



Loveland-Berthoud REALTORS® Put the Fun in RPAC Fundraising with Chili Cook-off & Auction –July 2014

The 370-member Loveland-Berthoud Association of REALTORS® (LBAR) in northern Colorado has always been successful in meeting its goals for RPAC fundraising, says Association Executive Debbie Long. Then, in the past two years, two developments really turned the heat up under that success: LBAR began applying for \$2,000 RPAC Fundraising grants from the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® -- and added a Chili Cook Off to its usual auction event.

In May 2013, LBAR used the grant money to rent an event venue, a pleasant facility in Loveland that allowed the organization to bring its own food -- the chili competition-- and alcohol for the open beer-and-margarita bar, which helped to keep costs down; the grant also covered a door prize of \$500 cash. There was no charge for admission, and all of the auction items were in-kind donations from LBAR members. "It was a live auction -- we're lucky to have a generous professional auctioneer among our members -- and individual members and offices put together lots of wonderful baskets that appealed to a wide range of interests, from gardening and relaxation to whiskey, coffee, and margaritas. There were tickets to concerts at the upcoming Greeley Stampede, the big summer rodeo festival up here. A couple of Cajun boils, each for a party of ten people, were really big hits," notes Long.

The Chili Cook Off component was inspired by another association's fundraising event that Long had heard about, and her RPAC Committee thought the idea sounded like fun. Ten LBAR members paid a fee to enter their best efforts in categories of Red, White, and Green chili. Guests sampled from as many crock pots as they liked, and voted for a winner in each category; members of the RPAC Committee and the Affiliate Committee supplemented the savory supper with cheese, condiments, and cornbread; and the winning chili cooks received gifts cards and trophies.

LBAR may be a small association, but its members understand the importance of supporting RPAC. Three are Major Investors, a handful that typically invest at the \$500 level and many \$99 Club Investors. Over the last few years, the association's RPAC Committee has made a point of raising awareness by visiting larger REALTOR® offices to share news and information about what RPAC has been accomplishing. In advance of the fundraising event, the RPAC Committee chair personally called members who had invested significantly in the past, asking them to attend and reminding them to re-invest.

NAR's RPAC Fundraising Grant Program guidelines state the expectation that the proposed event or program will triple the amount of the \$2,000 grants: LBAR's Chili Cook-Off and live auction raised a whopping \$7,312. Once the RPAC Committee had settled on the nature of the event, Long points out, applying for the grant online couldn't have been easier. "We simply don't have a budget to put toward fundraising," she explains. "Having the ability to rent a real event space and offer a substantial cash door prize brought our efforts to a whole new level."



To learn more about how REALTORS® in northern Colorado are leveraging NAR fundraising grants to raise money for RPAC, contact Debbie Long, Association Executive of the Loveland-Berthoud Association of REALTORS®, at dlong@lbaronline.com or 970.669.1822.



**The LBAR Affiliate
Committee**

**Chili Cook-off
and
RPAC Event**

(Formerly PSF)

**Thursday
May 16, 2013**

5:00 p.m.— 7:00 p.m.

**The Garden Room
697 N. Denver Avenue
Anasazi Park, Loveland**

**RSVP: call 669-1822 or
email: admin@lbaronline.com**

**CHANCE TO WIN
\$500.00** **LOTS
OF
FUN!**

Door Prizes

RPAC, the voice of REALTORS® on Capitol Hill and at the state and local levels.

Since 1969 RPAC has been promoting the election of pro-REALTOR® candidates across the United States that understand and support REALTOR® issues.

Why has RPAC been successful? Because RPAC is not a charity. RPAC is a business.

RPAC dollars are used in places that will help advance the interests of Real Estate professionals.

RPAC is the only political group in the country organized for REALTORS®, run by REALTORS® and exists solely to further issues important to REALTORS®.

Think of your RPAC contribution as an investment. The best investment you'll ever make in your business and yourself. RPAC is your best insurance against poorly designed small business and commercial real estate legislation. If you're not giving your fair share to RPAC, you're not doing all you can to better your profession, your business, and yourself.

**Come Join the fun! Come and vote for Best Chili
Come for the Food, Beer and Margaritas, Mike's Hard Lemonade
music, & the live auction!**

Contributions are not deductible for income tax purposes. Contributions to RPAC are voluntary and are used for political purposes. You may refuse to contribute without reprisal and the National Association of REALTORS® or any of its state associations or local boards will not favor or disfavor any member because of the amount contributed. 70% of each contribution is used by your state PAC to support state and local political candidates. Until your state reaches its RPAC goal, 30% is sent to National RPAC to support federal candidates and is charged against your limits under 2 U.S. C. 411a; after the state PAC reaches its RPAC goal it may elect to retain your entire contribution for use in supporting state and local candidates



Chili Cook-off Winners from left to right: Bob Skillman, Ilan Levy, and Davenee Nelson