CMAR Member Welcome Guide

Welcome from President Deola Smith

Dear Realtist,

Whether you recently joined CMAR or have helped build this chapter over the years, we are glad you are here. This guide brings our membership opportunities, resources, and upcoming events together so you can put your membership to work.

CMAR welcomes anyone who owns a business or provides a service to the community. You do not have to work in real estate to belong in our professional network. We value the experience, relationships, and commitment to service that business owners and community service providers bring. Together, we grow professionally, advocate for housing opportunity, and strengthen the communities we call home.

Attend a meeting, introduce yourself to someone new, and choose one way to serve. Your experience and ideas belong here. Start today by signing up for a committee.

With appreciation,
Deola Smith
President 2026 and 2027

Your member resource hub

2027 membership dues are due by December 31, 2026. Renew through the CMAR website.

Save these official starting points. Use CMAR's website for chapter membership and renewal links, local updates, education, and leadership information.

Committee signup **www.cmarealtist.com/serve-with-us**

CMAR https://www.cmarealtist.com

Chapter leadership https://www.cmarealtist.com/about

Education through The CE Shop https://cmar.theceshop.com

NAREB https://www.nareb.com

National membership benefits https://www.nareb.com/membership

National mission and programs https://www.nareb.com/purpose

Advocacy Hub https://www.nareb.com/advocacy-hub

Your membership has purpose

A local chapter with a national connection

CMAR is your local connection to the National Association of Real Estate Brokers, known as NAREB. Founded in 1947, NAREB carries the mission of Democracy in Housing. Members are known as Realtists. CMAR welcomes real estate professionals, anyone who owns a business, and anyone who provides a service to the community. You do not need a real estate license to connect with our chapter. Your expertise and commitment to service can help strengthen our shared work.

Professional relationships

Build relationships with agents, brokers, lenders, developers, and other industry partners who bring different experience to the table. Use meetings to explain your specialty, learn what others do, and identify opportunities to work together. A useful introduction can become a trusted resource for a client or a lasting professional connection. Follow up after the meeting and keep the relationship active. Membership creates opportunities to connect; consistent participation helps those connections grow.

Education you can use

Explore chapter education and national training to strengthen the way you serve clients and manage your business. CMAR's 2026 offerings included AI for Real Estate and Contract Law education, showing how the chapter connects practical skills with professional responsibility. The chapter also links to The CE Shop for discounted education. Choose learning that supports a current goal, then apply it in your work. Confirm the current offer, course approval, and any registration cost before enrolling.

A voice in housing opportunity

Stay informed about fair housing, sustainable homeownership, and housing policy. Through advocacy conversations and activities such as Realtist Day at the Capitol, members can better understand the issues affecting families and neighborhoods. Bring your professional experience, listen to community needs, and participate in informed discussions. These experiences help connect the national mission to the realities of serving Central Mississippi.

Leadership through participation

Committee service gives you a practical way to share expertise, build relationships, and help shape chapter activities. Choose an assignment that fits your interests and availability, whether that means welcoming members, supporting education, planning events, or connecting community partners. Taking responsibility for a useful task helps you develop leadership through experience. You do not need an officer title to make a meaningful contribution.

A professional standard

Review the Code of Professional Responsibility linked on CMAR's homepage. Bring professionalism, respect, preparation, and follow through to every activity. Members shape the experience others have of CMAR, from welcoming guests to delivering on committee commitments. Our reputation grows through the way we work together and serve our communities.

Put your benefits to work

Build connections beyond Central Mississippi

Explore the national Realtist Referral Network through NAREB's membership navigation. When a client's needs reach beyond your market, a professional connection elsewhere can help you identify a potential resource. Keep your profile and specialty current, make thoughtful introductions, and follow your brokerage's referral procedures. Confirm portal access and any applicable requirements. Relationships take time to build, so begin connecting before an urgent client need arises.

Use national member opportunities

NAREB offers professional development, event registration discounts, mentorship, research, business resources, and recognition opportunities. Start with the national membership benefits page and choose the opportunities that fit your goals. A newer professional may seek guidance and foundational training, while an experienced member may explore a specialty, leadership role, or national connection. Ask how to activate the benefits relevant to your category. Separate registration, eligibility, or fees may apply.

Bring research into your business

Use the State of Housing in Black America report, known as SHIBA, to deepen your understanding of homeownership trends and barriers. Research can help you prepare thoughtful client education, develop topics for community programs, and explain why housing advocacy matters. Read the findings in context and check the publication year before using statistics. Turn what you learn into a useful conversation, presentation, or resource for the people you serve.

Explore a new area of growth

Explore the NAREB Developers Academy if real estate development interests you. Watch for current applications, program requirements, and participation costs. National conferences offer additional opportunities to hear new perspectives and connect with professionals beyond your local market. Before attending a program, identify what you want to learn and whom you hope to meet. Afterward, share relevant lessons with your committee or fellow members so the value continues at home.

Stay informed and engaged

Visit the Advocacy Hub for housing policy information and opportunities to participate. Use the national events page to identify conversations and programs relevant to your work. Decide which issues you want to understand more deeply, then make time to read, attend, and ask questions. Bring useful insights back to chapter discussions and consider how they connect to the needs you encounter in your own community.

Make access easy

Confirm your national membership record and login, keep contact information current, and ask leadership for help locating resources. Save the resource hub and check chapter messages regularly. Choose one benefit to use this month, one member to connect with, and one way to serve. Benefits and voting eligibility depend on applicable membership requirements.

Find your place in CMAR

Attend and stay connected

CMAR generally meets on the third Thursday of the month at 11:30 AM. Watch chapter communications for the confirmed date, time, location, and any holiday or special event changes.

Choose a way to serve

Choose a committee that matches your interests and complete the online signup today. Opportunities include membership, education, event planning, strategic partnerships, budget and finance, sponsorship, public relations and marketing, and legislative engagement. Share your interests and the time you can give.

Choose your committee and sign up here

Your first 30 days

Confirm your contact information and member access. Save the resource links in this guide. Attend the next confirmed meeting and introduce yourself to three members. Tell leadership which opportunity interests you most.

Days 31 through 60

Join a committee or take on a specific assignment. Participate in an educational session. Follow up with members whose work complements yours and explore one national resource.

Days 61 through 90

Complete a useful chapter assignment, volunteer at an event, or share your expertise. Review the relationships and knowledge you have gained. Tell leadership what would help you stay involved.

For returning members

Use the same plan as a fresh start. Welcome a newer member, share an opportunity, or bring a colleague to a chapter activity. A personal invitation can make someone feel they belong.

2026 Service, Events, and Community Highlights

January 22 First membership meeting of 2026
Members opened the year with chapter business and officer elections.

February 19 Officer installation and membership meeting
CMAR welcomed its leadership team, including President Deola Smith for the 2026 and 2027 term.

March 19 Realtist Day at the Capitol
CMAR marked its inaugural Realtist Day at the Capitol with legislative engagement, a chapter meeting, and new member pinning at the Mississippi State Capitol.

April 12 Realtist Week Day of Worship
Faith and fellowship with P.U.S.H. Ministries.

April 13 Museum Trail walk
During Realtist Week, members gathered at the Museum Trail in Jackson for wellness, fellowship, and connection.

April 14 Political Advocacy and SHIBA presentation
A virtual conversation with NAREB Vice President Marcus Brown on Black homeownership and housing opportunity.

April 15 Mississippi Food Network Day of Service
Members volunteered in support of food distribution for Central Mississippi families.

April 17 Realtist Week Winedown
Members connected and enjoyed fellowship during CMAR's Realtist Week Winedown.

April 18 Financial Check Up workshop opportunity
CMAR encouraged members to attend the Financial Check Up workshop hosted by the Jackson Mississippi Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. This partner hosted opportunity supported financial education and wealth building.

May 7 Committee Leadership Meeting
Committee leaders aligned on chapter priorities and upcoming work.

May 22 Shower Power outreach
Members supported people in need through meals, encouragement, and service.

June 11 AI for Real Estate
Practical training on using artificial intelligence in real estate business activities.

June 27 Realtist Restore Day
CMAR supported exterior home improvements and neighborhood beautification for a veteran. Her late husband also served in the military. This project connected neighborhood investment with care for a family whose service deserves recognition.

Summer 2026 National conference and member achievements

President Deola Smith represented CMAR at the national conference in Las Vegas. Several CMAR members graduated from Developers Academy and earned Top 100 Sales Awards, celebrating their commitment to professional growth, development, and sales excellence.

August 1 Beyond the Backpack
The inaugural Fresh Cuts, Fresh Confidence event brought together volunteers and community partners to support students returning to school.

August 19 Contract Law education
A four hour course with Dwanna Stanley at Restoration One in Jackson.

August 20 Member celebration and monthly meeting
A Las Vegas inspired gathering celebrating CMAR members who graduated from Developers Academy and earned Top 100 Sales Awards.

October 4 Voter registration drive at Mt. Nebo
CMAR hosted a voter registration drive at Mt. Nebo Baptist Church to support community civic engagement.

October 4 Voter registration drive at New Horizon
CMAR hosted a second voter registration drive at New Horizon Church International, extending voter registration outreach to another congregation.

October 15 Membership meeting and headshot opportunity
Networking, lunch, and professional branding support for members.

2026 Brookhaven tornado relief
CMAR donated more than $5,000 in supplies and food for tornado victims in Brookhaven, Mississippi, putting the chapter’s commitment to service into action.

Upcoming dates to know

Calendar reviewed November 5, 2026. Confirm registration, times, travel details, and any changes on the linked event pages. National times are not listed below unless published.

November and December 2026

November 10 NAREB 2026 Virtual Black Summit and release of the State of Housing in Black America (SHIBA) Report at 11:00 AM CST

November 17 United Developers Council inspirational monthly series

November 19 CMAR Thanksgiving Edition membership meeting at 11:30 AM Central. Our last membership meeting of 2026.

November 24 The Realtist Social, presented by Blue Foxx Restaurant and CMAR. Meet fellow real estate professionals for conversation and connections, hosted by Kinoy Brown at Blue Foxx Restaurant, 1625 E Countyline Rd., Suite 305, Jackson, MS.

December 2 NAREB Wealth Wednesdays

December 7 NAREB Monday Corporate Prayer

December 17 CMAR Scholarship and Awards Gala at 6:00 PM Central, The Artistry in Jackson

December 17 CMAR scholarship applications open at 6:00 PM Central

November and December CMAR Homebuyer Workshops. Dates and times to be announced.

Plan ahead for 2027

February 1 CMAR scholarship application deadline at 5:00 PM Central

February 17 through 21 NAREB Mid Winter Conference, Gila River Resorts and Casinos, Phoenix, Arizona

April 10 through 17 Affordability Homeownership Bus Tour

April 11 through 17 Realtist Week

April CMAR scholarship presentation luncheon, details to be announced

June 26 Homeownership Month Day of Community Service

July 19 through 23 NAREB National Convention, location and details to be announced

Keep the current calendars handy

CMAR's events page also shows past 2026 activities, including Realtist Day at the Capitol and Realtist Week. Use current chapter notices for new local dates. The national events page now publishes 2027 dates; use it rather than relying only on the older calendar PDF.

Local calendar https://www.cmarealtist.com/events

National calendar https://www.nareb.com/events

Support students through the gala

The CMAR Scholarship and Awards Gala takes place Thursday, December 17, 2026, at 6:00 PM Central at The Artistry in Jackson. Formal attire is requested. The evening supports scholarships and recognizes community contributions.

Be part of the evening

Attend, invite colleagues and community partners, share the sponsorship invitation, or ask the gala committee where help is needed. Membership is not required to attend. Regular admission is currently $50 per guest; early bird sales have ended.

Partnership opportunities

Presenting Sponsor $3,000 with 6 seats
Gold Sponsor $2,000 with 4 seats
Silver Sponsor $1,000 with 2 seats
Community Sponsor $500 with 1 seat
Supporting Partner $250 with admission purchased separately

Recognition varies by package. Review the current sponsorship page before making a commitment.

Share the scholarship opportunity

Applications for the Class of 2027 open December 17, 2026, at 6:00 PM Central and close February 1, 2027, at 5:00 PM Central. The published eligibility includes high school seniors attending schools in Hinds, Madison, or Rankin County with a minimum 2.5 GPA. College, university, and trade school plans are welcome.

Students should review the full essay, video, transcript, activity, and recommendation requirements online. Scholarship presentations are planned for an April 2027 luncheon; details will be announced separately.

Gala and tickets https://cmar-scholarship-gala-2026.vercel.app/

Sponsorships https://cmar-scholarship-gala-2026.vercel.app/sponsorship

Scholarships https://cmar-scholarship-gala-2026.vercel.app/scholarships

Frequently asked questions

2027 Membership Levels

Individual Broker Member $200

Associate Member $115

Allied Associate Member $125

Allied Member $250

Allied Member (Small Business) $150 Local Member Only

2027 membership dues are due by December 31, 2026. Choose your membership option through the CMAR website. Contact chapter leadership for category descriptions and national membership details.

Do I have to work in real estate?
No. CMAR welcomes anyone who owns a business or provides a service to the community. Ask leadership which membership category fits you.

Are gala tickets included with membership?
Use the separate gala ticket and sponsorship options. Sponsorship packages specify any included seats.

When are 2027 membership dues due and where do I renew?
2027 membership dues are due by December 31, 2026. Start with Become a Member or Renew on the CMAR website. The membership levels above list the dues amounts. Ask chapter leadership to confirm your category and national membership access.

Where should I begin?
Attend the next confirmed meeting, choose one resource to use, and volunteer for one manageable assignment.

Official website information reviewed November 5, 2026. Event details and program availability may change. This guide welcomes every member to learn, connect, and serve.