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Naples Area Board of REALTORS® Recognizes Members at its Annual Awards Banquet

NAPLES, FL (April 21, 2025) – Naples Area Board of REALTORS® (NABOR®) held its Annual Awards Banquet on Friday, April 11, 2025, at Naples Grande Beach Resort. Chartered in 1949, the 8,500+ professional member organization of REALTORS® in Collier County recognized the accomplishments of many of its outstanding members who volunteered their time and talents to better the organization, the real estate industry and community in 2024. The highest honor – REALTOR® OF THE YEAR, which recognizes a member who has distinguished themselves through outstanding contributions in the community, and on the local, state, and national association level – was awarded to **Nick Bobzien**, NABOR® President 2023, an active member of the real estate profession, 20-year member of NABOR®, and broker associate at Downing-Frye Realty.

In 2024, Bobzien volunteered over 150 hours to a task force that monitored lawsuit settlement communications from the National Association of REALTORS® concerning new buyer broker contract requirements. As a result of the new guidelines and working with NABOR®'s Legal Resources committee, Bobzien led the team in developing new contract forms and instructing REALTOR® members on those changes.

The banquet started with opening remarks from NABOR® President Terrilyn VanGorder and was followed by recognizing 28 members of the NABOR® and/or Florida Realtors® Honor Society by master of ceremonies PJ Smith, NABOR® President 2024. Honor Society members participate at the local and national levels, which includes activity in NAR®'s institutes, societies and councils, designations earned; educational activities; and political involvement. Smith then presented the following 11 awards:

- Humanitarian Award: Spencer Rigsby
- President's Award: Greg Urbancic
- Business Partner Committee Contribution Award: Adam Bleggi

- Business Partner Rising Star: Christian Ross
- Business Partner of the Year: Sam Saad
- Commercial REALTOR® Achievement Award: Darren Schoof
- Education Volunteer of the Year: Michael Downer
- Educator of the Year: Erin Miller
- Global Achievement Award: Paula Angelopoulos Urbinati
- REALTOR® Committee Contribution Award: Erin Miller & Mary Waller
- REALTOR® Rising Star: Matthew Craig

Before lunch was served and the final three awards were presented, Smith bestowed a Gratitude Coin to Shaun Garry NABOR® Vice President for his countless hours of work revising the bylaws, assisting with legal counsel during the NAR Settlement and subsequent new buyer broker contract form development, and assessing and analyzing MLS and compliance related issues during 2024.

Gratitude Coins were also given by Nick Bobzien NABOR® President 2023 to Adam Bleggi, Christina Davidow, Shaun Garry, Erin Miller and Sam Saad. Marcia Roggow, NABOR® Director presented Gratitude Coins to Claire Bisignano Chesnoff, Michael Downer, Tina Falzarano, Jeff Jones, Pat Pitocchi and Amy Reinholdt.

The 2023 Ad Miller Award recipient Danielle Hudson presented the 2024 Ad Miller Award to former Florida Housing Finance Corporation Chairman Ryan Benson. This NABOR® award recognizes an individual who works to enhance and/or preserve private property rights, ownership and transferability, and the preservation of the free enterprise system. Benson is also involved in leadership at Collier Building Industry Association and the Housing Alliance, a new non-profit that provides information, education and advocacy for accessing and developing attainable housing solutions in Collier County.

NABOR® President Terrilyn VanGorder presented two Hall of Fame awards. The first was presented to a 34-year veteran REALTOR®, Paula Angelopoulos Urbinati. She is a past NABOR® Hall of Fame RPAC award recipient, has served on NABOR®'s board of directors, is a past REALTOR® of the Year award recipient, and has been a member of both NABOR® and Florida Realtors® Honor Societies for over 20 years. This distinguished award honors a member who has given at least 20 years of extraordinary dedication and service to the profession.

The second Hall of Fame Award was presented to former high school principal turned REALTOR® Pat

Pitocchi. In addition to volunteering her time and talents to NABOR® for over 20 years, Pitocchi earned several designations including Graduate Realtor® Institute (GRI), Certified International Property Specialist (CIPS), and At Home with Diversity (AHWD). She has received a multitude of awards for her devotion to education including Florida Realtors® Education Award, NABOR® Educator of the Year Award (twice), and NABOR® Global Achievement Award. Over the years, Pitocchi taught classes at NABOR® for GRI, CIPS, the Success Series, Sales Contracts, Listing Contracts, FR/BAR Contracts, and Code of Ethics.

Ryan Bleggi, NABOR® President 2022, who won the 2023 REALTOR® of the Year award, presented Nick Bobzien with the top honor for 2024 – REALTOR® of the Year. Bobzien's steady leadership as immediate past president while on the Legal Resources committee during NAR®'s lawsuit settlement helped both members and the public navigate through the myths and facts surrounding new changes to the home selling and buying process. The experience also inspired him to pursue training and become a NABOR® contract course instructor.

In addition to his role on the Board of Directors from 2016 to 2024, Bobzien has also served on multiple NABOR® committees including Governmental Issues, MLS, Global Business, Young Professionals Network, NABOR® History, Professional Development, and Media Relations; and task forces such as the Investment Advisory Group, Capital Improvement, and New Construction, among others. He is also currently the Vice-chair of RPAC (REALTOR® Political Action Committee), a member of the Professional Standards Committee, and Budget & Finance Committee. Bobzien also serves on several Florida Realtor® and NAR® committees.

The 2024 Awards Banquet recognizes and thanks its Platinum Sponsor Ross Title, and Gold Sponsor Lake Michigan Credit Union for their generous support.

The Naples Area Board of REALTORS® (NABOR®) is an established organization (Chartered in 1949) whose members have a positive and progressive impact on the Naples community. NABOR® is a local board of REALTORS® and real estate professionals with a legacy of over 75 years serving 8,500 plus members. NABOR® is a member of Florida Realtors® and the National Association of REALTORS®, which is the largest association in the United States with more than 1.6 million members and over 1,200 local boards of REALTORS® nationwide. NABOR® is structured to provide programs and services to its membership through various committees and the NABOR® Board of Directors, all of whose members are non-paid volunteers.

The term REALTOR® is a registered collective membership mark which identifies a real estate professional who is a member of the National Association of REALTORS® and who subscribe to its strict Code of Ethics.