

TELLURIDE DAILY PLANET

OPINION > COLUMNISTS

A successful year for TAR

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Print Page

Local Voices
Kiplynn Smith

Despite the challenges that our economic environment presented our community with in 2010, the Telluride Association of Realtors (TAR) had a successful year. Our realtors were involved in national, state and local issues regarding realtor commitments, and continued to volunteer and contribute to state and local organizations.

This past year the TAR board of directors represented our membership at the national convention in New Orleans where we were able to improve our National Association of Realtors Article 10 of the Code of Ethics to include sexual orientation when protecting the rights of our clients. This may seem like a small feat, but in our eyes this was essential and long overdue.

On the state level, TAR was recognized for the first time ever with the Soaring Eagle Award. The award was presented to us by Telluride local George Harvey, former President of the Colorado Association of Realtors. The Soaring Eagle Award is presented to only a select few associations each year for extraordinary accomplishments. Our board of directors and the members of our association participate on various levels, striving to enhance home and property ownership for our clients and community. This past year we were successful at blocking a statewide transfer tax, keeping the 1031 exchange in place and keeping banks out of real estate, just to name a few. We have also been working diligently with the National Association of Realtors and finance committees in Washington D.C. to define lending guidelines for resort and second home markets, i.e., mixed use condominium lending and seller finance that have been an impediment on sales.

Locally, we implemented another volunteer opportunity and way for our realtors and affiliates to give back to the community, which is the Adopt-a-Trail program. Realtors and affiliates proudly clean up the section of the river trail by the gondola, twice a month throughout the year. A number of other programs include Adopt-a-Highway, Senior Luncheon, First Time Home Buyers Assistance, Hoot Brown Scholarship, TMRAO, Habitat for Humanity and San Miguel County Food Bank.

TAR's affiliates are a treasured asset to our membership. They range from architects to title companies to landscape professionals. (Please ask your local realtor for a directory to ensure the quality of your service provider or you can find a complete list on our website at www.telluriderealtors.net/directories.htm)

Thank you, realtors and affiliates for making this a successful year. And thank you, again, for letting me serve as your current president of the Telluride Association of Realtors.

— Kiplynn Smith is president of the Telluride Association of Realtors.

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