



## COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

*Our volunteer committee members have set their sights on implementation of numerous new programs. Watch this column to keep up to speed on the progress of our hardworking committees.*

### Brokerage Risk Management Committee (BRMC)

Members of PMAR's Legislative Advocacy Committee joined the Brokerage Risk Management Committee to hear an overview of the Oregon Association of Realtors® (OAR) 2009 legislative policies. Jana Jarvis, OAR Vice President of Public Policy, advised that OAR will be introducing several pieces of new legislation; however, they will not open the Property Disclosure law. Instead, they will attempt to add relating clauses to existing bills. They anticipate fighting transfer taxes, jurisdictional license taxes/fees, and challenges to the mortgage interest deduction. Andrea Bushnell, OAR CEO and General Counsel, reported that OAR has sent the City of Portland a public records request related to implementation of Portland's newly enacted business license tax. OAR is prepared to file a lawsuit to challenge the tax, if necessary. The importance of PAC dollars and getting members to donate their fair share was also discussed.

### Homeownership Opportunities Committee (HOC)

On October 31st, the HOC conducted the second Homeownership Opportunities Certification Course and is pleased to present the second graduating class who, having successfully met all requirements, have attained the status of HOWNW.com Certified Specialist:

Elizabeth Ashenafe,  
RE/MAX Equity Group, Inc.  
Margery Bare, Oregon First  
Elizabeth Chichavich,  
Cascadian South Corp.  
Laraine Durham, John L. Scott, Inc.  
Jose Escobar,  
Windermere Relocation, LLC

Ramona Kelly,  
RE/MAX Equity Group, Inc.  
Cynthia Klickman,  
Keller Williams PDX Central  
Stella Kopperud, Windermere/CCRG  
Laurie Kovack,  
RE/MAX Equity Group, Inc.  
Susan McCall,  
Compass Realty Solutions  
Kevin McCarter,  
Keller Williams PDX Central  
Jo Rice, EXIT Realty Advantage  
Donald Rohrbacher,  
Compass Realty Solutions  
Elizabeth Rossberg,  
RE/MAX Equity Group, Inc.  
Diane Rulien,  
RE/MAX Equity Group, Inc.  
Huy Tran, Beaverton Realty  
Troy Wilkerson,  
EXIT Realty Advantage  
Tatiana Xenelis, Hap Home Sales

### Public Relations Committee (PRC)

The committee is already laying the groundwork for getting the word out about positive real estate news in 2009. They are hoping to expand Real Estate Insider, a monthly column that runs in the Community Newspapers' Lake Oswego and West Linn Homes section, to other community papers such as the *Hillsboro Argus* and *Portland Business Journal*. In addition, a special task force was convened to develop a one-hour "Working with the Media" training program that will assist PMAR spokespeople and other leaders who are called upon to provide interviews to reporters. If there is interest, the training may be offered and expanded next year. Finally, the committee feels that

in these times we could all use a good laugh—watch the PMAR newspaper next year as we try to tickle your funny bone. We're looking for your funny stories about your real estate experiences—the listing with the "bathroom" in the basement (i.e., drain in the middle of the floor), the odd client, or your embarrassing moment. Make us laugh: forward your funny stories to PMAR Communications Director Elizabeth Coffey at [ecoffey@pmar.org](mailto:ecoffey@pmar.org) for possible inclusion in the new PMAR "funnies" section.

### Professional Standards Committee (PSC)

A mock ethics hearing to consider a violation of Article 16 of the Code of Ethics was performed at the October meeting of the Professional Standards Committee. Debi Laue acted as the complainant, Sue Graves the respondent and John Ludlow provided testimony as a witness. Chairman Deli Busher served as the hearing panel chairman, and the audience participated by asking questions as they were assigned the role of the hearing panel. Afterward, committee members broke into groups and determined a violation did occur and various disciplines were discussed. A mock hearing of the same case is planned for the next meeting to determine an arbitration award. A mandatory training for new members is scheduled for February 5, 2009. If you are interested in joining the committee you may contact PMAR Dispute Resolution Services Manager Susan Schneider at [sschneider@pmar.org](mailto:sschneider@pmar.org) or call 503-459-2156.



Members of the Public Relations Committee gather at their last meeting of the year. Left to right: Joy Schmieg, NW Natural; Natalie Middleton, RMLS™; Vice Chairman Jeff Whiting, John L. Scott, Inc.; Chairman Deb Nolen, John L. Scott, Inc.; Bob Ulery, The Hasson Company; and Lisa Balmes, Chris Balmes Properties.