

September 2, 2026

For immediate release

Media contact: Christine Barnhart, Vice President, Strategic Communications
301.590.8764 or cbarnhart@gcaar.com

Local REALTOR® association receives national award for real-estate education

Rockville, Md. — The Greater Capital Area Association of REALTORS® (GCAAR), the local REALTOR® association for Montgomery County and Washington, D.C., has been honored as a 2026 Power of Associations Award winner by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), for its pioneering approach to real-estate education.

The ASAE Power of Associations Awards recognize associations that leverage their unique ability to convene stakeholders, inspire collaboration and drive meaningful change. Through innovative programs, award recipients exemplify how associations create lasting impact that extends well beyond the members they serve.

As one of the largest local REALTOR® associations in the country with more than 11,000 members, GCAAR is the only one that is approved by the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia real estate commissions to administer CE classes for all three states. In 2025, GCAAR began offering these classes for free as an exclusive member benefit. The classes, supported by GCAAR's roster of carefully screened instructors, are open to non-members for a fee.

Since launching free CE, the association has ranked in the top five among HousingWire's Best Real Estate Schools in D.C. for both 2025 and 2026.

"This award affirms something our members already know: That GCAAR is built to open doors for the agents we serve," said GCAAR President Russell Brazil. "Being selected among this year's ASAE honorees is a tremendous validation of our commitment to raising the bar for real estate professionalism in our region."

In addition to free continuing education for members, GCAAR hosts certification and designation courses and exclusive member professional development workshops, all of which have cemented its place as the premier destination for education.

-more-

"ASAE's Power of Associations Awards recognize the very best of what our community can accomplish," said ASAE President and CEO Michelle Mason, FASAE, CAE, AAiP. "GCAAR has demonstrated the vision, leadership and commitment to make a meaningful difference, and we are proud to recognize its education program as one of this year's outstanding achievements."

"Earning recognition from ASAE, combined with our top ranking among real estate schools for two years running, tells us that our approach to education and professional development is setting a high standard for what a REALTOR® association can deliver," said GCAAR Chief Executive Officer Ed Krauze, Esq., CAE. "Through our continuous evolution, GCAAR has truly become a pioneer for professionalism and education in our regional real-estate community."

About GCAAR

The Greater Capital Area Association of REALTORS®, one of the largest local REALTOR® associations in the U.S., is the voice for REALTORS® in Washington, D.C. and Montgomery County, Maryland. Representing more than 11,000 real estate professionals in the greater capital area, GCAAR provides services vital to its members' daily business needs and works with lawmakers to ensure public policy that encourages homeownership and supports the real estate industry. For more information, visit www.GCAAR.com.

About ASAE

ASAE is the largest organization of its kind, representing more than 7,400 organizations and 50,000 association members nationwide. Its members lead, manage and work in or partner with organizations large and small in disciplines ranging from executive management to finance to technology. ASAE is the premier source of learning, knowledge and future-oriented research for the association and nonprofit profession. ASAE's Power of Associations Awards recognize the association community's economic and societal contributions locally, nationally and globally.

###