



## **Homeownership Opportunities Committee**

### **Fair Housing/Cultural Diversity Exemplary Service Recognition Program**

## **Opening Doors Award**

The PMAR HOC Fair Housing/Cultural Diversity Exemplary Service Recognition Program (Program) is designed to recognize a Realtor® member of PMAR who has demonstrated the spirit of the federal, state and local fair housing laws while providing exceptional service to his/her clientele, the local, state and national Realtor® associations, the real estate profession and the Realtor® community during his/her period of membership. This is an annual award.

#### The Purposes of the Program are:

1. **to acknowledge deserving Realtor® members** for efforts and work on behalf of PMAR, their state and national associations, their fellow Realtors®, their profession and the community with regard to the national, state and local fair housing laws and in accordance with the Realtors® Code of Ethics and fair housing laws.
2. **to communicate to the general public**, by these outstanding examples, the professionalism of Realtors® and, in particular, with regard to exemplary service to diverse communities and clientele within the spirit of the fair and equitable housing practices.
3. **to foster a spirit of awareness, understanding and unwavering service** to the whole of the real estate market that PMAR members serve with a particular focus on fair and equitable practices.
4. **to educate and inspire the PMAR membership** at large to expand their service to all potential clientele, treating all equally and fairly in accordance with fair and equitable housing practices.

#### The Procedure for the Program selection is as follows:

1. The **Opening Doors Award Task Force** of the HOC shall accept nominations and provide recommendations to the committee at large.
2. The selection guidelines are a valuable resource and will be reviewed by the Task Force on an annual basis.
3. The HOC shall notify PMAR membership about the program and solicit nominations via PMAR communications, RMLS communications, and other local publications.
4. A deadline for submission of nominations shall be established by the end of January for the upcoming year.

5. Task force recommendations shall be referred to the HOC for discussion, consideration and ratification.
6. The task force shall, with staff assistance, confirm that recommended nominees are members in good standing at the local, state and national levels of the Realtor® organization.
7. Staff liaison to HOC shall order appropriate presentation item for each recipient.
8. The HOC shall request 5 to 10 minutes at PMAR April luncheon (or closest luncheon prior to April – Fair Housing Month) to present the award. The Association President and/or the immediate past Opening Doors Award recipient will present the award. The Committee may notify the recipient's broker in advance of the presentation. Program recognition may also include mention in PMAR communications, RMLS communications and other local publications. The presentation and publication notices shall be conducted in a manner befitting the stature and professionalism of the Association.
9. The HOC will encourage the recipient's managing broker and/or company recognition of the selected nominees by requesting the opportunity to present a second presentation item (i.e., certificate) to the recipient in front of peers at a company function.

The Criteria for Selection are:

1. Receipt of completed application form by the Task Force. Letters of Recommendation from peers, brokers and clients will be encouraged.
2. Service to the local association that demonstrates a commitment to the fair housing laws will take primary consideration because such service furthers the purpose and professionalism of the Realtor® community and the Association.
3. Also considered will be supplemental activities that pertain to the cause of fair housing and equity such as: Realtor® spirit, community affairs, state and national association activities, and business accomplishments.