100 Moments in History
In March, 1951 The Columbus REALTOR® announced plans for a group known as “The Lifesavers,” several REALTORS® and their families who became regular blood donors. The group set the program up through the American Red Cross’ Columbus Regional Blood Center. Much of the blood and plasma collected by the Red Cross was sent overseas to troops fighting in the Korean War.
In February 1967, the Columbus Board of REALTORS® moved into its new membership headquarters, the third floor of a new office building at 200 East Town Street. In June, 1970, the Board purchases the building, and finances the purchase by selling bonds to members. It would be home to the Columbus Board of REALTORS® for nearly three decades.
On May 23, 1979, the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium opened its new Gorilla Exhibit, with help from a donation by the Columbus Board of REALTORS®. Several CBR members attended the grand opening to witness the start of what would become one of the zoo’s longest-running and most prestigious exhibits. The photo above is a clip from the June 1979 edition of *In Contract* magazine, which shows REALTORS® Norm Smith, Joe MacKinnon, Cam Taylor, Dick Fagan, John Galbreath, Robert Weiler, Felix Pedon and Gordon Christy enjoying the event.
In 1973, during Twink Starr’s presidency, Margie Coyle and I had a specific duty at board events. Our job was to stand at the head of the escalator and welcome guests. We’d say, “Welcome to the CBR (fill in event here). So nice to have you here!”

--Myrna Kobre
In May 1979, Sam Ligon of Sam Ligon Realty becomes the first minority broker in Ohio and one of only seven in the country to earn the Certified Residential Broker designation. His firm was based in Columbus and Ligon was a graduate of Marion-Franklin High School and Franklin University.
In 1984 the Columbus Board of REALTORS® 25 Million Dollar Club was founded with three charter members: Jane Stone, Phil Giessler and Peg Higginbotham.

The One Million-Dollar Award began in 1962; the Five Million Dollar Award began in 1965; the Ten Million Dollar Award began in 1970 and the Lifetime Achievement Award began in 2005.

Pictured here are (L-R) J.D. Kurgis, Mary Jo Kent, David Carruthers and James Henley, the first $5 Million Club recipients, in 1965.
In September 1989 CBR and area REALTORS® kicked off a recycling drive, in an effort to keep thousands of outdated MLS books from entering the landfill. At that time there were about 1,900 books printed each week and proceeds from recycling them was expected to net about $19,000 for charity.

Shown here are some of the volunteers who helped cut off the covers of the MLS books to allow them to be recycled. The work was done at a storage facility donated by Bill McMenamy.
In September 1979, CBR’s “new, innovative” and state-of-the-art video theatre opened at the board offices on East Town Street, allowing REALTORS® to watch training videos on site.

This photo of the facility was featured in the September, 1979 edition of *In Contract*. 
On Sept. 1, 1954 the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) officially began. The board started the service with money borrowed from several of the 68 charter members. Larry Wade, chair of the MLS Committee, announced the first listing was entered at a list price of $11,500.

In 1955, its first full year of operation, the MLS had 3,746 listings and 1,873 sales recorded with an average sale price of $13,682.

Shown here is the cover story on the upcoming MLS system, from the Aug. 4, 1954 edition of *The Columbus REALTOR®*. 
The May 26, 1955 edition of The Columbus REALTOR® had a cover story on the annual stag party and ox roast, which was to include a turkey shoot for the first time. The shoot, called Davy Crockett Day, was to be “supervised by a police officer” and feature “real prize turkeys.”

The May 26, 1955 edition of The Columbus REALTOR® advertised the event.
R. G. Demead REALTORS® won the 1965 REALTORS® Bowling League Championship trophy, beating 13 other teams in the weekly league comprised of real estate agents, brokers and mortgage companies. According to *The Columbus REALTOR®,* the team split $128 in winnings and each received a trophy.

Shown here is a picture from the May 21, 1965 edition of *The Columbus REALTOR®,* featuring champions (L-R) Roman Krauss, Jim Campbell, Dick Aumiller, R.G. Denmead, Jim Albert and John Gadnai.
In 1974, CBR members participated in a project known as REALTOR® Pride, where a volunteer group purchased a home, 2391 North Fourth Street and rehabilitated it, making it “the showpiece of the neighborhood,” *The Columbus REALTOR®* reported. Committee Chair Pat Mollica organized contractors and volunteers, who completed improvements including new aluminum siding, kitchen cabinets, a roof and fresh paint. The home was sold Sept. 5, 1974 to Jim Kehoe.

This photo, from the October, 1974 edition of the *REALTOR®,* shows REALTORS® Mike Tannian, Committee Chair Patrick J. Mollica, and Jean Parker with homeowner Jim Kehoe.
In 1982, Century 21 Broker Pug Pepper helped organize charity REALTOR® Bowl-A-Thons to benefit Easter Seals. The events raised more than $20,000 for the local chapter of the charity. Pepper and his associates also held a spaghetti dinner and a yard sale that year to help support the Easter Seals Center, which provided physical and other therapies for children with disabilities.

In this photograph from *In Contract*, Pepper poses with Easter Seals poster child Heather Boggs.
In November 1975, the weekly board newsletter, *The Columbus REALTOR®* became a monthly, 12-page magazine called *In Contract*. The magazine has since expanded in length, but continues to be published 10 times a year by CBR. Shown here is the first edition of *In Contract*, which featured a cover story about the upcoming President’s Ball, honoring 1975 President Larry Horn.
The June 4, 1964 edition of *The Columbus REALTOR®* included an article about the open house of Harley E. Rouda’s “beautiful new office building” at 1071 Fishinger Road in Upper Arlington. The offices were “built strictly for the real estate business” and featured a formal living room with red carpet, a sale meeting room and employee lounge and a Home Photo Gallery with more than 350 homes for sale in the area of northwest Columbus.

Clients review the homes for sale in the Columbus area, on Rouda’s photo gallery.
On Aug. 22, 1968 the Columbus Board of REALTORS® held “Aloha ... a Night in Hawaii,” a luau-themed party at Walnut Hill Country Club. The night featured Limbo and Hula contests, the Chuck Angeletti Orchestra, an authentic Hawaiin-style dinner and dancing for $8 per person.

Pictured above is Forest Allen, enjoying the evening with his wife and another couple; the four were named “Best Dressed” couples of the night.
Sam Rutigliano, Cleveland Browns Head Coach and 1979 AFC Coach of the Year, was the guest speaker at CBR’s monthly dinner meeting, held March 25, 1981. More than 400 people turned out to hear Coach Rutigliano speak and enjoy dinner at the downtown Sheraton, for $10 per person.

CBR staff members Corey Skinner (left) and Stan Collins (right) pose for a photo with Coach Rutigliano (center).
On Dec. 27, 1960, CBR held the first President’s Ball, to honor the outgoing President and install new leadership. This social highlight of the boards’ first 52 years was held in the main ballroom of the Neil House and tickets sold for $10 each. At the time, *The Columbus REALTOR®* advised members to “Solve your wife’s Christmas gift problem! Tell her about this party tonight so she can get that new cocktail dress before Christmas!” As part of the festivities, white gardenias and pink champagne were given to all the wives.

*The Columbus REALTOR®* helped publicize the event of the season!
On May 18, 1990 CBR sponsored a Roast of Jack Hanna, then the new Director of the Columbus Zoo, to help raise funds for the new Columbus City Schools’ Know I Can program, which helped fund college education.

REALTORS® Jim Owen and Barbara Lach were two of the volunteers who raffled off prizes before the Roast began, raising $700.
The October, 1985 dinner meeting ended a little messy for President Ed Carr. After the business was over, President-Elect Sandy Simpson lauded Carr’s efforts and then clobbered him with a cream pie he had purchased at the RPAC auction held by CBR earlier that year. The fun wasn’t over yet, however, because Jerry White then blind-sided Carr as well.
The April 15, 1949 edition of *The Columbus REALTOR* detailed a board membership drive and encouraged “Every Member Get A Member” during the membership drive aimed at getting real estate agents in Franklin County to join the Columbus Real Estate Board. At the time, there were more real estate brokers and agents who didn’t belong to the Board than there were members, according to the *REALTOR*. Dues in 1949 were $16.25 per quarter.
On March 27, 1989 CBR President Bill McMenamy welcomed NBC News Chief Economics Correspondent and bow-tie aficionado Irving R. Levine appropriately, by donning an oversized red-polka-dotted bow tie himself. McMenamy, joined by several CBR Board members wearing costume bowties, welcomed Levine, who spoke on “The Bush Administration and the Nation’s Economy.”
In November 1960 women were allowed to join as REALTOR® members as the Columbus Board became the last large metropolitan board in the country to allow women as members. The issue of women joining was very controversial and although all of the first female members were owners or brokers at their companies, they couldn't be REALTORS® until November 1960. The first seven women to join the board were Lucille Jacobs, Wanda Poore, Ester Bain, Mary Louise Campbell, Edna Moreland, Dorothy Tharpe and Dorothy P. Taylor. After the votes were counted several times, it was reported in *The Columbus REALTOR®* that the change would not affect the summer Stag Picnic.

Above is the picture of the first seven members as it appeared in *The Columbus REALTOR®*. 
In spring 1983 the Columbus Area Community Housing Resources Board (CHRB) received a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to raise public awareness of equal opportunity in housing for central Ohioans. CBR member and Past President Jack Myers served as the Board’s representative to the group and helped with its 1983 campaign “You can live anywhere you want to,” which included extensive local advertising and a research study.

This photo from the May, 1983 In Contract, shows members of the CHRB.
In July 1991 CBR established the REALTORS® Charitable Foundation Fund to support real estate related programs and entities whose goals are to improve the overall real estate environment in Central Ohio. The first three Cornerstone Members of the Foundation Fund were Past Presidents Donald Kelley, Thomas Kohr and Paul Falco.

“Creating a tax-deductible way for members to influence their own profession will have an impact far beyond our lifetime,” said Immediate Past President Nancy Sharp in 1991.
Nearly 600 members and guests packed the Neil House Ballroom on Oct. 27, 1976 to honor CBR’s Citizen of the Year, OSU Head Football Coach, W.W. “Woody” Hayes. Past President John W. Galbreath presented Hayes with the honor, saying it was one of the proudest moments of his life. Above is a photo from *In Contract*, with young Royer and Weiler brothers posing with Coach Hayes.
In 1984, the Delaware MLS merged with CBR, forming a single MLS system for both Delaware and Franklin counties. In early 1985, both Madison and Pickaway counties followed suit, meaning the CBR Multiple Listing Service was covering a four county region.

Shown here is an MLS computer from the 1980s.
On March 1, 1995 the first issue of CBR’s Real Estate Weekly publication hits the newsstands. The market-wide weekly newspaper allows up to 24 photos on a single page. An initial printing of 25,000 copies per week is printed and distributed through 650 news racks.

The first four editions of *Real Estate Weekly* are shown here.
“In 1968, property values were much different. The highest priced existing home I recorded was about $19,000 and I drove over 40,000 miles that year within the city limits, picking up and returning keys as no one used lock boxes. That was a lot of time spent in a car.”

--Jim Willis, RE/MAX Premier Choice
The 1974 CBR Sales Associates Day featured Olympic track star and former Ohio State Buckeye Jesse Owens.

Shown here is a photo from *In Contract* magazine, where Owens poses with President Tom Caito and SAD Chairman Dick Fagan.
On May 12, 1960 CBR Past President John W. Galbreath was awarded the Horatio Alger Award for 1960, joining past recipients including former President Herbert Hoover, Dr. Milton Eisenhauer and Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker to receive the award in New York City. The annual award, named for the 19th century author, is given to recognize community leaders, honesty and self-reliance.

Galbreath is shown here, receiving his REALTOR® of the Year Award.
It was Jack Myers who gave me these photocopies from the Dec. 1, 1960 edition of *The REALTOR®* a bi-monthly newsletter of the Columbus Board of REALTORS®, saying even though the Constitution has been changed to include ‘the fairer sex’ (a very controversial issue) they were still having the stag picnic!

--Susan Allardyce, O’Malley Real Estate

Above is an excerpt from *The Columbus REALTOR®* announcing that the changes to the Board’s Constitution will not affect the annual stag outing.
One of our great Columbus Board of REALTORS® past presidents was Bob Denmead (1953). Bob was a man of few words, much like Past President Tom Kohr, but when he spoke, everyone listened. In addition to being a very successful industrial broker, Bob had a host of friends, which included my father who worked in the same real estate office with Bob in the 1930s. Two humorous memories of Bob Denmead stay with me all these years. In the early 1970s, the real estate market was very soft and a group of REALTORS® met at the CBR office at 200 E. Town Street to brainstorm and commiserate. After all the pessimism was out of the way, Bob spoke for the first time saying, “Our business is getting much better. The deals we’re losing this year are twice the size of the ones we lost last year”.

The other occasion was when my partner, Don Kelley, and I were speakers at a seminar on land development. After Don gave an in depth review of the cost, risk, and benefits of being a land developer, we asked for questions from the audience. Nobody raised his hand until Bob Denmead put his hand in the air. Bob’s comment was more a statement than a question. “In case I forget, please remind me never to become a land developer”. Bob and his wife Helen, were a wonderful couple and loved the Columbus Board of REALTORS®.

--Bob Weiler, The Robert Weiler Company

Denmead is shown here with fellow Past President Bill McCorkle
In 1949 CBR’s membership publication, *The Columbus REALTOR®*, added a “Cooperative Listings” section where REALTORS® could submit listings to be printed. The first 20 listings received were printed at no cost, and the MLS system was born.

A copy of the first 20 “Cooperative Listings” from *The Columbus REALTOR®* is shown here.
In late 1963, CBR Past President Bill McCorkle listed the 50,000th home in the MLS service at 3438 Walmar Drive. McCorkle and the Murray family were featured in an article commemorating the historic listing in Dec. 6, 1963 edition of *The Columbus REALTOR®*. According to the article, McCorkle had sold the family their home on Walmar Drive in 1958.
I began my real estate career in April, 1976, selling new homes in the Olde Sawmill subdivision, north of I-270 off Sawmill Road. Almost nothing existed between Bethel Road and I-270. My first sale in Muirfield Village was a two-story priced at $79,900. Interest rates topped 10 percent in early ’79 and continued to rise to over 19 percent in October of ’81. In 1982 I served as president of the Dublin REALTORS® Association. Interest rates ranged from 13.5 to 15.5 percent during the year. The ‘misery index,’ which was the sum of interest rates and the unemployment rate, was coined. Inflation topped 15 percent. It was like buying a home today while using your Visa card. Seller assisted financing and builder buy downs were required to sell a home. I worked at HER REALTORS® in Dublin from the mid 1980s and came to know Harley Rouda Sr., George Smith and Mike Huntley - three of the nicest and most respected members of the Columbus Board. I also got to know Max Holzer, Margie Coyle, Capt. Bob Kidwell, Larry Metzger, Bill Eikenberry, Bob and Dee Amsler and Brad Bennett, all true professionals. I’m proud to have been a member of the Columbus Board of REALTORS® for 32 years.

--Scott Fankhauser, EPCON Realty Inc.
In 1976, CBR began its partnership with the Southeast Career Center to help students there learn home building. The first home was built during 1976, America's bicentennial year, at 3533 Chantilly Street.

It was completed in June, 1977, and sold to Loyal and Carmen Thomas in August, shortly after an open house was held for the graduates of Southeast Career Center, their families and members of CBR.
A very important moment and someone who should be recognized is Raymond T. Harris Sr., GRI, CRS.

On Jan. 28, 1970, Mr. Harris became the first African-American broker to become a member of the Columbus Board of REALTORS®. This was a very important day for CBR because it opened up the doors of equality and civil rights for African-Americans in real estate in Columbus. Numerous African-American brokers who now have their own companies started with Harris Realty Company. Mr. Harris is the owner/broker of Harris Realty Company. He attended Franklin University and Ohio State University and was a graduate of the REALTORS® Institute. He also attended many seminars and conferences during his 41 years in the real estate profession and his 38 years as a member of the Columbus Board of REALTORS®.

Some of his accomplishments include serving on numerous CBR committees including the Ethics, HUD and VA, Equal Opportunity and Multiple Listing Service committees and serving as an OBR Trustee and on the United Appeal and R-Pac committee.

In addition to his service to the real estate field, Mr. Harris is a member of the NAACP, and a past member of the Society of Real Estate Appraisers and the National Association of Real Estate Appraisers. He also served on the Columbus State Community College Advisory Board from 1975-2002.

He should be recognized for all he has done with CBR and his excellence in real estate.

--Michelle Scott, Harris Realty Company
In 1987, three past CBR Presidents, Bob Weiler, Don Kelley and Max Holzer, along with 1987 CBR President Richard Fagan and several CBR Members and staff joined together with officials from Franklin County, the city of Columbus and private companies and citizens to create the Columbus Neighborhood Partnership, what is today known as the Columbus Housing Partnership. With the public and private sector working together, CHP was founded to provide adequate housing for Columbus’ low-income and homeless citizens. The initial year of the program had a budget of $2.5 million, including a $150,000 donation by CBR.
In November 2002 CORPAC reaches its first six-figure fund raising goal, with more than $102,000 being donated by more than 60 percent of CBR members. This marked a record in both donations and the level of participation.
After being elected CBR’s first female board president in 1979, I was trying so hard to fit in and be one of the boys. At the first Past President’s Meeting in 1979, in my effort to fit in, I had a scotch, lit up a cigar, stood up and told a filthy joke, all of which was met with dead silence. I realized then I was never going to be one of the boys. I can still to this day remember the look on their faces: I could have dropped through the floor!

--Myrna Kobre, Real Living HER

A photo of Kobre, preparing for one of the many speeches she would give that year.
In 1985 Larry Metzger, CAE, was appointed Executive Vice President (his title at the time), following the retirement of Ken Sampson in 1983 and the resignation of Brad Johnson in 1985.

Metzger is shown here with Past CBR and NAR President John Galbreath.
During the search for our next location in the early 1990s, I was on the committee examining land available around Columbus where we could build a new membership headquarters. Bill McMenamy and I went to look at the site, which is now home to CBR, 2700 Airport Drive. We wanted to make sure it had good visibility so we held up a sign while other committee members drove past the potential site to see if the building would be seen from I-670.

--Charlotte VanSteyn, RE/MAX Premier Choice

Above is a photo from spring 1994, when construction was nearing completion.
In 1961, REALTOR® Lucille Jacobs became the first woman to join the Multiple Listing Service. Jacobs was also among the first women to join the Board in 1960, after women were admitted as members.
Years ago we had to hand deliver contracts, pick up keys from the listing agent’s office, show the property, then drop the keys back off at the agent’s office. Thank God for modern technology!

--Sharon Bowen, Coldwell Banker King Thompson
In 1965 Columbus REALTOR® Paul Love sold the first home in Ohio to be financed with a mortgage obtained under the new veteran’s housing program, known as the Housing Act of 1965. This act allowed veterans who have served on active duty 90 days or more and who were released or discharged honorably, permission to purchase a home valued at $15,000 for as little as $200 down. The house, 1061 Carlisle Road, was sold to Mr. & Mrs. Fred Grace.

Shown here is a clipping from the 1965 article detailing the historic sale.
On Oct. 14, 1971 the Columbus Board’s MLS is computerized and officially “online.” After years of planning, REALTORS® Computer Services (RCS), an affiliate of the National Association of Real Estate Boards, was the system provider. Realtron Corporation of Detroit, Michigan, the pioneer in computerization in the real estate industry, supplied the technical services under a contract to RCS. More than 2,500 active listings were now on the system, and 50 different software programs allowed the member, using a black box and a telephone, to search and manipulate the online data.
In late 1993, President George Smith joined CBR members and staff to break ground on what would become the new membership headquarters. By May 1994, CBR had moved into its new offices, at 2700 Airport Drive, and held open houses in May and June for members to tour the state-of-the-art facilities. 1993 CBR President George Smith accepts a ceremonial groundbreaking shovel from Jack Ruscilli, whose company served as general contractor on the project.
More than 55 people joined in entertaining guests during CBR’s annual talent and variety show, Realvillities ’67, held March 22, 1967 at the Neil House. The event “may go down as the date which set the Columbus real estate industry back 20 years – but if it does, we’ll all have fun going backwards,” *The Columbus REALTOR®* exclaimed.

A clipping from the *The Columbus REALTOR®* newsletter shows some of the “actors” in costume and prepping for the show!
In April, 2002, CBR printed the final issues of both the Residential MLS Book and the Commercial MLS Book. The last copy of the MLS Quarterly Comparable Book was also printed, marking an end to an era of printed listing books.
In May 1968, Columbus Mayor Maynard E. Sensenbrenner joined fellow REALTORS® to proclaim May 19-25 REALTOR® Week, asking all citizens to join him in “honoring the REALTORS® of this city.” The theme of the 1968 national REALTOR® Week was “Home is where security starts – Don’t wait in ’68!”

CBR President Bill McCorkle is joined by Larry Chambers and Allen Shaw in thanking the Mayor.
Before there was CORPAC, there was RPAC and central Ohio REALTORS® solidly supported the political action arm of NAR. During the annual RPAC Auction in 1992, Brad Bennett and Sandy Schupp dressed as Uncle and “Aunt” Sam and collected donations throughout the evening, which included both live and silent auctions and a buffet at Villa Milano.

Bennett and Schupp are shown here with Phil Brown and Barb Lach.
In February 1994, online color photographs were introduced in the MLS system. At that time, up to four photos could be added and viewed by all MLS users via special software called Sprint.

The February 1994 edition of *In Contract* announced the exciting changes.
The first CORPAC Golf Scramble was held in 1994 and raised more than $8,500 for the local political action committee. More than 100 golfers came out to Foxfire Golf Club, where the event is still held today, and enjoyed a steak dinner and prizes along with the golf and camaraderie.

CEO Larry Metzger greets golfers at Foxfire.
In 2005 CBR holds the first REALTOR® Care Day, in partnership with United Way of Central Ohio and the Columbus Housing Partnership. The committee was chaired by Skip Weiler, and more than 100 volunteers helped with construction and maintenance of 24 properties.
The Jan. 15, 1949 edition of *The Columbus REALTOR®* advertised the annual installation dinner, which featured guest speaker Dr. Edmund B. O'Leary, a professor of economics and business and University of Dayton. The dinner was held in the Gold Room at the Fort Hayes Hotel and cost $2.75 per ticket “including tax and tip.”
On Aug. 22, 1996, the Computer Users’ Committee sponsored “Bits and Brats,” at the CBR Headquarters on Airport Drive. The evening program was called “Learn to use the Internet” and also included a Bratwurst cookout.
The March 28, 1957, *The Columbus REALTOR®,* reported that the CBR Handbook of Property Transfers “is a service that is the envy of every other real estate organization in the nation.” The first issue covers 1953-1955 and lists every real estate sale in greater Columbus by street, address, date and tax revenue stamps involved. Available to members only, the book “makes a professional out of a beginner salesman almost overnight.” Interest is so high among real estate groups that in one city, 10 firms join together to offer Columbus thousands of dollars to establish a handbook for their area.
By the 1990s, MLS served six counties and parts of another 10.

In October 1986 the name of the MLS was changed to the Columbus and Central Ohio Regional Multiple Listing Service – a name still in effect today – to reflect the joint relationships with surrounding counties.
In December 1995, CBR’s new headquarters, 2700 Airport Drive, were recognized by the American Institute of Architects as one of the year’s design award winners.
In 2006 COCIE – Central Ohio Commercial Information Exchange – was formed to include a comprehensive database of all commercial property, whether on the market or not. The site is available to the public and contains more than 13,000 entries.
In December 2001, the Board launched its first Web-based MLS system, MarketLinx. At the time of the conversion, MarketLinx was providing Web-based MLS services to other boards including Cleveland and Chicago. The system was chosen by the Board after the recommendation of the MLS Committee, who found the TEMPO system provided more functionality and flexibility.
We used to have to sit through a whole weekend (30 hours) for continuing education if you waited until the last minute. This year I took my CE class online right in the comfort of my own home – again, thank God for modern technology!

--Sharon Bowen, Coldwell Banker King Thompson
In October 1997, the Board approved new electronic key boxes, after months of consideration by a committee charged with reviewing the new systems. In Contract announced that the board would convert to the electronic system in early 1998. It cost REALTORS® $85 annually for access to the system.
In early 1959 Columbus REALTOR® Jack Havens is named by the *Columbus Citizen Journal* as one of the top 10 young men of 1958 for pioneering the FHA 221 loan program in Columbus.
On July 31, 2006, CBR made its final mortgage payment to Huntington National Bank, making the membership headquarters at 2700 Airport Drive free and clear of debt.
On March 4, 1994, the Columbus Board of REALTORS® established a political action committee – CORPAC (Central Ohio REALTORS® PAC) – to support issues and candidates that support, promote and preserve private property rights.
In October 1996, CBR joined the World Wide Web and launched www.ColumbusRealtors.com, after the Board approved the site and its name. The Web site was redesigned in 2002 and includes information for both real estate professionals and the public at the click of a mouse. In 2008, to combat negative press about the housing industry, CBR also started www.ColumbusHousingFacts.com as part of The Grass is Greener Here campaign.
The 1968 CBR Stag Picnic was held at Walnut Hill Country Club, and featured fishing, cards and helicopter rides along with the traditional golf. Board President Bill McCorkle was said to have caught the most fish – claiming 101 caught, but no one counted, according to The Columbus REALTOR®.
On Sept. 1, 1993, after nearly two years of study and consideration, CBR sold its remaining half of the building at 200 East Town Street to the Ohio Association of REALTORS®, and agrees to rent the space occupied there until construction is completed on the board’s new location, which was under construction at 2700 Airport Drive.
On Nov. 13, 1973, the MLS Committee, then chaired by REALTOR® Cam Taylor, announced that the MLS Weekly Photo Computer Books would be printed beginning in 1974 and sold for $5 per copy.
In 1965 Vernice Sagstetter received the first REALTOR® Salesperson of the Year award, then known as Associate of the Year.
When John Galbreath hosted the Past President’s dinners, the wives were invited also, so when I was president in 1979 my husband got to come along. Mr. Galbreath always wanted a picture of all the wives and insisted I be in it. So I hid in the powder room while they took it and there was a photo of my husband and the wives!

--Myrna Kobre
In 1999, Kevin Randolph became the first African-American Trustee (now called Directors) of the Columbus Board of REALTORS®. Randolph served until 2001 and was the first, and thus far, only African-American to serve in that capacity.
The Board’s first Volunteer Service Awards were handed out during the 1991 Forecast Night. Fourteen REALTORS® were awarded plaques commemorating their commitment to community service and volunteerism, during the annual forecast night which also included a speech by then NAR President Harley E. Rouda, Sr.
In the late 1960s, the Board had its very own entertainment for functions including the President’s Ball, monthly meetings and the Realvillities talent show. The group, called the REALTOR® Jazz Band, also performed around the community for various organizations and civic groups.

This picture is from the Jan. 17, 1969 edition of *The Columbus REALTOR®*, and was taken during a performance at the 1968 President’s Ball.
“In the 1980s, The Columbus Dispatch started a ‘House of the Week’ feature in the Sunday paper and it used to be a half page back then. Now the same type of feature usually has about six homes and is much smaller than when it originally started. It used to take months to get a home featured in the ‘House of the Week’ if you were ever lucky enough to get one in at all!”

--Gary Francis, American Dream Realty
In 2004, Skip Weiler became the Board’s first third generation President, becoming the third person in his family to lead CBR. Skip’s father, Bob Weiler served as CBR President in 1976 and his grandfather Robert Weiler served in 1955.
The first Celebrity Waiter event to benefit the REALTOR® Charitable Foundation Fund was held in 2003. A celebrity waiter luncheon was held at the Westin Great Southern Hotel in downtown Columbus and local broadcasting celebrity Jimmy Crum was the Master of Ceremonies.
In the spring of 2002, longtime REALTOR® Broker and firefighter Ned Pettus was promoted to the City of Columbus Fire Chief.

After 25 years with the department, Pettus became the city’s first African American fire chief. A CBR member since 1975, Pettus joined the city’s fire department in the late 1970s and has had duel careers ever since, working alongside his wife Lonette who is also a licensed REALTOR®. Together the couple operates Pettus Realty, focusing on the Linden area. Ned is also active in several community organizations including Columbus Housing Partnership.
In early 2003, Board of Directors for the Fayette County Board of REALTORS® voted to join the CBR. The county board, with more than 60 members, joined CBR with a Fayette County member being appointed to the CBR Board of Directors.
“My father, Bill McCorkle, was the CBR President in 1968. Over the course of his 50-year career, he sold more than 5,000 homes, and was dedicated to several philanthropic causes including donating park land in Westerville and Gahanna and for the Ohio State University’s Bill and Mae McCorkle Aquatic Pavilion. During his term as CBR President, he handed out 12” Golden Rulers, engraved with the words, ‘Do unto others as you would have done unto you.’ The first computer access to the MLS was also introduced during his presidency and the real estate contract was only one page! He set a great example as a man, a husband, a father and a successful REALTOR®.”

--Bill McCorkle III, McCorkle Real Estate
During May 1908, talks for establishing a local real estate board were being held. The Columbus Board of REALTORS® was formed in 1908 as The Columbus Real Estate Board, a name that would stand for decades until it was changed to the current name. The election of the first officers of The Columbus Real Estate Board was held on June 19, 1908. W.A. Mahoney, W.G. Neff, D.P. Cooke, M. A. Smith, George Robbins, A.W. Forest, Frank Hammond, W.G. Conway, H.D. Freeman and C.A. McAllister were all elected trustees. Frank Hammond was the Board’s first President and served through 1909. In all, 27 men voted to adopt the constitution and bylaws and thus the Board was born.
At the May 10, 1924 meeting of The Columbus Real Estate Board, future CBR and NAR President John W. Galbreath was inducted as a member. Meeting minutes indicate cigars and cigarettes were provided free of charge by a sponsor, as was common practice during meetings at that time.
On Oct. 25, 1973, the Honorable Senator and former Ohio Governor John W. Bricker was named CBR’s first “Outstanding Citizen of the Year.” Concluding his acceptance speech at the dinner held at the Fawcett Center for Tomorrow, Bricker said, ”There’s nothing finer in life in my mind, than putting ones’ roots down in a community, becoming a definite part of it and staying with it.”
In late 2007, CBR AEO Stan Collins organizes fellow staff members Matt Warren and George VanFossen, REALTOR® Terry Bryant and Home Inspector Chuck Gleich into a band known as TEMPO 5. Named after the CBR’s MLS software, the five-man band performs for the first-time in March 2008, at CBR’s Got Talent, a variety show benefiting the CBR Equal Opportunity Committee. The band played encore performances throughout 2008, including the Ohio Association of REALTORS® annual conference and at CBR Sales Associates Day.
To combat negative press about the housing market and present a more localized view of the central Ohio market, CBR launched The Grass *is* Greener Here in early 2008. A $200,000 advertising and marketing campaign including radio, print and billboard ads and a Web site, [www.ColumbusHousingFacts.com](http://www.ColumbusHousingFacts.com), promoted the many positives of the area market, including affordability and stability.
President Brad Bennett and Foundation chair Chris Reese dedicate the walkway. The REALTOR® Foundation Fund commemorative walkway is dedicated in the spring of 2007 after being constructed at the west entrance to the Board headquarters. The walkway project raises $17,000 by selling engraved bricks to donors, which are a permanent reminder of those whose donations help support the charitable arm of CBR.
A January 1965 edition of *The Columbus REALTOR®* offers a New Year’s recipe for success with directions on planting a “REALTOR®’s Garden.” Plantings include peas, squash, lettuce and turnips, each associated with a specific meaning. For example, “‘Peas’ for personality ... ‘Squash’ to squash gossip and negative thinking ... ‘Lettuce’ to let us obey rules and regulations and ‘Turnips’ to turn up at meetings.”
During the 1980 President’s Ball Michael B. Griffith turned the gavel over to 1981 President Gary J. Seckel. Seckel became the second person in his family to lead the Columbus Board of REALTORS®, after his father served as President in 1967. The 1980 President’s Ball was held at the newly-opened Hyatt Regency and more than 700 people attended.
On Aug. 14, 1997, CBR Members, family and friends attended the CBR Night at COSI – the Center Of Science and Industry – as part of a fundraising campaign to help open the new COSI on the riverfront downtown. CBR members donated more than $5,300 to help build the new COSI, which opened in 1999.
In 1957 a CBR public service project saw this home, at 369 West Fifth Avenue, rehabilitated. The city had condemned it and ordered it razed before the Board stepped in and invested thousands of dollars in remodeling and new appliances.
At the 1989 Sales Associates Day, R-PAC Co-Chair Jerry Lux went to great lengths to solicit donations. He volunteered time at the R-PAC dunking booth during the trade show portion of the day, helping the committee raise funds for the Board’s ongoing R-PAC campaign.
At the 1968 President’s Ball Rupert “Twink” Starr was honored as the first MLS Chairman to preside over a $100 million dollar sales year. Twink was presented with an engraved plaque by 1968 President Bill McCorkle, commemorating the historic MLS sales year.
In 1977 REALTOR® Jane Stone of King Thompson Co. became the first CBR Member to qualify for the Five Million Dollar Club in the year immediately following her entry into the One Million Dollar Club. In 1976, Jane was admitted to the One Million Dollar Club and averaged four listings and sales per month; in 1977, the year for which she was admitted to the Five Million Dollar Club, Jane averaged six listings and sales per month.
On April 29, 1959 Melvin E. Tharp, the advertising director for *The Columbus Dispatch*, was the featured speaker at a dinner meeting at the Seneca Hotel. Tharp offered tips on better ad writing, and how to promote the term REALTOR® and why using a REALTOR® is beneficial. Tickets to the event cost $3.50.
At the 1999 CORPAC Auction more than $47,000 was raised, some of it collected in an old computer monitor that was auctioned off as a relic from the pre-Y2K era. The annual auction was held May 12, 1999 at Villa Milano and featured entertainment by REALTOR® Don Haines and his band, The Blue Heart Jewels.
In 2005, a Client Listing Site (CLS) was added to the CBR TEMPO system, allowing REALTORS® to send full property reports and a link to a customized Web site to their clients. The CLS also displays agent marketing or “branding” information and allows REALTORS® to set up individualized searches for each client.
The first CBR-sponsored RPAC Auction was held in May 1983 at the Mariott Inn North and raised more than $20,000 for the National Association of REALTORS® PAC. The top money-raiser was a plane trip with John Galbreath to a Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game, and was won by John and Natalie Goodwin and Bill and Mae McCorkle.
In 1949, the CBR joined with the Ohio State University to offer a course in Real Estate Practice. The class was limited to 100 students and was held in Page Hall on the OSU campus. The course was developed in part by the CBR Education Committee, chaired in 1949 by REALTOR® John Bonner, Jr.