

The Journal

Government & Community Affairs
Monterey County Association of REALTORS®

Week ending January 4, 2008

Investing In Your Future....

Your Realtor Action Fund Dollars Work For You!

Happy New Year & Welcome 2008!

Hi! I'm Dale. I'm visiting here at MCAR for awhile until a replace for Jennifer James is found. Please take time to introduce yourself while I am here. I always enjoy making new friends.

Change Is Constant

This is my 30th year in the real estate industry in California. I thought I had seen almost every kind of real estate market but apparently not!

I'm here to help MCAR take an indepth look at the Government Affairs program. Some of you have emailed or called. A few have stopped by the MCAR office and we have had a productive visit. I welcome your input.

Being Political

by Jillian Sandall

What constitutes a 'political' act? And how do we know when we are being 'political'? Over the last decade, for example, I have been involved in a number of political organizations, yet I rarely consider myself (or, I suspect, am considered by others) an overtly 'political' person. Certainly, I have performed acts that had real material effects - such as writing letters and making phone-calls when I was told it would help, working in a drop-in campaign center, cooking food for the homeless and hungry, donating and/or soliciting money and labor to various progressive organizations - but these acts have frequently seemed isolated from my everyday life. Too often I was left with the sense that despite being important and necessary, such political gestures served me more than they served the organizations themselves.

My fear, I guess, is that I simply 'visited' - and with wildly fluctuating degrees of regularity - the political realm, but that 'politics' itself remained as something I could leave behind and forget about when I was not there. Like any visit, therefore, it was separate from the rest of my life and something I participated in only when it fitted into my schedule. Indeed, some of my more 'grand' political gestures now seem to me to perfectly demonstrate the dangers of visiting - rather than living in - the realm of the political.

The Money

Every year, powerful and politically-connected interest groups spend tens of millions of dollars promoting their agendas in Washington D.C. and Sacramento. They know individual REALTORS® are busy serving their clients, and have little time to fight back.

As a REALTOR®, you have a vested interest in the government under which you live and work. MCAR and CAR supports the people who make policy on matters affecting your business - which is why **we need your support!**

MCAR is asking that every member make a contribution of **\$49 or \$197** to the REALTOR® Action Fund to help defend your right to do business. Our ability to fight - and win - key issues affecting your business will be even more effective with your involvement. We have had many local issue achievements that preserve your ability to do business in Monterey County and California.

MCAR has a history of consistent and generous contributors. Don't let 2008 be any different. We know that for many this is a difficult financial time of year but your investment in the REALTOR® Action Fund delivers an individual

return of almost **\$13,738** in annual savings. We know Together - with your contribution of **\$49 or \$197** - we will continue to protect our industry.

Credit

Fair Isaac Corp., maker of the popular FICO credit score used by most lenders, says its new scoring model will do a better job predicting the likelihood of a borrower defaulting on a loan. For one thing, the new model, dubbed FICO 08, will be more forgiving of occasional slips by consumers, but will take a harder line on repeat offenders.

The 2008 rollout of the new credit-scoring system comes at a time when lenders say they are eager for more-accurate measures of credit risk, in part because of rising loan defaults as subprime mortgages go bad and housing prices fall. And there are signs that delinquencies are creeping into other types of consumer debt, including auto loans, further prompting lenders to tighten up on credit.

For the full story go to:

<http://finance.yahoo.com/banking-budgeting/article/104062/Default-Lines-The-New-Math-of-Credit-Scores>

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