

National Association Of Real Estate Brokers: A Brief History

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A. R. E. B., Inc.

The National Association of Real Estate Brokers, Inc. first met and formed a temporary body in Tampa, Fla., at a convention of the National Negro Business league, during the administration of A. G. Gaston, president, July 1947.

Among the members of the National Negro Business league, who had been in attendance over a number of years from time to time, were a few real estate brokers, one of whom had been in regular attendance for many years, W. D. Morrison, jr., who sought the blessings of the National Negro Business league through its president, A. G. Gaston, and C. C. Spaulding, president emeritus, for an organization of real estate brokers.

Unlike the parent body, the word Negro in the new organization's name was never accepted and both

races have been represented by charter memberships.

The temporary body was later made a permanent organization in a meeting at the Young Men's Christian association in Detroit, during January, 1948, with representation present from a dozen or more states including Chicago, Ill.; Detroit, Mich.; Dallas, Texas; Philadelphia, Pa.; Washington, D. C.; Cleveland, Ohio; St. Louis, Mo. Jacksonville, Fla.; Cincinnati, and other points.

The first official family elected on an annual basis included W. D. Morrison, jr., president, Detroit, Mich.; Horace Sudduth, vice president, Cincinnati, Ohio; F. Henry Williams secretary, Jacksonville, Fla.; W. H. Hollins, treasurer, Birmingham, Ala.; Atty. Willis M. Graves, general counsel, Detroit, Mich.

W. D. Morrison, jr., tendered his resignation for the fourth year and was succeeded by Chief W. H. Aik-

ens, president, two years. George W. Harris, president, Chicago, Ill., succeeded W. H. Aikens and is doing a magnificent job. The association now has a membership covering the nation and has achieved a number of recognitions locally and nationally.

Through and by its national united efforts, it has raised the standard of ethics and lifted the horizon of our hundreds of brokers and salesmen throughout America. It has worked with and through our governmental officials, who have attended all of our conventions over the country and brought about a more wholesome understanding and consideration in connection with housing of minority groups.

In addition to this, scores of positions and appointments have been obtained on a local and national scope in general throughout the country. Some of our cities today have from three to a half dozen VA fee appraisers servicing

whites, as well as colored, while Detroit has a Negro appraiser reviewer in the FHA office.

Joe Ray, a former regional vice president of NAREB is an assistant to Mr. Cole, Housing, Home Finance administrator, and other appointments of national scope have been made more recently from NAREB while others are yet in the making.

The National Association of Real Estate Brokers, was born out of necessity. The renowned National Association of Real Estate Boards (white) refused our membership generally speaking in their association. They did not believe in democracy, and, therefore, refused to integrate their membership by receiving brokers from minority groups. We were desirous of lifting the standard of ethics among those of our profession, and uniting our efforts to better prepare ourselves among those of our profession, and uniting our efforts to

1948 — Convention Hall Boardwalk, Atlantic City,
First Negro Group to take over there with Hotel service included. 1949—Rackham Building, Detroit, Mich., first group of our race to take over. 1950 — Atlanta, Ga., —YWCA. 1951 — Department Commerce Building Convention, Washington, D. C. Hotel service, Wills Statler hotel 2400. 1952 — Eollenden hotel, Cleveland, Ohio. 1953 — Conrad Hilton hotel, Chicago, Ill. 1954 — Broadwood hotel, Philadelphia, Pa. 1955 — St. George

better prepare ourselves to serve our clientele.

We practice democracy and believe in organized cooperative leadership in the field of real estate locally and nationally. Our doors stand ajar to all good Americans regardless of race, creed, or color in associated fields of real estate for membership. This is the position we took for NAREB when we founded it eight years ago and received membership then from the Caucasian race because we felt then, as we do now; if we were to be equal to the task ahead, and honest to ourselves and our fellowman, an integrated effort would better fit us to serve our profession.

This is a list of our conventions through the years: