

SC Real Estate Commission Newsletter

June 2009

A Word From Chairman Tony Keith Cox

Welcome to the first e-newsletter of 2009! First of all, let me thank you for the honor of serving you as the Chairman of the South Carolina Real Estate Commission. Additionally, I would like to thank all the commissioners who take time to give back to their profession.

The Real Estate Commission was created in 1956 by the General Assembly. The Commission is charged with protecting the public in real-estate transactions. The Commission is not an "ivory-tower body" housed in Columbia. The Commission is a group of real-estate practitioners from across the state, along with two public members, who understand the daily challenges encountered by our licensees. The Commission is also charged with administering standards of practice and license regulations as defined in the statute. I would encourage each of you to read and understand the license law, which can be found on the Commission's Web site, <http://www.llronline.com/POL/REC/>. The site also contains many useful forms, links, as well as, a list of Disciplinary Actions.

The Commission has a small but very dedicated staff. Jay Pitts, our Administrator and his team, do a great job with limited

resources. Recently there has been a restructuring of the organization at the LLR, which combined the licensing, legal and investigative divisions of the boards and agencies. However, the LLR staff remains committed to providing the public and its licensees with quality service.

Many of you have or are in the process of renewing your licenses this month. The Commission gives licensees a couple of options to renew their licenses--mailing a check to the Commission or renewing electronically on their Web site. (NOTE: In renewing on-line, you will need the renewal notice issued by the Commission.) Please remember that you must have your eight hours of MCE in order to renew your license.

As we move through 2009, we continue to realize what a very challenging year this has been for real estate in South Carolina. The pressures of the economy create demands on all of us daily. I ask that you join me in setting new standards for yourself, so we may serve the public to the best of our abilities.

I look forward to serving you as Chairman of the South Carolina Real Estate Commission!

Know Your Continuing Education Cycle



For real estate licensees who renewed in May and June, you were issued a one-year license with an expiration date of June 30, 2010. This annual license was issued to bring all licensees to an even-year renewal cycle. For licensees on this one-year renewal cycle, you will be required to accrue four hours of continuing education prior to June 30, 2010. The four hours of required continuing

education may consist of any Commission-approved continuing education course (core and/or elective).

For real estate licensees who are currently on a two-year renewal cycle, 2008 – 2010, nothing has changed, and you are expected to complete eight hours of continuing education prior to June 30, 2010.

The goal of this transition is to have every licensee on an even-year renewal cycle beginning in 2010-2012.

LLR Makes Organizational Changes to Streamline Processes



LLR has made several internal organizational changes over the past few months in an effort to streamline processes, achieve consistency among the

professional and occupational boards, and to provide a higher quality of customer service to our licensees and the public.

“The restructuring of state agencies in 1994 brought the professional and occupational boards under one roof, but the boards were essentially operating separately,” Director Adrienne Youmans said. “Restructuring gave us the unique opportunity to continue streamlining processes that the boards have in common, thus saving money and becoming more efficient. In turn, we are able to provide our licensees and the public with a higher level of customer service.”

The professional and occupational boards have been divided, internally, into two sections: the Office of Building and Business Services and the Office of Health and Medical, which houses the Board of Nursing and other medically and health-related boards.

There are two other offices that handle specific responsibilities for the boards – The Office of Licensure and Compliance and the Office of Investigations and Enforcement.

The Office of Licensure and Compliance (OLC) was established July 1, 2008, to consolidate processes dealing with initial licensure applicants, annual and biennial renewal applicants, and licensees requiring compliance with board orders. This office is responsible for licensing and regulating the activities of more than 130 professions and occupations with a license base of more than 250,000 individuals and businesses.

Assistant Deputy Director David Christian says the creation of OLC will continue to greatly enhance services to

boards and provide a much more effective manner to process licensure applications.

“OLC will provide a platform to establish consistent procedures across the Division of Professional and Occupational Licensing,” he said. “In addition, we’ll be able to achieve even greater efficiency as we absorb the remaining boards and adopt a new licensure management system.”

The Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE), which was created on July 1, 2004, is responsible for investigating complaints involving a possible violation of a professional or occupational practice act. The Office also investigates labor complaints for wage disputes and child labor.

Assistant Deputy Director Rion Alvey noted that by forming one office and centralizing the investigative expertise of all LLR boards, the efficiency and effectiveness of the investigative process has greatly improved.

“The number of completed investigations has almost doubled since the inception of OIE,” he stated.

In addition, a Customer Care Center is being established to handle a majority of the calls coming into LLR.

“When the center is fully staffed, there will be 12 highly trained Customer Care Center representatives helping people who call this agency,” Communications Assistant Director Lesia Kudelka said. “The goal of the center is to provide our customers with timely and accurate information and quality service.”

LLR is also promoting its online services. Licensees can renew and check the status of their licenses online, and potential licensees can apply for initial licensure online.

For more information on LLR programs, please visit the Web site at www.llronline.com.

Have Questions About Licensure?



For assistance with licensing matters or any questions you may have regarding initial or renewal procedures and requirements, please use the contact list below:

Office of Licensure and Compliance

Contact Information

Telephone Numbers (803) 896-4501 or (803) 896-4400
Fax Numbers (803) 896-4525 or (803) 896-4570

Mailing Address

PO Box 12517
Office of Licensure and Compliance
Columbia SC 29211-2517

Physical Address

110 Centerview Drive-Suite 306
Columbia, SC 29211

Manager of Office of Licensure and Compliance (OLC)

David Christian, III
(803) 896-4532

Manager of Initial Licensure

Roselind Bailey-Glover
(803) 896-4620

Manager of Renewal Licensure

Annette Disher
(803) 896-4504

Other Licensure Services (Inactive, Transfer, Reinstatement)

Deborah White
(803) 896-4358

Disciplinary Actions



The Real Estate Commission has jurisdiction over all brokers, sales persons, property managers, schools and instructors.

When a complaint is made and investigated, The Real Estate Commission can resolve the issue with a voluntary consent agreement or conduct a formal

hearing. The Real Estate Commission has the authority to issue a public reprimand; impose a fine; place a licensee on probation or restrict or suspend the individual's license for a

definite or indefinite time and prescribe conditions to be met during probation, restriction, or suspension including, but not limited to, satisfactory completion of additional education, a supervisory period, or of continuing education programs; and permanently revoke the license.

Final Disciplinary Actions taken by the Real Estate Commission may be viewed on the Commission's Web site. Documents on the Web site are in PDF format and may be downloaded.

The orders are listed in alphabetical order and can be accessed by clicking the following link: [Disciplinary Actions](#).

In Memoriam of W. Steven Sloop

W. Steven Sloop, member of the Commission, passed away in January 2009. Sloop represented the Second Congressional District on the Commission from 2002 until his death. He served as secretary of the Commission during his tenure. Commission members and staff extend their deepest sympathy to the Sloop's family.

Meet Our 2 New Commission Members

The Commission has two new members. Carl T. Edwards, of Anderson, was appointed to fill the Third Congressional seat upon retirement of Robert R. Heos, of North Augusta, who served on the Commission from 1979 to 2008.

Sarah O. Takacs, of Hilton Head, was appointed to the Second Congressional seat that was previously held by W. Steven Sloop.

Continuing Education Frequently Asked Questions



Q: How will I know when I need to take the MCE?

A: By checking the expiration date on your license as this is your CE deadline. You must complete CE before renewing.

Q: How do I check on my continuing education hours?

A: The Real Estate Commission does not track CE hours for individuals, you only submit course certificates if you

receive an audit letter from us. Keep your certificates of completion for courses taken.

Q: I completed my post-licensing education. Will any of these courses count for my CE this renewal?

A: Yes. If this is the first time you are renewing your real estate license then the post-licensing hour will suffice.

Q: I took GRI courses to receive my designation. Will any of these courses count towards satisfying my MCE requirements to renew my license?

A: All courses approved by the Real Estate Education Department are assigned a course number and prefix of CEC

(Continuing Education Core), CEE (Continuing Education Elective), DEC (Distance Education Core), and DEE (Distance Education Elective). If your GRI course certificate displays this information, then it is an approved course.

Q: Am I exempt from MCE if I am 65 years old and have been a licensee for at least 25 years?

A: Yes. Complete Document #220, the Certification of Continuing Education Exemption form and submit to the Commission.

Q: I am a non-resident, South Carolina licensee and have satisfied the continuing education requirements in my home state. Do I also need to take continuing education courses in South Carolina?

A: No. You are only required to complete continuing education in your state of residence and will denote that on your renewal form.

Real Estate Commission Board Members

Tony K. Cox, Chair	1 st Congressional District
Manning E. Biggers, Vice Chair	5 th Congressional District
Evelyn K. Young, Secretary	4 th Congressional District
Carl Edwards, Member	3 rd Congressional District
Buccie Harley, Member	6 th Congressional District

R. Scott Moseley	Public Member
Sarah O. Takacs, Member	2 nd Congressional District
Vacant Seats	
At-Large	
Public	

Real Estate Staff

[John R. \(Jay\) Pitts, Administrator](#) (803) 896-4425

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[Tracey McCarley, Education Coordinator](#) (803) 896-4461

<http://www.lironline.com/POL/REC/>