

# Merrymeeting Board Newsletter

June 4, 2008



## A Message from President Kyle Rogers:

Many new and exciting things are going on within our board. We elected Lisa Buthlay to fill an empty Director position and our committees are working as hard as ever to pull their respective events together.

The Golf Tourney is coming up very shortly. If you have not submitted your team to Linda Dupuis please give her a call in the next day or so. On that same evening we will be honoring our REALTOR® and Affiliate of the Year. Please set aside the date and time to join us for this notable evening.

Wende Chapman tells me that the Lobster Bake is not just a "Drive By" this year. We have door prizes, music and comedy to go along with a fabulous meal this year. So mark your calendars for August 21<sup>st</sup> at Cook's Lobster House on Bailey Island.

Thank you to Heather Gottlieb and the Community Service Committee which has been very active during the first half of 2008 assisting local charities such as the Midcoast Hunger Prevention Program. The committee would like me to encourage our members to donate non-perishable food items throughout the entire year to this essential organization within our community. Along with everything else they do, the committee has acted as a facilitator of information for local action groups such as Habitat for Humanity and the American Cancer Society.

The Education committee is gearing up for a September event. If anyone has a suggestion for a course that you would like to see given please contact Mikie Perry with your suggestions.

Joy Baldwin and the Christmas Party folks have been hard at work securing the entertainment and finalizing a menu which will include your choice of one of four entrees including a vegetarian option. The annual auction to benefit the Tedford Shelter is also coming together. We still need auction items, so if you have an idea for auction items please contact one of the committee members to coordinate.

~ OVER ~

## Merrymeeting Board

### Directors:

Kyle Rogers  
President

Helen Fox  
President Elect

Heather Gottlieb  
Vice President

Mikie Perry  
Secretary

Linda Dupuis  
Treasurer

Tom Cole  
Imm. Past President

Joy Baldwin  
Brunswick

Lisa Buthlay  
Topsham

Wende Chapman  
Brunswick

Kathy Gallant  
Brunswick

Lisa Holley  
Freeport

Jonathan Leaver  
North Yarmouth

### Staff:

Cindy Butts  
Tanya Sirois

In May, I attended the NAR Midyear Meetings in Washington, DC. I have been attending the NAR Midyear meetings in Washington for the past 5 years. I have to say that this proved to be one of the most fruitful meetings ever. We met with Both Senators Snowe and Collins and Congressmen Michaud and Allen.

Senator Snowe has sponsored legislation that would offer health insurance to Small Business groups, such as REALTORS®, and while we were meeting with Senator Collins, she announced to us that she would Co-Sponsor the same bill. This is a major turnaround for Senator Collins who opposed lack of state oversight in earlier remarks. In previous years, she refused to get onboard with this legislation because of her fears that states would lose control of the ways in which the insurance program was administered.

Another item on the agenda is to get Congress to enact some kind of Homebuyer Tax Credit that would encompass ALL homebuyers. Some of the proposed legislation only credits buyers that purchase foreclosed homes. We don't believe this is going to stimulate the housing market in the correct way. We asked all of our Representatives to consider crafting the Bill to include every homebuyer.

Finally, FHA reform was a major concern. The FHA program has not been updated since 1974. Beginning in 2001, the FHA program dropped from over 700,000 loans to slightly over 200,000 loans in 2006. This was mostly due to the availability of 100% LTV loans. What has been proposed to Congress is that there would no longer be a required 3% down payment to use the FHA program. The down payment would be credit based this will provide the flexibility needed to draw buyers back to the housing market. We also asked for the loan limits to be set to appropriate levels in all parts of the country.

One of the highlights of my trip this year was a tour of the West Wing of the Whitehouse. I was honored to be one of 6 that had this chance of a lifetime. Our tour lasted 90 minutes and included the Cabinet Room, Oval Office, Roosevelt Room, the Rose Garden and many other intriguing areas. There were plenty of opportunities to take pictures and admire the priceless pieces of art that adorn the halls of the West Wing. It is truly a memory that I shall treasure for some time to come.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that nominations for the Board of Directors are still being accepted by Helen Fox. If you or someone you know would like to become a part of the Merrymeeting Board Leadership, I urge you to submit an application. It is without a doubt a very rewarding experience and I consider it an honor to be your Board President! Thank you all and I hope to see you on the Links on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like to contact me with ideas or comments, please e-mail [kyle@allenselig.com](mailto:kyle@allenselig.com) or call me at 841-5953. I look forward to seeing you at the June 26<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting at the Bath Country Club in Bath.

**Upcoming Membership Meeting:** The next Merrymeeting Board Membership Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 26. Registration begins at 5:00 p.m.; Buffet Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. The announcement of the 2008 REALTOR® and Affiliate of the Year will take place after dinner. A registration form is enclosed.

**Meeting Schedule:** The schedule for the year is printed below.

June 26	Golf	Bath Country Club	Annual Habitat for Humanity Golf Tournament
June 26	Dinner	Bath Country Club	ROTY & AOTY Awards
August 21	Dinner	Cook's Lobster House	Annual Lobster Bake
September 25	Lunch	TBA	Day of Education
October 23	Dinner	Taste of Maine Restaurant	Annual Membership Meeting
December 11	Dinner	Holiday Inn - Bath	Holiday Party & Fundraising Auction

**E-Mail Staff:** [tanya@mainerealtors.com](mailto:tanya@mainerealtors.com)

**Visit our Board Website:** <http://merrymeetingboardofrealtors.com>

☞ **Plan to Attend the June Membership Meeting on Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>** ☞