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 **EXCLUSIVE MEMBER PRIVILEGES**

**Arbitration Services**
In an organization as large as the Montgomery Area Association of REALTORS®, occasional business disputes are inevitable. Instead of resorting to costly and time-consuming legal action, members are encouraged to resolve their issues through arbitration. The Professional Standards Committee, composed of experienced real estate professionals, offers a knowledgeable and impartial forum for fair and efficient dispute resolution.

**Association Office and Staff**The Association staff is dedicated to providing members with timely, accurate information and accessible support. The Association office, located at 4280 Carmichael Road, is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Awards**
The Montgomery Area Association of REALTORS® honors exceptional service and involvement within the Association and the broader community through several prestigious awards. The **Ted Copeland REALTOR® of the Year** award recognizes a member who exemplifies outstanding commitment and professionalism. The **Hall of Fame** celebrates individuals who have demonstrated remarkable dedication to the Association and achieved significant success in the real estate industry.
Additional awards are also available through the **National Association of REALTORS® (NAR)** and the **Alabama Association of REALTORS® (AAR)**.

**Conventions**
The **Alabama Association of REALTORS® (AAR)** hosts three meetings annually, including their **Annual Convention held each October**. These gatherings feature outstanding educational programs that provide valuable learning opportunities. While the educational content alone makes attendance worthwhile, the chance to connect with fellow REALTORS® from across the state is equally beneficial.

The **National Association of REALTORS® (NAR)** also offers premier events, including the **National Convention in November**, which showcases nationally recognized speakers and high-ranking government officials, and the **Mid-Year Legislative Meetings** in Washington, D.C. Educational sessions at these events consistently reflect the highest standards in the industry.

**Education**
The **Montgomery Area Association of REALTORS® (MAAR)** provides a diverse selection of **AREC-approved Continuing Education courses**, professional designation programs, and informal training sessions ranging from one to two hours.

Additionally, the **National Association of REALTORS® (NAR)**, through its **Institutes, Societies, and Councils**, offers courses nationwide. These programs enable REALTORS® to earn respected designations while building a strong national referral network.

**Electronic Key Box System**
Real estate professionals rely on a well-organized **Multiple Listing Service (MLS)** to efficiently match buyers with the right properties. Equally important is the ability to **securely and conveniently show listings** and **track showing activity**, a process made seamless through a **networked electronic Key Box system**, **SentriLock.**

The **Montgomery Area Association of REALTORS® (MAAR)** partners with **SentriLock** to provide its members with a reliable, secure, and easy-to-use Key Box system, enhancing both property access and listing management.

**Ethics and Professional Standards**
REALTORS® take great pride in adhering to the **Code of Ethics**, first established in 1916. This code sets a standard of professional conduct that goes beyond legal requirements, promoting integrity, fairness, and responsibility in all real estate practices.

To ensure accountability, the **Grievance Committee** reviews complaints submitted by the public or fellow members. When a potential violation is identified, the matter is referred to the **Professional Standards Committee** for a formal hearing. If a violation is confirmed, appropriate disciplinary action is taken.

This process upholds the integrity of the profession and serves to protect both the **public and REALTORS®** alike.

**Forms**
MLS and Association members may obtain MLS forms directly from Instanet Forms on the Matrix Home Page.

**IMS (Internet Member Services)**
IMS is a powerful member portal that gives you full control over your **membership account**. Through IMS, you can:

* View upcoming **events**, **committee meetings**, and **classes**
* Check your **education** and **committee** history
* Search for an **agent** or **office**
* **Register** for events or classes
* **Pay invoices** and statements

**Please note:** All billing notifications are sent **via email only**. To ensure you receive important updates, log in to IMS, click **"Personal Information"**, and verify that your **contact details are accurate**. This information is also used in **Matrix** and **SentriLock**, so keeping it up to date is essential.

To access IMS, visit <https://moal.rapams.com/> or use the IMS link on the MLS homepage.

* **Logon ID:** Same as your MLS username (e.g., 111234)
* **Password:** Use **"welcome"** for your first login, then update it to something memorable.

**Legislative Representation – National, State, and Local**
Staying informed about laws and regulations affecting real estate and property rights is essential for every REALTOR®. Equally important is having strong representation at all levels of government.

The **National Association of REALTORS® (NAR)** maintains a full-time legislative office and lobbyists in **Washington, D.C.**, ensuring that the voice of the real estate industry is heard. NAR is actively involved in the legislative process and is regularly invited to provide input on matters impacting real estate and property ownership.

At the state level, the **Alabama Association of REALTORS® (AAR)** has a full-time **Governmental Affairs Director and lobbyist** based in **Montgomery**. Through AAR, you have a direct channel to express your views on proposed legislation affecting the industry in Alabama.

As REALTORS®, it is our responsibility to stay engaged, remain informed, and speak out to protect the real estate profession and the principles of free enterprise.

**Liaison with Other Groups**
The Association fosters strong relationships within the broader real estate community by offering **Affiliate Membership** to individuals and businesses that support the industry, such as **home inspectors, moving companies, mortgage lenders, real estate attorneys**, and others.

In addition, the Association actively promotes collaboration and open communication between REALTORS® and key organizations, including the **Home Builders Association**, **public utility providers**, the **Alabama Real Estate Commission**, and **local government agencies**. These partnerships help strengthen the industry and enhance service to clients and communities.

**Matrix**
The **Montgomery Area Association of REALTORS®/Multiple Listing Service, Inc.** has partnered with **Matrix**, the #1 listing platform in North America. This partnership provides real estate brokerage firms with a **centralized dashboard** to efficiently manage and control their **online marketing strategy**, ensuring greater visibility and consistency across multiple real estate websites.

**Library**
The **National Association of REALTORS®** houses the world’s largest real estate library at its headquarters in **Chicago**, and it is available to you at no cost. For information on a specific topic, you can contact the **Librarian** at the **NAR**, located at **430 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60611**, or call **312/329-5960**. The library staff will conduct research on your behalf and provide the relevant materials.

**Membership Meetings**
The Association holds its **General Membership Meeting** on the third Wednesday of certain months, typically at **the Montgomery Country Club**. The buffet opens at **11:15 a.m.** and includes a brief program, as well as updates on **Association/MLS** business. These luncheons offer excellent networking opportunities and provide a great way to stay informed about the latest developments within the Association.

In addition to the monthly meetings, REALTORS® and Affiliates can connect at various functions organized throughout the calendar year by MAAR. These well-attended events are always a fun and engaging way to network and socialize with colleagues.

**Multiple Listing Service**
A **Multiple Listing Service (MLS)** is the most efficient way for agents to share listing information with a broad audience quickly and effectively. **Matrix**, the MLS platform used by **MAAR/MLS** members, offers a comprehensive suite of tools for **searching, reporting, client management**, and **CMA** creation, along with numerous customizable productivity features.

Matrix is also **wirelessly accessible** via cell phones, PDAs, or smartphones, making it easy to stay connected on the go. Property owners can choose to “opt in” to have their listings automatically syndicated to the Association's public website, [www.alamls.com](http://www.alamls.com), and to various other sites through **Matrix**.

**Orientation Courses**
The Association offers **Orientation courses** for new members, designed to provide essential information about the Association, including the **Multiple Listing Service**, the **NAR Code of Ethics**, **Best Practices,** and **Mortgage Basics,** among others.

**Non-member sales agents** are required to complete this course and submit a membership application before they are eligible to use the title of **REALTOR®**.

**Publications
MAAR Matters** is the primary source for up-to-date information on activities within the **Montgomery Area Association of REALTORS®**. Both **Affiliate** and **REALTOR® members** receive an email each month of information. Additionally, “**On the Move**” agent transfer list is updated monthly and posted on the MAAR website.

The **ALABAMA Economic and Real Estate Report** is a **monthly publication** that brings the latest updates from the state organization directly to you. AAR also offers a weekly digest of real estate news in Alabama.

**REALTOR®**
The title **REALTOR®** is a mark of professionalism, recognized by the public as representing real estate professionals who are **knowledgeable, competent, ethical,** and **committed to high standards**. Only those who have **completed the membership application** and been accepted into the Association may use the **REALTOR®** trademark.

**REALTOR® Political Action Committee (RPAC)**
**RPAC** is a **non-partisan, non-profit organization** operated at both the **state and national levels** by a **Board of Trustees**. Its mission is to support candidates for public office who understand and advocate for issues important to the real estate industry.

Candidates for state and national office are carefully evaluated to ensure their positions align with the goals of the real estate profession. Members are strongly encouraged to contribute to RPAC to help protect and promote real estate interests.

At the **local level**, **Sharing Funds** are distributed by the **Governmental Affairs Committee**, while **state-level RPAC funds** are allocated by the **Alabama RPAC Trustees** based on recommendations from local associations. **Federal RPAC funds** are managed and distributed by the **NAR RPAC Board of Trustees**.