BRIDGE
ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®
Supporting REALTOR® excellence
and serving our communities.
- SINCE 1902 -
www.bridgeaor.org

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About Us

Who we are

The Bridge Association of REALTORS® (Bridge AOR) is a professional trade organization representing over 2000 REALTOR® and affiliate members engaged in the real estate business and promoting home ownership in the cities we serve. Bridge AOR is a REALTOR®'s source of education in real estate matters. Bridge AOR promotes a strong, conscientious and unified voice in local, state and national affairs.

What we do

The Bridge Association of REALTORS® is dedicated to serving our members by providing programs and services to enhance their ability to conduct business with integrity and competence, assuring a high level of professional conduct which benefits the community, and encouraging the preservation of real property rights.

Our history

Founded in 1902 and 1903, the Berkeley and Oakland Associations of REALTORS®, respectively, were two of California's oldest real estate associations, formulating many of the REALTOR® standards, practices, and innovations which prevail to this day. Today, the two associations have merged into the Bridge Association of REALTORS®. We are proud of our historic affiliation with the CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® (C.A.R.)

As a member of C.A.R, you gain access to a variety of member benefits, products, and discounts. To access C.A.R. benefits and Lone Wolf Transactions (zipForm Edition), you must register for an account with your NRDS number on www.car.org.

After registering with C.A.R, you can access numerous member benefits including:

- Lone Wolf Transactions (zipForm Edition)
- Electronic forms software providing the latest C.A.R. standard forms needed to complete a real estate transaction
- Confidential legal advice available through C.A.R.'s Legal Hotline
- Assistance from real estate technology experts through C.A.R.'s Tech Hotline
- Current housing market data compiled by C.A.R.'s research and economics staff, available in the Economics section of C.A.R. Online

For complete list of C.A.R. member benefits, visit www.car.org.

C.A.R. Contacts

Lone Wolf Transactions (zipForm Edition) Help: Need help? Call (213) 739-8272

Legal Hotline: Do you need to talk to a C.A.R. Hotline Attorney? The C.A.R. Member Legal Hotline is available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. by calling (213) 739-8282. Answers to many of your legal questions can be found under "Legal Q&As" within the Legal section. You may also email your inquiries to the Hotline; include your full name, C.A.R. member number, and phone number. (You must be a C.A.R. member to use this service.)

Ombudsman Hotline: Occasionally, members of the public find themselves embroiled in a dispute with their REALTOR®. Sometimes the dispute is, even, between two REALTORS®. The Hotline is available to members of the public and to REALTORS®. C.A.R. Ombudsmen receive and respond to questions and complaints about members; can contact members to inform them that a client or another REALTOR® has raised a question or issue; and can provide an informed response to the person complaining. Call (213) 739-7227 or send us an email at ombudsman@car.org.

Finance Helpline: Have difficulties finalizing short sales, REOs, Deeds in Lieu, funding, or face any number of hurdles in closing a deal for a client, create a Finance Helpline Inquiry for one-on-one assistance to help resolve financing issues within a transaction. Feel free to call us at (213) 739-8383 or email us at financehelpline@car.org.

Product Orders: Need help ordering or have questions about an item from our C.A.R. Business Products store? Please call (213) 739-8272.

Customer Contact Center: For membership issues, account information, login assistance, Lone Wolf Transactions (zipForm Edition) help, product orders and more, contact us at (213) 739-8272.

Lone Wolf Transactions (zipForm Edition)

Never pay for electronic forms or disclosures again!

Maximize efficiency, streamline work flows and reduce risk with the essential forms software used by hundreds of thousands of real estate professionals nationwide and beyond. This essential real estate transaction management and forms software has all the must have features, including current statewide contracts, local forms, and more.

The benefit includes zipTMS® robust transaction management system, unlimited zipVault® document storage, an exclusive NAR library of REALTOR® Forms & Templates, and access to the industry-standard zipForm® Plus forms engine where you can add and manage your own custom documents.

To access Lone Wolf Transactions (zipForm Edition), register with your NRDS number at www.car.org.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® (N.A.R.)

As a member of N.A.R, you gain access to the N.A.R. REALTOR® Benefits Program, bringing you savings and unique offers on products and services just for REALTORS®.

The N.A.R. REALTOR® Benefits Program includes:

- Free subscription to REALTOR® Magazine
- Representation through N.A.R.'s Government Affairs activities and REALTORS® Political Action Committee
- Educational programming through professional designation programs, REALTOR® University Online and e-PRO®
- Annual meetings including the REALTORS® Conference & Expo and REALTORS® Midyear Legislative Meetings & Trade Show
- REALTOR® Code of Ethics which provides a high standard for all REALTORS®
- Consumer Awareness through the Public Awareness Campaign and the REALTOR® Pride Campaign
- Information and technology through REALTOR.com and the Center for REALTORS® Technology

For complete list of N.A.R. member benefits, visit www.nar.realtor.

REALTOR® Member Benefits

Advocacy

We're committed to providing you a superior member experience. Contact us by email or phone and if we don't know the answer, we'll get back to you!

Education & Training

Free and discounted classes, seminars and trainings that will provide you with the skills necessary to make you a successful REALTOR®.

Governement Affairs Representation

Your interests are represented by our Government Affairs Director with opportunities to meet civic leaders and elected officials, and participate in C.A.R.'s Legislative Day.

Group Health Care

Choose from 24 HMO Kaiser Plans, 14 PPO/HMO Anthem Blue Cross plans, 4 dental and 2 vision plans, and individual/family options provided by www.benefitsstore.com

Leadership Opportunities

Leadership and committees are an integral part of our association's operations and success each year, and all REALTOR® and affiliate members can get involved.

Legal Hotline

Free consultations with a C.A.R. real estate attorney. Pocket the savings and get an opinion from a specialist in our profession.

Member Headshot Days

Twice a year, Bridge AOR brings a photographer onsite to take headshots for our members. View our calendar for upcoming dates.

Member Meeting Rooms

Rent the Bridge AOR training facility or conference room for your next meeting at a discounted member rate.

Networking Opportunities

Cultivate and nurture relationships that will impact your business at association events including Marketing Meetings, Member Luncheons, and many more.

Professional Standards

Receive guidance from the Professional Standards Committee who is responsible to enforcement of the N.A.R. Code of Ethics, MLS Rules, and other related obligations.

REALTOR® Designations

Distinguishes you from non-members and adheres to a higher standard, the N.A.R. Code of Ethics. Partnered membership in C.A.R. and N.A.R.

Lone Wolf Transactions (zipForm Edition)

Electronic forms and disclosures free from C.A.R. for our members. Never pay for forms again! Access the Lone Wolf Transactions (zipForm Edition) library at car.org.

Professional Development

Invest in your career - Invest in YOURSELF

In a market where increased marketability and differentiation are key, there has never been a better time to educate oneself to serve today's consumer. Increase your business and stand out from the crowd with a N.A.R. designation or certification.

From buyer representation to social media and short sales, the Bridge Association of REALTORS®, in partnership with N.A.R, offers educational programming in nearly every real estate niche. Whether you're looking to earn a designation or certification, we have something to take your career to the next level!

DOUBLE
EARNING POTENTIAL*

Earning a designation or certification helps the best and the most dedicated REALTORS® in the industry distinguish and brand themselves through specialized niche markets to nearly double their earning potential.

*Based on 2013 N.A.R. Member Profile Data

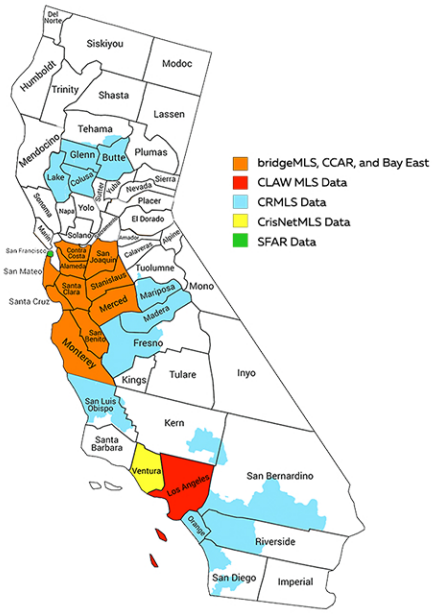
For upcoming courses, visit bridgeaor.org/upcoming-courses

bridgeMLS

Owned by the Bridge Association of REALTORS®, bridgeMLS is the leading MLS source in the Northern California/Bay Area region, providing its participants and subscribers access to reliable data, through innovative technology. Not only do we offer excellent customer support and training, but we also provide brokers and agents access to 10+ MLS's across California, with more than 80% state coverage.

We've got you covered

Within connectMLS, bridgeMLS participants & subscribers have access to **more MLS data than any other MLS in Northern California**, including data from our local jurisdiction, Bay East AOR, Contra Costa AOR, CRMLS, CLAW MLS, SFAR, and CrisNetMLS.



MLS system of choice

bridgeMLS offers our participants & subscribers their MLS system of choice, connectMLS or Paragon. Both MLS platforms are available on your bridgeMLS dashboard.

connectMLS, our newest MLS solution:
connectMLS is a fully-featured, 100% mobile-friendly, and completely customizable MLS solution, designed for ease of access from anywhere, anytime.

Paragon, the familiar MLS solution:
Paragon allows your clients to search their needs with you through the Collaboration Center and notifications.

bridgeMLS benefits

MLS system of choice----MLS tools----Mobile applications----Free training---- & more!

For more information, visit bridgeMLS.com

Green Initiative

Bridge Association of REALTORS® and bridgeMLS are going green.
One small step towards a more sustainabe future.

2020 vision

By the start of 2020, Bridge Association of REALTORS® and bridgeMLS aspire to significantly reduce our carbon footprint by replacing current business practices with sustainable, environmentally-friendly business solutions.

Our approach

Eliminate unnecessary paper consumption by focusing on digital business solutions and communication methods.

Reduce one-time plastic use by utilizing biodegradable, sustainable, and responsibly-sourced materials.

Initiate change by offering recycling services, community outreach opportunities, and green resources for members.

WE ARE ALL IN THIS
TOGETHER

Government Affairs

As a benefit to our members, Bridge AOR's Government Affairs team provides up to date information and advocacy on real estate related legislation in our jurisdiction. They monitor state and federal issues to keep our members current with legislative developments that affect the real estate industry. The Government Affairs team also acts as a liaison between Bridge AOR and the numerous elected officials in our jurisdiction. By forming and strengthening relationships with local and regional elected officials, they make sure that Bridge AOR always has a seat at the table.

The Government Affairs team is comprised of our Local Government Relations Committee, Local Candidate Recommendation Committee, and Government Affairs Director. Together, they provide policy positions and advise Bridge AOR's Board of Directors on local legislation and elections. The team also organizes informational events, meet-and-greets with elected officials and panel discussions with local government staff to ensure Bridge AOR members stay informed.

If you are interested in promoting homeownership, protecting property rights and supporting REALTOR® issues, always remember there are three things all REALTOR® members can do:

VOTE, ACT and INVEST.

For more information, contact Bridge AOR's Government Affairs Director:

Kiran Shenoy
kiran@bridgeaor.org
(510) 848-2659

VOTE:

Stay informed and register to VOTE. As election season nears, Bridge AOR will keep you informed of ballot measure positions and on candidates that understand REALTOR® issues.

ACT:

Respond to Red Alerts from the CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® (C.A.R.) and calls for action from the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® (NAR). They need your help in combatting state or national legislation that is bad for the real estate industry. They are fighting for YOUR business. If you are civic-minded and understand how politics plays a role in your business, consider joining the Local Government Relations Committee or the Local Candidate Recommendation Committee at Bridge AOR.

INVEST:

Contribute to the REALTOR® Action Fund (RAF). RAF raises money to advance the goals of REALTORS® at the local, state, and federal levels. It also supports candidates for elected office who understand REALTOR® issues. Contributions at all levels are highly encouraged. Investing in RAF is investing in the long-term health of our industry.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

A Pledge of the Bridge Association of REALTORS®

Mission statement

The mission of the Community Foundation is to support essential community programs to address the beliefs that children represent our future and that housing is a fundamental need.

History

The Community Foundation can trace its roots from a time when many local real estate brokers and now-combined associations had their own separate giving programs and funds.

Today, the Community Foundation pledges to make a positive impact in the communities served by our local area REALTORS® and affiliates by providing grants to non-profit organizations which provide services that support youth, seniors, workforce housing and the homeless.

Join the committee

We are always looking for passionate and energetic members to join the Community Foundation.

For more information on joining the committee, email cf@bridgeaor.org.

Contact us

phone: (510) 848-4288
email: cf@bridgeaor.org
bridgeaor.org/community-foundation

Your impact

Zero Administration Fees! Your gift makes a difference! Every dollar donated to the Community Foundation goes to changing the lives of youth, seniors and the homeless in our communities. Make a difference TODAY with your support and donation.

REALTOR® & affiliate giving opportunities

REALTORS® and affiliates are pleased to be able to give back to the communities we serve. All donations are tax deductible. The Bridge AOR Community Foundation is a 501(c)3. Contribution methods:

- REALTORS® can contribute by giving $25.00 or more at each close of escrow through the title company
- Bridge AOR members can contribute when paying their annual association dues
- Purchasing raffle tickets & attending events
- Other donations are always appreciated & accepted

Visit www.bridgeaor.org to donate

Community giving opportunities

Affiliates, brokerages and businesses can also contribute in multiple ways including:

- Sponsoring events
- Making contributions in a client's name
- Matching Gifts
- In-kind & Raffle Donations

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

A Pledge of the Bridge Association of REALTORS®

Grants program

The Bridge Association of REALTORS® Community Foundation awards grants annually to support essential community programs in the categories of Youth Arts and Education, Senior Services Community Activities, and Workforce Housing and Homeless within Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Kensington, Oakland, and Piedmont.

Application Process

Each year, the grant submission period opens on May 1 and remains open until June 30 at 11:59 pm. Maximum grant award is $3,500. Apply at grants.bridgeaor.org during this period.

Eligibility Guidelines

Requests for grants should be specific in their targeted use for funds and can't be for general funds. Your non-profit organization must have tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) or have a fiscal sponsor that is a tax-exempt entity. Basic criteria can be found at bridgeaor.org.

For questions, please contact the Bridge Association of REALTORS®

Events & activities

Each year, the committee organizes a variety of events to raise money, engage the community-at-large, build awareness of our mission, and encourage a broad range of community programs within our scope. We also collaborate with other committees within our association family to obtain a broader reach.

5k Walk for Education, a benefit for the Oral Lee Brown Foundation

The annual 5k Walk for Education around Oakland's beautiful Lake Merritt directly benefits the Oral Lee Brown Foundation, which provides educational assistance and scholarships to underprivileged children in the Oakland area.

Annual Installation of Officers & Directors

Our annual Installation of Officers and Directors is a major association event. Join us at this gala event to make a difference in our communities, while enjoying a valuable networking opportunity. Proceeds from the event go to the Community Foundation.

For all upcoming events, visit bridgeaor.org

Online Store

Your official one-stop shop for all real estate-related needs. Browse a variety of products and supplies from the comfort of your home, office, or even on-the-go! Bridge Association of REALTORS® members receive discounted pricing.

Access the store

Our online store is conveniently located within the Bridge Association of REALTORS® member portal. Log in using your paragon credential and click "Shop" on the menu bar. Member Portal: https://mdweb.mmsi2.com/obar/

Available products

Sign posts

Supra lockboxes

Sign riders

Supplies

A-frame signs

Free delivery service

The Bridge Association of REALTORS® offers our members free delivery service to offices located in Berkeley and Oakland. For offices North of Berkeley and South of Oakland, delivery service is limited and not guaranteed. Those located outside of these areas have the option to have their items shipped at their expense or come by our office to pick up.