

A Message from 2022 DAAR President, Rich Blessing

Dear DAAR Members,

It's hard to believe spring is already here and the world around us is humming with new life and opportunities. Much like the new season, our Association has begun buzzing again with in-person classes and meetings having resumed in March.

It was especially amazing to see the many DAAR members who attended the Economic Summit a few weeks ago, and I hope to see even more of you for DAAR's [2021 REALTOR® Awards](#) on April 28 to celebrate all of your achievements from this past year.

Though it's already been a busy start to 2022, we certainly have not lost sight of the Association's future goals.

In August, a committee was formed to develop [DAAR's 2022-2024 Strategic Plan](#). With Virginia REALTORS® (VAR) overseeing the strategic process, the committee worked diligently and deliberately to craft goals that will help propel DAAR forward over the next three years.

At the heart of DAAR's 2022-2024 Strategic Plan is the Association's mission:

Supporting our members, the real estate industry and the communities we serve with the highest standards of ethics, professionalism and inclusion.

With this mission in mind, five key goals were established surrounding Membership Services, Professionalism and Business Success, Broker Relations, Advocacy, and Community Outreach. In just a few short months, DAAR's leadership, committees and staff have already been making great strides in bettering and building our Association and we will continue to keep these goals at the forefront. I dive deeper into the details of our 2022-2024 Strategic Plan in this video.

Like I mentioned in my first quarter letter to membership, the Strategic Plan places great emphasis on our diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts, and what better time to focus on these efforts than in April, which is Fair Housing month. As REALTORS® and as members of DAAR, we must continue to fight for fairness and uphold our commitment to offering equal and professional services.

DAAR will host a special workshop on April 25 led by VAR's Senior Vice President of Community and Industry Relations, Leslie Frazier. The interactive event, [How to Have](#)

[Difficult Conversations Around Race and Any Differences](#), will help us navigate the uncomfortable and provide resources to be agents of change. I hope all of you will consider attending.

I also encourage you to complete the National Association of REALTORS®' [Fairhaven](#) training. This online simulation platform confronts fair housing problems in real estate and urges REALTORS® to ask themselves: Am I a guide, or a gatekeeper?

As we all know, spring can be an extremely hectic time in real estate, but as REALTORS® we are prepared for what is ahead. Continue to support each other, utilize the excellent resources our Association provides, and lead with fairness and integrity.

Please reach out to me with questions or suggestions at president@dullesarea.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rich Blessing" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rich Blessing
2022 DAAR President