

# Three Long-time SLAR members awarded REALTOR® Emeritus status by NAR

**By Rick Capelli, Senior Vice-President of Finance and Membership**

Three SLAR members have been approved as National REALTOR® Emeritus – members who have been active REALTOR®/REALTOR® Associates for 40 years. The approvals were made at the recent National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) Midyear Convention in Washington, D.C.

Jack Stubblefield, Designated REALTOR® of Jack Stubblefield Realty, Dan Kendrick, REALTOR® with Kendrick Real Estate, LLC and Thomas Kelly, REALTOR® Associate with Star Performers, Inc. all received the honor. Kendrick is the 2003 Past President of SLAR.

As REALTOR® Emeritus, all three will be waived from NAR dues for the remainder of their careers. They are also exempt from any future NAR Quadrennial Ethics requirements. They will continue to receive full services as active REALTORS®.

We congratulate all three of these outstanding members and wish them many more years of success in their real estate careers.

## NAR changes requirements for future REALTOR® Emeritus

Even as we announce the good news above for our three most recent REALTOR® Emeritus members we must share news from NAR regarding much tighter eligibility requirements for future candidates.

As part of the NAR Membership Structures Review done in 2012 it was recommended that a work group be established to consider changes in the REALTOR® Emeritus category of membership. The rationale behind this decision is due to the following:

1. The REALTOR® Emeritus membership requirement was changed from 50 years of service to 40 years in 2004. Since that time, the number of Emeritus designees has increased 2,252%, from 79 designees in 2004 to 1,858 in 2012. Over 3,000 new Emeritus members are expected in 2013. The number of members satisfying the membership tenure requirements will continue to grow exponentially as the REALTOR® membership ages.
2. The name of this membership category implies some qualification related to merit, and should reflect that, rather than simply being representative of cumulative tenure as a member. Most other organizations with this membership category require a significant positive contribution to the organization or profession in addition to a long term of membership before being recognized as such. Since national dues are waived for Emeritus members, service to NAR was considered as a requisite.

Such a working group was created by President Gary Thomas in March of 2013 when he appointed six individuals to meet and make the recommendations necessary to uphold the standards that define the professionalism of our members and the REALTOR® brand. The group discussed the increased

costs of awards and forgone dues for growing numbers of designees; almost \$150,000 in program costs and \$1.4 million in forfeited dues projected for 2014. Most state and local organizations have their own programs for rewarding service and length of membership that are completely separate from the national program and reward local service and perseverance.

The group decided it was in the long term interests of the association to keep the program's original intent to annually recognize a few meritorious individuals either by going back to the original 50 years of service; or, preferably, to include an additional requirement of some sort of volunteer service to the national organization. The decision was to recommend that one year of service to the organization be added to the current 40 year membership requirement in order to keep the program viable and meaningful.