

# GREATER LEWISVILLE ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® 1964 – PRESENT

The Greater Lewisville Association of REALTORS®, Inc. was organized on March 30, 1964 as the Lewisville Board of REALTORS®. The charter was granted from the National Association of Real Estate Boards on May 12, 1964. Serving as the First President was James Coker, Vice President was Bill Weaver, Secretary was Vera Eberhart and Treasurer was Joe Spears. The total membership numbered eighteen. Those members were Beryl Blanton, Stella Dixon, Glen Duvall, Ten Jenkins, Willard Kerbow, Larry Lester, Carol Neaves, G.R. Ogelsby, Charles Sherill, Janiece Skipworth, B.J. Steward, Annetee Testa, Eddie Termin and T.J. Turner.

At the time the charter was granted, Lewisville stood completely by itself as a small town between Dallas and Denton. There was no Flower Mound, Highland Village, or The Colony, and Carrollton was also a small town. No one anticipated the phenomenon growth which has been experienced in our area.

The first meetings of the Board were held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Pine Café. Only Designated Brokers were eligible to vote and a member could be terminated by the Board of Directors if they missed four meetings.

Two of the early projects of the Board were to encourage the City of Lewisville to pave the streets and to become involved in school redistricting. The total dues income for 1964 was \$670.00. Brokers paid \$55.00 annually and salespersons paid \$15.00 per year. The amount of the dues related directly to the Board Services offered, and there were very few. On April 20, 1965 the MLS was permanently adopted.

Ten years later, in 1974, the REALTOR® Association had changed their names to National Association of REALTORS®, the Texas Association of REALTORS® and the Lewisville Board of REALTORS®. Membership increased to over 100 as NAR instituted the REALTOR®-Associate member. This program allowed salespersons to be counted as members; however, they were not eligible to vote. The officers in 1970 were: Rheba Fletcher, President; Larry Lester, Vice President; Eloise Reuther, Secretary; and Joe Spears, Treasurer.

In July, 1979, the first board office was opened and staff was employed. The office was located in very small quarters in Lewisville's first strip shopping center. The Membership voted to become an All-REALTOR® board in September, 1979. After diligent efforts by the REALTOR® organization, the Lewisville City Council voted to remove REALTORS® from the "Itinerant Solicitor" classification.

In 1981, land was purchased on Edmonds Lane for the future construction of a Board Office. Officers in 1981 were Vic Burgess, President; Bill Shults, Vice President, Petey Parker, Secretary and Gary Peyton, Treasurer. Ed Yeats served as chairman of the committee to purchase the land.

During the fall of 1981, the Metroplex Association of REALTORS® (Formerly Greater Dallas AOR) signed Reciprocal Agreements allowing their members to participate in neighboring MLS systems without joining each individual Board as a Non-resident Member. Our Association signed agreements with the Greater Dallas, Greater Fort Worth, Collin County and Denton Associations.

In April, 1983 construction was begun at 997 South Edmonds Lane. The new Association Office consisting of 3,300 square feet of space was opened on September 1, 1983. The Association set up permanent financing on the property with a note in the amount of \$105,000 in 1984. The payments were amortized for a thirty year obligation; however, the note was paid in full on April 15, 1996.

In January, 1984, the Association merged our MLS with that of the Greater Dallas Association, thus forming the first two members of the Greater Metro MLS. Garland, Ellis County, Rockwall, Kaufman-Van Zandt, and Greenville-Hunt Counties also joined. In the Spring of 1984, a Vendor Selection Committee was formed to choose a new vendor for the Greater Metro MLS. This committee met diligently for months working to give members the best available MLS System. It is estimated that approximately 5,000 man hours were involved in this project...all volunteer!

Since December 7, 1998 there has been one MLS system for the North Texas Area service approximately 9000 MLS Users. The North Texas Real Estate Information Systems, Inc. (NTREIS) serves approximately 25,000 MLS Users today. When the system came into existence, GLAR became an MLS provider and Shareholder. Agents now have access to property information from Granbury, Weatherford and Mineral Wells in the West; north to Montague County, Gainesville, Sherman and Denison; south to Ellis, Hill and Johnson Counties; and east to Rockwall, Kaufman and Van Zandt Counties.

Due to the growth in the area and the jurisdiction of the Board, a Task Force Committee was formed in 1986 to survey the membership and to rename the Board. After many suggestions, the Membership approved the name of Southwest Denton County Board of REALTORS®. The Greater Lewisville Association of REALTORS®, Inc. name was adopted in the early 1990's.