# Ventura County Coastal

# New Tech = New Tools for Agents





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# **UPCOMING** Meetings/Events

JULY 19 Board of Directors Meeting VCCAR Board Room 9:00 AM

JULY 19 VCRDS – VCCAR Board Room 1:00 PM

JULY 21 REFAT Meeting VCCAR Board Room 1:00 PM

JULY 26 New Member Orientation VCCAR Training Room 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

JULY 27 Strategies for Thought Leadership VCCAR Training Room Noon

JULY 28 MLS Basic Class VCCAR Training Room 1:30-4:30 PM

JULY 28 Joint Board of Directors & LGR Committee VCCAR Training Room 1:00 PM

AUGUST 2 MLS Advanced Class VCCAR Training Room 2:00 PM

AUGUST 4 MLS Rules & Regulations Class VCCAR Training Room 1:00 -3:00 PM

AUGUST 9 MLS Committee Meeting VCCAR Board Room 9:45 AM AUGUST 10 YPN Committee Meeting VCCAR Board Room 9:45 AM

AUGUST 11 Real Talk Toastmasters VCCAR Board Room 12:00 - 1:30 PM

AUGUST 12 Education & Equal Opportunity Committee VCCAR Board Room 10:00 AM

AUGUST 16 Board of Directors Meeting VCCAR Board Room 9:00 AM

AUGUST 16 HOME – Housing Issues Forum VCCAR Training Room 5:30 PM

AUGUST 18 REFAT Meeting VCCAR Board Room 1:00 PM

AUGUST 22-23 NAR Leadership Summit Chicago, IL

AUGUST 23 New Member Orientation VCCAR Training Room 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

AUGUST 24 Affiliates Committee Meeting VCCAR Board Room 9:45 AM

AUGUST 24 MLS Basic Class VCCAR Training Room 1:30-4:30 PM



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2 ′

# VCCAR Continues to Make Progress on Several Fronts This Summer

# Mark Chacon 2016 VCCAR President

It may be summertime, but the living ain't necessarily easy for VCCAR's officers and staff. There's simply too much going on to kick back and relax! But never fear: your Association will continue to move ahead on many fronts this summer in our efforts to give you the tools and information you need to be the best REALTOR® you can be.

Probably the most important project now under way is transitioning our MLS service from Rapattoni to Flexmls. Project implementation is currently in its initial stage and activity will be ramping up throughout the summer. The project plan calls for us to run both systems simultaneously in November and December to make sure everything is working flawlessly before transitioning exclusively to Flexmls by the end of the year.

You can learn more about Flexmls and other ways technology will be changing the way we do business in this month's cover story beginning on <u>Page 6</u>.

Providing our members with the latest information on trends in real estate is another top priority, and we were excited to have C.A.R.'s executive vice president, Joel Singer, at our General Membership Meeting last month to give us an exclusive look at housing trends. Joel was joined by other speakers and you can learn what they all said in the article beginning on Page 8.

And of course, the General Membership Meeting kicked off VCCAR's annual election of officers and Board Members. You can see who will be leading the Association in 2017 on Page 10, but one of your new officers is incoming Treasurer Jorge DeLeón, who was named Man of the Year recently by the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce. You can see why he deserved the honor in the profile beginning on Page 12.

Finally, we will be closely monitoring the county's General Plan update as it's drafted and amended during the next couple of years. While county policy limits most growth and development to cities, the General Plan could have significant impacts on cities as it deals with issues such as transportation and dealing with climate change. Your voice can be heard as well during the process – learn how on <u>Page 16</u>.

We'll keep you posted on further developments as they happen during the rest of the year. In the meantime, I hope you all are enjoying your summer here in paradise!



Mark Chacon

# Have you seen us on Facebook?





Above, David Warren Peters discusses ways REALTORS® can avoid ADA lawsuits. Left, Matt Capritto, Cindy Diaz-Telly, and B.J. Ward at the event. At right, candidates Ashley Anderson, Sher Heard, Robin Turner, Cami Pinsak, and Jorge DeLeon wait their turn to speak.

# **CEO CORNER**



# Marketing Yourself With Honesty and Truthfulness

Last month in this column, I reported on MLS Rule 12.8 regarding the rule against advertising other Broker/Agents listings without their permission.

This month I'd like to discuss truth in advertising. Code of Ethics Article 12 states: "REALTORS" shall be honest and truthful in their real estate communications and shall present a true picture in their advertising, marketing, and other representations. REALTORS® shall ensure that their status as real estate professionals is readily apparent in their advertising, marketing, and other representations, and that the recipients of all real estate communications are, or have been, notified that those communications are from a real estate professional."

Article 12 of the Code of Ethics is supported in the MLS Rule Section 12.10 False and Misleading Advertising and Representations: True Picture Standard of Conduct.

The MLS Rule 12.10 and Article 12 of the Code of Ethics makes it clear that we must always present ourselves and our businesses in a clear and truthful manner in all forms of advertising, not limited to emails, Facebook, and websites but all forms of advertising. The public deserves to know who you are and how you conduct your business prior to hiring you to represent them in perhaps the largest investment they may make in their lives. Marketing yourselves in an honest and truthful manner is the best way for the public and your professional real estate colleagues to know you.



Randy McCaslin



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# **Technology Gives Agents New Tools** to Build Their Business

The world of technology continues to move ahead at lightning speed, and that's as true in real estate as any other sector of the economy. It seems like every day some new product or service is announced that is intended to give agents and brokers new tools

Here in Ventura County, VCCAR and the Conejo Simi Moorpark AOR are converting the Ventura County Regional Data Service to the Flexmls platform, which will allow data to be accessed - and added and changed - guickly and easily.

"Technology is consistently evolving, and Flex will move more in rhythm with these advances," noted VCCAR Vice President Lyle Elliott.

Flexmls will give the local MLS the ability to make listing changes quickly, rather than having to stand in line with other customers of our current vendor. FBS, Flexmls' parent company, has been in business for more than 30 years and currently serves more than 170s MLS services nationwide. For members, there are four key advantages:

- · The agent inputs customer requirements.
- · FLEX databases automatically scan the listings.
- · You can send the listings that match your client's requirements directly to your client
- Updates will be done on a real time basis rather than daily as we do now.

One of the major advantages of the Flexmls system is its robust native mobile application, which will give agents and your customers access to all the VCRDS data and media anytime you need it. And real estate experts warn that agents who do not have robust mobile tools risk falling behind their competitors.

"Mobile tech is where the growth is in the marketplace today, and where significant growth will likely be for years to come," notes Lisa Mihelcich, chief operating officer of zipLogix.

"Those in the real estate industry who have yet to embrace mobile technologies are missing out on a critically important opportunity. REALTORS® who do not evolve and adopt will begin to fall behind. This has always been a competitive industry with an entrepreneurial edge, and those who do not have tech tools at their disposal will find themselves going up against a young generation of

Continued on page 7

Bv: Lvnn Van Emmerik VCCAR MLS Administrator





Finding homes for sale is easy with the Flexmls mobile app.



The Flexmls system can show details and photos of individual properties as well as a map where listings are located.

Continued from page 6

agents who do—and will find themselves at a competitive disadvantage. As client expectations shift, technology is rapidly moving from a convenience to a necessity."

Work will ramp up over the next few months to launch the new system, with plans calling for running both Flexmls and our current system simultaneously in November and December to make sure everything is working properly before transitioning completely to the new system by the end of the year. Training courses will be offered by both Flexmls and our Association staff.

Flex has also launched a new client portal and app that allows clients to review listings agents send them and save the ones they're interested in and hide the ones they dislike. iPhone users can also opt into push notifications to hear about new listings as soon as they hit the market.

In addition, technology is providing more and more tools beyond our MLS platform. Among the many tools available are:

Find, a program offered by NAR exclusively for REALTORS\* in participating MLSs. The software allows agents to access listings from many MLS systems around the state and nation. It is great for referrals and searching for home values in other parts of the state, among other things where an agent or their broker need not necessarily join multiple boards just to see what their MLS data is. Go to http://solutioncenter.realtor.com/ControlPanel/ Login.aspx to make sure you have a realtor.com account. Mobile apps are available for Apple and Android devices.

Video: At NAR's Emerging Business Issues & Technology Forum in May, a number of tools were called out, including:

- TimeLapse, an iOS app that allows you to create sped-up videos true to the tool's name. It's available on iTunes.
- Eyejot, a free service enabling agents to embed short videos directly into email messages. <u>Corp.eyejot.com</u>
- For brokerages wanting to move up from iMovie, there's WeVideo, which allows branding across videos and collaboration among sales associates and clients. <u>https://www.wevideo.com/business</u>

Safety: A product called bSafe gives agents the ability to send location-enabled alerts to friends if you're in danger or to schedule fake check-in calls to help you remove yourself from a situation where you don't feel secure.

Lighting: At a forum on new technologies at the 2015 REALTORS\* Conference and Expo, experts said for \$150 to \$200 you can buy a complete LED lighting kit that can illuminate everything from countertops to landscaping with the swipe of a smartphone app.

Identifying properties: RESO – the Real Estate Standards Organization – is working on creating a "property unique identifier," or PUID, for every structure in the U.S. and Canada. While the project will take time, it could eventually be a huge benefit, in particular for the mortgage and title insurance industries.

Drones: While regulators debated rules for using drones in commercial efforts, their use has been growing steadily. Now, the FAA has issued rules that will permit widespread commercial use of drones effective on August 29. NAR has created an FAQ page that provides answers on how and where you can use them. http://www.realtor.org/topics/drones



Other technology to help agents include drones to take photos of homes. Drones will be permitted by federal rules effective August 29.

# GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

# Valuable Information and Networking Opportunities Highlights of VCCAR Event

More than 100 members heard valuable insights about the state of the real estate industry and ways to reduce your chances of an ADA lawsuit over your website at last month's VCCAR General Membership Meeting.

Joel Singer, C.A.R.'s chief executive officer, and David Warren Peters, CEO and general counsel of the California Justice Alliance, were among the featured speakers at the June 30 event at the Marriott Residence Inn Oxnard River Ridge.

"As always, the General Membership Meeting provided our members with the opportunity to hear from experts in the field, learn important information, and of course network with their colleagues," said VCCAR President Mark Chacon.

"One of the key takeaways from the meeting was that even though the real estate industry is evolving, REALTORS<sup>®</sup> will continue to be relevant in the future. People need the personal touch to help them through their most important purchase."

# C.A.R. leader keynotes meeting

Keynoting the event was Singer, who has led C.A.R. since 1989 after having served for years as its chief economist. He reported that statewide, May existing housing sales totaled 410,090, down slightly from the year before but that year to date sales are up 2.2 percent over 2015.

Median prices continue their upward climb, however, reaching \$518,760 in May, up 6.3 percent from May 2015 and now at the highest level since the end of 2007. Meanwhile, new-home construction continues to lag, with about 100,000 units expected to be built this year – only half of those singlefamily homes.

But despite low inventory, Singer said the outlook for the rest of the rest of the year is positive, with statewide singlefamily home sales expected to top 412,000 and the median price hitting \$498,000.

And finally, Singer noted that buyers and sellers still highly value real estate agents, with 85 percent of California buyers last year saying they would work with the same agent again. Nationwide, 89 percent of sellers used an agent or broker with just 8 percent selling their home themselves.

# ADA lawsuits target business websites

Peters, meanwhile, warned that there are a growing number of lawsuits around the state filed by people claiming that web content can't be accessed by people with visual, hearing, or other disabilities.

"Web content must be accessible to people with disabilities," Peters said. "Finding shelter is among the most basic of human needs and people with visual limitations need housing and should be able to obtain information about properties they might consider without asking friends or family to view web content for them."

Continued on page 9







Top, C.A.R. CEO Joel Singer and VCCAR CEO Randy McCaslin share a moment at the General Membership Meeting. Middle, David Warren Peters makes a point on ADA lawsuits. Bottom, President - Elect Lyle Elliott updates members on the new Flexmls platform.

### Continued from page 8

Common claims in website suits include:

- · A text equivalent for every non-text element is not provided.
- · Color is used as the only visual means of conveying meaning.
- Text cannot be resized without assistive technology up to 200 percent without loss of content or functionality.

He told attendees nearly all web content can be displayed in an accessible format, they needed to answer three questions about their web content:

- Can the content be read by "Jaws for Windows," which is available at some public libraries.
- Is your text superimposed with magnification, large fonts, and/or different resolutions?
- And does your content use symbols instead of text for navigation links?

More information is available from the World Wide Web Consortium at <u>ww.w3.org</u>.

A third speaker, Karen Tausig, provided important information about senior abuse that's happening in the County, and specifically to her clients.

## Members recognized

Finally, two VCCAR members were recognized for their many years of service to the profession.

David Bozic (left in photo below) was named a C.A.R. Honorary Member for Life, an honor given to REALTORS<sup>®</sup> who have served the Association for a minimum of 25 years and have attained the age of 75. And Randy Churchill (second from left) achieved NAR's Realtor Emeritus status, recognizing his 40 years of membership.



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# **BOARD ELECTIONS**

# New Officers, Board Members Elected

VCCAR members have elected their slate of officers and directors to lead the Association in 2017.

Two officers will join incoming president Lyle Elliott. Matt Capritto will be president-elect and Jorge DeLeón will serve as secretary/treasurer.

Capritto serves this year as secretary/treasurer and as a member of the Board. He is a lifelong area resident with more than 29 years' experience in real estate. He also co-chairs the new member orientation and is a member of the MLS Committee and the VCCAR Travel Team. He is a REALTOR\* with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services in Ventura.

DeLeón has more than 20 years' experience in real estate and is broker/ office manager for Coldwell Banker Residential in Oxnard. He is a member of the Board, the Young Professionals Network, and several committees: Budget and Strategic Planning, New Member Orientation, Education, Equal Opportunity and Cultural Diversity, and Orientation. He was recently selected by the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce as its Man of the Year (see story, page 12). Matt Capritto 2017 President-Elect



Jorge De León 2017 Secretary/Treasurer



# In addition, four candidates won seats on the Board of Directors to serve three-year terms.



Sher Heard is a REALTOR® with Comfort Real Estate Services in Ventura and for many years was an affiliate member as an escrow officer. She currently serves as chair of the Education Committee and has more than 14 years' experience in real estate.



Cami Pinsak is a REALTOR\* with Realty ONE Group Summit Ventura County. She has been a salesperson since 2006 and will have obtained her broker's license by the end of the year. She has served on several VCCAR committees over the years, including the Real Estate Fraud Advisory Team and the Grievance and MLS committees. She also was a guest of the Travel Team at the 2015 C.A.R. conference.



Pam McWaid is a REALTOR\* with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services California Realty in Thousand Oaks. The Camarillo resident currently serves on the Board and on the Travel Team. She chairs the Public Relations Committee and is a member of the Professional Standards Committee. She has 27 years' experience in the industry.



Robin Turner is a REALTOR\* with Keller Williams Realty in Oxnard. She served on the Board from 2003-05 and has served on numerous committees, including Ombudsman, Equal Opportunity and Cultural Diversity, Education, Grievance, and Public Relations. She has 26 years' experience in real estate.

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# MEMBER UPDATE

# Man of the Year Jorge DeLeón **Keeps Up a Hectic Pace**

By John Frith

VCCAR Director Jorge DeLeón last month was honored by the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce as its man of the year for his professional and community accomplishments. And as it happened, his passion for both real estate and community service were formed at an early age.

DeLeón, 42, said his first experience in real estate came at the tender age of 8 or 9.

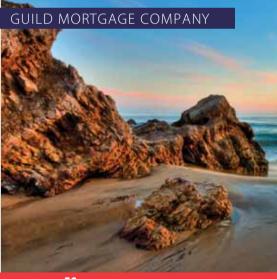
"When I was a little kid, my parents were not close to being bilingual yet but they wanted to buy a house in Oxnard. They enlisted a real estate agent and I served as a translator through the whole process," he recalled. "Envision an 8 or 9 year old in this process. I still remember going into the escrow office and telling my parents as best I could what they were signing and I remember being intrigued by the whole escrow process."

Fast forward a decade when DeLeón was in high school and his parents wanted to move up and he again served as a translator. "They ended up not buying but it opened my mind again to the real estate world."



Jorae DeLeón poses after receiving his award from the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce with (left) Clndy Shadian, the firm's manager for Santa Barbara and Montecito, and (right) Beth Ann Styne, vice president and chief operating officer for Coldwell Banker Residential Brokeraae.

So much so that when he graduated from high school he put aside his original aim of studying civil engineering at Cal Poly and earned his real estate license in 1992. In fact, one of the first things Continued on page 13



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#### Continued from page 12

he did was serve as the official buyer for a home for his parents, Jose and Teresa,

But working weekends was not terribly attractive to a 19-year-old and working Monday-Friday from 8 to 5 was, so he soon gravitated to the escrow side of the industry, where he thrived for the next decade, eventually becoming president of the Ventura County Escrow Association, the first male Latino to do so. Eventually, though, he tired just handling escrows and decided to reinstate his real estate license in 2005. He obtained his broker's license two years later.

After working as a sales manager for homebuilder D.R. Horton during the depths of the Great Recession and then as a REALTOR® for a local firm for a few years, Coldwell Banker offered to make him manager of a small office in Hollywood Beach in March 2012. After three years of building up the Hollywood Beach office, he now manages an additional branch in North Oxnard in the Financial Plaza in addition to two satellite offices for the brokerage.

But while DeLeón is committed to his profession, his real passion is giving back to the community. That, too, was instilled by his parents during his childhood. In the mid-1980s, his parents decided their Americanized children were getting a bit spoiled and needed to experience what it's like to live in Mexico. So Jose quit his job, sold some assets, cashed out part of his retirement account and moved the family to northern Jalisco, where both Jose and Teresa where born and raised.

"For nearly two years, Dad dialed himself into community work. That's what the DeLeón family did – help other people," he recalled. The family helped spearhead projects to bring electricity and running water to the rural community and even irked the local taxi industry along the way.

"My parents owned a Chevy Suburban and if Dad would see someone waiting for a bus – and the service is iffy at best – he'd pick them up and take them into town. Once he received a threatening letter from the taxi association complaining that he was taking away their business," he said. Those lessons in a dusty Mexican village stayed with him, and while he was active in both the escrow association and later VCCAR – he was recently elected to serve as treasurer next year – he said he always felt he should be doing more for the community.

An opportunity presented itself when he and his family were invited to attend a luncheon to benefit the Turning Point Foundation, which provides services for the mentally ill homeless population throughout Ventura County.

"What Turning Point does moved us tremendously. I couldn't contribute financially at the time because of the recession, but I learned about their volunteer efforts. Eventually the board interviewed me and thought I'd be a good fit," he said, adding his then-6 year old son was instrumental in getting him fully involved.

"We moved from Camarillo to Ventura four years ago and we have a homeless population there my son, Oliver, was not used to. He said, 'Why don't you help them – you help other people find homes.' That helped motivate me to do more for Turning Point,' he said.

Most recently, he led a capital campaign that raised more than \$100,000 at a Sunday brunch event. He also has coordinated fundraising events to benefit other area charities and even hosted a dog adoption at his office.

DeLeón and his wife, LeighAmber, have been married for more than 10 years and have four young children – Oliver, Jasper, Violet and Ruby. In his "spare time," he has coached Little League and served as the "team mom" last season for Jasper's team.

He said he was "honored and humbled" at the recognition by the Chamber and urged his fellow professionals to do more for the community as well.

"I want to encourage other REALTORS" to take a risk and do a little bit more for their communities. REALTORS" have a phenomenal opportunity to make a difference in people's lives beyond what we get paid for."



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# **NEW MEMBERS**

# June New Member Orientation





The following new REALTORS® were sworn in and presented with their pins on June 28 during VCCAR's monthly New Member Orientation.

# Front row, left to right:

Heather Donoviel, RE/MAX Gold Coast REALTORS®; George Youssef, Keller Williams Realty Westlake Village; Jordan Marshall, Mansi Sand & Associates; Lindsey Pettit, Trusted Real Estate Enterprises; Lynda Heredia, Esquire Realty; Yolanda Gonzales, Tri County Realty: Nicole Gruttadaurio, RE/MAX Gold Coast REALTORS®: Andrea Robertson, RE/MAX Gold Coast REALTORS\*; Scott Nordeng, RE/MAX Gold Coast REALTORS\*.

# Center row, left to right:

Teri O'Connor, Keller Williams Realty; Carrie Kelleher, Keller Williams Realty: John Tidwell, John Tidwell, Broker: VCCAR President Mark Chacon; Kelsea Swan, Keller Williams Realty; Krista Gaumer-Nowak, RE/MAX Gold Coast REALTORS®; Gerard Martinez, Keller Williams Realty; Diane Marihew, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Realty: Sarah Goleman, Tracey Lamprecht Real Estate & Management.

## Back row, left to right:

Parker Jellison, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties; Alexander Ahearn, Century 21 Troop Real Estate Commercial Division: Martin Ahearn, Century 21 Troop Real Estate Commercial Division.

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# GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

# County Holding Workshops on General Plan Update

By Marta Golding Brown VCCAR Government Affairs Director

Ventura County is in the process of updating its general plan through 2040, and is holding a number of public workshops to provide input into the process between now and August 11. This will be the first comprehensive General Plan update in almost 30 years

These workshops are important to REALTORS<sup>®</sup> because they will give the public a chance to weigh in on these important issues before county officials begin drafting options for the Board of Supervisors to consider when crafting the final plan in the latter part of 2018.

The General Plan is the blueprint for future growth and development within the County's unincorporated areas. Additional workshops will be scheduled soon to address a number of important topics including land use, transportation, water, agriculture, economic development, and climate change. The plan is scheduled to go into effect in 2020.

### Upcoming workshops include:

July 27, Somis School, 6:30-8:30 p.m. July 28, Fillmore City Hall, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Aug. 3, Saticoy Library, 6-8 p.m. Aug. 9, Channel Islands Boating Center, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Aug. 11, Ventura County Government Center, Hall of Administration, 2-4 p.m.



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For more information, please contact me in the Association office, or contact Susan Curtis, the county's general plan update manager, at (805) 654-2497 or <u>susan.curtis@ventura.org</u>.

More information is also available on the county's website at www.vc2040.org.

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Marta Golding Brown

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# SCHEDULE

8:45 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. Course review

12:00 p.m. End of Session

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**Education Committee** 

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For instance, there are 567 different ways someone can claim their Social Security benefit; failing to use the right strategy can cost you hundreds of thousands of dollars in unclaimed income over your lifetime and potentially put a surviving spouse at serious financial risk. Friday, July 29, 2016 11:30AM – 1:00PM

Location:

2350 Wankel Way Oxnard, CA 93030

Presented by:

Adam Strauss

In Association with: KEIB 1150AM, KRLA 870AM, & SearchLight Financial Advisors





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Date: September 15 & 16, 2016 Time: 9:00 am – 4:30 pm Cost: \$250.00 (normally \$299.00) Location: Ventura County Coastal Association of REALTORS® 2350 Wankel Way Oxnard, CA 93030 Register online at:

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Course Provider: Coaching To Excellence #4306 Instructor: Debbie Rodgers ABR, ABRM, AHWD, CRB, GRI, e-PRO, PMN, RSPS, SFR, SRES 2007 Distinguished SRES® & NAR Hall of Fame Instructor 2012 REBAC Hall of Fame Instructor



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Ventura County Coastal Association of REALTORS® 2350 Wankel Way. Oxnard, CA 93030

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Education Committee

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- How to do a rent survey and the impact of market rent vs. actual rent on value
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ENTURA COUNTY COASTAL Association of REALTORS\*

