

# Local Realtors look forward

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Telluride, Colo. -

Late last week, the Telluride Association of Realtors unveiled its new board and initiatives at its annual banquet. They'll fund housing initiatives here and push for better representation whilst others set to influence change at the state level.

Eric Saunders will lead the association in the coming year and Teddy Errico will serve as the president elect, meaning he'll take over the following year.

"I'm the new guy," Saunders said. "I'm very excited about it." Saunders will be busy, for sure. He and his wife are expecting a baby, and he said the current market conditions signaled hard work. "It's going to be a challenging year," he said. "Matt Hintermeister did a fantastic job."

He also serves as a One-to-One mentor and sits on the Just For Kids Foundation board.

Saunders said his goal as president was to stay the course set by the past board and better promote TAR, whose members number 284, to the public.

There's a ripple of Green running through the real estate community, he said. People are driving hybrids and greening up their offices. "It's not a mass movement, but there's a grassroots effort," he said. "We're involved in the community, we're giving back financially, emotionally, spiritually."

Rick Fusting won the Community Realtor of the Year award. Which means what?

"It means I'm a nice guy," he joked. "I'm helping the community out."

Fusting is one of the nice guys, certainly. He holds senior luncheons. He helps with scholarship programs that pay for one child's complete college education. He's on the One-to-One board. He's a good man, and thorough, too. He helps fund the boxes that recycle this and other newspapers.

"It's good to recycle the newspapers, because you see them everywhere," he said.

Hintermeister's a hard man to pin down. He's in and out of meetings, in and out of town. He was recently in Vail because he's the incoming mountain district vice president for the Colorado Association of Realtors.

He said he plans to stay involved in TAR raising money for political action and rallying behind this fall's bond measures but will move up the influential ladder at the state level. "It seemed like the logical next step in leadership," he said. "To bring the boards together and tackle the issues we face."

His goal? "To make the Colorado Association of Realtors as relevant and useful to the membership as possible."

TAR pledged \$24,500 to the local Habitat for Humanity branch and \$12,000 to the San Miguel Resource Center's emergency housing fund.

"For us, it's so direct," Hintermeister said. "It's housing."

"We are interested in supporting affordable housing measures," he added. The First Time Homebuyers Fund continues, and "Habitat was a shot to really even go a little further — bring some housing, a price point that we don't typically see in our market."

They'll also donate hundreds of volunteer hours into the Norwood Habitat homes.

Hintermeister won the Presidential Award as well as Realtor of the year; T.D. Smith won best open houses; Mitzi Mallard collected rookie of the year honors; John Micetic was given the lifetime achievement award and Alpine Bank won affiliate of the year.

Steve Patterson will serve as treasurer this year and Asa Van Gelder will be the secretary.