



New York State Association of REALTORS®, Inc.

Housing Opportunities Committee Meeting Report

January 25, 2024
Virtual Zoom Meeting
Start time – 3:00 pm

Yvette Clark Watkins
Chair

Rosanne LaFata
Vice Chair

Chair, Yvette Clark Watkins, opened the meeting and the September 2023 meeting report was approved as published.

Shelly Duncan, Associate Broker, Premiere Properties in Wyoming presented on the North Platte Valley Board of REALTORS® “Reality Town” financial literacy program. The Reality Town program begins with mini lessons in which students research careers, write resumes, apply for jobs, and learn to write checks and balance a checkbook. It culminates in 2hr simulation in which local professionals man “businesses” where students are given a career and a paycheck and must budget and pay monthly expenses for themselves and their Reality Town family. These expenses include living accommodations, transportation, childcare, groceries, etc. The students analyze their Reality Town lifestyle, learning important concepts concerning debt and savings, and discuss with their classmates the realities of making ends meet in an adult world.

Jennifer Rzeszewski, Vice President & Executive Director, Center for REALTOR® Development talked out NAR’s Ignite Others High School Financial Literacy Program. Realtors can get training to teach students about financial literacy. From budgeting and borrowing, to credit scores, students will gain the knowledge, skills and tools they need to successfully manage their financial resources—planting seeds for future homeownership and a lifetime of financial wellness. Realtors are urged to submit an application for review and approval at www.nar.realtor/ignite-others.

Housing Opportunities Foundation President Lanie Bittner gave an update on the First-time homebuyer grant program. It awards two \$2,000 grants each month to first-time homebuyers working with a Realtor. Members were also encouraged to participate in the Champagne and Diamonds fundraiser on the evening of Tuesday, February 6th onsite at the business meetings. It is \$75 per ticket, and everyone has a chance to win a real 1 carat diamond.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.