the NGP (Next Generation Professional) Committee. From there, I eventually became the President of the local Chapter. My National NARPM® adventure started off with the infamous Betty Fletcher, MPM® RMP®, dragging me back into the National Convention in Hawaii (I was trying to sneak off to go to the beach). Betty is known for "voluntelling" Members to do certain tasks and join Committees. Betty "voluntold" me to join the Website Enhancement Committee, part of the Communications Committee, and I've been hooked ever since. I've spent the last four years as the National Communication Committee Chair and enjoyed every second of it. Joining NARPM® is the first step in a series of great steps that led me to where I am today, your Central RVP.

Congratulations to the Ft. Worth Chapter for winning the Small Chapter of the Year award for 2014! The small Chapter of the year award goes to the Chapter who has less than 50 Members and scores the most points on the Chapter excellence application. A few of the highlights of the Ft. Worth Chapter are that they held a marketing event that also promoted NARPM® at the 2013 Texas State REALTORS® Conference. They have 15 members with designations and 6 more that are candidates for designations. Their leadership started a "New Member Initiative" program, offered improved professional meetings, and spoke about the benefits of NARPM® at Chapter sponsored a real estate related event.

The following Central Regional Chapters received the Chapter Excellence Award for 2014: Austin Area, Central Arkansas, Ft. Worth/ Mid Cities, Greater Dallas, Houston and San Antonio Metropolitan Area. One of the main goals for 2015 is for every Chapter to apply for the Chapter Excellence Award. Obtaining Chapter Excellence is easier than you think it is. For example, did you know that you get points for discussing ethics at your meetings? Or that you can get points for your Chapter newsletters? Go to www.narpm.org to see what you can start implementing in your Chapter now to earn points for 2015.

The other goal for 2015 is to get as many Members to attend the National Convention in Atlanta. Start planning now for your trip to Atlanta this October. The Convention team is already starting to plan an awesome Convention. This centrally located city is famous for being the home of Coca-Cola® and I was told you can't find a Pepsi® to save your life. I will see each of you there - no excuses!

I welcome all Members to come introduce themselves to me at the upcoming Broker/Owner Retreat in exciting Las Vegas in February and the Central Regional Conference in March in Ft. Worth, Texas. I am here for you.

Northwest: PJ Chapman, MPM® RMP® Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming.

Pacific: Keith Becker, MPM® RMP® California.

Pacific Islands: Keith Becker, MPM® RMP® Hawaii.

Southwest: Steve Schultz, RMP®

Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico.

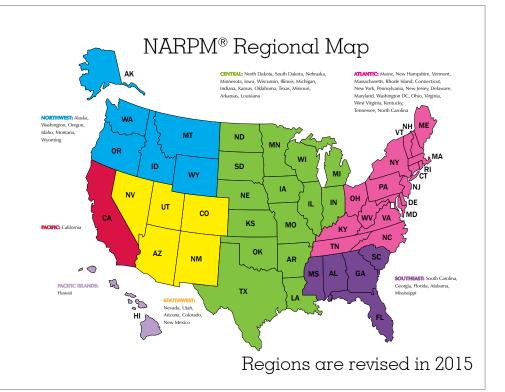
Central: Tracey Norris, MPM® RMP®

North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana.

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- Eastern Regional Conference April 24, 2015\* Atlantic Beach, FL
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